

Cañon City, Colorado 81215  
JUNE 2014  
Volume 3 Issue 2

# FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER

## NEWSLETTER

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](http://www.royalgorgehistory.org)



***In this issue: Tourist Cabin, Veterans Park, Goat Lady  
Loretta Bailey, volunteer, Day of the Cowboy.***

Contents of this Newsletter:

Page 1: Chamber of  
Commerce Tourist Cabin will  
be open for the Summer!

Page 2: The Goat Lady's  
Final End  
Page 3 Goat Lady continued

Page 4: National Day of the  
Cowboy

Page 5: Spotlight on:  
VOLUNTEER

Page 6: Join the Friends,  
DeWeese-Dye Ditch &  
Reservoir Company

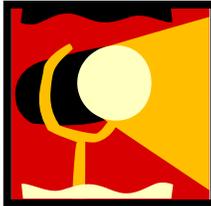
Links to Websites:

[Museumfriends.info](http://Museumfriends.info)

[Fremontco.com](http://Fremontco.com)

[Royalgorgetourism.com](http://Royalgorgetourism.com)

[DeWeese-Dye Ditch and  
Reservoir.com](http://DeWeese-Dye Ditch and<br/>Reservoir.com)



### SUMMER TOURISTS WILL FIND INFORMATION HERE:



The Fremont County Historical Society helped the Chamber of Commerce refurbish the Tourist Cabin in Veterans Park in order to open it this summer,

The Tourist Cabin is the only one left in town, since the one on Fremont Drive was removed several years ago, and the volunteers that usually manned both cabins were not recruited.

Local folks may wish to stop in and look at the décor, special brochures, and events calendars that decorate the interior. This is a great place to find a lot of information about our fair area and upcoming events.

If you have any questions about the Tourism Cabin or if you would like to volunteer to staff this jewel on weekends for fun and education, please call the Chamber at: | 719-275-2331

# FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER

## The 'Goat Lady's' fatal end

Woman died of natural causes before fire destroyed house  
Excerpt from a story by **KAREN LUNGU** lunguk@canoncitydailyrecord.com  
Posted: 04/03/2012 08:27:24 AM MDT



A year after Ida Norris' journey across the Royal Gorge Bridge, her body was found after a fire enveloped her small home. A coroner's jury later determined her death was due to natural causes. It was believed she died of a heart attack or stroke hours before the fire swept the magazine and book-filled rooms. Cañon City Fire Chief Vern Hupp believed the fire probably originated from a kitchen cook stove. Norris' badly burned body was found slumped in a front room chair. (*Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center*)

Christened the "Goat Lady," Mrs. Ida Norris homesteaded the Three Mile Springs Ranch with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Nichols in 1870. Later, she and her husband, E.D. Norris, a horse fancier, bought a small ranch in between the Hogbacks and east of Skyline Drive, where Ida raised goats while E.D. kept a small stable of racing horses.

Though Ida was perfectly content staying home with the goats, E.D. was a popular figure of the Cañon City area, where he traveled around on his spirited brown racing horse, sporting a flowing red necktie. E.D, who died at age 82 in 1936, often had horses entered in county fair races in Cañon City, Florence and Pueblo. An Aug. 14, 1936, Cañon City Daily Record story said, "His animals, although not heavy money winners,

*Continued from page 2*



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## **FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER**

were usually in the money, and few men in the county knew horses better than he." For many years, his preferred method for getting around town was in a stripped down trotting rig.

Before his death, Ida and E.D. also were caretakers of the Post Office on Fifth Street and the Maupin Building across the road. In 1933, E.D. was injured and his favored horse killed when his buggy collided with a Colorado State prison car at Sixth and Main streets. A year before he died, E.D. was kicked in the chest by a horse he was training. Ida said that hastened his end.

After E.D.'s death, Ida gave up peddling goat milk in the horse-drawn cart converted from a racing buggy. She also moved from their Swiss-style chalet ranch to a nearby-framed house, which she dubbed, "Alpine Terrace." She attributed her good health to the large quantities of fruit juices she drank, as well as the seaweed and herbs she ate. Her favorite author was Bernard McFadden. Though a confirmed homebody, Ida made local news when she ventured out to see the Royal Gorge for the first time at age 86 in 1948.

"This is the first picture I've had in 40 years. I hope the camera won't break," she laughed as Daily Record photographer Karol Smith snapped her photo.

Ida shared stories of her early days in Cañon City, when the Ute Indians camped near her folks' Three Mile Springs homestead.

"Well, the Ute's camped by our ranch several winters," the 1940 Daily Record read. "I remember when I was about 9 years old; the chief took a liking to my red dress. He wanted to trade for a buffalo robe. Mother said it would be all right so we traded. He pulled the dress over his head as far as it would go and strutted around as proud as a peacock. The buffalo robe was a beauty."

A year after Ida's journey across the Royal Gorge Bridge, her body was found after a fire enveloped her small home. A coroner's jury later determined her death was due to natural causes. It was believed she died of a heart attack or stroke hours before the fire swept the magazine and book-filled rooms. Cañon City Fire Chief Vern Hupp believed the fire probably originated from a kitchen cook stove. Ida's badly burned body was found slumped in a front room chair. She was laid to rest at Greenwood Cemetery.

*This story researched at the Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center.*

# FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER

DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY WILL BE CELEBRATED ON  
SATURDAY, JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> IN THE MEETING ROOM AT THE MUSEUM

1:30 P.M.

We are planning a rip-roaring time at the old corral (well actually in the event room of the museum) with an outstanding program presented by Mike and Dawn Moon of the Chico Ranch.

“We are musicians who live and work on a ranch southeast of Colorado Springs. Our music reflects our life and our life is centered around our faith, our family, our love of the ranching life we are blessed to live and the amazing landscapes and people of which we have been a part. We are on the folk end of Cowboy/Western music, with a little blues and country added into the mix.



1 Mike and Dawn Moon

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED, AND THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME

Information can be found on their website at [www.mikaelanddawnmoon.com](http://www.mikaelanddawnmoon.com)

1. It's better to be a has-been that a never-was.
2. The easiest way to eat crow is while it's still warm.  
The colder it gets, the harder it is to swallow.
3. If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
4. If it don't seem like it's worth the effort, it probably ain't
5. Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.

COWBOY WISDOM IS ALWAYS GOOD TO REMEMBER!

# FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER

## LORETTA BAILEY



## Volunteer Spotlight Questions

Name: **Loretta Bailey**

How long have you been with the museum? **15 years**

What do you do at the museum? **Oral histories, research, picture taking - "I work for Nancy."**

What do you like most about working at the museum?

**The museum and the history was always a big part of my childhood and now that I'm retired I can come here and play again. Treasure hunting is in my blood.**

What is your favorite artifact at the museum? **I like the DeWeese fireplace; it is full of stories.**

What is your favorite time-period in history to study? **I like from Anson Rudd all the way up until the 1920's.**

If you could own one historical artifact in the world, what would it be and why? (i.e. Di Vinci's Mona Lisa, the Holy Grail)

**I want to own something from the marine fossil world, the oldest fossil that they haven't identified yet. Maybe a baculite shell 3 feet long still covered in mother of pearl and both of its sutures intact. Because when I pick up a fossil that is millions of years old and you know that your eyes are the first to see it, you get a mystical feeling.**

**LORETTA has been visible around the museum and history center for 15 years, and is a vital part of the research, resource and history center crew. She has another interest, which is the Geology Club, and is active in that organization as well. Thank you, Loretta for all your contributions to the education and interest in History in Fremont County.**

***The Museum and History Center are always in need of additional help with tours and entering new exhibits. Please give them a call if you have a few hours to spare.***



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# FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER

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

PLEASE SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHECK TO:

Friends of the Museum  
P.O. Box 481  
Cañon City, CO 81215

**JOIN TODAY & RECEIVE  
A NEWSLETTER**

## DeWeese-Dye Ditch and Reservoir Company



Dall DeWeese and C.R.C. Dye incorporated the DeWeese Dye Ditch and Reservoir Company to bring water from Grape Creek to the Lincoln Park.

*“All shareholders should inspect their ditch to make sure it is clean and free from debris or trash. If anyone has questions or concerns they should contact the ditch superintendent.”*

*The ditch company is responsible for maintaining the main ditch and regulating the water to the various laterals. The share holders on the various laterals are responsible for maintaining their lateral. When time and resources permit the ditch rider may have his crew assist in maintaining laterals.”*

*Published with permission from the DeWeese Ditch Co.*

