

WEST WORD

Old Colorado City Historical Society

November 2000

... AT HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS ...

Old Colorado City Innkeepers Benefit History Center

by: Sallie Clark

As the number of holiday activities in the Pikes Peak region starts to mount, be sure to mark your calendars early for December 3rd. The welcome sign will be out at seven area bed and breakfasts (B&Bs) on Sunday, December 3rd from 2-6 PM just in time for the holiday season. This year marks the 6th Annual Old Colorado City Bed & Breakfast Holiday Tour to benefit the Old Colorado City Historical Society (OCCHS), History Center, and Museum. For the residents of Colorado Springs, this presents an opportunity to glimpse inside these area landmarks and celebrate the holidays. "We're very excited to work with the innkeepers again this year. Touring the inns combines both a sense of history and a worthwhile holiday event all wrapped into one package," says Gordon Gray, President of the OCCHS. According to Gray, the B&B tour is an important fund-raiser and helps the society accomplish annual projects for the History Center and Museum, which otherwise might not be possible. Last year the tour helped to fund a matching grant by the OCCHS to publish a walking tour guide of Old Colorado City.

At the forefront of the tour is Karla Hefferan of the AwareNest Victorian Bed & Breakfast. In 1995 Karla was approached by the Historical Society about participating in an area home tour. Needless to say she said yes, added the idea of area B&Bs, and history was made. Says Karla, "Since we had a growing number of B&Bs in the area, I thought it was the perfect fit. Back in 1995, we had five B&Bs on the tour. This year we have seven. It's an important avenue for our businesses to give something back to the neighborhood and the community."

The AwareNest Victorian Bed & Breakfast is a home built in 1901 and a place where sunlight streams through stained glass windows. Built for a

conductor of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad, the AwareNest has one room and two suites, all with private baths, one with fireplace and jetted tub, two with old fashioned clawfoot tubs, and offers fluffy bath robes in every room. The main floor boasts 10 foot ceilings and hardwood floors with original molding and trim. Originally purchased in 1991 by Karla and Rex Hefferan, it was home to their family for the first three years during the renovation. The inn opened as a B&B in 1994 and was featured in Country Decorating Ideas magazine. The AwareNest dining room was also chosen for the front cover of the bed & breakfast cookbook "Inn Good Taste". The inn is located at 1218 W. Pikes Peak Avenue, 630-8241 or toll free at 888-910-8241.

Holden House 1902 Bed & Breakfast Inn opened in 1986 as the first Westside B&B. The house was built in 1902 by Isabel Holden, widow of a wealthy Colorado Springs businessman. While the inn has seen a few changes since its inception, comfort, hospitality, family heirlooms and attention to detail distinguish Sallie & Welling Clark's restoration efforts. In 1985 the house was the talk of the neighborhood while it was hoisted up to rebuild the foundation. The Clarks started with the main house and expanded into the carriage house, and then the adjacent Victorian to include five suites with fireplaces and oversized tubs. But Sallie claims that they've stopped expanding to more homes as her husband Welling has said "no" to hanging more than the 100,000 lights they currently display at Christmastime. The B&B has been the recipient of many awards and media coverage over their 15 years of business. The inn is located at 1102 W. Pikes Peak Avenue, 471-3980 or toll free at 888-565-3980.

The Old Town GuestHouse has a history of its own. The inn was newly built in 1997 on the site of the second City Hall in Old Colorado City. In 1917 the site was home to the Old Colorado City firehouse and as fate would have it, the building burned to the ground in 1990. Kaye and David Caster purchased the property and began construction in 1996, taking into consideration the details of the original 1892 building. The entryway

with marble floors beckons guests into elegant surroundings including the comfortable front parlor with overstuffed furniture and library, to the dining room with French doors opening onto a patio where breakfast can be served during summer months. The guesthouse is one of the few B&Bs to receive a 4 diamond rating from AAA and also boasts a well-appointed conference room which seats 20. The inn is located at S. 26th Street, 632-9194 or toll free at 888-375-4210.

Our Hearts Inn Old Colorado City was established by Pat and Andy Fejedelem to carry out a country feel. According to the couple, it was love at first sight when they spotted the 100 year old house near the heart of Old Colorado City. The house features curved walls and arched ceilings which became a canvas for Pat's stenciling talents. Pat is proud of her antique possessions which she lovingly shares with her guests. A great aunt's trunk and vintage photo, family quilts and Andy's grandpa's wardrobe, just to name a few. In addition to the main house rooms, the inn also boasts the Hearts Out West cottage with a western flair, jetted tub and fireplace. Hearts are the primary theme of this inn and Pat's stenciling is evident throughout. The couple sometimes jokes that if Andy stood still long enough, he'd be stenciled too. During the holidays, each room features a Christmas tree. The inn is located at 2215 W. Colorado Ave, 473-8684 or toll free at 800-533-7095.

The Painted Lady Bed & Breakfast Inn opened as a B&B in 1991. Owner-innkeeper Valerie Maslowski says that she strives for a relaxed atmosphere. The three-story Victorian was built in 1894 for his family by William Proctor, the proprietor of Colorado City's billiard hall. Throughout the years it has served as a boarding house, apartments, a restaurant and then a B&B. The house features both a large wraparound first floor porch and an upper porch which boasts great views of the mountains. Despite the historical feel, an outdoor hot tub is a

(continued on page 5)

From the Board

The President's Report.....

My wife Becky and I just returned to Colorado Springs from a three week driving trip to the Midwest and Eastern parts of the U.S. The main purpose of the trip was to visit our two sons, one in the Chicago area and the other in the New York City area. We had a marvelous time visiting and getting up to date on all their activities and their families. Of course, we spoiled the grandchildren while we were visiting but that is a prerogative of grandparents, correct? We were in the New York area during the Subway World Series and we rooted for the Mets and seemed to be the only ones doing that in our son's community.

When we travel, we enjoy visiting historical places and this trip was no exception. About 15 years ago, we purchased a National Parks Passport Book which identifies all the National Parks, Historical Sites, etc. that are under the auspices of the government. When you visit one of these locations, you can get your book stamped with the date you visited the site. On this trip, we were able to get five location stamps, including, Mound City in Ohio; Friendship House in PA; Gettysburg National Park in Gettysburg, PA; Indiana Dunes Shoreline in northern Indiana; and the Eisenhower Farm in PA. Enroute to these locations, we had the opportunity to pass through many small towns and experience what life was like in these areas 100 plus years ago. One town, Athens, Ohio, was a stop where I did some genealogy research. I visited the Athens County Historical Society and Museum, of which I am a member. This small college town has an excellent museum and an outstanding collection of artifacts, some dating back several hundred years. The museum personnel had just finished redoing the displays for the museum. Many were in display cases, similar to those in our museum. Other artifacts were grouped into room arrangements and gave the viewer a sense of what a collection looked like in a "real" environment. I was told that this society, which has over 700 members, depends almost totally on volunteers. Hearing this made me stop and reflect on the many, many hours of volunteer work the members of OCCHS give to our Society and to thank each of you for your dedication and support. Without you, we would not be successful and I wanted you to know this.

In last month's West Word, we stated that a memorial fund was being established in memory of Kay Arnold to purchase a brick in her name. Kay expressed on numerous occasions her desire to have her name on a brick in the OCCHS patio. I am please to tell you that through your generous donations, we have enough money to purchase the brick in Kay's honor. Thanks to everyone who made this possible.

We are entering that busy time of the year. Thanksgiving will be upon us before we know and I hope each of you will enjoy this holiday in whatever way you celebrate. Then, that busy month of December will be taking most, if not all, of our time. This is the time of the year that my family looks forward to and a time when we can be together. You will see in the calendar, the 6th Annual B&B Tour will be held on Sunday afternoon, December 3rd. Please come out and support this event which is sponsored by the Westside Innkeepers. The entire proceeds from this event are given by the innkeepers to the Society and it is the major fundraising event of the year. I hope that you will show your appreciation to the innkeepers by supporting and attending this event.

Happy Thanksgiving and until next month,

Gordon

Happy Thanksgiving

from

the Old Colorado City Historical Society

Board of Directors

Noteworthy --- Notes ---

INFORMATION WORTH REPEATING

In the August and September West Word, we announced the **Adopt-a-Book Program**. OCCHS has a fine collection of historical books in the library at the Center about the rich history of Old Colorado City and the Pikes Peak Area. Our first book, the Polk 1910 City Directory, has been rebound and it is now in excellent condition for many years to come.

For \$35, a book will be rebound with a new cover and spine. It will be re-sown or glued, as necessary, and the spine will be embossed with the title of the book. This will give a "new life" to the book.

Please consider "adopting" a book. This can be done by individuals or by an entire family in memory of a loved one. What better way to help the Society preserve the history of Colorado City.

Donations can be sent to the President, OCCHS, 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

ANNOUNCING THE TIME CAPSULE PROJECT - What is this project? Who will be participating? What will go into the capsule? When will it be buried? How can I participate?

In the December and January West Word newsletters we will be outlining the details for this project and how each of you can participate. Be thinking of what you might put into a time capsule that will be opened in 100 years. It might be a letter to descendants in your family. If so, start putting your thoughts down on paper of what you want to tell people who will be living in the year 2100.

The **Drive for Bricks** is on again.....we want to fill the patio with bricks that have been engraved through donations from our members and community people. The cost is \$100 and it is a lasting memory to you and your loved ones. We have several brick orders that we are holding until we get enough to have the company engrave them. We would like to get up to the required 10 brick orders in the near future. If you are thinking about purchasing a brick, please contact Bev Disch (719-634-5023) and tell her you are interested.

**OLD COLORADO CITY THRIVES.....
.....WITH FACELIFTS AND FAITH**

By Gene Birkhead, Sun Staff Writer

The revival of Old Colorado City as a shopping and entertainment center continues to find both new and old businesses taking part in the areas facelift. Private investment by long-term owners is an important part of the ongoing restoration.

Renovation inside and out will give a new-old look to Rogers Frontier Bar. The outside renovation will include a wooden façade and a roofway covering the sidewalk in the style of many old time saloons.

The bar owned and operated for 25 years by Danny Rogers, who was the first person to operate a bar on the north side of Colorado Avenue, is now in the hands of his son and daughter, Mike Rogers and Karen Frerichs. According to Mrs. Frerichs, the interior renovation will also be extensive. One of the building's unusual features is the polished wood back bar with its many mirrors, which is 106 years old and still has all its original glass. The western paintings that decorate the bar are originals by Harold Bryant, and at one time hung in a bar her father formerly owned in Manitou Springs.

She said one of the traditions of the Rogers Bar is that her father always celebrated St. Patrick's Day by putting on a big feed for his customers and serving green beer. In the same block, another longtime business is undergoing changes. Peerless Graphics, a 33-year-old business owned and operated by Shirley Bonds and Jackie Masters, was dissolved last summer, and the two owners are renovating the buildings it occupied for four new businesses. The first to be completed is the old Tenderfoot Building, which is now open as the Kinnikinnik Book Store operated by Mrs. Masters. She said it had originally been used as a rooming house. The middle building, now being renovated into two storefronts, is the site of the Francisco Building, the 1861 cabin built by Col. J.M. Francisco, which housed the first meeting of the Colorado State Legislature. These will be leased to new businesses.

Also to be renovated is a fourth building which is serving now as a printing supply house until all of the stock and fixtures of the old Peerless Graphics have been sold. Mrs. Bonds said she has not decided yet whether she will open a new business in that building. Much of the material still to be sold are old printing equipment and etchings of interest to collector and antique lovers. One old printers block, which originally came west in a covered wagon, now serves as a counter in the Kinnikinnik Book Store.

Part of the Free Press, parent of the Colorado Springs Sun, was printed at Peerless Graphics on hand presses through the first three years of its life after its establishment is 1948. The other part was printed by Gowdy Press.

The renovation of these three buildings is being done in keeping with the theme of the Westside development, but does not represent any one period.

Mr. and Mrs. William Henry, longtime Westsiders, are making plans to redo a building they own, which is now occupied by the ARATI Artists, together with a small adjacent building housing an art gallery.

This building is the site of Henry's former shoe repair business, which was well known in the city. The

Henry's have owned the buildings since 1946, and have leased them in recent years.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Henry are deaf and follow meetings of the West Colorado Springs Commercial Club, which is spearheading Westside restoration, through an interpreter. They are planning the historical restoration of their building provided by Eugene Baker, architect.

According to the West Colorado Springs Commercial Club, retail sales in the area as well as property sales remained strong all summer and are continuing into the fall. David Hughes, managing director of the club, said it is heartening to see that long established, traditional businesses, such as Fox Photo, Henri's Restaurant and Schoch's Hardware have reported good sales as well as newer businesses, which have come in. He said the objective in reviving Old Colorado City is to make it a year-round shopping area and a home for neighborhood businesses as well as the fancier ones. He noted that many historical revival areas have made the mistake of driving out traditional businesses while attracting high-cost new establishments.

Though the past summer, the area has seen the opening of 13 new businesses and three new nonprofit organizations.

Hughes sees as some of the most significant changes, the opening of the Territory Restaurant, one of the city's most attractive eating places, the opening of the Loft Theater as a multi-use entertainment and meeting center and the completion of the renovation of Bancroft Park as a "people place."

The area occupied by the Pikes Peak Community College before its move to a new campus has become "Old Town Plaza" and is expected to have as many as 15 new businesses by January.

Hughes said at least six separate private undertakings are "in the works", which will result in more than \$3 million in investment in the seven square block area between 23rd and 27th Streets on Colorado Avenue. He said some cannot be announced yet, but negotiations are all but completed.

(From the Colorado Springs Sun, 22 October 1978)

**6th Annual
Old Colorado City
Bed & Breakfast Holiday
Tour**

Sunday - December 3, 2000 2-6 p.m.

Seven B&B Inns - Westside Innkeepers

**A benefit for the Old Colorado City Historical
Society & Museum.**

Tickets: \$10 in advance - \$15 at the door

**Guests of the B&Bs for the weekend will
receive complimentary tickets to the tour.**

For additional information & tickets:

Contact the History Center (719) 636-1225

Reflections on Colorado City Schools

by: Agnes Johnson

If you think District 11 is having a problem with finances, you should read the newspaper article on February 7, 1912 from Colorado City Department with headlines reading, "Sweeping Reduction in Teachers' Salaries." "School board plans to save \$5,240 annually - no more vacation pay - Principal Chosen."

"The school board met last night and made a sweeping reduction from the principal down to the first grade teachers, making a savings of \$5,240 annually to the district. This move has been contemplated for some time and was prompted by the alarming indebtedness, which amounts to approximately \$24,000. Trustees Thrasher, Lamont and Liebold, voted for the reduction, Nichols opposing and Mrs. Cartwright remaining neutral. All teachers hereafter will be paid for only nine months, and will not receive pay while on summer vacations heretofore."

"Professor E. C. Best was elected superintendent, to take effect September, and will, in addition to his other duties, teach mathematics in the high school at a salary of \$1,500 a year. Superintendent S. F. Ewing has been drawing \$2,000 a year for acting as superintendent alone."

The *President's Membership Challenge* is still going on and we have received several new members as a result of this effort. It isn't too late to get that neighbor to join the Society or to give a membership to the Society as a holiday gift. If you would like to add a new member and be a part of this challenge, please send the new member's name, address, and telephone number, along with a check for the appropriate membership dues to the Center -- to the attention of Gordon Gray.

Your continued support of the Society is appreciated and needed.

Book Signing

You won't want to miss the *SECOND* opportunity to have OCCHS member, Leland Feitz sign his new book, *A Pictorial History of Colorado Springs*. The book is available in the OCCHC bookstore for \$6.95 plus tax. It is a wonderful review in pictures of Colorado City and Colorado Springs.

Leland will be at the monthly OCCHS meeting on Friday, November 10th from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. to sign his book.

What a wonderful opportunity to pick up a copy for yourself and for those special holiday gifts and have them signed by the author.

... AT HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS ...

continued from the front page

favorite of guests and recent renovations turned the rooms into large suites, some with fireplaces and clawfoot tubs. Valerie and her two friendly kitties will make you feel right at home in this lovely Victorian. The inn is located at 1318 W. Colorado Avenue, 473-3165 or toll free at 800-370-3165.

Spurs & Lace Inn is a stately three-story home, built in the late 1800's and opened by Sharen and Leo Janzen in 1998. Upon approaching retirement, the Janzen's desired to run a people-oriented vocation. While driving through quaint Old Colorado City, they discovered this beautiful home. Built in the 1800's by William Perkins, a clothier and cattle man, the home was moved from its former location at 336 North Pine. It was originally a residence, then a boarding house, and now serves as the newest Westside B&B. The home now stands on its current site just west of Old Colorado City. Marble floors, a three-flight staircase, and five bedrooms are available, each with private bath and queen bed. Leo states that the nine months prior to opening was a blur; finishing the last year of teaching careers in Kansas left the Janzen's exhausted but ecstatic of their new-found profession. The inn serves a full three-course breakfast. The inn is located at 2829 W. Pikes Peak Avenue, 227-7662 or toll free at 800-378-9717.

Wedgewood Cottage Bed & Breakfast Inn was established in 1991 when Karen and Shannon Jones converted the front of their 1899 Victorian home into a private suite. The Jones's have resided here for 19 years and both are Colorado natives. Karen became interested in running a Bed & Breakfast after working for the B&B, just across the street. After making a decision to become an innkeeper, they restored and renovated the private suite, continued landscaping and perfected their cooking skills (the inn's breakfast muffins were selected best in the state in 1994). The suite includes a charming sitting room with a light filled bay window, two fireplaces, bedroom with mahogany bed, and bath with heart shaped Jacuzzi. Recent additions to the Jones family are two sons, Patrick and Sean. In fact, as the "holiday home tour baby", Sean was nearly born the night of a previous home tour, but they still managed to show the inn with the help of a neighbor friend. The inn is located at 1111 W. Pikes Peak Avenue, 636-1829.

The Old Colorado City History Center & Museum was built 105 years ago by architect Walter Farquhar Douglas as the First Baptist Church of Old Colorado City. The exterior and interior have been restored similar to the way it first looked at its dedication on November 21, 1890. The center is now headquarters for the Old Colorado City Historical Society and houses historical documents and a museum. The holiday tour will end at the Center where refreshments, entertainment and a drawing will be held.

As an added benefit, guests who stay at any of the B&Bs on the weekend of the tour will receive complimentary tickets to the tour on Sunday. Ticket are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

For information, contact the Old Colorado City History Center, 1 South 24th Street, 636-1225 or see the web site at www.bbonline.com/co/westside.html

Thanksgiving

West Side Memories

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS *compiled by: Jan Knox*

October 1875
One Hundred and Twenty-five Years Ago

The Colorado City fire department is having considerable trouble with the new fire team, which was recently purchased by Mayor George. The horses are inclined to do as they please and have balked on several occasions. Chief Birdsall thinks, however, that they will soon outgrow their present inclinations and will prove to be the best team ever owned by the city. C. S. Gazette 10/21 The Ladies Guild of the Church of the Good Shepherd are making arrangements to serve an elegant dinner on election day in the Faulkner building on Colorado avenue. The dinner will consist of all the delicacies of the season, and the ladies expect to do a big business. A charge of 25 cents will be made. (C.S. Gazette 10/28)

Mr. W. S. Stratton will this week begin some improvements on Huerfano street that will materially change the appearance of a part of the city that has been most unattractive, for some time. In the past year, he became the owner of the corner at Huerfano and Tejon streets that was so many years occupied by the Gazette. The rear portion of this property is unoccupied by buildings, and this week he will begin the erection of some temporary stores there. Mr. Stratton expects soon to begin the erection of a nice business block on the northeast corner of Huerfano and Nevada, from which he recently had the old buildings torn away. He is having plans made now for a block, but he is not yet ready to make an announcement regarding it. It will not be a very great length of time, however, until work is started. The new store rooms are only temporary, to utilize the valuable land which is now lying idle. The stores will face south on Huerfano street and will be one story in height. The building will be 68 feet wide and 72 feet in depth and it will be divided into four large rooms to be used as stores. The finest grades of pressed brick will be used in the front. All four rooms will be equipped with all modern improvements and will doubtless be the most suitable for the purpose in the part of the city. The entire building will cost about \$6,000. (C.S. Gazette 10/29)

Colorado Springs is to have a \$100,000 city hall. This was decided at an executive session of the council last night. Mr. Stratton's offer was discussed pro and con, and after the executive session, the council met again in regular session and voted to accept the offer. Mayor Robinson was present during this part of the session and all the aldermen were in their seats. The offer of Mr. Stratton is that he will advance the money for the new city hall site and hold the property for the city until next spring, when bonds can be voted and that then he will give the city the site, with an additional 75 feet frontage on the north, at the original price, providing the city council will put up a \$100,000 building on the site. At the last meeting of the council, the aldermen were not willing to agree to erect such a building, and it was feared that the proposition would fall through, as Mr. Stratton insisted upon this condition. Last night, in executive session, the matter was thoroughly discussed and it was decided to accept the proposition and agree to erect a \$100,000 building. This means that Mr. Stratton will within a few days advance the \$28,000 to buy the Methodist church property and the council will be able to take possession of the parsonage at once for offices for city officials. Next spring, the citizens will be asked to vote bonds to cover the purchase price of the property and also for the new city hall. (C.S. Gazette 10/30)

October 1925 - Seventy-five Years Ago

Registered Holsteins comprising the Turkey Creek ranch herd, owned by Spencer Penrose of Colorado of Colorado Springs and managed by George Sinton, took highest honors in the Pueblo Cow Testing association for the year ending June 30 last. The herd of registered Holsteins is at home at the Turkey Creek ranch near Lytle on the Canon City road. George T. Sinton, one of the region's most progressive Holstein breeders, is manager of the Turkey Creek herd, and has several extraordinary animals of his own at the establishment. As a member of the now defunct El Paso County Cow Testing association, the Sinton Holsteins set up records that several times ranked at the top in both county and state. (C.S. Gazette 10/18)

Accompanied by light snow flurries, a severe cold snap heralded the icy reign of King Winter in all sections of Colorado yesterday with the mercury seeking the zero mark. In the highlands of central Colorado, a blizzard was snarling down from the north, while statewide weather prognostications indicated the coldest night of the year. Shielded partially from the force of the icy gales that were sweeping the state, Colorado Springs was the warmest spot in Colorado yesterday and last night. The mercury in this city hovered about the 35 point at 2 o'clock this morning, which is believed will prove the day's lowest mark. Motorists on the Colorado Springs-Denver highway were coming to grief at Palmer Lake, reports say. The snow flurries and blizzard have given the pavements and highways a thin coating of ice, and several automobiles have skidded off the road. Palmer Lake was in the teeth of the icy blizzard the thermometers there tumbled to 16 degrees above zero. (C.S. Gazette 10/19)

Innocent fun will be permitted on Halloween, Chief of Police Hugh D. Harper announced yesterday, but the entire police force will be on duty Saturday night to arrest all youths guilty of vandalism. Steps will be taken by the police department to prevent destruction of property. The spirit of Halloween already has pervaded some gangs of boys. The police have experienced considerable trouble recently combating an epidemic of youthful lawlessness. Fences, street lights, clothes lines and other public property have been destroyed. Most of the violators have been arrested and taken into juvenile court to face charges. Police are hoping the present cold weather continues unbroken through the week, believing that the cold and snow would put a damper on boisterous observance of the holiday. (C.S. Gazette 10/29)

Who is the mysterious person, apparently a Halloween prankster, garbed in a flaming red cloak and skeleton mask who invaded school yards and the residential district? Several persons in the city notified the police that they and their children were frightened by the sudden and menacing appearance of the person. At the Steele school the "apparition" alighted from a closed automobile and left it with motor running while he stalked through groups of children who stopped playing and fled with dismayed screams. None ventured to converse with the "ghost" and before they could notify anyone, the stranger had entered his car and was whisked away. The same red-clad figure appeared on the veranda of the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Davenport, in Manitou. Mrs. Davenport opened the door and stood confronted by the cloaked figure who raised his hands with a terrorizing gesture and stood in silence for a moment until the woman slammed the door and fled inside. No one has learned his (?) identity. (C.S. Gazette 10/29)

NEWSPAPER HEADLINES FROM THE PAST

abstracted by: Gordon Gray

Colorado City's Last Fire Chief Visiting Here

Fred M. Ward of near Pittsburg, Kansas, Colorado City's last fire chief before annexation to Colorado Springs in May, 1917, is visiting here, calling on old friends and viewing the scenes of past days. He came here 40 years ago, and was soon a member of the fire department, later becoming chief. The old city building on South Twenty-sixth Street still interests him. In the west side of the building is where the horses and truck were kept.

Fred reminisced on some of the big fires of early days, including the row blaze, in which a block of sporting horses were burned, and the Ridenour and Rettinger livery barn, in which more than 25 horses were burned to death. They were brought in from the country the day before. Other fires talked about were a number, which had much insurance and suspicious fires.

Improvements in the West Side business district interest Fred. Though having made frequent visits since returning to his Kansas home, this is his first trip in two years. His many friends are pleased to see him.

(CS Independent, August 26, 1948)

STANDARD MILL TO INCREASE ITS CAPACITY TO 600 TONS?

The capacity of the Standard mill at Colorado City, owned and operated by the United States Reductions and Refining Company, is to be enlarged, according to common talk among the mill employees. The present capacity is 400 tons a day, and workmen say this is to be increased by 200 tons.

That the enlargement of the plant is to be effected is supported by the fact that about 150,000 feet of lumber is now being unloaded from railroad sidings and hauled to the south end of the mill, and by the additional fact that a gang of graders are at work at that point evidently evacuating for a foundation.

C. M. MacNeill, general manager, could not be located last night, nor could J.D. Hawkins, superintendent; so nothing could be learned of the cost or general plans. Workmen think that the enlargement will cost in the neighborhood of \$150,000 or \$200,000.

With an increased capacity of 2000 tons a day, the Standard mill will employ an additional 100 men, bringing the number up to 400.

(CS Gazette September 27, 1905)

BITS & PIECES

The area (is) alive with all kinds of activities! West Colorado Avenue is a "shoppers' paradise," with the area between 15th and 30th Streets having antique shops on both sides of the street.

A drive on Bijou, 7th, Kiowa and Pikes Peak would reward you with a look at many older homes with interesting architectural effects. Old fashioned flowers such as lilacs, snowballs, iris, and rambling roses planted many, many years ago, still bloom.

Did you know that, according to Pearl Buck, the upturned corners of oriental roofs kept the "roof devils" up there, and prevented their falling to the ground when they went sliding?

"Chicago Houses" were the first of the prefabricated houses to arrive in the early 1900's, by railroad car. They were just 12 feet by 15 feet!

Some of the very small homes, set back from the street, were built for family members with tuberculosis, during the "Sanitarium Era."

(from A Guide to the Westside of Colorado Springs - Prepared by O.W.N.)

Welcome NEW Members

Please welcome the following as new members to OCCHS. We are pleased you have joined our Society.

Col. James A Wasil
113 Sylvan Drive
Galeta, CA 93117-2110
(805) 964-7511

John & Marian Vance
506 County Road 781
Woodland Park, CO 80863

November OCCHS Monthly Meeting **Friday, November 10, 2000**

Anatole, the resident ghost of her Victorian house at Twin Creek Ranch, first inspired Celinda Reynolds Kaelin in her quest for the history of Pikes Peak backcountry. Celinda and her husband, Harold, retired to their cow-calf operation in Colorado in 1989. Hoping to rid herself of this other-worldly guest, Celinda began a search for his identity and the cause of his death. This research unearthed a wealth of fascinating stories that had never been told, culminating in her book.

Celinda's love of the West began with her early life on a ranch in New Mexico. She is the granddaughter of New Mexico pioneer and homesteader John Allen Reynolds. Before retiring, Celinda was an auditor on the Inspector General's staff at the Central Intelligence Agency. This work instilled the discipline needed to write history - demanding thorough research; attention to detail and facts; and the ability to translate the facts into a readable narrative. Celinda has written numerous magazine and newspaper articles, and is a popular lecturer throughout the Pikes Peak region. Her idiom is the American Indian, and her latest book is a study of their spirituality.

Celinda has served as president of the regional historical society for seven years, and is a member of the Western Writers of America and Women Writing the West. *(From "Pikes Peak Backcountry, by Celinda Reynolds Kaelin ... used with permission)*

In addition to Celinda's program, which will start at 11a.m., OCCHS member, Leland Feitz will be available from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. to sign copies of his new book, *A Pictorial History of Colorado Springs*. This outstanding book is available for sale (\$6.95) in the History Center Bookstore. Leland will also sign any of his other books which you may already have purchased, most of which are also available in the book shop.