

VOLUME 4, Issue 4 2015
OCTOBER 2015

NEWSLETTER

ROYAL GORGE
REGIONAL
MUSEUM & HISTORY
CENTER

EXHIBITS

READING ROOM

FREE ADMISSION

612 Royal Gorge Blvd.
Cañon City, CO
719-269-9036

rgmhc.org



In this issue: Page 1: “REEL CALIFORNIA GIRLS” The story of two ladies who turned Canon City into destination and promoted the Royal Gorge before the bridge was built.

Page 2: Library/Museum Board members, Rudd House

Page 3: Owl Capone; Vista Lodge by the Esser Family

Page 4: Fremont Fall Heritage Festival Events throughout the County

Page 5: Historical Self Guided Tour booklets reprinted -

Page 6: Our Business members - please tell them you saw their card in the Friends Newsletter!

Event Center on September 12, 2015. At 1:00 p.m.

“Reel California Girls” A program presented by Loretta Bailey, and Company.

The picture below is the “Travelers” on the Priest Canyon Road going up to the Vista Hogan run by the Reel California Girls - circa 1912 -



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

Gerrie Collette, Chair

Barbara Galloway, Sec.

Rex Hoobler, member

Beverly Embry, member

Geoff Ormandy, Sec.

Carol McNew, member

Ann Zielinski, Treasurer

Randy Brady, advisor

We invite you to join our
board of directors.

The presentation from Loretta Bailey was very well attended with over 45 people enjoying the antics of the scenes she brought to life with her company of actors. The story of the Reel California Girls and the Vista Hogan has been a mystery many of us have wondered about for years. The structure itself is no longer on the main road to the Gorge, and can only be reached by crossing private property. Please ask for permission before you attempt to “find” the Vista Hogan. It was engulfed by the Royal Gorge Fire in 2013, and so has changed, and is starting to disintegrate.

(continued on Page 3)

Library/Museum Board newly appointed members are: Judy Gillette, chair, Doni Lacey, Vice Chair, Sue Hitt, Brandon Hamilton, Lynette ?, Liz Babilot, Pat Freda. The library is restored to it's former glory, and this Board was seated to assure the future for both institutions is secure. Thank you for your service.

The library is available from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 pm most days. Come see the newest in cyber availability and books for all.



Left: The Time capsule opening was the official presentation of the renovated library (Spirits of the Past)

EXCERPTS FROM CLIPPINGS ----

The construction boom continued in 1902, with the completion of important buildings such as the Cañon City Public Library (516 Macon Avenue, 5FN720.49), the Apex Block (425-31 Main Street, 5FN720.17), the Baker & Biggs Block (531 Main Street, 5FN720.30), and the

Smith Mercantile (601-03 Main Street, 5FN720.32). The library, designed by Charles C. Rittenhouse, 68 was erected in 1902 with funds provided by Andrew Carnegie, who donated \$10,000 for the building and \$3,000 for the interior finishing's.

Rittenhouse noted that the Library was one-story, with a basement sufficient in size only to accommodate the heating apparatus and toilet rooms. The building was dedicated on 5 January 1903, with brief ceremonies that included the transfer of the property from the Ladies Library Association to the city. The dedication was held on that date in order to complete the event before James H. Peabody left Cañon City to serve as governor.

The Cañon City Weekly Record reported: "After the more formal part of the program had been carried out an inspection of the handsome new building and its equipments for the display and storage of books was made all agreeing that it was admirably suited for the purposes for which it had been reared and consecrated." The Denver Times judged that the library was "one of the finest buildings of its kind in the valley." 69

SOURCES ON PAGE 4

LONG AWAITED GRANT HAS BEEN RECEIVED, RESTORATION OF RUDD HOUSE NOW POSSIBLE:

The Museum has received the State Historical Fund for repair of the roof and bat mitigation and capping of the chimneys of the Anson Rudd House. Waiting for the contract for City Council to sign. \$79,000.



Big Horn Sheep Canyon Geology & History Tour:

"Up the River" from Cañon City to Salida with a stop at the Overlook Deck of the Royal Gorge Bridge & Park. Sunday, October 11, 2015; 8AM - 5PM

"(excerpt-)After breaking out of the Rocky Mountains above Cañon City and Florence, the gradient of the river changes from an average drop of 40' per mile to a much gentler fall of less than 9' per mile as it enters the Colorado Piedmont region of the Great Plains. Here the river is no longer a rushing mountain stream, but rather the meandering river that will characterize the rest of its flow to the Mississippi." (PR from Jim Nelson to media) For more info go to www.fremontheritage.com

www..**fremontheritage.com**

Naming of the Owl fund raiser:

The name selected was Owl Capone for the Snowy Owl. The staff of the Museum have raised \$284.00 for two years naming contest.



Continued from Page 1

The Reel California Girls were activists in the tourist business as early as 1923, when they first decided to come to Cañon City and promote their burlesque acts, and provide a place for entertainment near the wonderful Gorge.



VISTA LODGE AFTER THE ROYAL GORGE FIRE IN 2013



FREMONT COUNTY FALL HERITAGE

FESTIVAL

SOME IMPORTANT EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS:

- 10-9-2015 0 BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR
MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER
RESERVATIONS REQUESTED 269 9036
- 10-10-2015- KITCHEN PANTRY
OLD FASHIONED MENUS
OLD FASHIONED PRICES
- 10-10=2015 - fossil Collection on display at the Museum and History Center
- 10-10=2015 - Charles Doolittle Wolcott and the Cañon City Fossil Fish Discoveries 10:30 to 11:15

MORE EVENTS DURING THE FALL

FESTIVAL:

- 10-10-2015 - GREENWOOD CEMETERY Tour at the Cemetery on South 1st Street 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 10-10 2015 - Kathy Herrin tells about "Tom Mix" at the Museum at 1:00 p.m.
- 10-10-2015 - Recollections of growing up in a Prison Town, at the Prison Museum at 4:00 p.m.
- 10-10-2015 - Frederic Kessler and the Colorado State Fossil at the History Center Museum at 3:15 p.m.
- 10-10-2015 = PARANORMAL Event at the Prison Museum at 7:00 p.m. \$35.00 per person, reservations required.
- Bighorn Sheep Canyon Geology Tour - 10-11-2015
Waivers and \$40 will get you a seat!

CURATOR COMMENTS - LISA STUTDS, ARCHIVIST AND CURATOR OF ROYAL GORGE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER:

Now that our summer season is over, the staff and volunteers are focusing their attention on some new projects at the museum. The Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center is collaborating with BLM Royal Gorge Field Office and the Fremont Stones & Bones to revamp the dinosaur exhibit upstairs. Federal grant funding has helped to offset the costs of new touch screen computers. The touch screen computers will provide hands-on interactive puzzles and information about the dinosaur discoveries in Fremont County. Work on the redesigned exhibit has begun and will continue into the spring of next year. Staff is also working with the Canon Exploratory School's 7th and 8th Grade classes in the development of another new exhibit highlighting Anson Rudd, his family and their house. The students will be responsible for researching, writing, and designing this new exhibit, which will be replacing the photography exhibit in the hallway and Reading Room this spring. We hope to draw more attention to the significance of the Rudd's and the need for historic preservation of their stone house. This project will coincide with the rehabilitation of the roof of the Rudd stone house. The State Historic Fund recently awarded the museum funding for the replacement of the roof, gutters, capping the chimneys and bat mitigation in the attic. You might say the museum staff and volunteers will be keeping busy over the fall and winter with these new and exciting projects.

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2 excerpts about the new Library building
66 Cañon City Clipper, 17 May 1901, 30 July 1901; Cañon City Times, 9 January 1902; Cañon City Record, 25 July 1901; Local History Center, Cañon City Public Library, Clippings; Cañon City Daily Record, 27 June 1927, 1.
67 Cañon City Record, 28 February 1901 and 11 April 1901, 24 April 1913, 14 August 1982, 7; Cañon City Clipper, 8 March 1901 and 27 August 1901; Clipping, Local History Center, Cañon City Public Library; Pueblo Chieftain, 18 July 1985. Historic Buildings Survey of Downtown Cañon City, 2004-05 Page 38*

FREMONT TOURISM COUNCIL'S SELF-GUIDED HERITAGE TOUR BOOKLETS ARE AVAILABLE

Fremont County Historical Society Reprints Popular Tours

Self-Guided Heritage Tours of Fremont County, available since June, have been reprinted so they will be available during Fremont Fall Heritage Days, according to the Fremont County Historical Society (FCHS). The tours include **Skyline Drive, Downtown Cañon City, Downtown Florence, Western Fremont County and Historic Howard** and range in length from 10 to 30 pages. "The Self-Guided Tours have been so popular they were all gone by mid-September," said FCHS President Carol McNew.

Prepared by an all-volunteer group from the Fremont Tourism Council, Heritage Commission and Historical Society, aided by a grant from the Colorado Tourism Office, over 6,000 copies of the tours were distributed in print and online since June, according to Jim Nelson who helped edit and coordinate production of the guides for the Heritage Commission. "We wanted to see if visitors were interested in Heritage Tourism," said Nelson, "so we worked with partners including Museums and Chambers of Commerce to research, draft and review the tours, then format, print and distribute them."

"Information in the booklets added to visitors' enjoyment, encouraged them to explore our Downtowns and natural heritage resulting in longer stays," said McNew. "Residents used them as well as employees of visitor oriented businesses," she added. "The Fremont Campus of Pueblo Community College and Cotopaxi Schools used the guides as part of their classwork," according to Nelson.

Printed copies of the Self-Guided Heritage Tours have been available at the Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center, Museum of Colorado Prisons, Chambers of Commerce and Farmers' Markets in Florence and Cañon City, Florence Pioneer Museum, Western Fremont Historical Society, BLM and several businesses including the Cup and Cone, Pizza Madness and Classic Furniture. They are also available for free download on the county's heritage website, www.fremontheritage.com.

"Businesses and other organizations are stepping forward to help the Historical Society recover the costs of reprinting the tours," according to McNew. The suggested donation to the Historical Society for each five tour set is \$5.00. Businesses, organizations and individuals may contact the Fremont County Historical Society, P.O. Box 965, Cañon City, CO 81215 or reach FCHS Treasurer Pat Nelson at 719-285-8284 or pat@econstrategy.net. The Society is an IRS recognized 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization.

Self-Guided Heritage Tour booklets will be available at the Prospects Heights Jail Open House Saturday October 3rd and 10th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

—†

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM & HISTORY CENTER

Carol McNew, /Newsletter Editor
703 Cyanide Avenue
Cañon City, CO 81212
www.museumfriend

JOIN TODAY & RECEIVE
A NEWSLETTER

MEMBERSHIP DUES 1 YEAR

- Individual \$ 10.00
- Couple. \$ 15.00
- Family. \$ 20.00
- Business/Group. \$ 25.00
- LIFETIME \$150.00

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

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

This was started in 2015 as a convenience to our long-time supporters and as an additional fund-raising program.

We now have three lifetime members, and hope that many more of our yearly members wish to support us in this way:



Always Buying Books

We Make House Calls !

Adventures In Books

(719) 641 - 6681

Bill Porter

The Antique Gallery

117 South Wahsatch Ave.

Colorado Springs, CO



OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE NEWSLETTER . PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE BUSINESSES AND MENTION YOU SAW THEIR AD IN THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM PAPER.



The Artists' Gallery
LOCAL ART AND GIFTS

416 Main Street, Cañon City, Colorado

719 345 4070

CLASSES NOW AVAILABLE



**FREMONT
CAB**

STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION

AIRPORT SERVICE

DELIVERY SERVICE

719-784-2222

806 W. 5th Street Florence, CO 81226