

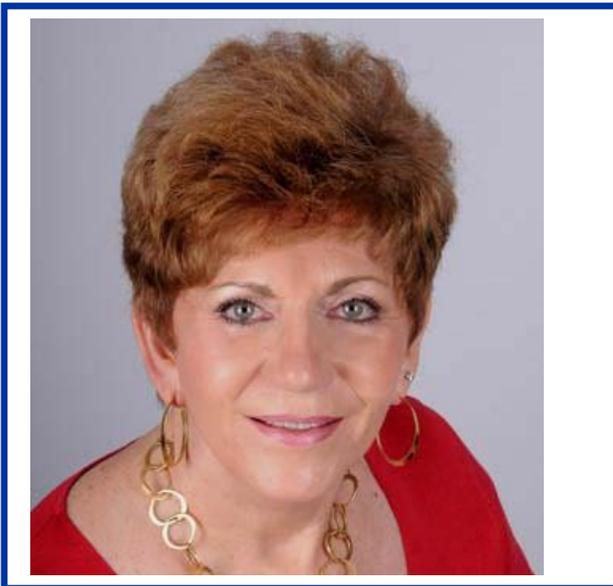
FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016 VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2 WEBSITE: fremontheritage.com
WE ARE ON FACEBOOK, TOO: Fremont County Historical Society - Colorado



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PROGRAM ON SUNDAY MARCH 20, 2016

BETTY HEID



Betty is the chair of the board of directors for the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame. She has served on the board for 3 ½ years, with 2 ½ years as the chairman. Her professional experience includes: owner, founder and CEO of two small businesses, a consulting agency and a job placement agency. She also has worked for several Fortune 500 companies.

Ms. Heid is a Colorado native, who has lived in Colorado most of her life. She has lived in Denver, Boulder, Greeley, Colorado Springs, and La Junta. She is a life-long volunteer focusing on education, women's issues and history.

Her hobbies include golf, bridge, travel and exercising. She has traveled to six of the seven continents and 49 of 50 states.

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

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these businesses.
*The complete story of Minnie Harding is in the January
newsletter

MINNIE L. HARDING

Trailblazer Minnie Harding has been recognized for her many accomplishments as one of the inductees of the 2016 Colorado Women's Hall of Fame. While living in Cañon City, she was one of the charter members of the Cañon City Ladies' Library Association, as well as Friends in Council.



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THE CATLIN CABIN

(Right) A relic from the past - Catlin cabin

The pictures on the right are of the Catlin cabin which was moved from South Cañon when the new Lincoln school was constructed.

William C. Catlin was a very important part of the growth and progress of this community and the county.

He was an entrepreneur of great skill, a farmer and eventually made brick on his homestead across the river from Anson Rudd's property.

The story of the Catlins is one of travel from the east to Nebraska, to Leadville and eventually to the valley of the Arkansas River in Cañon City.

The family grew and prospered here, and the hard work that was always a hallmark of this man and his family is still apparent today in many of the historic buildings throughout the city and county.

William C. Catlin was a true pioneer and civilizing influence in our lives, and we salute him as a father of Fremont County.



FRIENDS IN COUNCIL

Pioneer Women's Organization in Cañon City
(1888-2002)

The January issue of the Fremont County Historical Society Newsletter told "The Minnie Harding Story," in recognition of her being named as one of ten inductees into the 2016 Colorado Women's Hall of Fame. Mrs. Harding's accomplishments were many and impressive, but there were other local pioneer women who, as members of an organization called Friends in Council, also made significant contributions to cultural life and civic improvements in Cañon City.

Friends in Council was formed September 28, 1888, at the home of Mrs. Maria M. Sheetz, who became its first president and served in that capacity for eight years. The name of the club was suggested by Helen Lewis, Mrs. Sheetz's daughter, who had recently returned from Lawrence, Kansas, where there was a women's club of that name. The club began with 15 members who were interested in pursuing culture in what was then a rough town surrounded by coal camps. Friends in Council was one of the oldest women's clubs in Colorado. When the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs was formed in 1895, the Friends' became a charter member of that organization.

The Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs was a volunteer organization of about 140 clubs, with approximately 5,000 members, and a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Its purpose was to unite all women's clubs in the state, whose purposes were not partisan, political or sectarian, for mutual helpfulness, mental and physical culture and the promotion of an ethical social system. All women of any age whose purposes were relevant to the purposes and objectives of the State Federation could belong.

Friends in Council's 15 charter members were a "who's who" of Cañon City women pioneers. They included Maria Sheetz, first president; Minnie L. Harding, first recording secretary; Magdalene Raynolds, Virginia Macon, Lida Waldo, Jennie Eldred, Katherine Rockafellow, Helen Lewis, Julia Mack, Emma Webster, Ada Beecher, Carrie Dawson, Sarah McGee, Nellie Weston and Mrs. F. R. Blake.

Bylaws of the organization stated that its objective "shall be the union of congenial minds for study, discussion and fellowship and service." Membership was limited to 50 active members. In addition to the usual administrative details, the bylaws provided for four standing committees. The areas of interest to be addressed by those committees were history, art and literature, education and social science. Chairs of the standing committees were appointed by the president.

The Friends' motto was: "The Warming Love of Friendship Makes Happy Memories." Their colors were violet and white and the club flower was the pansy. The significance of the pansy was that it was a "little dainty bloom, how like ye are to thoughts that grow in hearts that's all our own." Those ladies were planting thoughts in this community.

The club's interests and activities were wide-ranging. Some of their accomplishments included helping start a public library in Cañon City, starting the first traveling library to distribute books to the coal camps, being responsible for building a bridge across the ditch at 4th Street, sponsoring parks at 4th Street and Royal Gorge, and, with other clubs, purchasing the Rudd cabin for the City.

Always working for their own self-improvement and education, members read, wrote papers and led discussions in such disciplines as philosophy, adventure, art and history. They discussed the United States Constitution, the biographies of historical personalities and historical events. When members traveled to places of special interest, Rome and Greece, for example, they shared their experiences at club meetings so others could learn from them too. They donated money to a variety of local organizations including the Fine Arts Association and Meals on Wheels. They kept abreast of community resources, such as local medical services, new procedures and new doctors in residence and made reports at their meetings. They invited local speakers to keep them informed of community activities.

The club kept good records and donated those records, photographs and other items of historical interest to the local History Center. Year books, from the club's beginning in 1888, were published to keep members informed of the club's activities.

But times change, as do life styles. By letter dated August 1, 2002, Mrs. Judi Rupp, Friends in Council Historian (member since 1972), informed the Cañon City Administrator that the club had voted to cease its operations. She cited a few of the club's achievements over its 114-year history and informed him where their records were located. Members voted to distribute the club's remaining assets to the Fremont Center for the Arts, the local History Center, the Cañon City Public Library and the Minnie L. Harding Educational Loan Fund. Mrs. Maria Sheetz, in her Annual Historian's Report looking back over the club's first 25 years, stated that "the rise of Friends in Council may be regarded as one of the leading events in the growth and general prosperity of Cañon City." Mrs. Rupp said that while that assessment may have been a bit "lofty," it certainly was true that this organization, like many others, had played a vital role in helping to shape this community.

*Researched and written by Barbara Hobson, February 2016.
Source: Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center*

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GEOLOGY CLUB SCHEDULE

Note: all classes and field trips listed here are subject to change and cancellation due to unforeseen circumstances. Please check the website: canoncitygeologyclub.com for updates. You can also ask questions by emailing ccgeologyclub@gmail.com. To attend these classes and field trips you must be a currently paid CCGC member, or member of invited guest clubs. More details (time, meeting place, etc.) will be sent to CCGC members 7-10 days before the class or field trip date with instructions for sign-up.

March 19 – Mineral ID class, \$5, and afterwards a trip to the Gold Mine Rock Shop (by the Royal Gorge area). Handout will be given to members of all the local rock shops

April 22 - Indian Springs Thorson Ranch, \$10 fee charged by land owner, Fremont County, CO

April 23 – New Hope Amethyst Claim for CCGC members

April 24 – New Hope Amethyst Claim for CCGC members

May 14 – New Hope Amethyst Claim for Lake George Mineral Club

May 15 – New Hope Amethyst Claim for Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society members

Local area ‘Quick Trips’ will also be offered most months in addition to the scheduled trips. Emails will be sent to CCGC members approximately 3-5 days before a quick trip.

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!



PROGRAMS AND TOURS FOR FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DATE	PROGRAM
MARCH 20	THE COLORADO WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME
MAY 15	JENNIFER KOLISE "PIÑON CANYON HISTORIC RANCHES"
SEPTEMBER 18	BLM ARCHÆOLOGIST "PREHISTORIC DEWEESE BI-FACE CACHE"
NOVEMBER 20	PAULETTE STUART = PUEBLO "MINERAL PALACE"

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STAR WATCHER – THE INDIAN MAIDEN ON FREMONT PEAK

LEGEND OF THE INDIAN MAIDEN ON FREMONT PEAK.

Excerpt from Daily Record, Yesteryear by U. Michael Welch

Looking at the surrounding mountains, there is a mystique about various shapes, especially the ones steeped in legends. The most notable is Fremont Peak to the west of Cañon City; there, locals are aware of and visitors can see an outline of a sleeping Indian on the horizon.

As to legend, Cañon City was once the spot for Native Americans to spend the winters, where they bathed in the hot springs, searched for comfortable shelter and hunted.

One year the Utes were camped near the river when a band of Blackfoot Indians came into the area. While living in the area, the Blackfoot braves could not find enough to eat, and they noticed there was food hanging in the Ute encampment.

In desperation the Blackfoot braves crept into the other camp and stole some meat to keep from starving. However, the Chief of the Utes, Gray Wolf, discovered the theft and tracked the thieves back to the Blackfoot camp.

Gray Wolf vowed all of them would die and he told his warriors about the theft, and to kill them all. He watched the Ute warriors kill the sleeping men, women and children. At the end of the battle, he suddenly heard a noise and saw a Blackfoot Indian holding a bundle up to him. As he lifted his knife to plunge into her, a Ute woman grabbed the baby from her, and the injured Blackfoot woman asked her to keep the belt because it would someday save the baby's life.

The baby grew into a beautiful maiden, and enjoyed listening to the Utes telling stories around the camp fire, especially tales of the Indian who had died and turned into a star. After she heard the legend, she spent many hours sitting on a tree stump looking into the stars. She did it so much, her adopted tribe nicknamed her "Star Watcher."

Eventually she was betrothed to Running Deer the son of Gray Wolf.

In the meantime, the Blackfoot Indians remembered the slaughter of their people and waited patiently until Gray Wolf and his band camped in the same spot as the slaughter had occurred.

One day when they arrived in the area, the Blackfoot crept into the camp, and took their revenge on those who had killed their loved ones long ago -while Buffalo Chief watched in the same way Gray Wolf had done.

Buffalo Chief noticed a young Indian maiden crawling toward him holding something in her hand, he killed her. When he looked down, he saw the belt, the one he had given to her mother so many years before. To his dismay, it was his granddaughter, who he thought had been killed when her mother approached Gray Wolf in the same way. So Star Watcher was a tragic tale of Indian retribution.

According to the Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center archives.

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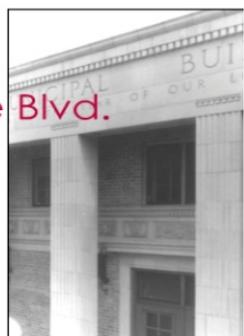
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