



OURAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall - Winter Newsletter

2008-9

OURAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 151

OURAY, CO 81427

970-325-4576

www.ouraycountyhistoricalsociety.org

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NEWSLETTER

Gail Saunders, Editor

Photos by Joan Chismire
and Maria Jones

President's Message

OCHS Newsletter 2008-9

Dear Members and Friends of the OCHS,

Yet another year has come and gone and the OCHS continues to move steadfastly, albeit slowly, into the digital age. Some of the "new age" changes that come to mind include the accessioning and cataloging of all our artifacts using a software program that includes provenance, digital photos and searchable databases. We are also in the process of digitizing our entire photo archive. Lastly, our membership mailings and newsletters etc. will soon be on databases that allow for specific targeted mailings as well as receipt of information, in color, via email, if desired by the member. All these changes help us to streamline our operations and provide you, our valued members, with the most up-to-date museum information.

Notable milestones of this past year include the republishing of the out-of-print History of Ouray Volume I by Doris Gregory. I would encourage anyone who does not own this valuable reference and resource book to come by the museum and purchase a book using your member discount. Remember, they make great Christmas presents as well. Make sure you have both copies of the two-volume set. We are also overjoyed that the initiative begun in part by Roger Henn, to better commemorate Chief Ouray (our city's namesake) resulted in nearly \$2,000 of donations toward the construction of a Chief Ouray interpretative sign. We are pleased to announce that this signage is near completion and will be erected on the Wiesbaden grounds near the site of one of Ouray's ancestral homes (see related article in this newsletter). Additionally, the Chief Ouray bronze bust, designed, sculpted and financed by Jim Opdahl, has been donated to the museum and will be erected in front of the museum by next spring. What a fitting way to honor this great Native American.

Did you all see the original Marie Scott Studebaker wagon in the 4th of July parade? If you didn't, you missed a real treat to see one of our more recent acquisitions. We hope to have this vintage Studebaker wagon in its own enclosure on the museum grounds by next spring. As usual, our Vignettes of History along with the scrumptious dinner at the historic Beaumont Hotel followed by "An Evening with Thomas Walsh," was an unqualified success. Our Vignettes series continues to build momentum every year and we promise that the 2009 version will be the best of all! I'm already getting excited about this upcoming year with new "Evenings of History" and many other museum sponsored functions on tap.

As usual, we truly appreciate your continued patronage. Our OCHS membership is the lifeblood of the organization. Please tell a non-member friend about us and encourage them to become members as well. This will help us expand our membership each and every year. With your help, our little museum will have no trouble in steering a straight course through the digital age and beyond.

Respectfully,

Kevin J. Chismire, M. D.
President OCHS

OCHS HONORS CHIEF OURAY

A sign recognizing Chief Ouray will be placed at the Wiesbaden Hot Springs Spa and Lodging near the original site of Ouray's mountain home. OCHS is planning a public dedication ceremony late this spring to honor Chief Ouray.

The genesis of this project came when Roger Henn wrote multiple letters to the newspaper a year ago suggesting that the city of Ouray had no recognition of the Chief for whom the city was named. Roger's letters were followed by many more and people began to ante-up funds for the creation of this sign.

The two paneled sign includes a plaque on the right side featuring a photograph of Ouray and a short history of his life. The second plaque explains the location of the Ouray Mountain House ruins and contains a reconstructed drawing of the structure by Steve Baker, archaeologist.

Retired Ouray resident Jim Opdahl has sculpted a clay bust made into a bronze of Chief Ouray. This bust will be placed on a pedestal in front of the Museum.



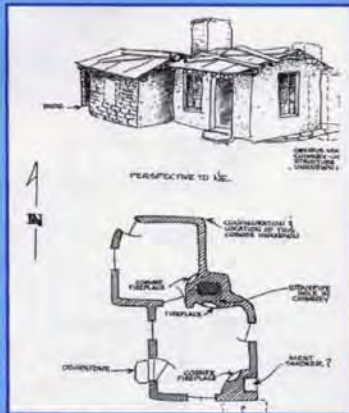
Chief Ouray Mountain House



(figure 1) The famous and originally controversial photo of the rare rammed-earth "ruins of Ouray's House" believed to have been taken by George Mellon ca. 1888-1900 on behalf of the Detroit Publishing Co. The construction is of the Spanish style. View is to the northwest with the lower mountain slope of Twin Peaks showing in the background.



(figure 2) Historic Buckwalter photograph of the ruins of Ouray's House, apparently taken in the 1890's sometime after the Mellon view in figure 1.



(figure 4) Reconstruction drawings of the entire two-room Chief Ouray Mountain House as it appeared in somewhat modified form following the Chief Ouray occupation.

Courtesy: Steven G. Baker, Uncompahgre Valley Ute Project, Centuries Research Inc.



(figure 3) The Cottage House as it looks today nestled on the hillside above the Wiesbaden Hotel and Spa. The foundation rests on the same site as the Ouray House seen in figures 1 & 2.

Chief Ouray



Chief Ouray was a man of great wisdom and foresight. Ouray led the Utes in a time of social and political change during which his people were uprooted and forced into resettlement. He was a man of peace in a time of war between Utes and whites. The city of Ouray derives its name from this revered Native American.

Ouray, or the "Arrow", was born in 1833 near Taos, New Mexico, of a Jicarilla Apache father and a Tabeguache Ute mother. As a child he was adopted by a Mexican family and raised in the Spanish language and Roman Catholicism. Not until his late teens did Ouray fully enter into the life of his mother's people. Yet, so great was his renown as a warrior that by the mid 1860's he was Chief of the Tabeguache Utes and the United States regarded him as the leader of the Ute Nation. Ouray spoke four languages and was a man of great determination and courage. He fought to preserve the very soul of his people – a cause he lived and died for. (1833-1880)

Courtesy: Ute Indian Museum

Museum "Holiday Hours"

December

27 10-4
28 12-4
29 10-4
30 10-4
31 10-4

January

9 10-4
10 10-4
11 12-4



Curator's Corner

by Don Paulson

One of the joys of being the Curator of the Ouray County Museum is interacting with the dozens of people who show up each year with gems they are donating to the museum. 2008 was no exception since volunteers Sandra Swenson and Don Kellogg have already accessioned more than six hundred separate items, some of which are discussed below and are now on display in the museum. This fall we added two beautiful antique display cases from Bill Leo's store in Ouray to house some of these items.

Trevor Stevens donated a G-scale model Rio Grande Southern engine and three passenger cars. Katherine Ford gave us the taffeta dress and suit worn by Amanda and W. Lamont Donaldson on their honeymoon in 1895. Mont was the D&RG station agent in Ouray from 1923 to 1936. Gustave (Bud) Franz III donated his father's collection of over 150 mining books as well as a very large original 1886 map of the Red Mountain Mining District, a copy of which now hangs in the museum's lower level. Bud's father and grandfather are credited with saving Ouray while they operated the Banner American Mill along with several other mines. They employed over 50 men at the height of the Depression.

Walcott Rice gave the museum a collection of 19 photographs taken in the early years of the 20th century by his great uncle, John Rice, who founded the Rice Lumber Company. Wayne House donated a beautiful oak secretary used in the Camp Bird Mine office after he bought it in a local antique store. John Rossi gave us a belt driven grinder that was built in the Camp Bird blacksmith shop during the depression and later used by his father, Al Rossi, in his Ouray Blacksmith shop. That shop has been recreated in the museum's lower level. Judith Warnick gave us an oil painting of Mt. Sneffels which will be auctioned off during the 2009 Evenings of History talks.

OCHS Vice-President Tom Hillhouse donated two 100 year-old Proctor & Gamble gems: a large metal/porcelain Naptha soap sign and a wooden Polo soapbox. Stan Frymann donated over 100 items including a beautiful working barrel organ and a large Japanese tea box that was shipped early in the 20th century from Japan to the Powell Grocery Store in Ouray. Tom Bertrand, nephew of Father Bertrand, provided two medical examining chairs and other pieces of equipment from an eye, nose and throat doctor that his mother worked for as a nurse 50 years ago.

Dorcas Leonhardt gave us a very large and pristine condition Civil War Era quilt made by Julia Corwin whose two oldest sons died in that war. We plan to permanently exhibit the quilt after properly framing it. While visiting the San Juan County

Museum archives, I noticed a damaged 1905 panoramic photo of the Red Mountain Mining District taken from the ore dock of the Yankee Girl Mine. We borrowed the photo and had it restored by Megapixel in Montrose. You can see the digitally restored photo in our second floor photo gallery along with a number of other large photos donated by Susan Lander.

Finally, Michael Bowen donated an 1898 Studebaker Two Horse Wagon that belonged to Marie Scott. Michael bought the wagon years ago from one of Marie's heirs and had it beautifully restored. Ouray High School Principal, Nick Shafer, drove the wagon using two of his draft horses in this year's 4th of July parade. Thanks to a donation from the Ouray Woman's Club, we have plans to construct a small out-building on the museum grounds to house the wagon.

Nimo Goes To Ridgway State Park



Nimo, the stuffed bear that ruled the nature exhibit on the upstairs floor of the museum, has a new home in Ridgway State Park. The museum donated Nimo along with the other contents of this exhibit including a stuffed mountain lion, nature artifacts, fossils collection, and a pressed flower display to the Park. The Park offers special nature programs for children and the Board decided that these artifacts would get more use at the Park than in the museum. This freed up a room that will be used for historical special and rotating exhibits.

EVENINGS IN HISTORY

SUMMER 2008



Bob Risch

The Evenings of History summer lecture series under the direction of Don Paulson began on June 17 and ran for six consecutive Tuesdays. From hiking trails to historical characters, the series captured our region's unique character.

This summer marked Paulson's first year in organizing the events. "Taking over for Bob and Sue McCulloch was a daunting assignment after their ten years of superlative programs. With a lot of help from the museum staff, we put on a very successful program this past summer."

Kelvin Kent, local author and enthusiastic hiker, gave the first talk entitled "Ouray's Hiking Trails." Kent's love of hiking has taken him on several worldwide expeditions. His presentation highlighted modern and historic trails in the local area for both beginner and experienced hikers.

On June 24th, Jim Pettengill, freelance writer and photographer, explored the legendary newspaperman, David Day. Day's newspaper, the Solid Muldoon, published in Ouray in the late 1800's was widely quoted throughout the West. The outspoken Day was a Civil War hero, fought duels with his enemies, and had more than 40 libel suits against him.

Don Paulson gave the July 1st lecture. He traced

mining activities from the prospector filing a claim, to the milling process, and the shipment of ore to a smelter for refining. He spoke of many famous mines in the area including the Camp Bird, the Revenue, and the American Nettie.

Bob Risch, Ouray mayor, presented "Red Mountain Project" on July 8th. Involved from the project's beginnings, Risch explained that about ten years ago, concerned members of Ouray County got together to preserve the historic townsite of Red Mountain. Only 5% of the original wood buildings remain standing. The Red Mountain Project uses federal grants to buy the preservation land and county members decide how the money is spent.

Bob McCulloch shared his special passion "Wildflowers in Ouray" with the Evenings in History audience on July 15. 95 people admired his colorful photos. Bob was a long time Ouray resident and is a retired history professor.

Ginny Harrington, former Ouray County Museum director, returned to the San Juans from her home in Montana to give a talk on Ridgway's "Marie Scott, Ranching Matriarch." Scott acquired over 100,000 acres of land from Dallas Divide to Utah and she put her mark on the county's history. Harrington interviewed many of Scott's heirs and acquaintances to research her story.

OCHS Board president, Dr. Kevin Chismire, gave the final lecture "Ouray's Wright Brother's" at the Wright Opera House on July 29th. George and Ed Wright became prominent Ouray citizens involved in mining, politics, and real estate. Their most famous contribution to the town was the Wright Opera House which served as the town's meeting place for several generations.

As for next summer, Paulson already has a slate of interesting speakers planned for Evenings in History 2009.

Quilters win prizes at 19th OCHS show, enjoy awards tea



Ludene Smith

"Blossoms of Friendship," a quilt owned and pieced by Ludene Smith of Montrose and quilted by Joyce Schiltz is the winner of the 19th Annual Quilt Show at the Ouray County Historical Society (OCHS) Museum in Ouray.

Smith's first place award was announced at the "Quilter's Tea and Talk" held on Aug. 25. Master of Ceremonies and poet, Beth Paulson, invited the 22 guests to reflect upon and share their own personal quilt stories. Jeanne Robertson, owner and operator of "Cups" delighted everyone with the history of the "Victorian High Tea." Delicacies from her eclectic tea, spice and coffee shop in Ridgway were served including Lavender Tea and English Clotted Cream.

Smith's quilt was a Block of the Month pattern by Mary Ross and Barb Scheu. Smith said, "It was to take two years, but I did it in one year. There were about twenty of us, and it was a real treat to do them. My quilt was in Mary's and Barb's published book called 'Quilts in Bloom.' What an honor!"

The second place winner was "Times and Seasons in Ouray, Colorado" sewn by Sue Hillhouse. It was hand appliqued, machine quilted and machine pieced.

"The four center panels were designed from photos I have taken and were originally made for the 2006 Ouray Historical Society quilt raffle," said Hillhouse. "Four of us made the panels, but each quilt has turned out to be quite unique."



Sue Hillhouse

Patterns of this quilt are for sale at the museum.

Third Place went to Laurie Gerse of Montrose. Her quilt was "Aloha Dreaming" which was machine pieced and quilted.

"This quilt was my first "Trip Around the World" quilt pattern," said Gerse. "It was supposed to consist of Southwest colors and be named 'Navajo.' With Alma Bica's help, the colors and brightness changed the quilt into 'Aloha Dreaming'."

by Maria Jones



**PHOTO
CONTEST
WINNERS**

Don Paulson, right, won first place in the Ouray County Historical Society's 2008 photo exhibit with "Living High," a photo of Mountain Top Mine. Kelvin Kent, left, came in second with "San Juan Summer" a photo of Verde Lake. Paul McCreary (not pictured) was the third place winner with "Ouray after the Rain." The exhibit was judged by Doug Richards, a local photographer.

OCHS RECOGNIZES DAN AND MARY KING FOR BEAUMONT RESTORATION



Dan and Mary King were honored by OCHS for their "kingsized" restoration project in bringing Ouray's architectural treasure, the Beaumont Hotel, back to its former glory. For thirty years, the Beaumont sat neglected, its bricks painted a gaudy pink color, its windows boarded up, and its roof badly damaged. In 1998, the Kings bought the hotel at auction. The restoration took five years and millions of dollars. Today, the historic landmark stands as a tribute to the

the Kings hard work and vision. With much appreciation from the Historical Society, Board president Kevin Chismire presented the Kings with a Don Carlton original pen and ink drawing of the Beaumont. (Don Carlton is a freelance artist who lives in Kansas City. He often does pieces for the Ouray Plaindealer and is most noted for doing the drawing of the national comic strip "Doonsberry" which is written by Gary Trudeau.)

The Kings received an inaugural 2004 Preserve America Presidential Award in the oval office at the White House. They also received the 2003 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation from the State of Colorado. The OCHS drawing and plaque were presented during the Vignettes of History 2008 banquet held in the Tundra dining room on August 29th.

The caption under the drawing reads as follows:

*The Ouray County Historical Society wishes to honor
Dan and Mary King
for their outstanding contributions in the field of historic preservation within the City of Ouray.
Through their tireless efforts and attention to detail, they have restored a true "Gem of the Rockies",
the historic Beaumont Hotel to its original and rightful grandeur.*



Denver Public Library, OCHS Collection

Wright Opera House Celebrates 120 Years

The birthday celebration will be held on
December 19th at 7:30 pm.

Learn the fascinating history of this Ouray landmark
and the exciting plans for its future. Dessert,
entertainment, and a cash bar will be provided.

The event is free to the public.



Sandra Swenson, museum volunteer, spotted wearing her red, white and blue hat.



Museum Celebrates Fourth of July!



After the parade, Tom Hillhouse, Vice President of OCHS Board, and his wife Sue sell brownies and lemonade, an annual fund raising event.



Marie Scott's wagon rolls down Ouray's streets as OCHS' parade entry.

Do you have a photo like this in your attic?



Photo courtesy OCHS

Join the museum staff and Board members for a photo sharing afternoon. We've started a project to expand our photo collection and would like to include community photos. We can scan your photos and would love to hear your stories.

When? Saturday, January 24

What time? 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Where? The Ouray County Museum and St. Daniels Parish Hall

Refreshments provided

OURAY HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL
TEAM 1948

Vignettes of History 2008: An Evening with Tom Walsh, Evalyn and Friends



Sue Hillhouse as Evalyn Walsh McLean

.Vignettes of History 2008: An Evening with Tom Walsh, Evalyn and Friends featured Denver author John Stewart as Thomas Walsh and Sue Hillhouse who played an unforgettable Evalyn Walsh McLean.

Stewart's newly published biography *Thomas F. Walsh* chronicles the life of this business tycoon who discovered the fabulously rich Camp Bird Mine located south of Ouray. When Tom Walsh whispered the legendary words, "Daughter I've struck it rich," a family odyssey began. The Camp Bird Mine became world famous as it chugged out as much as \$5000.00 worth of ore everyday between the years 1896 and 1902. This Irish immigrant treated his miners fairly and contributed to the welfare of the citizens of Ouray. Stewart first became interested in Walsh while working on his master's thesis.



John Stewart as Tom Walsh

Sue Hillhouse researched, wrote, and played the part of Evalyn Walsh McLean, the eccentric, tragic, and often misunderstood daughter of Tom. This Washington D.C. socialite was famous for her extravagant parties. She loved jewels and purchased the Hope Diamond. Hillhouse became interested in the life of Evalyn when the resemblance to her portrait in the Walsh-Zanett room at the museum was noted by many.

This third annual Vignettes of History fund raising event took place on August 29th beginning at 4:45 with appetizers at an historic home in Ouray. Then, participants gathered at the Beaumont Hotel for dinner. The production took place at the historic Wright Opera House. A book signing by Stewart followed as audience participants enjoyed coffee and chocolate.

The successful event played to a sold out crowd. The Historical Society is grateful to the many volunteers who made the evening possible. Thank you to the historic home hosts Linda Cracraft and Jenny and Sean Hart; Jerry and Pat Ford; David and Kathryn Koch; Steve and Patty Ratliff; and Dave and Mary Wood. And thanks to the Board members who helped them: Ted Zegers. Nancy and Walt Rule, Penny Hanshaw, Glenda and George Moore, and Joan and Kevin Chismire. Diann Correll, Joan Chismire, Carolyn Kelly, Kathy Pettengill and Gail Saunders provided the appetizers. Gail Saunders, Chairman, and the Vignette's committee Joan Chismire, Linda Cracraft, Sue Hillhouse, and Gail Jossi as well as the museum's staff Maria Jones, Sandi MacLeod, and Britta VanDijk worked for hours to plan the event and to make sure it ran smoothly. Special thanks goes to the Vignette 2008 sponsors Philip K. Icke, Citizens State Bank of Ouray and The Zanett Foundation as well as Alpine Bank, The Purple Iris, Hot Springs Inn and Rockin' P Ranch.



*Emcee,
Kevin Chismire*



*Tom Walsh discovers ore in old
workings of the Camp Bird Mine with
Ehwood Gregory as
Andy Richardson.*



*Walsh takes his ore samples to
assayer Harry Strout played by
Don Paulson.*



*Tom Walsh with his young
children: Evalyn, played by
5 Hanshaw and Vinson,
played by Sam Rondinelli.
Carol Stewart played the
part of Tom's wife
Carrie Bell Reed Walsh.*

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OURAY COUNTY

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MEET JOEY HUDDLESTON NEW OCHS MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Joey Huddleston will join the OCHS crew of volunteers as the new Membership Chairman. He is replacing Sue Hillhouse, the previous chairman who held the position for seven years. The Membership Chairman keeps the files in order and seeks new members. Because OCHS receives no public funds, the museum relies on memberships, donations, fund raising events, and admissions. Funds from memberships supply about one-third of the museum's operating budget.

Joey and Kathy Huddleston fell in love with the Ouray area when they first visited in 1976.



Originally from Dayton, Ohio, they lived in Orlando from 1973 to 2005. Joey worked for a national printing company. In 1990, they purchased land in the Piedmont area and moved into a newly built home there in 2007. Joey and Kathy have two grown children, Erin who lives in Seattle and Adam, an MD in Orlando. Kathy volunteers with the Ridgway Schools and Joey volunteers with Neighbor-to-Neighbor.

MEMBERSHIP FOR 2009

YES, I'D LIKE TO JOIN OCHS!

HERE'S MY MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION TO THE
OURAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

Silver King Level - \$25 Individual Only

Guston Level - \$40 Family

Revenue Level - \$50 - \$99

Grizzly Bear Level - \$100-\$249

National Belle Level - \$250-\$499

Yankee Girl Level - \$500-\$999

Camp Bird Level - \$1000 and up

Business Member - \$50 and up

Please send your check, along with updated address, phone, and email information to OCHS,
PO Box 151, Ouray CO, 81427. Also, encourage your friends and neighbors to join

Thank you so much!

Ouray County Historical Society

P O Box 151

Ouray, CO 81427

970-325-4576

Want to receive your
newsletter by email?

Let us know at:

<OCHS@ouraynet.com>