

# FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016 VOLUME 14, ISSUE 4 WEBSITE: fremontheritage.com  
WE ARE ON FACEBOOK, TOO: Fremont County Historical Society - Colorado



No Program in July - SEE THE FLYER FOR TOURS AND  
EVENTS!

## HISTORY OF THE FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fremont County Historical Society Board



From Left, Back Row: Patricia Nelson, Cindy Smith, Margaret Storm, Kathy Uhlund, Mary Chamberlain  
Seated in Front: Helene Blake, Larry Linscott, Carol McNew  
Not pictured: Beverly Harris, Patricia Freda

The Board of Directors meets every month on the first Friday at 1:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. We have a current board of 10 members, and are looking for two more people who would join us in our projects. Mission Statement on page 3.

A certificate of stock in the Cañon City Carlsbad Natatorium in 1907 when construction was in progress:  
(Continued on Page 5)



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FLORENCE MUSEUM AND RESEARCH CENTER  
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CENTER  
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BUSINESSES WHO SUPPORT THE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Prospect Heights Jail - OPEN ON SATURDAYS  
1 P.M. TO 4 P.M.



# FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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facebook: Fremont County Historical Society - Colorado

**JOHN B. RUSSELL WAS HONORED AND HIS STONE DEDICATED ON MAY 30, 2016** by numerous participants in a ceremony at Greenwood Cemetery on South First Street Pictures of the very moving ceremony are on Facebook, Greenwood Cemetery Page - Below the Stone and Master of Ceremonies and featured speaker Retired Warden David Zupan.



BELOW: Retired Warden Dave Zupan  
LEFT: John B. Russell Stone furnished by DOC



## STORY ON PAGE 5: CARLSBAD NATATORIUM AND SWIMMING POOL



CONCRETE POOL



FILLING 750 GAL. A MIN.



SPLISH SPLASH AT PLUNGE



ROOF OVER THE POOL

## Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center ----July schedule

All of July: 50-48 and 46 Star Flag display

Tuesday-Saturday

1:00-4:00pm

Admission/donation suggested: \$3.00

Questions: 719-784-1904

Current Military and Veterans: Free with proper id.

July 30, 2016: Save the date for a Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center fundraiser.

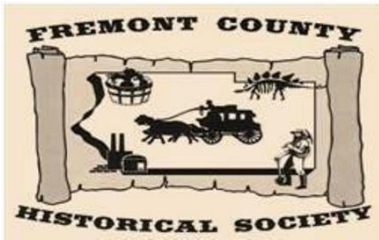
**Historical railroad author Tom Van Warmer**

coming to talk about his book.

Admission/donation suggested: \$10.00

Proceeds to go to the FPM Building Fund





**HISTORY OF THE FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*(continud from Page 1)*

The society was formed in 1971 by a consortium of interested persons from Fremont and Custer Counties. There were 200 original charter members, and the name was Fremont-Custer Historical Society.

In 2013, the membership is 100, with efforts to increase that, ongoing, the majority of whom are in Fremont County. The name was changed to Fremont County Historical Society. The focus is on identifying historic sites, education of the public about those sites, and preservation of endangered sites, The Society Board consists of 12, and the bi-monthly programs are presented as information about our heritage. The Society has also awarded a \$500.00 scholarship to deserving students from local schools. This has now changed into an Educational Award, for any group matching the mission statement of the Society.

The Society has been actively engaged in the Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center and donated the original material for the start of that valuable resource. The Society also is responsible for the various Colorado and United States Designation of Historic Sites throughout the County. Present projects include the Prospect Heights Jail restoration and Historic Designation of the Greenwood Cemetery.

The Society is cooperating with the Fremont County Heritage Commission in initiating Local Landmark Designation for deserving properties throughout the County and sponsoring/supporting the Geology Club and Stones 'n Bones Club.

**MISSION STATEMENT  
FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Fremont County Historical Society will identify, promote, preserve and educate the public about people, places and events of historic and pre-historic significance in Fremont County, Colorado.

Membership in the Fremont County Historical Society is a great way to support your local group to preserve history!

Individual dues: . . . . . \$15.00      Family . . . . . \$25.00  
Couple . . . . . \$20.00      Business . . . . . \$40.00 (adv.)

We also encourage life membership for \$150.00    **SEND YOUR CHECK TO P.O. BOX 965, CAÑON CITY, CO 81215**

**PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL TO THE SOCIETY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE NOTIFIED OF UPCOMING EVENTS, TOURS AND PROGRAMS**

# FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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## FCHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Helene Blake	Cindy Smith
Mary Chamberlain	Margaret Storm
Beverly Harris	Patricia Freda
Larry Linscott	Pat Nelson
Carol McNew	Kathy Uhland

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!



## DIGGIN' IT! DINOSAUR EXHIBIT AT THE ROYAL GORGE REGIONAL MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER:

Stop in at 612 Royal Gorge Boulevard to visit the exhibits from top floor to Rudd House and Cabin behind the Museum.

The Diggin' It! displays show you some of the fossils that have been discovered in Fremont County, and an interactive computer system lets you learn more as you play the puzzles and tests.



If you haven't been out to the PCC Campus lately, and you have not walked the Crossroads Through Time Trail of 500 Million Years, you have missed a treat. The very small mark showing how long man has been on earth as compared to the age of the rock you are standing on is mind boggling.



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# FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## HISTORY OF THE CARLSBAD NATATORIUM CAÑON CITY, COLORADO

Hot springs and mineral baths have afforded countless health benefits for centuries, and have been used to cure maladies ranging from arthritis to indigestion. Cañon City had its fame in the early 1900s to 1969 when the Natatorium was forced to close by the Health Department.

In 1904 Benjamin and Josiah Hazard drilled a well in an attempt to find oil. At 1650 feet deep, gushing artesian water rose to the surface at 700 gallons a minute, according to the Colorado Natural Resources information on wells in the Arkansas Valley. The attempt to find oil was abandoned, and the water continued to flow, developing a very large pond. Josiah and his wife Eva, lived on Pear Street, just a short way from the pool. They started construction at the end of Dozier on Central Avenue to develop the water into a swimming pool. The dimensions of the pool were described as "The Plunge" at 40' by 130'. The Hazard family actually developed the pool and promoted the company by selling stock certificates to finance the venture. (see Page 1 for Stock Certificate picture).

The complex was named the Carlsbad Mineral Baths and the Cañon City Natatorium in 1905 when the pool was enclosed in concrete. Eventually the dressing rooms, a beauty parlor, a snack bar and other amenities were added. Bathing suits were available for men, women, and children.

A company was formed in 1905 of D. J. Schambach, President; Chas. E. Tanner, Vice President; Arch McNelly, Treasurer; A. H. McLain, Secretary and J.T. Hazard, Manager. 1907 brought reorganization and certificates being issued with the following officers: Arch McNelly, President; Josiah H. Hazard, Vice President and Manager, and Arthur H. McLain, Secretary.

There is a March 1906 article in a local paper that states Dr. Pitt A. Wade, a physician practicing from the Felter Building, and living at Fairview Terrace, South Cañon, purchased the "infernal gusher" and 30 acres of land on the Hazard Ranch. He was raising chickens, with a thermal heated brooder house, as well as developing a greenhouse to raise vegetables heated by the waters. He also was using the water to heat his home. The well was producing 250,000 gallons of water a day, according to the article.

Benjamin Hazard, who had instigated drilling for oil on his 30 acres of land, died in October of 1909 in Cañon City, burial in Lakeside Cemetery. His son, Josiah took over the swimming pool management until it passed into the hands of Epperson Fulkerson. W. Ray Fulkerson was the proprietor of the Natatorium in 1929.

When Robert and May Abbott purchased the Cañon City Natatorium in 1945, swimming was a very popular way to cool off in the summer and even during the winter, the 98-degree water was pleasant and soaking was encouraged. The Mineral Water was considered good for the constitution and the body.

It took Robert and May a year of considerable upkeep and refurbishment before they opened for business. This particular timing was not the best because of the polio scare throughout the U.S. However, the following years proved prosperous for the couple. After Robert died, May remarried Marian Bowyer, who continued to run the pool. In 1969, the Colorado State Health Department determined the water was not filtered or sanitized properly, and required the pool be upgraded. Since the cost was over \$90,000, the Bowyers were forced to close down the Cañon City Carlsbad Natatorium.

*Researched and written by Carol McNew, and Margaret Storm*



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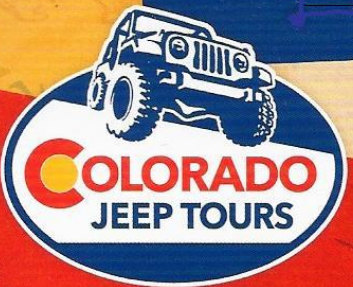
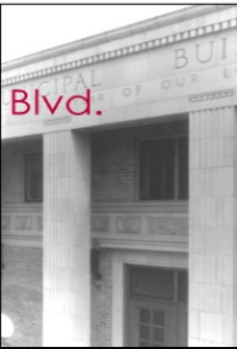
deespac2001@yahoo.com  
Dee Stubbs, owner

**ROYAL GORGE REGIONAL MUSEUM & HISTORY CENTER**

**EXHIBITS**  
**READING ROOM**  
**FREE ADMISSION**

612 Royal Gorge Blvd.  
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rgmhc.org



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