

Friday, November 14, 1986

## Dave Hughes Outlines Possible Computer Equipment Purchase

Member-Expert Suggests that a First Class System is Within Our Means and Will Establish Its Worth

O.C.C.H.S. member Dave Hughes is professionally involved with computers, and President Agnes Johnson asked Dave to submit his recommendations on how the computer might fit into the Society's operations, now and in the future. His reply follows:

Oct. 10th, 1986

Old Colorado City Historical Society  
Attn: Board of Directors

I have been asked to suggest an appropriate microcomputer for the Society to buy for a number of purposes. As I see it, a modern small computer system can, and should, be used for the following purposes:

- Internal Society Administration: membership lists, minutes of meetings, correspondence, bookkeeping, budget preparation and tracking, property record keeping, reports.

- Control of acquisitions and donations of historical artifacts, books, and papers: Cataloging, donor information, donor or lender agreements, property records, historical notations about the items.

- Historical Research: a way for volunteers to research, record, and add to the Society's collection historical facts, anecdotes and other material on Colorado City, the Westside and early El Paso County, cross index it, retrieve it, and print out excerpts. Be able to perform some of this research by dialing libraries via modem.

- Display to the public, and especially local school students with access to school computer communications, the anecdotal history of Colorado City via modem communications.

Any small professional microcomputer, appropriate software and peripheral equipment can do all of the above

## A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

Three people joined us this month, including two who proved their interest in history by presenting recent programs.

Bessie Hegg, a Westsider of 2540 Camelot Court, 634-4646, says she goes by Bessie, even though her given name is Edith.

John A. Haney, who presented last month's program, lives at 1619 N. Weber, phone 634-5007.

Mrs. A. C. (Joyce) Johns of 3106 Templeton Gap Road, 635-4649, introduced us to "The Women" in September.

things. Based upon my experience with other non-profit organizations, just about any volunteer can learn how to use it.

While very cheap home computers can be made to do the above with sufficient expertise, costs have come down low enough there is no good reason to get an absolute minimum system. The IBM MSDOS computer standard is so widely in use now, from schools and libraries to government agencies and large institutions, that I think we should stick to that standard. It will prevent us from getting stuck also with an obsolete computer five years from now.

So I recommend IBM PC-Compatible (meaning it works exactly like an IBM but is not bought from IBM - at its rather high prices) with the following initial configuration:

Two 5 1/4" disk-drive desk-top system (360k floppies)  
512k memory RAM  
8088 cpu (which makes it a 'standard' IBM PC, not an AT)  
GCA Graphics card with monochrome graphics terminal  
RS232 modem port, Parallel Printer Port  
\$1,200 - \$1,500  
Standard Wordprocessing Software (such as Wordstar) \$150  
Standard Data Base (List) Manager, such as Dbase \$250

## See Rural Culture of El Paso County

Prof. Michel Dahlin, assistant professor of history at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs, will bring us the sights and sounds of the disappearing rural life in Eastern El Paso County today.

Using taped interviews and pictures supplied by people she interviewed, she has preserved something of the way of life experienced by dry-land farmers and ranchers before the property began to be swallowed by an expanding Colorado Springs.

Low cost spreadsheet (budgets) \$100  
Bookkeeping software, such as DacEasy \$150  
Public Domain (free) telecom software  
1200 Baud Modem - \$150 - \$225.  
80-column wide decent-print-quality printer, with cables. Such as an Epson, from an LX-80 up - \$250 - \$400.

The total for the above, expandable system (hard disk drive to store large bodies of historical information, for example) can be purchased, as a package, for from \$1,900 to about \$2,750. Radio Shack, a Kaypro or Epson dealer can supply the above in different brands. I have had good success recommending the Kaypro IBM PCs for two added reasons. First, they have a very easy-to-use program which permits rank amateurs to use the system when it is set up by someone more advanced. And they 'bundle' good, standard software with the computer at no extra charge.

We have several Society members who are well experienced with office microcomputers. They could form a small computer selection committee, solicit bids, and recommend a purchase decision to the Board.

Respectfully,  
Dave Hughes

## TRANSITION

Lowell J. Mills died Oct. 27th at the age of 93. He was not a member of O.C.C.H.S., but his life touched many Westsiders.

Born in Iowa in 1893, he and his sister came to Fountain to live with an aunt after the death of their parents. He was graduated from Buffalo (N.Y.) State Teachers' College in 1916, and returned to Colorado in 1919 after service with the Army Air Corps in World War One.

He was a field director for the Red Cross on Guam in World War Two. He was chairman of the local Red Cross chapter, commanded American Legion Post #5 in 1943, and headed a Community Chest drive in 1938.

He married Elizabeth Kline, a Dist. 11 Director of Music, in 1921. She died in 1976.

He began teaching in Dist. 11 at Bancroft School, was principal of Ivywild from 1928 to 1931, and was principal of West Junior High from 1931 until his retirement in 1958.

He and Mrs. Mills directed plays in the forerunner of the Civic Theater. He was an expert wildlife photographer, and made several movies for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Colorado, Utah, Texas, and in Alaska and nearby islands.

He is survived by two cousins and two nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army.

### Ute Pass Historical Society Celebrating Its

#### Tenth Anniversary Next Week at Museum

Ute Pass Historical Society is ten November 19. It began a tiny museum in 1980 and opened its Cascade museum in 1985. Membership grew from 50 in 1977 to 500 now. Its newsletter says a second mortgage has been reduced from \$60,000 to \$19,000.

O.C.C.H.S. sends its congratulations.

## Visitors and Guests:

John A. Haney, as speaker, was a guest of the Society and later became a member. He also contributed to a successful October meeting by attracting a record number of guests.

Bessie Hegg came as a visitor and left as a member.

We were pleased to have Frances E. Trapp as the guest of Mary Trapp.

From Manitou, we welcomed Robert G. Garrison, guest of his wife, Joanne. Karl Beinschroth attended, although—since his wife, Peggy, took out a family membership—he technically was not a visitor.

Erman F. Biondini plans to become an O.C.C.H.S. member.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hansen attended only the program.

Other visitors included:

Veda Goosman

Renny Fagan

Sandra Cole

Barbara Lancaster

Genevieve Perkins

Claude Wiatrowski, and

William Cook.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to the church women who allowed us three very-last-minute reservations so we could accommodate everyone.

## State Society Hosts "Liberty" Exhibits

The Colorado State Historical Society will host a traveling exhibit on the Statue of Liberty, Nov. 24th through Dec. 28th. Visitors will see a full-scale model of Liberty's hand, and information on Jean-Charles Bartholdi, design, financing, technology and restoration.

### Next Meeting:

**Dec. 12th**  
  
**Meet at Henri's Restr'n't**  
**2427 W. Colorado Ave.**  
 then to  
**Simpich Character Dolls**  
**2413 W. Colorado Ave.**

## DON'T Meet at the Church Next Month

Our meeting Dec. 12th will begin at Henri's Restaurant, 2427 W. Colorado, at 11, where we can order Anglo or Mexican food from the menu. Reservations won't be required.

About noon we'll move a few doors to Simpich Character Dolls for the fascinating story of this art, manufacturing and marionette enterprise.

## Treasurer's Report:

### CURRENT

Balance, 10/10/86	255.81
Memberships	+10.00
Bnk. int. (-chgs) 2 mos.	+9.82
AmerFed S&L bonus	+312.00

PO Box 11.00

3 mos. postage 28.62

Newsltr paper 9.47

Lunches 12.00

TOTAL (To sec'y) 61.09 -61.09

Balance, 11/11/86 526.65

ENDOWMENT FUND, unchanged.

### WEST WORD

Volume II, Number 4 November 14, 1986

Published almost every month by the  
**OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 P. O. Box 6702, Colorado Springs, CO. 80934

The Old Colorado City Historical Society was formed to maintain the memory of Colorado City [1859-1917], to encourage research, to preserve historic buildings, mementos and pictures, and to keep alive the unique culture and spirit of Westside Colorado Springs.

### MEETINGS

Meetings are held the second Friday of each month [except in June, July and August] at 11 a. m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 1920 Henderson Avenue—across 19th Street, west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center. The public is welcome at all meetings and no reservation is needed for the program.

The program is followed by a luncheon, served by ladies of the church. Cost is \$4 per person. Reservations are required, and can be made by phoning Lyn Owen, 473.1846. Deadline is normally the Wednesday before the meeting, although last-minute changes can usually be accommodated up to 5 p. m. the Thursday before the meeting. Since we must pay for all reservations made, please call Lyn Owen to cancel if you find you can't attend.

### MEMBERSHIPS

Individual membership is \$5 a year; family membership is \$10. Renewal falls in April. Members receive our newsletter, and local members will usually be phoned before each meeting.

Also available is a Lifetime membership, for \$100. This amount is placed in our Perpetuity/Endowment fund, to be used for long-term projects which have approval from two-thirds of the members. 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.

### OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

	Work:	Home:
President:	Agnes Johnson	633-80
Vice President:	Jan Knox	496-33
Secretary:	Ralph Conner	634-0806
Treasurer:	Orville Kenelly	471-0551 473-5307
	Vera Chambon	634-2340
	Dave Clark	473-3430 473-3941
	Betsy Evans	634-1698 473-7318
	Dave Hughes	636-2040
	John Keller	476-8634
	Aldine Lipe	476-1658
	Leon Young	633-2621 633-1543



## The Local Trolley System Deserves Our "Fond Recollections" of It!

**Enlightened Management Employed Workers Year Around, Offered Attractions and Service, So Everybody Happy in Golden Era**

Despite the unquestioned success of the local company, there haven't been any streetcars in Colorado Springs since 1932. But don't bet the family fortune that there won't ever be any more!

That's part of the message brought to the Old Colorado City Historical Society at its meeting October 10th by **John Haney**, co-author of "Pikes Peak Trolleys", the definitive book on the cars' local history. Thirty-nine people attended Mr. Haney's presentation; thirty-five stayed for lunch.

Besides presenting history of local transportation, Mr. Haney described current efforts by the Pikes Peak Historical Street Railway Foundation, Inc., to rebuild one of the local vehicles and run it "somewhere." Our members had a chance to add their names to the Foundation's mailing list.

A horse car traveling Tejon from Costilla to Cache La Poudre was the area's first public transportation. A year's "fuel" for this operation cost \$4,863 in 1889. But by 1890 the line was electrified and extended. Tracks were laid to areas familiar to bus-riders today; a picture of the paint shop showed a "roller" sign hung to dry, listing such destinations as Nob Hill, Fontanero, Wahsatch, Spruce, Institute, Ivywild, Broadmoor, Colorado City and Manitou Springs.

An early visitor could leave from anywhere in the nation and ride on to the summit of Pikes Peak, entirely by rail. But plans to lay tracks to the top of Seven Falls never materialized! As late as 1916, only journeys to the Broadmoor or to Manitou cost more than a nickel. Cars ran through Colorado City as often as every eight minutes.

Patron saint of the local company was W. S. Stratton, who, on Jan. 1, 1901, took ownership of the company and launched a modernization program. Stratton's good luck, beginning when he became rich from Cripple Creek gold, continued in his ownership of the streetcar line—unlike Pueblo or Denver, the local operation made money.

Stratton, and others, supplied tourists with reasons to ride the trolley. For 50 cents or a dollar, for example, you could enjoy lunch prepared with fresh produce from the farm at the Myron Stratton Home—the price including trolley fare. Gardens, lakes, playgrounds, movies, dances and band concerts were free to anyone who rode the streetcar to Stratton Park.

Stratton helped bring professional baseball to the Ivywild area, although the "Millionaires"

weren't a financial success, for the western League, the team, or the street car company.

Between Ivywild and Stratton Park, Bathhouse John Coughlin of Chicago built Zoo Park with animals and traditional amusement rides. Trolley riders could journey up North Tejon to hunt rabbits. Tourists, schools or church groups could charter a car for sight-seeing, or to visit the westside's Chautauqua.

Another Westside attraction with ties to the trolley, less proudly described, was the "Drunkard's Special"—the final car of the night, which picked up denizens of Colorado City's or Ramona's bars and delivered them home. The conductor, despite his status as a Presbyterian Elder, knew his passengers well enough to see them to the door of their homes, where he'd ring the doorbell.

The cars themselves were luxury products, rich in velvet and birds-eye maple. Originally, these trolleys were purchased from eastern manufacturers, but they dried out in our climate and proved unsatisfactory. But from this problem, and one other, grew one of the finest features of the local system.

The lines ran year-around, but peak use was in the summer. Many motormen and conductors had no jobs outside the May-September busy season. This was the other problem.

Both difficulties were met directly and easily over the long haul by hiring streetcar crews who could double as carpenters, painters, mechanics or electricians. In summer, cars and crews were busy on the rails; in winter repair and construction would be carried on by the same employees. This year-around employment, said Mr. Haney, showed the company's humanitarianism. There were only relatively minor labor disputes during the Company's existence.

In 1926, the company began first use of buses, and in the early '30's local automobile ownership averaged out to about one per family. In an economy move the motorman+conductor combination gave way to one-man cars. The last streetcars ran April 30, 1932, and defied efforts by Colorado College students who tried to shove one to Palmer Hall. They were frustrated by a safety feature that locked the wheels when the car was removed from the rails.

Mr. Haney says remains of some cars are still located around the region, and the Foundation is working to restore at least one to its former glory. Yet to be determined is where the car can be operated.

## Lyn Owen Handles Lunch Reservations

Lyn Owen has offered her help in phoning members and keeping track of reservations. Anyone wanting a reservation, or to make a last-minute cancellation, should phone her at 473-1846.

Secretary Ralph Conner will continue to phone visitors and prospective members, but he expressed his appreciation at Lyn's willingness to assume the responsibility, especially since he's usually busy the week before the meeting editing *WestWord*.

## Board Feels Relative's Special Service Justifies Membership

At its meeting Oct. 10th, the Board, on a motion by Agnes Johnson seconded by John Keller, voted to extend the lifetime membership of Luther McKnight to his cousin, Leslie Atkins.

Board members said they don't want to set a precedent that would make life memberships "hereditary," but agreed that Mr. Atkins should be kept informed on behalf of Mr. McKnight's family about the Society's activities, and that the lifetime membership would help accomplish this, and would be a small gesture in recognition of the generosity of Mr. McKnight and Mr. Atkins in benefiting the Society.

## Where Is Family Who Had Manitou's Colorado House?

The present owners of the Colorado House in Manitou Springs want to talk to the family of earlier owners of the hotel. Does anyone in O.C.C.H.S. know the family of the former owners?

If so, please contact O.C.C.H.S. member Joanne Garrison, manager of the Manitou Springs Development Company, at 685-9456 or 685-4255.

## Board Decides to "Roll Over"

**2-Year Certificate of Deposit**  
O.C.C.H.S. Board of Directors met Oct. 10th, prior to our general meeting, to decide what to do with a maturing Certificate of Deposit for \$78,596 dollars given the Society by Luther McKnight.

On a motion by Jan Knox, seconded by Aldine Lipe, the board decided to "roll over" the certificate at American Federal Savings, and to put the \$312 "bonus" into the fund for current expenses. The vote was 5 to 3—negative votes reflecting the feeling of some board members that we should find an investment paying a higher rate of interest. The two-year certificate will pay 7% interest (7.25% compounded).

Present were Vera Chambon, Ralph Conner, Betsy Evans, Agnes Johnson, John Keller, Orville Kenelly, Jan Knox, and Aldine Lipe. Motion made by Jan Knox, seconded by Aldine Lipe. In favor were Chambon, Conner, Johnson, Keller and Lipe.

## Plaque Here; Installed Soon

Bob Patoni, redevelopment project manager for Westside, says the historic plaque replacement has arrived, and will be in place next week. The Society is paying for it; the Redevelopment group will install it.

## Down-Under Meal Surprises Members

Circles from Trinity United Methodist Church have maintained high standards and variety in the meals they serve. But our October luncheon had an international flavor, thanks to Mrs. Eva Grubb French and her husband. Reflecting what the couple learned in Australia, the meal featured "down-under" items. It included savory mince tart, layer salad, billabong tea, and lanington dessert.

## Not Every Tunnel Is Secret; One We Knew Is Plugged Up

We all know that Colorado City was honeycombed with tunnels. Tradition says they were built to allow "proper" citizens to sneak into the bar and red light district without being seen.

Another tunnel under Colorado Avenue has a less notorious past, but it too has been closed.

A tunnel was dug at 17th Street about twenty years ago to allow school children to cross Colorado Avenue safely. Beyond that benign purpose, and because it was secluded, it was used for other, less-wholesome activities.

Community development block grant funds were used to block stairways, fill them with dirt, and pave over the entrances. The hollow tunnel itself remains under Colorado Avenue, perhaps to become legend in some future time. A pedestrian-actuated st light was installed at the intersection.

The funds have also been used to repair sidewalks, eliminate unused curb cuts, and pave 32 bus stops along the Avenue.

## Council and Pioneers' Museum Agree: No Name Change Now

Those opposed to a change of name for the Pioneers' Museum have scored at least a temporary victory.

The G-T reports that City Council and Museum Board chairwoman Joyce Vogel agreed to change the name "only if board and council like prospective names that have been submitted." So far, few names have been suggested.

Museum Director William Holmes proposed a name change because he felt the present title doesn't reflect the museum's role in displaying anthropology, fine arts and natural science exhibits as well as historical.