

THE RED ROCK RAG

Volume 4, Number 7

News and Views on Red Rock Canyon

July, 2003

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P. O. Box 2352, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2352

www.saveredrockcanyon.com

Residents notified of ownership change

On or about June 18, all tenants on the Red Rock Canyon property received from Joan Bock a "NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF OWNERSHIP AND OFFER TO VOLUNTARILY VACATE." This notice stated that the property was to be sold to the Trust for Public Land and ultimately owned by the City of Colorado Springs.

The notice requested that the residents "find other places to live and terminate your tenancy on the premises no later than September 1, 2003." However, the notice was not an eviction notice and does not require the tenants to vacate the property. A "TENANT ELECTION" form provided along with the notice gave the tenants the opportunity to state whether or not they intend to "vacate the premises on or before August 31, 2003."

For those who choose to vacate before September 1, Joan Bock is offering to waive rent payments and give free rent for the months of June, July and August. Since the notice was delivered after June rent payments had been made, Mrs. Bock did not cash June rent checks pending return of the "TENANT ELECTION" forms. The forms were to be returned to Tom Kay of KDI Commercial Real Estate by June 27.

Our Thanks

The Red Rock Canyon Committee wishes to express its appreciation to

Jo Cervone

for her contribution supporting the Red Rock Rag and to the Red Rock Canyon Foundation for its support of the Red Rock Rag.

July meeting rescheduled

Since a July 3 meeting could conflict with plans for the July 4th holiday weekend, the July Red Rock Canyon Committee meeting will be held Thursday, July 17th, instead. The meeting will be at 7:00 PM in the Celebration Community Room (2207 W. Colorado Ave.), and will be combined with the Red Rock Canyon Foundation Board meeting.

CALENDAR

Meetings of Possible Interest:

- July 1 Manitou Springs City Council
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- July 8 Colorado Springs City Council
9:00 A.M. City Council Chambers,
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa
- July 9 TOPS Working Committee
4:00 P.M. Colorado Springs
Parks and Recreation Building
1401 Recreation Way
(East of I-25, 2 blocks north of Uintah)
- July 15 Manitou Springs City Council
(Crystal Hills East agenda item)
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- July 17 Red Rock Canyon Committee & Foundation
7:00 P.M. 2207 W. Colorado Avenue
- July 22 Colorado Springs City Council
9:00 A.M. City Council Chambers,
The historic City Hall, Nevada & Kiowa
- July 23 TOPS Working Committee
7:30 A.M. Colorado Springs
Parks and Recreation Building
1401 Recreation Way
(East of I-25, 2 blocks north of Uintah)
- July 23 Manitou Springs Open Space
Advisory Committee
7:00 P.M. Manitou Springs City Hall
606 Manitou Avenue
- August 7 Red Rock Canyon Committee
7:00 P.M. Village at Skyline (off Lower Gold
Camp Road), Activities Room, Building No. 4
(The Easternmost Building - enter from the
parking lot north of the building)

NOTE: Scheduled meetings can be subject to change or cancellation. Check these web pages within a week of scheduled meeting for items of interest:

Colorado Springs City government: www.springsgov.com

El Paso County government: www.elpasoco.com

Also, check the CONO web site: www.cskonno.org

TIDBITS

Colorado-Philadelphia and Standard Mills

In 1896, at the foot of the hogbacks, near the eastern edge of what is now the Red Rock Canyon property, the Colorado-Philadelphia Reduction Company built a chlorination mill for refining Cripple Creek gold ore. The mill which was completed in September of 1896 was the largest of its kind in the United States. Hundreds of tons of red sandstone from the Kenmuir Quarry in Red Rock Canyon went into its three foot thick foundation.

As with any such project, the history of the Colorado-Philadelphia Mill has its roots in events years before and is woven of many threads:

By 1884 Irving Howbert had conceived of a railroad from Colorado City to the rich mining districts of Leadville and Aspen, a grandiose scheme which would require a massive investment of money and energy. And, in 1884, the man who had money and drive arrived in Colorado Springs, a small, and at that time very sick, man named James J. Hagerman. Hagerman had made a considerable fortune as head of the Milwaukee Iron Company and had been a business colleague of Andrew Carnegie. In June of 1885, Hagerman became president of Howbert's Colorado Midland Railway Company which soon built its rail yards and shops in Colorado City and began laying track around the north end of Red Rock Canyon, on around Manitou, up Ute Pass to Hayden Divide, through Florissant, and on across South Park. The Colorado Midland built a spur almost a mile up Red Rock Canyon to haul stone from the quarries.

Cripple Creek was not yet producing gold when the Colorado Midland was built. In fact, the Cripple Creek Mining District wasn't organized until April of 1891. By the time Cripple Creek traffic had grown to support a railroad, the Colorado Midland was owned by the Santa Fe, and the directors of the Santa Fe had no interest in building a spur to Cripple Creek. However, Harry Collbran, who was general manager of the Midland, and W. K. Gillett, the Santa Fe passenger auditor, did. By diverting Colorado Midland resources to their own project, they were able to build the Midland Terminal Railroad from the Hayden Divide station (now Divide) to Cripple Creek.

Meanwhile, David Moffat built the Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad which reached Cripple Creek on July 2, 1894, 18 months before the Midland terminal. During the first 18 months of operation, the F&CC made enough money to recover all of its construction costs. But, once the Midland Terminal reached Cripple Creek, the F&CC never made a profit again. Colorado City virtually owned rail transportation to and from Cripple Creek.

Rather than being metallic gold in quartz like the ore from many gold mines, Cripple Creek's ore was in the form of gold tellurides: sylvanite and calaverite. The conventional stamp mill in which the ore was crushed and the gold amalgamated with mercury was almost useless in refining Cripple Creek ore. A new kind mill of was built in the town of Lawrence which at one time adjoined the town of Victor. This mill used a new chlorination process imported from the Transvaal. At first, the process didn't

work well, but it was refined by Charlie MacNeill until it produced very good results.

In December of 1895, the chlorination mill at Lawrence burned to the ground.

Two men from Philadelphia, Spencer Penrose and Charles L. Tutt, had a real estate business in Cripple Creek and owned a Cripple Creek mine named the C.O.D. When the C.O.D. sold for \$250,000, Tutt and Penrose decided that milling ore was a better way to make money than mining it. They got Charlie MacNeill who had run the chlorination mill at Lawrence to join them and, with the backing of Irving Howbert, Winfield Scott Stratton and some Philadelphia investors they formed the Colorado-Philadelphia Reduction Company. They reasoned that it would cost less to ship ore down from Cripple Creek than to ship coal up to Cripple Creek to power a mill in the mining district, and they built the Colorado-Philadelphia Mill on the outskirts of Colorado City. The location of the mill at the base of the hogbacks was well chosen since it was less than a quarter mile from the main Midland tracks, close to an abundant source of building stone, and on the outskirts of Colorado City which was the industrial center of the region.

The operation was extremely successful, and in 1901 Tutt, Penrose and MacNeill expanded the scope of the venture by bringing in New York investors to form a mill trust named the United States Reduction and Refining Company, which was capitalized at \$13 million. United States Reduction sought to monopolize the milling of Cripple Creek ore by acquiring mills in Florence and Canon City as well. United States Reduction also built a second Colorado City mill, the Standard. The Standard Mill was about a quarter mile south of the Colorado-Philadelphia, and like the Colorado-Philadelphia, it was at the base of the hogbacks. Within a few years, Tutt, Penrose and MacNeill sold their mills to the Cuggenheim family.

Meanwhile, the mine owners had become displeased with the high prices they were paying to ship ore on the Midland Terminal and have it refined at that Colorado-Philadelphia. So, they decided to build their own railroad and their own mill. The first shovel full of dirt for the new Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek District Railroad was turned in January of 1900. The CS&CCD connected most directly to the new Portland Mill which was located at the present site of the Penrose Equestrian Center.

The Colorado-Philadelphia, Standard, and Portland mills were all doomed to a short life. In 1907 John Milliken built the Golden Cycle Mill which was the most modern cyanide mill in the world. The chlorination mills couldn't match the production of the new cyanide mill and were shut down within four years. The Golden Cycle continued milling Cripple Creek ore until 1948 and created the immense tailings pile we now know as Gold Hill Mesa.

In the 1920's and 30's another Philadelphia man, John George Bock, assembled the Red Rock Canyon property. In his book, *In Red Rock Canyon Land*, he lamented that: "The small sum of three hundred dollars stopped him from buying the Philadelphia Standard and Reduction Mill for twenty five hundred dollars ..."

Don Ellis

Red Rock Canyon Foundation President's Report, July 2003

In the last meetings of the Red Rock Canyon Committee and the Foundations we have been looking at where we go from here. Some consensus has been emerging but the process is open and dynamic. Here are some ideas:

The Rock property has not been actually purchased yet. We need to stay in regular communication with TPL and the city of Colorado Springs to support the process of acquisition and funding. Both these group need to understand the positions of the Red Rock Canyon advocates whom we represent. Everyone should keep the eye on the prize and not get got up in secondary issues. From the information we receive the negotiation are proceeding adequately but they are delicate and complicated.

Red Rock Canyon advocates need to have the opportunity to see the land in guided controlled situations as soon as possible. We have worked hard. In order to motivate ourselves and other to keep helping to create a public open space, we need to see what we are working for. We suggest a public party and walk on the land in September or as soon as possible. You will be invited when it is arranged.

We need to go through a public process to receive feedback from our supporters to find out what they want in the non open space land at the north end near highway 24. We will do that in a survey in the Red

Rock Rag and by email. Please give your feedback quickly when you receive the survey. Then it will be the responsibility of the Committee and the Foundation to represent the consensus to TPL and the City.

We support and trust that there will be an open public process run by the city Park and Recreation Department to receive citizen suggestions and ideas of how to develop the open space park and the lands near Highway 24, 31st Street and 26th Street. Advocates for open space should help define what "compatible uses" happen around the land purchased by TOPS funds.

The Red Rock Rag Newsletter is important for the foreseeable future as the City and TPL determine how the land will be used. Don Ellis deserves a lot of credit for his work and dedication. The Foundation will pay the majority of the newsletter expenses.

Some people question why we have two organizations for Red Rock Canyon - the Committee and the Foundation. After reflection we have decide to keep both organizations for now because they have different purposes. However, there will be only one combined meeting a month, so the public can have input to both the Committee and the Foundation.

In the month of July the combined meeting will be Thursday, July 17th at 7:00 PM in the Celebration Community Room (2207 W. Colorado Ave.). Starting in August the Combined meetings will be the first Thursday of the month at the Village at Skyline (August 7 at 7:00 PM). Please join us.

Shanti Toll

Red Rock Canyon Foundation - MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Membership donation: (checks payable to Red Rock Canyon Foundation)

Membership level

- Supporter (wanting to be kept informed)
- Helper (willing to work on occasional committee or help with work projects)
- Leader (willing to volunteer a few hours a month)

Areas of interest for volunteering: _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Send this membership form to:

Red Rock Canyon Foundation
2207 W. Colorado Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

(Phone 634-1810)

HELP SUPPORT THE RED ROCK RAG!

Enclosed is my contribution. (Check payable to "Red Rock Canyon Committee", not tax deductible.)

___ Do ___ Don't acknowledge my contribution in the **RED ROCK RAG**.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-mail: _____

Mail to: **Red Rock Canyon Committee / P. O. Box 2352 / Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2352**

For more information, contact **Linda Hodges** at the **Trails and Open Space Coalition**: 633-6884,
or e-mail: help@saveredrockcanyon.com

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of the Red Rock Canyon Committee.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Letters, articles, comments may be sent to:

Rag Editor
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P. O. Box 2352
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2352

Electronic submissions may be sent to:

rag@saveredrockcanyon.com

Please send electronic text in plain ASCII (.txt) format

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