

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

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

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Become a member to support our history & history to come.

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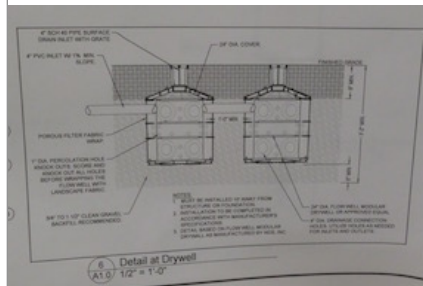
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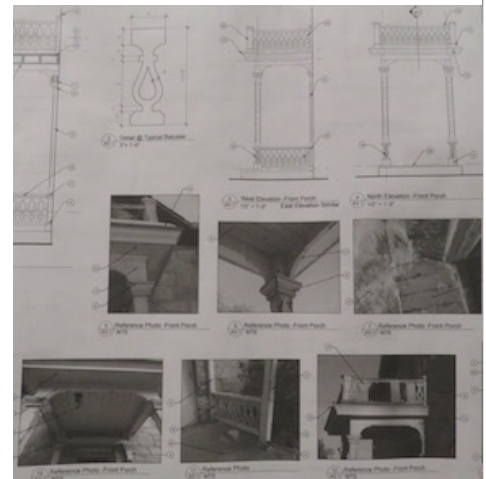
Rudd House Update



Museum Director Lisa Studts met with Source Architechnology Systems architect Robert Swickert in November to review plans and construction documents for the Rudd House. Development of the documents was delayed while waiting for rain to

witness and understand the impact of runoff water issues. The construction drawings will guide four phases of work. Phase 1 will achieve better drainage around the house by installing French drains and reconstruction of the front porch. Masonry work will be expensive and done in two phases to remove cement that was used in place of mortar. The last phase will address the windows: removing metal cages and re-glazing with shatter-proof glass.

Because the walkout basement cannot be redone due to the backfill that was added in the 1970s, an optional phase to replicate the back porch will be proposed. Lisa is currently waiting on cost estimates in order to submit a grant request to the State Historic Fund by April 1, 2020 for Phase 1 drainage and porch construction.



History in the Making

Old Timer's Coffee will meet Thursday, March 5th at 9:00 a.m. to discuss Movies in Fremont County. Anyone who wants to share their stories of meeting movies stars, acting as extras, or watching the filming of movies is invited to join. Participants can share their stories, memories, and experiences of movies filmed here over coffee and a snack.

Hike With a Paleontologist - Andrew Smith will be leading our hike on Saturday, March 7th. The program is very popular, filling up in less than a week. If you did not get a chance to register for this event, know that the museum plans to host more in the future.

Senior Mini College Tuesday, March 24th - Museum staff will be conducting classes at the Senior Mini College on Tuesday, March 24th. Kathleen Eaton will be presenting "Scientific Fremont County" from 1:00-2:15 p.m. and "The Suffrage Movement in Canon City" from 2:30-3:45 p.m. Rachel Smith and Katie Conrad will be teaming up to give "Help! I'm the Family Archivist" from 1:00-2:15 p.m. and Lisa Studts will host "Fun With Artifacts" from 1:00-2:15 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar for Saturday, May 16 when the Friends will host Agriculture's Deep Roots in Fremont County: Before the Fall.

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

Hike With a Paleontologist

The Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center will be hosting the third "Hike With a Paleontologist" on March 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Participants will have the chance to actually hike up to a quarry site to view the area where excavations occurred in the late 1800s. It is a bit of a scramble, but well worth the chance to actually stand where excavations were once done. Andrew Smith will share his extensive knowledge in paleontology and geology.

Game Night

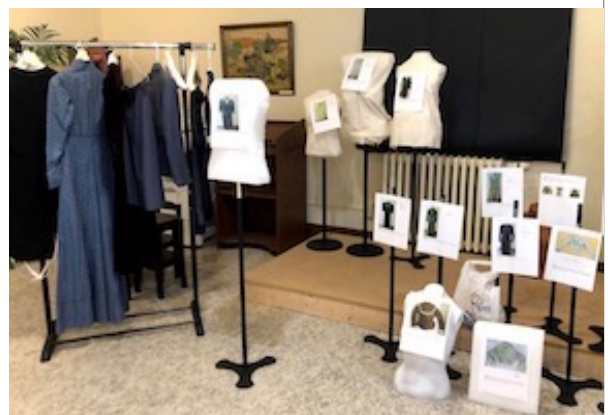


The museum will be hosting a game night on Friday, March 13th from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. with card and board games, including some designed specifically for Cañon City! The event is free and open to public. Challenge your friends and see who comes out the winner!

Save the date for an exhibit opening!

The Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center is proud to announce the upcoming reception of their newest exhibit, *From Head to Toe, A Century of Fashion in Fremont County* on Thursday, April 9, from 5-7pm.

Designed to make you feel like you've walked into a department store from the 1900s, this exhibit will cover 100 years of fashion from the 1860s to



1960s. The exhibit will feature ladies', children's, and men's clothing and accessories from area residents through the century.

The development of the exhibit began over a year ago to showcase the 'dry goods' in the museum collections. Museum volunteers, local residents, and businesses, including the Florence Pioneer Museum, Tom Hirt Custom Hats, and Autumn's Attic, helped with the information, creation, and tone of the exhibit.

Everyone is encouraged to dress-up in period fashions for the reception to help us celebrate *From Head to Toe*. We look forward to seeing you!

Volunteer Party



A wonderful group of volunteers gathered on the evening of Friday December 13th to enjoy a potluck supper, fellowship, and some fun games. Museum Director Lisa Studts thanked all of the volunteers for their many hours of service and listed their areas of contribution:

oral history, research, cataloging, geology, and fossils.

Katie Conrad gave us a brief history of "A Visit From St. Nicholas" first published in 1823 and attributed to Clement Clarke Moore and Loretta Bailey recited the poem as we know it today: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas". Christmas carol bingo led to a lot of humming and guessing while Pictionary tested everyone's drawing and guessing skills.

Loretta Bailey Honored by City Council

Surprise, surprise! As Loretta Bailey explained, she thought she was going to a City Council meeting to accept an appointment to the Library and Museum Board but in reality it was to be honored for more than 20 years of outstanding service to the Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center. Lisa Studts introduced Loretta and read a list of her many contributions. Her family, museum staff and many of her fellow volunteers attended the award presentation and thanked her for her many years of service.



Sights and Sounds of Colorado Wildlife



Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! On January 11th, Zach Holder and Bob Carochi from Colorado Parks and Wildlife gave us facts and regaled us with stories of the wildlife in our local area which did include big horn sheep, deer, elk, mountain lions, no tigers, and bears. The men brought skulls and hides and alternated explaining the characteristics, habitat and habits of each of the animals.

We learned the difference between horns and antlers and why the big horned sheep are so sure-footed and agile in such rough terrain. Zach informed us that mule deer antlers can grow one inch per day, perhaps as much as 200 inches in a six month season. Female bears will only birth cubs if they have consumed enough food to sustain them through hibernation. The jaws of mountain lions act like scissors to snip through the hide of their prey. Bob talked about the nine year mountain lion study to ascertain population density. The animals are tagged with GPS trackers and ear tags and camera grids have been installed to track their movements, determine their eating habits, and allow them to be enumerated.



It was obvious to all how dedicated these men are to their jobs and how deeply they love the animals that they are sworn to protect.

Friends Annual Meeting



Gerrie Colette conducted the annual meeting of the Friends of the Museum and History Center on February 1st. She highlighted the 2019 activities and accomplishments, recognized the members who volunteer at the museum, and held the election of officers for 2020 before introducing moderator and presenter, Jim Nelson.



Jim gave a brief history of Agriculture's Deep Roots in Fremont County from the Ute Indians, settlement of Fort LeDuc, through the Colorado Gold Rush, pack trains and mining camps to the first orchard planters and the Banner Fruit County. By 1890 Fremont County ranked number 1 in bushels of apples, cherries, and plums; number 2 in apricots and pears; and number 3 in peaches. Twenty years later, the fruit industry was still thriving with cherries, grapes, strawberries, apples, peaches, and orchards. Seeking input from 21st century producers, Jim then

introduced our panelists: Paul Telck, Jeff Stultz and Brit Colon who each spoke about current apple and grape growing and cider and wine production.

Paul Telck explained how he purchased his property with approximately 120 apple trees planted in 13 varieties that he estimated had been planted in the late 1930s or early 1940s. While there were about 93 species of trees in 1920, economics dictated that the non-popular varieties be removed. The climate and soil in the area are ideal for apple growing and Paul is concentrating on maintaining the heritage and heirloom varieties.

The climate and culture are changing as echoed by Brit Colon. Her grandfather processed Winesap and Jonathan apples for his cider. Now apple trees are being pulled for grapes and grapes are being pulled from the western slope in favor of



peaches. She explained the importance of blending sweet varieties with tart to obtain the right flavor and the new methods to prevent the cider from turning too quickly.

Fremont County latitude, elevation and climate are similar to Napa and Sonoma Valleys making it ideal for grape growing and wine production. Jeff Stultz talked about wine making at The Abbey. Wine grapes are smaller than eating grapes with higher acid and sugar content and less water. He emphasized the importance of pruning to stimulate grape production. The Abbey is the largest wine producer in the state and is an international award winning winery.

Old Timers Coffee



Tom Hart, Mike Walder and George Stevens met on February 6th to reminisce about their years working at Denver Fire Clay Ceramics (DFC).

Tom explained the traditional line of products was related to the assay process in the gold and silver mining industry. The company produced hot furnaces going up to 2000 degrees, crucibles and cupels from 1895 until the late 1960s. In 1968, the company

broke up and the ceramic work moved to Canon City.

The men discussed the protective equipment: reflective body wear, face shields, respirators, all to protect against the extreme heat. They were proud of the rigorous safety program that began in the late 1970s and the improvements made over the decades under the voluntary OSHA inspection program.

The company's only venture into commercial projects came when a Colorado Springs lady had a patent for a curling iron. The project was short lived as she was the inventor, financier, and marketer but didn't have sufficient capital to follow through. Through the decades technology changed from manual to computer operations. At one point, high school CAD students came in after school to convert manual drawings.

The three men were each long time employees and took great pride in and fascination with the products and manufacturing processes. They appreciated the diverse jobs that they experienced and the opportunities for advancement.

In Memoriam Beverly Embry

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Lifetime Member Beverly Embry on February 11th. Born in Canon City, she was proud of her Fremont County roots. Bev returned to Canon City after a distinguished career in nursing and served as a volunteer for many of the community's organizations. She made many valuable contributions to the Friends of the Museum throughout the years. Our condolences to her family; she will be greatly missed.

Museum Blog

Interested in Canon City history, check out the Posts on the museum's website. New articles about people, places, organizations, social customs and so much more are posted weekly.

Meet Our New Intern: Willow Passero

If you come to the museum on Friday mornings, you will get to meet our newest intern: Willow Passero. A junior at Canon City High School, she is the daughter of Justin and Cassie Passero. One



of three children, she has an older brother and a younger sister. Born in Twentynine Palms, California her family has deep roots in Canon City and they returned here in 2003 to be closer to family. Willow's interest in history and genealogy prompted her to investigate the internship program and to apply to the museum. She works 8 hours per week and is currently writing and illustrating a booklet for children on how wool is made. She has contributed stories for the museum's blog and is also studying to give tours. At school, she is active in band activities marching in the color guard, winter guard and

rehearsing for this year's "Zombie" show. After high school, Willow would like to work as a special effects make-up artist.

Thank You, Welcome & Reminder

Thank you to all our members who renewed their membership in 2020 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.

Silent Auction

Do you have a toddler in your family who is fascinated by dinosaurs and who would love a rocker? The Friends are conducting a silent auction from now until July 25. Our triceratops will be on display at the museum during regular business hours for you to view and place your bid. For anyone who wishes to make a bid of \$500 or more, you can pick up your rocker immediately along with a lifetime membership to the Friends of the Museum and History Center. Our thanks to Shirley Carey for this generous donation.



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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

**DOC SUSIE,
 MY NEIGHBOR**
 Title
OWEN BRIGGS
 Author
 719-999-5134
 dorisbriggs@comcast.net