

# WEST WORD

## Old Colorado City Historical Society

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 1

January 2006

# *The mountain people*

## UTES, THE MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

By: Jan Pettit

The Ute Indians have long been ignored as an important segment of Western history. Their ancestors say they have always been here. Archaeologists don't really know when they arrived. Photographer W.H. Jackson wrote in an 1877 Geological Survey Report, "The Yutas, are a large tribe belonging to the great Shoshone family who occupy the mountainous portions of Colorado, with parts of Utah (named for the Yutas), New Mexico, and Nevada. Those living in the mountain where game abounds have a fine physical development, are



A young Chief of the Grand River band of Utes Helped as a delegate for his tribe in 1868 to sign Kit Carson treaty in Washington. Camped often near Denver with 35 lodges or 250 people with him. Nephew of Chief Nevava. Distinguished himself as a warrior in contests with the Arapahos.

1868 Photo Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum

brave and hardy and comparatively well to do."

Prior to the 1859 Gold Rush to the Rockies, approximately 8,000 Ute people considered more than twelve million acres as their homeland. Just 60 years later starvation and disease had depleted the Ute population to only 2,000.

They were the last Native Americans to be placed on reservations and the last to war with the United States. They are the only Native Americans holding reservations in Colorado. The Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Reservations are in Southwest Colorado. The largest Ute Reservation is the Uintah-Ouray Ute Reservation near Vernal, Utah.

Ute elders say they were

*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  
©2005 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  
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	Beverly 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**  
December 9, 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

*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](mailto:history@oldcolo.com)

the first Native Americans to have horses in great numbers. Mounted Utes were able to travel long distances to hunt bison, elk, deer, antelope and mountain sheep for food, clothing, hide tepees, blankets and accessories. They traded their finely tanned hides for guns, knives, axes, iron kettles, wool cloth, and beads. This ability to provide, communicate and gather in larger groups completely changed the social structure of the Utes.

high country of the Rockies.

Their food gathering and hunting lifestyle brought the Utes into inevitable, tragic and absolute conflict with incoming settlers, soldiers and miners who depleted their food sources. All the Ute people were confined to reservations following the Meeker Tragedy in 1879 when the starving and angry Utes killed



Moving with the seasons, the Utes traveled in small family groups over their vast areas hunting and gathering food. Summer would find the tribes in the high country of the Rockies. In the Fall, attention turned to gathering food for the harsh season ahead. Winters were spent in warmer areas as far south as Northern New Mexico and Arizona. Springtime would find the various groups gathering together for their traditional Bear Dance before heading back to the

Southern Ute's 1909 Boulder semi-centennial celebration  
Photo from University of Colorado

all the men at the White River agency and took captive the women and children. Following this

incident, treaties were thrown out the window resulting in the Ute's remaining homelands being distributed to non-Indians for settlement and mining purposes. Confined to three small reservations the proud hunters and their families lifestyle was drastically changed.

I'm often asked by children if the Utes are extinct. The Ute people have made the best of their situation by making education a priority. They are independent, have collected on long overdue treaty promises and invested those funds in growth and stability. The Southern Utes have their own school where their culture and their language are taught.

According to Southern Ute Historian Alden Naranjo, the Capote, Mouache and Tabeguache bands of Utes wintered in this area near the Garden of the Gods. "The site was convenient as it was off the Ute Pass Trail which leads westerly to South Park and easterly out onto the Great Plains. They could hunt in the mountains for elk, antelope and deer or on the plains for buffalo. Nearby, the springs, provided healing for the ill. All this culminated in a renewal of spirituality and health and prepared the bands for the journeyed back to the mountains in the spring," Naranjo said.

That old Ute Indian trail remains important. Now we zoom up and down Ute Pass without a thought of those thousands of prospectors and freighters who followed old Indian routes. As you know, Old Colorado City was founded to supply the travelers and El Paso County was named for the important route to the gold fields.

The Ute people haven't forgotten us - when they travel over the passes many traditional Ute people stop to leave a bit of cloth, tobacco, sage or a cup of water. They say a prayer for safe travel, for peace and unity among people. They also pray that we will take care of the earth so there will be something left for our grandchildren. As you travel through the land of the Ute people you might take a moment at the top of a pass to be thankful for their legacy to us.

(From: "Utes, The Mountain People" by Jan Pettit - available at the OCCHS gift shop)

(Copyright 11/2005 by Jan Pettit- for one time use by OCCH Society)

## 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.



## Treasurers Report

Dec 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005

December closed out nicely, with \$1,200 from the B&B Tour on December 4<sup>th</sup>, \$250 in response to our Annual Appeal, \$430 in renewals and new memberships, \$600 from the Book Store surplus since August. And a nice grant from Wal-Mart for \$500 to the Society.

Of course the Utility Bill skyrocketed because of natural gas heating costs as we knew it would, going over \$400 for one month for the first time ever. Wish for a warm winter.

For the Calendar year of 2005, your Board had budgeted \$15,920 in anticipated income, and \$15,895 in costs, or a \$25 surplus. Our actual income was \$17,361. Our actual costs were higher too, \$17,255, so we ended up with \$106 surplus for the year. Pretty much on target.

With the Interest rates rising in 2005 and your Board wisely having taken out both a Variable Rate CD in March, and a Federal T-1 Bill in September we earned \$2,257 interest on our savings, both Endowment and Operating funds.

So we are ending the Calendar year with \$68,920 in our fixed Endowment CD, \$25,922 in the T-1 Bill, and approximately \$2,850 in our checking account. Betsy's Book Store will start out with about \$250 in her checking account. And of course an ample book Inventory.

Looking ahead to the Calendar Year 2006, your Board reviewed both my recommended 2006 Budget, and plan for maximizing our return in safe CDs. They will approve a 2006 Budget at the first Board meeting of the year. All members are, of course welcome to the meeting, which starts at 1:00 PM, Monday, January 19th at the Center.

Being fiscally conservative when it comes to the Society's Budget, I have projected only a \$14,000 balanced budget year. Down from over \$17,000 this year and 2004. We realized no income from Commemorative Bricks last year, we cannot hold the same level of fund raisers in the Park as we have in the past, we had no Guided Tours at \$5 a person since Jean Christopher died, we still lack sufficient foot traffic into the Museum to boost Book Sales and encourage cash donations. We also face

substantial building maintenance costs next year, and other costs are going up. So unless some member has a white hot fund raising idea, I expect our operating Budget to be flat in 2006. (we still get more bang for the buck than most non-profits our size)

The prospects are brighter for our Endowment and Savings Investments.

The Board has approved a plan to boost the untouchable Endowment fund to \$75,000 in March, 2006 when the \$67,000 CD matures. We can put the \$3,000 in carried over interest from 2004, and that earned this last year, plus a small amount from our T-1 to bring the CD to that amount. The rate is already hovering around 5%. It may go up a half a point more.

Then we will keep at least this years Endowment interest, the balance of the Shirley Bond Digitization grant (which is beginning to decline as work has started on that project), and other funds above about a \$2,500 level checking account level into another Federal variable rate T-1 account. Which currently earns nearly 4%.

We can expect to earn at least \$4,000 from these interest bearing 'savings' by 2007. While keeping enough cash on hand to operate, month to month, as we work through the \$14,000 budget.

Looking down the road, we have two things to think about.

Within 4-5 years we will have to paint the outside of our center. That will cost at least \$25,000. We may try to do it incrementally.

And while our Endowment slowly grows, as I reminded the Board, until or unless we reach at least \$250,000 in our Endowment fund we cannot hire a part time person who could do tours, help with publicity for our events, help draw people to the center (we earn \$1 for every person who walks in the door), increase our membership and generally raise the activity level of our society, with its financial benefits.

But your Society is financially sound going into the year 2006.

Dave Hughes

Treasurer

## From the President's Desk

We had our 11<sup>th</sup> annual Bed & Breakfast tour on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, in the afternoon with all the proceeds benefiting our Society. Nine Inns were decorated beautifully for the season. Two were near our museum, three down town and the rest in Manitou. It is our major fundraiser and the proceeds will go to some needed repairs on our building. The inns do a very thorough publicity campaign for this event, even having a web site this year. Kudos to them for this successful fund raiser which brought in almost \$1,200.

Of course many of our members volunteered to help make the tour a success, Our hosts who helped at this inns were Betsy Evans, Eloise Wynne, Muriel Dunkley and house guest, Frank and Barbara Sanders, Gloria Chapman, Martha Lee, and LaRue and Pat Ebersole. This year we had more people stop in our Center for cookies and to put in for the door prizes – the major one being a night at one of the B&B's. Marge Knorr did the cookies and coffee and Betty Baker did the drawings at our Center. Betty Laison with the inns and collected receipts from them afterwards. We even had good sales at the book store because of the people coming in. Our wonderful bakers provided tasty Christmas cookies as usual. It was great event and people told us how much they enjoyed the tour, some even looking forward to next year.

We sent an end of the year appeal letter to members and friends in our newsletter this year.

We have been receiving contributions and thank you notes will be sent .

Our calendar for 2006 is very full already. We

*Continued on page 8*

## 2006 Calendar of OCCHS Programs & Events

### Friday, Jan. 13 - 11 a.m. Monthly meeting & program, "Zebulon 'Monty' Pike Had a Wife Named Clara – A Glimp Into the Private Life of Pike"

Presented by Diana Francese, a "Damn'd Ras-cal" volunteer from the Pioneer's Museum. She will also share information about the Pike Bicentennial celebration, exhibits, programs and activities at the Pioneers Museum and help "peak" our interest and knowledge about Pike.

Zebulon Pike's 1806 western expedition is important because it represents a young nation's initial steps toward understanding the immensity of its southwestern expanse, the varied landscapes and peoples, and this new relationship in regard to the nations within and 'round its borders.

The Pike family reunion will be held in Colorado Springs this coming summer.

OCCHS History Center opens at 10 a.m. for coffee and museum visitation.

### Saturday, Jan. 14 - 10 a.m.

#### New OCCHS member coffee and orientation.

A time to learn more about the history of Old Colorado City, including a behind-the-scenes tour of the History Center's facilities.

All newer (and renewing!) members are invited to attend.

### Saturday, Jan. 28 - 1 p.m. "Railroads of Cripple Creek"

Don't miss this presentation by Mel McFarland, local railroad historian, author, and OCCHS member! Bring your family and friends. Come early for a seat!

### Friday, Feb. 10 - 11 a.m. "The El Paso Canal - Then & Now"

presented by Gary Bostrom, Colorado Springs Utilities Dept. Come learn more about the history of this Westside landmark, the water rights, and how the land is used today.

History Center opens at 10 a.m. for coffee.

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

**NONPROFIT  
ORG  
PAID  
COLO SPGS,  
CO  
PERMIT  
#491**

will be celebrating the bicentennial of the Zebulon Pike 1806 Expedition. Gordon Gray and Mike Olson have a committee which will meet this month to add to our Pike exhibit. Gordon is planning a big reception this summer for the Pike family and we may have a program about the family.

Our regular monthly meeting will feature one of our members, Diana Francese as a "Damn'd Rascal" telling about local events and programs featuring the Pike Expedition. Also put on your calendar, Saturday, January 14, 10 AM, the coffee and orientation event for new members to learn about our history and our facilities. Even if you're not new, come anyway.

Best wishes to you all for a safe and prosperous New Year.

Bev Disch



Lt. Zebulon Montgomery Pike

1779 - 1813

Pike, born January 5, 1779 in Lambertton, New Jersey, began his army career at the age of fifteen. He was killed during the War of 1812 after a successful battle for York (now Toronto, Ontario), by a powder magazine explosion on April 27, 1813. He died on a ship returning to Sackets Harbor, New York where he was buried.