

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2017

NEWSLETTER

**FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2017 – 1:00 TO 4:00 PM
PROGRAM WILL BE:
COLORADO PENITENTIARY
REMEMBRANCES – THE WAY IT WAS**

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THANK YOU LETTER FROM GERRIE COLETTE:

An enormous thank you to Jim Mullins, Corinne Mullins and Jeanne Clark for their assistance helping find these fine volunteers for our panel of “the way it was”. All spouses and families of these volunteers have been especially positive and enthusiastic.

Thanks from:

Gerrie Colette, Chairman, Friends of the Museum and History Center



This was how the Territorial Penitentiary looked right after it had been constructed in 1871. The walls were being built (forefront) but had not surrounded the buildings.

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We invite you to join our
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THE MODERATOR FOR OUR PANEL ED NORDEN, served three terms as the District 3 Fremont County Commissioner from 2005 through 2016. When re-elected to a third term in 2012 he became the first commissioner in more than 30 years to serve three terms in office. Ed came to county government after 32 years of work as a broadcast journalist and continues to work part-time at KRLN and KSTY Radio in Cañon City.

Ed grew up on a farm in Kansas and graduated with a B/A. Degree from Fort Hays State University in 1972. After working for ten years in radio in western Nebraska his family moved to Cañon City in 1982. He and his wife Janice have two sons and three grandchildren. Their son Matt is a wildland firefighter in Cañon City with the Bureau of Land Management. Luke is a 5th grade teacher in Mitchell, South Dakota where he also coaches high school baseball.

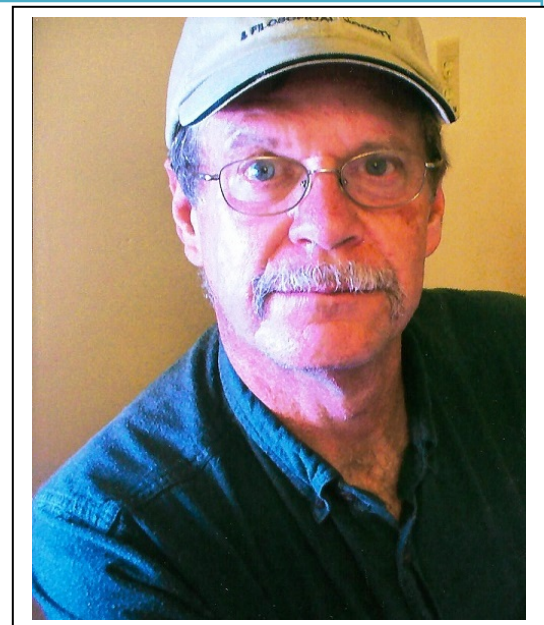
While in office Ed was pleased to have been part of developing a new logo for Fremont County, securing the Garden Park Building for Public Health Offices, development of Pathfinder Regional Park, and working cooperatively to form the combined 9-1-1 dispatch center.

Ed Norden, courtesy photo



PANEL MEMBER: RANDY FOSHEE

Randy was born and raised in the Texas Panhandle. Graduated from Spearman High School in Spearman, Texas, in 1970 Attended Oklahoma Christian College from 1970 to 1974, earned a B.A. degree with majors in Bible and mass communication, and a minor in psychology. Moved to Cañon City in 1974 to work at KRLN Radio Worked at KRLN doing advertising sales, disc jockey, sports play-by-play and news. -Began career in Colorado Department of Corrections in October of 1978 as a Correctional Officer in what is now known as Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility. (end of Main Street in Canon City). Promoted to Sergeant at CTCF. Promoted to Lieutenant at (Case manager) when Centennial Correctional facility was opened Promoted to Captain at CTCF Promoted to Major at Centennial Correctional facility. While at the Major level I was Housing Manager at Centennial, Security manager at Centennial and Programs Manager at CTCF. Promoted to Associate Warden at CSP, I was assigned to CSP, Territorial, back to Centennial and finally back to Territorial. Discharged my number in January 2007



Randy Foshee, Courtesy photo

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REMEMBRANCES FROM OLD-TIMERS WHO LIVED HERE:

The prison band was a very popular part of the penitentiary scene back in the late 1940's and 50's. They would play every Sunday afternoon in the summer from the second story porch of the entrance to the pen. This porch overhung the entrance and was on the street next to West Main Street. The band had accomplished musicians and was conducted by "Pop Gilbert", the High School music teacher. The entire community enjoyed the music and the day in the park. The band also played in the Blossom Parade and at other events during the year. We all were impressed with the ability of these men to present in starched white shirts, ties and black trousers. They looked very spiffy in their outfits and were considered part of the community entertainment scene.

FRUIT = Fremont County the Climate Capitol of Colorado and Cañon City, The Garden City of Colorado. The Penitentiary grounds grew fruits and vegetables for the entire Department of Corrections inmates and personnel. The fruit trees of the Cañon City area produced abundant fruit and canneries were built to take advantage of the economic value.

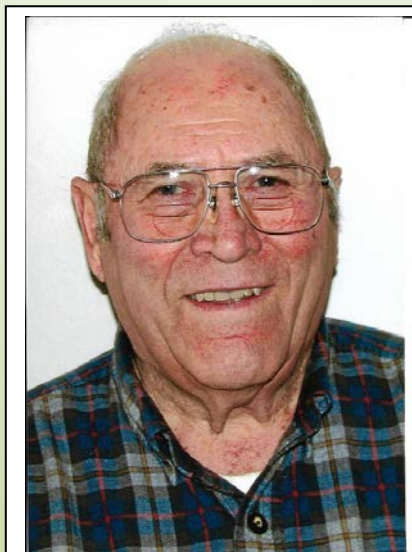
ELI ATCHISON REMEMBERS : PRISON PLUMBER

It was a full-time job, and many days we were late getting off in the evenings. Then there were days that something broke or ruptured and we were called in at night. We got our inmate crew and made repair of the problems.

After thirty years, I retired in July 1997, and I felt good that I helped teach the inmates that worked for me. I not only taught them how to repair the prison plumbing, but also how to repair plumbing on the outside. In the prison, each cell had a flush valve to flush the toilet and a push button to get water in the lavatory. Outside the prison in homes there is no flush valve, but a tank on each toilet with a ballcock valve inside that is nothing like prison plumbing. So I taught them how to repair the ballcock in the toilet tank, but much more, like faucets with handles and bib washers inside that need replaced.

It has been a great experience.

ELI ATCHISON - (RIGHT)
Courtesy photo





The Gentry boys while living in the Deputy Warden's house.
(Courtesy photos)



Vincent R. "Bud" Gentry

Born May 20, 1937

Parents: Florence and Lovell Gentry

Moved to the penitentiary in 1933

Lovell Gentry served as Head Captain and Deputy Warden and Acting Warden during Roy Best's suspension.

Bud lived at the Deputy Warden's House several decades and then in the Spanish House. While living there the family had a yard man, a cook, and a house boy. All household helpers were trustees.

Picture of "Bud" at the Lieutenant's House or Capelli House.

Picture of Wm. E. and Vincent "Bud" Gentry in front of Deputy Warden's residence.

Picture of Bernie (the inmate nanny) and Bill and "Bud" Gentry

Pictures of "Bud's" brother Bill in the backyard of the Lieutenant's house, just north of the Deputy Warden's House.

Questions: 275-6603



STORY FROM JODY TINSLEY JACOBSHAGEN

“Living at the Prison” by Jody Tinsley Jacobshagen

”Institutional Living” started for me when I was in the fourth grade, living in Buena Vista, Colorado. We moved to the Colorado State Reformatory into an apartment until the Deputy Warden’s House was built, for our family. When I was in 8th grade we moved to Cañon City, into the Deputy Warden’s residence on the corner of the prison grounds on Main Street. Soon after my Dad, Harry Tinsley, was appointed Acting Warden for Warden Best while he was on suspension for two years. In May 1954, Warden Best was ready to move back into the Warden’s residence and ironically passed away of a heart attack. After a sensible amount of time my dad was appointed Warden of Colorado State Penitentiary and our family moved into the Warden’s residence. The house we lived in on the corner was big and old and lovely and had many wonderful features, but the Warden’s residence was like a dream.

I had my own bedroom, walk-in closet, and bathroom along with a guest bathroom and two bedrooms on my wing. My brother (Richard) had been away at college and came home to live before he was drafted into the Navy (1954). When we lived in the Warden’s House we had many slumber parties, and Richard enjoyed the game room in the basement with his friends. Coming to visit at the Warden’s House was a treat for our friends.

My brother and I were both home in 1956 and 1957 and we had a party with his friends and my friends.

Our butler was Jackson (6’4”) and in command. The pictures are of him serving Christmas dinner to our family in 1961, and taking our son Mike for a sled ride outside the house.

Three pictures provided by Jody:

Jackson with Mike (Jody’s son) on the sled

Christmas dinner served by the butler, Jackson, 1956 or 1957

Group photo:

First row: Jody Tinsley (Jacobshagen), Johnny Howard, Ted Ziegler and Larry White



FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM & HISTORY CENTER

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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 lifetime members, and hope that many more of our yearly members wish to support us in this way.




JoAnn Grenard
 Broker, Owner



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