



Englewood Historic Preservation Society

Preserving Englewood Colorado History

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P.O. Box 11234 Englewood, Colorado 80151

Doug Cohn & Paul Skizinski - Editors
Lindsey Runyan - Graphic Design

Upcoming EHPS Events for SPRING & SUMMER

May 7th - Wednesday

Monthly EHPS Study Session at 6 pm followed by the General Meeting from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the City Center Community Center. Everyone is welcome at both meetings.

May 10th - Saturday

Join EHPS at the Englewood Public Library from 10 am - 2 pm. We will be continuing our efforts to organize and catalog all the artifacts and documents stored by the former historical society.

June 7th - Saturday

No history talk in May. Instead we are having a Potluck Picnic at Bates Logan Park in June. (see page 3 for more details)

June 27th - Friday

Doug Cohn, membership director of EHPS is our upcoming speaker for June 27th. Doug will talk about the Colorado Eastern Railroad, a railroad you probably have never heard of that ran from downtown Denver seventeen miles out into the eastern plains. Join EHPS at the Englewood Public Library at 3pm for this lecture. The event is open to the public with complimentary refreshments served. Donations greatly appreciated.

August 1st - Friday

The lecture usually scheduled on the last Friday of July will be on August 1st, since that is the time the lecturer is available. Maya DeBus, will present Littleton history, in a talk entitled "Ed Bemis, My Grandfather", with insights into the Bemis family. Join EHPS at the Englewood Public Library at 3pm for this lecture. The event is open to the public with complimentary refreshments served. Donations greatly appreciated.

August 22nd - Friday

Jack Marshall Maness, author of the novel, "Song of the Jayhawk", is our upcoming speaker for August 22nd. (Please note that this is NOT the last Friday of the month, so as to avoid a conflict with any plans for Labor Day Weekend.) Jack is the son of four generations of Kansans, and spent much of his early life in Atchison, KS and along the Missouri River, learning her character, her ghost stories, and her past. His novel was inspired by his great-great grandparents' lives in territorial Kansas. Join EHPS at the Englewood Public Library at 3pm for this lecture. The event is open to the public with complimentary refreshments served. Donations greatly appreciated.

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THE HISTORY OF ONE OF ENGLEWOOD'S OLDEST BUILDINGS by Doug Cohn



Have you ever wondered about the building at 3421-3427 S. Broadway, the IOOF building? What do the initials IOOF mean? What about the three interlocking links? Here is the story.

IOOF is the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The Englewood Lodge began in 1928 as Lodge #57 when the building was constructed. Later it merged with another group and became Lodge #138. It was a social group with a large vision. Englewood had chapter #68 of the Rebekah order, who met in the IOOF Hall. The men & women worked together to help people in need.

The IOOF Building on Broadway has a full size ballroom upstairs with a stage where performances were held. They had dances and talks, as well as regular social gatherings. According to the sign on the building, they met twice a month. They learned about people in need in the area and worked to help them. In the basement there was a school during the earlier years. The flag had 48 stars, and Eisenhower was the President.

There are a number of stories about the origin of the name. One says that they were called "odd" because in the beginning of Odd Fellowship in the 18th century, at the time of industrialization, it was rather odd to find people who followed noble values such as benevolence, charity and fraternalism.

A variation on that theory states: "The Odd Fellows, got its curious name from the fact that it was a lodge that opened its doors to the working class who at that time did not ordinarily belong to fraternal orders—and were thus 'odd'. This may or may not be true as the Odd Fellows have been around for a long time and a good many things get lost in the fog of history.



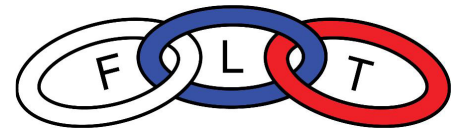
Another theory states that Odd Fellows were people who engaged in miscellaneous or "odd" trades. In the 18th century, major trades were organized in guilds or other forms of syndicate, such as the Masons, but smaller trades did not have any social or financial security. For that reason, people who exercised unusual trades joined together to form a larger group of "odd" fellows.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows was founded on the North American Continent in Baltimore, Maryland, on April 26, 1819 when Thomas Wildey and four members of the Order from England instituted Washington Lodge No. 1. This lodge received its charter from Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows in England.



Odd Fellowship became the first fraternity in the U.S. to include both men and women when it adopted the "Beautiful Rebekah Degree" on September 20, 1851. This degree is

based on teachings found in the Holy Bible, and was written by the Honorable Schuyler Colfax who was Vice President of the United States during the period 1868-1873. He is the namesake for Colfax Avenue, as well as the old mining town of Colfax, Colorado in Custer County, now a ghost town. Odd Fellows and Rebekahs were also the first U.S. fraternal organizations to establish homes for senior members and for orphaned children. There were a total of 175 chapters in Colorado's history. Most of the mining towns and many rural towns had IOOF chapters.



What about the three links? The Order is also known as "The Three Link Fraternity", referring to the Order's "Triple Links" logo - three links contain the letters F, L and T, (Friendship, Love and Truth). Here are the basic principles:

An Odd Fellow is an advocate of FRIENDSHIP and never looks at people with prejudiced eyes or bases his judgment on outward appearances. He supports the idea that all people irrespective of creed, race, color, nationality, social status, sex, rank and station are brothers and sisters. He does not take an undue advantage of his power or the weaknesses of those around him.

An Odd Fellow is an enactor of LOVE in a way that he feels jointly responsible for his fellowmen and prepared to give attention and help wherever and whenever help is needed. He is a person who treats others, especially women and children, with dignity and respect. He knows the application of sympathy, sincerity, unselfishness, and generosity. He accepts the fact that nothing is perfect but believes that he has an obligation to contribute in making the world a better place to live.

THE HISTORY OF... *continued*

An Odd Fellow is a pursuer of TRUTH and adheres to equality, justice and righteousness. He sees searching for truth as searching for clarity in the sense of his life. Every time a small piece of truth is found, he will try to use it only in ways where he will be able to be true to himself and his fellowmen.

What do they do? The command of the IOOF is to “visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan.” In a time before the government took over caring for people, churches and service groups like the Odd Fellows did that. They cared for regular people overlooked by the system. They cared for their neighbors in need. They provided education, food and financial help and made sure no one died without being remembered. During the terrible years of the great depression, the IOOF families took in people who needed help. The group believes in God and His providence, but is not connected to any specific church. In the mining towns, quite a number of men were killed in the mines and their families were cared for the Odd Fellows. These were regular people who cared for each other. As far as I can tell, most members were not members of the skilled trades. They were shop keepers and employees of businesses who cared deeply that the people in need in their neighborhoods were helped when they needed it.

Like many other service groups, the IOOF has diminished in size in the recent decades. One source I read suggested that the “New Deal” in the 1930s replaced the main mission of the group. The government took over the job. There are still a number of lodges around our state and they continue to do good works. There are numerous groups in other countries helping fulfill the mission. You can visit the web site to find out more. www.ioofcolorado.org

Every year, the Odd Fellows make a pilgrimage to Washington DC to visit the tomb of the unknowns as a gesture that none be forgotten.

Information for this story came from the IOOF website and Wikipedia, and was assembled by Doug Cohn. The photos came from the Englewood Public Library digital collection.

JUNE Potluck Picnic



Join EHPS at Bates Logan park on Saturday, June 7th from 3:30 - 7:30 pm for a Potluck Picnic - bring something to share. Burgers & hot dogs will be provided. Please RSVP on the web site or email or call 720-254-1897. We will have homemade ice cream, play old style games, and have some fun. All are welcome, whether members or not. Parking is off Cornell Avenue and Pennsylvania Street.

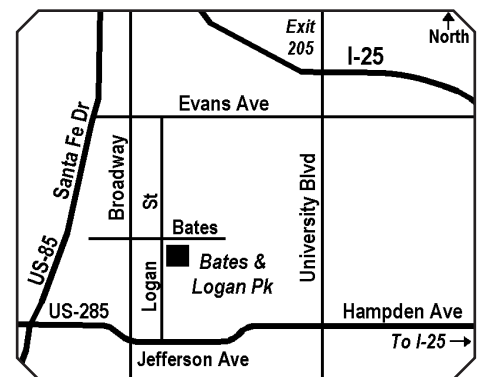
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Bates Logan Park Facts



The park is next to the City Ditch, a very important diversion to bring water to downtown Denver. In 1860, Capitol Hydraulic Company began construction of this irrigation canal. Contractor John W. Smith was hired to build the ditch. It originally went by several names: Big Ditch, Platte Ditch, Platte Canal or Smith's Ditch, but was renamed City Ditch by 1882. At its zenith, City Ditch started six miles south of Littleton (present-day Chatfield Dam) and snaked its way 27.5 miles northeast to the lakes in Denver City Park. Today, Denver Water only operates the lower six miles of the channel, from South High School to City Park. The ditch can still be seen flowing through Denver's Washington Park.



Englewood Historic Preservation Society Mission

To Preserve and share Englewood's history.

ASK JIM!!! ASK JIM!!!

Jim McLellan is interested in gathering and sharing stories about old Englewood. Will you as readers share your own personal stories from that time period? He would like to draw out memories from our readers that would create an exciting and fun exchange. Will you participate? This is a great way to share your memories of old Englewood. Please write something and tell your stories.

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SPECIAL THANKS

Lecture Series

On Friday, April 25th James Prochaska, former director of the Gilpin County Historic Society and David Forsyth gave a most interesting talk, entitled "A Trip to Central City". We learned about the challenges of getting to and living in Central City in the early days, a city that was once called "the richest square mile on earth". Thank you both!

Office Furniture

Special thanks to our newest Board Member, secretary - Marian Greenway. Marian arranged for EHPS to receive gently used office furniture from her workplace as they were replacing it with new! Thanks to all who helped load and transport the furniture to it's temporary home in Marian's shed until EHPS finds a more permanant home!



GUESS WHO?

Does anyone know who the man is pictured here?

ANSWER: Bud McLellan

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