

# TAKE A RIDE, A HIKE, A PADDLE

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# My COLORADO

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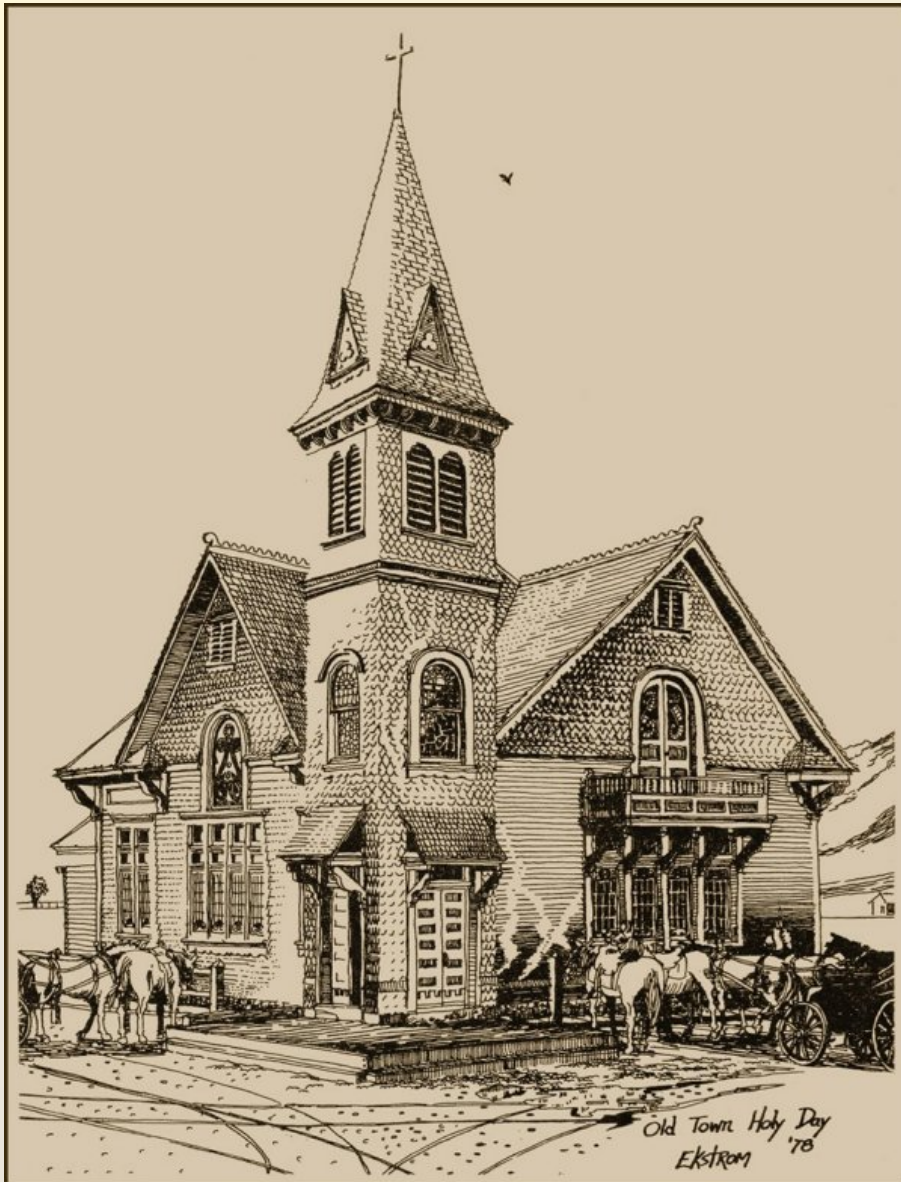
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## HOW DO WE DO IT?

Posted by Dave Hughes on September 2, 2009 at 11:00pm [View Blog](#)

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF COLORADO CITY - 1889 - Our History Center

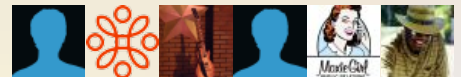
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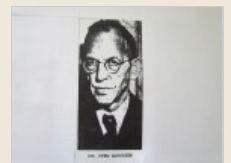


## PHOTOS



### DR. EINSTEIN'S GRAVE STONE

by Tanja Britton  
0 0



### DR. OTTO EINSTEIN

by Tanja Britton  
0 0

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## How do we do it?

Our Old Colorado City Historical Society just put on a very successful Founder's Day as part of the Sesquicentennial Year Celebrations of the original Colorado City's 1859 founding. It culminated in the live playing for the first time in 100 years of the long lost 'Midland Band March' by the New Horizons Volunteer band, and the dedication of a costly Society gift to the City of Colorado Springs in the form of a 6 foot high rose granite Monument portraying Colorado City's 150 years of history.

Many of our Board members are asked, knowing how tight the economy is, how difficult it is to launch and sustain the growth of small non-profit organizations in Colorado Spring, how we still do it, and have done it for the past 34 years. How do we not only carry off such a project as the Monument, but operate a full sized free History Center and Museum with research library, publish 10 informative newsletters a year, participate in six fund raising events a year - Territory Days, Art and Craft Show, Ice Cream Social, Founders Day, Cemetery Crawl, the Bed and Breakfast Christmas tours, operate a profit making book and gift store, publish some of our own books, dig out long neglected regional history putting on at least 10 free public historical programs a year, conduct short and long history tours, constantly expand our interactive, multi-media powerful Web site while progressively digitizing all our collections, serve the interests of our 315 dues paying members, help visitors research where their ancestors lived, worked, and died. While maintaining - keeping the doors open year round - in our \$500,000 History Center in an historic church, containing its invaluable archives and displays.

And do it entirely by volunteers - no paid staff, and no sustaining government or benefactor funding, only occasional grant awards for projects. All is managed by a nine person elected Board of Directors which is so collegial I can't remember the last time there was a cross word.

Well, its not particularly easy. It takes work and organization. But it doesn't seem overly hard either. Our volunteers, many of whom are in their 70s and 80s, step up to the plate and get done what needs to be done, taking responsibility from the daily manning of the Book store and greeting visitors, to organizing the outdoor events. We keep focused on our historical mission.

We manage our finances carefully staying within budget - always less than \$25,000 a year - using as advanced spread sheet projections as any big company in town. Spending only what we raise, or from the earnings of our growing small Endowment fund. We publicize our forthcoming activities in local media, which supports us. And we chat with visitors to our center, from school children to foreign guests educating them and ourselves on the rich, long neglected history of Colorado City and the Westside.

Without fanfare, we just make it work. All are welcome. Come see. Maybe join.

Dave Hughes, Member

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## PHOTO GALLERIES



## EVENTS



### THE ARC PPR 4TH ANNUAL ACHIEVE WITH US FILM FESTIVA

March 23, 2016 all day - [Stargazer's Theatre and Event Center](#)



### PINE FOREST SPRING SHOW & SALE

April 23, 2016 at 10am to April 24, 2016 at 3pm - [Lewis Palmer High School](#)



### JOHN DENVER TRIBUTE WITH JIM CURRY

May 13, 2016 from 7pm to 9pm - [Stargazers Theatre](#)

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Monument Dedication



The Band

played the Midland Band March - first time in 100 years



Our History Center now, across from Bancroft Park



Free Historical Programs all year




Public browsing our displays



And our annual Cemetery Crawl - with Laura Belle, Queen of Colorado City's Red Light District at her grave, telling all...

Views: 42

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Comment by [Dave Hughes](#) on September 8, 2009 at 12:05pm

Yeah, the new 'print' Fresh\*Ink just contains too few words per article. It is really a photo gallery with comments, not stories, supported by illustrations.

So I don't think I will try to write for the print Fresh\*Ink. Just for the online version, where I can say something.



Comment by [Dave Hughes](#) on September 2, 2009 at 11:31pm

Of course you can reach our web site [RIGHT HERE](#)

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