

WESTWORD



proud member of the Coalition of Pikes Peak Historic Museums

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September 2015

A Conversation with the Cursor Cowboy (A West Word interview with Dave Hughes)

Dave, you were involved with the Historical Society from day one.

Yeah.

And, you got sucked into Colorado City history, if I can say that, by several things. One of them was Leroy Ellinwood.

And Luther McKnight 'cause they were the two. I knew very little about the Westside with one exception. I knew about the Immanuel Missionaries because their women, many of them, were domestics in wealthy people's houses. Aunt Arleen, Arleen Hughes, had two of those maids. Anyway that's about all I really knew, and that Colorado Avenue was the way to the mountains.

Well, that's how I got into it combination of Ellinwood and Luther McKnight

Ralph Conner had the storage that a lot of the stuff got put into. He was our treasurer, so on. I introduced him to Luther 'cause I had visited Luther, interviewed him about history as he had lived it. I went in Luther's house and saw all these photographs. He had a hell of a trove of pictures. I had no idea.

One day I walked out on the porch here; and Luther was standing in the corner; and he spotted me; asked me to come over and see him. He was just walking from his house which was way down on Pikes Peak. And he says, "Can you find me a Westside lawyer?" Any lawyer wouldn't do. There was one over here. He went to him; and that's the beginning of how he went through the legal steps. He didn't amplify with me about what was on his mind. But, he was so pleased with what we had done in revitalizing Colorado

City after he'd come to me years before. And, he made his own decision about what he was leaving to the Society. When the thing came to be settled it really came to about \$110,000.

Dave, one thing you did was to bring the History Center into the digital age with its original website and its wireless connection. At the time that was a pioneering venture. So, I'm interested in how you came to be involved with computers early on.

I think this started with me while I was still at Fort Carson as a senior officer. General Rogers, Bernie Rogers, outstanding guy. Carson became the first post that was designated to try to figure out how to raise an all volunteer army. How do you recruit and retain? It's not just recruitment. If it turns out to be a good soldier with capabilities to become an NCO, well, you want to retain him. That was in seventies. My field manuals for trying to make a volunteer army were *Future Shock*, *Neither Marx nor Jesus*, *The Greening of America*, *The Media is the Message*, and *Megatrends* - the sixties studies about change, and youth. And, I was aware, you know, attracting young soldiers and keeping them there, taking care of their families was going to be quite a challenge. So, Rogers asked the computer guy could he put together a program that would line up job possibilities and careers with returning soldiers. And, I remember vividly the computer manager told General Rogers that, oh, that would take several years and it would cost so many millions of dollars to do that. And, I remember sitting there saying "bull****."

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

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The Old Colorado City Historical Society

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Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

or Don Ellis - spiderwort@pcsys.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:

Individual	\$ 25	Business	\$ 75
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 / VP	Betty Baker	636-1225
Co-President / VP	Kathy McBride	636-1225
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Treasurer	Suzanne Schorsch	331-1786
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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

Betty Gene Baker

Holden House B&B Inn

Barbara Downs & Mike Medvar

Kelly Garrett

Leo and Miki Knudson

Jeanne Marsh

Joyce Moore

Marylyne Rohan

Steve Shepard

John and Carol Stoodly

Kristin Watkins



Dave Hughes Continued from Page 1

I was asked to accompany General Rogers back to Washington. But, I said, "Bernie, Washington has become a great soggy log floating down the Potomac with a million ants on all thinkin' they're steering it." And, I said, No, I'm gonna retire before I have to and, if I can, find a neighborhood in my hometown that can go into future.

Megatrends had one insight - said times of great change are times of great entrepreneurship. OK, and the sixties were change. People wanting to get away from big cities, big government, and big corporations were coming to Colorado. Some of them came down here and wanted to go into business for themselves. And, I realized that was going on.

You were engaged in entrepreneurship, yourself. I'm curious. Did that trigger your getting your very first computer?

See, I set up a little company. It was a radical company. It didn't work, but I saw the potential. It was called "Enjoy Colorado," and it was an information store. I had a small staff. And, I was able to have travel advisors on the phone. - Do you want to go fishing, or catch fish? There's a difference. - I sold pure, unadulterated Colorado information. One of my guys who'd come from back east, he started talking about - let's call it mini-frame. What's the next step down from a mainframe? And, he explained the thing rather carefully. And they were kind of costly. But I saw right away the potential if I had one connected up.

Then, the first announcements of the Apple II came out and that first Radio Shack. And, I got the Radio Shack Model 1. So, that's where we started. Since we bought this house in '77, I took my first - my Model 1 - back there in the cottage; and that became the electronic cottage, which was a term that Toffler had used. And, it actually had a sign on it "Old Colorado City Electronic Cottage". My first modem was an acoustic modem. That's the beginning.

Well the Model 1 wasn't worth a damn. So, I got a Model 3 and I set that thing up. Just about that time national services CompuServe and The Source emerged. I think downtown is where I dialed into, and it was onto The Source.

In my idealism and lyricism, I set up my first bulletin board. First in Colorado Springs. I used it for electronic democracy that I really espoused. So, I made sure on that bulletin board that individuals could come in with a modem over an

ordinary dial-up line. I got a Robotic modem that could handle a lot of users at once. They could come into this Model 3 and we would discuss LOCAL issues, not national issues, but local political issues.

Until an individual could get a communicating computer, you know, the revolution didn't really start. The real revolution.

The time that you started doing your bulletin board we didn't have the kind of Internet we have today. So, you'd go directly to somebody's bulletin board or somebody's resource which was set up on an independent server. And, one of the really great things from then was called the CARL System (Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries).

Yeah. Oh, sure. Yes. I did a lot of research through that. At the University level, corporate level, and so on stuff was happening, trickling down.

And next was the Model 100?

Yes, I ended up with a Model 100 which was portable. And, I was just getting into wireless, too. So, I was actually able, while I was in Roger's Bar to talk to my BBS that was in the cottage back here. Then, I go back and forth to Roger's Bar, other places, while I was doing what I could to get things off the ground.

This is before I started Old Colorado City Communications.

When you first set up Old Colorado City Communications what sort of business model did you have in mind?

It was the discussion groups on the Source and CompuServe. The model was local subscribers coming in, of course, by modem Robotics modems stacked up there and to do the BBS on steroids where you could have multiple people on there at once in discussion and using it also as a means to educate. The model in Old Colorado City Communications first was computer conferencing.

Then, somebody in Washington told the National Science Foundation that this crazy guy Dave Hughes, the Cursor Cowboy, was somehow interested in education. So, one day I get a knock on my door and it's Steve Goldstein from the National Science Foundation. He was out here for some official trip and he asked, "How are you doing it?" They had reached my server through the net, and the last part wireless. To them it ran pretty darned well - fast. So, he came in, asked

"Would you accept a \$450,000 grant to do experiments for the National Science Foundation for wireless for education?" And, I said yeah, but I'm not interested in urban only rural; and the deal was made. The first one was the town of San Luis, the second oldest town in Colorado. The school wanted to be on the Internet. US West wanted \$2,000 a month from that school to get a T-1 connection in Alamosa. They couldn't afford it. And, so I went down there, got up to that Hispanic church on the ridge above the town of San Luis and I took a good look with my binoculars; and I could see the tower in Alamosa 30 line of sight miles. The Sheriff's Office owned the tower but used it also for the school for bus voice traffic. And so I got a light up there and discovered that the top 7 feet of the tower would be line of sight all 30 miles and then all I have to do is have a short link down here. So, that was the first one. Bingo! The next one was Center, Colorado. Then, a lot of these small towns. US West hated my guts. And, these were free-wave radios that I think were the earliest versions and were very flexible. You could set them at 902-928 megahertz or in between those two. And the link was free.

Over 7 years we got \$2 million because it evolved rapidly from education to my supporting field scientists. The most remarkable was in Fairbanks, Alaska. You know that's where the college is. They are connected to the net. The Tanana River runs past Fairbanks. At 20 miles up river their scientists go in and set up a Campbell Scientific device; and the way they were having to handle it was they had to hire, for \$90,000 a year including the boat, a girl from California who knew how to handle boats who would literally go 20 miles up, then walk in a quarter of a mile. Take out the data. Then, come back, carry it into her office, put it into the computer, and go to the various professors and so on. I went up there with a wireless link which required a relay about 15 miles and then down to the actual instrument that's sitting there. Bingo. It's out on the Internet. Researchers, NSF researchers, who lived in Denver could not only access the data all the way through, they could reset to take temperature every 2 hours, or whatever they wanted.

Then, what happened was because of what I'd done I got a call from the National Science Foundation, "Dave, we can't seem to get any museums to accept grants for their museum." He had no idea that I had anything to do with the Old Colorado City Historical Society.

And, this was about the time the History Center opened?

In 1993, soon after the History Center was opened, I set up a modem dial-in Bulletin Board. Then it was 1996 when the NSF awarded the Society a \$20,000 grant \$15,000 was for hardware. I'd do the work pro bono and set up the website going through my office over T-1 line downtown just donating that little bit of bandwidth. And, that all got setup with 902-928 megahertz through trees from the History Center to my office. (Wi-Fi couldn't do that) So, we had two way connectivity right to the History Center. The other \$5,000 was for a stipend that could be paid to a college student that had technical ability so they could do real work; and that's how we got La Donna Gunn.

And, you recognized that what you needed was not a technical person, but a historian.

That's exactly right. I made a bee line for the head of the History Department at UCCS, not computer science. La Donna was a little older than most of the students in western history. That was my question and that she used a computer.

And, of course, when we got that thing off the ground people looking up their ancestry and having the name Colorado City came and found us, sent me a piece of e-mail and we had members come out here. We learned the whole history of the Jacob Schmidt bar directly from their family. The very first one came from a woman in Alabama. She logged into the system and saw that we were selling slices of wood from the Garvin Cabin. She wanted to know where the logs were from and what happened. I said, well, we had to remove a couple logs that were rotting and sliced them. She said, "I'm the great great granddaughter of Garvin." She was the first one. And, the great great granddaughter Lucy Maggard who was here in 1859 and kind of ran the hotel. This descendent lived in Montana. And, she was doing dial-up with her computer to the closest Internet connection and found us in there because of the words "Colorado City". Then, the other one in Montana, he was the more important one. He sent some pictures of his plat. And, it was the original Fosdick Plat. We bought it. So, I could just see the power and the use of the net and wireless.

But, I regret even now that the Society leadership does not understand the potential. My vision which came before I really stepped out of it was the Old Colorado City Historical

Society museum should be actually 2 museums, a physical museum, and a virtual museum. The physical museum is always gonna be small physically, and you're gonna have to travel to it which means, people are gonna have to walk in the door and walk around. And, then there would be a virtual museum where people could visit us on the web and ask questions about the history, contribute, and then turn around and even visit presentations via Skype from afar.

Your vision of a virtual museum is not dead, just dormant. We can't go all out to do this

until we get our feet on the ground financially to the point where we don't need to spend all our energy raising money.

But, there's potentially so much that could be done out of the Society website. But it would take real intention. Of course it's the old problem of volunteers who are volunteers. Who's willing to become a volunteer in general and who's young enough to have real technical skill to be able to do these things. It's not only that there's gotta be the vision.

In Memoriam

Tom Hendrix

April 4, 1925 - July 27, 2015

Thomas Glenn Hendrix, father, loving grandfather, WWII vet who participated in an honor flight to Washington D.C., History Center volunteer, dog lover, on and on. Final services for Mr. Hendrix were held on August 3, 2015 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

He was very dedicated to the things he believed in whether family, friends or organizations he loved. Tom volunteered in Archives, on the OCCHS Board, and as the Maintenance Coordinator for 15 years at OCCHC. If he was feeling well, Tom and Doris were always present at our events. He worried about the parking lot, the men's bathroom, and building security. Tom was a Westside native and historian. His knowledge of the Pikes Peak region, Colorado Springs, and the Westside specifically, proved valuable in the organization and cataloging of much of our photographic collection.

He was proud of his years of marriage to the love of his life, Doris, as well as his two children, Glenn and Amy. He treasured his two grandchildren and their talent.

Students and parents of the historic Washington Elementary School will remember Tom and Doris helping at school events sponsored by the Westside Optimist Club. He was instrumental in seeing that their climbing wall was moved to its existing location.

His bowling league was another passion.

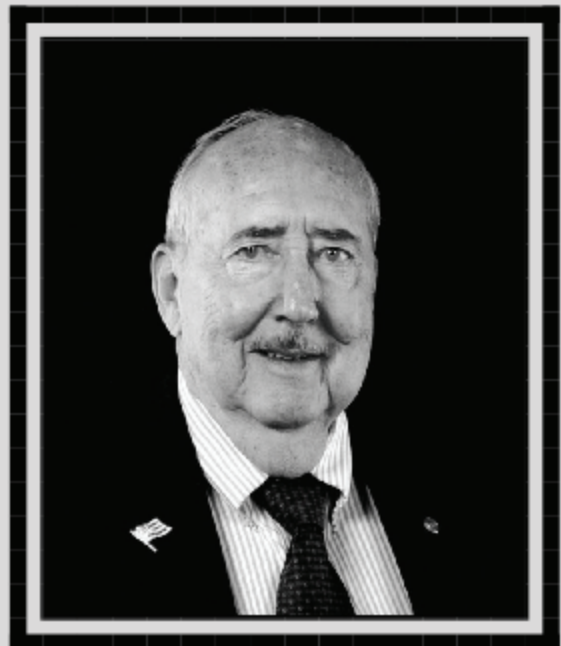
We will miss all these things about Tom and so much more, but now he will forever be well and healthy. Rest in peace, Thomas Glenn Hendrix.

Donations in Tom's memory can be made to the following organizations:

Old Colorado City Historical Society (occhs.org)

*Honor Flight of Southern Colorado
(honorflightso.co.org)*

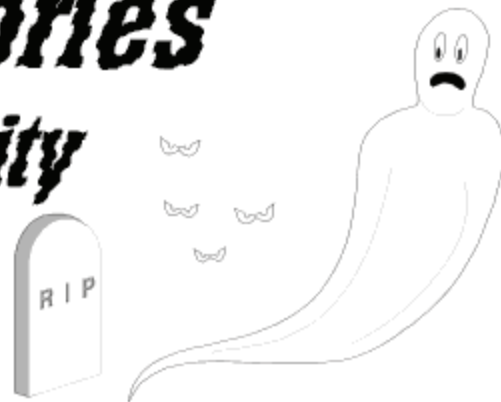
*Wounded Warrior Project
(woundedwarriorproject.org)*



Start your Halloween Season off with

Haunted Histories of Old Colorado City

*Saturday, September 26th
Tours starting at 6:00 Last Tour at 8:00 p.m.
Fairview Cemetery
\$20 - per person*



Meet

***The Ghosts of Two Grieving Mothers:** Hear the story of a Colorado City mother that lost her son to an Indian attack and a Ute woman who lost her freedom*

***The Ghosts of Gambling, Guns and Drugs:** Find out what happened when a newspaperman fell under the spell of gambling and drugs and the part laundry played in his death - Find out the importance of guns in the old West*

***The Ghosts of the Reverend and the Madam:** Witness the drama of an upstanding Pastor and a local Madam regarding the "Ladies of the evening" and the desire to clean up Colorado City*

***The Ghosts of the Marriage Gone Wrong:** Hear the tale of a marriage that started with love and ended in the toilet*

***The Ghosts of a Colorado City Business:** Meet the husband and wife with different outlooks on earning money for their Colorado City family, one ending in death*

*Advanced Sales Only - Tour sizes limited
Tickets and Information available at Old Colorado City Historical Society
1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs Colorado (719) 636-1225
Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 to 4:00*

Cemetery Crawl now Haunted Histories

This year, in hopes of reaching a larger audience while teaching Colorado City's history and our own Fairview Cemetery's history, we are changing Cemetery Crawl to Haunted Histories.

People attending will still find out about Colorado City founders and some of our favorite local "characters" that are buried at Fairview, but they will also meet some new ghosts whose "spirit" is still in Colorado City although they are not buried at Fairview: Ute Indians, Madams, respectable citizens and not so respectable citizens, all from our local area. Included are a couple of ghosts from the turn of the century that are known to really haunt Fairview.

In following our Mission Statement, educating local students, we are asking students

from our local high school to take on some of the roles and to be our tour guides. They will entertain you with "Horrible History" facts about death in Victorian times and tell you about Old Colorado City cemeteries of the past.

To allow for better flow of people, tickets will be sold for specific Tour times, so parking will be easier. No tickets will be sold the day of the event and tours sizes are limited.

It is our hope that members will support this event and come again to the new and different Haunted History Tour.

Dress warmly, this year the Tour will be at night, with guides lighting your way.

September 26th, Tours starting at 6 p.m. with last tour starting at 8:00.

Presidents' Letter

School is in session! That's the signal for the ending of summer. We hope that you were able to take part in the events offered at your History Center.

In July, we hosted Tunnel Tales. The public was invited to hear the history of tunnels around Old Colorado City. Sharon Swint was the mastermind behind this very successful event. She was assisted with research by Leo Knudson. Old Colorado City merchants participated in this fundraiser. Everyone who attended requested that this event be repeated next year. Definitely a success!

August brought us to our annual Founder's Day celebration sponsored by the Pikes Peak National Bank. We were fortunate to have a performance by The Legendary Ladies. Our audience was treated to stories told by Molly Brown, Helen Hunt Jackson, Josie Bassett, Augusta Tabor, Maud Nelson, Mary Rippon, and the legendary Captain Jack. Each of these ladies played a role in Colorado history. Birthday cake and punch were served by Betty Baker, Roberta Hardy, Susie Schorsch and Pat Hatfield after the program.

Our fantastic maintenance team has been busy providing updates and upgrades to the History Center. When repairs and renovations are needed for our building, the Maintenance Team springs into action. Dave Swint and Leo Knudson supervised the installation of the new electrical panel that will keep our building safe and up to code. Werner Karlson spent a day cutting down the aging evergreen bushes that have been hiding the Center. A forester was hired to trim the honey locust trees to open up our entrance for a better view by the public.

Marilyn and Terry Lee are working to refresh the museum display area. You'll find newly painted display cases along with the changing exhibits. Come in to take a look at what our volunteers have done to enhance the museum. A new pharmaceutical display is coming soon. Shirley Ewing has researched local druggist James McIntosh and added his history to our knowledge of our local area.

Our parlor display will change seasonally. Marilyn Lee has found historic fashions that will give Miss Emma a change of wardrobe. Come in to take a look.

The Bookstore sales of *The Ute Indian Prayer Trees* by John Anderson have exceeded all expectations. The demand for these books increases weekly and we can hardly keep them on the shelves.

Our next big event will be Haunted History on September 26th. It's not your same old Cemetery Crawl. Susie Schorsch will produce and direct a whole new scenario at Fairview Cemetery.

We're looking forward to a great fall season in Old Colorado City.

Betty and Kathy

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 meeting will be September 21
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 11
11:00 AM.

Program: **"Tri Lakes and Midland Ice Production"** presented by Tom VanWormer. This Program looks at the production of natural ice for home ice boxes and railroad applications from the 1880's into the 1940's, covering the locations of natural ice production, the history of the sites, and the evolving techniques of producing, collecting, storing, and distributing the product. In an agrarian society, ice production provided farmers a year-round income. The introduction of natural ice in the late 1800's allowed a broadening diversity to the American diet.

OCCHS members free, others \$5.00

Saturday, October 10
11:00 AM.

Program: **"First Person Portrayal of a Civil War Soldier"** presented by Benny Nasser. Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War, this program will present Darius Minier's memories of his Civil War experience recounted while he was living in Denver in 1905. Darius was one of seven Ohio brothers who fought in the Civil War. He was wounded twice, a prisoner of war twice, and survived the sinking of the side-wheeler *Sultana* as it returned Union prisoners home after the war.

OCCHS members free, others \$5.00

Saturday, September 26th
6:00 P.M. - First tour
8:00 P.M. - Last tour

Haunted Histories of Old Colorado City at Fairview Cemetery
Advanced Sales Only - Tour sizes limited
\$20 - per person

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.