

Journey with Mel McFarland

By Suzanne Schorsch

This past May 11th I was fortunate. I got to take a trip with Mel McFarland. We did not cover any miles, but our trip covered time. I had known that Mr. McFarland was a Colorado native, Railroad Historian, and Chief Conductor of the Manitou and Pikes Peak Railroad. What I did not know was that Mel is a "Time Travel Tourist Guide."

We started our trip, on foot, in Early El Paso County, just at the time that the town of Colorado Springs was being surveyed in 1871. Colorado City had already been founded in 1859. Those early settlers came by foot, horse, wagon and donkey and were hard working miners, merchants, ranchers and farmers raising crops.

But, with the founding of Colorado Springs, and the arrival of the Denver & Rio Grande a new

crop would arrive - Tourists. The first thing that a tourist had to deal with was how to travel.

First they traveled by train. Early El Paso County was to become the home of many railroads and their stations. The Denver & Rio Grande was first. General Palmer's D&RG was built narrow gauge and for a time there were two sets of tracks for this line while it changed over from narrow to standard gauge in 1902. Today a restaurant, Giuseppe's Depot, resides in what was once the D&RG Station. There was the Rock Island Station built in the 1890's that was destroyed in the 1936 flood. Another station was for the Santa Fe Railway. This station was on the East side of Colorado Springs (at the time it was built). If you stood on the hill where St. Francis Hospital is

today, you could see the new Santa Fe Station if you looked west. It still stands and houses offices. There was the Colorado Midland that started being built in 1886, serving Ute Pass and points west. Later we would have a cog railway that would bring tourists to the top of Pikes Peak and cable incline railways on Mt Manitou (Rocky Mountain) and Red Mountain above Manitou.

At one time there were 20 different stations in the Pikes Peak area. Many small towns during that time would be incorporated into Colorado Springs later, but at the turn of the century, they were independent and had their



The "Log Cabin" was the first Restaurant/Hotel in Colorado Springs - but it was transportable and moved each time the railroad was built further to the South.

Continued on page 3

Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319
<http://www.occhs.org> (719) 636-1225

WEST WORD

PUBLISHED TEN TIMES A YEAR

The Old Colorado City Historical Society

A NONPROFIT CORPORATION

©2012 OCCHS

LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTIFACTS AND STORIES CAN BE
 DELIVERED TO THE OCCHS CENTER OR MAILED TO:

WEST WORD Editor c/o OCCHS

1 South 24th Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

or Don Ellis - splderwort@pcsls.net

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF EACH MONTH

MISSION

Revised April 2004

The Old Colorado City Historical Society was founded as a volunteer organization to recognize the historical significance and unique culture of original Old Colorado City and early El Paso County. This spirit is perpetuated through the preservation of artifacts and archival materials, encouragement of research, education of the children and the community through the membership and the operation of the History Center at 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships are welcome at any time. Membership renewals are due on the anniversary date of the initial membership. Members receive the *West Word* newsletter, discounts, local meetings and programs.

Annual membership classifications are:

Student	\$15	Business	\$75
Individual	\$25	Lifetime	\$250
Family	\$35	Life plus one	\$300

Funds from a Lifetime membership are placed into a Perpetuity/Endowment Fund to be used only for projects which have been approved by two-thirds of the membership. Only the interest will be used for current expenses. We welcome gifts to this fund, which will be credited to the donor or as a memorial.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Sharon Swint	630-8384
Vice President	Betty Baker	636-1225
Secretary	Jo Cervone	266-9096
Treasurer	Suzanne Schorsch	488-0256
	Brian Copeland	636-1225
	Beverly Dlsch	636-1225
	Tom Daniels	636-1225
	Phil McDonald	636-1225

MEETINGS

OCCHS Monthly Meeting & Program is held at 11 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, except during June, July, and August. The History Center opens at 10 a.m. on the day of the meeting for refreshments and visitation. The program begins at 11 a.m. This meeting is free and open to the public.

WELCOME TO OCCHS! ~ NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Best

Dorothy Borst

Betty Jo Cardona

Lois Carr

Jo Cervone

John Chatfield

Art Crawford

Jo Anne Croff

Joe & Maeta Emmons

Gordon & Becky Gray

Melanie D. Guldman

Doris Heffington

Hunter-Wolff Gallery, Ltd

Richard Jamison

James Jones

Billie T. Kilman

Jeanne Marsh

Gennie and Mike Mayberry

John & Sally McGraw

Nate Iven & Heidi Mijatov

David & Lynne Murray

Edward & Dorothy Pagels

Ann Parker

Sandra & Robert Patchell

Pikes Peak National Bank

David Rickert

Roberta Robertson

Bernard Schriever

Jack & Betsy Shoup

Margaret Smith

Ray W. Turner

Joseph Zaremba

Mel McFarland from page 1

own stations. The town of Roswell had a station (where Fillmore Street is today). There were two Pike View Stations, one served the Santa Fe carrying coal and was located where the dog tracks are on North Nevada, the other Pike View Station was for the Rio Grande and was near Garden of the Gods and I 25 today.

Beside every station you would see multiple "Tourist Taxis." Each hotel had a horse drawn taxi at each station that could carry passengers that were staying

at their hotel. The Pikes Peak Region was famous for its beautiful Victorian Hotels. There were many people who came to the area between 1890 and 1940 as tourists, business men or those who came for health reasons. In fact in 1908, there were more passengers that got on and off trains in the Pikes Peak Region than traveled through the Colorado Springs Airport in 2008, one hundred years later.

After the passengers were at their hotel, they could use Street Cars or Touring Cars to see the sights. At first these were both pulled by horse, but electricity took over the Street Cars and Touring Cars became gas automobiles. Street cars ran North to Roswell, East to Palmer Park, West to Manitou and South toward Cheyenne Mountain. A touring car could be hired to take travelers to Manitou, the Cog Railroad, the Garden of the Gods,



or Seven Falls. For those tourists that could not afford a touring car, burros could still be rented in Manitou to bring you to your destination.

With modern transportation did come problems: First there was how to get people from the east side of the railroad tracks to the west side. It could take up to an hour to catch a time when trains were not coming through, so bridges had to be built so that pedestrians and traffic could cross over the tracks. Then there was the problem of "cleaning" the streets. Colorado Springs had dirt streets until 1914. There were no traffic rules and people walked in the streets. To keep the streets cleaned of animal waste, cleanup crews worked at night. Until the 1960's, freight delivery had to be done at night in downtown Colorado Springs. The main four block area of downtown had two sets of sidewalks, one above ground, and another below for deliveries.

Automobiles brought "Tourist Tent Camping" along Fountain Creek. Many tourists would pitch their tents along 31st Street and Fountain Creek. This began the business of the small Motels along that stretch up into Manitou. Many of the Motels are still there today. Many small Touring Car businesses existed along this stretch. Later, bus services became available and the individual touring cars disappeared.

As more and more automobiles came into the area, there was less need for street cars and passenger trains. The last street car ran in 1931. Passenger trains stopped running in 1971.

How I would have loved to have been a tourist in El Paso County at the turn of the Century. Thanks Mel for the trip.

Please join us at our monthly meetings throughout the coming fall and winter for other interesting trips through time.



Touring Cars were at all Victorian Hotels to take Tourist to local destinations.

Support our Business Members



Bernideen's

Where the Locals Eat!



Charlie Paterson
CONSTRUCTION
 General Contractor



**Pikes Peak
 National Bank**

*We set the standard
 for community banking*

Swint Realty Company, LLC
 When Experience Counts

*Shooks Run
 Research*

**WESTSIDE
 Pioneer**



STOLEN PLAQUE

In 1936 a sandstone monument was erected at 2818 W. Pikes Peak with an insert that marked the site of the Old Fort and Stockade used in defense against the Indians in 1864 and 1868 by Colorado City residents.

In 2012, the insert was stolen and sold for scrap metal. This was a historical loss to Old Colorado City, so in keeping with our mission statement the OCCHS Board of Directors has voted to raise money to replace this piece of our history. A best bid indicates that we should try to raise \$300 through donations.

If you can help restore this stone designation, please call OCCHC at 636-1225 and use a credit card or drop off or mail OCCHS a check. Any donation will be appreciated. We will keep you informed as to our progress. For questions please call Dave Swint at 630-8384.



Mystery, History, Science Fiction and Fantasy

Travel, Fiction, Cooking and Biography

Paper back, Hard Backs and Coffee Table Style

OCCHS Bookstore wants them ALL

The OCCHS Bookstore will be collecting donated "gently" used books of all types in an attempt to hold a Used Book Fundraiser. There will be a drop off point in the Bookstore as of this week. A tax deductible form will be sent with each donation. It is our hope to collect enough books over the rest of the year to have a book sale during the first part of 2013. Funds from this event will go to cover OCCHS operating expenses.

Please drop off any used books that you no longer need.

We thank you for this in advance.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to call our bookstore - 636-1225.

PLAN B

COLORADO CITY

EL PASO COUNTY J.T.

FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION

COLORADO CITY

Sunday, August 12th 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

- Authentic Union Civil War Encampment - Union Encampment, 2nd Colorado, Co B**
- with marching, gun handling and musketry demonstrations
- Historic walking tours - by the Carnegie Library staff**
- 1859 Dr. Garvin Cabin will be open with special displays**
- Archaeological Society Display - educational materials and 'dig box'**
- Arts & crafts - more than 20 vendors**
- * Cinnamon Tea Flute Ensemble**
- * Eugene Red Hawk talking on the Ute Indians**
- * Victorian Dancers Victorian Society of Colorado Springs**
- dance demonstrations from the 19th century with audience participation
- * Steve Veatch - Geology of the Pikes Peak Region**
- * Major Chord - Strolling Barber Shop Quartet**
- * Fort Carson Speaker on Glorietta, the Gettysburg of the West**

Bancroft Park, at 24th and W. Colorado Avenue

15th annual

Fairview Cemetery Crawl



The Annual Cemetery Crawl will take you back in time - the late 1800's and early 1900's as actors dressed in period costumes portray a variety of Colorado City pioneers. You will meet:

*Anthony Bott
 Laura Belle McDaniel
 Jacob & Bertha Schmidt
 Blanche Burton
 Birdie Stapleman
 David Moore
 John Gardner*

**Tickets \$8 in advance or
 \$10 at the gate
 Children 12 and under - free**

**Saturday, September 22
 10:00 AM - 2:00 P.M.**

Save the date - invite your friends and family - support the Historical Society ... There is more life in this cemetery than you think -

Thanks Again to the Boy Scouts from the Board of Directors

Once again the Boy Scouts of America have come to the aid of the Old Colorado City Historical Society. This time Kenneth Conner and a group of 6 other scouts took care of an area that has needed fixing for a long time. Many years ago some beautiful drawers, perfect for storing artifacts, were given to the Historical Society. Unfortunately, it was only the drawers and no cabinets to put the odd shaped, heavy, solid wood, drawers into. So they did no good. Until recently - when Kenneth was working on his Eagle Scout Project the problem was solved. He and his crew designed and built two cabinets that the drawers fit into and designed the cabinets to fit into a spot in our Archive Department. The cabinets had to be strong to hold not only the wooden oversized drawers, but safe for our volunteers to use. Kenneth's design worked

wonderful! And with six Boy Scouts putting in approximately 6 hours (36 hours of manpower) the Archive Department has more room for storage.

Kenneth's hope is to attend Colorado State University and major in engineering. He is now a senior at Cheyenne Mountain High School where he has been active in football. Over the years Kenneth has been active in the Boy Scouts. One way scouts can earn money is in a "scout bank account" where they "bank" money they make selling popcorn to help offset scouting expenses they may have. (i.e. costs of camps etc.). Kenneth used his banked money to offset expenses incurred building the cabinets.

This is the second time that OCCCHS has had local Boy Scouts create an Eagle Scout Project that benefited the Historical Society. The Board of Directors can't thank them enough. Kenneth, along with the BSA, is a wonderful example of what helping and being part of the community is all about.

President's Letter

Dear Friends:

"Summer time and the living is easy."---NOT!!
 Summer at OCCHC is BUSY, BUSY! First we were closed because of heat and the fire. Tom Daniels and I worried about what to save if the fire came to Old Colorado City. Then we began "Tuesday Nights In July" with the three woman authors. What a blessing to have such talented people in our circle. There was a nice group to hear their stories.

By the time you read this we will have also been entertained by Tom and Donna Hatton, real life ranch folk who also create music and poetry. Our stomachs will also have been filled with the pie that was part of the "Poetry and Pie" evening. Thanks to all that provided pies.

Two more opportunities to get your history fix this summer before we take a break from programing until September. BUT, DON'T FORGET FOUNDER'S DAY AUGUST 12 FROM 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

Free family fun - HAPPY BIRTHDAY OLD COLORADO CITY!

I also would like to take a moment and thank our business members. Look for the page that lists them and remember to thank them when you are out shopping. These sponsors provide support and needed income for our society.

Here's hoping that your summer really is easy.

Sharon Swint, President
 OCCHS Board of Directors

In Memoriam

Former Old Colorado City Historical Society Board member Cynthia Estes passed away recently. We are grateful for her contributions to the society, and offer our sympathy to those for whom her passing has been the greatest loss.

We also offer our sympathy to our members Pat Fejedelem and Dee Heffington who have recently lost their husbands.

TREASURER'S REPORT

June 2012

Suzanne Schorsch

OCCHS's general operating (contractual services such as utilities, security, telephone and newsletter) are around \$20,000 per year. As of June, we are running with a Profit of \$1,700 for the year through our events and bookstore that support the general operation of our building. Our budget, estimated based on past history of accounts receivable, is approximately \$20,000 per year. As you can see, we make exactly what we need - and hopefully a little more. As Treasurer, it is my responsibility to make sure that we run in the black and end the year with a profit that we then pass on to our Savings Accounts. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to make sure that our Savings grow each year so that if any unexpected expense occurs, we are covered.

This past month OCCHS had its first ever Vision meeting open to the public. One thing we discussed is the Vision we have for our Endowment Fund. It is our short term goal for our Endowment Fund to reach \$150,000. Interest from that amount will cover our annual "utilities" in case the economy really falls. We hope that we don't ever need to use the interest of the Endowment Fund, and keep it growing so that the interest of the Endowment Fund may one day cover our entire operating expenses. In that will be the security of Old Colorado City Historical Society.

How does our Endowment Fund grow? From our members, many who gave of their time to the Society when they lived and then remember OCCHS through a bequest when they pass on. We truly thank those members who have done that, and through them,

Our history has a secure future.

Checking	\$ 12,368.91
Endowment	\$105,664.35
Savings Accounts	\$ 16,513.64
Bookstore/Credit Card Account	\$ 4,267.87
Total OCCHS Accounts	\$138,814.77

The Old Colorado City Historical Society's Board of Directors meets regularly on the third Monday of the month.

Meetings are at 1:00 PM. at the Old Colorado City Library, unless otherwise announced.

Interested visitors are always welcome at the Board meetings.

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ONE SOUTH TWENTY-FOURTH STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80904-3319

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT
ORG.

US Postage

PAID

COLO SPGS, CO
PERMIT
#491



August / September Calendar

Sunday, August 12
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Founders Day in Bancroft Park

Authentic Civil War Encampment, Historic walking tours, Special displays in the 1859 Dr. Garvin Cabin, Strolling Barber Shop Quartet, Cinnamon Tea Flute Ensemble, Archaeological Society Display, Victorian dance demonstration, Educational talks

Friday, September 14
11:00 A.M.

Program: The Growth of a Garden How did our fabulous Garden of the Gods Park become city property? Did you know that houses were almost built in the Park as a subdivision? How did people purchase or acquire the land? How did they use the land? If you want to learn more about the growth of our Garden, please join Park interpreter Brook Cruz as she leads us on an exploration of Garden of the Gods history.

OCCHS members FREE. Non-members small fee.

Saturday, September 22
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Fairview Cemetery Crawl ... will take you back in time - the late 1800's and early 1900's as actors dressed in period costumes portray a variety of Colorado City pioneers. Tickets \$8 in advance or \$10 at the gate Children 12 and under - free

Old Colorado City History Center

1 S. 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904 - (719) 636-1225 - <http://www.occhs.org>

Museum Hours: Tues. thru Sat. 11 - 4 Free Admission. Donations greatly appreciated.