

WEST



WOOD

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 12

December 2002

A HOLIDAY TRADITION

The 8th Annual Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour

Sunday, December 1st, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. -
6:00 p.m.

Pat Fejedelem, Events Coordinator

You look for a parking place hoping to be close by. You spot the perfect one! Things are going good so far. Brisk winter air hints at snow as you go up the path to the 1st house on the Tour. Did you notice this 100 year old home seems to swell with the knowledge of adoration other homes seldom know? The owners have restored her beauty and opened her doors to reveal her secret charms and long-lived past. People are laughing and Christmas Music can be heard from the doorway. A docent checks your ticket and welcomes you in. The 8th Annual Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour, now an annual holiday tradition, has begun!

Inside bright lights tinkle on trees decorated lovingly by the innkeeper representing a little piece of their own past. Treasures collected over a life time now hanging on the tree; this house welcomes one more Holiday Season within it's walls. Candles aglow, scents fill the air, Santa himself must be surely be near!

Have you wondered about the bed and breakfasts who have generously opened their homes to the public for the past eight years? As many as 500 people, from 2:00 p.m.

to 6:00 p.m., have been invited in to share this holiday tradition.

We thought this year you may be interested in a little Tour History and background details. The first B&B Holiday Tour was held before the Old Colorado City History Center's restoration efforts were completed and the Center opened. Karla Hefferan, an OCCHS member, was also a bed and breakfast owner and innkeeper. At her encouragement, five local area West Side B&B's were the first to coordinate, advertise, and open their homes to the public with all proceeds donated to the OCCHS. This first small group included AwareNest Victorian B&B, Holden House, Our Hearts Inn, Painted Lady, and Wedgewood Cottage. This small group funded the Tour's advertising, printing, and promotional efforts.

Each year this core group of B&B's continued to participate in the annual Tour and it's organization. Joined by other West Side Area B&B's the number of homes open for the tour grew. Last year's tour, the 7th Annual Tour, under Karla's coordination, was expanded to include the downtown area of Colorado Springs, the West Side of Colorado Springs, and Manitou Springs! What an endeavor! This Tour was OCCHS's most successful! Many hours of volunteer work were donated by Karla & Rex Hefferan and Pat, as well as the many OCCHS volunteers who worked during the

continued on page 3

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

WEST WORD

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY
THE OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th 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 establishment of a History Center.

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:

Individual	\$20	Business	\$ 50
Family	\$25	Lifetime	\$150
		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	Beverly Disch	719-634-5023
Vice President	LaRue Ebersole	719-685-3265
Secretary	Jo Cervone	719-266-9096
Treasurer	David Hughes	719-636-2040
	Cynthia Estes	719-632-9124
	Nadine Gilman	719-262-6661
	Pat Fejedelem	719-473-8684
	Kristine Van Wert	719-630-2155
	Tom Hendrix	719-633-7392

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.

Next Monthly Meeting
December 13, 2002
At the History Center



Explore the REAL History at the **OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORY CENTER**

1 South 24th Street
(the corner of Pikes Peak & 24th Streets)
(719) 636-1225

FREE ADMISSION

Winter Hours
(September – May)

TUES – SAT 11 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
SUN 1:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Closed Monday

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Tour, coordinating the related events, and the wonderful Thank You after the Tour!

This year our Tour has expanded to include the McAllister House Museum as well. We have eleven B&B's, the OCCHS Center and the McAllister House open to the public Sunday, December 1st. Once again the Tour features B&B's in downtown Colorado Springs, the West Side of Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, and new this year, Cascade. The variety of bed and breakfasts on this year's Tour offers the public a glimpse into the history of our area with these historic properties restored to their prior elegance. These B&B's were once private homes, boarding houses, and one was previously a casino & upscale bordello!

Visiting these bed and breakfasts allows a private tour inside 11 local bed and breakfasts for decorating ideas and Holiday Cheer. Also you will learn more about the interesting and varied history of our area as well as the individual history of each property. Each home has a unique past that the present owner, innkeeper in this case, loves to share!

Room at the Inn was built in 1896 and is a wonderful example of a Queen Anne Victorian. During the restoration efforts, an original mural was found in the entry hall and lovingly restored. The Crescent Lily Inn is a 100 year-old Queen Anne Victorian and is decorated in traditional Victorian Christmas style (they also have a restaurant open to the public so consider a visit for lunch). The Cheyenne Canon Inn is new to our tour this year and was built in 1921. It was once the "Dixieland" casino and an upscale bordello! If walls could only talk, what might be whispered to you as you walk her halls and share her spectacular views. The Hearthstone Inn, one of the oldest and largest B&B's in Colorado Springs, also serves the community with a restaurant open to the public. The Holden House, owner's Sallie & Welling Clark, is the second oldest B&B in Colorado Springs and oldest still operated by the original
continued on page 7

FROM THE OCCHS ARCHIVES

The "romance of the rails" may have all but vanished in the United States as we begin the twenty-first century, but railroad history is alive and well at the Old Colorado City History Center. For researchers, aficionados, and railway "buffs" the Center could well be "Grand Central Station," especially with regard to railroads and trolley lines in Colorado.

The library and archives at the OCCHS contain both primary and secondary materials on over twenty rail lines unique to Colorado or which traversed the state. These include well-known companies such as the Rock Island, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, the Burlington, and the Union Pacific. Area lines represented in the collections include the Colorado Midland Railway, the Golden Circle Railroad Company, the Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad Company, and various manifestations of the cog railroad to Pikes Peak.

Several of the Center's archival collections have railway items of particular interest and rarity. Luther McKnight, the original benefactor of the Society, saved tickets, passes, timetables, and brochures. For example, his collection contains a 1913 ticket for the "Mt. Manitou Park Scenic Incline Railway." And for sheer romance, nothing can beat a 1938-1939 pass issued to Carl Mathews, city detective with the Colorado Springs Police Department. (He was also, of course, a noted local historian, whose papers are in the archives.) This pass allowed Detective Mathews to board the Colorado and Southern Railway "between [any] stations in the State of Colorado." It evokes movie scenes where the detective, hot on the trail of the criminal, flashes his pass and gets a knowing wink from the conductor.

The Ellis Collection also includes a wide variety of railroad memorabilia, such as a ticket book, unfortunately undated, for The Manitou Electric Railway and Casino Company. One of its rare items is a pamphlet entitled, "Memoranda of Selected Data From the Official Records, Sept. 1894, to June 30, 1899," for "The Associated Rails Companies" – The Florence & Cripple Creek, The Golden Circle, and The Canon City & Cripple Creek railroads. It has figures on income, operating expenses, mileage, road characteristics, tonnage, and number of passengers, among other information.

So, if you are writing a murder mystery in which the plot hinges on the victim missing the train to Los Angeles on August 10, 1930, stop in and look at the Atchison & Topeka timetable for that day. It's in the Luther McKnight Collection.

Mike Olsen
Archivist

WESTSIDE MEMORIES

compiled by Jan Knox

One Hundred Years Ago

Rev. J. W. Finkbiner, pastor of the English Lutheran church, caused a small sized sensation in the city council by a vehement denunciation of fortune tellers, meaning the so-called clairvoyants. He asserted that their practices were iniquitous and that they were responsible for people going crazy, citing the case of Mrs. Laura E. Ehrenfeld, now confined in Dr. Hubert Work's private sanitarium at Pueblo and charging that her condition was due to fortune tellers. The council assured Mr. Finkbiner that the matter will be taken up with the city attorney at once.

About 400 people were out at Broadmoor yesterday afternoon to witness the drill given by troop H of the Fourteenth regular cavalry who are down from Ft. Logan on an outing. The drill was given in the large vacant plot of ground just north of the polo grounds of the Country club. The drill was announced to be given on the polo ground but this was too small. There is a great deal of interest aroused in this city over the visit of the regulars here as demonstrated by the crowd who went out on the street cars, in vehicles, horseback, on bicycles and on foot to witness the drill. The various movements of the cavalry while on the march and on the field of battle were given. The entire troop showed that they were well drilled in all of the movements and the mounted soldiers formed a very pretty sight. The saber drill and the pistol drill were also very pleasing to the crowd. The grand climax of the drill was the cavalry charge when the troops, yelling at the top of their voices, and with accouterments clashing, charged the spectators. While this was very spectacular and caused rounds of silent applause; it brought considerable consternation to those of the spectators who were in their path. However, the troopers turned just in time and the spectators were spared. 10/22

L. A. Sheldon, a caretaker at Prospect lake, brought to the city yesterday a fine specimen of the

loon species, which he captured at the lake. The bird is one of the handsomest specimens of its kind ever seen in the city and measured about four feet between the tips of its wings, and is about three and one-half feet high. Mr. Sheldon noticed the bird in the rushes that surround the lake and when he went after it in a boat the loon dived under the water. Mrs. Sheldon succeeded in hitting it with an oar and captured it. He took the bird to Aiken's museum and will have it mounted. 10/24

The reception given in honor of Mrs. Anna M. Brandt, Republican candidate for superintendent of public instruction, by the ladies of Colorado City yesterday afternoon at the K. of P. hall, was a success in every way and a most delightful affair. The hall was tastefully decorated in the national colors, flags and bunting, besides a beautiful arrangement of palms and flowers. Mrs. Brandt arrived early in the afternoon, and was the guest during her short stay, of Mrs. J. T. Baker. The reception committee at the hall was composed of Mesdames B. L. Trimble, C. M. Sherman, F. F. Schreiber and W. P. Epperson. Miss Leona Lucas and Miss Lena K. Boss presided at the refreshment table. Several gentlemen were also present during the afternoon, among others J. B. Stephen, Republican candidate for the legislature, and Albert Allen, the nominee for justice of the peace. Mrs. Brandt spoke briefly to the ladies, expressing her great appreciation of their cordial reception and stating that if elected she would do everything possible to eliminate politics from the department of public instruction. A part of her remarks were addressed especially to the teachers of the city schools, many of whom were present. Mrs. Brandt left yesterday evening for her home in Cripple Creek. 10/26

As was announced at its organization Monday night, the Colorado City Anti-Bucklin club will hold its meeting tonight at Waycott opera house. Judge J. D. Shewalter and Attorney J. K. Vapatta will be the speakers of the evening, and an interesting discus-

sion of the proposed tax amendment may be expected. There will without doubt be a large attendance, as a great deal of interest is manifested in the discussion of the bill. The organization of the Anti-Bucklin club in this city, and the agitation against the bill is already bearing fruit and carries especial weight from the fact that it is strictly a non-partisan movement, both Republicans and Democrats making up the personnel of the club.
10/30

Mr. R. T. Godfrey, the druggist, has made arrangements to install a fine new soda fountain at his drug store. Mr. Godfrey and his wife returned from Denver yesterday, where they have been visiting for several days, and while there purchased the new fountain at a cost of \$2,000. It will measure 10 feet in length and will be perhaps the finest in the city. 10/30

The Willing Workers of the Baptist church will give a 10-cent social October 31, at the home of Mrs. Case, 416 North Fourth street. Halloween games will be the amusement of the evening. Refreshments will be served. Cordial invitation to all.
10/30

Among the express packages that were handled by the local office of the United States Express company yesterday was a large wooden cage containing a young mountain lion. The animal was shipped from Prof. Gus Stainsky of this city, to William T. Hornaday, superintendent of the New York Zoological park, who will place it among his live animal exhibits at the New York zoo. The animal was captured about a week ago by a ranchman named R. C. Drew, living near Green Mountain Falls. The lion which is only about a year and a half old, was found one morning in the large barnyard of the ranch, attacking a calf. It was frightened away but returned next day, and the men around the ranch succeeded in corralling it, in a small pen where it was soon captured and caged. Mr. Drew sold the lion to Mr. Stainsky who in turn disposed of it to Mr. Hornaday. The lion is about seven feet long from nose to the tip of its tail and weighs a good deal over 100 pounds. It is very vicious and will make a valuable addition to the wild animals at the park. 10/30

Treasurer's Report

Our treasury continues to decline the last months of 2002, from a combination of lack of sales through our bookstore reflecting the general down economy, the trough between summer and Christmas seasons, costs for our replacement computer, our archivist, and promotional efforts. We still have, as of the end of October, over \$23,000 in the bank.

We still are in sound shape. I project we will end the year with approximately \$19,000 cash in our general account, and another \$1,500 in the Bookstore Account. which is plenty to carry us into 2003. We could probably pay our archivist for at least six or more months into 2003 before we would have to take a hard look at our future cash flow.

Our Endowment fund, now over \$64,000 remains in the bank, drawing some interest while CD and other investment rates stay extremely low.

Membership renewals and some new ones remains on track and we project \$4,000 income this year.

Our Web site with our new computer and old darkroom may bring us some funds, as some businesses are ordering photographs off of it. More on that next month.

Whether this year ends with a bang, or a whimper, depends on how well the Bed and Breakfast Tour sells out, and how the bookstore does.

Don't forget - our History books and booklets make terrific, affordable, Christmas Gifts. So you can help your society and take care of many of those pesky gift questions by just one visit to the Center before December!

Dave Hughes
Treasurer



Dr. Olsen our new Archivist

When the Society began searching for a half-time archivist, Dr. Michael Olsen was preparing to move to Colorado Springs. His letter of inquiry about a possible position with OCCHS arrived at just the right time. Following an exchange of information by mail and an interview last spring, it was agreed that he would begin work here in July.

Dr. Olson and his wife Patricia moved to the Springs from Las Vegas, New Mexico this summer following his retirement from the University and the close of her year with the public school system. Mrs. Olsen is now teaching sixth grade in the Lewis Palmer District. The Olsen's are the parents of two adult daughters.



Mike grew up in Iowa and earned his BA at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota the location of the famous, of infamous, James/Younger gang raid on September 7, 1876. After completing his MA-PhD program at the University of Washington at Seattle, he returned to the Midwest to teach for three years at a University in Wisconsin. From 1973 to 2002 he served on the faculty of New Mexico Highlands University as a history professor specializing in Native American Studies and the American West. He is currently the secretary of the Santa Fe Trail association.

In 1999 Mike became the first archivist at the university and developed a strong interest in archival work. Appointed by the governor of New Mexico, he was a member for seven years of the New Mexico Historical Records and Archives Board. This organization makes policy for the disposition of archives in the state of New Mexico.

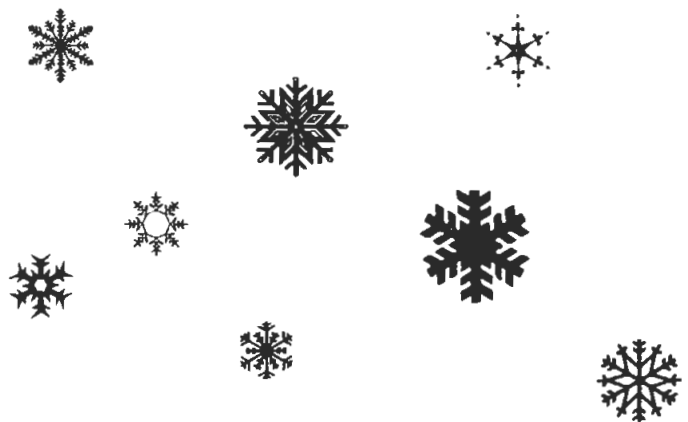
Since his arrival at OCCHS on July 15th Mike has accomplished an amazing amount of work. He quickly learned what had been done to date by reviewing files and consulting with resource people.

He has consolidated materials and organized the office area for greater efficiency. In the basement Mike has cleared space and rearranged storage facilities and workstations.

Mike says, "It is delightful working here. Everyone is very kind and helpful." He plans to concentrate first on the archives, which are most in need of preservation. In addition to all the organizational work he had accomplished, he has already catalogued the entire map collection as well as another sizable collection. Thanks to the finding aids he has developed, it is now possible to locate specific items with relative ease.

Mountains of work remain. The huge photo collection is, in Mike's words, "the crown jewel of the museum." Creating a retrieval system for these gems is high on his agenda. The task has been made easier by the ongoing work of Tom and Doris Hendrix who have been labeling photos and placing them in protective archival sleeves.

Watch for brief notes from the Archivist in future issues of West Word. If you visit the museum on a day when he is working, you may have the opportunity to meet him. OCCHS appreciates Mile's contributions to date and the promise of much more to come.



owners. Spring Cottage in Manitou Springs offers two cottages and has welcomed guests since 1881. Who might have been a guest there? Wouldn't we all like to know about the rich history our communities provide?

The McAllister House Museum is a beautiful English Gothic cottage and is one of Colorado Springs' oldest and most charming Landmarks built in 1873 by Major Henry McAllister.

McAllister House features marble fireplaces brought from Philadelphia, walls 2 feet thick, a quaint children's room and Victorian period furniture. Restored by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This museum is one sure to be a Must-See on the Tour this year. The McAllister House Museum is available for tours throughout the year and is now offering Holiday Teas! (Please consider a private visit and contact them at 635-7925 for Holiday Tea information.) We thank them very much for participating in this year's tour and hope next year they will once again join us.

OCCHS Annual Holiday Tour is our greatest fund raising event of the year. But, it is also a grand effort to include the community in the interesting & varied history our area has to offer. People have an opportunity to learn historical facts in a fun-for-everyone format. We hope to encourage interest in our Museum and membership, as well as to encourage interest in learning from our area's rich past. The owners & innkeepers of these B&B's have a genuine interest and investment in these very things. We thank them again for decorating early, opening their homes, and this generous donation. We also thank all the OCCHS member volunteers who make this event a success and this year, of course, the McAllister House Museum! Our wish for your holiday season is that you will experience historic warmth, charm, and holiday cheer Sunday, December 1st in our 8th Annual Holiday Bed and Breakfast Tour.

Bed and Breakfasts available for this year's tour:

Colorado Springs:

Our Hearts Inn Old Colorado City

Holden House

Room at the Inn

the Hearthstone Inn

Crescent Lily Inn

Cheyenne Canon Inn

Cascade:

Rocky Mountain Lodge & Cabins

Manitou Springs:

Peacock Bed & Breakfast

Gray's Avenue Hotel

Spring Cottage

Heart of Manitou Bed & Breakfast

****** **T**here will be live entertainment by musician, Jody Adams, a Drawing for Gifts donated by Old Colorado City local merchants, and home baked refreshments at the Center 2 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tickets bought the day of the tour at the OCCHS center will continue to be sold at the Advance Ticket price of \$10! Remember too, our bookstore can be your Christmas Shopping Headquarters! Visit the Center's bookstore December 1st while enjoying the music and our treats! Old Colorado City will be decked out for their Rocky Mountain Christmas Holiday Kick-Off! Santa knows whose naughty & nice so mark your calendars to join OCCHS, local B&B's and the McAllister House and join the festivities to start your Holiday Celebrations!

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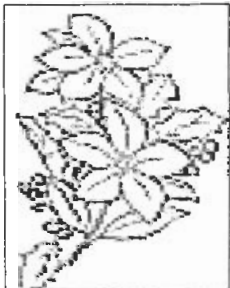
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LEGEND OF THE POINSETTIA

It once was the custom in Mexico for the villagers to leave a gift for the Baby Jesus in their church on Christmas Eve. In one small village, a little boy who had no gift to bring prayed to God for a way to show his love for the Infant King. God, in His mercy, looked down on the boy and answered his earnest prayer. By causing a flower to bloom where he knelt - a flower so brilliant and fair. The miraculous flower was formed like a star with leaves that were red and so bright. And the boy's precious gift has come to be known as the "Flower of the Holy Night".



Message from the Presidents Desk

Our Open House on Friday, November 8, was a smashing success. We had a big crowd and even had a busload of seniors from Village at Skyline thanks to Martha Simon. Our open house committee of Jan Knox, Pat Fejedelem and Jo Cervone called our members and had a beautiful sheet cake honoring our new archivist, Dr. Michael Olsen. He did a splendid presentation about the myths and realities of the Santa Fe Trail. Many people commented about what an entertaining speaker Mile was and how much his students at Highland University must have enjoyed his classes.

Please make a big push to get tickets sold for our eighth annual B and B tour on Sunday December 1. There are some new and very exciting additions to the tour this year and I'm sure you will enjoy seeing them. It's a major fundraiser for us and we need your help selling tickets to friends and neighbors. Many of our members will be making cookies and sweet breads for our center during the tour and I wish to thank them in advance.

Bev Disch, President OCCHS