

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

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

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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

Families cost is \$20.00

Organizations cost is \$25.00

Life members cost is \$150.00

Thursday Nights at the Movies



Come celebrate Fremont Fall Heritage Days at the museum watching old time movies.

The Friends of the Museum and History Center will be sponsoring Thursday Nights at the Movies in September.

Linda Epperson has graciously given us permission to screen three movies highlighting Canon City and some of its residents. Canon City has played a large role in western movies and each film will be showcasing local people and places.

Following is a schedule of the featured films:

September 12 - Hollywood, Colorado which showcases three pieces of cinema history: the 15 minute "Buck's Romance" from 1912, the 13 minute "A Matrimonial Deluge" from 1913 and the three reeler "Pirates of the Plains" from 1914.

September 19 - Duchess and the Dirtwater Fox, a 1976 western romantic comedy starring Goldie Hawn and George Segal. Can you spot Shelf Road and the Rudd House?

September 26 - The Cowboys, a 1972 western film starring John Wayne, Roscoe Lee Browne, Slim Pickens, Colleen Dewhurst and Bruce Dern. Do you know some of the boys chosen to make the 400 mile cattle drive?

A \$4 donation is suggested. Join us for free popcorn and three evenings of historic entertainment.

History in the Making

Our final **Historic Bike Tour** of the 2019 season will be a leisurely ride through downtown Canon City exploring the architecture of Main Street and environs. We will meet on Saturday, Sep 14 at 6:00 at the Fremont Admin Building.

Old Timer's Coffee meet the first Thursday of each month at 9:00a.m. The September discussion will focus on 8 mile and October will feature Ghost Stories.

Genealogy Classes - The first of seven monthly classes will begin on Saturday, September 14th from 1:00p.m. to 3:00p.m. This month's topic is: How to Get Started and Organization Hints.

Hike with a Paleontologist - Saturday, October 19 at 1:00p.m. Andrew Smith will be hosting more exploration of the Marsh Felch area. Come see if you can spot something new.

Sand Creek Massacre: Its Causes and Effects will be held on Saturday, October 26 at 1:00p.m. Everyone is invited to hear author and scholar Dr. Jeff Broome.

Dan Grenard will present **Dead Man's Cañon**, a ghost story on Wednesday, October 30 at 6:00p.m. Start your Halloween celebrations with us.

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

<https://museum.canoncity.org>

Reception Honoring Life Members

The Friends of the Museum and History Center are honoring lifetime members with a reception on Friday, September 20th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Brendan Pardue has made the Gibson Mansion at 9th Street and Greenwood available for this special event. There will be a short historic presentation, a selection of historic foods, and recognition of each of these treasured members. All Friends members are invited to attend and to express our thanks to these generous supporters: Shirley Carey, Gerrie Colette, Bev Embry, Jim Felton, Dan and Joann Grenard, Paula McFarland, Carol McNew, Maizy Myers, Leonard and MaryLou Nelson, Walter Schepp, and Roscoe Stuber.

Birthday Wishes



Family and friends, new and old, from near and far gathered on August 24th to wish Gerrie Colette a happy 80th birthday. Gerrie spent time welcoming each of her guests and many stories, photographs and memories were shared throughout the afternoon. She has been active in the community in so many ways and it was marvelous seeing the organizational connections shared by her many guests. Tasty barbecue, games, music, and a tour of her garden were just some of the day's highlights. We extend our best wishes to Gerrie on this milestone birthday and hope for many more years to come.

Tracing Your Female Ancestors



Twenty-seven genealogists came to the museum on Saturday, July 13th to hear Terri Meeks program on Tracing Your Female Ancestors. Terri presented research techniques and explained where to find and how to use various records to identify those hidden maiden names. There were opportunities for numerous questions as well as class interaction and conversation.

National Day of the Cowboy

It was standing room only on Saturday, July 27th for the Mule Skinners, Jehus, and Whips presentation. Gerri Colette introduced the program by explaining the fine differences between burros, donkeys, and mules while also talking about horses and oxen and the work that each performed. Members of the audience read some of the rules of stagecoach etiquette including the best place to sit for the most comfortable ride and what not to do when smoking, spitting or drinking!



Jim Nelson introduced the audience to some of the historic roads and trails which will be a part of “A Fremont County Heritage Guide” to be published in early 2020. Canon City was originally the end of the road. Once gold was discovered, Canon City and later Florence provided important support for the mining camps. Jim explained the role of pack-trains, freighters and stagecoach drivers in providing food, equipment, supplies, transportation and

hotels all in support of the mining camps. He highlighted Charles Creek, a stagecoach stop operator; Charlie Canterbury, cowboy, rancher, and Shelf Road builder; and Woody Higgins, rancher, stagecoach driver, partner in Shelf Road and friend of Tom Mix and silent movie extras.

The life and adventures of Joseph Lamb were presented by Betsy Denney. Born in South Carolina in 1836, Joseph and his family moved west to Illinois about four years later. Growing up in a strict family with no formal education Joseph decided to seek his fortune further west. He worked for an

ox drawn caravan which got him to Cherry Creek. While prospecting was always in his blood, by 1860 Lamb had started a pack train to carry goods from Canon City to Leadville. Since no roads existed, Lamb had to follow old Indian trails. He worked for U. S. marshalls tracking and returning stolen horses, and shot the infamous Vivian Espinosa. During the Civil War he served under Colonel John Chivington and participated in the Sand Creek massacre, an incident that he regretted for the rest of his life. Joseph eventually married, had a family and lived out the rest of his life in Fremont County.



Jean Toto shared the history of the road from Canon City to Currant Creek according to Sam Rowe, a common acquaintance of Jean, her husband, and Dr. Robert Merrill. When Sam heard that Jean and Jim were moving to the area, he sent documents about Currant Creek and a map showing two freight and stage routes with 53 numbers detailing important historical spots (2 stage stops, a dance hall, 2 stills, homesteads, a cemetery and a spot where a horse thief was shot by the marshall).

The story begins with Sam's grandfather, Alfred Rowe. Born in 1844, Alfred was raised in Illinois and attended Michigan University Law School before moving to Colorado finally homesteading Eagle Peak Ranch in 1876. With oxen and horses, he became a freighter carrying farm produce and staples to miners in Leadville, Fairplay, Alma and Breckenridge. Jean outlined the route as it existed from 1860 to 1880. When the railroad to Leadville was completed in 1880, the road was altered and again in 1915 the road was moved east to its current location. Alfred's children became cattlemen with extensive holdings throughout the area and their descendants retained their commitment to and love of ranch life.

At the conclusion of the program, everyone was in for a special treat. Paula McFarland used some of her 50 year old sourdough starter to spoil us with fresh sourdough bread and pancakes. As if that weren't enough, she also provided honey and homemade jams and jellies to top each treat. Yum!



Historic Bike Tours



90 degree temperatures did not deter 24 riders and 1 walker from taking part in the Tunnel Drive bike tour on Saturday evening, July 13th. After the steep ascent, everyone took advantage of the breeze and the extra time to catch their breath! Kathleen Eaton gave us the history of both the tunnel and the drive, geological formations, the Royal Gorge railroad wars, the importance of the Arkansas River and rafting. Each of the explanations was accompanied by period photographs from the museum's extensive collection. The Royal Gorge Route train even made an appearance right on cue.

With a small change of plan, the August 10th trail bike ride rode along the Arkansas Riverwalk from the Sells Avenue trailhead. We quickly became steeped in the history of the riverwalk and the many industries along its path: Thomas and Kirkton tulip stand; the Diamond Fire Brick Company; the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe depot; the Territorial Prison; SoCoPoCo; Robison Mansion; Libby, McNeill & Libby Company Pickle Salting Station; Hynes Bros Ice Company; Colorado Packing Corporation; Black Bridge; and Sell's Island Fruit Farm and Pleasure Resort.

Museum Day Camps

Eight through ten year olds enjoyed four weeks of summer fun exploring pioneer settlement, mining, paleontology and bridges during the month of July. Kathleen Eaton was assisted throughout the summer by Canon City High School junior and museum volunteer, Logan Williams. During the mining camp, Amber Sanderson, a geologist with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) presented an interactive program on the importance of mining in Fremont County while fellow geologist Charlie Duval led a discussion on abandoned mines and prudent safety practices. Students participated in a treasure hunt and also did cookie mining. With paper money in hand, they acquired land, purchased tools, dug for cookie treasure and explored reclamation activities.

Back to School Event

Just because the summer is winding down doesn't mean that the museum's activities are slowing. Over 150 people stopped by the museum's booth at the Office Depot Back to School Event on Saturday, August 10th to get information about the museum and its programs. The youngest visitors were most interested in the dinosaur fossils on display and everyone went away with brochures, bookmarks, pencils or coloring pages.

Doc Susie, My Neighbor



Owen and Dorie Briggs visited the museum on Saturday, August 3rd for a presentation and book signing of his book *Doc Susie, My Neighbor*. He recounted many of the facts of Dr. Susan Anderson's life, showed numerous photos and memorabilia, and recounted first hand stories of life next door to a pioneer icon. Doc Susie was born on 31 January 1870 in Indiana. Her parents divorced when she and her brother John were young and her father moved them to Kansas where her grandparents lived. After graduating from high school, she attended the University of Michigan Medical School and graduated in 1897, one of 13 women in a class of 64. Early in her medical career she was forced to practice only as a nurse. She settled in Fraser, Colorado and began her pioneering career as a doctor serving the people of Fraser and environs. She was the official Grand County railroad doctor, was elected county

coroner, and enjoyed the trust and respect of the townspeople. She continued doctoring until 1956 when she suffered a stroke. She died on 16 April 1960 and is buried in Cripple Creek. Copies of the book which contain many never-before-seen photos are available for sale at the museum.

STEM Activity Day

Hands-on activities including bridge building, paper airplane construction, raft and boat building, were just some of the special projects that allowed children to explore principles of science, technology, engineering and mathematics on Saturday, August 17. Did you know that the polymers in a plastic bag filled with water prevent it from leaking when stabbed through with a pencil? There was also a visit from guest speaker Ed Skerjanik, BLM Fire Mitigation Specialist, who talked to the children about the importance of fire safety and treated each child with a goody bag.

Volunteer Profile

I would like to introduce you to Penny McPherson. Penny volunteers at RGM&HC on Tuesdays and Thursdays; she is a very nice lady who enjoys a good laugh and while she occasionally dashes across intersections in her little grey truck, she is a very down to earth gal. I work with Penny on Tuesdays, and I truly enjoyed getting to know her better myself.

Penny was raised on a farm/ranch near Kit Carson, a small town in Cheyenne County, in Eastern Colorado. In 1948, Penny's father and grandfather opened a business known as the "Trading Post". The "Trading Post" included a motel, restaurant and a gas station. Penny helped out waiting tables at the restaurant and cleaning rooms at the motel for 25c a day, and as she got older, 25c an hour.

Penny joined 4H at about 8 years old and was involved in all things 4H. This included cooking, sewing, raising pheasants, and animal husbandry. Penny describes herself as “Horse Crazy” at that age, so part of her animal husbandry studies was a horse project. Penny had her own horses, so her project included a record book of how she cared for and showed her horses. Log entries included: training, feed, grooming, hoof trimming, vet work and preparation for shows. Penny was good at this and her 2nd horse won at the County Fair.

Penny’s first interest in artifacts was hunting arrowheads with her Grandpa. She admits that the most fun was just tagging along with Grandpa. Sunday afternoons included TV at Grandma and Grandpa’s house, Sunday fried chicken and scouting for arrowheads around the ranch in Grandpa’s Jeep.

After high school graduation in Kit Carson, Penny moved on to Colorado State University where she began studying to be a veterinarian. Penny also took other courses while at CSU and, a couple were anthropology. She fell in love with the discipline and soon changed her major to anthropology with concentration in archeology, and earned a Bachelor’s Degree. “It was probably Grandpa’s fault”.



Penny was in college when the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) were implemented. Penny’s professor bid on “field projects” and Penny helped complete these projects including field work, lab work and writing reports for agencies such as BLM and Forest Service. Later, Penny worked in the gold mining industry as a liaison between the companies and federal or state agencies to complete environmental permitting and helped these companies build environmental compliance programs to government agency requirements. In the late ‘80s, Penny saw a job announcement requesting an area archeologist for BLM near Canon City. Penny applied for the job and lived in Canon City for about two years.

Penny always kept Canon City in the back of her mind and, because she loved the plains and being able to watch the weather happen, she moved back and made her home here. Penny enjoyed volunteering at the Historical Society in Kit Carson, so when she got settled, she visited Lisa Studts and talked about volunteering at RGM&HC. Penny has been volunteering for RGM&HC for about a year.

When I asked Penny what she does for our museum, she said “Stones and Bones”. Penny began her “Stones and Bones” work for RGM&HC when the staff found a box of artifacts in the archives and brought it to Penny for her expertise in identifying function, material and age. Penny enjoys collections management so identification, analysis and protection of these artifacts is the perfect job for her.

Thanks Penny for the great interview and for all you do for our museum, Jean Toto



The Artist Gallery


416 Main Street, Cañon City

Open Monday-Sunday 10-6



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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



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