



proud member of the Coalition of Pikes Peak Historic Museums

Volume 28, Number 5

June/July, 2013

START YOUR ENGINES AND FIRE UP YOUR STOVE!!

by Sharon Swint

Long before New Mexico claimed the Unser family, they were Westsiders. Yes, Old Colorado City was the home of various members of the Louis and Marie Unser family, beginning in 1909 when they arrived from Switzerland. The men began their racing career making runs up Pikes Peak—known by some as “UNSER MOUNTAIN”.

Louis and his family worked at butchering meat and later as mechanics along Colorado Avenue. One of their first homes was upstairs at 2531 West Colorado Avenue. There is a plaque on the building at 2732 W. Colorado stating that the Unser family lived and worked at that site also (Old Colorado City Surplus). Jerry Unser made the first trip up Pikes Peak on a motorcycle with a side car in 1915. The story goes that after that, the Colorado City Police Department asked the Unsers to teach them about motorcycles for use around town. One hundred thirty-two trips up the mountain later, the rest is history as the saying goes. (38 wins)

Mom Unser had her part in the races up Pikes Peak without ever getting into a car. She gathered the family and friends together for a chili dinner the night before the races or the night after races. The idea has been continued for years by various groups and family members. Below is an “original Mom Unser Chili Recipe.”

This year, while some people are hiking up to Glen Cove to camp out and watch the race, and, others are participating in the race on the newly paved road, those of you who prefer to celebrate with food can heat up the stove and remember Mom Unser and her famous family—original Westsiders.

Mom Unser's Chili

[Note—her recipe is a New Mexico version of chili and contains no cumin or chili powder.]

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil or bacon drippings
- 4 cups onions, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 pound boneless pork shoulder -- cut into 1/4" cubes
- 2 tablespoons masa harina
- 1 pound canned tomatoes -- chopped coarsely
- 5 jalapeño peppers -- split, seeded,
- 1/2 cup water
- 3 teaspoons paprika
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 2 teaspoons salt, optional
- 1 1/2 cup water -- or more to control consistency
- 1 pound canned pinto beans or red kidney beans
- 1 cup tequila -- Optional

Pour oil into a medium saucepan and sauté onions and garlic until soft and transparent, about 8 minutes. Drop pork in with the onions and cook until all redness in the meat is gone. Sprinkle on the masa harina and blend. Stir frequently to prevent the meat from sticking, about 10 minutes. Add tomatoes. Open and seed jalapeños. Chop coarsely and place into a food processor or blender. Add 1/2 cup water and puree. Pour a portion of this puree into the meat mixture and taste for heat. Add puree to your taste, five jalapeños are very hot. Add paprika, oregano, salt and additional water. As the chili cooks down it may need more water or it could become too thick. Cover the pot and cook, slowly bubbling, over low heat for 1 hour. During the last half hour of cooking add the beans and the water they were packed in. Stir frequently to prevent sticking. Taste for seasoning and decide if more jalapeño puree or salt is needed.

www.cdkitchen.com

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

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1 South 24th Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

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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
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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. Everyone welcome.

WELCOME TO OCCHS!

~ NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Jack Beal

Joe and Maeta Emmons

Jo Cervone

Louise Fosdick

Liz Geiss

Arlene Lanman

John and Sally McGaw

Sam Fosdick

Sandra and Robert Patchell

Dorothy and Ed Pagel

Donna Phinizy

Lynn and John Rowsey

David and Lynn Murray

Mr. and Mrs. John Timberlake III

Don Sanboam

David Ricket



Crafting History Style

by Suzanne Schorsch

For one of our crafters, there is a perfect fit with the Historical Society. Fourteen year old Emily Bacon is a local Westsider who owns her own business, Kindred Spirit Doll Clothes sewing clothes for 18 inch size dolls. She developed her love of sewing through studying history. Emily is homeschooled and part of her curriculum was learning American History by participating in activities that a young girl would have done during Pioneer times when pioneering areas like Old Colorado City.

Emily learned to bake and sew, and when visiting a local quilt shop, saw patterns for 18 inch dolls. Emily had won two American Girl dolls from a drawing at a bookstore. American Girl dolls feature dolls that come from various times in American history (colonial, pioneer, WWII). The dolls have books that teach the history of the dolls time. Emily told her mother that she would love to sew clothes for dolls and would like to turn it into a business. Running your own business at 11 is pretty ambitious, but she has had support from the owner of the quilt shop where she purchases fabric. The owner helped her take classes in sewing to make sure the items she sold were quality workmanship. She has been in business for three years.

Emily has been sewing since she was 11 and now has added historical costumes based on books by Jane Austin, one of her favorite authors. She sews doll clothes that match the description in Austin's books for characters such as the Bennett sisters and Emma. Another author that has influence Emily's work is Lucy Maud Montgomery, author of the Anne of Green Gables series. When the character Anne meets someone who thinks like she does, she calls them "Kindred Spirits."

Emily has now expanded her business with her sister Jessica, who is now 11 years old. Jessica sews items such as 50's style swim wear. Her brother is learning woodworking and has made beds to fit the dolls.

Come to OCCHS on Saturdays during the Colorado City farmers market to meet all of our crafters and say hi to a very enterprising young business owner, Emily Bacon.



Come visit our Crafters

Saturdays throughout the summer

This year we have expanded the space for crafters to both the 24th Street and Pikes Peak Avenue sides of the History Center.

Below are some of our artists - more sign up each week

- ❖ Crochet and Knit items by Marilyn and Kathleen
- ❖ Water color paintings, cards, prints by Ren and Allen
- ❖ Avon hosted by Julie Bishop
- ❖ Handmade Jewelry by Shelly and Linda
- ❖ Home decor, personal accessories and custom jewelry by Karen
- ❖ Doll clothes and accessories from Kindred Spirit Designs
- ❖ Bird feeders, boxes and baskets by Darwin
- ❖ Insulator tea lites and barbed wire art by Lorraine
- ❖ Driftwood Art, jewelry, paintings and birdhouses by Valerie and Wanda

TUESDAY NIGHTS IN JULY



The True Story
of the Life
and Loves of
LON CHANEY!

James Cagney
Dorothy Malone
Jane Greer

THOUSAND

How many of you remember the five downtown movie theaters in Colorado Springs? Do names like the Chief, Ute, Peak, Trail or Tompkins bring back memories? Others existed also, but these five endured longer than any other venues and showed most of the Hollywood films in the 1930's through the 1950's and beyond.

In an attempt to demonstrate when a "picture show" was really a show, we will show four movies during July highlighting a colorful Colorado character or a film made in Colorado Springs or a film that deals with Colorado's exciting history. General William J. Palmer will be the subject of the 1952 Paramount Picture release, *DENVER & RIO GRANDE*, Lon Chaney gets the treatment in Universal-International's 1935 film, *THE MAN OF A THOUSAND FACES*. Raymond Burr was here in 1987 to do one of his Perry Mason madcap movies, *PERRY MASON: THE CASE OF THE SINISTER SPIRIT* at the Broadmoor Hotel and the historic courtroom on the top floor of the old El Paso County Courthouse. The movie aired on NBC-TV in 1987. And we'll have George Montgomery in the unusual tale in Columbia Pictures' 1952 release, *CRIPPLE CREEK*.

What will be unique about this series of movies is the added "pre-show" that theaters ran during these years. When you go to a movie, all you get in addition to the main feature are about six to eight coming attractions (that really make sense). In the early days you got to see film ads from our own hometown industry, the Alexander Film Company, a snack bar commercial, a newsreel, one or two coming attractions, a color cartoon and a short subject. Each one of these will have all of these.

Our last showing, will be devoted to what it was like going to a children's 10 a.m. matinee at the PEAK theater.

Y GOES TO HOLLYWOOD

Saturday. You'll even see Chapter 7 of the current twelve part Mascot Pictures serial, *THE PHANTOM EMPIRE*, starring Gene Autry. Also a comedy short subject, two color cartoons and a main feature.

We don't charge for the film showing, but we do ask for a donation to the museum at the door. All your favorite movie candy will be there (Dots, Milk Duds, Raisinets, Whoppers and many more) plus popcorn and drinks.

A discussion and Q & A will take place after the movie for those who want to stay. Plan now to join us for the entire series beginning July 9th and see what you got for 75 cents back in the old days.

For the comfort of our patrons we will only be able allow fifty persons to attend each performance.

You may call the history center on open days and hours to make you reservation(s). (Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) When you arrive on the night(s) of your chosen performance(s) your ticket(s) will be waiting at the bookstore. Doors open at 7 p.m. and showtime is 7:30 p.m. Call (719) 636-1225 for reservations. These events are likely to fill up very quickly.



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UPDATE:**The Walking Tour - Android**

Hello All,

I am very pleased to announce that the OCC Walking Tour expansion to the Android platform has been contracted, funded and officially begun. I have been given the estimate of about two and a half to three weeks for it to be completed.

As you know, we recently updated and made corrections to the iOS app. Content wise, nothing changes in regard to Android. According to the developers, the work will be in the formatting and making the app look and function the same across all the different Android devices as well as looking and functioning similar to our original iOS app.

Those of you with Android devices are invited to participate in the flight-testing of the ad-hoc version of the app as we near completion. Just let me know if you are interested and I'll instruct you accordingly. All input welcome.

Also, I soon will be organizing a new effort regarding graphic/print/web changes reflecting this expansion. Anyone interested in assisting, let me know as well. Another, more imminent need, an updated press release, someone please.

This expansion gives us 95% coverage of the smartphone market. Truly a stronghold. This technology opens tremendous opportunities for our small but very potent local institution. It's a vehicle for the future and gives us advantages that, well, we haven't even thought of yet.

Don Kallaus

Thank you and congratulations!

Thanks to Sam Abell's Eagle Scout project the History Center has patio benches which are also picnic tables or displays. Thank you Sam and the scouts of Troop 66!

Sam has passed his Board of Review and is now an Eagle Scout. Congratulations, Sam!



Scouts of Troop 66 on benches they built for the History Center



President's Letter

WHAT TO DO THIS SUMMER

WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE SUMMER GUESTS OR THAT GRANDCHILD WHO IS BORED THE FIRST WEEK OUT OF SCHOOL! Here are a few ideas to entertain friends and family in Old Colorado City.

- Take a cooking class from Franco at Paravicini's on Saturday.
- Try on a Victorian hat at Bemideen's.
- Have a picture taken with the cow in front of the Creamery (grab a cone also).
- Have breakfast at Bon Ton's Cafe—outside on the patio.
- Attend a free children's activity at Carnegie Library.
- Ring the bell at the Old Colorado City History Center.
- View art and artist at work on the OCC Art Walks, 1st Friday of the month.
- Volunteer as an Old Colorado City ambassador helping shoppers on the street.
- Hike or bike the Midland trail.
- Check out the history exhibit at Don Bates Insurance.
- Try the Elk Chili at Thunder and Buttons II and ask about the name.
- Visit one of many galleries on Colorado Avenue.
- Spend a night at a local Bed and Breakfast.
- Find a retro costume at Eve's Revolution.
- Find a handmade craft item at the Crafters Event at the history center.
- Sightsee with the GPS app on your iPhone all around the historic district.
- Snack on samples at Garden of the Gods gourmet.

I could go on but you get the picture—vacation ideas in Old Colorado City, some free, all fun! Happy summertime.

Sharon Swint

Numbers, Numbers, and More Numbers



Treasurer's Report Month End April 2013

— Suzanne Schorsch

Checking Account	\$16,826.06
Endowment Account	\$106,221.43
Savings and Designated Funds Account	\$16,566.01
Bookstore/Events Account	\$5,380.54
TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS	\$144,994.04

We thank our members and volunteers who make OCCHS successful. To ensure the future of OCCHS, consider giving a bequest to the Historical Society in your will, ensuring that you are a part of OCCHS now and always. The goal of our Endowment Fund is to raise enough funds to generate revenue to cover the cost of operations of OCCHS into the future. Only the interest from the Endowment Fund can be used, and the Board of Directors has voted not to use the interest until the Endowment can support operations of OCCHS. Only in a major emergency, and by Board vote, will we use the interest. If you have any questions regarding any financial matter of OCCHS, please do not hesitate to contact me. Suzanne.schorsch@gmail.com

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, June 17
at 12:00 Noon at the *Old Colorado City Library***

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

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June/July Calendar

Tuesday nights:

TUESDAY NIGHT MOVIES - recreating the experience of the movie theater of 60 years ago with films of interest for their local events, scenes, or characters. Call 636-1225 for reservations.

July 9
7:30 P.M.
(Doors open at 7)

General William J. Palmer will be portrayed in Paramount Picture 1952 release, DENVER & RIO GRANDE.

July 16
7:30 P.M.
(Doors open at 7)

Lon Chaney gets the treatment in Universal-International's 1957 film, THE MAN OF A THOUSAND FACES.

July 23
7:30 P.M.
(Doors open at 7)

Raymond Burr was here in 1987 to do one of his Perry Mason made-for-TV series, PERRY MASON: THE CASE OF THE SINISTER SPIRIT at the Broadmoor Hotel and the historic courtroom on the second level of the old El Paso County Courthouse.

July 30
7:30 P.M.
(Doors open at 7)

We'll have George Montgomery tell us an unusual tale in Columbia Pictures 1952 release, CRIPPLE CREEK.

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 - 4 Free Admission. Donations greatly appreciated.