

PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER 16, 2014

The famous, the wonderful, the showman of the ages: “BUFFALO BILL” CODY



Red Herring Productions professional enactors presents:
“Buffalo Bill was a famous army scout, hunter, soldier, and showman. His grave is here in Colorado, but his spirit lives on throughout the West.”

We are proud to present a true story of one of our most famous residents in the Colorado frontier. The stories and life that this man tells will entertain and amaze you. Please plan to attend this great program. We always serve goodies and hot coffee.

Meet the speaker: page 3

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IN THIS ISSUE: Buffalo Bill Cody will be our program in November, presented by Gene Johnson, see bio on page 3; Scholarship essay by Kathryn Vinyard; membership information; links of interest. Advertisers on Page 6 - please patronize these businesses!

PROGRAM AT:
SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH,
801 SHERIDAN AVE., CAÑON CITY, CO 2:00 P.M.
REFRESHMENTS SERVED
PUBLIC WELCOME

Ute Indians of Fremont County Legends and Stories

Researched and written by Kathryn Vinyard as scholarship essay submission, 2014

Fremont County has a large history of Native Americans. The most noted were the Utes, the Cheyenne, and the Arapaho. Prior to the late 1700s, the Utes were the predominant tribe of the area. They were largely impoverished and forced to remain in or near the mountains by the more forceful plains tribes. They occupied some twelve million acres of land when Colorado first became a state. They were known as the Blue Sky People. (Source: *People of the Shining Mountains*, author, Joseph Kinsey Howard) Roughly four thousand of them were divided into three bands, the Southern, the Uncompagre. and the White River Utes. (Colorado Magazine).

The three great dances of the Utes signified their place in the “Shining Mountains”, the swoop and the flight of the eagle told the Indian of lands he could dream about, the coyote told of the use of the good earth, and the bear brought the wonder and the glory of a new season.

From the very beginning of Colorado statehood, forces were at work to extinguish Indian land titles and to move the Indians out of the way of the advancing white civilization.

During periods of Spanish exploration in the late 1700s, tribal raids on expeditions and outposts yielded horses and weapons. When peaceful trading began to occur, local Indian tribes learned some of the Spanish language that would later aid in trading with the forts and outposts of American traders and the military.

In 1829, a trading outpost was set up on Hardscrabble Creek, south of present day Florence. The purpose of the post seems to have been to supply whiskey and cattle to the trapper trade, and to do bartering with the Native Americans. As early settlers', traders', and trappers' presence began to take a toll on the wildlife supply, accounts of the Indian/white man incidents began to appear. Most subsequent accounts of Indian incidents following the 1860s were of the mutual (benefit) or nuisance variety. Hostilities were few in the Fremont County area, although nearly every pioneer family has an Indian incident as part of their history.

The Ute Chief Ouray, was known to frequent the Cañon City area, then nicknamed the “Gate City to the Mountains,” He was well-known to the first Indian agents in the late 1860s as a truthful, clear thinking man. It was by Ouray's command that his braves did not harm settlers. Any who did, Ouray was known to turn over for the “white man's justice.” He became a skilled negotiator and leader. He married Chipeta in 1859.

The Utes behaved well in the settlements, having a greater hatred of the Plains Indians than toward the whites. Early settlers considered them an addition to the fighting strength of the county in case of incursions by the Sioux or Arapahos. In those days, early into the winter, bands of Utes made incursions on the Plains Tribes' territory, after coming into collision with their enemies. On one occasion, in December 1869, the Utes killed many of their enemies. They captured a large number of ponies, dry goods, canned goods, including brandy, which the Arapahos had recently stolen from captured trains. On their return, the Utes built signal fires on “Signal Mountain” near the head of “Oil Creek,” about twenty miles north of Cañon City. (source: The Florence Citizen 1971 Pioneer Edition.) This rallied all their tribes and they had the greatest war dance and Indian spree they were ever known to indulge in.

Over the years, the federal government negotiated several treaties and agreements in which the Utes traded land for money, food, and other annuities. They hoped that through these treaties they would be able to hold on to part of their land. In the resulting conflicts and negotiations between various Ute bands and the U.S. Government, leaders such as Shavano, Colorao, and Ouray played important roles.

In 1863, the government attempted to negotiate a land deal with the Utes. Ouray made the first of many trips to Washington D.C. to negotiate the treaty. It was then that the “Treaty with the Utah -Tabeguache Band” was signed. Four years later, the government negotiated a similar agreement with a more representative group of Ute Bands, which created the “Consolidated Ute Reservations. When Ouray would return from these trips, after being bedridden and in great pain, with a large contingent of family and followers, Ouray and Chipeta set up winter camp at “Four Mile Creek”, east of Cañon City. There, it offered the benefits of nearby hot springs and a growing white community eager for trade. The Utes used the thermal waters for their aches and pains. An oil seep north of the river town site oozed a greasy product the tribes may have used as a body massage.

Continued from Page 3 - Vinyard essay for scholarship

On one trip between camp and town, a Ute named Tabweah spotted his recently stolen horse tied up at a home of a man called Marksberry. Tabweah removed the saddle and bridle and took his horse. Marksberry, seeing this, followed Tabweah, and slipped into the Utes' grazing area and took the horse back. Upon discovering this, Tabweah went after Marksberry, shot him dead, and took the horse. (Source; *Chipeta, A Biography*).

It is said that there are Ute burial grounds along Grape Creek through Temple Canyon. The Ute Trail, as it is known today, was at one time used by the Indians in their excursion to and from the plains country. Along some of these trails, occasionally, are piles of rocks. They were always on top of a hill along the trails. Some say that they mark the site where the Ute were killed, and others say that they buried their dead in rock slides. (Source: *Ute Indians: Where and how did they bury their dead?* Fremont Custer Historical Society, Inc. 1974).

An early Ute camp was located near the foot of "Baldy Mountain" near Coaldale. It was here, along with other similar camps, that the white people became acquainted with the camp customs of the Indians. It was shortly after the white people came here that the camp near Baldy Mountain was abandoned. One night, after a great deal of confusion, the sound of drums and wailing was heard from the camp.. The white people thought perhaps the Chief had died, and went to the camp to see the reason for all the excitement of the night before. They found no signs of a grave or anything else to show they had left. Everything had been left, and the Indians were never known to use that camp again. (Source; Carol McNew- *Beyond the Gorge*).

These are just a few stories and legends that I found when reading into the history of the Utes. There are so many more interesting pieces. The Utes left a rich history to Fremont County.

Works cited;

West Word; *Old Colorado City historical Society*, Volume, 21: Issue 1
The Mountain People, January 2006
Historical Flashbacks; a publication of the Fremont Custer Historical Society, Inc.
February 1974, Vol. 11, No 1
Colorado magazine; Published by the State Historical Society of Colorado Volume XXV, Number 5, Sept. 1948
The Gleanor, Wednesday April 25, 1984, by U. Michael Welch
The Florence Citizen, pioneer Edition 1971
Beyond the Gorge, by Carol McNew; Copyright 2001, Coaldale, CO

Continued from Page One: Our Presenter: Gene Johnson, "Buffalo Bill" Cody enactor, Red Herring Productions



Gene is a ninth-generation descendant of frontiersman Daniel Boone, verified by Ancestry.com. Gene was born in the Daniel Boone National Forest in central Kentucky. He grew up as a hunter, fisherman, falconer, naturalist/ornithologist. Trained at the Ohio State University, he earned a B.S. in Natural Resources. He studied Art at Wichita State U. and Kent State U., majoring in Fine & Professional Art, Sculpture, Jewelry Design & Fabrication and Knife Making. His current artwork was exhibited at Arati Artists Gallery in Old Colorado City (Colorado Springs). For over forty years, he has produced falconry equipment, knives and artwork for falconers worldwide. Since 2003, he has performed with Red Herring Productions, an improvisational theater company presenting murder mysteries in venues around Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico. He has performed over thirty characters with Red Herring in 26 different scripts. He feels privileged to meet and perform for audiences interested in experiencing America's living history.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We would like to send the newsletter by email if you are interested in signing up for this service, please fill out the form which will be available at the November Program member meeting.

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LINKS OF INTEREST:

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Fremont County Heritage Commission website:
www.fremontco.com/heritage

Fremont County Heritage Commission email:
fremontheritage@gmail.com

Fall festival website:
<http://www.fremontcoloheritage.com/>

Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center phone number: 719 269 9036
Email: lmstudts@canoncity.org
Friends of the Museum and History Center:
www.museumfriends.info

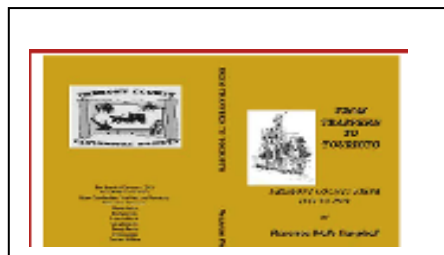
Florence, CO website: www.florencecolorado.org

Rockvale website: www.rockvaleco.org
Brookside website:
<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/TownofBrookside/CBON/1251628955751>

City of Cañon City: www.canoncity.org

Cañonland Walkers & Hikers
www.Canonlandwalkershikers.org

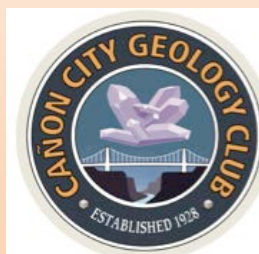
Prison Museum - Stacy Kline - office@prisonmuseum.org



CAÑON CITY GEOLOGY CLUB PROGRAM

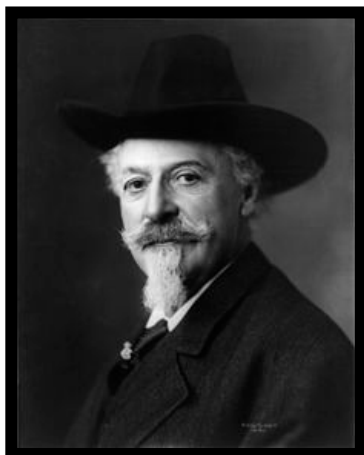
Dr. Mike Nelson, speaker
Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

November 10, 2014 6:00 pm business meeting;
7:00 pm speaker
First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
on the northwest corner of 9th St and Main,
Cañon City
(719-275-9781 for more information)



DR. MIKE NELSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1, Our Program on November 16, 2014,



On June 3, 1917, Cody was buried on Colorado's Lookout Mountain in Golden, west of the city of Denver, on the edge of the Rocky Mountains, overlooking the Great Plains. His burial site was selected by his sister Mary Decker. In 1948 the Cody chapter of the American Legion offered a reward for the "return" of the body, so the Denver chapter mounted a guard over the grave until a deeper shaft could be blasted into the rock.

In 1872, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for service as a civilian scout to the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, for "gallantry in action" at Loupe Forke, Platte River, Nebraska. In 1917, the U.S. Army—after Congress revised the standards for award of the medal—removed from the rolls 911 medals previously awarded either to civilians, or for actions that would not warrant a Medal of Honor under the new higher standards. Among those revoked was Cody's.

William Frederick Cody ("Buffalo Bill") got his nickname after the American Civil War when he had a contract to supply Kansas Pacific Railroad workers with buffalo meat. He is purported to have killed 4,282 American bison (commonly known as buffalo) in eighteen months, (1867–1868). Cody and hunter William Comstock competed in an eight-hour buffalo-shooting match over the exclusive right to use the name, in which Cody won by killing 68 bison to Comstock's 48. Comstock, part Cheyenne and a noted hunter, scout, and interpreter, used a fast-shooting Henry repeating rifle, while Cody competed with a larger-caliber Springfield Model 1863, which he called Lucretia Borgia after legendary beautiful, ruthless Italian noblewoman, the subject of a popular contemporary Victor Hugo play of the same name. Cody explained that while his formidable opponent, Comstock, chased after his buffalo, engaging from the rear of the herd and leaving a trail of killed buffalo "scattered over a distance of three miles", Cody - likening his strategy to a billiards player "nursing" his billiard balls during "a big run" - first rode his horse to the front of the herd to target the leaders, forcing the followers to one side, eventually causing them to circle and create an easy target, dropping them close together.

From Wikipedia – more there about the life and times of Buffalo Bill Cody.

The City of Cañon City is pleased to print the Fremont County Historical Society Newsletter as a contribution.

Thanks for all you do for Fremont County History!



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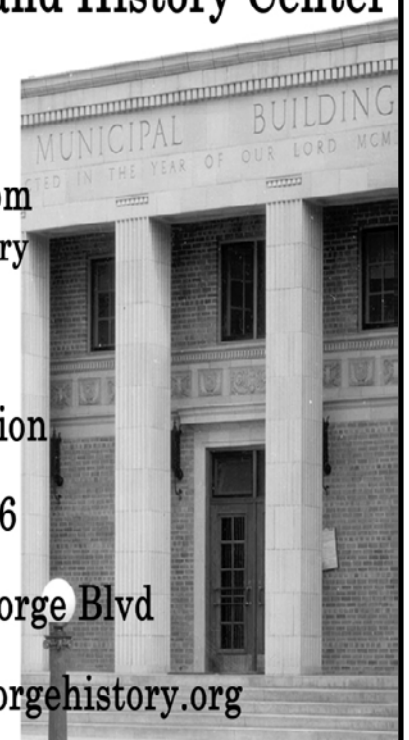
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