

WEST



WORD

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 4

April 2003

THE SATURDAY KNIGHTS

**The Saturday Knights
Colorado Springs 100 Year Old
Hiking Club**

By Leland Feitz

Every Saturday morning about 8:30, a group of men meet at the Van Briggie Pottery parking lot to carpool to a trailhead someplace in the Pikes Peak Region. They are the **Saturday Knights**,
continued on page 5



This 1937 photo by Harry L. Standley shows the Knights at Sesame Cave. This is the site of the club's annual champagne hike. It takes place on the last Saturday of December.

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
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION
©2003 OCCHS

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	Beverley 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
April 11, 2003
At the History Center

Don't forget the May meeting
is the Annual Meeting and the
election of Officers - May 9th



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

Old Colorado City History Center encourages
you to attend its events, meetings, and pro-
jects. Please call 636-1225 for information

Winter Hours

(September – May)

TUES – SAT 11 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Closed Monday

Visit our web site for even more history!

<http://history.oldcolo.com>

stories documents
manuscript photographs
interviews biographies
Book & Gift Shop online

e-mail us at: history@oldcolo.com

The Jim Bates Darkroom @ OCCHS

THE DARKROOM

We are very happy to announce that The Jim Bates Darkroom at OCCHS is up and running. The darkroom was originally established several years ago when Jim Bates chose us as the recipient for his photographic collection as well as his darkroom which is located in the history center basement. Don Kallaus is in charge of its operation and will be handling the photo printing needs for the history center as well as requests for copies and enlargements from members, researchers, and etc. It was Don that originally assisted Jim Bates in establishing and setting up the darkroom for the center.

OCCHS has become the repository for many fine photographic collections representing the history of not just Old Colorado City and Colorado Springs west side, but the greater Pikes Peak region as well, including El Paso county. This photographic bounty has much to offer in the presentation and dissemination of this great history. Don hopes to cull from this, many special projects to benefit the center and the center gift shop.

The darkroom will also be offering, at special membership rates, the archival reproduction and enlargement of your prized family photos, whether it be a silver gelatin print to display on the wall, or enlarged copies to share with family. We will also be offering the digital data basing of your collections, both slides and photos, onto CD. We will tell you more

continued on page 6

The Historical Society would like to thank Charlie Patterson Construction for their generosity in clearing the History Center's sidewalks during the recent snow storm.

Thank you Charlie it would have been a backbreaking job to do with a shovel.

MAY BOARD ELECTIONS

At the May meeting OCCHS members will elect four people to fill the expired terms on the board. The candidates are Kay Atteberry, Bob Heinich, Dave Hughes and Betty Magninie

Kay Atteberry retired from school District 11 three years ago after teaching for 29 years at Holmes Middle School on Mesa Road. She joined the Old Colorado City Historical Society about a year and a half ago. Since then she has worked in the bookstore and assisted in getting the West Word ready for mailing. She is looking forward to the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors. Her interests include local history, reading and traveling.

Betty Magninie is a native of Colorado Springs and spent most of her childhood in Old Colorado City. She has a deep appreciation for Old Colorado City and the History Center. She has served as a bookstore volunteer, bookkeeper, and on the long range planning committee. Her experience should be of value to the Board and membership of OCCHS.

Bob Heinich

Professor Emeritus, Indiana University After he retired from IU, Bob and Christine moved back to Colorado Springs and the Westside where they lived from 1949 to 1962. Bob was Audio-Visual Director, School District 11, and Christine taught at South, North and East Junior High Schools and Wasson High School. He was President of OCCHS from 1996-99.

continued on page 8

WESTSIDE MEMORIES

compiled by Jan Knox

One Hundred Years Ago
(Colorado Springs Gazette)
 October 1902

The work of putting in the new cement walks, ordered by the city council, is still going forward, and it will not be long until the work is completed on both sides of Colorado avenue from First street to Eleventh. The Artificial Granite company, whose factory is at the Ninth street corner, is doing the greater part of the work, and is at present laying the sidewalk in front of Mr. Jackson's new block at Sixth street. 10/17

Bills of exception were yesterday filed in the district court in the cases of the Crissey-Fowler Lumber company et al, the Sun and seven insurance companies and the British-American Assurance company vs. The Denver & Rio Grade Railroad company. These are the famous cases originating from the fire of four years ago which destroyed the Antlers hotel and much other property. The court recently permitted the plaintiffs to file amended or supplemental complaints and the defendant took exceptions, being allowed a specified time to file the fills of exception, which was done yesterday. 10/19

Regardless of the fact that business has been unusually quiet for the past two or three weeks, there is a confident expression on the part of the leading business men, that Colorado City is now entering upon one of its greatest eras of commercial activity. There seems to be now but very little question that the Colorado Steel Castings company will soon begin work on the erection of their plant, Mr. Springer and several of the directors of the company being expected early this week from the east, where they have been inspecting numerous steel plants. It is stated on good authority, that the old Colorado slant of the Untied States Reduction company which has been running its crushers now for some time, on account of the surplus of ore, will be running full force by the first of the month. The Telluride mill

has also broken ground for its new 150-ton addition, and expects to have the work completed by the first of the year. All signs, in fact, point to a speedy revival of business and real estate activity in Colorado City. 10/19

Mrs. Lena K. Boss of the Whittier school, entertained a number of her friends at the residence of F. F. Schreiber Friday evening. Ping-pong was enjoyed and refreshments were served by the hostess. Those present were Misses Kinney, Roswell, Long, Bridges, Sawhill, Keiser, Keiso, Field, Lucas, Adams and Franks, and Messrs. Grafton, Heinly and Dr. Morrison and R. E. and Ed Johnson. A delightful time is reported. 10/19

Work on the new Hoffman block, on South Fifth street, is now progressing rapidly, and the brick work will be entirely completed by the last of next week. The building will not be completed until about December 1, or about a month later than had been contemplated. The opening of the new bank, which has been contingent on the completion of the building, will therefore be postponed for some time. The directors report that a part of their papers have arrived from Washington, and that their plans for the bank are being pushed rapidly. 10/19

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.

members of the oldest hiking club in Colorado. The club had its beginning during the summer of 1903 when two Colorado Springs realtors and a Colorado College professor went for a walk in the hills west of town one Saturday afternoon. It went so well they did the same thing the next Saturday. And the next, and the next.

It was not long until other men were asked to join in on what the men called their Saturday "tromps". At the start, the men called their group the walking club. As it grew, the name Saturday Knights was adopted. There was no constitution of any kind and there never has been. It has, however, always been a very closely-knit group.

During the early years, the men left their homes after lunch on Saturday, taking a street car to the Cheyenne Canyons area or to Manitou. On some occasions, they rode the Midland Terminal Railroad to Cascade. From these points it was only a short walk to a mountain trail. The hikes ended in the evening around a campfire where the men enjoyed a meal with one another. They returned home after dark by trolley.

The Saturday Knights thoroughly enjoyed their weekly outings. But, the wives were not too happy about theirs. That was soon fixed when the men started their hikes in the morning and came home right after lunch. The ladies were also invited to join in on the mountain fun once a month. Evening socials were planned that include wives.

Membership now numbers 34 and is by invitation only. During the club's 100 years, there have been only 150 Saturday Knights. Once, the Denver Post printed a story about the club and its "exclusivity", . . . their word.

The membership has always included an interesting mix that makes for great conversation along the trail and at lunch stops. At the present time, there are three judges. One member is married to a judge. There is a clergyman, a doctor, several lawyers and businessmen. There have always been men associated with Colorado College.

continued on page 7

George M. White

The OCCHS has received a bequest from the estate of Mr. George M. White. Mr. White was a life member of the society. He moved to Colorado Springs with his parents at the age of fifteen in 1919. His career was in accounting, but history and photography were among his many avocations. He died on December 4, 2002, at the age of 98.

Mr. White presented various programs to members of the society over the years, including "Early Colorado Mountain Railroads" in November 1991. There is a full account of the program in the December 1991 issue of West Word. It is noted in the February 1992 issue that this program on railroads gave the society its "largest turnout ever" for a general meeting. That February Mr. White presented another program entitled, "Beauty of the Mineral World," illustrated with over 100 photographs, mostly from his own collection.

The Fall 2001 issue of KIVA: The Journal of the Cheyenne Mountain Heritage Center contains an informative, two-page article on Mr. White's life. It highlights his activities as a photographer, art collector, and historian. Both this issue of the Kiva and the November 1991 West Word note that over the years Mr. White presented hundreds of programs on local history to classes in schools throughout the city. He was honored for this contribution by induction into the Colorado Springs-Palmer High School Hall of Fame in 1997.

The OCCHS is grateful to have been remembered by Mr. White. Further information on his bequest will be covered in future editions of West Word.

Thanks are extended to Lucille Cunningham, Leland Feitz, Ralph Conner, Beverley Disch, and Dave Hughes for information for this tribute.

Lucky, my dog at : Big Stone
By Lawrence (Duke) Van Wert

I am not sure where Lucky came from, or when, he was just around my Grandparents home one day. But, I remember he was always there when I was growing up. Lucky was not a real big dog, he was black and white with shaggy hair, and had a heart as big as any dog that ever lived.

When we would go swimming, he was always there with us. He would get in the water and bark, we would chase him and he would always run much faster than any of us kids could. We had old inner tubes that we would float on and when we went to far out from shore he would bark and raise a cane until we came back closer to shore. This was no ordinary dog, he had a job to do, and he did it well.

I remember one winter day we got the bright idea to hook Lucky to our sled and have him pull us. What a bad idea that was. We put rope around his neck and shoulders (we tried to make it like a harness) but he didn't like that at all. He would not stand still so we could get him hooked to the sled. He took off every time we would get him close to the sled. We must have spent an hour trying to get that dog to cooperate. But Lucky knew better than to let us get the best of him.

In the winter time when we would go to Big Stone creek to get water for washing, Lucky would always walk beside the sled, my uncle George would let me ride on the sled on the way to the creek, but going back with full water cans I had to walk. Of course Lucky walked beside me.

Whenever I would go to play with my friends, Lucky would follow along; usually he would get bored and go home. When I was finished playing Lucky would know I was getting close to home and he would come running to meet me. He would jump up on me and lick my face. He was very happy when I got back from my trips to the neighborhood.

Lucky was a bright spot in my life at Big Stone.

Mostly for the companionship he gave me. When there were no other playmates Lucky was always ready to do something with me. It didn't matter what it was I wanted to do; he was always ready and willing to go or do whatever I wanted. One time we chased a squirrel from one tree to another until the squirrel went into a hole in a tree. I took a stick and beat on the tree trunk until the squirrel came back out. I grabbed the squirrel and it immediately bit me and just from natural reaction I threw the squirrel up in the air. Lucky chased the squirrel but it got away. I never told anyone about the incident until I was much older.

As things sometimes do happen, my family had to move and since Lucky was not really my dog I had to leave him at Big Stone when we moved. I sure missed him. But on the trip out to see the grandparents I always go to see Lucky. So it wasn't like I never to see him again. We've still got pictures of Lucky to this day.

about darkroom services and opportunities in upcoming issues of West Word.

Don invites all who have an interest to contact him. All your questions are welcome, leave a message at the center or e-mail Don at:
kalaus@rockymountains.net



Easter is the time of springtime festivals, a time to welcome back the Tulips, the Crocuses and the Daffodils. Its a time of new suits, new dresses and patent leather shoes. A time for Christians to celebrate the life and resurrection of Christ. And a time of chocolate bunnies, marshmallow chicks, and colored eggs!

FROM THE OCCHS ARCHIVES

In recent years, historians have become more and more interested in the lives of "common people." But finding information on them - how they dressed, what they ate, how they cared for their children - is difficult. Kings, presidents, generals, and the wealthy leave far more records, such as diaries, letters and memoirs, than do railway workers, secretaries, teachers, and housewives.

Newspapers can help in the quest for information about average people. From the want ads to the garage sale notices to the obituaries, newspapers hold a treasure trove of clues about the daily life of people in a particular time and place. And the news items themselves in the paper provide the context in which people lived their lives.

Most of the newspapers in the OCCHS Archives pertain, as they should, to life in Old Colorado City, the West Side, and Colorado Springs in general. The most comprehensive run of papers in the collection is for the Colorado Springs Independent from the 1930s and 1940s. Some of the more important items the Society holds include a copy of The Colorado City Journal, the earliest paper in Colorado Territory, and copies of a short-lived newspaper, the Annexationist, which encouraged annexation of Old Colorado City by Colorado Springs in 1917. There is even one copy of a 1910 newspaper published in Steamboat Springs called (its founder must have had a sense of humor) - The Steamboat Pilot.

The January 8, 1942 issue of the Colorado Springs Independent illustrates the type of information a local paper can provide. The banner headline that day was, "Army Cantonment Coming To Colorado Springs Area." This was the beginning of Fort Carson and, as the paper noted, it was, "the subject of conversation throughout the Pikes Peak region," not least because it would bring 10,000 jobs to the area and pump an initial \$25,000,000 into the local economy.

There also must have been a dusting of snow on Pikes Peak, since the "Here, There and Everywhere" column observed, "Maybe that fuzz on top of Pike's Peak New Year's morning was only cigaret smoke left by the AdAmAn club boys." In the "Churches" listing we learn that R.O. McCray was pastor of Bethany Baptist (now the OCCHS Mu-

seum) and that services were held at 11 AM and 7:30 PM on Sundays, with "a hearty welcome extended to all." And proving that the more things change the more they stay the same, another column assured readers that, "the shortest perceptible unit of time is the difference between the moment the traffic light changes and the boob behind you honks."

So if you want to learn what life was like for common folk "back then," read the paper. You'll discover that, as the "Household Hints" column assures us, "blue is a good color for gowns and sleeping pajamas."

Mike Olsen

Two presidents have been members.

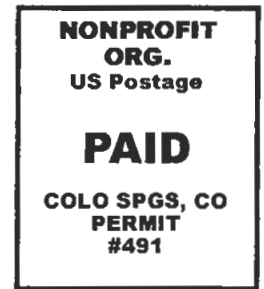
There is a hike every Saturday, rain or shine. Only a few hikes have been cancelled over the years and that was because of impossible weather. There have even been Christmas day hikes when that day fell on Saturday. Most hikes are less than seven miles and most of them take place in El Paso and neighboring counties.

Some Saturday Knights have left their mark on the Old Colorado City History Center. Photographs by Colorado's noted photographer Harry L. Standley are in the museum's collection. He was a Saturday Knight. So was Bob Ormes. His books about mountain trails and historical railroads are in the library. The Ellis collection of books, maps and photos came from the family of Bill Ellis. He was a member of the Saturday Knights.

A book about the century old club was published in December 2002 and is for sale in the book store. Titled "Knights of the Mountain Trails", the book was written by Frank H. Tucker, a long time member of the club and a retired Colorado College professor.

Leland Feitz has been a member of the Saturday Knights Hiking Club since 1984. He has been a contributor to the Old Colorado City Center.

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



This statement by an old time member of the **Saturday Knights** has been repeated and laughed about a good deal:

“The most important thing is to always reserve your Saturdays. Let nothing interfere— neither wives, worship or weather. It sometimes breaks up families, but it is worth it.”

Dave Hughes has been involved with the historical preservation and economic revitalization of Old Colorado City and the Westside for 28 years. He wrote the first history of the original Colorado City in 1877. He is a founding member of the Society and has served on the Board numerous times since its beginning in 1980. He has served as Society Treasurer since 1999 and by automating its financial reporting functions provided the board timely advice on the decisions it must make periodically.