

The great Bear Creek flood

By Don Ellis

We are often reminded of the prominent role of geology in shaping our local history. Sand dunes from 280 million years ago became the sandstone which was the basis for an industry and the material for many buildings. Veins of the gold ore sylvanite around a caldera west of Pikes Peak brought great wealth to our region and patrons to Colorado City's more infamous establishments.

No less important in shaping our history than the minerals which have been mined and the stone which has been quarried is our landscape itself. Our mountains, our canyons, our waterfalls, our plains are all the product of virtually countless geologic events.

In this little essay, I am exploring one of those events. In geologic history, as in human history, one often does not know what actually happened, but one pieces together bits of information to construct a likely description.

A geologist friend, the late Hal Prostka, commented to me once about the dogleg in Bear Creek near the Bear Creek Nature Center, "Streams just don't do that by themselves." He suggested that the creek might have been diverted by a landslide. However, I've found little plausible evidence of a major landslide which would have diverted the creek. The area above and south of the Nature Center, as well as some areas to the south, are capped by Rocky Flats alluvium, material which washed down from the mountains about a million years ago. There are alluvial fans about this same age near the mouths of numerous canyons along the Front Range. Generally, these have an abundance of larger stones, cobbles, if you will. To transport these cobbles, the floods which carried them must have been rushing torrents.

Besides the cobbles, the Rocky Flats alluvium near the Nature Center is also composed of gravel and boulders(!). The grains of gravel are generally less than an inch across and are mostly angular bits of disintegrating granite. This gravel is almost indistinguishable from the gravel on the slopes a mile further up Bear Creek, or in North Cheyenne Canyon. Its angular character suggests that it was swept directly from the mountainsides and carried to



Cobbles in Rocky Flats alluvium

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Old Colorado City Historical Society

'Preserving the past for the future'

1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319
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MISSION

Revised August 2012

The Old Colorado City Historical Society is a nonprofit volunteer organization established to recognize the historical significance and unique culture of original Old Colorado City and early El Paso County which includes the present and future history of today's greater Westside neighborhood.

This organization perpetuates the preservation and display of artifacts and archival materials, encouragement of research, education of the children and the community, through the membership and the operation of the Old Colorado City 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 an Endowment Fund to be used only for projects 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	Janice deChadenades	598-7183
Treasurer	Suzanne Schorsch	488-0256
	Brian Copeland	636-1225
	Tom Daniels	636-1225
	Bev Dlsch	636-1225
	Snady Hanzilan	636-6225
	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. Everyone welcome.

WELCOME TO OCCHS! ~ NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

John Wesley Anderson

Carol Mosier Bach

Lelsie Bergstrom

Debby Bloch

Charlease Bobo

Victoria Cooke

Cataherine Dymkoski

Mike Nemeth

Renae Gannon

Kenneth Goldsberry

Don and Ellen Hanson

Jody Hedstrom

Jerry Keller

Phyllis Kester

Terry and Marilyn Lee

Patty and Jon Lovekin

Al and Marilyn Maier

Susan McClelland

Robert Peterson

Patricia Stark-Jacobs

Marion and John Vance

Judy Vaughn

Gayle and William Vidmar

Eloise Wynne



Dana Rutzen - Archives Department Intern

By Sandy Hanzlian

The Old Colorado City History Museum is uniquely fortunate to have a UCCS senior working as an intern in our Archives Department.

Dana Rutzen is a graduate of Cripple Creek-Victor high school (her roots and home town) and Pikes Peak Community College where she obtained an Associate of Art degree. Dana is presently a senior at UCCS where she will soon achieve a Bachelor of Arts as an Art History major with a concentration in curatorial work in museum studies.

Ms. Rutzen is a West Sider who has a deep passion for Old Colorado City. Her work experience is varied and diverse making it easy for her to competently multi-task, but her fondest employment experience was at the Pine Creek Gallery from 2003 through 2010, where she learned much from Nancy Stovall. Working in Pine Creek Gallery offered the opportunity to see "a community that she adored being involved in". She volunteered with the Old Colorado City Associates where she participated in the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Scarecrow Days, and Art Walks.

Dana will be working in our Archives Department where she will learn about conservation and accession/de-accession policies. She will have "hands-on" experiences tagging items, logging items into our Collections Department as well as any other functions needed to benefit our archival acquisitions and procedures. Dana will be working with Tom Daniels who is pleased with this prospect. She is a "techie" who already knows our system.

Additionally, Dana has experience in the computer graphic arts arena. Ms. Rutzen hopes to expand our contact and relationship with UCCS through her faculty mentor Karin Larkin.

As the mother of almost three-year-old Audrey, Dana knows the importance of consistency, time management (translation: juggling) and follow-through.

We are very fortunate Dana will be working in our museum.



“Espinosa Brothers” speaker has extensive background in police work and history.

Dwight Haverkorn is a Colorado Springs native who graduated from Palmer High School (1964). Dwight worked as a police officer for the Colorado Springs Police Department from 1968 to 1982. He served as a Colorado Springs Police Department civilian investigator from 1982 to 1989 and then moved to the City Attorney's office as an investigator from 1989 to 2003 when he retired. Doing historical research on Colorado Springs city ordinances and the city charter spawned an interest in researching local history. Since 1998, Dwight has compiled 4 loose-leaf notebooks of "Homicides of the Pikes Peak Region: 1872 to the Present. This work in progress is available in the Special Collections area of Penrose Library. Another work in progress is a history of the Colorado Springs Police Dept: 1872 to the present. His February 8 presentation will be:

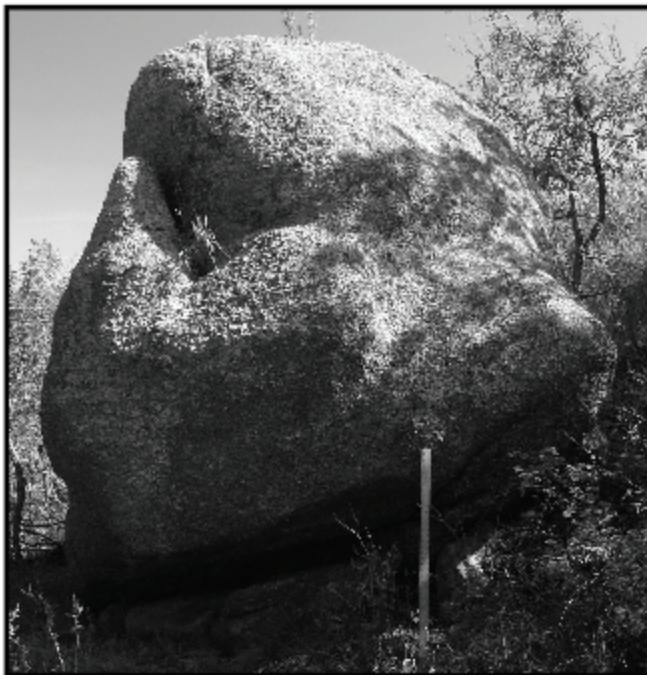
“THE ESPINOSA BROTHERS: Colorado's First Known Serial Killers”

Flood continued from page 1

its present resting place. Like the gravel slopes in North Cheyenne Canyon, the gravel in the Rocky Flats alluvium here has the rather orange color of its feldspar.

In contrast to the gravel, many of the cobbles are rounded "river rocks" which probably spent a long time being tumbled in the stream bed before being carried down to the flats. They also have widely varying characters, granites of various textures, material from dikes, even a little Lyons sandstone. To see this variety of rocks, one would need to travel 4 miles or more up Bear Creek.

The boulders, from something over 2 feet across to more than 10 feet across, are much less varied than the cobbles. Like the gravel, the boulders are predominantly granite. But, unlike the gravel the granite tends to be a rather muted gray owing to the gray or cream colored feldspar. This granite is very similar to the granite of Sentinel Rock; and, like Sentinel Rock, some of it exfoliates in large flakes. The boulders are almost exclusively in the areas west and south of the Nature Center. Proceeding either east or north from the area where boulders occur, the cobbles in the gravel are progressively smaller suggesting spreading and deceleration of the flow. The eastward extent of the alluvial fan is evident from the extent of the gravel deposit on the flat above Bear Creek, east to beyond 21st Street. There is



***Granite boulder on private property
near the Bear Creek Nature Center
(Notice the size of the yardstick)***

little remaining to show the northern extent of the fan. But, the hill in Fairview Cemetery is capped with Rocky Flats alluvium.

So, what might I infer from all of this? There may have been numerous energetic floods which deposited the Rocky Flats alluvium. Likewise, numerous landslides or debris flows might well have moved boulders down into the Bear Creek drainage further upstream. But, there does not appear to be a plausible path for a landslide to have carried the boulders to their present location.

However, one massively destructive flood could have done the job. Perhaps a glacial dam broke. I can guess that such a flood scoured the river rocks from the stream bed, picked up boulders that had come down the slope from the Sentinel Rock area, and swept up gravel from the foot of various gravel slopes. Today, boulders still occasionally roll down the slope around Sentinel Rock cutting swaths through the trees. Some of them make it all the way to the creek.

Could a massive flood a million years ago



***Path of a boulder down the slope near
Sentinel Rock***

have altered our human history? Definitely. If Bear Creek flowed down 25th Street, the Westside would have been different. The Colorado Springs & Cripple Creek District Railway and the Portland Mill would not have been built where they were. The 19th century farm homesteads along the course of today's Bear Creek might have had no irrigation. So, no County Farm along Bear Creek; hence, no Bear Creek Regional Park; no Bear Creek Nature Center.

President's Annual Report

Dear Members:

Happy New Year! We have had a banner year at the Old Colorado City Historical Society in so many ways. I wanted to share information on 2012 with you as members. Below you will find a brief review.

FINANCES: See Page 6 for information.

ARCHIVES: Tom Daniels has stepped up to handle the Archives Department. He has done much reorganizing of the photo collection making it easier to find photos on a particular subject. He has worked with Gerry Travers and Johnie Jackson to get the "best of the best" photos scanned and put on our computer database. In January we will have an intern from UCCS that will start work on cataloguing artifacts in the downstairs area. Tom has also begun selling photos from our collections. A local Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout project built shelves to hold more artifacts.

GPS/WALKING TOUR ADVANCEMENT: OCCHS has moved into the 21st century technologically. A generous donation was made that allowed Neo Trek of Monument to set up a free iPhone app for us whereby anyone with an iPad or iPhone can access designated historical locations in OCC remotely. They can read historical articles; see old pictures and more at each of the locations on the app. A visitor can use the GPS on their iPad or iPhone to guide them to these buildings as they walk around town. The next step will be an app for Android phones. Special thanks to Don Kallaus, Joanne Karlson and her committee for the historical information.

BOOKSTORE: Bookstore profits were up mainly due to our newly published books, *Twenty-Five Years of the West Word* and the Caduff book, *My First Trip to Colorado-1913*, which was purchased by a training class of 50 au pairs from various countries. We also are carrying a nice selection of gift items.

MEMBERSHIP: Business memberships increased this year. Framed wall photo gifts from our Peerless photo collection were given to the Information Station/Business members. The photos can be hung on the walls of the businesses identifying them as sponsors.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE: Only minor repairs have been needed; both furnaces are still working (praise God); we did have a bathroom stall door fall off in the woman's bathroom while someone was in the stall. Thanks to Dave Swint for the repair.

PROGRAMS: Sandy Hanzlian and Kay Atteberry have done a great job providing us with diverse and interesting programs drawing large crowds. We now charge non-members for attendance but members attend free. People are beginning to see the value of membership in OCCHS. "Tuesdays In July" was well attended including a movie night that we may repeat in the future. Colorado Mountain Brewery helped with the Jacob Schmidt fund raiser which was very successful. Our Holiday Tour in December included local historic churches as well as B & Bs and netted \$1,700 for OCCHS.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: We continue to reach out to the community. We work with Old Colorado City merchants as well as OWN, the mayor's office, schools, PPLD and community clubs. We are beginning to be the "go to" museum for historical information, photos and much more. This is mainly due to the fact that we are easy to work with and accessible. Our members contributed enough money to replace the Anway Hotel historic plaque on Pikes Peak Ave. We received several nice letters and comments regarding this effort.

PROJECTS FOR 2013: Mayor Bach will hold his first town hall meeting of 2013 in our building on February 19. We are working with former sheriff John Anderson on an early law enforcement book. We are also working on a Manitou Incline book by Tom Daniels who has been collecting information for 20 years. For safety and security we need to install a new railing for the front entrance. A good size donation has already been received but the work will cost about \$2000. We will continue to try and find money for the next app for Android phones. We need a new computer for downstairs that actually accesses the internet. If you desire to donate to the railing fund, computer fund or Android fund, please drop off a check with the purpose indicated in the memo section.

Our entire society can be proud of how we have fulfilled our mission statement this year. Thanks to all that have helped and those of you who may want to step up and help in 2013. I continue to marvel at how we are a 100% volunteer organization and accomplish so much. If you have questions about any of the above, please call me at home or leave a message at the history center.

2012 Year End Recap – Treasurer's Report

Suzanne Schorsch

This year was my first year as Treasurer for OCCHS and it has been eventful. Two of many things I learned were: First - Our members love to go to our lectures and events and like that the cost is minimal. Second - our members want good value BUT also want our Historical Society to plan for the future.

2012 was a very successful year for OCCHS. Below are the number "facts" to our success and the reasons why we were successful and how our volunteers and members play such an important part.

We have three accounts: Operating Account - general running of OCCHS; Savings Account - saving for emergencies or projects that are not covered in annual expenses; Endowment Account - long term planning for the future. In the past couple years, the operations of maintaining our building has gone from \$10,000 per year to \$20,000 per year - the increase has mostly been increases in utilities. For the past two years we were short of covering operating expenses and changes had to be made. This year we are proud to give you the following figures:

<i>Account</i>	<i>01/01/2012</i>	<i>12/31/2012</i>	<i>Net Gain/Loss</i>
Endowment Account	\$ 103,495.85	\$ 107,345.68	\$ 3,849.83
Savings Account	\$ 13,695.83	\$ 13,935.26	\$ 239.43
Designated Funds	\$ 2,630.75	\$ 2,630.75	0

<i>Operating Account</i>	<i>Acc'ts Receivable</i>	<i>Acc'ts Payable</i>	<i>Net Gain/Loss</i>
	\$ 31,698.55	\$ 21,325.96	\$ 10,372.59

TOTAL YEAR NET GAIN	\$ 14,461.83
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IN-KIND GIFTS (non-monetary gifts) were approximately \$1,500

<i>Account Balances</i>	
Endowment	\$ 107,345.68
Savings	\$ 13,935.26
Designated Funds	\$ 2,630.75
Operating Account	\$ 20,757.22
Bookstore Account	\$ 4,098.48
TOTAL ACCOUNT BALANCES	\$ 148,767.39

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Treasurer's Year End Recap Continued from Page 6

How did WE (we being the Board, the volunteers and the members) manage to make over \$10,000 in profits in general operating of OCCHS this year? Here is the hard work of our volunteers and members:

- We cut the cost of utilities by having winter hours for the first time last winter.
- We changed our accounting methods to make it easier on the prep time for our 990 tax return - saving 1/3 of the cost in accounting fees
- We started charging for non-members to attend general meetings going from a loss on each of these meetings to a gain.
- We raised the price of fundraising events to non-members and tried to maintain much lower cost to members. Both of these actions prompted people to become members. Events were budgeted to bring in \$8,500 based on 2011 figures and ended up making \$10,207.32.
- We updated our data base for members, making billing of membership dues timelier and taking out many memberships that had lapsed. Membership made a gain of \$1,500 this year over budget.
- We have gone further into publishing ventures making \$2,500 from two books we published this year and profits in the bookstore of \$5,000.
- We extended the dates for our crafters around our building made \$3,500 - a gain of \$500 over budget.
- We have seen that the Photography Department is now actively selling photos and for the first time and brought in \$831 in unexpected revenue.
- We created a budget based on previous years expenses and STUCK to it. The only items that went over budget this year is the production of West Word (due to a rise in printing cost) and insurance costs.
- We did not have a "year-end giving letter" but we were blessed because we took in over \$2,000 in General Fund gifts from members and an anonymous foundation. We are trying to let our members know that this is THEIR organization and the only way we will be secure in the future is TOGETHER.

THANK YOU MEMBERS and VOLUNTEERS for making 2012 a VERY SUCCESSFUL YEAR (We learned a lot and had a lot of fun while we did.)

Open House - the Bock Family Legacy

Saturday, March 2, 2013

The Old Colorado City Historical Society was fortunate to receive as a gift from Kenyon Jordan of the *Westside Pioneer* a collection of folios which Richard Bock had sent to him. These will be on display at the History Center on Saturday, March 2 along with publications by John G. Bock and his sons, as well as artifacts which Dave Hughes acquired from the former Bock

The Old Colorado City Historical Society's Board of Directors meets regularly on the third Monday of the month at 1:00 P.M. at the **Old Colorado City History Center**, unless otherwise announced. Interested visitors are always welcome at the Board meetings.
The next Board meeting will be Monday, February 18

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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February/March Calendar

Friday, February 8
11:00 A.M.

Program: "The Espinoza Brothers: Colorado's First Known Killers" presented by Dwight Haverkorn. The Espinosa Brothers, 1863 serial killers, killed 30 plus victims in the South Park area. Dwight Haverkorn will discuss some of the victims, the killing of one of the Espinosa brothers by miners, the remaining brother recruiting a nephew, resuming a killing spree, and finally the capture and demise at the hands of scout Tom Tobin.

OCCHS Members FREE. Non-members \$5.00.

Tuesday, February 19
6:30 P.M.

Mayor's Town Hall meeting

Saturday, March 2
11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Open House - the Bock Family legacy

Friday, March 8
10:00 A.M.

Program: "The Colorful Tale of Buckskin Joe" presented by Sherry Johns. Sherry and her coworkers documented every building in Buckskin Joe near the Royal Gorge, along with hundreds of documents found on their walls. The link to Joe Higginbottom, the original Buckskin Joe, and the story of Silverheels, the dance hall girl from the original town will be included.

OCCHS Members FREE. Non-members \$5.00.

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 - 2 Free Admission. Donations greatly appreciated.