

VOLUME 4, Issue 2  
 APRIL 2015

**NEWSLETTER**



***In this issue: SAVE OUR RUDD HOUSE;***

- ***structures over 100 years old, they are everywhere!***
- ***Tuberculosis sanitarium in CO Spgs;***
- ***Restored Victorian at 813 Macon Ave.;***
- ***Centennial properties in the County;***
- ***Rockvale;***
- ***Memorial for Cara Fisher – our first archivist;***
- ***membership information.***

**SAVE OUR RUDD HOUSE - WE NEED A ROOF, FOUNDATION AND GENERAL REFURBISHMENT OF THIS WONDERFUL PIONEER HOME BEHIND THE MUSEUM IN CANON CITY.**

The staff of the museum is working hard to find grant money for the renovation of the Rudd House. We have National and State Historic Designation for this structure, but the matching funds for a Colorado Historic Fund grant are slim, and we need all the help we can get. If we start a fund, just for this project, would you be interested in helping us build it to a generous amount? The Friends organization is a 501-c-3 non-profit corporation, and donations over \$250.00 are tax deductible by donors.

**CONTACT YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BECOMING A BOARD MEMBER:**

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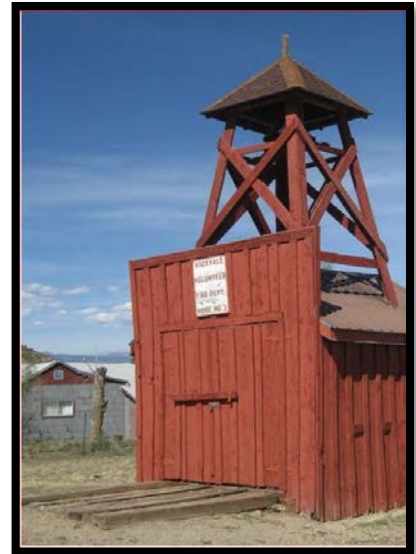
Ann Zielinski, member

Randy Brady, advisor

We invite you to join our board of directors.



THE COUNTY OF FREMONT IS NOW 154 YEARS OLD, AND WE HAVE SOME FABULOUS BUILDINGS THAT TELL THE STORY OF OUR LONG AND ILLUSTRIOUS PAST:



The saints and the sinners, the refined and the raw,  
The pupils and the planners ---The doers and the dreamers:

1ROCKVALE Hose Cart barn



Howard Free Methodist Church



Prospect Heights Jail - So 4th St. Canon City



Julius Parker Homestead, Coaldale



2Madison School/Exploratory School

[www.museumfriends.info](http://www.museumfriends.info)

PICK AND SHOVEL DAYS - BUILDING THE SKYLINE DRIVE



#### NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVIST DESK:

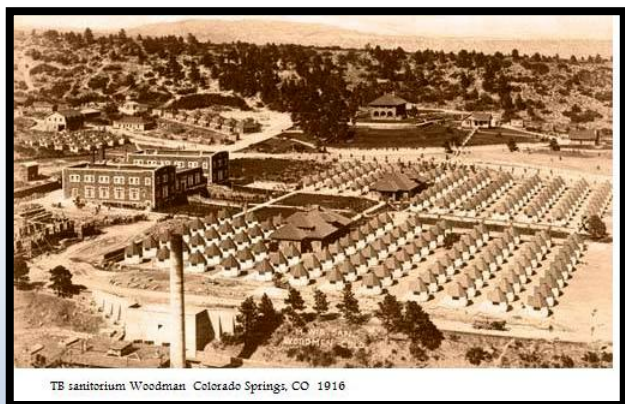
**Summer is just around the corner and we are gearing up for another busy season. Staff and volunteers have started working on a new exciting exhibit for our middle gallery this summer. The exhibit will be on the movie industry and the various theaters in Fremont County. We initially planned to open in April but delays in fabrication and new loans for the exhibits have compelled us to change the open day to the First Friday in June (June 5<sup>th</sup>). We don't want to conflict with the Blossom Festival in May. We are planning to have a few interesting features for the exhibit that we hope will attract a wide audience.**

**For more information: call 269 9036 or go by and visit the Museum and History Center at 612 Royal Gorge Boulevard**

**Historic ideas, facts and interesting tidbits:**

**THE MCCLURE HOUSE - QUEEN ANNE TEA HOUSE**

Built in 1889 by William McClure, for his wife Elizabeth and ten children, 813 Macon Avenue was one of the first houses to have a formal set of blue prints. Known as the "McClure House," as it was not large enough to be called a mansion, the structure was the second major project for Mr. McClure as he had recently finished the McClure Hotel which was located on the northwest corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Main Street, downtown Canon City. Mr. McClure was active in land and real estate businesses where he became the owner of many properties in the city. He was one of the original contributors to the building fund for the First Baptist Church at seventh and Macon Avenue, 1890.



TB sanitarium Woodman Colorado Springs, CO 1916

**TB Sanitarium in Colorado Springs 1914, and many patients were sent to Fremont County for the 'CURE'**



13.03.2013

3Shaw's Park ruins "Henry's Store"

We publish the newsletter for our members in January, April, July, and October. This quarterly newsletter is full of stories about the past, the museum and history center events and other items which you may find interesting.

We want to thank the City for printing the newsletter - this is the Fourth year we have sent this to the members of the Friends.

If you would like to have your newsletter sent through email, please let us know.

We recently instituted a new member option, a lifetime membership in the Friends of the Museum and History Center is \$150.00. If you support this cultural heritage of Fremont County, we would encourage you to join the friends for a lifetime.

Thank you.

### **HAROLD WITCHER STORY ABOUT THE 10 GAUGE SHOTGUN**

That gun was special made for my grandad, and he carried that on horseback when he formed a posse, he had that old 10 gauge laying across his lap.

Now this is a funny story. He was after some outlaws, and he had the posse, and he was a leading them, out in front of them, and he got pretty close and he reached down and grabbed that old 10 gauge and pulled both hammers back and usually he only shot one barrel at a time, but both of them went off. It picked him up and set him on the ground, the posse ran over him.

He picked himself up, and took the old brass shells out of it, shoved two more in it, and got back on his horse and took in after them.

I got that 10-gauge shotgun. It's about that tall.

A funny story about this was. T. Lee (my uncle) and my dad were goin to go rabbit hunting, they were just kids, about 15, something like that. Dad got this old 10-gauge shotgun out proceeded to go hunting. Well, lucky to have it, they didn't find no rabbits. But they got to wondering how it would be like to shoot that old shotgun. Well, they couldn't get up enough nerve to shoot it so they tied it to the log on the log house up there. They got a string and tied it to the trigger, fired it off, knocked all the chinking out of the side of the house. My Dad said, "Boy, I was glad I didn't shoot that thing, it would of killed me." But when my brother shot it up on the Clark place he'd have a knot about that big around and that high right up here on his shoulder.

One thing about it, we got a nickel a tail for prairie dogs. The state paid you a nickel for each prairie dog tail. So first thing in the morning when we got out of bed, I'd have to get up to get breakfast make the coffee, fix breakfast. My brother was too darn lazy to get up, and here I was the youngest. He'd get up in his long handles, walk over there, grab the old shotgun, look out there and there would be 6 or 8 prairie dogs around one hole.

He'd fire one round and we'd have 6 or 8 prairie dogs, cause he'd get every damn one of them. So, we'd go out, cut the tails off, sometimes we'd have to reach down a hole to pull one of them out to cut the tails off, but they were dead. In a week's time, we'd have 200 or 300 of those darn tails, and at a nickel apiece, that paid for our gasoline and half of our meal. Bread was only a nickel a loaf, coffee was something like 20 cents a lb., steak was 12 cents a lb., hamburger was around 8 to 10 cents a lb. Bacon about the same. We'd get a couple hundred of those prairie dog tails and take them into the courthouse.

That's why I remember so much about the old courthouse. I wasn't very old, but about every week we took those prairie dog tails in there, and we shot a lot of ammunition, but ammunition was cheap, you know. It cost about a nickel a shell, and when you got 6 or 8 prairie dogs, you made money off of them. I can remember that. We had some good times hunting back then.

*Oral transcription by Carol McNew, 2000*

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM & HISTORY CENTER

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PLEASE SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHECK TO:  
Friends of the Museum  
P.O. Box 481, Cañon City, CO 81215 - 0481



The Memorial Service for our long time Historian and artist, Cara Fisher was attended by over 200 people in Cara Fisher Square on March 14, 2015. The History Center was staffed by Cara in its early days, and she was the moving force behind that project. The Eulogy and history was given by Mr. Adams, and the Holt Funeral Home was in charge of the Service. Rest In Peace, Cara.