

WESTWARD

Old Colorado City Historical Society

proud member of the Coalition of Pikes Peak Historic Museums

Volume 28, Number 10

December, 2013

Jim Bates - AdAmAn Photographer and Historian

By The Don Gang (Don Ellis, Don Kallaus, and Don Sanborn)

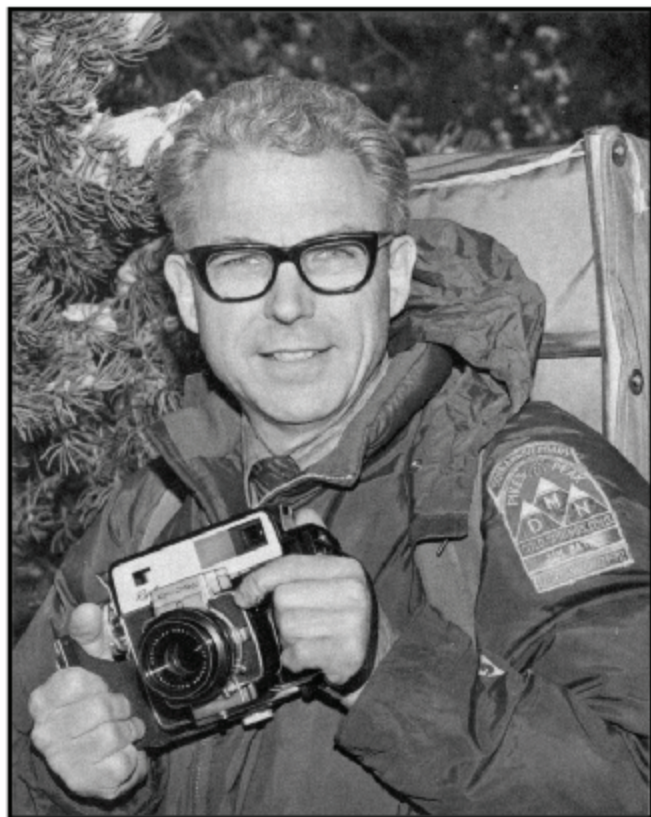
Jim Bates made his first New Years Eve climb with the AdAmAn Club in 1951 when he accompanied the club as a guest photographer to photograph the climb for an illustrated article in the General Motors Company magazine, Friends. The AdAmAn Club adds a new member each year, and Jim was elected as the new member in 1954. During his years in the AdAmAn Club, Jim designed the AdAmAn Club patch and served as the

club's Secretary-Treasurer, President, public relations director, photographer, and historian.

To commemorate the AdAmAn Club's 50th anniversary in 1972, Jim compiled the book *The First Fifty Years* which includes information on all AdAmAn Club members up through 1972 as well as many of Jim's own photographs. The Old Colorado City History Center's library is fortunate to have a copy of this valuable reference.

On any of Jim's 40 New Years Eve climbs, members of the AdAmAn Club said that he "climbed the peak twice" because he would frequently climb ahead of the group or drop behind to get the photos he wanted. Doing this, of course, required Jim to be in outstanding physical condition. One way that Jim kept in shape was by climbing the Manitou Incline with his friend and fellow AdAmAn member Ed Kirsches. When the two men did this in the 1960's and 70's the Manitou Incline railway was operating. So, people were not supposed to be on the tracks. Whenever a car approached the two men would scurry into the forest so as not to be seen.

As the 1989 climb approached, Jim was bedridden with the flu; and while that kept the 73 year old Bates from climbing it did not keep him off the mountain. That



Continued on Page 3

Old Colorado City Historical Society

'Preserving the past for the future'

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

©2013 OCCHS

SUBMISSIONS CAN BE DELIVERED OR MAILED TO:

WEST WORD Editor c/o OCCHS

1 South 24th Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

or Don Ellis - spiderwort@pcsls.net

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF EACH MONTH

MISSION

Revised August 2012

The Old Colorado City Historical Society is a nonprofit volunteer organization established to recognize the historical significance and unique culture of original Old Colorado City and early El Paso County which includes the present and future history of today's greater Westside neighborhood.

This organization perpetuates the preservation and display of artifacts and archival materials, encouragement of research, education of the children and the community, through the membership and the operation of the Old Colorado City 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	Business	\$75
Individual	\$25	Lifetime	\$250
Family	\$35	Life plus one	\$300

Funds from a Lifetime membership are placed into an Endowment Fund to be used only for projects 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
Vice President	Betty Baker	636-1225
Secretary	Brian Copeland	954-551-3677
Treasurer	Suzanne Schorsch	331-1786
	Janice deChadenades	598-7183
	Bev Disch	636-1225
	Sandy Hanzilan	636-1225
	Kathy McBride	636-1225

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 10:30 A.M. on the day of the meeting for refreshments and visitation. Everyone welcome.

WELCOME TO OCCHS! ~ NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Guillermo Alvarado

Luana Clark

Jo Anne Croff

Royce and Shirley Gipson

Gordon Gray

Krista Ann Jautz

Joretta Purdue

Karla Schweitzer

Heather Joffe & Eric Ivey

Bev Traenkle



Jim Bates from Page 1

year he rode to the summit in a four-wheel drive vehicle to join his friends who had climbed the peak. For the 1990 climb, Jim was back on the trail; and he continued to make the annual New Years Eve climb until he made his fortieth climb in 1995 at age 79.

On all of his AdAmAn climbs Jim wore the same pair of German wool pants which he had gotten from a German soldier during World War II. Before joining the Army in 1942 Jim had worked for seven years as a photographer for Alexander Film. This led to his assignment as a combat photographer. On June 6, 1944, D-Day at Normandy, Jim made his first parachute jump in darkness and his first in enemy territory. He landed in a canal and, with 150 pounds of weapons and camera equipment, could not get out until wind filled his parachute and pulled him to the bank. With his camera equipment soaked, Jim turned into a combat soldier for the first few days of the invasion.

Jim was awarded a Purple Heart after he was injured by shrapnel early in 1945. After a time in the hospital Jim returned to duty as a combat photographer. His footage shot at

Cologne on March 6, 1945 earned him a Bronze Star and became famous. At the end of the war, Jim was a member of General Eisenhower's newsreel team at the Potsdam Conference in Berlin.

One of Jim's mementos from the war, in addition to the wool pants, was a German sniper's rifle which Jim used as his hunting rifle.

By the time Jim returned to civilian life, his combat photography had earned him enough of a reputation that he had the opportunity to work as

a cinematographer in Hollywood. However, when he visited Hollywood he realized that he would not like the pressures of working in Hollywood's movie industry and that he would prefer to live in Colorado near his beloved mountains. So, he returned to his job doing motion picture production and research at Alexander Film, where he worked until 1964. One of Jim's projects at Alexander film was to develop a helicopter mounted camera rig which was used to shoot a Chevy ad which featured



a woman in a Chevy convertible on top of a desert spire. Jim shot another Chevy playlet in which a Chevy truck was driven up Pikes Peak completely off road.

Following his 29 year career at Alexander Film, Jim worked as the head of the Audio/Visual Section of the International Typographical Union until his retirement in 1985. He was also appointed as the faculty head of Communication Institute of America



Broadcasting School's Audio Visual Department.

In addition to his work at Alexander Film and the International Typographical Union, Jim produced some films independently, including a history of Pikes Peak and a Pikes Peak Range Riders film. He also filmed the Pikes Peak Hill Climb both from the roadside and as a passenger in race cars during practice runs. On one practice run, Jim intended to film from the back of Nick Sanbom's car, but Nick got the green flag before Jim was set up; and Jim was thrown off

balance onto the floor. Every time he started to get up, Jim again lost his balance. Some time later, Jim and Nick were talking, and Jim asked Nick if he remembered that run. Nick said that indeed he did and told Jim that he'd been watching him in the rear view mirror. Every time Nick saw Jim start to get up he would jerk the wheel and cause Jim to lose his balance again.

Possibly following the lead of J. Don Alexander and his son John, Jim became involved with the Boy Scouts. In 1954 he was one of the leaders of a three day Pikes Peak hike for Explorer Scouts. After hiking up North Cheyenne Canyon and across the saddle to Bear Creek, the scouts camped in Jones Park where they dined on Army rations. On the second day they passed Lake Moraine, bushwhacked to Barr Trail, and camped at timberline in and around Fred Barr's original timberline shelter cabin. Then, on Labor Day they climbed the peak and watched the Pikes Peak Hill Climb. At least one of the scouts remembers having considered Jim Bates as the ideal leader for his first climb of a 14,000 foot peak.

In his later years Jim donated much of his archives, collections, and equipment to the Community Video Center of the Pikes Peak Library District. Through his friendship with Don Kallaus and Paul Idleman, Jim became acquainted with the Old Colorado City Historical Society and donated many of his photographs to the Society along with his darkroom. It was clearly Jim's intent that these donations benefit the community. In recent years, the Old Colorado City Historical Society has shifted to digital photography for its image reproduction and no longer used Jim's darkroom. Fortunately, the Society was able to donate the darkroom equipment to the Bemis School of Art at the Fine Art Center where the equipment will still be used for the benefit of the community.

The Old Colorado City Historical Society's

19th Annual Holiday Tour

*Sunday,
December 8*



1-5 PM

***Tickets \$20.00 in advance
or \$25.00 on the day of the event***

Members

***Tickets \$10.00 in advance
or \$15.00 on the day of the event***

Group rates available - 10 or more

***Tickets Available at: the Old Colorado City History Center
One South 24th Street***

(719) 636-1225

Old Colorado City History Center

First Christian Church

First Congregational Church

Grace & St. Stephen's

Episcopal Church

Avenue Hotel Bed & Breakfast

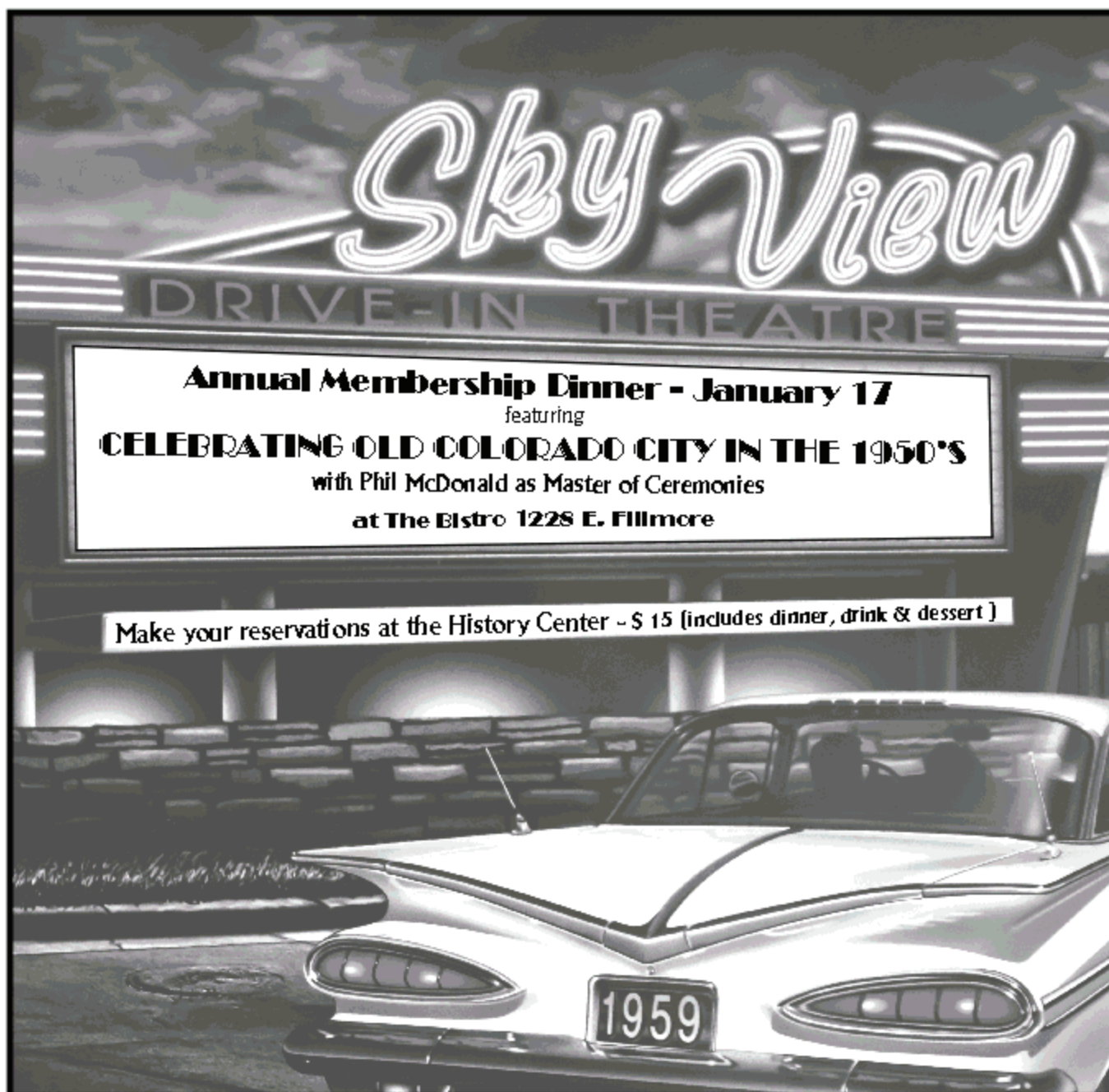
Lennox House

Old Town Guest House

Onaledge

Rockledge Country Inn

All proceeds from the Annual Holiday Tour support the Old Colorado City History Center



Sky View
DRIVE-IN THEATRE

Annual Membership Dinner - January 17
featuring
CELEBRATING OLD COLORADO CITY IN THE 1950'S
with Phil McDonald as Master of Ceremonies
at The Bistro 1228 E. Fillmore

Make your reservations at the History Center - \$ 15 (includes dinner, drink & dessert)

January program:

Drawing Fire on the West Side

Friday, January 10, 2014

Long time Westsider Chuck Asay has been an editorial cartoonist for 35 years. He will show a number of his cartoons of the Westside and tell some of the stories behind them to inspire questions from the audience and discuss memories, controversies and blessings of the west side community.

President's Letter - December

Dear members-

As my term of office draws to an end, I'd like to thank so many people that the editor would have to make cuts—but I will try.

My term of office has been filled with many, many challenges, great improvements at OCCHC and some wonderful times. As I look back the wonderful times were due to our volunteers. I have had the pleasure of working with some people who have been with the society from day one - our glue that has held the whole place together. I have had the pleasure of seeing bright, shiny, new faces come on board with energy, and great new ideas.

I feel that we have become more involved with the Westside community on all levels - a good thing. We are not a separate entity but a vital part of Old Colorado City. Our programs and activities have made us the place to come for help in research and all things history. Tom Daniels and Sandy Hanzlian are to be thanked for that.

Lastly, I want to thank Suzanne Schorsch who stood by me at every moment. She was my sounding board, my reality checker and friend. As the treasurer, Suzie made sure we all did what was best for OCCHS. I hope she isn't worn to a frazzle!

Many thanks to my board of directors and to Don Ellis for his editorial work each and every month. Again let me say that there are so many more people to thank but space is limited.

Good luck to the new board and thanks to God for walking with me all during my term. Best wishes to you all this holiday season and into the new year.

For the last time,
Sincerely,
Sharon Swint, president

Treasurer's Report October/November

Suzanne Schorsch

With the building repairs, loss of one of our major fund raiser (Cemetery Crawl) and lack of traffic into the History Center, I am almost surprised to say we are still running in the black, but it has been a tight year financially and we would never have made it without the support of our members. And for this I thank you. As of today, we are "up" for the year by \$796.12. We are heading in to high utility season in the building. I can't tell you how important it is to **TAKE SOMEONE ON THE HOLIDAY TOUR!**

The Overhead Door Company is coming to do the last of the outside repairs to our building, putting in a door on our stairwell to the basement so that we are up to fire code. This expense is going to be \$800. Because of our member's donations, we were able so far to do the repairs to our building, without having to use our emergency savings account. If it wasn't for you, that account would pretty much be gone with this one "emergency".

THANK YOU SO MUCH AGAIN AND AGAIN.

Total Checking Account	\$ 21,676.59
Endowment Account	\$103,400.82
Savings Accounts	\$ 16,652.93
Bookstore Account	\$ 3,348.94
Total All Accounts	\$145,119.28

Remember, I am always available to answer any financial questions you may have regarding OCCHS. You may call the history center or my cell 331-1786

The Old Colorado City Historical Society's Board of Directors meets regularly on the third Monday of the month at 1:00 P.M. at the

Old Colorado City History Center, unless otherwise announced.

Interested visitors are always welcome at the Board meetings.



**The next Board meeting will be Monday, December 16
at 1:00 P.M. at the *Old Colorado City History Center***

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT
ORG.

US Postage

PAID

COLO SPGS, CO
PERMIT
#491



December / January Calendar

Sunday, December 8
1:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Holiday Tour Visit bed & breakfast inns and historic churches
\$20 in advance, or \$25 the day of the event
Members; \$10 in advance, or \$15 the day of the event
Group rates available for groups of 10 or more

Friday, January 10
10:30 A.M.

Annual membership meeting - Election of Board members
(Doors open at 10:00)

11:00 A.M.

Program: Drawing Fire on the Westside. Cartoonist Chuck Asay will show a number of his cartoons of the Westside and tell some of the stories behind them. Chuck hopes to inspire questions from the audience and discuss memories, controversies, and blessings of the west side community.

OCCHS Members FREE. Non-members \$5.00

Friday, January 17
6:00 P.M.

Annual Membership Dinner at The Bistro, 1228 E. Fillmore
Theme: CELEBRATING OLD COLORADO CITY IN THE 1950'S
with Phil McDonald as Master of Ceremonies.

\$15 includes dinner, dessert, and drink

Make your reservations with the History Center

Old Colorado City History Center

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

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