

JUNE 1999

OCCHS Election Results

The OCCHS Annual Membership Meeting and Election was held on May 14th at the Center. The membership turnout for this meeting was good with over 80 people in attendance to hear annual reports from the officers and to elect five people to the Board of Directors. Annual reports were presented by President, Bob Heinich; Vice President, David Hughes; Secretary, Betsy Evans; and Treasurer, Don Kallaus, and a Director's report from Paul Idleman. The reports reviewed the many accomplishments of the organization over the past year and the financial condition of our Society. A summary of these reports is contained in the next article. Elected to the board were Dave Hughes, Don Kallaus, Jim Travis, Don Ellis, and Leo Janzen. The members of the new board are shown on page two of this newsletter. Our congratulations to these eleven people who will be setting the direction of the Society for the next year.

On Saturday, May 15th, the board held their first monthly meeting and elected officers for the coming year. Gordon Gray was elected President, Beverley Disch is the Vice-president, Don Ellis will be the Recording Secretary, and Dave Hughes will serve at the Treasurer. Our congratulations to these folks as they assume their new roles in our Society. They comprise the Executive Committee who will develop the strategic and operating plans and present to the entire board the recommended strategy for the historical society.

Officers' Reports

Annual Meeting - May 14, 1999

Bob Heinich, President: We had a very successful two years and many comments on the remarkable job that we have done. Credit must go to Paul Idleman and our volunteers. The bookstore, operated by Thelma Williams, has been a big success. She has decided to retire and we thank her for her excellent guidance.

The darkroom has started to produce revenue by selling prints of our photographic archives. AdAmAn joined as a corporate member and you will enjoy the new exhibit in the Museum. We have continued to receive generous donations from our members and thank them all. All in all, it has been a successful year. And the next will be better.

Dave Hughes, Vice President: A lot has been accomplished in the last year as written, photographic, and oral history of Colorado City has been added to our web site. More people learned about Colorado City online, than walked through our doors this past year. Through our El Pomar grant, we have been able to design and develop a computer database that will allow the public access to our online files. Thanks go to Scott Wright, our database designer and La Donna Gunn, our historian-researcher.

(see Annual Reports on page 7)

Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 South 24th Street Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319
(719)636-1225

WEST WORD

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OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION
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LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTICLES AND STORIES CAN BE DELIVERED TO THE
OCCHS HISTORY CENTER OR MAILED TO THE EDITOR:

PAUL IDLEMAN c/o OCCHS
1 South 24th Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th DAY OF EACH MONTH.

MISSION

The Old Colorado City Historical Society was formed to maintain the memory of Colorado City (1859-1917), to encourage research, preserve pictures, and keep alive the unique culture and spirit of West Side 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. Renewal Memberships are due on the anniversary date of the initial membership. Members receive the *West Word* newsletter, discounts, local meetings and programs.

Annual memberships classifications are as follows:

Individual	\$20	Business	\$50
Family	\$25	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	Gordon Gray	630-8238
Vice President	Beverly Disch	634-5023
Secretary	Don Ellis	447-0424
Treasurer	Dave Hughes	636-2040
	Jack Ekstrom	473-7515
	Robert Heinich	448-9001
	Don Kallaus	630-0322
	Leo Janzen	227-7662
	Agnes Johnson	633-8040
	Mel McFarland	533-1311
	Jim Travis	636-1576

MEETINGS

OCCHS Monthly Meeting & Program is held at 11:00 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, except during June, July and August. The History Center opens at 10:00 a.m. on the day of each Monthly Meeting & Program for refreshments and visitation. The program will begin at 11:00 a.m. The OCCHS Monthly Meeting & Program is free and open to the public

Next General Meeting
September 10, 1999
at the History Center

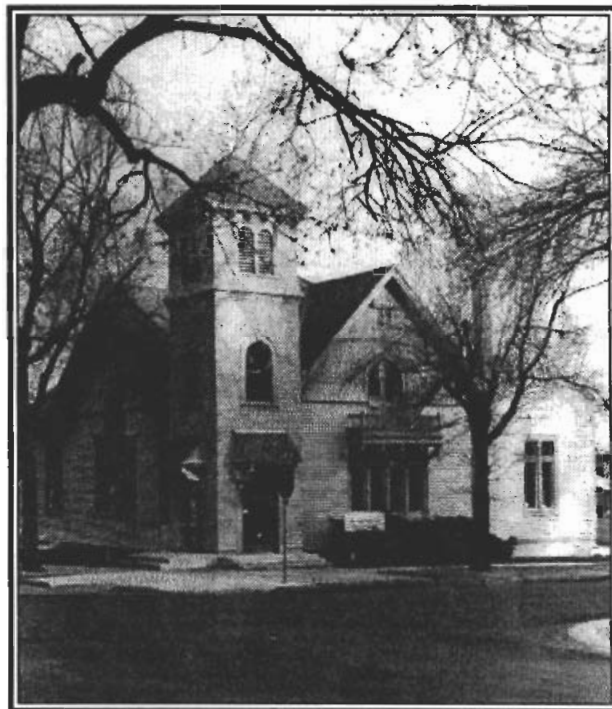


photo by Don Kallaus

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at the

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORY CENTER

1 South 24th Street

(the corner of Pikes Peak & 24th Street)

(719)636-1225

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Summer Hours

10:00 a.m. TO 5:00 p.m.

CLOSED MONDAYS

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events

We're adding more all the time.
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MAILBOX

Dear OCCHS,

I am looking for information on the Myron Stratton Home in or near Colorado Springs. I have not been able to locate a web site for them.

I would like to make contact with someone associated with the "home" who could tell me about the dairy herd they had for many years.

Thank you,

Larry W. Specht
Professor Emeritus
Penn State University

Thank you, Larry for your e-mail. We contacted the Myron Stratton Home, (719) 540-3100 and found out the Home has not had a dairy herd for over 30 years. They do not have a web site but the person to contact for further information is Mark Turk, Executive Director. (this response was sent via e-mail to Mr. Specht)

Dear OCCHS (Paul),

I would like to make a donation to OCCHS to acknowledge Don (Kallaus) contribution to the organization over the last couple of years.he really cares about the History Center. It seems to me to be a fine, well done educational facility.

Perhaps some sort of recognition (maybe by the AdAmAn exhibit, of which Don is particularly proud) would be very nice. Of course, the remainder of the money can be used as OCCHS sees fit.

Pat Smith
Colorado Springs

Thank you, Pat for your most generous contribution and to recognize Don for his many contributions. We will make sure that his contributions to the AdAmAn exhibit are properly recognized and noted on the fine exhibit that he created. (Gordon Gray, President, OCCHS Board of Directors)

Dear OCCHS,

You have a wonderful web site! It is well designed and executed. I enjoyed it very much.

I live up the "hill" and recently joined the Ute Pass Historical Society. I have been thinking that we should have a Web presence but need to know the costs and other information about services to Historical Societies.

Jim Irving
Divide, CO

Thank you, Jim for your e-mail. We will be in contact with you in the near future to discuss our Web site and other information that we have about internet services to non-profit organizations.

Bits & Pieces

Congratulations OCCHS!

Your website, <http://history.oldcolo.com/> has been selected as a featured site in StudyWeb as one of the best educational resources on the web by our Researchers.

StudyWeb is one of the Internet's premier sites for educational resources for students and teachers. Since 1996 our professional reviewers have been scouring the Internet to select only the finest sites to be included in StudyWeb's reviews. Each site in StudyWeb includes a detailed review describing it's merits. If you are unfamiliar with StudyWeb, please check us out at:

<http://www.studyweb.com>

Inclusion in StudyWeb will increase your exposure and attract new visitors to your site: our reviews have been featured on Webcrawler Select, The Top 5% Education World, and many others. StudyWeb updates are provided to media and educational resources around the world.

Thanks -- and again, congratulations!
Sincerely, Leslie Kenny
Webmaster/Senior Editor, StudyWeb
(received by email on June 5, 1999)

Membership Directory

Included in this newsletter is the new Membership Directory. It is current as of June 1st. Membership updates and changes will be in the West Word each month. Please use this information to update your individual copies of the directory. A complete directory will be issued annually. Additional copies are available for \$3 at the Center or from any Board member.

Darkroom Available For Members

Don Kallaus and Paul Idleman have developed the new policies governing the use of the History Center's Jim Bates Darkroom. The darkroom allows us to produce our own photos for exhibit and photos to sell to the public.

The Jim Bates Darkroom is available to any OCCHS member with darkroom experience. These members will be able to work on any of their own photos with their own chemicals and paper, but they must also complete one OCCHS job, too.

Any members interested in working in the History Center darkroom should contact Paul at 636-1225 for a tour.

From the Board

Message from the President.

I am pleased to be writing this message to you as your new President. I consider it an honor to serve in this capacity and I commit to you that I will give this job a 200%+ effort. The success of any organization is not due to ONE person but a team of people who are all working to achieve their stated objectives.

I want to thank Bob Heinich, the outgoing President of our Society, for all his hard work and commitment. Under his leadership the History Center got under way and after two years, it has been a huge success. A thank you also goes to Betsy Evans, who served on the Board as Recording Secretary. With all the conversations that go on at the meetings, the fast pace and the new issues, it was sometimes hard to make a good record of the meeting. However, Betsy always had a excellent set of minutes ready for our review. Thank you Betsy for your commitment and also congratulations as you become the chairperson for the operation of the bookstore. Jerry Jekel was an outgoing board member and my thanks to him for his many contributions.

We have an excellent group of people on the board and I am looking forward to working closely with each of them. However, the board alone cannot bring successes to the organization. It takes everyone in the organization, working together to make it a success. The board and I need the help of each and every one of you to volunteer your services in ANY way that you can. We are a 99.99% volunteer organization and the need is increasing every day for more assistance. In upcoming newsletters, you will be hearing more about our needs but for now, please be thinking of how you can help make our Society even stronger and more successful. On page 5, there is a member profile form. I would appreciate you completing this form and returning it to the Center. This will assist us in matching your talents and desires with areas of support that we need. Please feel free to call me at any time to discuss your ideas.

In the activities surrounding the recent election, there were a number of concerns expressed by our members. If these issues are real, we need

to correct them or publicly state why they cannot be corrected. If the issues are not real, they are perceived by people and perceptions can become reality if not addressed. These issues are of a top priority with me and I will communicate the resolution on a regular basis to the membership.

With this in mind, starting with this issue, you will receive a newsletter every month. Also, beginning with this issue, this page will become a standard page on which information will be communicated to you from the board. This will include a message from the President, newsworthy points from the latest board meeting, other information about your Society and beginning next month a brief financial statement. I welcome your comments after you read the monthly board information.

A few thank you's are in order on events that have occurred in the past couple of weeks. Our sales activity during Territory Days from the Log Cabin in Bancroft Park was very successful. According to Betsy Evans, we sold almost \$500 in merchandise over the three days of this event. The bake sale was a huge success raising over \$125, with the baked goods gone by the end of the first day. Thank you Betsy and all of your volunteers for a great job. Last weekend, we held our annual Treasure sale in the parking lot. We had a lot of merchandise and although we did not have a lot of traffic, we sold over \$325 worth of "treasures." Thanks to everyone who lugged the merchandise to the Center, priced it, put it onto tables, served as sales people, and then cleaned everything up.

We have a lot going on in our Society and we will be updating you monthly on the many activities. There are several committees without a chairperson and sufficient members. Please fill out the form on page 5 and if you are interested in participating on *any* of the committees, give Paul or me a call. We can tell you about our immediate areas of need.

I look forward to working together to achieve our plans and take our Society into the next century. Let's keep OCCHS's history *alive!*

Until next month,

Gordon

WEST SIDE MEMORIES

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

compiled by Jan Knox

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

1874

¶ A resident in Colorado City asks us to direct the attention of the County Commissioners to the absolute necessity of doing something to the Court House building in that town. It is declared to be in an unsafe condition 1/24 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ The Manitou House keeps a fair complement of guests, fresh arrivals being registered every day. The Billiard Hall and Bowling Alley are now in full operation, and they add considerably to the Hotel's attractiveness 1/17 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Our butchers killed 28 beeves, 10 calves, 20 sheep, and 10 hogs during the week, making a total of 16,500 lbs. of meat. If you put the average weekly capacity for meat in Town at five lbs. Per individual, and this shows that we have a population of 3,300. If anyone objects to put it at five pounds, why, then, we have nothing more to say. 2/7 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ One of the Denver papers says that wages in that city are two dollars a day, and that plenty of mechanics are ready to work for such wages. This confirms the statement of workmen who have come down from that city. Our mechanics have no cause to complain, work being plentiful and wages good. We had occasion to have a little work done the other day, and one of the men engaged upon it, (whom, we took to be a "laborer,") looked us in the face and told us that his wages were six dollars a day. 2/21 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Our County Clerk, in order to stimulate himself to industry, has introduced hives of bees into his office, and he now gets instruction by sitting down in a comfortable chair, and watching them improve each shining

hour.

2/28 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ The foot-bridge on Tejon Street, at the Platte Avenue crossing needs immediate action. It is partially broken down, and should be promptly repaired before an accident occurs.

2/28 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ The Colorado Springs Company will shortly replace the dead trees in the streets by new ones. The percentage of trees which have died is not large. We hope, by the way, that it will not be long before some steps can be taken to get in young trees of some other kind to grow up and take the place, in a few years. Of the cottonwoods. If the lot owners on some particular street, for instance, would co-operate to put in young ashes; those on another street to put in young aiathus, and so forth; the tax upon each individual would be very slight indeed, whilst the attractiveness of the Town, in a few years' time, would be greatly increased. 2/28 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

1899

¶ Work on the new sidewalks to be placed in front of Mr. N.B. Hames property on Colorado avenue has commenced after several day's delay on account of the cold weather and the contractor expects to have the walks completed by the end of the week.

1/10 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Dr. A.H. Weston, recently received from his former home in Cedar Rapids, Michigan, a very attractive new buggy for which he gave a special order during his last visit there. 1/10 *Colorado City Iris*

¶ The city council held its regular semi-monthly meeting last evening. Mayor Morse, who had been away for several weeks, resumed his duties as presiding officer. Several matters of importance were discussed.

Street Commissioner Myles was ordered to take up the board sidewalks along Colorado avenue where new stone walks have not been put in according to the ordinance. In several places, new stone walks have been put into place and in others the stone is on hand ready to be put in. 2/21 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

1924

¶ Word has been received here of the death in Anaheim, California, of Carl Detrich, for many years a resident of Colorado City. He was a member of the local lodge of Odd Fellows and the Eagles lodge, and a brother of Mrs. Jesse Taylor of the West Side, who with her husband and son is spending the winter in California. He was the son of Mrs. Susan Detrich of 3172 West Kiowa street. Carl Detrich lost his health while superintendent of construction of the Anaconda smelters during the World War. He went to California in search of relief, which was only temporary. 1/18 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Merritt are opening a restaurant and bakery at 2327 and 1/2 West Colorado avenue.

1/11 *Colorado Springs Independent*

FIFTY YEARS AGO

1949

¶ Monday evening someone broke into the electric shop at the Cycle Mill and stole a large amount of tools. They took \$30 worth of wrenches, etc., belonging to Bob Porter, also tools belonging to Dick Burkey and others. The sheriff's office promised quick apprehension of the culprits, but they have no clues to go on. This makes several times that thieves have raided the mill at night. 1/20 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ ¶ ¶ ¶ ¶ ¶

For Your Information

OCCHS Loses a True Prospector



Article & photo submitted by Ed Bathke

OCCHS member George Fisher passed away on March 29, 1999. George and Betty Fisher have been known for their interest in and collection of historical memorabilia and for support of the society. Following his career at J. C. Penney, George became a mineral prospector and dealer. His dream was to provide recognition for the pioneer prospectors who played so prominent a role in the development of early Colorado. This dream is to be fulfilled on June 25th when the nine-foot-high bronze sculpture of a prospector and his burro will be dedicated in Old Colorado City, on the city park site at the northwest corner of 21st St. and the Cimarron Expressway. The photo above shows a 27-inch maquette of the sculpture, with George on the right, and the sculptor, Cloyd Barnes, on the left.

OCCHS Entertains the NEW Katharine Lee Bates

Every school child in Colorado Springs knows the name of Katharine Lee Bates. Everyone knows about the beautiful sights from the top of Pikes Peak that inspired her to write the poem that became "America the Beautiful." However, Bates has become a mystery and very little is known about her and her life.

This is going to change according to Dr. Melinda

Ponder, associate professor of English at Pine Manor College in Massachusetts. Dr. Ponder is doing research on only the second biography ever to be written about Katharine Lee Bates. She is finding information about Bates that will reveal her as a person.

Ponder says that most people don't know that Bates wrote over 30 books and a lot of short fiction and essays in newspapers.

Bates did live to see her poem set to music. She knew by the time she died in 1929 that she had written a national hymn.

Ponder was in Colorado Springs last week doing research on her book and to speak at the National Trails Day "America the Beautiful" Heritage Hike at Jefferson Elementary School Park, near the Rock Island Trail.

Lucille Cunningham, Becky and Gordon Gray had the opportunity to give Dr. Ponder a tour of the Old Colorado City History Center. They also toured Old Colorado City, Manitou Springs and had dinner at the historic Old Stagecoach Inn in Manitou. Dr. Ponder was very impressed with our Society, our magnificent museum, and the total focus that we have on preserving the history of Old Colorado City.

Annual Reports *(continued from the front page)*

Don Kallaus, Treasurer: As of December 31, 1998, total assets of the Society were \$433,305. The building, fixtures, and equipment are \$344,693 and the remainder is current assets of \$88,612. Of the current assets, \$59,418 is in the endowment accounts.

Betsy Evans, Bookstore: Gross sales for the calendar year 1998 were \$6,536. From the profit, \$1,600 was returned to the History Center's General Account, which more than reimbursed the Center's initial investment for inventory of \$1,240. During the year, the emphasis was to retain much of the profits to continue to build up the value of the inventory of gifts and books. In 1999, the Gift Shop will focus on maintaining the inventory and creating profits for the History Center's use. The shop is open 6 days a week and it takes 12 volunteers each week.