WEST WORD
Old Colorado City Historical Society
proud member of the Coalition of Pikes Peak Historic Museums
Volume 29, Number 7 September, 2014

Uncovering Mysteries at OCC History Center!

From Joanne Karlson, OCCHS Board member

On August 4 and 7, Jane Crisler, a Denver historic structure architect, and Victoria Ryan, a Colorado Springs art conservator and experienced collections specialist, arrived at our museum to begin their assessment of our building, archives, procedures, and volunteer staff. While OCCHS volunteers showed them around our entire building, many questions were asked. Some answers required a ladder, measuring tape, flashlight, or hammer!

Group discussion with two CAP assessors

All of this activity was part of a 2014 Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) grant. A $7000 grant was awarded by the national Heritage Preservation non-profit organization in cooperation with the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. The grant's goals are to identify conservation needs of collections and historic buildings and recommend ways to correctly improve collections and building conditions.

What we did not know last month includes ...

* 1910 remodel and addition
* False ceiling revealed steps to baptistery and location of the baptistery!
* "ancient" basement plumbing
* Inside of bell tower is quite large
* Current stained glass windows had been covered when building was purchased

Victoria and Jane met with at least 11 OCCHS members in small groups or a one-on-one level working in photo archives, collections and exhibits, the treasurer, members of the OCCHS Board, maintenance, and even the cleaning lady!

Early on, Board members and volunteers realized that our Mission Statement does not address our greatest asset – our building!

Special thanks go out to longtime members, Ralph Conner and Lucille Cunningham, for their detailed reports and comments found in our archives. Additional thanks to West Word editors and the Westside Pioneer for their reports of happenings through the years.

Final comprehensive reports aren't due until late September. At that time, we will have their recommended priorities of action as well as suggested resources. They left us with some clear directions of where to begin our improvements. They shared many, many compliments on the successes our volunteers have achieved and our shared enthusiasm for Old Colorado City history. Later this year, a newsletter article will report again giving members a better idea of directions and goals the Board decides to implement. Stay tuned!

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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or Don Ellis - spiderwort@pclsys.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**		
Family	**$ 35**	**Lifetime**	**$250**

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

Co-President	Betty Baker	636-1225
Co-President	Kathy McBride	636-1225
Vice President	Joanne Karlson	475-2574
Secretary	Brian Copeland	954-551-3677
Treasurer	Suzanne Schorsch	331-1786
	Bev Disch	636-1225
	Sandy Hanzlian	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

Betty Gene Baker
Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Best
Betty Jo Cardona
Welling & Sallie Clark
Jo Anne Croff
Tom & Carol Daniels
Barbara Downs
Toni Hamill
Graham Hatfield
Jeanne Marsh
John D. McKenna
Mary Jeanne Owen
Bill and Jeani Redding
Marylyne Rohan
John and Carol Stoody

A Ticket to Tomahawk...the rest of the story

By Tom Daniels

For those of you who braved the cold, rainy night of July 29th to attend the last of the Tuesday night movie series, OCCHS would like to thank you and sympathize with you at the same time. Those attending all know that at 8:18 p.m., our movie A Ticket to Tomahawk was abruptly ended by a power failure all over Old Colorado City. Lighting hit a transformer near Cucharras and 21st Street and put a large area of the west side in the dark. After waiting it out for about twenty minutes, it was decided to cancel the performance and send everyone home. Because of new exhibits that were opening the next day in our assembly room, it was impossible to reschedule the movie.

But because we were forty-five minutes into the film, several people have called and wanted to know what happened in the rest of the story. So, for those of you who are anxiously awaiting this information, we offer a synopsis of the missing forty-five minutes of the movie.

The Cast:

- Dan Daily as Johnny
- Walter Brennan as Terence Sweeny
- Anne Baxter as Kit Dodge Jr.
- Rory Calhoun as Dakota
- Chief Yowlachie as Pawnee
- Charles Kemper as Chuckity

As you may remember, the film got cut off just shortly after Johnny Behind-the-Deuces (Johnny) performed a card trick for Kit and Pawnee. After everyone was a sleep, the three men who showed up earlier claiming to be telegraph men (who were actually Dawson's henchmen), threw five sticks of dynamite under the engine to prevent its' arrival in Tomahawk. But Johnny smelled the fuse burning and Kit put the fuse out by shooting off the end of the fuse. The next day, Indians attacked the group, but Johnny spotted the Arapaho chief, Crooked Knife whom he knew and made plans to go talk to him. He learns that Long Time, the Chinese Laundry man, has a load of fireworks with him. Long Knife informs Johnny that he will have to demonstrate great powers to his tribe if they are going to help instead of attack. Johnny sends Kit and Chuckity up on a hill above the Indian camp. Johnny arrives in the camp and Long Knife (after a short pow-pow in the Chief's tent) introduces Johnny to the tribe. Johnny lights a roman candle firework which is the signal to Kit and Chuckity to start the massive display going off. The Indians are convinced of Johnny's great power and agree to help get the locomotive over the mountain.

The next scenes show the dismantled locomotive being carried by all the cast in pieces (which was one of the reasons Director Richard Sale ordered the replica engine, because the lightweight parts could be easily removed.) Johnny carried the whistle, Kit carried the builder's plate, the dance group carried the Emma Sweeny name boards, etc.

The group finally reaches the start of track on the other side of the mountain and notes that someone has filled the water tank full of bullet holes. She finally realizes that Dakota isn't who he said he was and learns he works for Dawson. Johnny tries to stop him from his getaway, but Dakota slugs him and forces Sweeny to put the engine in high gear down the track. Johnny and Kit jump on the back of the tender (that part of the engine that carries the wood and water) and soon Johnny and Dakota are fighting each other on top of the locomotive. Finally, Kit get a clear shot at Dakota and with her knife, fells Dakota to the bottom of the gorge. Out of nowhere, comes Dawson with the rest of his men and they proceed to fill the Emma Sweeny boiler full of bullet holes. But the Indians ride up and take care of Dawson. But by this time, the engine has lost all it's steam because of the holes in the boiler and it stops dead just five-hundred feet short of the Tomahawk city limits.

Out from town comes all the town folk and the Tomahawk City Council. At first they are stubborn and won't give in on the shortfall, but Johnny finally convinces the council to move the town limits sign to the rear end of the engine tender.

Sheriff Dodge is there (Kit's father) and she tells him that she and Johnny are going to get married. But Johnny tells Kit that he will always be a roamer and that he is not the man for her. He's taking the first train back east.

The scene changes as Johnny is trying to find Kit to say goodbye. The audience soon learns that six years have passed between the scene change and Johnny is now a conductor on the Tomahawk and Western RR and the train is about to depart. As Johnny climbs on the moving caboose, he turns and waves to Kit and his five daughters, Connie, Barbara, Mary, Marilyn and Joyce. As the train passes a certain point, a train semaphore swings up with the words...THE END

At the end of each presentation, most of you know I give some additional facts and trivia about the production, so here goes...

Where did the screenwriters come up with the five names for Kit and Johnny's girls? They used the first real names of Madame Adelaide and her four-girl dance troup. (Marilyn was the dead giveaway here.)

World premieres were still held in the states they were filmed in back in the fifties, so this one premiered at the Centre Theater in Denver on August 18, 1950.

We initially advertised this film as containing a well known person from Colorado Springs, but because this person appeared at the very end of the movie (which you didn't get to see) it would be a little hard to even try and guess who it was. When the train leaves for Tomahawk at the end of the movie, Chief Crooked Knife and some of his tribe are all on a flat car behind the locomotive. Crooked Knife is teaching his braves Johnny's "all deuces" card trick. The scene called for two squaws to also be on the flat car, but casting missed it in the notes. Director Richard Sale's wife, Mary Loos became one of the squaws (she was also the co-screenplay writer.) For the second squaw, 20th Century Fox came to the Alexander Film Co. in Colorado Springs as Alexander had a steady stock of actors on hand for their theater commercials. The person selected was Rosemary Hetzler, as she was working for Alexander at the time and was sent over. Rosemary, as most of you remember, became the Curator for the Pioneers Museum in Colorado Springs.

Well, that's a wrap, as they say in Hollywood. Hope everyone had fun at our six and a half screenings the past two years. We have exhausted the list of films (that are worth showing) that were made in Colorado Springs or about a Springs resident and this series has come to a close. Tuesday Nights in July will be back again next year, we just don't yet know what we will be doing. Keep reading your WestWord!

Fairview Cemetery Crawl

Experience it yourself this year.
It's such a pleasant walk,
where local history comes alive
and dead.....men..... talk.
The setting....green and tranquil,
Sure beats a barroom brawl.
A history chase, at leisure pace
at the Cemetery Crawl.
Meet the ladies and the gentlemen
of old Victorian time.
(Having a little problem here,
wish this thing would rhyme).
Oh, yeh,
The gals they are all gorgeous,
though some of ill-repute.
Some men, in fact, notorious,
but all of them are cute.
From the pages of our history,
who said....the dead.....are mute?
These characters are characters, their stories a delight,
preacher, teacher, barkeeper,
businessman, gold-digger, doctor,
and the dear good ladies of the night.
Shake hands with everyone of them.
Don't fear, they're quite alive.
indeed,.... in full bloom.
Each one dressed in Victorian best
ready to tell his story, standing by his tomb.
Give honor to these who've passed before.
the visionary, the patriot, the settler and pioneer,
Old Colorado City founders
of this golden West frontier.
So, yes, come on, come on, y'awl.
We'll see....you...at Fairview....in the Cemetery Crawl.
Experience it yourself this year.
It's such a pleasant walk,
where local history comes alive.
and dead.....men..... talk.

Janet Rose Lyons 2010

Midland Railroad's Colorado City Yards to be the topic of our September program

At the Historical Society's September program Tom Van Wormer will cover the composition and activities in the Colorado City Yards of the Colorado Midland Railroad. The presentation will include the inter-rail activities when the Colorado Midland provided all of the inspection, switching and transfer efforts for the railroads entering Colorado Springs and the on-line customers of all the railroads in Colorado Springs, Colorado City and Roswell in the 1800's. This includes the business and industry located from the old Santa Fe Depot to 31st street (which includes the area from Shocks Run west through Old Colorado City to Red Rock Canyon).

This program was previously presented at the 5th Annual Divide Depot Days.

The Old Colorado City Historical Society

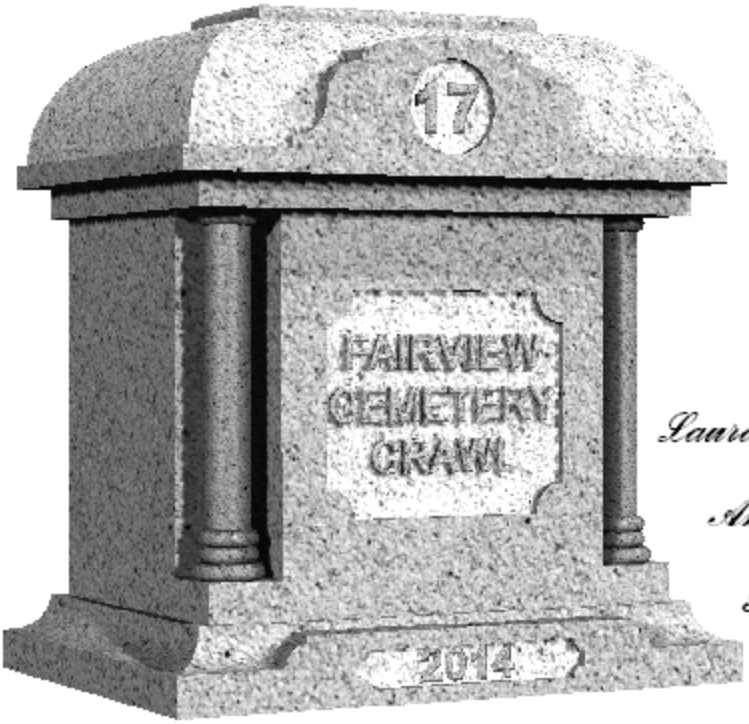
Presents the Seventeenth Annual

Fairview Cemetery Crawl

Saturday, September 13, 2014

10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

(Last tour begins at 2:00)



The Annual Cemetery Crawl will take you back in time to the late 1800's and early 1900's ... as volunteers portray upstanding Old Colorado City citizens, madams, businessmen and other characters who lived, spent time, or found their final resting place here.

Come and meet:

Laura Belle McDaniel *David Moore*

Anthony Bell *Birdie Stapleman*

Rev. Duncan Lamont & Katherine

Jacob & Bertha Schmidt

Fairview Cemetery, 1000 S. 26th Street

◆ Tickets $10 ◆ Children 12 and under - free

Presidents' Letter

We celebrated the 155th birthday of Old Colorado City on Saturday, August 9th. Bunting and festive balloons welcomed visitors and members to our History Center. The Time Travelers opened the festivities and provided the toe-tapping entertainment. All of our guests enjoyed birthday cake and punch. Sharon Swint, Miki and Leo Knudsen, and Marilyn and Terry Lee were our costumed greeters. Roberta Hardy, Kay Atteberry, Muriel Dunkley, and Betsy Evans served punch and manned the bookstore. A good time was had by all in attendance. The Pikes Peak National Bank once again sponsored this annual event.

Come by the Center after September 5th to see our new look. The ramp wall was taken down by our volunteer maintenance team. Dave Swint, Leo Knudsen, Terry Lee, and Werner Karlson took care of the demolition. It will be replaced by a wrought iron railing at the cost of $2,070. We now have motion lights around our perimeter to help to discourage anyone from using our building's area after hours. Many of you saw Sharon Swint on both News 5 and Fox 21 describing our problem to the community. We'd like to thank all of you who contributed to this update for the health and safety of our volunteers.

Joanne Karlson spent hours and hours filling out paperwork and organizing documents for our CAP assessment. The assessment team praised her diligence and said that it made their job much easier. Her dedication is definitely appreciated by all of us.

Don't miss this year's Cemetery Crawl on September 13th. It promises to be the best one ever!

Your co-presidents,
Betty Baker and Kathy McBride

Treasurer's Report August 2014

Summer is coming to an end and we thank you for your continued support. Our Accounts as of the end of July are as follows:

Total Checking Account	$ 18,109.70
Endowment Account	$109,504.02
Savings Accounts	$ 16,566.01
Bookstore Account	$ 3,536.29
Total All Accounts	**$147,716.20**

If you have any questions regarding the accounting or finances for your history center, please do not hesitate to contact me 331-1786 at any time.

Also, I would really like to find a back-up bookkeeper that could work one day a month – with me – so that we have a second member who knows where we are and how we do our bookkeeping at the center. No accounting background required. We need an organized person, who can follow typed directions and is comfortable working on the computer. Thanks so much for your consideration.

Respectfully
Suzanne Schorsch,
Treasurer

The Old Colorado City Historical Society's Board of Directors meets regularly one Monday of each 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 meetings will be September 22 at 1:00 P.M. at the *Old Colorado City History Center*

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ONE SOUTH TWENTY-FOURTH STREET
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September / October Calendar

Friday, September 12
11:00 A.M.

Program: "The East End Yard Limits" presented by Tom Van Wormer. This program focuses on the Colorado City Yards of the Colorado Midland Railroad and will describe the Colorado Midland's various activities between Shooks Run and Red Rock Canyon.
OCCHS Members FREE. Non-members $5.00

Saturday, September 13
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Seventeenth annual Fairview Cemetery Crawl – Go back *in time to the late 1800's and early 1900's ... as volunteers portray upstanding Old Colorado City citizens, madams, businessmen and other characters at Fairview Cemetery*
$10 at the gate -- Children 12 and under free

Friday, October 10
11:00 A.M.

Program: "Spinning Traditions in the Western Regions" presented by Charlease Elzenga. This program will describe yarn spinning as a basic life skill since prehistory and will discuss how spinning wheels were a part of western migration.
OCCHS Members FREE. Non-members $5.00

Old Colorado City History Center

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

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