WEST Old Colorado City Historical Society WORD

DECEMBER 1994

OUR DECEMBER PROGRAM

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS AT MIRAMOUNT CASTLE

by Jan Knox

Every December we meet somewhere other than Trinity Methodist to allow the ladies who prepare the lunch for us the time to do their own Christmas preparations.

I hope everyone is looking forward to our visit to Miramont Castle and its wonderful "Victorian Christmas" on December 9th. Due to limited seating in the Tea Room, a maximum of 60 can be accommodated. We will be split into two groups with one group eating lunch while the other tours the Castle.

Miramont Castle is owned by the Manitou Springs Historical Society and has been open to the public for nineteen years. This is also the nineteenth year for "Victorian Christmas" when the Castle is decorated for the holidays, hot cider and cookies are served and entertainment is provided.

Miramont was designed by a French-born Catholic priest, Father Jean Baptist Francolon. He commissioned a Scottish contractor, Angus Gillis, to build it. The priest and his widowed mother first occupied Miramont as a private home in 1895. There were 46 rooms but only 28 were used by the priest and his mother. The Castle features nine styles of architecture. It is crafted from locally quarried greenstone and yellow pine framing. Only a few minor pieces of furniture have survived Miramont's checkered past, but the Society is doing a representative restoration. Many of the furnishings and artifacts have been given to Miramont by fine old families of the area and are very significant to local history.

If you are unable to join us on the 9th, the Castle is open for "Victorian Christmas" each Friday, Saturday and Sunday through December 11th. The entertainment begins at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and 1:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The decorations will still be up and the Castle will be open during December except for December 24th and 25th.

Please call **Lyn Owen** by December 2nd at 473-1846 for reservations. Remember the all-inclusive cost for lunch and the tour is $10.50 per person. When leaving your reservation on Lyn's "voice messaging", please clearly leave your name and phone number, in addition to the number of reservations.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Lucille Cunningham

I hope you had a very joyous and thankful Thanksgiving. I am thankful for each and every one of you who have helped this past year to make our Old Colorado City Historical Society so successful. Also, many thanks to those who have given financially to make our History Center come alive in 1995. With help like you, how can we go wrong?

Thanks also to the Old Colorado City Associates who have donated to us thirty chairs to be used at the Center. These chairs will be stored at **Ralph Conner's** office.

Much appreciation and thanks goes to the Architectural Committee who just completed their job of seeing that the building specifications and plans were in place and all duties of the architect have been fulfilled up to this point. This committee was headed by **Orrin Haynes**. Other committee members

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photo by Paul Ideman

Marty Walker, Lucille Cunningham and Jan Knox visit with Captain Todd R. Laughman after our November program. Captain Laughman spoke to the OCCHS meeting about the history of the Buffalo Soldiers. See story on page 3.

Old Colorado City Historical Society
1 South 24th Street Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

WESTWORD

VOLUME 10 DECEMBER 1, 1994 NUMBER 4

PUBLISHED THE FIRST OF ALMOST EVERY MONTH BY THE
OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION
OCCHS @1994

LETTERS, ARTICLES AND STORIES CAN BE DELIVERED TO THE OCCHS OR MAILED TO:
PAUL IDLEMAN
1939 Giltshire Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-4227
633-7803
SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 20TH DAY OF EACH MONTH

MISSION

The Old Colorado City Historical Society was formed to maintained the memory of Colorado City (1859-1917), to encourage research, preserve pictures, and keep alive the unique culture and spirit of Westside Colorado Springs, through education of children and the community and through the eventual establishment of a History Center at One South 24th Street.

MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships are welcome at any time, and are renewed in April. Members receive the *Westword* and local members are phoned prior to the meeting if desired.

Annual memberships classifications are as follows:

Golden(65+).....$5	Family.....$15
Golden Family.....$9	Donor.....$25
Individual.....$10	Lifetime.....$250

Funds from a Lifetime Membership are placed into a Perpetuity/Endowment Fund to be used only for projects which have been approved by two-thirds of the membership. 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Lucille Cunningham..... 636-9341
Vice President	Jan Knox.....689-2355
Secretary	Marty Walker.....630-3901
Treasurer	Mary Jo Wallace..... 392-3337
	Vera Chambon.....634-2340
	Jean Christopher..... 634-1803
	Ralph Conner.....634-0895
	John Croff.....632-2896
	Orrin Haynes..... 635-2488
	Joyce Johns..... 635-4649
	Leon Young.....633-2621

MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 11:00 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, except during June, July and August. The public is welcome; reservations are not required.

Reservations are required for the luncheon following the meeting. Luncheon cost is usually $5 per person.

Please phone **Lyn Owen** at **473-1846** by the Tuesday prior to the meeting. You may leave a message at any time. If you find you cannot attend, please call to cancel.

MEETING THIS MONTH

DECEMBER 9, 1994

MIRAMONT CASTLE MUSEUM
& CONFERENCE CENTER
(Lunch and Tour - $10.50)

NEXT MEETING - JANUARY 13, 1994

ROLL CALL

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 11/11/1994
57 members and 12 visitors signed in at our last meeting.

Jo Alden
Ted Alsup
Kay Arnold
Ed Bathke
Nancy Bathke
Sally Brawner
Bertha Chilcott
Virginia Cox
Art Crawford
Jean V. Christopher
Arnold Cunningham
Geraldine Cunningham
Lucille Cunningham
John W. Croff
Martha L. Curry
George Fisher
Shirley Galpin
Marillia Garret
Veda Goosman
Margaret Gould
Max Gould
Eileen Graham
Orin Haynes
Marjorie Harris
Anna-Leah Hathaway
Rosemary Hetzler
Anna Hiskey
Evelyn Hoy
Paul Idleman
Carol Johnson
Ellen Knowlton
Jan Knox
Olive Langston
Aldine Lipe
Mary Martin
Carl McClure
Shar McClure
Helen Michelson
Mary S. Nielson
John Parks III
Jack Patterson
Jan Pettit
Barbara J. Prince
Maloa Read
Jim Rogers
Virginia Rogers
Harriet Seibel
Wilma Stephens
B.E. Tillotson
Jean Tillotson
Jud Wallace
Mary Jo Wallace
Bud Walker
Jo Walker
Marty Walker
Bessie Wreath
Hazel Wright

VISITORS

Ella Adams
Margaret Bontrager
Susan Coopman
Susan Crawford
Roberta Echole
Dorothy Hasken
Todd Laughman
Naoko Murphy
Vicki Olds
Dana Jo Olson
Geri Pegler
Shirley White

Season's Greetings

BUFFALO SOLDIERS INTRIGUE OUR AUDIENCE

by Marty Walker

The November general meeting was held on Veterans Day, November 11, and the subject was Buffalo Soldiers. Our speaker was Captain Todd R. Laughman, Instructor of History at the United States Air Force Academy, and a historian of 19th century militia. Captain Laughman's presentation gave an honest and bright evaluation of the role Buffalo Soldiers and other African Americans had in the development of our nation.

The focus of the program was mainly on the Black soldiers in the American West between 1869 and 1890. African Americans were involved in the defense of our country even before 1869. More than 5,000 black men were among the total 300,000 men that served in the American Revolution. Blacks served among the voluntary militia units as units were not segregated then. About 200,000 Blacks served in the Union Army in the War Between the States. One famous regiment unit of the Civil War, the 54th of Massachusetts, was the theme of the movie "***Glory***".

Captain Laughman continued that, in the proper usage of the term, Buffalo Soldiers were the men of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Units and the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments of the regular U.S. Army. Throughout 1869, one of five troopers on the plains of the American West was African American. Serving on the plains of Texas and North Dakota, their general duties were to keep supply routes open, build telephone and telegraph lines, build 1,000 miles of roads in Texas, guard wagon trains, and escort railroad trains to guard against bandits and raiders. The Buffalo Soldiers were generally of the highest quality of troops, acted in a professional manner, and had few discipline problems. They gave excellent military service to their country.

The Buffalo Soldiers struggled with discrimination and racism in the post-Civil War society of the 1880s, and were often given sub-standard living conditions. Their obstacles were above and beyond those of other's assignments. African American troops also fought battles in World Wars I and II, and the Korean War. In 1948, President Truman, taking a courageous step to change inequity, began integrating the U.S. military.

And from where did the name Buffalo Soldiers come? The Indians called them Buffalo Soldiers, not just because of skin color, but because the bison is tough and resolute. The Indians were proud to have them as adversaries, especially the 9th and 10th Cavalries. They were involved in many skirmishes with many different tribes. They were awarded 19 Congressional Medals of Honor, and several heroes emerged during the struggles of plains settlement.

Thank you to Captain Laughman for sharing his research with us. Here are sources he provided for further reading:

Billington, Monroe Lee. *New Mexico's Buffalo Soldiers, 1866-1900.* Niwot, CO: University Of Colorado Press, 1991.

Carroll, John M., ed. *The Black Military Experience in the American West.* New York: Liveright, 1971.

Coffman, Edward M. *The Old Army: A portrait of the American Army in Peacetime, 1784-1898.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.

David, Jay and Elaine Crane, eds. *The Black Soldier: From the American Revolution to Vietnam.* New York: William Morrow, 1971.

Hine, Robert V. *The American West: An Interpretive History.* Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1984.

Fowler, Arlen L. *The Black Infantry in the West, 1865-1891. Contributions in Afro-American and African Studies, Number 6.* Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing, 1971.

Leckie, William H. *The Buffalo Soldiers: A Narrative of the Negro Cavalry in the West.* Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967.

MacGregor, Morris J. and Bernard C. Nalty, eds. *Blacks in the Unuttered States Armed Forces, Basic Documents. Vol. 3, Freedom and Jim Crow, 1865-1917.* Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources Inc., 1977.

Utley, Robert M. Frontier Regulars: *The United States Army and the Indian, 1866-1891.* New York: The Macmillian Company, 1974.

Weigley, Russell F. *History of the United States Army.* New York: The Macmillian Company, 1967.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

This photograph showing the laying of the trolley tracks on Colorado Avenue through Colorado City was donated to the Old Colorado Historical Society by **Bob and Loretta Gaarder.**

Volunteers needed for Newsletter Committee

We need volunteers to spend about 1 hour per month to collate, fold and mail the *WestWord.* This can be a fun team and you'll be the first to see *WestWord.* Call **Marty Walker** to join.

JANUARY PROGRAM:

"Anatomy of a Massacre - Chesaw Incident 1818" by Dr. David Heidler, Adjunct Professor, History Department, University of Southern Colorado, Pueblo, Colorado at the January 13th OCCHS Meeting.

FROM THE PRESIDENT DESK

con't from page 1

by Lucille Cunningham

were **Joyce Johns** and **Owen Knox**. **Orrin Haynes**, a civil engineer was well qualified to fulfill this job. Thanks, Orrin. You spent a great deal of time making sure everything was in place.

Melva Touchette, of Leadville, has honored us by becoming a member of the Old Colorado City Historical Society. Melva is the extraordinary lady who played Baby Doe Tabor. Welcome, Melva.

A grant is being written by **Owen Knox** to the El Pomar Foundation to request funds for the interior renovation of our History Center.

Dorothy McGlasson is writing a book on the history of Old Colorado City. This book is much needed as there is very little written on the early days of Old Colorado City. We hope that we may sell this book in our History Center gift shop. I've had several people contact me lately on writing books about our area. Interesting enough, they are out-of-state people who could not find books to buy when visiting in the area this summer. Dorothy McGlasson has been our long time publicity person. Dorothy has resigned recently in order to give more time to the writing of her book. MANY THANKS, DOROTHY, for the numerous articles written for the Old Colorado City History Society.

TRANSITION:

Michael S. Birchenall died October 21, 1994. He recently joined OCCHS and attended our October 14th meeting.

He was born in Dallas, February 9, 1932, and lived in Colorado Springs since 1941. He was a graduate of Palmer High School and the Chicago Theological School. He had degrees from Colorado College and a doctorate from the University of Denver. He taught in School District 11 until his retirement and was affiliated with Mensa, Phi Delta Kappa and Grace Episcopal Church.

NEW APPOINTMENTS:

TOUR COMMITTEE:

Dr. Jerome Jekel has joined the Tour Committee.Other members are **Rhonda Wilcox** and **Claire Ruby**. As chairman, Dr. Jekel will plan tours of the Westside and has offered to give proceeds to the Old Colorado City Historical Society. How gracious of him!

PUBLICITY:

Mr. Jim Ciletti, a new member, is considering doing publicity if his teaching assignment is such that he can. He also owns the Aamstar Bookstore on Tejon.

RENOVATION:

The Old Colorado City Historical Society will be going to contract right after Thanksgiving with Murphy Constructors. Things are moving forward for our exterior renovation. Appointees to the Renovation Committee are: **Charles Geiss**, **Owen Knox**, and **Mark Cunningham**.

Charles Geiss lives at 2327 W. Kiowa. This is very close to the project whereby Chuck can provide the observation we need. Education: B.S., Carnegie-Mellow University; graduate Study - Stevens Institute of Technology, New York University, University of Wisconsin, and American Man. Institute. Chuck's fields of study include Electrical Engineering., Power Plant Design, General Management, Engineering Economics, Purchasing Management, Project Control, Environmental Science, Energy Management, and Corporate Real Estate. Since 1939, Mr. Geiss has served as Test Engineer, Senior Equipment Engineer, Project Engineer, Project Manager, Manager of Purchasing, Manager of Engineering, Project Control, Project Operations, Director of Purchasing, Director of International Operations. Mr. Geiss was also General Manager of Process Plants Division in London, England. These are just some of the things Chuck has done. We're glad to welcome you to this committee, Chuck.

Owen Knox is appointed to the committee to deal with the State Historical Department. Mr. Knox has done an excellent job representing the Old Colorado City Historical Society in the past. Education: B.S. Science, Maryland. He spent 31 years in the Army retiring as Colonel in 1986. Owen managed the Research and Development contracts for the Army Electrical Warfare Program while on the Department. of Army Staff. He commanded units in the U.S. and overseas. Mr. Knox oversaw contracts for post support and facility up-grade in Virginia, Massachusetts and for several sites in West Germany and Berlin. Even after retiring, Mr. Knox managed for Ford Aerospace Corporation, LORAL to provide command and control systems for the U.S. forces in the Republic of Korea, and Singapore Ministry of Defense. He also was the manager of Intelligence Information Processing Program while with MANTECH Corp. in Pasadena, California. No wonder Mr. Knox can write such wonderful grants for us.

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BABY DOE FUNDRAISER

by Jan Knox

We discovered a week prior to the scheduled performances that none of the media had been notified as they should have been, in case you happened to wonder why you didn't see or hear anything about the three fundraising performances. Since only 96 adults and 2 children paid to attend, "Baby Doe" was an artistic success but not a financial one. We hope for the sake of a very talented lady that her performances for us will be like a pebble dropped in a pond and will bring her more "bookings" in the Pikes Peak region. We understand that some of the attendees who belong to other organizations hope to bring Melva back to the area, so you may be able to see her yet without going to Leadville. We also hope to have her return for a future fund raiser.

Thanks to **Ralph Conner** for the first flyer printing and the tickets, and to **Liz Geiss**, **Marty Walker** and **Orrin Haynes** for assisting me with flyer distribution plus Marty, Lucille and other members spread the word in various meetings they attended.

WESTSIDE MEMORIES
TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

compiled by Jan Knox

One Hundred Years Ago
DECEMBER, 1894

• At a shooting match east of town Thanksgiving day, Colorado City marksmen got eleven turkeys while Colorado Springs men got three.

• Bat O'Brien and Pat Howard killed a large eagle Sunday at Glen Eyrie. After bringing it to town and cutting off its wings they gave the body to a Chinaman, proprietor of a restaurant, who received the same as a wild turkey.

• The musicale at the First Baptist church Wednesday evening of the Ladies' Aid Society was a successful and enjoyable affair. The best talent in the entire community was down for one or more numbers and each performer was at their best. Mrs. G. C. Allen, Miss Blandensburg, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Murray and Messrs. Briscoe and Kelley executed their instrumental selections in a manner that brought forth prolonged applause. Vocal solos were rendered by M. J. Myers Smith, Miss Blandensburg, Mrs. Waldrof, Mrs Hunt and Rev. A. A. Williamson. Each performer was forced to respond to the hearty encore which followed. Miss McClintie and Mr. Collett recited in a manner very acceptable to the audience and were recalled.

• An event that will ever have a place in the history of the Pike's Peak region took place in Colorado City on Sunday, December 3, 1894. We refer to the first use of natural gas for fuel in this part of the state. On that day, Mrs. W. P. Epperson prepared dinner for THE IRIS family on a range heated by natural gas from well No. 2, the property of the Colorado City Oil company. The gas was led into the house through a 3/4 inch pipe and into the stove through a half inch pipe. The burner used was known as the Economy and was manufactured at Indianapolis, Indiana. The experiment was successful in every particular. The heat was even and uniform. Chops were broiled to a turn and the mince pie was beautifully browned o'er the top. The importance of the event lies in the fact that the time is not far distant when gas will replace coal as fuel for domestic use in the country round about Colorado City, Colorado Springs and Manitou.

• The Colorado City post office took in $3,561.41 during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1894, and cost to operate $1,547.06. The salary of the Post Mistress was $1,300, leaving a net profit of $714.35 for the government.

• Born on Tuesday morning, December 11, 1894, to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Kinsman, a son. Mother and child are getting along well.

• J. W. Adams last Wednesday purchased the Wiley Mow property, in Rivay's addition, consideration $1,000. Chas. I. Cunningham negotiated the sale. Mr. Adams is an employee of the Midland roundhouse.

• Thursday morning a violent wind storm visited this region. Considerable damage was done to windows, signs and awnings in this city. About 12:30 p.m. the wind rolled up the big tin roof covering the Hoffman-Windsor building and dumped it into the street. With the roof came sheeting joists, brick and stone, four or five hundred brick were hurled entirely across Colorado avenue, 100 feet and went through the front of Bennett's undertaking establishment. The tin and a portion of the sheeting and joists lodged on the wires of the El Paso Electric company and the Rapid transit company which set fire to the wreck several times. The hose cart was brought out two lines of hose but fortunately the current was cut off in time to prevent disaster. A hundred citizens cleared the wreck with the hook and ladder outfit. A portion of the fire wall on the east side of the building went through the roof of the O.K. barber shop and left a hole eight or ten feet across. Loss about $800. It was a bad day and those who objected to a shroud of dust and a shower of gravel stayed in the house as much as possible.

• The Colorado City Schools are giving a series of entertainments this winter for the benefit of the school library. On the 8th inst. the pupils of Miss Banschback's room rendered a very nice program and yesterday the pupils of Miss Freelove's room at the Midland school rendered their program.

• There were several private Christmas parties this year. At the residence of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Steinmetz several families joined and had a jolly good time. Old Santa was present.

• The big air compressor used at the Busk tunnel has been brought to this city and put in place at the Midland shops where it will furnish air for the forges in the blacksmith and boiler shops and for the automatic brake department.

Seventy-five Years Ago
DECEMBER, 1919

• Descendants of the Templeton family, one of the oldest families in this section of Colorado to the number of 24 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, are holding a family reunion at the home of Mrs. Edna Templeton Smith, 1202 West Pikes Peak avenue. It is the first reunion in 35 years where all the children were present. Colorado first knew the Templetons back in 1865 when James Henry Templeton, Sr. who died about four years ago, settled on a ranch south of the city, which now marks the present site of the slaughter house on the Fountain road. From there the family moved to a tract of land in the Bear Creek canon district and which is now the El Paso county poor farm. From there they moved to Colorado City, where Mr. Templeton conducted a flour mill. The Templeton block at Twenty-fifth street and Colorado avenue was build by Mr. Templeton.

• Colorado Springs sets record cold, -26 at 5 a.m. (12/9) Plumbers are kept busy with frozen water pipes.

• Mr and Mrs Alfred Hughes, 2206 W. Platte avenue celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary (12/6).

• A blustery chinook wind caused considerable damage to awnings, plate glass windows, trees, etc. and raised the temperature to 60 degrees (12/11).

Fifty years ago
DECEMBER 1944

• The Ute Chief Mineral Water Co. plant at the entrance of Ute Pass was burned to the ground by a blaze discovered at 4 a.m. Friday (12/2), causing a loss of $25,000 to $30,000. The company was founded in 1897 by J. Schueler and has been run by his family since his death shortly before World War I.

• Pvt. Duane O. Crews, son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Crews of 2426 W. Vermijo avenue has won the right to wear "Wings and Boots" of the Army paratroops after completing jump training at Fort Benning, Georgia.

• The Rev. G. G. Fields, Baptist education director for Colorado will fill the pulpit Sunday morning and evening at Bethany Baptist church.

Twenty-five years ago
DECEMBER, 1969

• Boston's famed Arthur Fiedler conducted a Pops concert with the Denver Symphony at the Broadmoor International Center (12/1).

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

CON'T FROM PAGE 4

Mark Cunningham is an appointee to the committee because of his area of expertise in renovation and excellent record of work with contractors and financing. He has a B.S. in Management, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins. Mark has been involved in property renovation and restoration since 1976, self-employed property manager since 1977, partner in the West One Group on the West side, a licensed Colorado real estate broker, he has land development experience in Teller County, and acted as OCCHS agent during the negotiations for acquisition of the property at 1 South 24th Street. Mark is currently helping to do the redevelopment of West Two Plaza at 27th and West Colorado Avenue, a retail/residential project of the Old Colorado City. He is planning construction of Aspen Heights, at 27th Street and West Pikes Peak. He has a special interest in Frontier Architecture and its relationship to the land and frontier culture.

The renovation of the History Center at 1 South 24th Street should be in excellent hands with this committee!

A VERY JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your President and Board of Directors of the Old Colorado City Historical Society !

Snow Princess Sleigh Rides Benefit OCCHS

Each Friday evening thru December 23rd we will celebrate an "Old Fashioned Christmas" with the Old Colorado City Associates. The Associates will be sponsoring sleigh rides around the Historic District, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. The rides will originate at the Colorado Plaza on the Southwest corner of 25th and West Colorado Avenue. The cost will be $2.00, of which 50 cents from each ride will be donated to the Old Colorado City Historical Society. We, in turn, should be represented there by OCCHS members dressed in old-fashioned clothes. Volunteers are needed for this.

Call Lucille, at 630-7578, if you can represent the Society on one of the Friday nights before Christmas. In addition, holiday photographs with the "Snow Princess" will be taken at the Pine Creek Gallery on those evenings.

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ONE SOUTH TWENTY-FOURTH STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80904-3319

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