

WEST WOOD

Old Colorado City Historical Society

Volume 28, Number 3

April, 2013

The Idiotic Rock Formations of Woodmen Valley

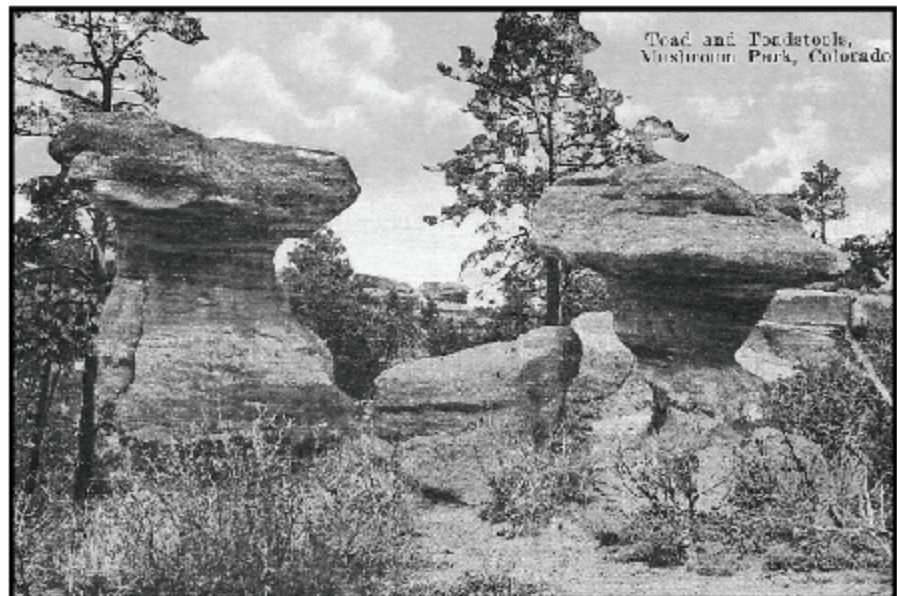
By Thomas E. Daniels

In the northern and northeastern part of Colorado Springs stretching from Woodmen Valley to Palmer Park (Austin Bluffs,) lie some of the most interesting monolith type rock columns in the Pikes Peak Region. So unique they are to our area, many of them were given names because of their resemblance to other sights around the world. Names like, the Vulcan's Anvil, the Dutch Wedding Rocks, the Old Maid, Idiotic Rock, Gypsies, the Colonnades, Mother Grundy, Mushroom Rock and many more. They were first made famous when photographer William H. Jackson discovered them in 1873, and published pictures of them. Early settlers first called this area Cedar Valley and/or Enchanted Park. Jackson called it Monument Park, because most of the formations looked like large monuments. Monument Park in those days spread all the way out to Austin Bluffs and a little beyond.

How the formations came to be is quite interesting in itself. Some time around 50 million years ago violent rainstorms were constantly washing large amounts of granite, which consists mostly of quartz, feldspar and mica, down from the newly risen Pikes Peak forming wide alluvial fans. A few million years later coarse, iron rich gravel washed down from mountains further to the north. With time, both of

these gravel deposits consolidated into stone. The earlier gravel from Pikes Peak became a soft, light colored conglomerate cemented by carbonates. The more recent coarse gravel turned into a harder, dark colored conglomerate cemented by silica. Subsequent erosion created openings in the hard, iron-rich deposits leaving patches of hard capstone. These protected large columns of the softer arkose (feldspar-rich conglomerate) resulting in the giant columns that are left today. Other areas that have these unique formations are the El Paso County Paint Mines just south of Calhan and the huge Monument Rocks in western Kansas.

Between the gold rush of 1859 and the start of the Civil War, crowds of new people flooded into the Pikes Peak Region seeking a better life



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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1 South 24th Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

or Don Ellis - spiderwort@pcslsys.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	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
Vice President	Betty Baker	636-1225
Secretary	Brian Copeland	636-1225
Treasurer	Suzanne Schorsch	488-0256
	Janice deChadenades	598-7183
	Bev Disch	636-1225
	Sandy Hanzllan	636-1225
	Kathy McBride	636-1225
	Phil McDonald	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 a.m. on the day of the meeting for refreshments and visitation. Everyone welcome.

WELCOME TO OCCHS!

~ NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Bill Arnold

Rosemary Ault

Raymond and Joan Buday

Ruth and Terry Caldwell

Robert K. Charles

Steve Daigle

John and Chrysandra Fontenos

Don Hanlon and Karen Rhodes

Dwight Haverkom

Donald H. Meyer

Mary Jean and Fred Nelson

Jack and Bev Patterson

Donald and Betty Peterson

Elaine McFarland Radney

Linda Smith

Barbara Sweat

Judith Willey

Margaret Williams



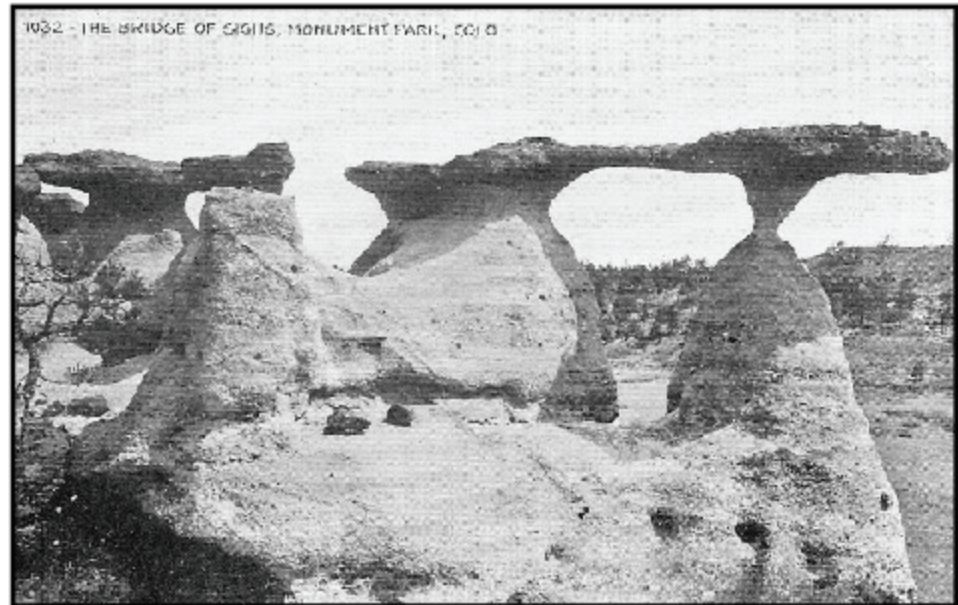
Continued from page 1

than the one they left. One of the favorite pastimes of this period was taking a horse and buggy ride out to Monument Park and viewing all of these great columns. Most every ones favorite was the Dutch Wedding Rocks which were located on the north side of the park about halfway up the valley. Some formations were high up on the cliffs of the valley and required some strenuous walking and

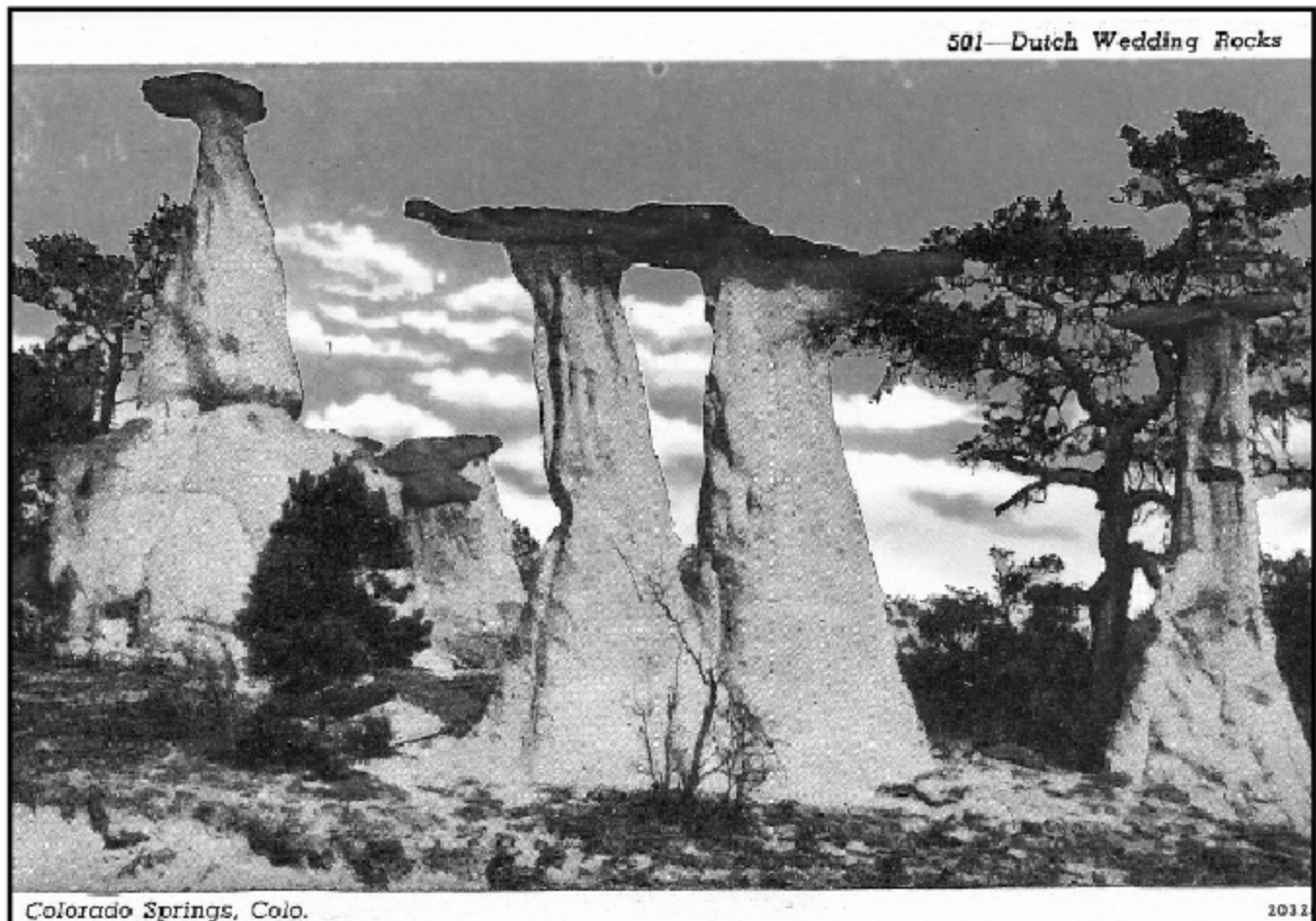
hiking but that was all part of the experience. The columns and grotesque shapes soon adopted the name Hoodoos.

In 1909, the Modern Woodman of America built a large sanatorium at the west end of the Valley and the name started to change slowly from Monument Park to Woodmen Valley. The Golden Cycle Corporation, which owned

most of the gold mines in Cripple Creek, the Golden Cycle Mill in Colorado City and the Midland Terminal Railroad also owned most of the land in Woodmen Valley because of the large coal deposits that had been found there. After a cure for tuberculosis was found in the 1940's, the sanatorium was closed and given to the Catholic Church. The Golden Cycle people



1032 - THE BRIDGE OF GIGGIS, MONUMENT PARK, COLO



501 - Dutch Wedding Rocks

began selling off lots in Woodmen Valley and today very little land is left publicly to view the monuments. There were no preservation groups around in those days to set some of the monuments aside and most of them are now on private property. The other half of the old Monument Park, which is now Palmer Park, is a splendid place to see the monuments as it is a city owned park. You do have to do a fair amount of walking and climbing as



most of the columns are up on the side of the cliffs. Another good section is the University Park area just north of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS) campus. Here you can spend all day walking around from the magnificent Pulpit Rock monument to the columns overlooking the UCCS campus.

Some of the monuments have been

destroyed either by man or by natural erosion just since the days that William H. Jackson was around. The Bridge of Sighs used to connect at the tops of each column, but has since broken apart. The Colonnades has lost one of the columns altogether and only a small stump of granite remains in its place. However, if what we see today is a result of three million years

ago and man doesn't get to ambitious, I image quite a few of these Hoodoos will last well beyond the time that man is no longer a part of the earth. An excellent map for hiking to some of the formations in Austin Bluffs is the "Palmer Park Trail Map" published by Western Maps and is available in most map stores and some sporting goods stores.

The author acknowledges Don Ellis' assistance in describing the geology.



MEMBERS TO VOTE ON PROPOSED BY LAWS CHANGES

The OCCHS Board of Directors has voted to make some changes to our society By Laws. The By Laws are a living document that is meant to give direction to our society and can be changed as seems best by a vote of the membership.

In the May issue of the West Word we will present a full break down of the present wording and the changes proposed. Please read them carefully and be prepared to vote at the May annual meeting-May 10, 2013.

The Board wishes to change its members' terms of office to run from January through December, with elections held at a January Annual Meeting. The other change would be to downsize our board from nine (9) members to seven (7).

Please come May 10 for coffee, voting and a new program by Mel McFarland.

Bock Event Shows the West Side Works Well Together

When Richard Bock moved to Arizona he still wanted to maintain ties with the Westside of Colorado Springs where his father, John G. Bock, had raised his two sons, ran a stable and purchased over 780 acres that would become what is now known as Red Rock Canyon Open Space.

To keep in touch, Richard subscribed to the *Westside Pioneer*. When Richard contacted **Kenyon Jordan**, editor of the *Westside Pioneer*, and asked if the community would be interested in some of his family memorabilia, Richard was not aware that he would be part of how the Westside is still a community that works well together.

Kenyon contacted the Old Colorado City Historical Society and a date was set for the public to get to view the new memorabilia from the Bock family. Kenyon gifted these items to the Historical Society to insure that they would remain a part of our community. He asked local historian **Dave Hughes** to write an article for the *Westside Pioneer* on the history of the Bock family and their important part to our community. **Tom Daniels** from our Archive Department set to work making a wonderful display of Bock family history and Red Rock Canyon highlighting the new items. Many items from the Dave Hughes Collection that had been on display in John Bock Sr.'s Museum and have been loaned and/or donated to the Historical Society's museum were highlighted with signs in their display cabinets. President of OCCHS, **Sharon Swint**, put together a time line for easy reference for the many visitors who were expected to attend. **Jo Cervone**, who works on advertising and public relations for OCCHS, got to work finding ways to let the public know that this display would be free to the public on March 2nd.

We could tell the event was going to be

popular by the number of people who called. One family dropped by the History Center to give us a color photo that related to the Bock family and had many stories to tell about when they lived in a house on the Bock property. Their picture was added to the display. The display contained Bock family history, items that had been on display in John Bock Sr.'s Museum on early Colorado settlers, and books and items that dealt with Red Rock Canyon.

On the day of the event, **Tom Daniels**, **Sharon Swint** and one of our newest members **Monica Malone** were available to answer questions and help with the display. **Eloise Wynne**, our docent and bookstore volunteer for the day was happy that member **Kathy McBride** came in to help her with the bookstore during the event.

We knew it would be BUSY, but we NEVER anticipated HOW busy. We think that over 300 people attended. We usually count the people who attend our events, but the event workers got too busy and gave up. Three new memberships to the society were taken and it was the largest day in sales in our bookstore EVER. Many people came in that did not know that we have one of the largest selections of books on Colorado History in our area. People were very interested in the books that OCCHS publishes and carries on Red Rock Canyon.

People not only learned about the Bock family and Red Rock Canyon, but took home information on events that occur and are open to the public held by OCCHS. Those who attended were a mix of people who were interested in local history, members of our society, ones that knew the Bock family and many who just wanted to be part of a wonderful community spirit on the West Side.

President's Letter

Dear Members--

What an exciting month. The BOCK LEGACY EXHIBIT held two Saturdays ago was an amazing success. We had over 300 people show up from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The attendees LOVED the displays, the artifacts and archival items that they could handle (gloves provided). We heard so many stories about the Bock family from people who knew them, worked for them or had family members who knew them. How I wish we'd had a recorder to interview each one. It was priceless. The entire event was spearheaded by Tom Daniels, OCCHS archivist. He had a lot of help that day including, Eloise Wynne, Kathy McBride, Monica Malone, Don Ellis and Dave Hughes. It was just a great day for the community and OCCHS. Thanks to all.

"The Colorful Tale of Buckskin Joe" program on Friday was a hit also--full house. Sherry Johns did a great job detailing the history of old Buckskin Joe himself as well as the tourist park named after him near the Royal Gorge. She recorded the buildings the weeks before they were moved away to a private retreat and showed us pictures of how they looked prior to renovation.

Lastly, we had Mayor Bach use our building for his first 2013 town hall meeting. We were bursting at the seams--about 120 people, standing room only, picketers and a few people turned away. (Less than 10) We, of course, have to follow fire rules. In the past the Mayor has only drawn a maximum of 55 people. Westsiders really care. A sequel meeting for Westsiders will be held Tuesday, March 19 at the Shrine Club, 6 S. 33rd Street.

See you at the BOOK SALE -----

Sharon Swint

Treasurer's Report - February 2013

- Suzanne Schorsch

The first few months of the year are traditionally the quiet time for OCCHS, financially that is. There are no major fundraising events until Territory Days, the kick-off of summer. But this year we have been busy. Our regular monthly meetings, the Town Hall meeting and our Bock event have kept the volunteers hopping. April will bring our first ever Used Book Sale. Funds made from this event will go toward the operations of our Society. There is always maintenance on a building as old as our historic center. So, we really do thank you for all of your support. Accounts for February month end are as follows:

General Operating Account	\$18,788.38
Endowment Account	\$106,308.75
Savings Account	\$16,566.01
Bookstore/Publishing Account	\$4,362.91
TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS	\$146,026.05



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, April 15

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

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April/May Calendar

Saturday, April 6
11 A.M. - 4

BOOKSALE - OCCHS fundraiser. More than 2,000 gently used and new books on sale.

Friday, April 12
11:00 A.M.

Program: "The Research Factor in Historical Fiction" presented by Bert Entwistle and John Dwaine McKenna. The first half hour, Bert Entwistle will talk about how to research in preparation for writing historical fiction. The second half hour John Dwaine McKenna will talk about using historical characters as inspiration for historical fiction characters. These will be insightful presentations with a window into the authorial thought process.

OCCHS Members FREE. Non-members \$5.00.

Friday, May 10
10:15 A.M.

ANNUAL MEETING - doors open at 9:30

Friday, May 10
11:00 A.M.

Program: "From Palmer to AMTRAK - Railroads of the Pike's Peak Region" presented by Mel McFarland. Railroading in the Pike's Peak Region was once a significant industry. More than 10 railroads once operated in the Pike's Peak Region, nearly all were small, but others were major operations. From 1871 to 1971, the industry flourished, and then almost died. This presentation will feature information on each of the railroad lines of the region.

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 - 4 Free Admission. Donations greatly appreciated.