

4/17/2005 - Keynote Introduction: “I know what most of us have in mind as the usual image of a history teacher. Mine is a short little lady who waxed on about American history when I was in 8th grade and who had the unique ability to make one hour feel like seven, literally boring everyone to tears. Well, throw away that concept because tonight we have the special treat of being led down history lane by a true master at the craft who knows well how to make his topics both interesting and fun and, of course, accurate and relevant to the nth degree. He is a superb storyteller of the highest order and we here in Denver know him fondly as “Dr. Colorado.” His columns grace the pages of the Rocky Mountain News and he’s a regular guest on various television broadcasts. His passions are Colorado’s interesting and unique railroads, plus he’s a cemetery sherpa of sorts when it comes to knowing precisely where, when and why the historic bodies were buried in and around the state. This spring our speaker focused his Magic Lantern Show at the Colorado History Museum on our famous Red Rocks Amphitheatre in tandem with the release of his newest coffee table book entitled “Red Rocks: From Dinosaurs to Rock and Roll.” Go to his website and you’ll find Dr. Colorado is a cyber-historian as well. There are more than twenty books to his credit. And you’ll learn that Dr. Colorado is Denver’s resident history expert from the Smithsonian. This fall he’s “conducting,” no pun intended, the Smithsonian’s popular “Railroading the Rockies” tour combined with overnights at historic hotels in Denver, Telluride and Glenwood Springs – plus, the Smithsonian’s Grand American Orient Express Tour called “Rockies & Sierras,” which starts in Denver and chugs its way under our speaker’s tutelage to San Francisco. For the past 15 years, our speaker has served as a Professor of History & Director of Public History and Colorado Studies at the University of Colorado at Denver. He was awarded his doctorate in 1978 from the University of Colorado, Boulder campus, where his grandmother, a school teacher, and his mother, a physician, also did their graduate work. On that note, tonight we have the pleasure of focusing Dr. Colorado’s attention on the accomplishments of Colorado’s women for Leadership America’s 2005 American Issues Forum. Without further delay, I offer you Dr. Colorado, Dr. Tom Noel. Please, enjoy!”