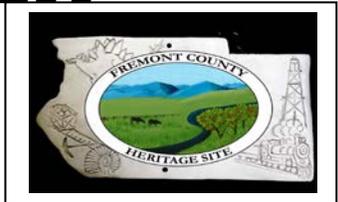


FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MAY 20, 2018 VOLUME 16, ISSUE 3 WEBSITE: fremontheritage.com
WE ARE ON FACEBOOK, TOO: Fremont County Historical Society - Colorado



Editor: Carol McNew, Readers: Margaret Storm and mailing Barbara Hobson

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PROGRAM ON SUNDAY -MAY 20, 2018

PRESENTER: AUGUST MERGELMAN BIRD MILLMAN - BALLERINA ON A WIRE

As a playwright, August has one simple goal: to bring classical works to the modern audience. It seems that so many of the world's great dramas are obscured by their own magnitude. August does not believe that any of history's great playwrights would truly want their works to be intimidating or bewildering. First and foremost, they were showmen; they crafted their works to be engaging, challenging, and most importantly, entertaining.

As a fourth-generation Colorado native, August is proud of his western heritage, which is manifest in several of his western settings. His works have been featured in the Playwrights' Showcase of the Western Region and the Rocky Mountain Theatre Association's Playwriting Competition.

Website:
<https://augustmergelman.weebly.com/biography.html>

See Page 2 for Bird Millman's story.

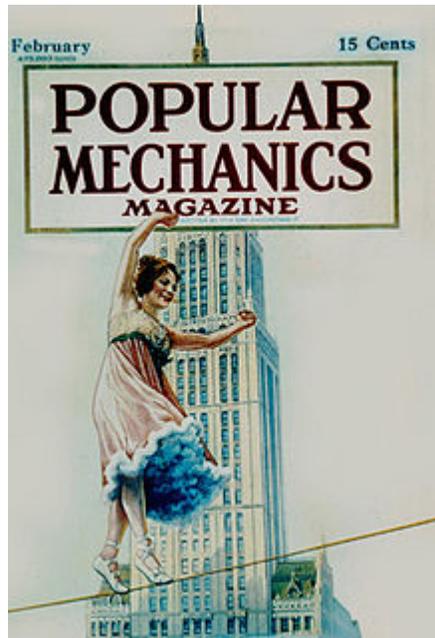
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church,
801 Sheridan Avenue, Cañon City
2:00 p.m. - Public Welcome
Refreshments served

IN THIS ISSUE:
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Page 2: BIRD MILLMAN – her life and achievements
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PAGE 5: Spirits, History, and Cotopaxi School Burns - 1938
PAGE 6: Our Advertisers – Help to send this newsletter to you



Photo by Edward Adamic

MY GUIDING PRINCIPLES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Love yourself. ★ Love & be loved. ★ Respect others as yourself. ★ Let wisdom guide you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dignity Gratitude Equality Balance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Generosity Citizenship Simplicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joy Love Compass Wisdom
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Create peace. ★ Innovate & preserve. ★ Generate good thoughts, words, & deeds. ★ Realize your fullest potential. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patience Creativity Optimism Courage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forgiveness Conservation Sincerity Perseverance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peace Evolution Integrity Prosper



Bird Millman O'Day

(October 20, 1890 – August 5, 1940)

She was one of the most celebrated high-wire performers of all time. During the “Golden Age of the American Circus,” she was a premiere attraction with the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus.

Mud Shows and Vaudeville

Born **Jennadean Engleman** in Cañon City, Colorado, as a child, Bird traveled in mud shows (small circuses) with her parents, Dyke F. Engleman and Genevieve Patton Engleman. In 1904, the Millman Trio entered big-time vaudeville, playing such destinations as Keith's Union Square and Hammerstein's Paradise Roof Garden. At one point Bird was dubbed, perhaps ironically, "the Eva Tanguay of the Wire."

At Berlin's Wintergarten Theatre, Bird gave a command performance before the court of Kaiser Wilhelm II. Upon her return to the United States, her act became Bird Millman & Co., adding the New York Hippodrome and the Palace Theatre (Broadway) to her list of credits. One of the troop's new members, Fern Andra, did not return after a brief European tour; later, she resurfaced as a star of German silent film.

Bird Millman was inducted posthumously into the [International Circus Hall of Fame](#) in 1961. She has been named a “Famous Person” at Lakeside Cemetery on Findagrave.

Wikipedia – internet story by August Mergelman



The Fremont County Historical Society has published seven books on the history of the County, from east to west. They are available in several places – Florence Museum, Archives and Library, Cañon City Museum, Prison Museum, The Cellhouse, Chrysalis, Fremont County Administration Building and more. If you go to our website: www.fremontheritage.com they are available for download. A new Self-Guided Tour book will be published this summer: details of geology and paleontology of the region – Rocks and Fossils.

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!



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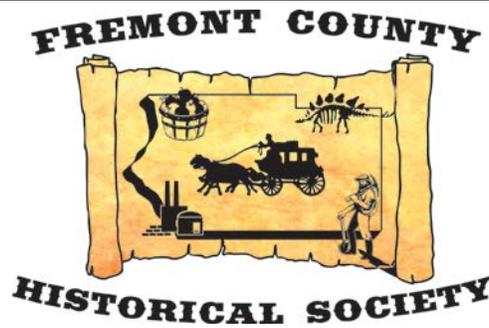
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WELCOME TO THE SOCIETY:

We are very pleased you have decided to join us in our mission to identify, preserve, educate and promote the history of our Fremont County.

The Board of Directors of the Society hopes that you will volunteer in whatever capacity you feel comfortable to help further our goals. We have many avenues for you to participate with our projects such as the Prospect Heights Jail Open House in the summer, fund-raising efforts and book publishing and distribution such as *From Trappers to Tourists*, *Along the Avenues*, *If Walls Could Speak*, and the new *Self-Guided Tours to Cañon City, Florence, Western Fremont County, Coal Camps of Fremont County, Howard and Skyline Drive*. The programs we produce are educational programs bimonthly (January, March, May, July, September and November) the members of the Society and the public can learn about the diverse and long heritage we have here. There are volunteer opportunities at each of these, such as greeters, book sellers, refreshments and set-up and take-down of the venue.

The "Climate Capital of Colorado" has been the motto of this region for a very long time. We enjoy the best of all worlds - clean air, beautiful scenery and history for everyone.

If you can help us by actively distributing brochures, typing news stories, or helping with research and field trips, we would welcome your input. If you have any questions about the Society, or if you have any input for the bimonthly newsletter, we encourage you to contact one of the members of the Board.

We invite you to participate in our projects and the program meetings. As a result of your membership dues, you will receive a newsletter prior to that meeting with all the information and a lot more general historical tidbits that we hope you enjoy.

Best Wishes, and again, Welcome!

Carol McNew, President

Board of Trustees, Fremont County Historical Society

P.O., Box 965

Cañon City, CO 81215



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Spirits of the Past 2014 at Coal Creek celebration

In 1871, five years before Colorado became a state, the first Territorial Prison was built in Cañon City, the county seat, which was incorporated in 1872 (making it the 6th oldest incorporated city in Colorado).

Cañon City was a bustling town that provided goods and services for the gold rush miners of the nearby Cripple Creek area. When mining slowed, many of the miners joined other settlers in agricultural pursuits.

Since the late 19th century, fruit harvest and blossom festivals have been popular. Today the historic Cañon City Music and Blossom Festival on the first weekend in May carries on a long tradition of recognizing area farms and orchards - coupled with events such as the annual Apple Days on the first weekend in October in the Penrose/Beaver Creek area east of Cañon City and the wine festival on the last weekend in September at the Holy Cross Abbey winery.

○ STORIES FROM THE PAST: COTOPAXI SCHOOL BURNS TO THE GROUND : 1938

-
- “The flames were shooting way up, I remember it pretty well ...”

I’ve always been interested in the stories about the Cotopaxi School burning down. I believe that it was 1938.

As I used to go into other schools in the League – Cripple Creek, Westcliffe, they had senior pictures clear back to 1900 or earlier ... Paxi only went back to 1939.

Dad said he remembers driving by and seeing the flames way up above the building. Grandpa hustled them home to where they (then) lived on Plum Street. He then turned around and went back to the fireline.

I suppose he might have grabbed a bucket or two. The fireline went from the creek up to the “brand, new gymnasium.” The school was then where the lunchroom is now.

They had a “bucket brigade” from Bernard Creek up to the school. I’d like to see that whole team in action.

They couldn’t save the school, but they put ladders up and dumped water from the bucket line on the roof of the new gym ... and they saved it. Used to be (at least into the 60s and 70s) you could see the floor from that gym.

But Dad talked about Uncle Howard taking a toy pickup truck - maybe it was yellow, to school. Howard had left it there at school the day the school burned down. Toys were hard to come by in the depression, and the fire left an indelible impression on Dad

- *Remembered by Steven McNew*



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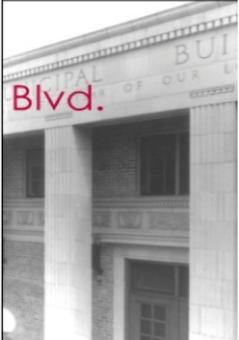
deespace2001@yahoo.com Dee Stubbs, owner

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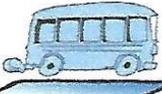
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