

# WEST WOOD

Old Colorado City Historical Society

Volume 27, Number 2

March, 2012

## Fred Barr

1882 - 1940  
By Eric Swab  
(Second of 2 parts)



### AdAmAn Club

On December 22, 1922 Fred and Ed Morath, convinced 3 of their hiking friends, Fred Barr, Willis Magee and Harry Standley, that they needed to do something exciting to celebrate the New Year. They settled on hiking to the summit of Pikes Peak. On December 31, 1922 they set out for the summit hiking the Cog Railway right-of-way and carrying a dozen rockets, "one-pounders", and several dozen flares. When they arrived they broke into the summit house, (not a new experience for Fred) built a fire in the stove and thawed out. At 9:00 PM they set off a couple rockets to let the folks at home know they had made it. Then at midnight they set off the rest of their fireworks. On their return the "frozen five" decided to make this an annual tradition. They also decided to add one person to the group each year assuring that the tradition would last, and hence the group became known as the AdAmAn Club. This began a tradition that residents of the Pikes Peak region look forward to each New Years.<sup>35</sup>

In subsequent years they usually hiked Barr Trail starting on December 30th, spending the night at Barr Camp, and finishing the climb on December 31st. Fred was always the "first man up in the very early morning of each December 31st. He broke the ice in his creek, had coffee always hot and ready in his two gallon coffee

pot so we used to call it. He never dumped the coffee grounds out of the huge pot, merely adding more coffee and more water and then setting the pot to boil on his sweet smelling pinewood burning cook stove ...".

### Barr Had Grand Plans

Under the July 13, 1921 headline, "Fred Barr Asks Right to Build Road Up To Peak", we learn that he "... is asking for a right of way up Pikes Peak and down into the Bottomless Pit from the United States government." In this effort he had the endorsement of Colorado Governor O. H. Shoup, and Spencer Penrose and other prominent citizens of the City. This request to build a road is in addition to the, "... recently completed trail to the summit of Pikes Peak across the east slope of the mountain ..."<sup>36</sup>

Again in 1921, the Gazette carries this story, "Fred Barr, who last year completed a burro trail to the summit of Pikes Peak, is now making surveys preliminary to the erection of a log hotel near the Mt. Manitou forestry station (the Fremont Forest Experiment Station). The hotel will be similar to those now being used in the Glacier National park and will afford accommodation for at least 50 guests. There

*Continued on page 4*

**Old Colorado City Historical Society**

1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319  
<http://www.occhs.org> (719) 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**

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Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

or Don Ellis - [splderwort@pcsys.net](mailto:splderwort@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	Sharon Swint	630-8384
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	Dave Murray	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

Allen County Public Library

Richard and Margaret Bukowski

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Jan Collins

Janice de Chadenades

Glen F. Driscoll

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Anita Schimmel

Thomas and Lyn Strand

Patty Strauch

Norma Stull

Helene Toth

Westside Pioneer

Holly Wiepking

Eloise Wynne

Jan Zellmer

# Just what *does* go on in the Center's Collections Department? A quick look at the workings of the Collections Department

– By Barbara Barbaro

I get that question quite often. Well, to start with, all of the Historical Society's artifacts (three-dimensional objects), archives (paper items) and photographs are stored downstairs, adding up to several thousand items. It's up to the team to manage all those items, including storing them, handling them, and maintaining them according to standard museum practices. Recently the Society purchased a museum-related software program called PastPerfect, and we've begun the task of scanning and inputting our collections into the database. It's a long process, but once completed, all of the collections will be managed under this one exceptional database.

Our team is comprised of me, the Collections Department coordinator, and four of the greatest and most dedicated volunteers you'd ever want to meet. Each has his/her particular area of interest to work within down there, but everyone pitches in to help with whatever needs to be handled at any given time. We have: Jerry Travers (photographs), Dave Murray (maps expert and photographer), Sharon Koenen (research and photographs), and Tom Daniels (research and displays). My focus is coordinating all of those efforts and accessioning and archiving new donations. Other projects that help round out our time include planning out, then setting up all of the museum displays, assisting visitors and on-line persons with questions about local history, and cleaning and maintaining some semblance of order downstairs, just to name a few!

We love the work. It's challenging, yet rewarding knowing that we're doing our part to help save and preserve Old Colorado City's exciting history for people to enjoy and appreciate for many years to come.



*L to R: Tom Daniels, Sharon Koenen, Jerry Travers, Barbara Barbaro, Dave Murray*

*Barr continued from page 1*

will be an up-to-date dining room furnished with rustic tables and chairs. In one end of the rooms will be an immense fireplace around which the guests will gather in the evening to tell stories and listen to lectures on the interesting features of the Pikes Peak region."<sup>37</sup>

**Barr Camp**

Grand plans indeed! Neither of these came to pass, however, a rather unique hostel was constructed, higher up on the mountain at about 10,000 feet above sea level. "Unlike Any Other Camp in Mountains Is Fred Barr's on Slopes of Pikes Peak" reads the August 6, 1922 headline. His first camp consisted of tents that would accommodate from 15 to 50 guests. The standard outing would consist of outfitting tourists at the top of the Manitou Incline with burros and supplies. At 5:00 PM he would guide them on the 2 hour trip up to the camp. A picnic supper would be served with stories around the campfire, then to bed. At 1:00 AM the next morning "...the stentorian tones of the host sound, 'All up' and a half-hour later the party is again gathered about the campfire, imbibing a last drink of coffee before the ascent is resumed. ... The journey is so timed that the burros reach the peak summit just as the sun rises above the horizon, lighting the east in brilliant colors that gradually spread westward over the sky."<sup>38</sup> These sunrise trips were continued by Fred's successors.<sup>39</sup>

By 1924 Barr had built a cabin on the site, which still exists today and is still operated as a hostel for hikers wishing to rest before summiting or exploring other destinations on Pikes Peak. In 1936 Barr built two more 14' x 24' cabins at the camp, to accommodate visitors. That same year he announced the camp would be open in the winter.<sup>40</sup> One of the 1936 cabins burned down. At some time there was also a burro barn at the camp which no longer exists.

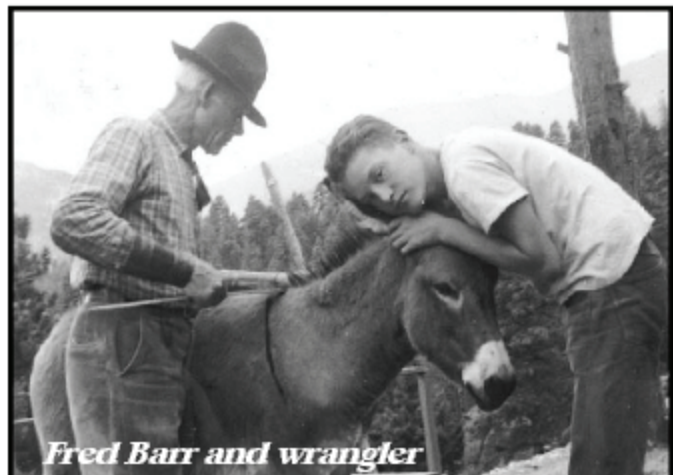
In 1930 he had plans to build a 12 foot by 14 foot cabin at about 12,000 feet. It is possible the shelter known as the "A-frame" which was built by the Forest Service in 1964<sup>41</sup> was built on the site of this earlier cabin.

**Other Trails**

Fred Barr's mountain trail building probably started around 1908. The owners of the Manitou Incline wanted to develop the area between the top of the Incline and the summit of Rocky Mountain. They called this area Mt. Manitou Park. It contains several large boulder outcroppings which would offer Incline customers beautiful views of the plains and the surrounding mountains. To reach these points of interest Barr built trails to Mount Crest Crags, Eagle Cliff<sup>42</sup> and Lookout Rock. Burro rides to these observation points were offered by the Manitou & Pikes Peak Burro Livery to passengers of the Manitou Incline. The Mount Crest Crags Trail still gets some use although it gets confused with several other social trails near the summit of Rocky Mountain. The trail to Eagle Cliff (now called Eagles Nest) still exists but gets very little use.

In 1921 Barr built a trail to the Bottomless Pit from his trail to the summit. It "... will make possible a comparatively easy descent into this great pocket of a canyon which has always been one of the most fascinating features of ..." Pikes Peak<sup>43</sup> It was not the first trail to the Bottomless Pit, there having been a side trail from the old Fremont Trail.

In 1930 Barr surveyed a route to the summit of Camerons Cone. "The trip will be one from the top of Mount Manitou and the distance will be three and a half miles. He is building the trail for his own use, in order to afford more variety in burro back sightseeing. ... There has never been what might be called a trail to the top, Crystal Park being the nearest approach to it ... he says he will construct a



*Fred Barr and wrangler*

shelter halfway up and possibly put a building on the summit. Mr. Barr already has 16 miles of trail which he has built and which he himself maintains; Pikes Peak, Bottomless Pit, Halfway house, etc. ...<sup>44</sup>

In a 1937 story, "A trail down into 'the crater', the deep gash on the southeast face of Pikes Peak, has just been completed by Fred Barr... It extends from the shelter cabin he has at timberline clear down into the crater and is about a mile long. It has taken him two years to build..." Again we read, "Mr. Barr has built the trail for his own use, for burro parties, from the top of Mount Manitou and Barr's camp, higher up on the peak. It makes 26 miles of trail that he has built ... Mr. Barr now is at work on a trail into a hole known as the Second Bottomless pit, where the old Oil creek tunnel is. ... The Barr trail system from the summit of Mount Manitou is the last of the trails over which burros are still used. They were in extensive use here in early days"<sup>45</sup>

Physically Fred Barr was of medium height, slender build, with grey eyes and light brown hair.<sup>46</sup> He was 46 when he married Anna Edna Williams of Colorado Springs in 1928. She was about 6 years younger than he. In 1930 they lived at 1404 South Tejon Street; by 1935 they had moved to 6 McKinley Place. During the late 1930s and early 1940s, Fred and Anna lived in a one room cabin at the top of the Manitou Incline during the summer. The cabin was divided into living and sleeping spaces by a curtain. The cabin had running water but no waste water drains. The only time that Denzil Gaskins remembers Anna coming out of that cabin was when she needed to throw out the dirty dish water.<sup>47</sup>

Anna sometimes accompanied Fred on the trail. "She was the first after Barr to enter the crater south of the summit on mule-back. Each year while Barr was alive she made the trip to the camp ... to cook for him and his workers while they were giving the trail its spring cleaning."<sup>48</sup> She was with her husband, Fred Morath and Willis Magee, on Barr trail when their burro carrying 50 pounds of dynamite slipped and fell off the trail rolling over twice. The dynamite did not explode and Fred Barr helped the animal back to his feet. They were headed to a place where a rock slide had blocked the trail.<sup>49</sup>

In 1940 the champion of Pikes Peak trails and burro travel left the mountain. "Fred Barr, the Pikes peak region's outstanding trail-blazer, died from a heart attack at 11:13 a. m. Tuesday, April 2, 1940, in Willard, N. M., where he and Mrs. Barr were visiting Mr. Barr's sister. ... He and Mrs. Barr were living at 6 McKinley Place. They also spent much time at 'Barr's cabin, which is situated eight miles above Manitou Springs on the famous Barr trail. ... Mr. Barr was 58 years old ..."<sup>50</sup> Anna died 25 years later. She and Fred are buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Colorado Springs.

Fred's trail to the summit was assured longevity when, in 1948, the Forest Service undertook its reconstruction. "The Barr trail to the summit of Pikes Peak from Manitou Springs is to be reconstructed and widened with machines developed in World War II. ... It will almost exactly follow the course of the present trail."<sup>51</sup>

On their December 1949 climb to the summit, the AdAmAn Club, began a monument in memory of Fred Barr. "At a point on the trail halfway between timber line and the summit of the peak each member of the club and each guest in the group will place a native granite rock on the pile. ... Words were spoken in commemoration of Barr, who built the trail with his own hands unassisted" A sign that read "In memory of Fred W. Barr, builder of the Barr trail to the summit of Pikes Peak. It was thru his untiring effort and boundless vision that this trail was constructed. Erected by the AdAmAn club of Colorado Springs of which he was a charter member. January 1, 1950."<sup>52</sup>

35 There are at least 4 accounts of the first New Years ascent of Pikes Peak by 3 members of the original "Frozen Five", Fred Morath, Harry Standley and Willis Magee. None of them quite agree on all the details, but the basic story presented here has been distilled from the four accounts. Apparently Fred and Ed Morath climbed to the summit New Years Eve of 1921. This is the year they set fire to the railroad ties, according to Fred Morath.

36 Colorado Springs Gazette, July 13, 1921.

37 Colorado Springs Gazette, September 19, 1921.

38 Colorado Springs Gazette, September 6, 1922, p. 7

39 Mr. Hess Dyas gives a first hand account of a burro trip with his dad, from the top of the Incline to the summit of Pikes Peak with an overnight stop over at Barr Camp in 1946, in an email to Teresa and Neal Taylor, July 31, 2005.

40 "Barr Building Chalets on Peak Slopes; Opens Up New Trails In Virgin Territory", September 20, 1936.

41 Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, June 20, 1937, p. 1. Also an email sent by Walter Schmucker to Dave Philipps, August 18, 2010.

42 Colorado Springs Gazette, January 19, 1930, p.13

43 Colorado Springs Gazette, June 1, 1921.

44 Colorado Springs Gazette, October 19, 1930, p. 1 Sec. 2

45 Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, June 20, 1937, p. 1

46 Fred Barr's World War I draft registration card.

47 2011, interview with Denzil Gaskins, son of the assistant engineer of the Manitou Incline.

48 "Mrs. Fred Barr Hopes to Add Rock to

Memorial Cairn", Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, December 31, 1949.

49 Colorado Springs Gazette, June 24, 1930, p.7 col.6

50 Colorado Springs Gazette, April 3, 1940, p. 1

51 Colorado Springs Gazette, November 21, 1948.

52 Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, December 29, 1949.

#### Author's Note

This paper relies heavily on newspaper articles, which are not always reliable. Where conflicts exist between stories I have favored the one whose date is closest to the actual event, unless a later article can be substantiated by other sources. The term Mt. Manitou occurs so many times in the references used for this paper that it must have been the accepted popular term for the peak that is immediately west of the town of Manitou Springs. That peak is named Rocky Mountain on the USGS map of the region, with Mount Manitou being the summit about 1/2 mile northwest of Rocky Mountain.

## HAPPY HOUR AT JAKE'S SALOON

OCCHS FUNDRAISER

Saturday, March 3, 2012

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

\* Program featuring OCCHS member Phil McDonald as Old Colorado City saloon owner Jacob Schmidt

\* Silent auction - including antiques and other items

\* Wine, beer, home made root beer, and munchies.

\$10 Admission

Space is limited to the first 90 people

At the Old Colorado City History Center

1 S. 24th St., Colorado Springs



## President's Report

Dear Members:

In a space saving effort, our treasurer, Suzie Schorsch, and I are sharing one print space this month. Please check out the list of **AMAZING SILENT AUCTION** items we will be selling at the "Happy Hour at Jake's Saloon", March 3 from 4-6 p.m. at OCCHC. Let's celebrate the contribution of the Jacob Schmidt family to the history and settlement of Colorado City. Many thanks to Colorado Mountain Brewery for their sponsorship of this event.

Welcome to Brian Copeland, a newer OCCHS member who will fill an unexpired term on the Board of Directors until May, 2012.

*SEE YOU March 3 at Jake's place.*

Jan deChadenedes is organizing the nominating committee recruiting members to serve on the 2012-2013 board. So if your phone rings and it is Jan or her committee, please be receptive to serving on the Board of Directors. There is no better way to get to know the real OCCHS than as a board member—it is a 2 year commitment not a lifetime.

Sharon Swint, President  
OCCHS Board of Directors

## Happy Hour at Jake's Saloon fundraiser

*Take a look at some of the items we're offering at the event's silent auction!*

*Meat and cheese gift basket*

*Crystal-studded cross necklace*

*Pharmaceutical bottle - "ACACIA"*

*Sterling silver and onyx bracelet*

*Antique apothecary jar with lid*

*Handmade blue and green glass pendant*

*Brass mortar & pestle*

*Heart shaped pendant and earring set*

*Set of three jeweled silver-plated candlesticks*

*Women's Medium Bellwether bicycling jersey*

*Garmin Personal Navigator GPS*

*Van Briggie, Anna Van piece, green*

*Sterling silver pendant with red stone*

*Women's Large Endura bicycling shorts*

*Michael Garman sculpture*

*Antique arch scale*

*Sterling silver, pearl necklace and earrings*

*Pair of tickets to Simplich Showcase*

*1930's Ward's Airline police band radio*

*Small basket of antique bottles*

*Large basket of antique pharmaceutical bottles*

*Van Briggie 1997 Collector Society pottery tile*

*Van Briggie, Anna Van piece, brown*

*Van Briggie, Anna Van piece, vase, black*

*Sterling silver blue topaz earrings*

*Rattan chair and side table*

*Men's Medium Bellwether bicycling jersey*

*Men's Large Fox Diva black bicycling shorts*

*Area rug, 4'x6', blue & rust floral design*

*Silver-on-copper tea and coffee service*

*All those - and more!*

The Old Colorado City Historical Society's Board of Directors meets regularly on the third Thursday of the month.

Meetings are at 1:00 P.M. at the History Center, unless otherwise announced.

Interested visitors are always welcome at the Board meetings.

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, March 15

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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## March Calendar

**Saturday, March 3**    **Happy Hour at Jake's Saloon** Beer tasting, wine, home made root beer, and munchies. Silent auction and a historical vignette about the life of Colorado City saloon owner Jacob Schmidt. Sponsored by the Colorado Mountain Brewery. \$10 Admission  
4:00 - 6:00 P.M.  
Space is limited to first 90 people.

**Friday, March 9**    Program: **Historic Forts of the U.S. Southwest** A contemporary travelogue with historical storytelling. An illustrated program examining five historic forts and the people associated with them. Program by Phil McDonald.  
11:00 A.M.  
OCCHS Members FREE. Non-members \$2.00.

### **Old Colorado City History Center**

*1 S. 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904 - (719) 636-1225 - <http://www.occhs.org>*

*Museum Hours: Tues. thru Sat. 11 - 2 Free Admission. Donations greatly appreciated.*