

# WEST WOOD

Old Colorado City Historical Society

Volume 27, Number 3

April, 2012

## OCCHS Book is Now International!

By Suzanne Schorsch

March 10th was an important day for Old Colorado City's newly published book, *My First Trip to Colorado* by Jennie Lee Caduff. The book went international!!!! The book written by OCCHS' member Merrillyn Caduff's mother was picked to use as the text book for an accredited group of international au pairs.

An au pair is a domestic assistant from a foreign country working for, and living as part of a host family, usually as a babysitter or nanny. Sharron Toulouse, a Culture Specialist from Cross Cultural Connection chose the OCCHS book to use as a textbook to learn local history and journal writing for over 50 au pairs training in Denver and Colorado Springs. These ladies must complete a number of accredited classes while working in the United States. Each young lady (ages 18 to 23) purchased the book from our bookstore and read it, completing a study guide prepared for them. Then, to finish off their class they came to the History Center to learn



more local history and meet with Ms. Caduff to ask questions regarding "what happened next" to her family and how it was growing up in Colorado City. Joanne Karlson helped with the event by giving a lecture on our local history.

The girls came from Germany, South Korea, Czech Republic, South Africa, Sweden, Australia, Finland, Spain, Poland, Norway, China, Mexico, Austria, Japan, New Zealand and Macedonia. They enjoyed our museum and refreshments and after the lecture, they were given time to explore Colorado City. They presented Ms. Caduff with flowers and a donation to OCCHS. What a fun way to fulfill our Mission Statement of education, we are now known all over the world.



### Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319  
<http://www.occhs.org> (719) 636-1225

#### WEST WORD

PUBLISHED TEN TIMES A YEAR

### The Old Colorado City Historical Society

A NONPROFIT CORPORATION

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LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTIFACTS AND STORIES CAN BE DELIVERED TO THE OCCHS CENTER OR MAILED TO:

WEST WORD Editor c/o OCCHS

1 South 24th Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

or Don Ellis - [splderwort@pcsys.net](mailto:splderwort@pcsys.net)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF EACH MONTH

#### MISSION

Revised April 2004

*The Old Colorado City Historical Society was founded as a volunteer organization to recognize the historical significance and unique culture of original Old Colorado City and early El Paso County. This spirit is perpetuated through the preservation of artifacts and archival materials, encouragement of research, education of the children and the community, through the membership and the operation of the History Center at 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*

#### MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships are welcome at any time. Membership renewals are due on the anniversary date of the initial membership. Members receive the *West Word* newsletter, discounts, local meetings and programs.

Annual membership classifications are:

Student	\$15	Lifetime	\$150
Individual	\$25	Business	\$50
Family	\$30	Corporate	\$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	Sharon Swint	630-8384
Vice President	Janice deChadenades	598-7183
Secretary	Jo Cervone	266-9096
Treasurer	Suzanne Schorsch	488-0256
	Brian Copeland	954-551-3677
	Beverley Dlsch	634-5023
	Tom Hendrix	633-7392
	Dave Munay	488-0256

#### MEETINGS

OCCHS Monthly Meeting & Program is held at 11 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, except during June, July, and August. The History Center opens at 10 a.m. on the day of the meeting for refreshments and visitation. The program begins at 11 a.m. This meeting is free and open to the public.

## WELCOME TO OCCHS! ~ NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Shirley Deal Ewing

Mary Hickox

Paul and Donna Kahus

Janet Rose Lyons

Frances Moldenhauer

Mary Jean and Fred Nelson

Geraldine Pegler

Donald and Betty Peterson

Verda Spitz

Judith A. Willey



## A Casual Conversation with Bev Disch, longtime OCCHS volunteer and past president

By Barbara Barbaro

It was quite a treat interviewing Bev. Not only is this soft spoken woman well known within the community, but learning of her background in the world of teaching and volunteering, her passion for women's issues, and her ability to "rise to the occasion" tells volumes of what she's all about. She was so focused on talking about the importance of the Old Colorado City Historical Society that it took a while before I could get her to talk about herself. Here's what she had to say.

Tell me how you initially became involved with the Society.

*I retired in early 1991, but while I was still working I began volunteering at the History Center. One of my good friends, Lucille Cunningham, was president of the Historical Society at that time. I've always done volunteer work and have always felt that people who have been given a lot, must do for others, and not just by giving money, but with their time, too.*

What were some of the key issues back then? Was it getting the Society "accredited" you might say, with the local community and the museum world, preserving its assets, or something else?

*The key focus early on was to increase membership and become more known in the community. We held events to bring in the people and members. We joined the Colorado City Merchant's Association so that we could interface with the merchants on the Avenue. We also joined the Historic Museums Coalition of the Pikes Peak Region.*

*At first we didn't even meet here (at the History Center). Our general meetings were held at the Trinity Church in their gym. Lucille (Cunningham) really started the Society. Jan Knox, a long time volunteer, would hold garage sales to raise money for the purchase of basics such as bookcases and furniture, to set up in the History Center once the renovation (of the church) was completed. One of my responsibilities back then was to seek out volunteers for the bookstore. I also held the position of treasurer for about a year, if you can believe it.*

As time went on, you became president of the Society, a position you held for over seven years. Did you have any particular aspirations or goals to move the Society into a particular direction, or did it just evolve to what it is now?

*It evolved. One key element of running a volunteer organization is learning to deal with all the different personalities of our volunteers. This organization survives through its dedicated volunteers. Back then it was the people working in the basement, and people like Betty Baker and Gordon Gray. Everyone on the Board was expected to work in some capacity to continue the Society. They had to be able to cooperate with other museums and business people in the area and with some who were not even Colorado City affiliated. As president, you have to be a conciliator, a mediator between different forces.*

What were some of your key/favorite projects that you headed or oversaw?



*Continued on page 4*

*Bev Disch Continued from page 3*

*The annual Victorian Teas. Sometimes we had men and women dress in Victorian costumes for the Teas. It was so apropos and such a part of the history of Old Colorado City. Eloise Wynn worked so hard managing the ladies who served the tea and food.*

I'm sure you realize you're a stalwart of the Society, a solid figure inside its walls - a person everyone goes to for help, direction, your opinion. What keeps you coming back to the History Center and devoting so much of your time and effort?

*The museum is my passion. I've been here so long, in so many different positions. We need to keep alive the history of our side of town, the west side, keep doing the things that I did. I'm like a resource, a resident "go-to" person.*

Moving on to your more personal side - how long have you lived in Colorado Springs?

*I was born in Wisconsin and went to the University of Wisconsin, Madison. I met my husband there. We married, and then my husband, who was in the military, was sent to Ft. Carson. We bought our first home in Colorado Springs in the 1950s. We had four children - three girls and one boy.*

Tell me about yourself, what did you do for a living?

*My husband passed away when he was only 40. My last child was just two months old at the time. Just a few months after my husband died I went back to school to get certified to teach. I taught social studies in Widefield School District 3 for 28 years, third graders for 20 years and fifth graders for eight. Life wasn't easy but I rose to the occasion.*

Is there anyone in particular throughout your lifetime who has left a large impression on you? Author, peer, someone from history maybe?

*My mother and my aunt. They were forward in their thinking and they wanted me to go to college, which was rare in the 1940s. They insisted that I go on to school. As teachers they were inspirations themselves. They taught in small rural schools. My grandmother was also a very strong woman. She passed on her traits to her girls, who then passed them down to their girls. I've passed them down to mine.*

In summing up your life and all you've done and been, if you had lived back in the early days of Colorado City, say, 1885, what would you have been doing?

*I'd be working on women's issues. You know, Colorado was the first state to give women the vote. I was active in the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s and worked hard to get it into Colorado's state constitution. I've belonged to the AAUW (American Association of University Women) for 50 years. I joined right after college. I've been there so long that I don't even have to pay dues any more (chuckling). I was appointed by Governor Lamb as the El Paso County representative on the Commission on Women and interfaced directly with him. I was also on the Women's Resource Board and president of the Women's Political Caucus.*

There's no doubt that Bev has played an integral part in shaping the Society and bringing it to where we are today. We all owe her a ton of gratitude for her never-ending devotion and passion. Personally, my next deep discussion with her will be more on those women's issues. Right on, lady!

## *April speaker has strong academic connections*

Steven Wade Veatch is a geoscientist and an adjunct professor of Earth Science at Emporia State University in Kansas where he received an MS in Earth science. Veatch is well known to Colorado geologists and nature enthusiasts for his articles, papers, workshops, and classes on Earth science. Veatch, an award-winning writer on science, nature, and history, is the author of over 100 articles. He has contributed chapters to 3 books:

*Field Trips in the Southern Rocky Mountains, USA, Field Guide 5*

*The Paleontology of the Upper Eocene Florissant Formation, Colorado*

*The World's Greatest Gold Camp: An Introduction to the History of the Cripple Creek & Victor Mining District*

Veatch teaches community classes on Earth science based in the Pikes Peak region and teaches graduate geoscience courses for the Colorado School of Mines in the Special Programs and Continuing Education (SPACE) department.



# HAPPY HOUR AT JAKE'S SALOON



... a successful Historical Society event

## President's Letter

Dear Members:

JACOB SCHMIDT-what can I say-it was GREAT! If you missed it, you missed a lot of fun. We were able to raise over \$2000 during happy hour including the silent auction items sold. Colorado Mountain Brewery did an outstanding job of providing beer, root beer and lots of goodies. (Don't forget they open on the West side 1 June) Phil McDonald, Kathy McBride, and Sandy Hanzlian were outstanding at presenting Colorado City history. Everyone certainly got to know these famous old time residents and their stories. My biggest thank you goes to Barbara Barbaro and her committee. They were organized, colorful and worked their heads off.

BAKERS NEEDED: If you love to bake, we have an opportunity for you. Cookies for summer events are always needed as well as pies for our Ice Cream/Pie Social. Please bake anytime and freeze the items. Bev Disch may be calling YOU!

TOURS are a benefit of membership. We will meet at OCCHC and carpool or caravan together; take a tour (discounted price) and eat lunch together. If the tours are popular, we consider using a bus in the future. OCCHS member, Gerry Murphy of Call Murphy Tours is our membership development volunteer and is setting up these tours. Call OCCHS to get your name on the list for the April event. The first tour is Miramont Castle with lunch somewhere in Manitou Springs.

HISTORY DAY at Colorado College was an amazing event. Thanks go to Kathy McBride and Phil McDonald for representing OCCHS. We gave out 4- \$25 awards at the Middle School and History School level. The awards were underwritten by Werner and Joanne Karlson but given in our name. Thank you, thank you!

RESERVATIONS: Remember to call and sign up for Mel McFarland's May presentation. There are two times- 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. We have to limit the number of people in the building a one time.

QUICK NOTES: April 1, we will be back to regular hours at OCCHC. June will kick off updated membership categories at new prices with new benefits. Watch the West Word for more information. Renew now!

NEEDS: An ice cream/pie social chairman for the July 17 event; a Collections Manager with good computer skills and attention to detail; a Cemetery Crawl director-most of the work is done, we just need someone to coordinate all the activities; Tour guides for the Cemetery Crawl; a computer person to work on the web site.

HAPPY SPRING! Sharon

Sharon Swint, President  
OCCHS Board of Directors

*Hello from Gerry Murphy, Membership Development Committee chair. Look for many new activities for members this year!*

*First, please join us on our first Members-Only Field Trip. In April, we stay nearby-Miramont Castle in Manitou Springs Saturday, April 21. Meet at the History Center at 10 a.m. to carpool or caravan. Cost is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for kids 8-17. Call the bookstore to reserve your spot. Watch West Word for future tours.*

*We also seek enthusiastic volunteers for Founders Day in August. Join the fun and meet other members! For more information, call me at*

*719-304-1049*

*or email*

*CallMurphy@gmail.com.*

The Old Colorado City Historical Society's Board of Directors meets regularly on the third Thursday of the month.

Meetings are at 1:00 P.M. at the History Center, unless otherwise announced.

Interested visitors are always welcome at the Board meetings.

## Treasurer's Report

Suzanne Schorsch

Checking Account	\$ 9,016.16
Endowment Account	103,345.85
Savings and	
Designated Funds Account	16,554.41
Bookstore/Event Account	4,868.60
<hr/>	
Total all accounts	\$133,785.02

This past month an inventory was taken of all furniture and fixtures held by OCCHS and we are in the process of getting an amount it will cost to insure these items in case of loss. OCCHS already has insurance on our building, bookstore and computer assets and is working on obtaining insurance for all furniture and fixtures. Next on the agenda will be obtaining insurance for the Societies archives. Working with our insurance agent we have been told they will not insure historic items unless they have an official appraisal (which for us would be costly), but they can insure us for the cost of re-printing photographs and maps to a museum quality that are digitalized in case of loss, so, we will be working on getting the Best of the Best photographs and maps in our museum digitized.

We are also working on an Accounting Procedure Manual, which is a requirement if you have an audit performed by an outside Accounting Firm. It is our goal to have an outside audit performed within the next year.

***WANTED: Event chairperson  
to organize the July  
Ice Cream and Cake Social.***

*Please call Sharon Swint at  
630-8384 if you are  
interested. Thanks!*

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

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## April Calendar

Friday, April 13  
11:00 A.M.

Program: *Geology of the Pikes Peak Region* Steven Veatch will present a program that captures the fabulous geologic features of the Pikes Peak region. Learn about dinosaurs that once lived in Colorado, why the Cripple Creek Mining District, on the western flank of Pikes Peak, produced half of all the gold mined in Colorado, and where gemstones can be found in Pikes Peak back county. Be prepared for lively discussions and lots of fun as we explore the rocks, gems, minerals, and fossils of the Pikes Peak region.

OCCHS Members FREE. Non-members \$2.00.

Saturday, April 21  
10:00 A.M.

Tour: Miramont Castle in Manitou Springs. Meet at the History Center at 10:00 to carpool or caravan to Miramont Castle.

Old Colorado City Historical Society members only.

Cost \$10, \$5 for kids 8-17 at the door.

Call the History Center at 636-1225 to reserve your spot.

### Old Colorado City History Center

1 S. 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904 - (719) 636-1225 - <http://www.occhs.org>

Museum Hours: Tues. thru Sat. 11 - 4 Free Admission. Donations greatly appreciated.