

CAÑON CITY, COLORADO 81212

JUNE 2012

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

Royal Gorge Regional
Museum and History Center

Reading Room
for local history

Exhibits

Free admission

719-269-9036

612 Royal Gorge Blvd

www.royalgorgehistory.org

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

THE INDUSTRY THAT FORMED A FREMONT COUNTY ECONOMIC BASE FOR MANY YEARS

Irrigation, truck farming, and reservoirs were the result of the industry of several pioneers of the area. The most prominent of these early farmers were Dall DeWeese, David Lucas, Jesse Frazier and Benjamin Rockafellow. The exhibit at the History Center will be available throughout the summer—please come in and enjoy this great look back at Fremont County in the formative years. The museum is open from 10 am. To 4 pm Wednesday through Saturday.

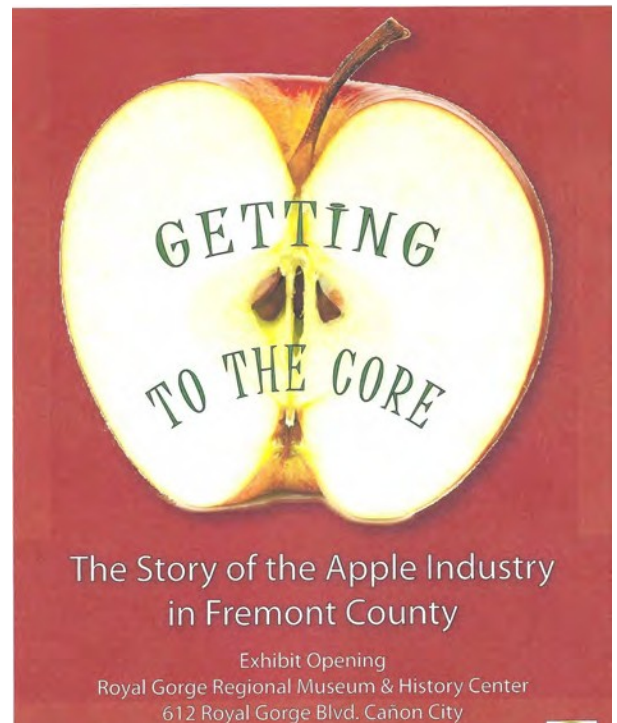


Museum & history	2
Cyanide, cont.	2
COTOPAXI 1903	2
Hot Springs Hotel and bath house	3
Buffalo Frieze	3
CYANIDE—STREETS AND TOWN	4
PENITENTIARY—EXECUTION	5



The Grand opening of the Exhibit "Getting to the Core" was highlighted by the door prize awarded to the orchard owners - the Dinardo twins - Albert on the Left, and Mario (right). The crowd of over 50 people enjoyed the apple refreshments, and the displays of the industry

- THE BOARD OF THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER HAS A WEBSITE — PLEASE VISIT IT SOON:
- WWW. MUSEUM-FRIENDS.INFO
- We share this site with Fremont-Custer Historical society.



Page 2



The Friends of the Museum and History Center are a group of volunteers who are supporting the events and exhibits at the Museum and Local History Center by volunteering their time and expertise to stretch the staff time and effort to the maximum.

Please consider joining us, or be on the Board of Directors:

Call: 275 5552

Geri Collette, Chairman

**ROYAL GORGE REGIONAL MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER—
YOUR SOURCE FOR GENEALOGY AND HISTORICAL
INFORMATION ABOUT THE FREMONT COUNTY AREA:**

Have you visited the museum lately? Could you tell someone that is new in the area about the exhibits that are available for anyone who walks in the door (always free)?

Have you seen the firearms exhibit? The diorama with the Mountain Bison and the beautiful mural painted by a very famous artist?

The staff has been working diligently on the cur-

rent exhibit—which features one of the most important economic factors in the history of the Fremont County area.

The prominent thread of consistency in the history which has spun through the area is the planting of fruit trees and irrigation of fields and truck gardens to feed the large towns which were always needing fresh fruit and vegetables for

their tables.

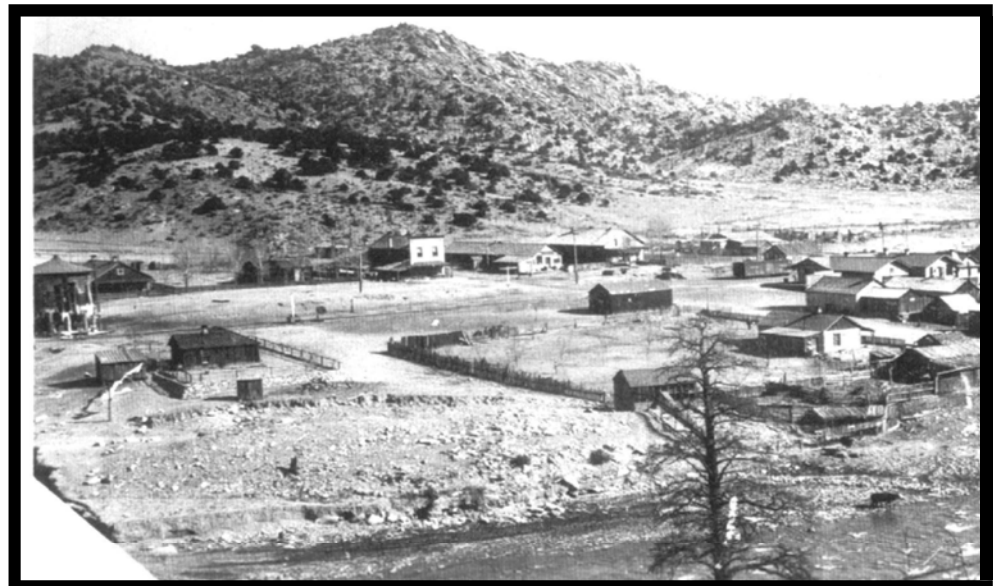
The exhibit which opened on June 1, 2012 is the story of the pioneers who brought those thousands of trees from the east, grafted the new varieties to old, and produced a very delicious and extensive trade for the people who lived in this area.

Blossom Festival is an outgrowth of that industry.

FREMONT COUNTY COVERS A LOT OF TERRITORY

HERE IS THE WAY COTOPAXI LOOKED A HUNDRED TEN YEARS AGO:

A look back at another area of the County—Cotopaxi in 1903 had a few buildings, a few tents and the railroad tracks which were a main source of transportation for cows (notice corrals in upper left) and people from Cañon City to Salida.

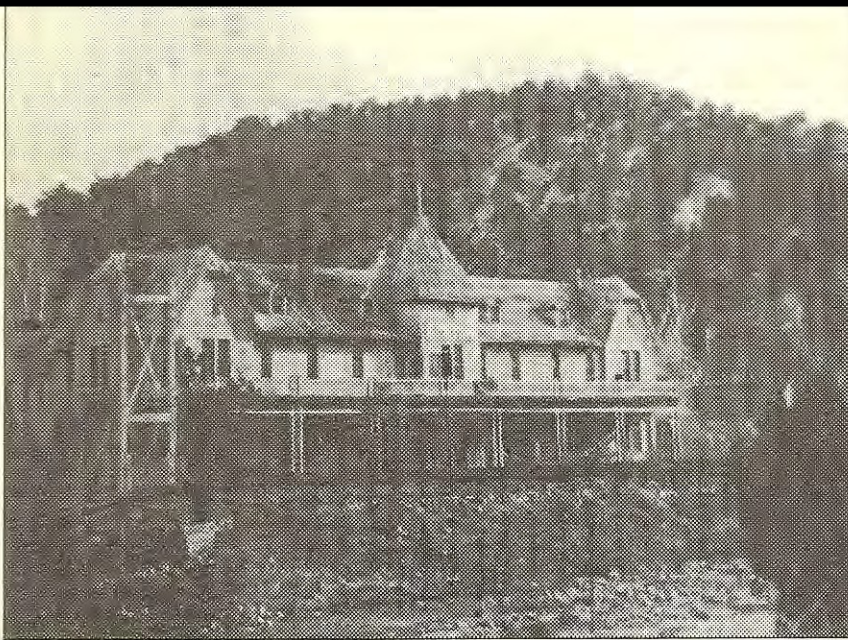


**CONTINUED to Page 4:
ABOUT THE CYANIDE
STORY—GOLD AND THE
PROCESSING OF THE
ORE:**

Cyanide can be used to extract gold, either in a controlled mill environment, or more crudely on rock piles in the open. Cyanide vat leaching mixes finely crushed ore with a cyanide salt in water. The cyanide binds to the gold ions, and makes them soluble in water, thereby allowing separation from the rock. This process usually takes place inside a mill or other mining facility.

By [David Coil](#), [Elizabeth Lester](#), [Bretwood Higman](#), [Ground Truth Trekking](#)

TREASURES FROM THE PAST: SOUTH CANON



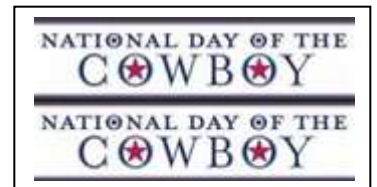
Royal Gorge Hot Springs Hotel

1878 - 1950



The National Day of the American Cowboy is always celebrated at the Museum and History Center in July.

Saturday, July 28th, at 10:30 am. In the History Center Reading Room, we are presenting Local Cowboy poets. There will be refreshments and a great time to remember the Fremont County of the Past.



THE FIRST TOURIST ATTRACTION OF THE COUNTY:

The climate of the County has always proved incentive to those who are afflicted with disease and discomfort. The Hot Springs at the mouth of the Royal Gorge were considered of beneficial use for many illnesses. The hot baths were in use from early days, and continued with the building of a "Bath house" in 1874, and many folks took the "bus" run by Mr. Sartor from the Depot to the Hot Springs.

In the early "80's" a 30 room hotel was built next to the bath house for the convenience of people to stay overnight near the medicinal waters. This hotel was purchased by Dr. J.L. Prentiss in 1893. The doctor also owned a pharmacy, and was active in civic affairs, such as irrigation systems, and on the board of the Military Institute etc.

The buildings were razed in 1950's, the bath house having burned previously.



The bath house at the Hot Springs Hotel was a popular place for weekly baths, and for medicinal soaking. The hot springs have been lost, now—and are no longer available for use as they were in the first 75 years of the Cañon City era.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER**CYANIDE—THE STORY AND THE FACTS****We have Cyanide Streets in Florence and Cañon City— WHY?**

"In 1893, Philip Argall was proffered the job of designing from scratch and operating a new plant to process Cripple Creek ores at Cyanide, Colorado. Argall designed the 400-ton-per-day Metallic Extraction Company mill at Cyanide to include massive dryers and roasters, rows of roll crushers, and a cyanide vat structure the

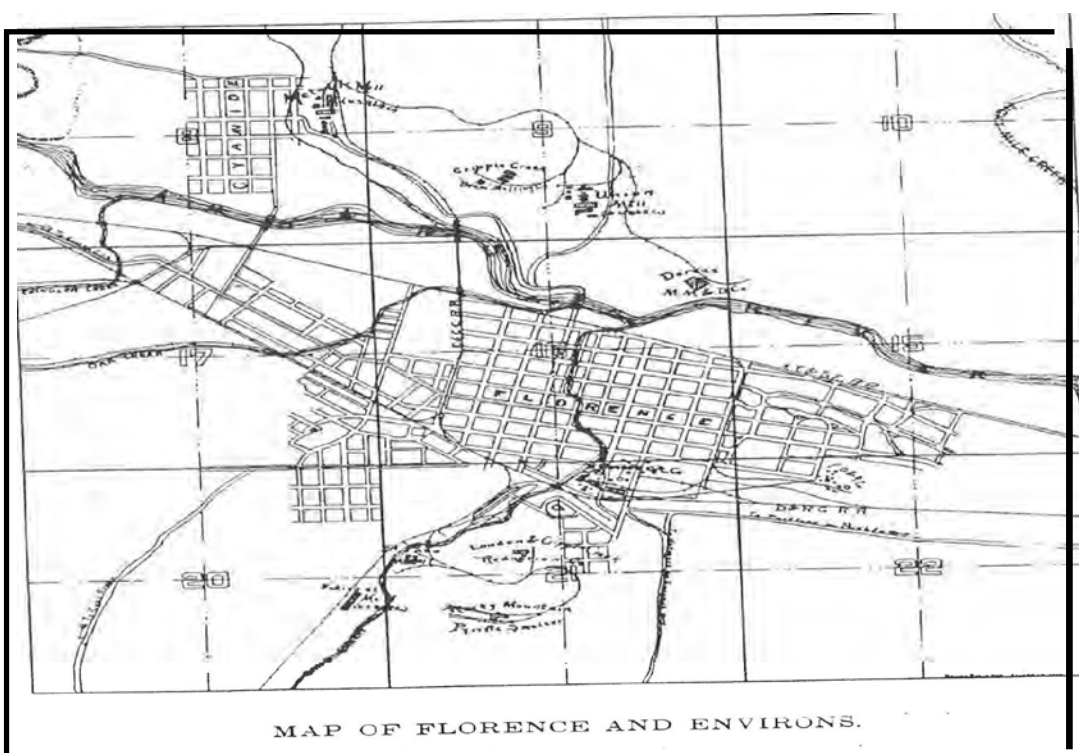
size of a football field. Argall started the cyanide process by roasting ores ahead of cyanidation. In this process- ing step, he was soon using multi-tubular roasters of his own design.

"The plant at Cyanide was the world's first for direct treatment of sulfa-telluride ores. Mines throughout the West studied and copied it: at Congress, Arizona's biggest gold mine; at Delamar, Nevada's biggest gold camp; and at Mercur, Utah, where the size of the Golden Gate mill eclipsed Philip Argall's Cyanide mill by 1898. The mills that were built in these areas copied the process invented by Argall, but very few royalties were realized.

In the spring of 1899, Philip Argall introduced the 8-hour work shift at the Metallic Extraction Company mill. Argall's mill was the first in Colorado to adopt the 8-hour shift. This work practice attracted a better class of worker, reduced turnover, and increased production per man hour. Later in his career, Philip Argall called the introduction of the 8-hour shift his greatest accomplishment. At the same time, Argall said, "It has been my privilege to see the cost of treating Cripple Creek ores by wet methods reduced from \$15 per ton in 1893 to \$3.50 per ton in 1898 and to \$1.38 per ton in 1913."

More—CYANIDE on Page 5

Cyanide was a platted town North West of Florence across the Arkansas River. Notice the Street town of Cyanide in the is in direct line with the present day Cyanide Street in Florence on the West end of town.



Stories tell that this street lines up with the Cyanide Ave. in Cañon City on Prospect Heights, Capitol Hill area.

Does it?

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

CYANIDE—ANOTHER REASON FOR PEOPLE TO CRINGEEXECUTION AT THE PENITENTIARY

Until 1933, executions at the Colorado State Penitentiary were conducted by hanging the convict condemned to death. Forty Five (45) inmates were hung from 1890 until Dec. 1, 1933.

Legislation changed the method of execution in 1934 when it was determined the gas chamber would be “humane”. The first death in Colorado’s gas chamber was on June 22, 1934. Jose Monge was executed on June 2, 1967 as the last inmate to be “gassed”. The chamber now sits in the yard of the Prison Museum on 1st Street.

The process of execution was carefully orchestrated by the staff of the prison and followed a routine such as:

1. A last meal of their choosing was provided to the prisoner. Executions usually were done on Friday night at 8 p.m. and the last meal was a “dinner” on that night.

2. The execution chamber was tested and readied for flawless function, and for leaks around the doors and viewing windows. Assignments for the staff were varied, and each person given a task to make sure the process was without incident. The missing of the acid was released into the bottom of the chamber where it awaited the dropping cyanide capsule. There were 10 men including the doctor with assigned tasks.

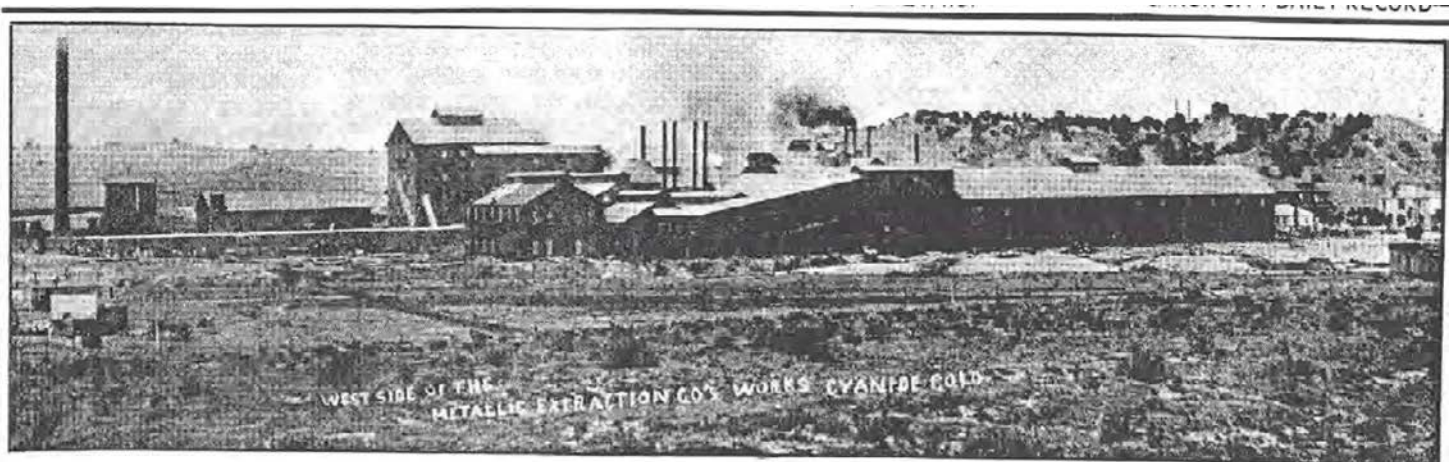
3. The warden would read the death warrant to the assembled group and the condemned man. He was accompanied to a room adjacent to the chamber and his clothes removed, and dressed in shorts and socks. He was accompanied by a chaplain. Straps were put around his arms and legs for contact points connected to a cardiograph after he was strapped down.

4. The prisoner entered the chamber and was strapped into the chair by two assistants. The doctor then connected the cardiograph and stethoscope. The prisoner was given last rites or other religious counsel.

5. The door of the chamber was closed and cranked shut, making the seal complete. There was a live telephone line into the chamber. A complete check of all systems was made and the pellet of cyanide was dropped into the acid inside the chamber by a lever. The doctor monitored the cardiograph and stethoscope attached to the straps on the prisoner’s body, and pronounced death.

6. The witnesses signed official papers of the execution being complete.

Taken from A History of Colorado State Penitentiary 1871 to 1980 by Julie Whitmore



Florence company extracted gold ore



Stamp goes here

**CAÑON CITY, COLORADO
81212**

Carol McNew, Webmaster, Newsletter
703 Cyanide Avenue
Canon City, Colorado
81212

TO:



WE'RE ON THE WEB!!
WWW.MUSEUMFRIENDS.INFO



**JOIN OUR FRIENDS TODAY!
HELP SUPPORT THE EVENTS
AND EXHIBITS AT THE MUSEUM
AND HISTORY CENTER**



**MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES THIS NEWS-
LETTER QUARTERLY DURING THE
YEAR:**

- INDIVIDUAL\$10.00
- COUPLE 15.00
- FAMILY 20.00
- BUSINESS/GROUP.25.00

PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK TO:
FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM
P.O. BOX 481
CAÑON CITY, CO 81215