

# WEST WOOD



proud member of the Coalition of Pikes Peak Historic Museums

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March, 2015

## How Thayer Tutt Saved Our Cabin

By Dave Hughes

As everyone in the Society knows, the 1859 Cabin now in Bancroft Park was not originally placed there. In fact it resided in three previous locations. It has survived for 155 years in no small part because of the 1929 efforts of the Broadmoor's Thayer Tutt.

The Cabin, built by Melancthon Beach and Dr. James Garvin in August 1859, was originally erected at what today would be 2608 West Colorado Avenue - 3 doors west of today's Ice Cream store. It was first Dr. Garvin's home and doctor's office. Then, in 1868 it became the office of the El Paso County Recorder. After Irving Howbert was elected El Paso County Recorder, he chose the cabin as his office because it was warm enough in the winter that the ink would not freeze in the ink wells, as it had done in his first office in the unheated back room of the frame Tappan Store at 2802 West Colorado.

But, in the political flap of 1872, when new Colorado Springs organized to outvote Colorado City for the County Seat, the cabin was abandoned, for a hastily built masonry structure two blocks east.

The sturdy old log cabin was then used

several times as a home, Sam Wah's Chinese Laundry (and opium den), and finally Mrs. Hendee's Antique store. But, by 1929 Colorado Springs wanted it torn down to make way for more modern structures. Forget history.



*Original Cabin Location*

Enter Thayer Tutt, the grandson of Charles Leaming Tutt, partner of Spencer

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Our Next Program  
*The Tunnels Under Our Streets*  
Saturday, March 14, 2015

## 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

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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		

*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 / VP	Betty Baker	636-1225
Co-President / VP	Kathy McBride	636-1225
Secretary	Roberta Hardy	636-1225
Treasurer	Suzanne Schorsch	331-1786
	Bev Disch	636-1225
	Sandy Hanzlian	636-1225
	Marge Knorr	636-1225

### MEETINGS

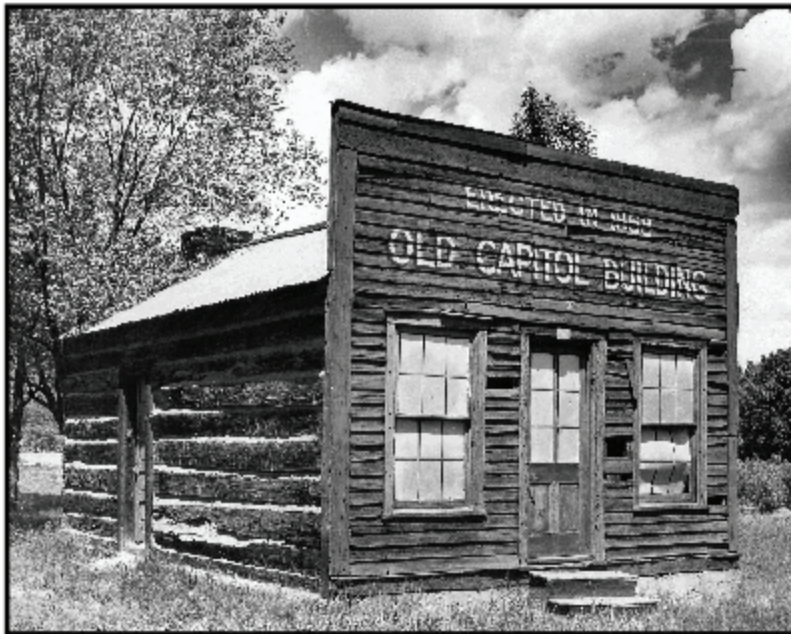
The OCCHS Monthly Meeting & Program is held each month, except June, July, and August. The History Center opens half an hour before the meeting for refreshments and visitation. Everyone welcome.

## WELCOME ~ NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Darlene Aspedon  
Leslie Bergstrom  
Judy Chandler  
Luana Clark  
Michael H. Lloyd Davies  
Janice de Chadenedes  
Catherine Dymkoski  
Evelyn Epperson  
Dorothy Farthing  
Nancy Fortuin  
Judi French Family  
Mike Nemeth & Renae Gannon  
Donna Genera  
Kenneth Goldsberry  
Wil & Dolores Green  
Carla J. Hale  
June & Kenneth Hallenbeck  
Don & Ellen Hanson  
Roxy Dengler-Hauck  
Jody Hedstrom  
Robert & Christine Heinich  
Jean Hughes  
Krista Ann Jautz  
James Jones  
Don Kallaus  
Richard Karr  
Jerry Keller  
Jeanne Knudson  
Art & Heidi Lacy  
Frederick & Barbara Leich  
William & Gretchen Lloyd  
Gene & Mary Martin  
Carol Tucker & Martin Poon  
Mary Jean & Fred Nelson  
Robert G. Nicklaus  
Cindy O'Keefe  
Pickyours LLC  
Ralph Roscoe  
Larry Schaefer  
Anita Schimmel  
Shooks Run Research  
Verda Spitz  
Patricia Stark-Jacobs  
Thunder and Buttons  
Bev Traenkle  
Marion & John Vance  
Judy Vaughn  
Gayle & William Vidmar  
Westside Pioneer  
Holly Wlepking  
Margaret Williams  
Eloise Wynne  
Jan Zellmer

*Continued from Page 1*

Penrose. According to Thayer - in his 60's by the time he told me this personally in 1976 - he saved it because his father, Charles Tutt had pointed out to him that Cabin was the most important surviving building in El Paso County. Tutt bought it for \$40 in 1929 to save it. He had it dismantled and moved to a field on the Broadmoor Golf Course. I suddenly remembered seeing it in a copse of trees next to the 18th green, when I was a boy about 8 years old in the 1930s caddying for my Uncle Ed when he played. It was only used to store golf gardening tools. And it still supported the sign "Old Capitol Building" on its false front.



But then the story becomes more interesting. In 1976, when nobody else would do it, I volunteered to be the Chairman of the Pikes Peak or Bust '76 Centennial/Bicentennial organization. And, I started working to revive the history of the original Colorado City as one of many projects.

Thayer Tutt had been appointed a member of the Colorado State Centennial/Bicentennial Committee by Governor Richard Lamm. This committee visited numerous cities and towns to see if any of their historical projects were worthy of State Centennial grants.

Thayer hosted the state committee at the Broadmoor that year. As local city/county

chairman, I was invited to attend his reception before their tour. During the clinking glasses he approached me and asked "Where are you taking us tomorrow morning?" I answered Miramont Castle, the trying-to-become Pioneers Museum in the old courthouse; and I just mentioned 'And drive through Old Colorado City' not sure he would know what I was referring to.

He brightened and said "I LIKE that project! My father told me how important that 1859 cabin was, and I saved it in 1929. I put it on our Golf Course. And, I permitted it to be moved to Denver to sit on the Capitol Grounds during the 1959 Gold Rush Centennial. Then I gave it to the City of

Colorado Springs when it came back, and they put it in the Park."

"BUT" he went on "The damned City hasn't taken care of that cabin! It's run down in a run down park!"

I thought fast. I knew, from my work using federal HUD funds for business buildings on Colorado Avenue, that Bloc Grant funds cannot be used for upgrading parks - they are for economic development, curbs and gutters, and run down houses.

So I sprung it on him. "Thayer" I said "Will YOU take care of fixing up the Cabin if I get the City to fix up the park?"

He grabbed my hand and shook vigorously. "Yes. You got a deal!"

So, I set out to do two things. Find a contractor to give me a bid for fixing up the cabin, with its water damage, worn framing, and faded paint. And, then get the city to act.

As many who know me know, I have no problem firing canons down Colorado Avenue to get the press and elected officials attention. But, in this case I quietly went behind the scenes. I talked to Park Board members and several City Councilmen. I said "You have kicked a gift horse in the mouth. His name is Thayer Tutt. You know, El Pomar and all that!" And then I told them "Thayer is willing to pay for fixing up the Cabin if YOU pay out of the City Budget for fixing up Bancroft Park around it"

So it came to pass that, by December 15th

1976 the City Council had put \$60,000 in the Budget for the park, after having hired design specialists to make plans. I got National Park Service Historical specialists out of Denver to tick off what should be done while keeping the cabin authentic. Then I got the Park Department to give me a list of 'acceptable' contractors. I settled on Lee Leiker Contractor who bid \$7,590 for the repairs, flagstones, flag pole, and painting.

As soon as City Council passed the budget, I fired off a grant request for the \$7,590, including the city budget resolution, to El Pomar on behalf of an Old Colorado City Historical Society which was barely formed, but had a bank account by then. I had a check in hand within two weeks.

I supervised the work, as the cabin was given another 100 years of life. I saved several of the 1859 lower logs which were rotted by splashing water and had to be replaced, stored them at my house, then later got them sawed up into thin slices, varnished, and with a certificate certifying their date and origin. OCCHS sold them for \$25 apiece, raising a little money for our society.

So that is how we got the Cabin restored, the separate Gazebo in the Park built, a much larger concrete surface put in the park center, and decent landscaping.

By the next year during Territory Days, older Thayer Tutt, pleased, stood on the porch of the Cabin, which then had the more historically accurate name - "County Pioneer Office" - painted on the false front. He then watched the parade which in the late 70s preceded the street fairs we have had for Territory Days ever since. His father and grandfather would have been pleased.

## *In Memoriam*

### *Betty Freudenburg*

*OCCHS Member Betty Freudenburg passed away on January 2, 2015. She and her husband, Eldon, raised three children, Jim, Bill and Patti. Betty and Eldon retired in Estes Park, Colorado in 1974 where her passion for history led her to writing "Facing the Frontier: The Story of the MacGregor Ranch." This book looks at early days in Estes Park and some of the colorful people who lived there. Betty majored in psychology at Birmingham-Southern College.*

*Betty moved to Colorado Springs after Eldon's death in 2005 to be closer to her daughter. We enjoyed having Betty at our Colorado Writers Events where she shared her love of Colorado History. Betty requested that people remember her by remembering her favorite charities, the Rocky Mountain Conservatory and OCCHS. A Memorial Fund has been set up in her name, with funds going toward preservation of our beautiful building. She will always be remembered.*

*Our deepest sympathies to Betty's family and her many friends.*

## Winter Weather Policy

For the safety of our volunteers, the History Center will not be open if School District 11 is closed or on a 2 hour delay due to inclement weather.

If the History Center is closed due to inclement weather on a day when a program is scheduled, the program will be cancelled.

# Members Honored at Annual Dinner

By Joanne Karlson

If you missed the annual OCCHS dinner on Thursday, February 7 at London's Seafood Bar & Grill, it was a fun evening with much socializing, good food, and an opportunity to recognize some wonderful people. Below is a condensation of comments made by our Masters of Ceremony, Leo Knutson and Kathy McBride.

Volunteers have made this past year a memorable one for the Historical Society. Think about it! No paid staff. As a non-profit 501(c3) Society, all the member volunteers keep our history alive and growing! This is your organization. What can you do to play your part? Opportunities and training are available...just talk to a Board member.

We honor those who contributed their time and varied talents this past year.

OCCHS 2014 Board of Directors: Betty Baker, President; Kathy McBride, President; Joanne Karlson, Vice-President; Suzanne Schorsch, Treasurer; Brian Copeland, Secretary; and members Sandy Hanzlian and Bev Disch.

Bookstore volunteers helped our society to make 1/4 of its operating expenses. These special people included: Kay Atteberry, Brian Copeland, Art Crawford, Muriel Dunkley, Betsy Evans, Roberta Hardy, Joanne Karlson, Marge Knorr, Kathy McBride, Susie Schorsch, and Eloise Wynne.

Artifacts and Archives or the "down under" crew: Tom Daniels (Photo and Archive Coordinator) is assisted by Gerry Travers, Tim Reid, and Don Hanson. Miki Knudsen (Artifacts Coordinator) is assisted by Sharon Swint. Monies from the Shirley Bond grant made it possible to hire Diane Karlson, an expert in the museum field. She coordinated our computer programs and has made it possible for the volunteers in the artifact and archive collections to move forward.

THE maintenance team! Our 1890's building continually needs replacement, repair, and renovation. Look for Terry Lee, Werner Karlson, Leo Knudsen, and Dave Swint every Thursday with tools in hand, ready and willing to tackle any task that will keep the building in shape.

## Events and Fundraisers.

Territory Days in May: Bev Disch (Chair) assisted by the team of Susie and Tom Schorsch. There were so many of you who also volunteered for this event: bookstore volunteers, cabin interpreters, and those of you who haul all of the equipment to the cabin, set up the tent, and become the clean-up crew.

The 20th annual Cemetery Crawl in September: Brian Copeland (Chair) with Susie and Tom Schorsch, Dave and Sharon Swint, and all of you who were tour guides through the cemetery. The actors who made this possible: Roberta Hardy as Laura Belle, Dave Hughes as Anthony Bott, Miki and Leo Knudsen as Katherine and Duncan Lamont, Sandy Hanzlian and Werner Karlson as Bertha and Jacob Schmidt, and Kathy McBride as Birdie Stapleman's grandmother.

Wow! City Works! What a fundraiser for the society. I don't think that we can thank Don Kallaus for all of his efforts in making this possible. He not only found and printed the pictures, he continued to do so with the sales. Don put the show together and printed all of those wonderful pictures. On our end of the sales, we'd like to thank Susie Schorsch, Tom Daniels, Roberta Hardy, and Gary Litchenberg.

Tuesday Movie Nights in July: All the films had a connection to Colorado. Thanks to Tom and Carol Daniels plus Susie Schorsch and Sharon Swint. This event was an important fundraiser as well as fun for all who attended.

Children's Author's Day was a smaller event. Susie Schorsch lined up the local authors to present their books and ideas to the public.

Holiday Tour in December: A very, very successful fundraiser enjoyed by everyone who attended. After 20 years, a new face and theme was needed. The tour featured historical highlights and a holiday theme organized by Sharon Swint and Joanne Karlson. Each of the tour sites had Society volunteers and guides.

The \$7,000 CAP assessment grant was used to identify conservation needs in our collections and for our historic building. Joanne Karlson coordinated the time with two museum professionals and all the paperwork with the help of Susie Schorsch and Sharon Swint. Their dedication will bring needed improvements to our museum.

West Word newsletter. Don Ellis takes care of collecting articles, the layout as well as the printing. The three ladies who see that it's sent out to all of you are Kay Atteberry, Eloise Wynne, and Muriel Dunkley.

Monthly Programs. Sandy Hanzilen finds the speakers who draw in the crowds for a variety of historical topics and interests.

Exhibits. Marilyn Lee (Chair) keeps a fresh look in our exhibits with the help of Jay Hatfield and Shirley Ewing.

Media Specialist is Sharon Swint who has organized publicity that has helped to bring an expanded audience to our fund-raisers and events. We'd also like to thank Therese Jordan for her much appreciated ad lay outs in the West Side Pioneer. And to Kenyon Jordan for faithfully covering all of our events!

There are two couples here tonight that we'd like to recognize for all of their service to the society in the past: Christine and Bob Heinich and Doris and Tom Hendrix. We thank you for your support.



## MARCH PROGRAM

### *The Tunnels Under Our Streets*

Have you ever wanted to go through a trap door to see what was on the other side? Have you ever stumbled across a manhole cover imbedded with small, glass circles (many of which have turned purple with age)? Join author and historian Tracy Beach on her five-year quest, to uncover the mysteries of these hollow sidewalks and stories behind their construction. Tracy will provide props that are 3-D city-scapes with rendering of the tunnels, as well as a man-hole cover. 14 cities throughout Colorado are studied in her book, and will be discussed in her presentation. Her books are available in our Book Store for purchase.

The program will be on Saturday, March 14 at the Old Colorado City History Center, 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904. The presentation begins at 11:00 a.m. The doors open at 10:30 a.m.

Members of OCCHS attend free, non-members pay \$5. Light refreshments will be served.

## Treasurer's Report - 2014 Financial Recap

	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
Operating Account	\$ 23,108.39	\$ 24,963.22
Endowment Accounts		
Edward Jones	\$ 88,553.27	\$ 96,622.77
Pikes Peak National Bank	\$ 15,839.09	\$ 16,849.09
Savings Accounts	\$ 14,022.0	\$ 14,155.32
Digital Account	\$ 2,630.75	\$ 630.75
Bookstore Account	\$ 4,431.97	\$ 4,620.93

This year, due to the hard work of all of our volunteers and wonderful support from both members and non-members in our community, OCCHS was able to end our general operations on the plus side by of over \$1,800. We continue to grow our Endowment and Savings Account to ensure our future. The bookstore was able to turn \$5,000 profits over to our general operating account; and membership stayed at over 300. Fundraising efforts and events were successful. Considering we had many expenses related to our building that were not planned for in our annual budget, all needs were met with fund raising events and donations AND our membership fees. Thank you so much.

We also thank our local paper the Westside Pioneer who brought to the attention of the general public and members of our West Side neighborhood the needs we had last summer to protect our building from damages done by vagrants. Many non-members supported our need to make our building more secure and safe.

Old Colorado City (today's Westside) is a wonderful proud neighborhood and because of members and neighbors support we have a free museum. Many people enjoy our programs that remind of us our history in the Colorado Springs community. Thank you for the support.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully  
Suzanne Schorsch,  
Treasurer

The Old Colorado City Historical Society's Board of Directors meets regularly the third 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 March 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

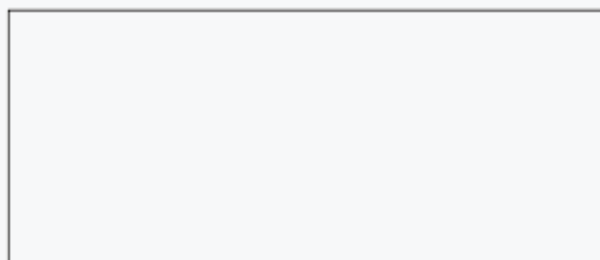
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## April / May Calendar

**Saturday, March 14**  
11:00 A.M.

**Program:** "The Tunnels Under Our Streets" presented by Tracy Beach. – Have you ever wanted to go through a trap door to see what was on the other side? Have you ever stumbled across a manhole cover imbedded with small, glass circles (many of which have turned purple with age)? Join author and historian Tracy Beach on her five-year quest, to uncover the mysteries of these hollow sidewalks and stories behind their construction. Tracy will provide props that are 3-D city-scapes with rendering of the tunnels, as well as a man-hole cover. 14 cities throughout Colorado are studied in her book, and will be discussed in her presentation. Her books are available in our Book Store for purchase.

OCCHS Members FREE, non-members \$5.00

**Friday, April 10**  
11:00 A.M.

**Program:** "EUREKA-Surprises from our Collection Department" presented by Diane Karlson, museum professional and OCCHC volunteer

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