

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

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

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Paula McFarland - Newsletter

Terri Meeks - Newsletter

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719-269-9036

www.fremontheritage.com

Memberships to the Museum

Become a member to support our history and the history to come.

Individuals cost is \$10.00

Couples cost is \$15.00

Families cost is \$20.00

Organizations cost is \$25.00

Life members cost is \$150.00



Tour of Schools

Did you grow up in Canon City? Did you and your children go to school here? Join the Friends of the Museum and History Center on Saturday, April 20th from 1 pm to 5 pm, to tour four of Canon City's oldest schools. This event is a fundraiser by the Friends to raise \$5,000. to purchase a digital scanner and the supplies needed to use it. The scanner will be used exclusively to scan and preserve the massive Canon City Record collection, photos and negatives.

The cost of the tour is \$20. Children under 12 are free but must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets may be purchased at the Royal Gorge Museum and History Center and several businesses throughout town.

See Canon City Middle School (soon to be rebuilt), Lincoln Elementary, Madison and Garden Park Schools and discover some of their history. Sounds exciting!

Come out and help us make this happen. Donations are always accepted too!

History in the Making

Have you visited the museum lately? 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the United States involvement in World War I and the museum opened their exhibit **"From Here to Over There: Fremont County in the Great War"** to commemorate this anniversary.

This year, the Royal Gorge Bridge will celebrate its 90th year. Construction began on June 6, 1929 and the bridge opened for tourist traffic on December 8th of the same year. Mark your calendar to visit the museum at the end of April to see the new exhibit **Suspended Through Time: 90th Anniversary of the Royal Gorge Bridge**, honoring the construction and history of the bridge.

Take part in the many programs that the museum offers. The **Old Timers Coffee** will feature Elementary School teachers on Thursday, April 4th from 9:00 - 10:30. If you were an elementary school teacher or a student who remembers a favorite teacher, come share your stories.

You can refer to the museum calendar for upcoming events. Your support of the museum's programs and activities helps to promote and save our local history. Thank you.

<https://www.fremontheritage.com/friends-of-the-museum>

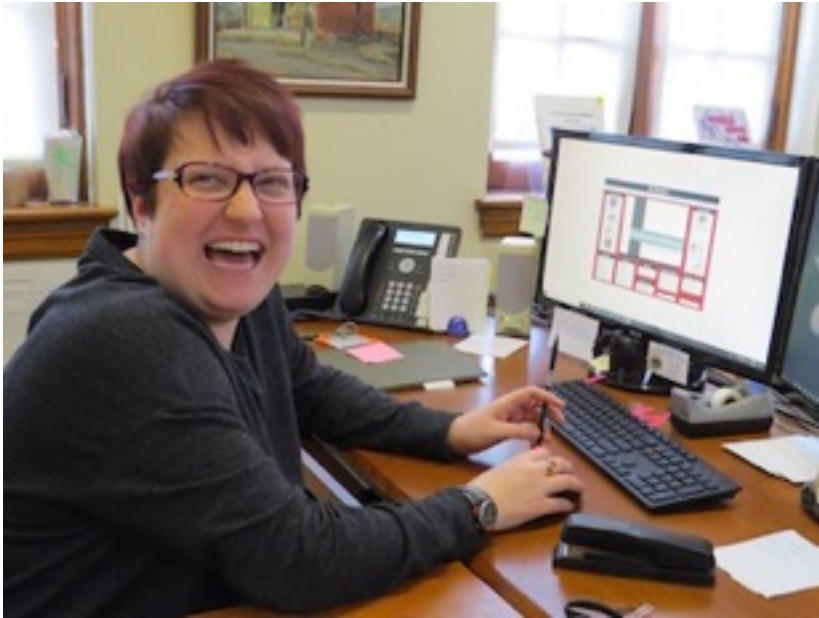


The Museum Has a New Sign

Driving across town via Highway 50 just got a little more interesting with the unveiling of a new sign at the Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center. The original brown street sign, placed by the highway department, directed residents and tourists to the museum for many years. That sign was removed when Big Al, our dinosaur, was installed on the northwest corner of the museum's property. It soon became apparent that a new permanent sign was needed when people came in to what they thought was still the Municipal Building to pay their water bills and as recently as last year to obtain a building permit. Because the building is on the National Register of Historic Places and the original brick was no longer available, the classic style of a monument-type sign was selected. Careful consideration was given to the placement of the sign to complement rather than take away from the building. Mike Madone and his team from Mountain Masonry prepared the foundation and completed the structural work on December 24th.

WANTED: Have you considered volunteering at the museum or working on a project with the Friends? There are numerous opportunities and projects that are open to a variety of talents.

Meet Our New Curator Katie Conrad



Katie Conrad is the new Curator of Collections and Exhibits at the Museum and History Center. Originally from Northern Utah, Katie attended Utah State University where she received a bachelor's degree in anthropology. During her time at USU, she was asked to be a part of an internship team working for the Museum of Anthropology on campus. That's where she was bitten by the museum bug! With that new curiosity, Katie completed her undergraduate thesis by co-curating an exhibit with the Director of the Box Elder Museum of Art, History, and Nature about

the Intermountain Indian School. She finished her degree while working at the Anasazi State Park and Museum as the curatorial intern.

After her internship she was hired to work at the Box Elder Museum of Art, History, and Nature as the Curatorial and Development Assistant. Working there for three years gave her an insight into all aspects of the museum world - from different types of collections to day-to-day operations. After three years she decided to go back to university for her master's in museum studies. While attending Western Illinois University, Katie worked and interned at the Putnam Museum & Science Center, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, German American Heritage Center, International Preservation and Studies Center, and the Figge Art Museum.

Katie graduated at the end of 2016 and happened to get a job back in Utah working as the Collections Manager and Curator at the John Wesley Powell River History Museum. During her time there the Travel Channel's *Mysteries at the Museum* interviewed her about John Wesley Powell's trip down the Green and Colorado Rivers.

Katie began at the RGRMHC last October and enjoys it every day, especially having an office with windows! She enjoys playing pickleball, soccer, painting, fishing, and camping. She misses her dog Luna, a.k.a. LunnyTunes, but hopes to move her here soon.

It's Time To Renew Your Membership

Have you renewed your membership for 2019? An envelope is included in this mailing for you to complete and return. We hope you will join us for all of our exciting events and programs as well as the unveiling of our new exhibit. Help us support the museum in preserving and sharing all the treasures which are our local history. Thank you for your continued support.

The Cañon City Daily Record and Our Fund Raising Need

In 2014, the Museum signed an agreement with Prairie Mountain Publishing Company to preserve and make accessible to the public the Cañon City Daily Record (CCDR) Collection. The collection consists of 283 bound volumes of the Cañon City Record and the CCDR from the years 1904-2010 along with thousands of newspaper clippings, copy prints or photo proofs, and several hundred 35 mm negatives and contact sheets.

Due to the enormous size of the CCDR Collection, the museum's small staff decided to phase the project of preservation, cataloging, and rehousing this collection.

The first phase of consolidating the museum's subject files and family files with the CCDR Collection of newspaper clippings to avoid excessive duplication was completed by our staff and volunteers.

The second phase for staff and museum volunteers has been to match the unidentified or undated copy prints and other photos with a dated newspaper article and a published photo to establish provenance. This phase of the project is nearly complete.

The third phase in the preservation of the CCDR Collection is the digitization, cataloging and rehousing of the entire collection of copy prints and 35mm filmstrips into the museum's collection. The chemicals used in processing the pictures over time have begun to off-gas and destroy the image making digitization of the collection critically important. Scanning the images in their current state is the best solution in preserving these images. In order to scan the collection, the museum needs to purchase a digital scanner solely dedicated to scanning the CCDR Collection.

Currently, the Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center does not have the budget for a scanner with the capacity to scan both positive and negative images or the necessary archival supplies to rehouse this collection. The digital scanner that is needed for the completion of this phase of the project costs \$3,750. This professional scanner has the capacity to scan photographic prints, negatives, and transparency slides up to 12" x 16.5" at or above the professional standards set for digital archiving purposes.

Museum staff and the Friends of the Museum are asking for your support to help fund this phase of the project. Any contributions you or your company can make towards funding this project would be greatly appreciated. These documents are a treasure trove of facts and fond memories which have tremendous historical and emotional significance to the residents both past and present of this community. The digitization and better storage will ensure that this irreplaceable collection is preserved and accessible for future generations of museum patrons.

Terri Meeks, Board Member Profile

Terri, a native New Yorker, and her husband Dan, a native Oklahoman, moved to Cañon City in August 2017. She was raised in Ossining, New York, home of Sing Sing Prison so she feels right at home! She completed a B.A. in French and worked in libraries in Texas and Georgia for a number of years before deciding to return to school to earn a second degree in math and computer science. She was hired by General Dynamics (GD) in Fort Worth, Texas where she worked in operations research studying the vulnerability and survivability of the F-16 aircraft. GD was sold to Lockheed Martin and Terri changed departments, testing computer hardware and software for F-16 support equipment. She did extensive travel to Air Force bases in the United States as well as around the world. An avid genealogist, Terri came to the museum to volunteer. She has presented some genealogy programs and has taught a monthly series of introduction to genealogy classes. She has two daughters, two sons-in-law, and six grandchildren. Her hobbies include travel and photography, needlework, reading and learning about her new home town.

Liquid Gold

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Museum and History Center was held on February 2nd at the Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center. Gerrie Colette, chair of the Friends of the Museum, conducted a short business meeting and introduced board members. Paula McFarland gave a treasurer's report and Lisa Studts, Director of the Museum, distributed a survey requesting input for the museum's strategic planning. Anne Zielinski and Terri Meeks were nominated and elected to serve on the board for two year terms. Gerrie concluded the meeting by giving a brief history of the four water systems in Fremont County: Florence Regional Water Authority, Penrose, Park Center and Canon City Water Districts.

Brandon Harris, Ron Gasser, James Wade, and Bob Hartzman were invited to represent their respective water districts. Regrettably Ron Gasser and James Wade had previous commitments. Brandon Harris and Bob Hartzman presented fascinating facts about each of their water systems. While all districts get their water in some way from the Arkansas River, each man discussed the water rights, gravity flow, treatment, storage, pumping and distribution requirements for their facilities. In terms of treatment, impurities in the Florence water system rise to the service while those in Canon City are exactly the opposite, sinking to the bottom. The men outlined the improvements and expansion made throughout the years. The sheer number of gallons per day processed through each facility was astounding only emphasizing that water is indeed liquid gold.

2018 Accomplishments

Jean Toto reported an impressive list of accomplishments at the annual meeting. The museum received a five drawer flat file for map storage. Colorado Parks and Wildlife provided a professional to discuss the dangers of invasive species in our local lakes and Glenda DeBekker, Stormwater Technician from the City of Canon City spoke to the group about our floodplain and stormwater systems. Marking the National Day of the Cowboy, we had a large panel of rodeoers made up of current and past Royal Gorge Rodeo presidents, director and assistant director of the

Royalty and two young girls representing the Royalty. Our board member Tim Bennett taught dance steps which was a lot of fun for everyone and the Rebel Riders informed us about their Royalty.




The Artist Gallery

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