



OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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September 2002

UTES ALONG THE HOGBACKS

By Don Ellis

In the book *People of the Shining Mountains*, Charles Marsh mentions three locations in Colorado where the Utes built fortifications during the 1700's and early 1800's to guard their treasured mineral and hot springs. These fortifications are near Granby, on the Williams Fork, and near Manitou Springs. Manitou Springs fortifications were built along the crest of the Dakota hogback, mainly on what is now the Red Rock Canyon property.

In his 1914 book *The Indians of the Pikes Peak Region*, Irving Howbert gave the following description of the fortifications:

"In the early days, any one climbing to the top of the high sandstone ridge back of the United States Reduction Works at Colorado City might have seen numerous circular places of defense built of loose stone, to a height of four or five feet, and large enough to hold three or four men comfortably. These miniature fortifications were placed at intervals along the ridge all the way from the Fountain to Bear Creek and doubtless were built and used by the Utes."

The fortifications included stone walls along the crest of the hogback on each side of the small pass through which the landfill road now passes. As shown in the photo below, the Ute wall is still clearly evident north of the landfill road. On the ridge south of the landfill road the wall incorporated enclosures such as those described by Howbert. This

part of the wall has been largely destroyed by grading associated with the landfill operation. However, evidence of one enclosure which made use of a large naturally placed boulder as its north wall is still visible there.

In the middle part of the Dakota hogback just east of the crest is a metate site which was probably used for grinding acorn meal.

Metates for grinding meal were first used in the Colorado foothills during the Archaic period between 2,000 and 8,000 years ago by descendants of the mammoth hunters who moved from the plains to the foothills and mountains in search of food as the ice age mammoth became extinct.



Metates

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

WEST WORD

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 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
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	Tom Hendrix	719-633-7382

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
September 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

Summer Hours
 (May – September)

TUES – SAT 10 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
 SUN 1:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
 Closed Monday

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There is no clear evidence to indicate the age of the hogback metates. However, they were most likely used by the Utes who may have ground meal while standing watch along the ridge crest. The metate site commands a good view of the plains while being partially shielded by a rock buttress which would have afforded protection from attack from the east.

The shape of the metates suggests that meal may have been ground using logs to pound and grind the acorns, rather than stone manos which are generally used with metates in the Southwest. This method of grinding would have allowed the people grinding meal to stand upright and keep watch while grinding. As the photo clearly shows, meal from the metates would have flowed down grooves in the rock, probably to be collected in a basket.

At one time there was a simple scratched petroglyph associated with the metates. However, it could not be found in 1999.

Native campsites are known to have existed along the hogbacks and in Red Rock Canyon. However, evidence of campsites in Red Rock Canyon have been obliterated by subsequent activity. One stone circle and fire pit site ("teepee circle") was found in the early 1950's south of the Red Rock Canyon property. And, several stone artifacts were found at that site along with bison teeth.

I found this story most intriguing. My grandfather homesteaded down on the Turkey Creek some fifteen miles south of the Springs. On a bluff overlooking the Turkey Creek were several "teepee circles" some more than two feet deep which indicated to me that they had been used many times. We found many arrowheads, abandoned poles of the type used for teepee's, and other interesting piles of flakes where a flint knapper obviously sat to create points for their weapons as well as matates.

Underneath the bluff adjacent to the creek was a cap rock and just below the cap rock was a layer of clay. The kind of clay

that is used by potters. This clay as I understand it is very fine and can be easily fired even in a fire pit using the hot coals. The clay deposit was purchased from my grandfather by a company in Pueblo that produced pots. While I didn't think much about it as a kid I have had the opportunity to compare the clay on the Turkey Creek with the clays that are found on the eastern border of the County at a place to the south and east of Calhan called the paint pots. The clay, at least to my uneducated eyes, seem similar in structure, consistency and granular fineness. That is, it is very very fine, and when wetted holds together and can be easily formed into various shapes.

The land my grandfather homesteaded is now a part of Fort Carson having been purchased in the mid sixties when the Fort was greatly expanded down range for tank games. Merv Casey

IN MEMORY



James L. Bates
1916 - 2002

This summer, another one of America's "Greatest Generation" has been called away. Jim's passing on June 26, 2002 brings to conclusion an incredible lifetime for a man who was a soldier, photographer, mountaineer, and passionate collector of local history.

A lifetime Coloradan, Jim began his career, here in Colorado Springs, as a production
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WESTSIDE MEMORIES

compiled by Jan Knox

One Hundred Years Ago
September 1902

With the closing of the summer tourist season, and the beginning of fall business, Colorado City begins to assume its normal condition, and to show those signs of activity in all lines of trade which have always been features of the city's life and growth. The growing tendency toward constant improvement is seen very especially in the construction of the broad cement sidewalks on both sides of Colorado avenue through the entire extent of the city. Following this movement is the location here of the cement works of the Artificial Cement company, now on Kiowa street, Colorado Springs. Another added industry is that contemplated by the firm of Bell & Son, in locating here the factory of the Pike's Peak Paint Company, which they have but recently purchased. The location here, too, of the proposed new smelting works is by no means improbably in the near future. Building is quite active, and quite a number of new residences are nearing completion. In this connection may be mentioned the two modern new school buildings that have been erected this year, and of which the city has just cause to be proud. Especially noticeable is the activity in real estate circles, at a time of the year when this line of business is usually most quiet. The W. D. Ascough Loan company alone reports sales during the month of August to the amount of over \$12,000. Numerous transfers are being made every few days by the real estate men, and there is a good demand for houses to rent, both furnished and unfurnished. The outlook is especially bright in Colorado City. 9/7

Edgar V. DuBois, the new pastor of the M. E. church of Colorado City, graduated at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn. At the age of 22, after which he taught Greek and Latin at Bennington seminary until he entered exclusively into the work of the ministry. His last charge was at Delta, Colo, perhaps the most desirable charge in the Rio Grande district. The three years spent at Delta

were marked by preeminent success. A beautiful parsonage and other valuable improvements in property, in addition to deepening spirituality and larger in-gatherings remain as witnesses to his zeal and favor. Strong in mind and judgment, sympathetic and tender in his annunciations, exceptionally scholarly yet unassuming, he is all that the Colorado City M. E. church could ask. He will probably assume charge of the pulpit next Sunday. 9/7

A new kindergarten is being organized in Colorado City. Miss Agnes Coffin, who has resided for the summer at Manitou, is here for that purpose, and will probably open up a school for the little folks in the near future in one of the rooms of the new Longfellow building. 9/7

The following new books have been added to the public library during the past week. "The Virginians," by Owen Wister; "The Fortunes of Oliver Horne," by F. Hopkinson Smith; "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," by Alice Caldwell Hegan; and "At the Foot of the Rockies," by George H. de la Vergne. 9/7

Colorado Springs people who saw the fall of the big meteor early Saturday evening probably witnessed a much greater phenomenon than they supposed. As was stated in the Gazette yesterday morning, the meteor was thought to be of enormous size and this theory is borne out by a dispatch from Buena Vista yesterday. According to the dispatch, a bright meteor passed over Buena Vista late Saturday night. The meteor seen from this city, first appeared at about 7:18 o'clock in the evening, falling from the northwestern sky. It fell in a northerly direction, showing a yellowish flame about the size of a large Roman candle ball, and exploded with a noise that could be distinctly heard in this city. The meteor which passed over Buena Vista, is supposed to have struck the earth near Buffalo peak, some 10 miles north of that city. For several seconds, according to the dispatch, the city was as light as day, the light being a very bright blue and changing to a dark red just before the meteor struck the mountain.

Continued on page 5

As it passed over the city, a sputtering could be plainly heard by those who followed with their eyes the ball of fire in its course. When it struck the earth, the dispatch says, the report sounded like a heavy charge of dynamite. Millions of little meteors became detached from the larger body in its passage and struck near Buena Vista. The meteor looked to be two feet in circumference. It is now believed that the meteor seen from Colorado Springs was either the same one seen at Buena Vista or a fragment, and a very large fragment at that, of the original body. Naturally there was no way of determining just how big it was, but the fact that its explosion was audible here would indicate that it was quite large. The location of its contact with the earth could not be determined, but it is not thought by those who saw it that the aerial visitant alighted very far away. Many people spent yesterday looking for the Buena Vista meteor. 9/7

Already the vacant plot of ground opposite the Mining Exchange, where the Elks fete was held, is taking on the appearance of a military camp and today it will be completely covered with tents of the Uniform Rank, Knights of Pythias. Indications are that it will be one of the largest gatherings of members of the order every held in the state.

While the parade will be the great feature of today, the grand lodge will be called to order this morning at 10 o'clock and will be in session until Thursday morning. In response to the mayor's proclamation, many of the downtown merchants were busy deco-

rating yesterday, flags and bunting and the familiar insignia of the Knights of Pythias being prominent. Excursions will arrive in the city today. From all parts of the state and it is expected that several thousand strangers will have entered the portals of Colorado Springs by this evening. Thursday morning, the prize drills will be held at Boulevard park and eight companies which have been drilling for some time are to compete. There are three prizes, \$300, \$200 and \$100 and all of the companies are anxious to "get in the money," for the honor of the thing. Beginning today, the Rathbone Sisters will commence their sessions in Odd Fellows' hall. This evening Hermione temple of this city, assisted by Crystal and Fidelity temples of Colorado City and Manitou, will hold a reception for the visitors of the Gough hotel. The address of welcome will be delivered by Mayor James R. Robinson and refreshments will be provided. Music will be furnished by Miss Strong's orchestra. 9/7 *Check out the Knights of Pythias display at the Old Colorado City History Center)*

Four of Colorado City's business houses were entered by thieves about 4 o'clock yesterday morning. From the methods, as well as the results of the operations, it is thought by the police who are investigating the case, that the culprits were boys. The Keystone grocery at the west end of town was the heaviest loser, the thieves entering

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Treasurers Report

The month of July was a wash. Expenditures just about equaled income.

While the detailed results of the Founder's Day activities will show up in the August report, a preliminary look shows that we netted approximately \$1,300 from the sum of the Craft sponsorship, the Bake Sales in the Cabin and at the Farmer's Market, and the \$500 grant from the Pikes Peak National Bank, minus the costs for the Park, and the Entertainment. So we added about \$1,300 to our treasury from Founders Day.

As reported in the newspapers, we received a Grant in August from the Colorado Historical Fund of \$68,450 which, together with a match pledged by the City of \$22,840, adds up to \$91,290 to be used to Restore and Stabilize the Bancroft Park Cabin within the next 2 years. (Whew! I got an El Pomar Grant of \$7,490 25 years ago to do the first rehab of the cabin! That lasted 25 years. Have prices gone up? Or what.)

The largest cost will be to raise the cabin and put a concrete foundation under it, to forestall rotting away of the logs on the ground level. Almost \$30,000.

The contractual and fiscal arrangements were made in this way, even though the City owns the Cabin, because any grant made directly to the City would have to, per the Tabor tax laws, have to reduce the City budget by the same amount. So our Society is taking the Contractual and Legal responsibility for the work. Owen Knox has volunteered to oversee the work and select and negotiate with contractors.

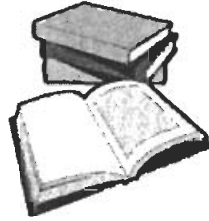
This arrangement, however, requires, by State Law, that our Society put up a Bond, equal to 50% of the \$68,450 grant - or for \$34,225. I have priced getting such a bond, and it would cost us 3% each year, or \$1,026 twice, out of our hide! Too much to pay for the 'privilege' of spending the State's money (actually it is gambling tax money).

According to the State Contract officer, if we hold at least that amount, from our Endowment fund in escrow at the bank, that will be sufficient. So if investment in a CD or other fund comes up, we will have to leave that amount in our account, and only invest the remainder (about \$30,000) until the project is over.

Dave Hughes, Treasurer

From the Bookstore

By Agnes Johnson



If you like ghost stories you will certainly be entertained by Kathi MacIver's book, "Living With Ghosts". More so because these tales come not from some far off location, but from the town of Cripple Creek, CO. Mrs. MacIver has been studying apparitions, strange phenomenon and spirits or sounds one hears. She has done extensive research in libraries for information. She believes skeptics, since they cannot prove that such things exist, do not believe in such occurrences. However she hopes that in telling of her interviews a bit of history and better understanding, perhaps "the loved ones not be lost to us forever". In other words life after death.

The people that she has interviewed all believe that they live with a ghost or ghosts in their homes. Most do not care to talk about their sightings for fear people will think they are "teched". All these people dwell in Cripple Creek, as does the author.

Her first story is titled "Lady of the House". All the names of those telling her these accounts have been changed to protect their privacy. A woman named Ruth R was refurbishing a 1910 house in Cripple Creek. She had discovered pictures of the house at the Cripple Creek Museum and was trying to duplicate them in her restoration. At first she thought the odd sounds were from the settling of the old house. She tired to make excuses for other "happenings".

Although she has grandchildren that frequently stay with her and she occasionally rents out a room, no one was in the house when she heard footsteps on the stairs. She heard a door open and close. When she investigated she smelled talcum powder. Ruth calls the ghost "she" although others have seen her, Ruth senses when "she" is around. Ruth wonders why she wasn't afraid. Ruth tells others in her family she is happy to have a spiritual housemate. At time went by everyone in her family became familiar with the ghost. They discovered ?she? liked to wear their jewelry. They would miss rings, bracelets and necklaces. They would hunt all over the bedroom. Finally they would say to "she" that it was their turn to wear the jewelry and after a time the jewelry would return in plane sight. Once Ruth heard her grandson at the piano, talking to someone while he ran his fingers up and down the keys. When Ruth asked him about it he replied that he was taking with a ghost and that she was a nice ghost.

Ruth says that "she" follows her around the kitchen, and "she" is entranced by the electric stove. "She" stirs the pancakes and leaves big lumps. One time when Ruth was brewing herbs and spices to make the house smell pleasant, Ruth returned to the kitchen to find the pot

boiling even though the burner was on low. Ruth scolded "she" and said if she wanted to remain in the house she hadn't better burn it down. "She" never bothered the stove again.

Ruth has a stereoscope on an old trunk she uses as a coffee table. There are pictures of Niagara Falls and the Great Stage Robbery. Sometimes the pictures are out of order so "she" has been enjoying them.

A summer thunderstorm sent Ruth rushing upstairs to close all the open windows only to discover "She" had closed them.

When expecting company, Ruth was straightening up the house but flies had appeared Ruth took the flyswatter and began chasing flies. As she went upstairs, she heard snoring. A man's snoring! It came from a closed bedroom. She hesitated twice before opening the door and went downstairs to phone the police. Ruth was frightened and upon looking out the window she saw no cars in her yard and no footprints in the snow. Ruth returned to the room and opened the door. The noise stopped, the bed was tidy, and the room empty. Ruth wondered who is the new ghost? Is he the husband of "she"? Do the ghost knows the other one is there? Ruth only hopes his snoring does not disturb her guests.

Brian tells a story of his experience while painting the iron fence around Mt. Pisgah's cemetery. He suddenly heard a baby crying. Startled, he quickly turned around, spilling paint from his brush. There was no one there. Then he noticed his knee was on one of the gravestones. On the engraving were these words, "infant son".

There are many other stories from other residents of Cripple Creek, even one about a white cat! To learn of the exploits of the white cat, you will have to buy the book. It's available at the OCCHS bookstore.



Don't forget regular monthly meeting will start again on September 13th. Be sure and mark your calendar.



at the back door and getting away with about \$3.50 and about \$5 worth of cigars. From here, they probably worked east along Colorado avenue, breaking into the feed store of M. Sherman, but finding only three cents in the cash drawer. The Coffee cafe was also entered, with about the same results for the robbers, although they stopped long enough to partake of some refreshments. Mertz grocery was entered from the rear, and about \$1 in pennies taken from the cash drawer, but over half of the money was found in the morning at the back door, where the thieves had evidently dropped it in making a hurried exit. There is no clue to their identity. 9/9

A. J. Powers, one of the stockholders in the Co-operative mine at Cripple Creek, in which quite a number of Colorado City business men are interested, was in the city, bringing with him from the mine a large specimen of very rich ore, taken from a sylvanite vein which has just recently been struck in the Co-operative and which promises a large yield. The principal stockholders in the property are C. D. Taylor, N. B. Hames, W. D. Ascough and Isaac Kissel. 9/9

H. C. Kinsman reports the sale of lot 19, block 155, on Colorado avenue, from Ed Miller to Mrs. J. T. Miller of Victor, consideration, \$1,500. The property includes a six-room cottage, and Mrs. Miller will move into it this week. 9/9

The controversy over the property adjacent to the Waycott building, and extending from that point to Court Place on Colorado avenue, has at last been decided and the First National bank people now have a clear title to the lots. The property was transferred some time ago from Mr. W. A. Rucker of Denver to Mr. C. M. Bell of New York. It was later purchased from Mr. Bell by H. C. Kinsman and Martin Drake of this city. The sale of the property from Kinsman and Drake to Messrs. E. T. Ensign, F. B. Hill and Willis R. Armstrong, of the First National bank, has been conducted by C. L. Cunningham as agent, and the drawing up of the papers has been contingent on the outcome of the present suit to quiet the title to the property. The case was brought in the name of C. M. Bell against W. A. Rucker before Judge Cunningham on Monday of this week, and was decided in favor of the plaintiff. The transfer of the property will be completed with the next few days. 9/10

Events Coordinator's Corner

The Old Colorado Historical Society is happy to announce we will sponsor the **FIFTH Annual Fairview Cemetery Crawl** on Saturday and Sunday, September 7th and 8th, 2002, 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the **Fairview Cemetery, 1000 S. 26th Street.**

This event has been a huge success in the past and once again offers the public a different and fun way to enjoy the rich history of Colorado Springs' Historic West Side. Old Colorado City's pioneers and former residents come alive as Society Members and Volunteers assume their identities and retell their stories! Costumed Actors will be located by the gravesite of the individual they portray. Each group of "**Cemetery Crawl**" visitors will follow a mapped route through the Cemetery stopping at each designated point to hear stories of Cemetery Residents and their lives during the existence of Colorado City from 1859 to 1917.

Horse and buggy rides through the Cemetery will also be available and Traditional Blue Grass and Gospel music will be performed both days. Enjoy the colorful stories in Fairview of the upstanding citizens as well as madams, saloon keepers, miners and other Wild West characters who lived, spent time, or found their final resting place in Old Colorado City.

As always proceeds from the "**Crawl**" will benefit the Old Colorado City Historical Society.

Tickets are available from the OCCS Center and at the gate of the Cemetery on the days of the event.

Advanced tickets price is still just \$5 for Adults and \$3 for Children. \$7 and \$3 at the gate on the day of the event.

President's Message

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! WE NEED GUIDES TO TAKE GROUPS AROUND DURING THE CEMETERY CRAWL FROM 2:00 - 5:00 PM THE 7TH AND 8TH OF SEPTEMBER TO HELP OUT CALL ME, BEV, AT 634-5023.

ALSO, CATHRYN DUBOIS NEEDS HELP IN OUR HERB GARDEN - CALL LARUE EBERSOLE, 685-3265, TO VOLUNTEER. A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT GOES INTO MAKING THE CEMETERY CRAWL A BIG SUCCESS FOR THE SOCIETY. PLEASE COME OUT AND ENJOY THE FESTIVITIES.

Beverley Disch, President of Old Colorado City Historical

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ONE SOUTH TWENTY-FOURTH STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80904-3319

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camera man for Alexander Film Company in 1935. Alexander was one of the nation's largest producers of movie theater advertising. His work there varied widely, whether on the set, in the darkroom lab, or production work in the field.

During WWII, Jim served as a U.S. Army combat photographer and a member of General Eisenhower's newsreel team. Having jumped with the 82nd Airborne, his film footage shot at Normandy, during the D-Day invasion of Europe, documented one of the last hard pushes towards the end of the war. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart and his exemplary service earned him the Bronze Star.

At the end of the war, Jim resumed his career with Alexander Film Company and remained a major force on their production team until the disillusion of the company in 1964. In 1965 he joined the International Typographical Union (ITU), at their new Colorado Springs headquarters, and headed up their audio/visual department, serving with them until his retirement in 1985.

Many of us will remember Jim for his love of local history and its preservation. Nothing thrilled him more than coming across an old "little known" or rare photograph depicting something of local historical significance. Jim always felt it his duty to assure its preservation for the good of us all. Through the years he preserved numerous old images of the Pikes Peak region as well as those of his beloved Pikes Peak AdAmAn club, of which he was a climbing member for over 40 years. Much of the collection centers on Pikes Peak the mountain itself, as well as the AdAmAn club, the Hill Climb, and the early history of the road.

Jim chose the Old Colorado City History Center as the recipient for his wonderful collection of local historic photography. He also donated his darkroom lab which is operational at the center.

We are all very grateful for the many contributions this man has made towards the preservation and dissemination of history of the Pikes Peak region. Thank you Jim, we will dearly miss you.

by Don Kallaus