

WEST WOOD

Old Colorado City Historical Society

Volume 24, Number 10

December, 2009 / January 2010

OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR WAS SPLENDID!

2009 was the Sesquicentennial Year for the Founding of Colorado City. Your Society celebrated it in many memorable ways.

➤ We started the year releasing our Sesquicentennial Logo which was fashioned from the great American Eagle masthead of the original Colorado City Journal of August 1st, 1859. Throughout the year special displays from our earliest days were on exhibit in our Museum.



- In February, we designed and had printed 80,000 copies of an illustrated history of the 150 years since Colorado City was founded on August 12th, 1859. This was distributed to every household and school child on the Westside.
- Greater Colorado Springs was educated in May about our unique El Paso County history, both by radio show excerpts and a score of stories in local newspapers. Several lectures on various aspects of our long history were delivered by members to audiences in our History Center, PILLAR classes, at well-attended regional Historical Societies, and before business-club audiences. We even had a skit about rambunctious Colorado City that entertained visitors!
- 2009 was the year our 10 year old Web Site grew into a true multi-media future-looking Virtual Historical Society site with features too numerous to list. This web site supports many descendents of the earliest pioneers who themselves live outside of Colorado.

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Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319
http://history.oldcolo.com 636-1225

WEST WORD

PUBLISHED TEN TIMES A YEAR

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 Don Ellis - spiderwort@pcsys.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:

Student	\$15	Lifetime	\$150
Individual	\$20	Business	\$50
Family	\$25	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	Joanne Karlson	475-2574
Vice President	Phil McDonald	532-0881
Secretary	Janice deChadenades	598-7183
Treasurer	David Hughes	636-2040
	Art Crawford	578-1158
	Beverly Disch	634-5023
	Tom Hendrix	633-7392
	Paul Shepard	633-8090
	Sharon Swint	630-8384

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.

WELCOME TO OCCHS! ~ NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Darlene Aspedon
Jack Beal
Leslie Bergstrom
Richard & Mary Kay Carlson
Michael Davies
Jack & Judith Ekstrom
Michael Gemmill
Irving & Janet Howbert (LIFE)
Krista Jautz
Barry & Ellen Johnson
Jonathon & Pat Lovekin
Phil McDonald
W. J. McPherson
Alma Moser
David Sample
Henry Schmidt
Shirley Sampson
Tom Van Wormer
Margaret Williams
Eloise Wynne
C.A. & M.M. Yowell
Fred & Mary Zobel



Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour

Sunday, December 6
1-5 PM

Featuring 9 inns plus the
McAllister House museum
Invite your friends!
Tickets available at the History Center

Sesquicentennial (continued from Page 1)

➤ We raised over \$12,000 from members and the public with which we commissioned a 6-foot Rose Granite Monument displaying the 8 distinct periods of our history - Founding, Civil War, Indians, Railroad, Saloon, Gold Mill eras, the quiet Westside years after annexation, and the 1976 rebirth of Historic Old Colorado City. Together with \$25,000 in donations by other generous entities, we erected the Monument next to the 1859 Garvin Cabin in Bancroft Park and presented it as a Gift to the City of Colorado Springs.



➤ Our annual Founders Day - celebrated on the 8th of August - was attended by thousands when we dedicated the Historical Monument, but also presented for the first time played in public after 100 years, the long lost 1889 Midland Band March performed by a 75-piece Community Band, which was recorded and is available online and on CD.



➤ Also in August we buried our 150 Year time Capsule in our commemorative brick plaza after members and visitors had filled it with their messages to the people of 2159 when it will next be opened.

➤ There were numerous walking, driving, van tours for members during the year to sights with early historical significance in the Pikes Peak Region.



➤ We ended the year with a successful and very well attended Cemetery Crawl and a Sesquicentennial Dinner for members in the rustic Ghost Town venue with a silent auction, including of historical art work.

➤ Best of all, we ended the Year of the Great Recession which nationwide is causing the shut down of many historical sites, with a growing Endowment, a budget comfortably in the black, and ready for the next 150 Years!

Outgoing Treasurer

Volunteer Spotlight – meet Dave Hughes

By Sharon Swint

David Hughes is stepping down as the Old Colorado City Historical Society Treasurer. The Colorado Springs native is a founding member of the Historical Society and has been President several times.

In 1973, after a 27-year career in the United States Army, Dave Hughes and his family settled in Colorado Springs where he had grown up. With his usual foresight, Dave soon realized there was lost potential on the Westside of Colorado Springs. He promoted the idea of small businesses having an essential place in a neighborhood. He used his technology skills, networking and military experience to lead the revitalization of Old Colorado City and show it as a great place to work and to live, even buying a home in the area.

Part of Dave's novel plan was to not only "save" the physical structures of Old Colorado City but also promote and save the valuable history of early Colorado Springs on the

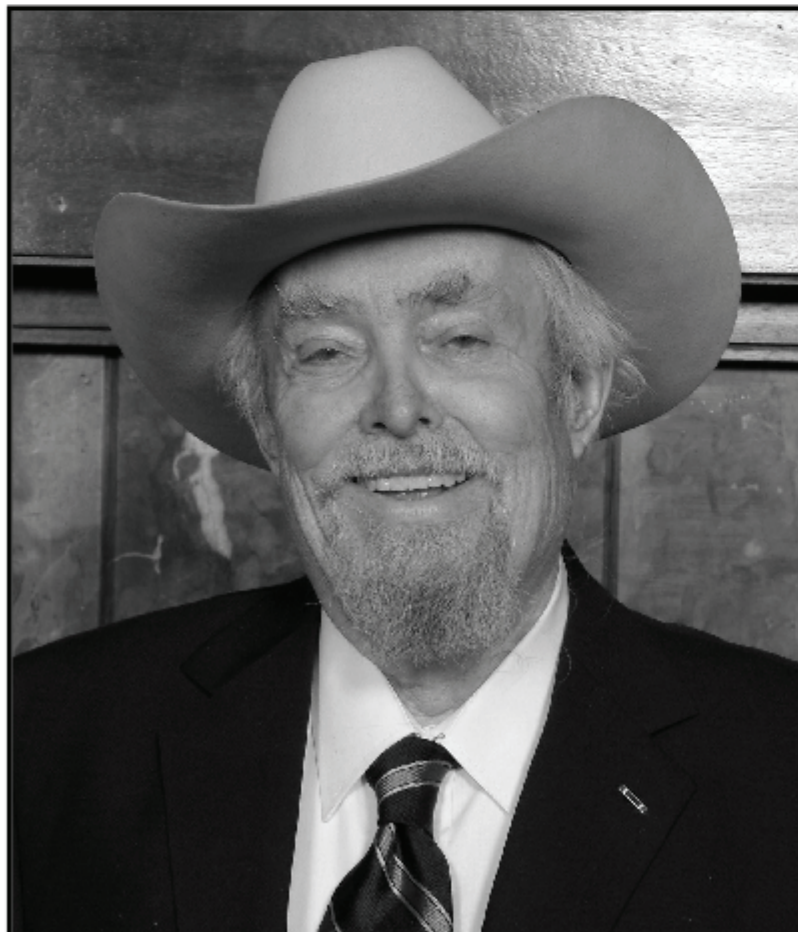
Westside. He voluntarily worked to this end for many years while running his own company, Old Colorado City Communications.

Dave was convinced, even then, that the unique and largely forgotten history of "Old Town" could be gathered, documented, stored, and distributed to the public by means of the very earliest personal computers. He created the first dial-up Computer Bulletin Board in the city in 1979, which gained international fame. He sent Colorado City stories around the world until 1992 when the Society was able to acquire its own History Center adding its first web site. With the help of a grant he secured from the National Science Foundation, Hughes shared local history over this very new wireless technology sending it to the world on the internet.

Dave was elected to the Board of Directors of OCCCHS, becoming its Treasurer in 1999. For 10 years, he helped keep the Society solvent with wise management decisions while building up its permanent endowment. Earlier this year, he announced to the Board his desire to surrender the Treasurer position and his Board position by 2010.

Dave plans to devote his time, his donated funds, the skills of his talented adult children and a fledgling OCCCHS tech committee to help make the Society's already powerful web site the most advanced in the world. Dave's desire is to insure the Society's financial future while preserving and distributing 150 years of Old Colorado City history.

This West Point graduate fought in two wars in Korea and Vietnam and served at the highest policy levels in Washington D.C. but perhaps the legacy that he has created that is dearest to the hearts of so many is that of saving all parts of Old Town for future generations to enjoy and appreciate. Home to Colonel David Hughes is truly, where his heart is—Old Colorado City.



Thank you for your service, Sir.

Incoming Treasurer

Volunteer Spotlight – meet Johnie Jackson

By Barbara Barbaro

It was a pleasure meeting and interviewing Johnie, who takes on the title and responsibility of the Society's Treasurer on December 14. He brings to the table a varied professional background, a creative business style, and most importantly, a passion for ensuring that the Old Colorado City Historical Society does its part in preserving local history.

Born in Thomasville, Alabama, Johnie attended Auburn University in Alabama, and then graduated from the Atlanta School of Design in Atlanta, Georgia. He spent the next 25 years traveling all over the United States years as a retail store design consultant for such companies as Walgreens and McKesson & Robbins Drug Stores. In the late eighties he returned to the South to pursue a career in the hardwood flooring industry, and retired in 2005 as vice president of the Cumberland

Manufacturing Co. In 1992 and 1993 he took a sabbatical from the retail store business and opened an art gallery in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, where he exhibited and sold his own art work. His watercolor prints are currently on display and are for sale at the History Center's bookstore.

In the early eighties Johnie moved to Colorado for about six years while in the store design business, left, and eventually made his way back to Colorado in 2005. He has three children, one in Washington, and two in Colorado.

This is one busy man. He and Jackie, his wife of three years, are active in the Colorado Springs Silver Riders ATV Club. During the spring and summer months, members of the club spend three to four days a month riding mountain trails on their ATVs. The group has also taken longer trips, including one to Tin Cup Pass, Hancock Pass, and Cumberland Pass, 84 miles all in the same day. Johnie also keeps busy as a photographer and enjoys doing leather work. He and Jackie love to travel, and are excited about their upcoming trip to Vienna, Austria on December 26. They also collect American brilliant cut glass and he is currently president of the Mountain States chapter of the American Cut Glass Association.

Johnie says he has always been interested in the history of the West, especially the timeframe between 1800 and 1870, early, primitive times. "That was the time of the mountain men and fur trappers. They were very active in the area way before gold was ever discovered." When asked what he would have been, had he lived during the times of Colorado City, he sat back in the chair, thought a little, and with a pensive expression on his face, said, "I'm a country boy at heart. I've traveled extensively and like to see what's on the other side of the hill. I think I probably would have been a cowhand or meat hunter, a person who supplies food for the mining camps, but probably would have ended up a saddle and harness maker."

His interest in the History Center began when board member and good friend, Jan deChadenes, told him about the Historical



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Society and encouraged him to get involved. He began by jumping at the chance to do the artwork for the Old Colorado City Sesquicentennial monument that was unveiled during Territory Days this past May. The monument's permanent home is next to the Garvin cabin in Bancroft Park. Johnie described it as "a fabulous opportunity to contribute to preserving Old Colorado City's history in a media that will be in existence forever." It was a labor of love, one where he gladly and proudly donated his time, talents, and money to see it to fruition.

Johnie believes that owning his own businesses over the years, coupled with his experience as vice president for the hardwood company, has given him a keen insight on handling the financials of a company, be it a retail store or a nonprofit organization. He's looking forward to taking on this new challenge and responsibility, and believes there are areas existing within the Society that could be further pursued as new money making areas to improve our profit centers.

His philosophy for making all this happen means involving as many people as possible. As he explains it, "We have a great endowment fund, but we need to take what we have and expand it, with the idea of getting more people involved. It's time to look ahead, to be visionaries. It's exciting and yet challenging. We need to encourage a new generation to get involved in doing their part in preserving and promoting history. We live and breathe the history of this area, and we need to let people know about it through whatever sources we have. This includes being concerned with the past, with what is happening today, as well as being in tune with the future of Old Colorado City.

There's plenty to do here at the History Center, and we know that he's up to the task. Welcome aboard, Johnie!

Consider giving a 'gift of history' this year!

Shop in the Bookstore

for a variety of book topics
and vintage consignment items.

Happy Holidays to All!

A Very Special Thanks ...

To Eric Swab, for donating his time, money, and some TLC into having one of the Center's favorite pictures of early Colorado City re-photographed and re-framed. He also labeled certain landmarks in the photo, making it easier for viewers to identify some of the town's early buildings and landmarks. Eric, a representative for the Department of Forestry, was responsible for setting up the very popular exhibit, the Fremont Experimental Forestry Project, which has been featured at the History Center for the past two months. If you happened to have missed this most interesting and informative exhibit, it's currently at the Manitou Heritage Center in Manitou Springs.

And to Laurel Swab, Eric's daughter, for graciously donating her time to re-arrange all of the photos displayed in the southwest corner of the museum. In just a couple of hours the corner walls were revived, refreshed, and renewed! Laurel is loaded with talent and expertise in the art world, in that she currently works at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center setting up displays.

Thanks again to both of you!



From the President's Desk-

Life brings change and that is true at OCCHS as well. At the December 14th OCCHS Board meeting, one of the leadership torches is being passed from Dave Hughes to John Jackson as a new Board Member and Treasurer. Find the article in this newsletter telling more about each of these fellows.

Dave promises that he will continue to research and write Colorado City history, be an active participant in the History Center activities, and be an inspiration for the future of our Society. We thank him for his many years of leadership and active participation on the Board and in the Westside community. Come hear his program in January, "The Rebirth of Colorado City"...a reminder of what was going on thirty-five years ago (1975-1976). As a newer member, John is bringing his enthusiasm as well as his business and artistic experiences. We look forward to working with both Dave and John.

2010 will bring a series of new programs and events, a repeat of the spring Victorian Tea, "Grandma's Attic" and events in the Bookstore, members only tours, and progress by the digitization, oral history, and exhibit committees. If you are thinking about some New Year resolutions and perhaps some different activities, we still need Bookstore volunteers and helpers with fundraisers as well as those willing to do research and write short term projects. Talk to one of the Board members or come into the Bookstore and visit.

Our Sesquicentennial Year has been memorable in so many different ways. The contributions of talents, time and money from members, businesses, and Westside neighbors have made this past year a true success! We sincerely thank each of you.

The OCCHS Board extends their best wishes to everyone for this holiday season.

~Joanne Karlson

DUES GOING UP

For the first time, after all these years, your Board of Directors has decided it must raise the cost for Individual and Family memberships by \$5.00 a year. So effective January 1st, 2010 for renewals or new memberships, Individual Memberships will be \$25 and Family Memberships will be \$30. Rising costs to the Society for printing and mailing 10 newsletters a year, the cost of returns from the Post Office plus the increase in our general costs to keep the doors open has compelled us to raise the dues.

Treasurer's Report December, 2009

This is my last Treasurer's Report after 10 years plugging away on spread sheets trying to help your Board make sense of our Society finances while squeezing every dollar out of our small investments. On December 14th our last 2009 Board Meeting, as Treasurer I will resign my seat on the Board so Board appointed Johnnie Jackson with decades of business experience, will take over.

Oh I will still be around, but putting my full attention to building up the ability of our 'virtual' online Society - our powerful web site - to expand our membership and ability to bring in income even from distant patrons.

There is not much new to report. We are ending 2009 having brought in at least \$35,000. We recouped the \$5,000 the Board advanced in January to cover special Sesquicentennial Costs. We exceeded our \$11,500 fund raising goal for the Monument by \$917. Our Annual dinner, though not a fund raising event netted us \$200, and the Silent Auction there brought in \$870. Our Book Store looks like it can transfer \$3,000, instead of our projected \$2,000 to our general account for next year.

By our November 16th Board Meeting we had \$30,511 in our low-interest rate Pikes Peak Savings account. That include a generous second \$5,000 grant from Shirley Bonds for 'digitization of our photo collections' she tendered in November. Our Bond Investments includes \$50,969 earning 5.75% interest, and \$25,815 earning 6.27% interest. We will earn \$4,549 in Bond interest next year, nearly half our cost to keep the doors open.

This leaves us now with \$91,200 in our fixed Endowment Fund, with \$11,094 in our earned interest fund, \$5,531 in our General Account with \$3,717 in our Book Store Account, all of which the Board can draw upon if needed. We can expect costs of all kind going up next year, fees, insurance, utilities, newsletter and any improvements or maintenance to our building. But we passed, in 2009, over 300 members for the first time so we are still growing.

Johnnie and I will draft the next year's Budget and distribute it on December 14th, for Board review or any revisions. Then it will approve a final 2010 Budget at the January Board meeting Jan 18th while Johnnie Jackson tends the till. And I will relax and read about it in the Newsletter.

Dave Hughes, Treasurer

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

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DECEMBER - JANUARY CALENDAR

Celebrating 160 Years of Colorado City History (1869-2009)

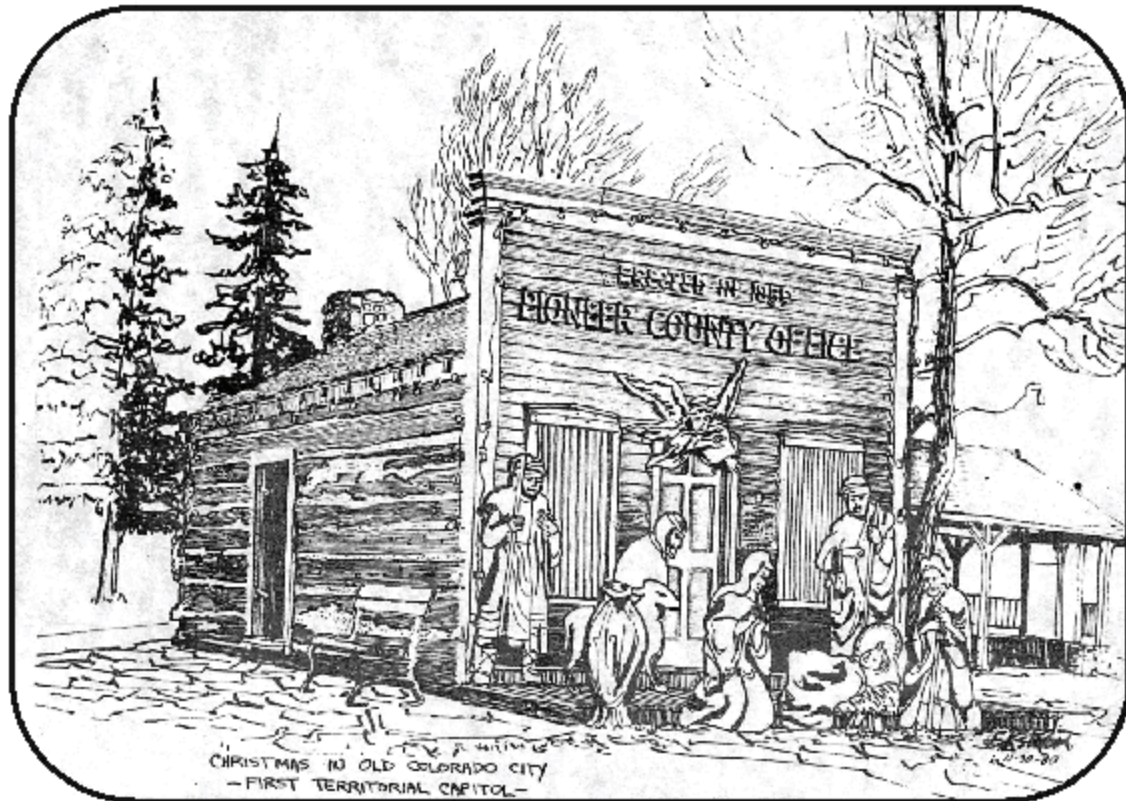
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|----------------------------------|---|
| Sunday, Dec. 6
1 to 5 P.M. | Annual Bed & Breakfast Holiday Tour fundraiser
(Please see insert) |
| Saturdays, Dec. 5, 12
11 A.M. | A Victorian Stroll on the Avenue
11:30 a.m. to 2:30 P.M. Caroling with Victorian Society members
(free) Call for details
Tea with the Templetons at Deb's Coffee House (\$17.50)
Call 630-5100 for reservations.
2:30 P.M. Guided Walking tours with OCCHS members (donation)
For more information, contact the History Center. |
| Dec. 24, 25 | History Center closed. |
| January 1 | History Center closed. |
| Friday, Jan. 8
11 A.M. | "Rebirth of Colorado City", illustrated presentation by Dave Hughes.
Looking back to 1975 and the beginnings of the Westside revitalization
to discover the vision and resources that residents and leaders used to
create the historic district as well as improve the Westside neighborhood. |
| Sunday, Jan. 10
1 to 3 P.M. | "Westside Celebrates" program, speakers, refreshments
Co-sponsored by OCCHS and OCC Carnegie Library at the History
Center. Celebrate 2009 and look forward to 2010! |

Museum Hours: Tues. thru Sat, 11 - 4 Free Admission.

You're Invited to the Fifteenth Annual
Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour

Sunday, Dec. 6, 1 to 5 p.m.

**9 Inns plus the McAllister House Museum and the
Old Colorado City History Center**
With Refreshments & Door Prize Drawings



McAllister House
423 N. Cascade Ave. 80903
Avenue Hotel B&B
711 Manitou Ave. 80829
Blue Spruce Inn
4505 Fountain Ave. Cascade
Cheyenne Cañon Inn
2030 W. Cheyenne Blvd. 80906
Lennox House
1339 N. Nevada 80903
Old Town GuestHouse
115 S. 26th St. 80904
Onaledge
336 El Paso Blvd. 80829
Red Crags B&B Inn
302 El Paso Blvd. 80829
Rockledge Country Inn
328 El Paso Blvd. 80829
Summit House Inn
1116 N. Wahsatch Ave. 80903

Renderings of the Dr. Garvin Cabin and the McAllister House by Jack Ekstrom

*Tickets in advance \$10, day of event \$15
or by credit card online: history.oldcolo.com*

*Military Discount with valid ID, \$8 / \$13 available at the:
Old Colorado City History Center
One South 24th St., 80904 (719) 636-1225
*Hours: Tuesday thru Saturday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

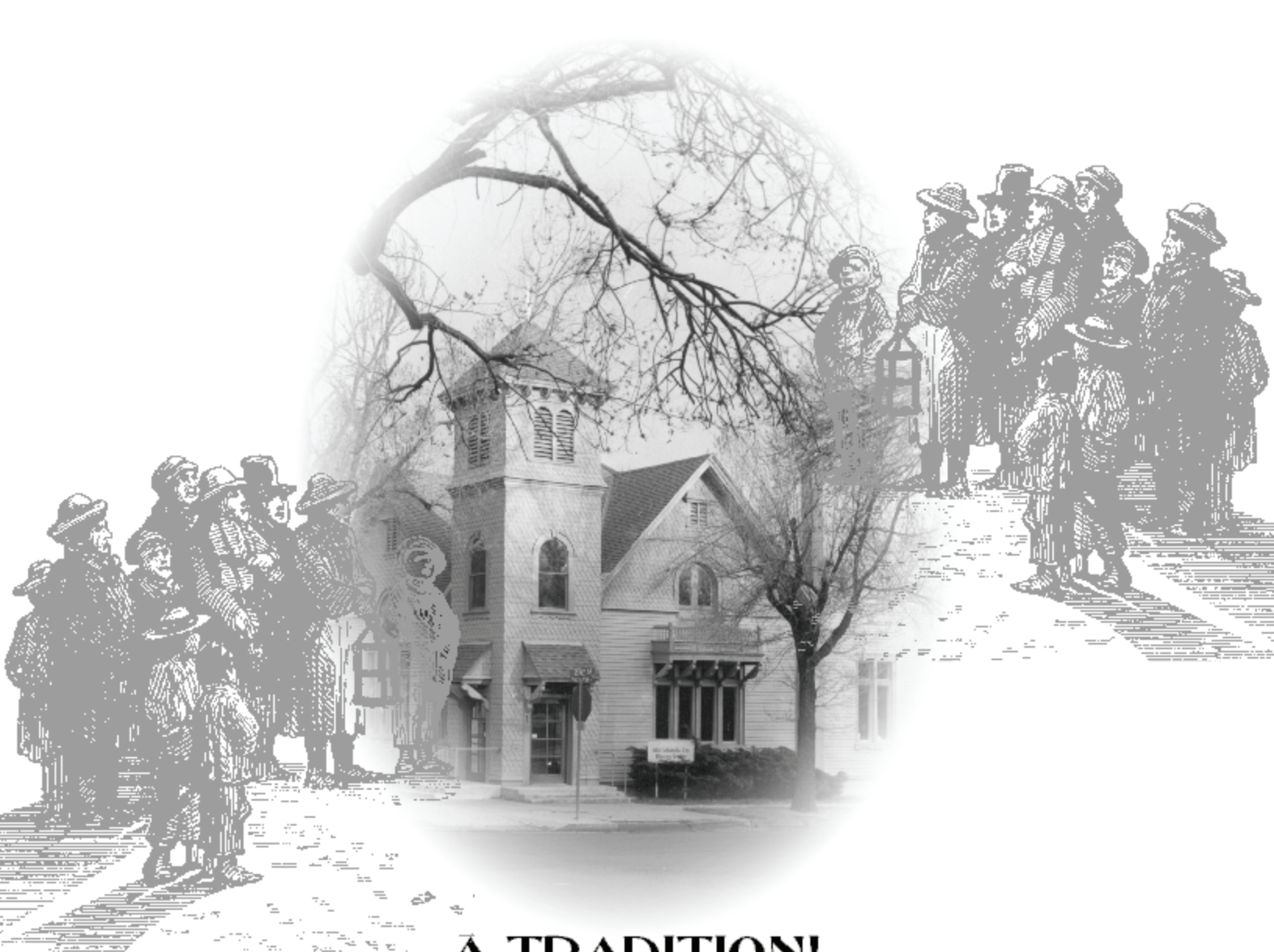


For more details
see the Old Colorado City
Historical Society website:
history.oldcolo.com



All proceeds from the
Annual Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour
support the Old Colorado City History Center
The Last Event in the Sesquicentennial
Celebration of Old Colorado City, 1859-2009





A TRADITION!

THE BED & BREAKFAST HOLIDAY TOUR

This is the 15th year for this popular event and has become a tradition for many folks...both men and women. At \$10 per ticket purchased in advance, this is one of the season's best "bargains". Bring your friends, family and neighbors on Sunday, December 6th from 1 to 5 P.M.

For more information, contact History Center. Tickets can be purchased online.

We thank each of the nine inns plus McAllister House who will have their premises decorated for the holidays. Remember to stop by the History Center for refreshments and to leave your ticket for one of the wonderful items in the drawing to be held at 5 p.m.

We thank the following for their generous donations for the door prize drawing.

- ◆ From Bernideen's, a 4-ft. tree decorated with Victorian ornaments (value \$150)
- ◆ From Holly Leaf, Thomas Kinkadee's Winter Wonderland Snowman (value \$45)
- ◆ From Classic Diamonds & Fine Jewelry, 1 pair pearl stud earrings, 14k gold (value \$195)
- ◆ Gift certificates from Deb's Coffee House, Front Range BBQ, Jake & Telly's, Mason Jar, Meadow Muffins
- ◆ From Grandma's Attic (OCCHS Bookstore), silver and glass table decoration
- ◆ Gift certificate for two, one night at one of the participating B&Bs (value \$100)