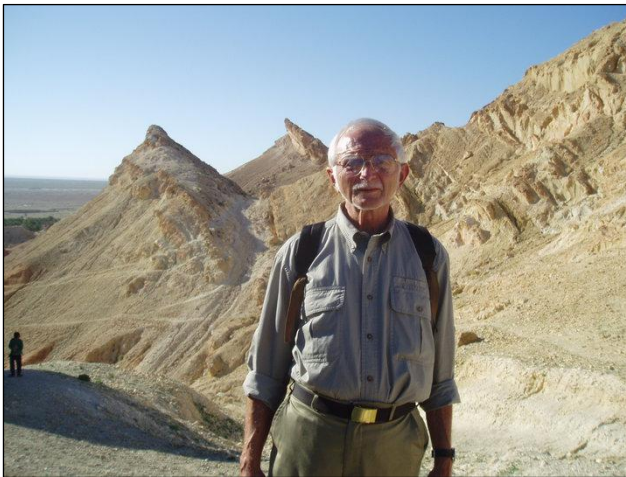


**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PROGRAM ON
SUNDAY -SEPTEMBER 20. 2015 – 2:00 P.M.**

**Come learn about Cripple Creek’s early history from
the ranching and lumbering to the days of gold
discovery.**

Larry Black, long-time historian and teacher from Woodland Park, has authored and selected photos for the video history of Teller County. *Pikes Peak Shadow* was recognized and accepted by the Library of Congress for its Bicentennial with honors in May 2000 in the Great Hall. Larry has also co-authored an Arcadia Press book, *Woodland Park*. He has also served on the Gold Belt Byway Board, Woodland Park Historic Preservation Committee.



**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church,
801 Sheridan Avenue, Cañon City
2:00 p.m. – Public Welcome
Refreshments served**

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1: Larry Black, our program presenter for September 20, 2015
Page 2: Prospect Heights Jail Open House in August and September; Membership and sponsors
Page 3: Geology Club and Wayfinding kiosks; new members list
Page 4: Western Fremont Historical Society; Mary McNamara Educational Fund Award
Page 5: American Zinc-Lead Smelter story; Prospect Heights
Page 6: Advertisers who help send this newsletter to you!

FIRST BENEFACTOR AWARD



Margaret Storm, Carol McNew, Mary Chamberlain, Helene Blake of the Historical Society presented Beth Katchmar (Center) of Pizza Madness with the first Benefactor Award for her donation to the fund raising effort this year.

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FREMONTHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Individual \$15.00
Family \$20.00
Group \$25.00
Lifetime \$150.00

Please send your email address with your membership check in the envelope, or contact Pat Nelson, email:

pat@econstrategy.net

Fremont County Historical Society
P.O. Box 965, Cañon City, CO 81215

If you have ideas about how to make our Programs more interesting or would like to see more (every month) please let us know. Send a note, or mention this to one of the Board members at the next meeting (September 20, 2015).

Thank you.

PROSPECT HEIGHTS JAIL – OPEN HOUSE IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Pictured below are Becky and Bill Rodenbeck at the Prospect Heights Jail Open House on August 15, 2015. The Jail was visited by 51 people during the afternoon. We received generous donations, as well, both in dollars and in-kind help (light refreshments).

The Fremont County Historical Society wants to continue the Saturday Open House event through the Fremont Fall Heritage Festival (ending on October 12, 2015).

This will give all the people who have driven, walked, or rode their bicycles as children a chance to look inside this wonderful relic of the past.

We will be seeking funds to refurbish the jail. As you can see, the wall is in derelict condition as are the window and door. We also need to replace the ceiling in the main room (Sheriff's Office?).



Becky and Bill Rodenbeck were among 51 visitors to the Historic Prospect Heights Jail during the open house on August 15, 2015

Picture courtesy C. McNew

BOOSTERS FOR THE JAIL PROJECT ARE:



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Affiliate of the Historical Society

CCGC September AUCTION

Cañon City Geology Club will have a fundraiser auction in September. You don't want to miss it! See below items donated so far, with more to be added. The event will have a silent auction and a verbal auction. If you have gently used items, please consider donating them.

September 14, 2015 ***** 6PM - Set-up
***** 6:30PM - Auction starts



Go to the website: canoncitygeologyclub.com to see a listing of the articles available for bid.

**WAYFINDING FOR VISITORS
A STORYTELLING**

On August 13, 2015, the Southern Rockies Crossroads of Culture, a consortium consisting of people from the Southeast part of Colorado, started the process of producing kiosks of information for tourists and others who are unaware about our area.

The Storytelling session was attended by about 29 people. Many told stories of their youth and experiences that had shaped the community through their lives.

Judy Walden, from Walden Mills Group, was the facilitator for the event; and, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., we learned the history from a personal point of view.



Judy Walden explains the process of the wayfinding kiosks that will be built at each of the participating communities (each has invested money in the project).

Picture Courtesy Carol McNew

New Members 2015

- Susan Akins, CC
- Charlotte Bumgarner, Guffey
- Karen Cato, CC
- Bill and Ellie Crain, Pueblo
- Ron and Diane Dudley, CC
- Barb Faber, CC
- Kathy Fogle, Florence
- Pat Freda, CC
- Robert Guidry, Rockvale
- Eva Jensen, CC
- Marianne Katte, Salida
- Karen Predovich, CC
- Del Sabo, CC

- Eileen Sanderson, CC
- John and Lauri Saxton, CC
- Sheila Shoun, CC
- Gladys Talbot, CC
- K.D. and J.A. West, Wetmore
- Beth Katchmar, Pizza Madness, CC
- THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE Fremont County Historical Society – and we welcome you to join our family of members!

FCHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Helene Blake | Cindy Smith |
| Mary Chamberlain | Margaret Storm |
| Beverly Harris | Gloria Stultz |
| Kit Kederich | Christina Taylor |
| Larry Linscott | Carol McNew |
| Pat Nelson | |

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WESTERN FREMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, HOWARD A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT OF THE SOCIETIES

SEPTEMBER 27, SUNDAY: 1-3pm; WFHS History Center in Howard. Open house. Join us sorting and cataloguing donated documents.

- OCTOBER 2, FRIDAY: early evening (time to be announced), Howard Hall; program presented as part of Fremont Fall Heritage Festival – old west presentation, dinner, old movie.
- OCTOBER 3, SATURDAY: (time to be announced) Howard Hall; program presented as part of Fremont Fall Heritage Festival - focusing on Wellsville and Howard history.

Below: FCHS President Carol McNew and Treasurer Pat Nelson present the Mary McNamara Educational Award to J.C. Fremont Librarian, Natalia Grey (center)



We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public. *Anonymous*

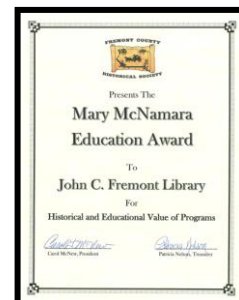
The City of Cañon City is pleased to print the Fremont County Historical Society Newsletter as a contribution to the Society. Thanks for all you do for Fremont County History!



MARY MCNAMARA EDUCATIONAL FUND AWARDED TO JOHN C. FREMONT LIBRARY IN FLORENCE

“We have chosen you to receive a new award that we have instituted for any group or business that is fulfilling our mission. The **Mary McNamara Scholarship** fund was dedicated to the concept of furthering education for students in the Fremont County area, as well as the education and preserving the History of Fremont County and our Heritage of diversity throughout this area.

We would like to award you this certificate and monetary donation for the efforts you continue to put forth in inviting people to educate themselves in a warm and inviting setting, with important facts and information they may not have been aware of about the place they reside.”



AMERICAN ZINC- LEAD, SMELTING COMPANY UNITED STATES SMELTING COMPANY

The American Zinc-Lead Company was established in Cañon City in 1891 at a cost of about \$200,000. Its purpose was to process all ores which contained zinc and copper. Ores came largely from Utah and Leadville, but also from several other sources. Its products were zinc-lead pigment and copper matte. The zinc-lead white was sold all over the country as a white lead substitute. The zinc-lead pigment was used largely in the manufacture of paints.

The buildings and works were located on South Fourth Street, just below Prospect Heights, and covered 13 acres. It was the first smelter in the state to successfully treat zinc ore. All its processes were patented. The company was Cañon City's largest industry at the turn of the century. It produced the City's largest payroll at a time when its population numbered about 7,500.

In 1899, the American Zinc-Lead Company's name was changed to American Zinc, Lead, Smelting Company, its capital increased from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 and the plant was enlarged to three times its previous capacity. Additions included six bag houses, a furnace building, sampling works, cooper¹ shop and barreling house, two refineries and machine shops, totaling 14 buildings. It was estimated that 1,500,000 bricks would be required for construction of the new buildings so a facility was erected to make its own brick. The daily output of brick was about 24,000. The cooper shop produced 200 barrels per day. The output of the plant was over 300 tons daily and about 225 men were employed at the plant.

"A Look Back Into History" article published in the *Cañon City Daily Record* on December 21, 1971, included a photograph taken during the 1890's from the company's "Smelter Hill," looking south onto Fourth Street. The old two-story brick school, visible in the center of the photograph, was still standing but was by then being used as a warehouse and bus center by the school district. Originally named the Prospect Street School, it had been built in 1885 with brick from the W. C. Catlin brick yard. Two company houses, also made of brick from the Catlin yard, were visible too. The houses were rented to smelter workers for a few dollars per month.

Sometime in 1902, the company changed hands and became the United States Smelting Company. On March 25, 1903, the complex burned. It was described as one of Fremont County's most serious fires, possibly the most serious from the standpoint of property damage which was estimated between \$100,000 and \$300,000. Flames destroyed two large bag houses, the refinery, machine shop, cooper shop and other buildings, as well as a Santa Fe railroad car and other machinery and equipment. The loss was covered by insurance but the plant was idle for several months and 175 men were unemployed during that time.

The United States Smelting Company, comprising the old smelter buildings and 22 ½ acres, was sold to the Standard Metal and Chemical Corporation of Denver in 1922 for \$45,000. This company planned to use a more modern process to retrieve from the dump site valuable metals which had been discarded by the older methods used by the previous companies.

Another "A Look Back Into History" article by W. T. (Doc) Little, published on June 14, 1980, stated that after operations at the dump site ceased, the office building remained for several years and was used as a private residence and sometimes for Saturday night dances. However, by the time the article was written, nothing remained of the old smelter except a small part of the dump.

Researched and written by Barbara Hobson, August 2015.

(Sources: Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center; *From Trappers to Tourists*; *The Lead and Zinc News*, Vol. 3; and Wikipedia)



¹ Cooper: (noun) a maker of casks and barrels; (verb) make or repair a cask or barrel.

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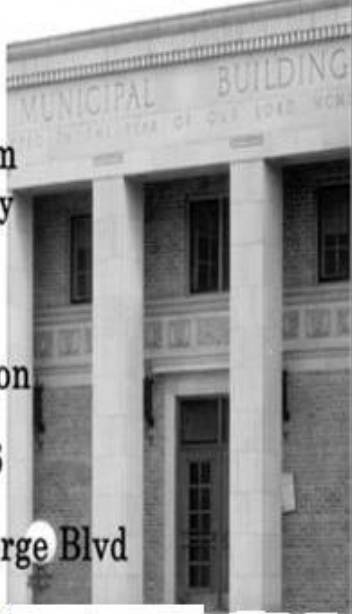
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