

WEST WOOD



Volume 26, Number 1

February, 2011

Old Colorado City Historical Society
and Mother's House Publishing Present



Writers Rave



February 26th from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

FREE

The Old Colorado City Historical Society Bookstore invites you to a free event to celebrate with us our local authors. Colorado Springs is home to many interesting published writers and February 26th we will have over 20 of them at the History Center. These writers will talk about their books, what motivates them to write, and the steps it took to have their books published.

Topics will be Children's literature, History, Photography, Antiques, Geology, and much more.

Mother's House Publishing, a Colorado Springs based publisher that helps new and established writers locally in printing quality books, will be available. This past year they have published the *Geologic Folio: Red Rock Canyon Open Space* by Ken Weissenburger, Sharon Milito and Don Ellis. These three authors will be part of our Writers Rave.

Also part of our day's events will be Jeff Keller of the *Rickey Adventure Series*, photographer Wojteck Rychlik, historians Sharon Swint, Barbara Barbaro, John Trivelli and his *Wanna Bee* children's books, Al and Hevine Schmidt with *Unsung Songs* and *Every Precious Moment*. D. Heffington and her light-hearted memoir of antique collecting.

A complete listing of authors and their books can be found on our web site at www.occhs.org

Most of the authors will present an introduction to their work. Then all authors will

be around the History Center, at tables, for you to get some one on one time with them. Refreshments will be served.

Below is a listing of authors and their presentation times:

10:00	Greetings from OCCHS and Mother's House Publishing	
10:30	Mary Bale	Children's Author
11:00	Craig Vroom	Children's Author
11:30	Jeff Keller	Children's Author
12:00	Barbary Tyner	Children's Author
12:30	John Trivelli	Children's Author
1:00	Christie Howard	Children's Author
1:30	Wojteck Rychlik	Photography
2:00	Ken Weissenburger, et al.	Geology, History
2:30	D. Heffington	Antiques
3:00	Sharon Swint	History
3:30	Richard Gibson	History, Photography
4:00	Barbara Barbaro	History
4:30	Joyce Stolberg	Spiritual
5:00	Tom Wright	Spiritual
5:30	Jodie Wiedl	Spiritual

Other authors available will be Black Forest Friends and Al and Hevine Schmidt

Please come join us for an informal day of visiting with Colorado's own authors.

Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319
<http://www.occhs.org> 636-1225

WEST WORD

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The Old Colorado City Historical Society

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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	\$25	Business	\$50
Family	\$30	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	Phil McDonald	532-0881
Vice President	Janice deChadenades	598-7183
Secretary	Sharon Swint	630-8384
Treasurer	Johnie Jackson	550-0999
	Jo Cervone	266-9096
	Beverley Disch	634-5023
	Tom Hendrix	633-7392
	Dave Munay	527-6778
	Suzanne Schorsch	488-0256

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
 Carol Mosier Bach
 Bernideen Canfield
 Richard & Mary Kay Carlson
 Sammy & Nancy Carroll
 Dennis and Karen Dosch
 Catherine Dymkoski
 Patricia Ebersole
 Leland Feitz
 Kenneth Goldsberry
 Dustin Gordon
 Will & Deloris Green
 Elizabeth Grout
 Melanie D. Guldman
 Carla J. Hale
 Sharon Konen
 George W. Lindley
 Wayne & Christina Logan
 Patty & Jon Lovekin
 Janet Rose Lyons
 Kathleen McBride
 Alma Moser
 Curtis Neeley
 Robert G. Nicklaus
 Frank A. Otoupalik
 Roberta Robertson
 Ralph Roscoe
 Verda Spitz
 Patricia Stark-Jacobs
 Barbara Sweat
 Sharon Swint
 Gerald Travers
 Ute Pass Historical Society
 Tom Van Wormer
 Holly Wiepking
 Eloise Wynne

A Special Thanks....

To Michael Schorsch (bookstore manager Susie Schorsch's son) for so graciously donating his time and muscles recently to help us move some very heavy boxes, boards, and concrete blocks out of one of our storage rooms. We couldn't have done it without you, Michael!

The Collections Dept. volunteers

Volunteer Spotlight – meet Judy Willey

by Barbara Barbaro

Judy was born and raised in Colorado Springs and was in the nursing profession for 30 years. The last 16 of those years she divided her time between scrubbing, circulating, and managing the Operating Room materials at the St. Francis Medical Center. During that same time she worked with Jerry Travers, another History Center volunteer. Judy lives in Colorado Springs with her husband. They have one grown son. Here's what she's all about:

Judy, the "accidental collector"

Judy is a walker. She began walking when she lived for a time in Boston back in the mid-seventies and while walking she began picking up trinkets and other things of interest that she'd come across. She's still walking. "I just find things – on the highway, up Pikes Peak, everywhere (including \$10 she just recently found lying in front of the local library). I'm an accidental collector, a treasure hunter." Last Spring she found one of her favorite treasures, a queen-sized down comforter, off the bridge on Highway 24 overlooking Manitou Springs. She took it home, had it cleaned, and now it adorns her bed, something she vows she'll never part with. We all wait for Judy to come into the Center every Tuesday to see what sweater, hat, or other piece of clothing or jewelry she's wearing – more treasures she's found while on her walks.

Judy's been a treasure hunter and collector for about 50 years. Picture this... when Judy and

I met to do this interview she brought along her very first collection – a small, 1960s red fabric Central Airlines bag chocked full of the cutest trinkets that come from those gumball machines that one found in the 1950s all over the place. She poured out dozens of the little toys on the table, and for the next half hour or so we checked out each and every toy. Silly toys of all kinds – dentures, animals, alphabet letters, footballs, tiny rabbits nestled in tiny hats, laser guns, and toys that glow-in-the-dark, just to name a few. There was even a skull that smokes when you detach the small cigarette fastened to the back of its head, stick it in its mouth, and light it. My favorite trinket however, was the plastic hot dog bun with a red dachshund stretched out inside the bun. It was no longer than an inch, at best. I believe that little dog had a smile on its face.

...Back to Judy.

Judy first heard about the History Center when her mother gave her some silverware from the Midland Railroad, which she then donated to the Center. The Midland Railroad, a significant part of our local history, is also very much a part of Judy's background; one of her grandfathers built engines for the Midland, the other one was a timekeeper. Her father was an engine stoker.

She's been volunteering at the History Center for about three years now. Like many of our volunteers, Judy is involved in several activities offered by the Historical Society. She takes her turn working in the bookstore and also helps out with the Victorian Tea, the Bed & Breakfast tour, the arts and crafts show, and the cemetery crawl. Her favorite job though is working with the group of Goodwill folks (the Goodwill Community Participation group) who come over to take care of the History Center gardens. "I just love the Goodwill people. I identify with them. They're real people, authentic and innocent."

There's so much more to write about this fun, good-hearted lady, but unfortunately, my allotted space is now used up. Judy describes her life as "one buried treasure". I believe that the History Center has uncovered a treasure of its own, one in the name of Judy Willey.



Come see our newest display - a replica of a 1905 Victorian parlor

This real-life display is a replica of a typical Victorian parlor - the main gathering place in a middle-class home around the 1905 time frame. Although not every item in the display dates back to 1905, they all represent what people collected and cherished, and ultimately displayed in their favorite room.

The lady of the house often collected souvenirs from where the family had vacationed, such as



seashells and dried flowers and later put them on display in the parlor. The parlor was also a place where family photographs (the more photographs, the better) were displayed on a piece of furniture, such as an organ. Indoor plants were the rage. While the husband read and smoked cigars, the wife sewed and tended to the children, who played with their favorite toys on the area rug.

All this and more is on display now at the History Center. Stop in and take a look next time you're in Old Colorado City.



Wanted ... an eager volunteer to work with artifacts within our Collections Department

Job duties include conducting research on artifacts via the internet, books, or other reference materials, inputting data on our database, and storing, cleaning and preserving artifacts.

This person would be trained by and report to Martha Lee, our current volunteer who oversees our artifacts collection. Eventually, we would like this volunteer to act as Martha's backup.

Collection Department volunteers typically work on Tuesdays, anytime between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Hours are flexible.

All interested persons contact either Martha Lee or Barbara Barbaro (Collections Dept Coordinator) at the History Center - 719-636-1225

Like to know who your ancestors were,
or help us at OCCHS learn more about our founders?

Now is your chance!

Join our new Genealogy Group to be led by Johnie Jackson

forming at the History Center

February 10, 2011 at 3:00 PM

OCCHS Membership required.

WINTER BROWSING

Winter is a good time to explore the History Center – its exhibits as well as the bookshelves. Bring along another history buff to see what you can discover. Grandchildren are also welcome!

When asked “What’s new? What are people reading?” Susie Schorsh in the bookstore and Kathy McBride in the Research Library made the following suggestions.

In the History Center Bookstore – a new book

Remembering Colorado Springs by Sharon Swint.

Enjoy a collection of over 125 well researched historic photos and text about the life and times of the Colorado Springs area, moving from early days through the 1970s. Sharon, a current OCCHS Board member, selected photos from her best-selling book *Historic Photos of Colorado Springs* to create this softcover, 134 page book selling for \$16.95. It was published in 2010. Read the book before giving as a gift!

In the History Center Research Library

Foundations of His Purpose: History of Early

Colorado Churches in Manitou Springs,

Fountain and Colorado Springs has been used

frequently as a reference by researchers. The

local authors and artists are Sherri J. Moore and

Joyce F. Sloan. They describe the architecture of

buildings as well as the history of the sites,

church members, and neighborhoods. The 91

page book features churches, chapels, missions,

and a meeting house – each with a watercolor

illustration. The catalog number is 285.8788.

This is only one of the many interesting books

which can be read – but not checked out – in

our Research Library.



Sharon Swint

SUCCESSFUL EAGLE PROJECT HELD AT OCCHS

by Susie Schorsch

It was cold and snowing on January 9th, but that did not stop one of our local Boy Scouts from performing his Eagle Project that benefited OCCHS.

Last summer I was approached by a Jack Karber, a son of one of our members, asking if there was a project that he could do for the Historical Society that would help him fulfill his Eagle Requirement. Less than 5% of all boys who join Boy Scouts complete this highest honor. They must show leadership, organization skills, the ability to financially run and complete a project and the ability to work with adults in the community. Being a mother of an Eagle Scout, I know that for an organization like OCCHS it is a privilege to get to work with this type of young adult.

As a member of the Board, I knew that our Collections Department, headed by Barbara Barbaro, was in need of some major shelving to hold those items that are donated to our Society. It has been a dream of the department to be able to shelf an entire room....could the Boy Scouts see that this could be done? Not only did Jack have a "can do" attitude, he asked all the questions needed to see that this could be done in a proper manner, that all his workers would be safe and that nothing could be hurt in our museum. Jack was responsible for finding the funding for this project, almost \$500!! There was a lot of planning, measuring, price

comparisons and recruiting he had to do.

Then, he asked what else could he and his group do. Jack organized teams that took down our Christmas decorations, cleaned the attic where they have been stored and placed everything in see through boxes for easy access for OCCHS next year. This might seem like an easy chore, but the boys had to pack two large car loads of old, unused items to be brought to Good Will and do some major rearranging to make the attic a better place to store things.

On the day of the project Jack recruited 15 workers who not only completed the jobs in excellent time, but were able to do a few more chores for OCCHS. They brought in an Old Colorado City metal jail door from the outside, they rearranged the museum for a future meeting they demolished an old display table that needed to be moved and destroyed, they brought in new stock for the bookstore that I had in my car (heavy book boxes) AND they cleaned up everything as they worked.

We want to thank Jack and his crew: Stuart Lane, Jordan DeCarolis, Kenneth Conner, Ryan Koenigsman, Eric Dude, Ben Fox, Jak Fox, Josh Gehrke, Ryan Gehrke, Derek Beitle, Wilson Belk, Daniel Belk, Spencer Thompson and Vince Brand. We thank the parents that brought their children out on a snowy day and Mr. and Mrs. Karber and Jack's sister, for their support.

Any other Boy Scouts out there??????????

THE ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

Do you like to talk? Do you like to listen? Do you want to make a significant contribution to our museum? Since Gordon Gray has moved out of town, the Oral History Committee is looking for a new chairman to coordinate our oral history interviews.

We have equipment to do the work and a list of people to interview. What is needed is a person to coordinate the committee activities. All interviews will be recorded, transcribed and archived at OCCHC. They will also be put on our new web site for use by researchers and anyone who enjoys reliving life on the Westside as told by original residents. This a valuable, behind the scenes work that is also fun and interesting. Please contact Sharon Swint at sharonkswint@gmail.com for more information or call the OCCHC and leave your name and number.

LET'S TALK!

Old Colorado City Historical Society
President's Report January 2011

By Phil McDonald

I hope that all of you enjoyed the Holiday Season. I spent the holidays in the San Diego area and had a delightful time.

Our January program on "Miramont Castle - Its History and Stories" attracted a nice turnout. Two women from the Miramont Castle staff recounted the history and personalities associated with this precious area attraction. Those in attendance seemed to enjoy the presentation. Two programs will be featured in February. On Friday, February 11, Tim Blevins will be presenting a program called "Frozen on Pikes Peak: A Cold Case Investigation." This fascinating topic is expected to attract a record turnout.

One week later, on Saturday February 19, the ever popular Mel McFarland will present a program on "Colorado Midland: A Train Ride". Mel's programs have proven to be so popular that this presentation will be given twice, once at 11 AM and again at 2 PM. So, be sure and include these events on your February calendar.

The Society continues to add new and exciting exhibits to our collection. We were delighted to learn that relatives of colorful local bar owner, Jacob Schmidt will be lending an original cabinet from Mr. Schmidt's old bar for a two-year period. Barbara Barbaro will be checking into insurance costs for this acquisition and the Board will take action on this procurement at our February meeting.

Work is being done to preserve the rare and precious 1860 Fosdick Plat map. This document established the parameters of the original Colorado City and was recently acquired through the efforts of Dave Hughes. Dave and son David are preparing a special program on this map which will be presented at a special program in May. We will all be looking forward to this event.

Finally, vice president Jan deChadenades reported at our January meeting that we have a total of 331 members. The Board decided that new lifetime members will be eligible to add their spouses to their membership for an additional cost of \$75. Currently the cost for a single lifetime membership is \$150.

That's all folks. I'll see you at our February programs.

Phil

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT,
January 2011**

With the Bed and Breakfast Tour proceeds in December, and a \$3,000 distribution from the Bookstore, we are starting the year with about \$5,000 more in our bank account than we started with last year. If you happen to come by the Museum, please give Suzie Schorsch or the volunteer working in the bookstore a hearty thank you. They have put out great effort this past year and just missed \$5,000 in December by \$5.00. Their annual sales were about \$20,000, this was a major record for sales in the bookstore. Our financial condition is excellent and with the programs we have scheduled for 2011, we should maybe even break last year's record. We have a new board member with Jo Cervone replacing Paul Shepard, who had to resign for health reasons. We wish Paul the best and our prayers are with him. Jo brings her great knowledge of OCCHS past endeavors, event planning and advertising to the board. Thanks for serving Jo! This is a completely volunteer organization, and we cannot continue to grow without the support and help of all our membership. Ask where you can help!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

OCCHS Bank Account	\$ 13,750.78
Bookstore Bank Account	\$ 8,021.56
Memorial Hosp. Rev. Bond	\$ 50,809.50
Cal. Regents Rev. Bond	\$ 24,380.50
Edward Jones Bonds (Cash)	\$ 5,809.50
Fixed Endowment Savings	\$ 14,875.34
Total Fixed Endowment	\$ 95,925.68
Earned Income Savings	\$ 11,640.67
Shirley Bond Digital Acc't	\$ 7,758.20

Total Liquid Assets **\$ 136,895.33**

Johnie E. Jackson, Treasurer
Old Colorado City Historical Society

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80904-3319

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February at the History Center

Friday, February 11
11 A.M.

Program: "Frozen on Pikes Peak: A Cold Case Investigation" Pikes Peak Library District's Special Collections Manager, Tim Blevins, will involve you in solving the mystery of a photo postcard labeled, "Frozen to Death on Pike's Peak Aug. 21, 1911." Was someone frozen on the Peak during the middle of the summer? Was the picture real, or a hoax? The investigation will take you through the research methodology to decide for yourself if the card was a morbid joke, or if it documented a tragedy.

Saturday, February 19
11 A.M. and 2 P.M.

Program: "Colorado Midland: A Train Ride" presented by Mel McFarland. The Colorado Midland, originating in Colorado City, was the first Standard Gauge Railroad into the Rockies in 1887. It connected Colorado City to Leadville, Aspen, Glenwood Springs, and Grand Junction. Come on a ride with period and modern views of the route.

Limited seating. Call History Center to reserve a seat.

Saturday, February 26
10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Writers' Rave Come join us to celebrate over twenty Colorado authors!

Old Colorado City History Center

1 S. 24th. Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904 - 636-1225 - <http://www.occhs.org>

Museum Hours: Tues. thru Sat. 11 - 4 Free Admission. Donations greatly appreciated.