

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

612 Royal Gorge Blvd.

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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

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Life members cost is \$150.00



Suspended Through Time

“Suspended Through Time, 90th Anniversary of the Royal Gorge Bridge” opened at the end of April. This new exhibit, in the Reading Room of the museum and history center, details the story of the bridge from it’s humble beginnings as a park to the destructive fire in 2013. Written by the entire staff of the museum, the exhibit also features artifacts and documents from the collections such as Don Boyles’ parachute, original log books from 1929, souvenirs, construction photos, and a unique set of earrings.

In colors of imperial red, gold, and teal, the museum breaks down the history of the bridge into six main sections: the park, construction, Incline Railway, engineering, stunts, and the fire. There are also fun facts placed sporadically throughout the exhibit. “Even at 90 years old, the Royal Gorge Bridge is still the most recognizable and sought out attraction in Fremont County, if not southeastern Colorado.

History in the Making

Spring is a busy season at the museum. Back by popular demand are the **Historic Bike Tours**. A tour of Lakeside Cemetery will kick off the 2019 series on Saturday, May 11th at 6:00 p.m. This May activity will be limited to 25 people. The theme for the June tour will be Orchards and July will feature Tunnel Drive.

If your interest is dinosaurs, join Andrew Smith on Saturday, May 18th from 10:00 a.m to noon to **Hike with a Paleontologist**. Explore the Cleveland-Delfs Quarry and do a .25 mile hike to Marsh-Felch Dinosaur Quarry. This activity will be limited to 20 people.

Don't forget our youngest community members and the series of exciting summer programs.

In keeping with the celebration of the construction and opening of the Royal Gorge Bridge, Terri Meeks will present **Back Story: The Men Who Actually Built the Bridge**, on Saturday, June 8th at 1:00 p.m. Come and hear some of the family history stories of the laborers who worked to make this engineering feat a reality.

Check the museum's calendar for the schedule of all tours, registration and waiver forms.

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

That in and of itself is reason to celebrate!" says Lisa Studts, Museum Director. A kids' area will be available where you and your family can enjoy coloring and learn about bridge design.

The grand opening of the exhibit will be on June 7, beginning at 5 p.m. 'Suspended Through Time' will definitely 'light' up your day!



Meet Rebbie

Rebbie is our Rebachasaurus donated to the museum by Fremont Adventure Recreation (FAR). She is the product of their Adventure Kids series which FAR sponsors every summer. She was moved to the museum from Centennial Park in March to protect her from the ravages of the sun and vandalism. A special thank you to Ashlee Sack, FAR Coordinator, for Rebbie's history and her meaningful decorations.

You will notice there are about 12 little footprints all over, with the names and ages of each of the kids. FAR practices 'Leave No Trace' principles on their hikes, which means that they "Take only pictures, leave only footprints" (the slogan). She used to have photos pasted on her body, but they peeled off in the hot summer sun.

Rebbie's background is the Cañon City skyline - with Fremont Peak included. The other side is of the Royal Gorge, complete with a mountain biker and a whitewater raft. Her head is dark blue with stars as a nod to our neighbors to the south, Westcliffe and Silvercliff, which are Dark Sky communities. (They have so little light pollution that it's

possible to see more stars, constellations, etc.) FAR loves the dinosaur program and sponsored a 'Dino Hunt' search last summer wherein kids could find all 12 and come to the museum for a FREE button.

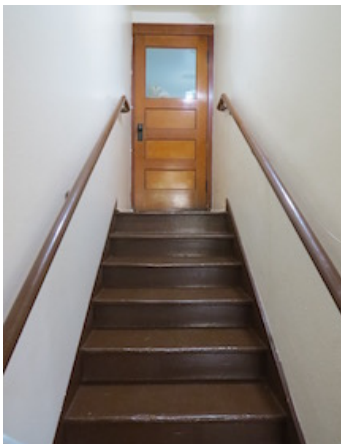
Tour of Schools



Folks joined the Friends of the Museum Tour of Schools fundraiser on Saturday, April 20 to visit the Canon City Middle School, Madison, Lincoln, and Garden Park Schools. At each location, they were able to read the history of the school and perhaps revel in the memories of their own experiences at these schools.

The Lincoln School of Science and Technology mascot is the gorilla. When Garfield School was torn down in the 1980s, Lincoln's staff decided to take the gorilla for their mascot. You will find him sitting on a couch in their library.

Since 1986 when two major additions were added onto Lincoln, several other small renovations and changes have been made. These facts and all of the details were given to the visitors by Abe England, head custodian at Lincoln (pictured at right). Most of the windows and plumbing were recently replaced. This school has really good bones and hopefully will last a long time into the future. Presently, there are 275 students attending Lincoln. Everyone who took the tour left with information they never knew before. At the end of the day, Loretta Bailey (who attended Garfield, Madison, Lincoln, and the Middle School) and her daughter came for the tour and had many stories to tell about her years there.



Entering Madison School means stairs, whether up or down! Four large classrooms each with an entire wall of windows must have made learning a real pleasure. Generations of students passed through these classrooms and they are being used today as classrooms for dance. The current owner, B. Box, School of Dance & Kinetic Expression, has retained many of the beautiful old features: high ceilings, wood floors, and wooden coat closets while also improving some of the downstairs spaces. John Repar recalled days of teaching at the school and Carol McNew remembered being sent to time-out. Can you imagine the dread instilled in students climbing these stairs to the Head Teacher's Office (there were no principals at the time)?



Preservation efforts at the historic Garden Park School have been ongoing since 2006. The Friends of the Garden Park School presently have their third grant from the State Historical Fund. This grant is specifically for comprehensive construction drawings that detail recommended preservation efforts on the exterior and interior of the school. Each grant they receive from the SHF requires matching funds, usually about 25% of the total grant. The Friends of Garden Park School is responsible for raising these funds and

the Gold Belt Tour Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway is the actual 501 (c)(3) organization that oversees these grants. They will be pursuing a grant in the near future to get a protective coating, shotcrete, on this 1895 adobe schoolhouse, just as it was first applied to protect the exterior in 1917. They will also be requesting funds for Lexan window guards and eventually help with the interior. The school is a “work in progress” We have made great progress, although there is still more work to be done.



Special recognition goes to Kaedyn Dewitt, Canon City High School sophomore, who researched and presented the history of the Middle School and to the National Junior Honor Society students who worked to guide guests and present different aspects of the school’s history. This tour gave many in the community the last chance to see the Middle School before its massive reconstruction.



Thank you to all the members of the community who purchased tickets and participated in this tour. The Friends would also like to extend a special thanks to the Canon City School District, Brittany Martell, and Curt and Peggy Sorenson for opening their schools for this special event. And to all of those who sponsored this event, heartfelt thanks for your continued support: JoAnn Grenard, Home Town Real Estate of Canon City; Daily Record; Star Country; McCasland Glass; Choice Health Insurance; Waterhole #1; The Palace Drug Store; Linda Neefe, CPA; and Sons of Italy.

2019 Senior Mini College



The museum was very well represented on Tuesday, March 19th at this year's Senior Mini College events.

Museum Director and member of the Fremont County Heritage Commission, Lisa Studts presented a program to a group of 14 people on how to research historic properties and how to get a property listed as a local landmark. She highlighted the great resources both the History Center and the Florence Pioneer Museum have available for local property owners that will help them in discovering the history of their house or building. Such resources included our address files, Sanborn Insurance maps, and city directories. She also mentioned that History Colorado has an online guide to different architectural styles

and layouts of structures commonly found here in this state.

Lisa ended the program with a discussion on the criteria and the potential benefits of getting a property designated as a local landmark through the Fremont County Heritage Commission. The application form and criteria for the local landmark designation are available online on the Fremont County Heritage Commission's website - <https://www.fremontheritage.com/criteria/>. If you have any questions or would like a list of the available resources, please contact the museum.

Canon City Times reporter Nellie Bly (museum volunteer Loretta Bailey) was out to get a front page story from two of our town's most famous women: suffragette Emma Ghent Curtis (Education Coordinator Kathleen Eaton) and library founder Emma Webster (Archives Librarian & Visitor Services Manager Rachel Smith).

Curtis came to Colorado from Indiana because of her ill health and taught school for one year at the Four Mile School. A member of the Populist Party, she wrote Western poetry, short stories, and novels; co-published a newspaper, *The Royal Gorge*, with her husband James and was an activist in state suffrage circles. She celebrated the ingenuity of western men and women, encouraged women to organize and advocated women's representation. At the 1892 Colorado convention, she succeeded in adding women's right to vote to the plank. On November 7, 1893, Colorado became the first state to give women the vote by popular referendum electing three women to the Colorado House of Representatives.



The first Canon City Reading Room was located at 500 Main Street. As a member of the Ladies Library Association, Emma Webster sought ingenious ways to get books to the reading public. Baby buggies! They could be wheeled door to door to distribute the 50 book collection to the women of the community. As the collection of books grew, so too did the collection of rocks and fossils. It soon became apparent that a new facility was needed and Emma Webster was just the person to spearhead this effort. She applied to Andrew Carnegie and spent her own money to travel alone to Grand Junction to find out how they had succeeded in getting a Carnegie Library. Her petitions were successful, receiving a total of \$13,000 for construction of the new library. Emma served Canon City as the first librarian and received \$2 a month extra pay for her janitorial services.



“How Tuberculosis Consumed Colorado” was the subject of Kathleen Eaton’s Tuesday afternoon in-depth presentation. First documented 3300 years ago, the disease was believed to be hereditary rather than contagious. Known by various names and glamorized among Victorians, TB is still one of the leading killers in the world’s less developed nations. Kathleen discussed the causes and symptoms of the disease and how Colorado’s population soared in the early 20th century because of the benefits of our fresh air and low humidity. While National Jewish Hospital and Swedish Medical Center were initially started as

sanitariums, they continue to pioneer treatments for respiratory and pulmonary conditions. Canon City had a disproportionate number of doctors in the early 20th century and The Ward/Graves Hospital at 602 Macon and the Howe Sanitarium at 902 Greenwood were instrumental in caring for TB patients. Prisoners also volunteered to participate in serum trials; two were even released when the new vaccine worked.

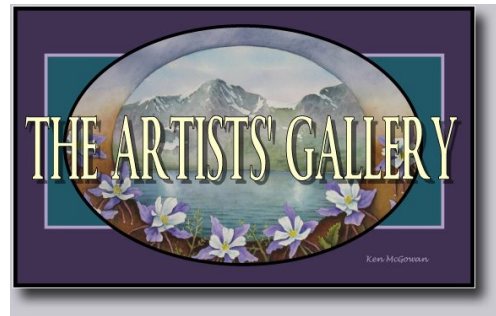
American Day of the Cowboy - July 20th

Mark your calendars and save the date to come hear Gloria Stultz’ presentation on Stagecoach Stations.

Thank You, Welcome & Reminder

Thank you to all our members who renewed their membership in 2019 and welcome to our new members. Your continued support allows us to provide special resources to augment and supplement the museum’s mission and services. It is never too late to submit a renewal. If you have misplaced your envelope, they are available at the museum or by contacting any of the board members listed on the front page.

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* Based on information from the Royal Gorge Association of REALTORS®/MLS for the period 1/1/12 through 12/1/17 interpreted by JoAnn Grenard of Home Town Real Estate