

# WEST WORD

Old Colorado City Historical Society

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 9

November 2005

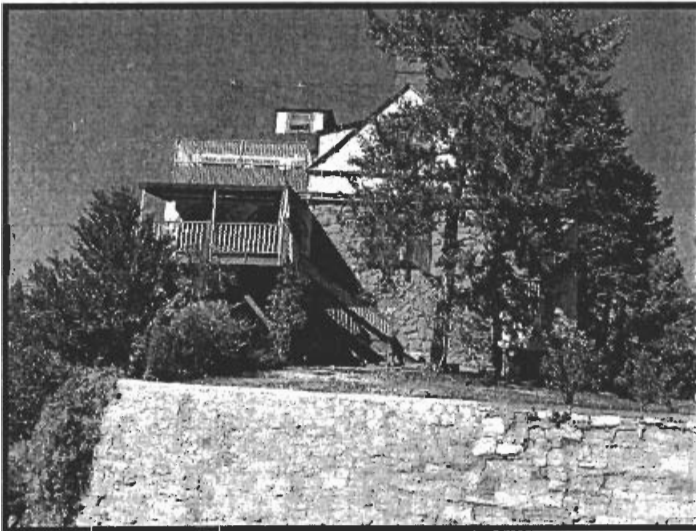
## B & B TOUR 05

### The Grand Tour of 2005

By Merv Casey

Once again, on December 4, our society will host the annual Bed and Breakfast tour. Ten of the top B&B's will be available for us to walkthrough. On the tour this year will be the Holden House, Our

Red Craig's looking like a castle sets high above El Paso Street overlooking Manitou



Hearts Inn, the Hearthstone Inn, Room at the Inn, The Cheyenne Canyon Inn, Grays Avenue, Blue Skies Inn, Victoria's Keep, the Red Crags and On the Ledge. As usual they will all be gaily decorated in their finest Christmas mantle.

We are fortunate to have so many fine Bed and

Breakfast establishments and even more fortunate to have owners that will allow us to offer a public viewing of the finery that they display.

Bed and Breakfast establishments have been around for a long time. Sometime in the 1940's just after the end of WW II my parents took me on a trip to the Black Hills in South Dakota; we stayed several days in a nice Victorian house in Spearfish while we toured the various sights. Back in the olden times as my grandchildren call my childhood, the establishment we stayed at wasn't called a B&B but a boarding house. We stayed in a private home that had upstairs bedrooms with a shared bathroom down the hall. Before we left in the morning we were treated to a breakfast in the downstairs dining room. Like they say if it walks like a duck quacks like a duck and has a duckbill chances are it's a duck. I'm not exactly sure where the line is between a boarding house and a B&B, if indeed there is such a line. I suspect the line lies in how many meals are served and the length of the stay. One meal, breakfast, as apposed to two as most boarding houses served a breakfast and a dinner or supper whatever you call the end of the day meal. I don't remember eating an end of the day meal in the house in Spearfish so I guess it was a B&B primarily aimed at the tourist. I do know that one great difference is that today the B&B's that I have toured here in the Springs are way "up scale" from what I saw 60 years ago.

For some strange reason I associate B&B's with the Victorian era. I suspect that is because so many B&B's across the country are housed in renovated Victorian houses. But his year's tour has a castle, a

*Continued 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  
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION  
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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  
Or Merv Casey—thequill@adelphia.net

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	Joanne Karlson	719-475-2574
Treasurer	David Hughes	719-636-2040
	Kay Atteberry	719-599-3187
	Arlene Casey	719-634-2356
	Leland Feitz	719-
	Tom Hendrix	719-633-7392
	Mel McFarland	719-

### 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**  
**November 11, 2005 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

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

### Winter Hours

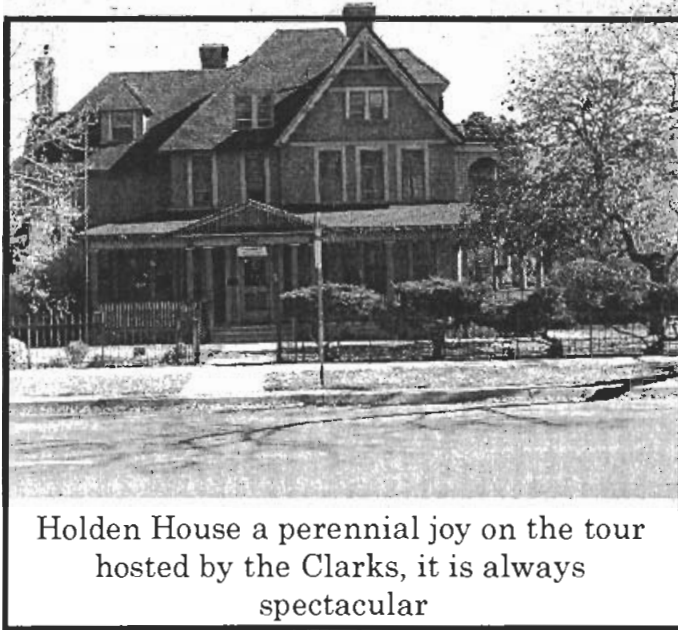
(June – September)

TUES—SAT 11 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Closed Sunday & Monday

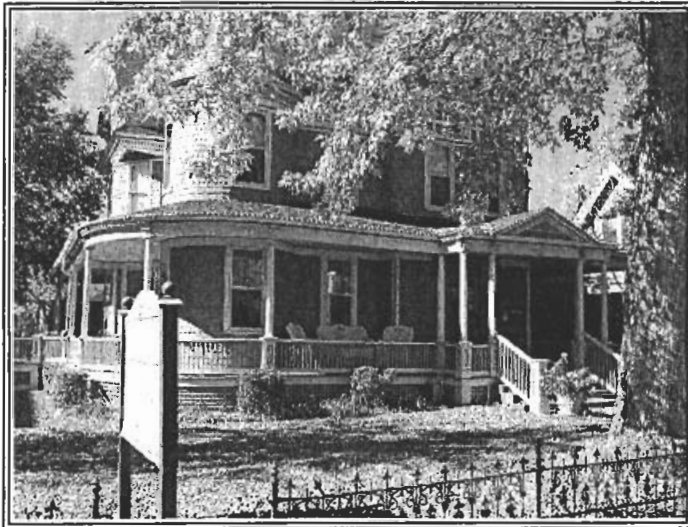
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Holden House a perennial joy on the tour hosted by the Clarks, it is always spectacular

beautiful collection of cabins and a wonderful house nestled in Cheyenne Canyon that supposedly has a unique past that goes back to the era of bootleg whiskey and speakeasies.



Room at the Inn on North Nevada is convenient to downtown Colorado Springs and Colorado College.

As a child my mother told me a wonderful story about the Red Craig's house. She said that during her high school days the story was floated around that the house was haunted. Strange lights were seen flashing from the windows late at night, but when the police investigate the house it was found to be empty. It was one of those places that kids

dare one another to go in at night when there was no moon. It was later revealed that the cause of the flashing lights was nothing more than a group of men using the empty house as a meeting place for their



Tucked away between Manitou Ave. and El Paso is the wonderful Blue Skies B&B with its charming cottages.

poker club, a place where they could play cards and drink bootleg booze. I have no idea whether this was true about the house or not. But my mother told the story as if it were true, and like any devoted son I believed her.

This year's Bed and Breakfast Tour will once again



Grays Avenue located in the heart of Manitou would be the perfect spot to spend several days

*Continued on page 4*



A wonderful walking bridge crossing Ruxton Creek you will find Victoria's Keep with Miramont Castle just behind this Victorian

be spectacular.

A great deal of effort, thought and work goes into making the annual tour a big success and raises a significant amount of money for our Historical Society. Salli Clark deserves a great deal of the credit for not only this year's tour but those of past years. She along with the other owners of the B&B's decorate them in all the wonderful Christmas trimmings and are great *Continued on page 5*

## Own a Piece of History

Wouldn't it be wonderful to own a piece of history that dates from the earliest days of Colorado City? Well, your Society is doing something that will make a piece of history available to you. The historic log cabin, now located in Bancroft Park, is the oldest structure from the Colorado City days. It dates back to 1859 and your Society has finished renovating the building with the help of a grant from the State Historical Society. During this renovation, and previous renovations, original logs from the building have been removed. We have taken two of these logs and sliced them into one-inch thick pieces. Each log cut is engraved with the following:

"This crosscut, removed during repairs, came from an original log of the historic cabin erected in Colorado City in 1859, now in Bancroft Park.

Certified True - Old Colorado City

Historical Society, June 2003"

These log mementos are offered as a limited edition to members of the Society and other historians. The logs are numbered and will be issued in a limited set of 100. With each log, the purchaser will receive a parchment Certificate of Authenticity, signed by the President of the Old Colorado City Historical Society.

We are currently taking orders for the logs. The cost for each log is \$25 (no discounts), plus \$5, if the log is to be mailed.



The Hearthstone Inn well known for their mystery nights is located close to downtown is spacious and has two units to choose from.





Our Hearts Inn located conveniently to Old Colorado City has a cottage behind the main Inn that has a most delightful western theme

hosts as we all ooh and ahwww our way through each establishment.

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### Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims seem to go together, just like Christmas and Santa Claus--but the truth is, the Pilgrims never held an autumnal Thanksgiving feast. Before you cancel the turkey, take a look at the origin of that particular myth. In some ways, the truth is even more intriguing.



The Pilgrims did have a feast in 1621, after their first harvest, and it is this feast which people often refer to as "The First Thanksgiving". This feast was never repeated, though, so it can't be called the beginning of a tradition, nor was it termed by the colo-

nists or "Pilgrims" a Thanksgiving Feast. In fact, to these devoutly religious people, a day of thanksgiving was a day of prayer and fasting, and would have been held any time that they felt an extra day of thanks was called for.

Nevertheless, the 1621 feast has become a model that we think of for our own Thanksgiving celebration and we do know something of the truth about it.

We can assume, for example, that the harvest feast was eaten outside based on the fact that the Colonists didn't have a building large enough to accommodate all the people who came. Native People were definitely among the invited guests, and it's possible, even probable, that turkey (roasted but not stuffed) and pumpkin in some form, found their way to the table. And it gets better. This is the way the feast was described in a first-hand account presumably by a leader of the colony, Edward Winslow, as it appears in Mourt's Relation:

"Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, Many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest King Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others.

And although it be not always so plentiful as it was this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."

From this we know that the feast went on for three days, included ninety "Indians", and food was plentiful. In addition, to the venison provided by the Indians, there was enough wild fowl to supply the village for a week. The fowl would have included ducks, geese, turkeys and even swans.

Much of the information we have about the feast, and this period in the lives of these people, is the result of research conducted by the staff at Plimoth Plantation, the living museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts, that re-creates the lives of the Pilgrims with Mayflower II, the 1627 Pilgrim Village, and a native home-site.

From this research we know about the foods and recipes that would have been available to them, and from two first hand accounts (the second was written by William Bradford, Governor of the colony for 33 years, and can be read in *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647*), we have a good idea of how the village looked, what the colonists wore, how they spoke, what animals they owned and how they lived.

We even know what games they played, what their views may have been on everything from their new home to religion and politics. So this is what we know about the first Thanksgiving.

## September-October Treasurers Report

A surprise windfall popped up in late September. It was the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup>, a "Taste of Old Colorado City" sponsored by the merchants association, OCCA. We helped out with a booth and tours, and OCCA donated 50% their income from the event to our Society and the Library. \$634.65 each for our fund raising.

There was a burst of interest in September in our numbered 1859 Cabin Log slices. We netted \$100 from four of those which were shipped. They make good Christmas gifts, don't forget! Matter of fact don't forget you can buy via your credit card and our Web Site a number of our popular books that also make wonderful Christmas gifts, together with shipping! Just go to [www.history.oldcolo.com](http://www.history.oldcolo.com)!

At our regular meeting on Friday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, there was a big turnout - 85 - with many new faces for the program on Ute Women by Jan Petit. No less than 10 new members joined our Society, and there was \$150 in Book Store counter sales.

In September and October we gained \$690 in membership renewals and new members.

Of course the bank account honeymoon did not last, as we had to shell out \$140 to repair a special glass foyer window that some vandal broke, and \$576 to repair our plumbing. Our City water pressure is too high! Our ancient regulator had to be replaced along with other plumbing tinkering. Together with our annual Tax preparation bill of \$610, paying our annual Postal Fee of \$150, and renewal of our memberships in the Convention and Visitors Bureau (\$110), and the Colorado-Wyoming Museum Assn (\$35) our gains were sure reduced.

With no cold weather - yet - our utility bill is still reasonable. That will change when the price of natural gas sky-rockets in months to come to heat our barn of a History Center.

Meanwhile our high-finance instruments - the variable rate CD for our Endowment, and the Federal T-Bill into which we put our savings and endowment earned interest - are still performing and creeping up in interest rates - 4.33% for the CD and 3.69% (as of Oct 14th) for our savings. So we are earning over \$325 a month from our \$67,000 Endowment CD, and our \$25,000 savings.

That still leaves us over \$2,500 in our operating cash account. We seem pretty well on course to break even over the calendar year 2005.

Dave Hughes  
Treasurer

## President's Report

Our October general meeting was a big success with a large crowd of about ninety to hear one of our own members Jan Pettit, give us a unique program about the Ute Indians, especially telling us of the many roles of the women. Jan is the author of the popular "The Ute's: The Mountain People". She has agreed to write a lead article for an upcoming newsletter about Indians in general, so look for it in the coming months.

This month we are having a drive to increase our membership. At this meeting we gave a copy of our tour book by Kathleen Norman along with the new membership. We sold seven new memberships to our society. We also had big sales at our bookstore after the meeting so many people wanted Jan's book on the Utes.

Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-4, we are having six authors including our own Leland Feitz, at a reception and book signing. You book lovers don't want to miss this. And don't forget our regular general meeting which is always on the second Friday of the month; November 11. You won't want to miss Tom O'Boyle - he always draws big crowds when he participates in the Pillow events.

We have been working with the associates (they are the business people on the West Colorado Avenue) about the use of Bancroft Park on the Saturdays in the summer when the Farmers' Market is running. We will be using the park on June 10 for our Garden Fair and on August 12 for our annual Founders' Day celebration. The associates have shared some of their recipes from their Taste of Old Colorado City event with us and the Westside Library. We both receive a tidy check from them. Kudos to the Associates for this.

We will be again having our annual B&B Christmas tour. It is one of our most productive fund raisers. There will be ten B&B's participating this year which will be held on Sunday December 4 from 2 to 6 PM. Our History Center will be open and listed on the tour. So we will be asking our bakers for some small Christmas cookies and compiling a list of hosts to greet people at these Inns. The participating Inns will be decorated for the season and it is always a fun thing to see. If you want to help with this event please let me know. As we go into the Thanksgiving and Christmas season I know it is a busy time for us all, but I sincerely hope you will participate in the season.

Bev Disch, President



Have a  
wonderful  
Thanksgiving

**MEET THE AUTHORS!**

*You are invited to a reception for six talented authors living in the Pikes Peak area.*

*Their books will be available for purchase in our bookstore.*

Sunday, November 6, 2005 from 2 to 4 p.m at the Old Colorado City History. Bring your friends!

**NANCY ATHERTON**

**“Aunt Dimity and the Deep Blue Sea” - a romantic mystery**

award winner - Independent Mystery Booksellers Association, has written 11 books

**KATHY BRANDT**

**“Dangerous Depths” - Caribbean mystery/adventure**

taught writing at U. of Colorado for 10 years, her third mystery, has an environmental focus

**LELAND FEITZ**

**“Colorful Characters of Cripple Creek, Colorado” - historical vignettes of 47 people**

former director of Cripple Creek District Museum

**CHARLES RUSH**

**“The Devil’s Chessboard” - Civil War intrigue**

Vice President of the Pikes Peak Writers

**ANGEL STRONG SMITS**

**“Memory Whispers” - a Cripple Creek romance**

award winner - Romance Writers of America, writes educational articles about Alzheimer’s disease

**SHARON SWINT with David Swint**

**“The Story Behind the Clay” - Van Briggles Pottery history featuring commissioned specialty pieces**

her first book, well documented, many photos

**Free admission. Books available for purchase. Refreshments.**

**Old Colorado City Historical Center Fall Meetings**

November 11 - 11 am “Music tells the History” with Tom O’Boyle Come hear this talented local musician ... always a treat

**Special Events**

November 6 - book signing and reception for local authors Books available for sale check for time.

**December 4th Annual Bed and Breakfast Tour**—Local Bed & Breakfast Inns open their door for a holiday tour of their facilities. Tickets sold in advance and at the door. Help support this major fundraiser.

Jan 28, 2006 - 1pm “*Railroads of Cripple Creek*”, presented by **Mel McFarland**  
*a local railroad historian and author.*

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

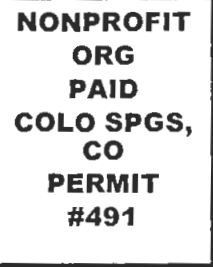
Now is the opportunity to invite friends and family to become members of OCCHS...

or perhaps purchase someone a “gift of Membership”, **Here’s the “deal”.**

For first-time members, they will get \$5 off an individual or family membership AND a free copy of Kathleen Norman’s book, “In & Around Old Colorado City”.

*This offer continues through Saturday, November 12.*

*Purchases can be made at the Bookstore or at the November 11 meeting featuring Tom O’Boyle when he presents “Music Tells the History”. If you haven’t heard him perform, you are in for a treat! Program starts at 11 a.m. Come earlier for coffee (and a seat!).*



## From the Bookstore

By Agnes Johnson

The long awaited book from Leland Feitz is now in the bookstore. Hooray! What led to writing this book was his discovery that natives of Cripple Creek and those who came later were different

As director of the Cripple Creek District Museum for 8 years as well as his many years of living in Cripple Creek maintaining a summer home there for 40 years, he had ample opportunity to personally meet and know many of the townspeople.

He chose forty-seven varied personalities to introduce in "Colorful Characters of Cripple Creek". Indeed, they are colorful, different and all are interesting.

One or two pages describe each person. For the "never have enough time to read" people, this little

book can be picked up any time. One can quickly read a few biographies. Of course, once you start, it is difficult to stop for each character is so entertaining.

You'll discover that there was one person that Leland already knew. There were some well known personalities such as Lowell Thomas, Dorothy Mackin (of the Imperial Hotel), Mary Alice Robinson (who founded Donkey Derby Parade) and the cowboy poet, Rufus Porter. Other people were new to me.

As usual, Mr. Feitz presents a well written book and his choice of characters make enjoyable reading.

On October 6, there will be a local authors signing event at the Old Colorado City History Center which will feature several authors and new publications. Look for Leland at this event and buy your own copy of his book which he will sign for you.