



Old Colorado City Historical Society

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 10

December 2007

CHRISTMAS TOUR 07

Cheyenne Canon Inn 2030 W. Cheyenne Boulevard. An invitation to elegance ... Colorado's finest bed & breakfast inn. Nine themed guest rooms and one private cottage. Built in 1921, was once the "Dixieland" casino and upscale bordello. (719) 633-0625; (800) 633-0625; FAX: (719) 633-8826

www.cheyennecanoninn.com;
info@cheyennecanoninn.com

Onaledge 336 El Paso Boulevard The sister inn to Red Craggs and Rockledge, Onaledge offers the travel accommodations you expect at a fine hotel combined with the intimacy and personalized service only a bed and breakfast can provide. (719) 685-1272; (887) 685-1272; www.onaledge.net;
info@onaledge.net

Cheyenne Canyon Inn



Onaledge



Red Craggs above and the beautiful rock garden in back with the running brook

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
©2007 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 - westsider@comcast.net**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF EACH MONTH

MISSION

Revised April 2004

The Old Colorado City Historical Society was founded as a volunteer organization to recognize the historical significance and unique culture of original Old Colorado City and early El Paso County. This spirit is perpetuated through the preservation of artifacts and archival materials, encouragement of research, education of the children and the community, through the membership and the operation of the History Center at 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

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	Tom Hendrix	719-633-7392
Secretary	Arlene Casey	719-634-2356
Treasurer	David Hughes	719-636-2040
	Phil McDonald	
	Mel McFarland	719-533-1311
	Joanne Karlson	719-475-2574
	Barb Barbaro	719-748-3483

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
January 11, 2007
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
(September - June)

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

Come visit Us—A Short Old Colorado City History

Colorado had been a Territory, with Colorado City its 1st Capital only two months when the Civil War broke out. A Confederate force of 4,000 mounted Texans set out to capture Colorado's gold fields. Colorado hastily raised a 1,200 man Volunteer Infantry Regiment using Federal promissory notes. The untested Pikes Peak volunteers marched 92 miles in 36 hours to meet the rebels at La Glorieta Pass. And routed them. This battle has been called "the Little Gettysburg of the West".

But after Governor Gilpin was fired by Lincoln for not having the authority to spend federal funds, the Second Governor - Evans - sent his friends down from Denver and stole the capital away from Colorado City forever.

Drive down West Colorado Avenue to 24th and West Pikes Peak, where you can visit the free Old Colorado City History Center. There you can see uniforms, a diorama and a cannon ball from the 1st Colorado Infantry, authentic books and maps and the rest of the colorful history of Colorado City. There is no admission charge. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 AM to 4PM.

Treasurers Report

We received \$736.22 for our participation (walking the streets and in the cabin in costume) in the 'Taste of Colorado City' event put on by the Old Colorado City Associates.

As of this writing we have received over \$340 in donations from our annual giving letter and \$160 has come in our cash donation box.

Our expenses are as expected for the beginning of a colder fall and winter.

We have to spend \$860 to reprint, commercially, "In Red Rock Canyon Land" which has become popular ever since the land became a hiking city park.

There are plenty of Books in the Bookstore for Christmas gifts!

Dave Hughes

Red Crags Bed & Breakfast Inn 302 El Paso Boulevard Red Crags was built in the 1880's by Manitou Springs' founder and was a favorite retreat of Teddy Roosevelt. A massive Victorian Christmas Tree graces the grand parlor.
(719) 685-1920; (800) 721-2248;
www.redcrags.com; info@redcrags.com

Rockledge Country Inn 328 El Paso Boulevard Constructed in 1912 by the Craftwood Guild for Edward H. Heath, the Rockledge Country Inn now of-



Rockledge Country Inn



Cottage at Our Hearts Inn

fers a private and peaceful destination characterized

by comfortable and casual elegance.
(719) 685-4515; (888) 685-4515;
www.rockledgeinn.com; info@rockledgeinn.com

Andy and Pat's Our Hearts Inn Old Colorado City 2215 W. Colorado Avenue was built in 1895 and has been filled with antiques and hand stenciled interiors. Includes 3 guest rooms and a cozy private cottage with cowboy decor.
(719) 473-8684; (800) 533-7095; fax: (719) 634-



Old Town Guest House

4954; www.inn-colorado-springs.com; our-heartsinn@aol.com

Old Town GuestHouse, 115 S. 26th St., Old Colorado City, built in 1997, is a AAA-4 Diamond, elegant B&B with 8 uniquely decorated soundproof rooms. Views of Pikes Peak/Garden of the Gods, an elevator, private outdoor hot tubs, steam showers & fireplaces are amongst its upscale amenities. (719) 632-9194; (888) 375-4210; luxury@oldtown-guesthouse.com; www.oldtown-guesthouse.com

Cascade Mountain Lodge 8850 Chipita Park Rd. Cascade, CO 80809 Decorated in lodge decor, Cascade Mountain Lodge offers two bedrooms with queen size beds, a welcoming rock fireplace, a private entrance for guests and a new outdoor hot tub

Continued page 5

~FOR YOUR CALENDAR~

Sunday, December 2
13th Annual Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour 2 til 6 p.m. featuring seven local inns. Call for ticket information and map of the tour. Proceeds benefit the History Center. Drawings for door prizes.

Saturday, December 8
"On the Mountain with AdAmAn" 1 til 4 p.m.
Special exhibition of AdAmAn photographs and artifacts with a program and reception – public welcome. Since the 1920's, this unique group has been hiking to the top of Pikes Peak to set off a New Year's Eve display of fireworks. Many of these photos and artifacts have not been seen by the public. **AdAmAn members will present an illustrated program at 2 p.m.**, but come early and stay later to enjoy the displays and visit with AdAmAn members. **The exhibit will continue until mid-January.** **A limited supply of a NEW commemorative poster will be available for purchase.**

Friday, January 11
"Manitou Soda Spring: A Fount of Prosperity" 11 a.m. The Manitou Soda Spring has been at the center of the health culture in the Pikes Peak region since the days of the Utes. Today, it is in the lobby of the restored Manitou Spa Building. **Deborah Harrison**, a local historian and author, will detail the always interesting, sometimes controversial past of the spring and the building. A member of the Manitou Springs Historical Society, she will include historical photos.

REMINDER! - USE YOUR 10% MEMBERSHIP DIS-COUNT

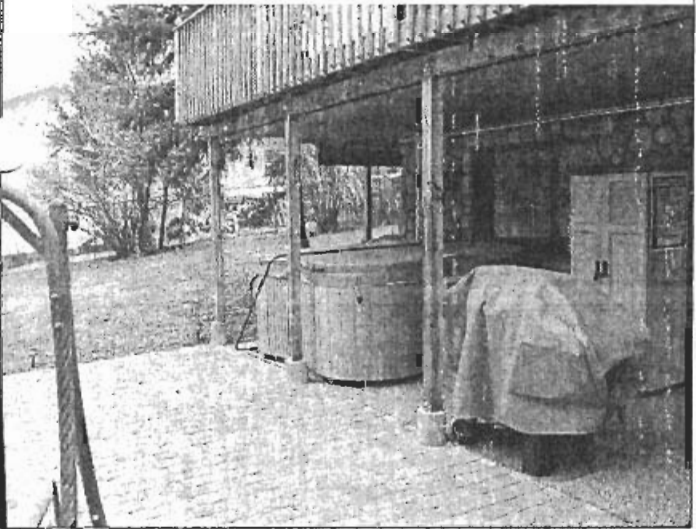
Give a "gift of history" by shopping in the Museum Bookshop.
Check out the newer titles as well as the old favorites. Have you seen the wooden ornament collectibles of historic buildings in Old Colorado City?
OR, give an OCLHS membership to a friend.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS
who joined in August, September and October!
Sharon L. Bennett, James and Triny Jackson
Robert Loudon, Marijica Martynius,
Lou and Barbara Carpenter, Charlease Bobo
Dennis Palsgrove, and Paul Shepard.

with romantic waterfall and mood lights. (719) 684-777; (866) 772-9171; www.cascademtnlodge.com;



Cascade Mountain Lodge



We hope you will come and enjoy the wonderful Bed and Breakfast establishments that are in and around Old Colorado City. They each have a flair, ambiance and elegance all of their own.



A Victorian Christmas

For thousands of years people around the world have enjoyed midwinter festivals. With the arrival of Christianity, pagan festivals became mixed with Christmas celebrations. One of the leftovers from these pagan days is the custom of bedecking houses and churches with evergreen plants like mistletoe, holly and ivy. Apparently, as well as their magical connection in protecting us from evil spirits, they also encourage the return of spring.

No era in history however, has influenced the way in which we celebrate Christmas, quite as much as the Victorians.

Before Victoria's reign started in 1837 nobody in Britain had heard of Santa Claus or Christmas Crackers. No Christmas cards were sent and most people did not have holidays from work. The wealth and technologies generated by the industrial revolution of the Victorian era changed the face of Christmas forever. Sentimental do-gooders like Charles Dickens wrote books like "Christmas Carol", published in 1843, which actually encouraged rich Victorian's to redistribute their wealth by giving money and gifts to the poor - Humbug! These radical middle class ideals eventually spread to the not-quite-so-poor as well.

The holidays - The wealth generated by the new factories and industries of the Victorian age allowed middle class families in England and Wales to take time off work and celebrate over two days, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Boxing Day, December 26th, earned its name as the day servants and working people opened the boxes in which they had collected gifts of money from the "rich folk". Those new fangled inventions, the railways allowed the country folk who had moved into the towns and cities in search of work to return home for a family Christmas. The Scots have always preferred to postpone the celebrations for a few days to welcome in the New Year, in the style that is Hogmanay. Christmas Day itself did not become a holiday in Scotland until many years after Victoria's reign and it has only been within the last 20-30 years that this has been extended to include Boxing Day.

The Gifts - At the start of Victoria's reign, children's toys tended to be handmade and hence expensive, generally restricting availability to those "rich folk" again. With factories however came mass production, which brought with it games, dolls, books and clockwork toys all at a more affordable price. Affordable that is to "middle class" children. In a "poor child's" Christmas stocking, which first became popular from around 1870, only an apple, orange and a few nuts could be found.

continued on page 7

Father Christmas / Santa Claus - Normally associated with the bringer of the above gifts, is Father Christmas or Santa Claus. The two are in fact two entirely separate stories. Father Christmas was originally part of an old English midwinter festival, normally dressed in green, a sign of the returning spring. The stories of St. Nicholas (Sinter Klaas in Holland) came via Dutch settlers to America in the 17th Century. From the 1870's Sinter Klass became known in Britain as Santa Claus and with him came his unique



gift and toy distribution system - reindeer and sleigh.

Turkey Time - Turkeys had been brought to Britain from America hundreds of years before Victorian times. When Victoria first came to the throne however, both chicken and turkey were too expensive for most people to enjoy. In northern England roast beef was the traditional fayre for Christmas dinner while in London and the south, goose was favourite. Many poor people made do with rabbit. On the other hand, the Christmas Day menu for Queen Victoria and fam-

ily in 1840 included both beef and of course a royal roast swan or two. By the end of the century most people feasted on turkey for their Christmas dinner. The great journey to London started for the turkey sometime in October. Feet clad in fashionable but hardwearing leather the unsuspecting birds would have set out on the 80-mile hike from the Norfolk farms. Arriving obviously a little tired and on the scrawny side they must have thought London hospitality unbeatable as they feasted and fattened on the last few weeks before Christmas!

Christmas Cards - The "Penny Post" was first introduced in Britain in 1840 by Rowland Hill. The idea was simple, a penny stamp paid for the postage of a letter or card to anywhere in Britain. This simple idea paved the way for the sending of the first Christmas cards. Sir Henry Cole tested the water in 1843 by printing a thousand cards for sale in his art shop in London at one shilling each. The popularity of sending cards was helped along when in 1870 a halfpenny postage rate was introduced as a result of the efficiencies brought about by those new fangled railways.

The Tree - Queen Victoria's German husband Prince Albert helped to make the Christmas tree as popular in Britain as they were in his native Germany, when he brought one to Windsor Castle in the 1840's.

The Crackers - Invented by Tom Smith, a London sweet maker in 1846. The original idea was to wrap his sweets in a twist of fancy coloured paper, but this developed and sold much better when he added love notes (motto's), paper hats, small toys and made them go off BANG!

Carol Singers - Carol Singers and Musicians "The Waits" visited houses singing and playing the new popular carols;

1843 - O Come all ye Faithful

1848 - Once in Royal David's City

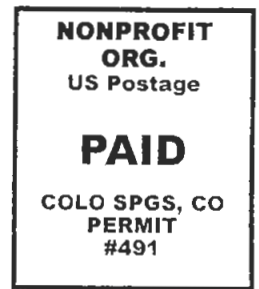
1851 - See Amid the Winters Snow

1868 - O Little Town of Bethlehem

1883 - Away in a Manger

Taken from the Historical UK internet site.

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



President's Message

On Saturday, November 3, we had a "Saturday at the Museum", an open house, from 11am until 3pm inviting Westside neighbors, interested community and newer OCCHS members. We had a steady stream of people coming, some for the first time, to share our local history.

Don Ellis portrayed Luther McKnight and Lucille Cunningham told about the beginnings of the History Center which has been open for ten years.

In the SW corner were photos about the early history of burros, ore reduction sites, and railroads. In costume were Barbara Barbaro, Kay Atteberry, Kathy McBride, and Dave Hughes adding to our event. It was a fine, warm day and we were very

pleased with our turn out with a number of people joining our society.

Bev Disch
President

In Memory

Mid Kolstad passed away in November. She was a long time member of OCCHS. She helped start the genealogy club that meets regularly at our center. She was active in the woman's movement. May she rest in peace.