

# FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

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

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[www.fremontheritage.com](http://www.fremontheritage.com)

## Memberships to the Museum

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

Individuals cost is \$10.00

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Friends of the Museum &  
History Center, P.O. Box 481,  
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## Museum Receives Grant

The museum applied for and was just awarded another State Historic Fund (SHF) grant. This grant funding will go towards Phase III of the Rehabilitation of the Anson Rudd Stone House. Phase I of the rehabilitation project began back in 2016, which repaired the roof, capped the chimneys, and got rid of our bat problem in the attic. Phase II was the development of construction documents which laid out the rehabilitation of the rest of the exterior of the house (i.e. the drainage issues, the porch, windows, and repairs to the masonry). We received the final construction documents at the beginning of this year, just in time to apply for another SHF Grant.

For Phase III, the grant funds will pay for improving the drainage around the house, including installation of a French drain around the perimeter of the house which will drain into a dry well system and repair of the front porch. It is important we tackle these issues first to prevent more moisture from getting into the basement and for safety reasons surrounding the extensive dry rot of the front porch. We decided to divide the exterior rehabilitation projects into separate phases because of the amount of time and the cost of labor to finish all the projects (especially for the masonry work that will need to be done in the future). For this phase, the total project cost is \$48,227 of that \$35,000 will be covered by the State Historic Fund. The matching funds or cash match for the grant is \$13,227, which is less than what we had budgeted for this year and will be paid through the Museum Donation Fund.

The goal is to rehabilitate the house so it can be open for regular tours and to interpret the early history of the community and a Founding Father of this city and pioneer settler Anson Rudd but we first need to make it safe.  
Lisa Studts

## History in the Making

**Going Virtual** - Programming at the museum has been limited due to the virus. As such, virtual programming and social media presence have increased to account for the change. The museum recently started a YouTube channel and has posted past programs, simple historic craft ideas, short history videos, and virtual tours. Daily blogs are also being posted on both the website and Facebook pages while photos are being uploaded daily onto Instagram. Plans for a virtual **Hike With a Paleontologist** and **Bike and/or Walking Tours** are still in the formative stage but might also be available in the future.

See the accompanying list of available features on the right.

**Silent Auction** - There is still time to submit your bid for our dino rocker. The Friends silent auction continues until July 25. Our triceratops is 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.

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

<https://museum.canoncity.org>

## Behind the Scenes

The museum closed on March 18th because of the coronavirus and reopened April 29th to staff only. Patrons and visitors can call the museum to set up an appointment to do research or to schedule a small tour (max 5 people) for one hour increments only. Masks are mandatory. Just because the doors were closed, the museum's work did not come to a standstill. Instead work moved behind the scenes.

While the museum is currently open under restricted conditions, you can take advantage of its series of Outreach Resources on the website, <https://museum.canoncity.org> which offers many opportunities for you to explore.

There are Coloring Pages for children (and adults) to download and print.

While the school year has come to a close, three **Lesson Plans For Educators** at the elementary, middle and high school levels are available to guide you in your 2020-2021 classroom planning.

The following **Quick Virtual Exhibits and Museum Exhibits** are available for viewing: Historic Downtown Cañon City; From the Reel to the Silver Screen: The Movie Industry in Fremont County; Around The World in 80 Artifacts; Digging It!: Fossil Finds in Fremont County; From Here to Over There: Fremont County in The Great War; Suspended Through Time and Getting to the Core. Each of these exhibits features photos and artifacts from the museum's collection and a written accompanying history.

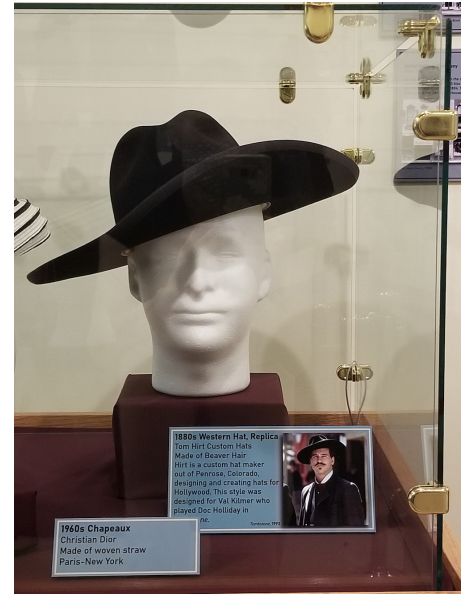
**New Blog Posts** over a wide variety of historic occurrences have been uploaded practically every day for our reading pleasure.

Numerous videos on subjects central to Cañon City and Fremont County history have been posted on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoXvPi2slZtIF6uqsmbmkddA/> The staff narrates stories of interesting items **From the Vault** and researcher Chris Jenkins has dug into the museum's records to create videos that look back and recount the history of buildings, businesses, and local events.

## Day of the Cowboy

According to the **National Day of the Cowboy Organization**, “this day is set aside to celebrate the contributions of the cowboy and cowgirl to America’s culture and heritage.” July 25 marks this year’s celebration of the Day of the Cowboy. The Board had discussed featuring chuckwagons and important area ranches in our annual program. The IM Ranch located at the back of Black Mountain on Badger Creek on the Fremont and Park County line was established by Ira Mulock and his three sons and by 1883 ran 8,000 cattle from Cañon City to South Park and west to Buena Vista. The invention of the chuckwagon to support cowboys on cattle roundups and drives is attributed to Charles Goodnight in 1866. He bolted a wooden box to the back of an Army Studebaker wagon and added compartments for utensils, bedding, food, etc. Chuckwagons were reported to be used for IM Ranch roundups. - Jim Nelson

Alas those plans have gone by the wayside but you still have the opportunity to honor the cowboy. Currently on display in the museum’s new fashion exhibit is a custom-made cowboy hat made by Fremont County’s own hat maker, Tom Hirt of Penrose. Tom has made western style cowboy hats for several western movies including *Conagher*, *The Quick and the Dead*, and *The Johnson County War*. Sam Elliott, Ronald Reagan, Sharon Stone, and Burt Reynolds have worn his hats. The hat on display at the museum is made of beaver pelt and was styled for actor Val Kilmer for his role as Doc Holliday in the movie, *Tombstone*.



## See the new exhibit!



Galleries opened on May 13th and visitors were able to tour the newest exhibit, *From Head to Toe, A Century of Fashion in Fremont County*. Call the museum to reserve your time for a department store tour that takes you back to the 1860s. Stroll through the decades and read the informational signs to gain an appreciation for the lifestyle, needs, and changes that influenced fashion.



Be sure to also look at the non-fashion artifacts taken from the museum's collection that augment the displays. And read the stories from Cañon City and Fremont County merchants. Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who helped to bring this exhibit to fruition. We guarantee you'll like it!



## Old Timers Coffee



Eight panelists gathered on March 5th to regale the audience with tales of Movies in Fremont County. Jerry Draper provided a comprehensive list of the movies for which the Draper family had provided wranglers, cattle, and extras. She was also able to recount first hand stories of generosity and kindness on the part of some of the stars. On the flip side, Walter Shepp told how Lee Van Cleef came to threaten to kill him over a missed telephone call! Jerry Klemm talked about acting as a stand-

in for the actors, literally standing for hours in place of the actors, while lighting was being adjusted. It wasn't all glamour!

## Museum Wins March Chamber of Commerce Award

Staff, volunteers and Chamber representatives all gathered on Friday, March 6th for the Cañon City Chamber of Commerce announcement of the Royal Gorge Museum and History Center as Member of the Month for March 2020. After a group photo was taken, Dee Pace presented a plaque to director Lisa Studts and recited the many contributions that the museum makes to the community.

## Hike With a Paleontologist



On March 7th, the museum hosted another “Hike With a Paleontologist”. The participants had the chance to visit different quarry sites during the hike and learned all about the Garden Park Fossil Area. The weather was perfect for the event giving participants the opportunity to enjoy all aspects of the day. Andrew Smith, the paleontologist who led the hike, answered many wonderful questions and even showed small bone fragments. While these tiny pieces were too small to know from which dinosaur they came, the hikers

learned about the creatures that once roamed the land during the Jurassic era such as the Stegosaurus, Allosaurus, and Apatosaurus. - Kathleen Eaton

## Game Night



It was Friday the 13th and it was snowing so a very thin group came to play games. Cañon CityOPOLY lured one group to test their skills at domain building while others tackled Life. Large quantities of paper money were exchanged as players amassed properties, charged rent, or took their chances and paid penalties. Scrumptious snacks were aplenty and the time flew by.

## Looking Ahead - Collecting COVID-19

Greetings Museum friends. I hope everyone has been safe and healthy these last few months. I was asked to let you know what the museum is doing to collect this surreal situation the world finds itself in. While this may seem premature and perhaps grim, it is necessary to be able to collect and save in perpetuity the highs and lows of COVID-19.

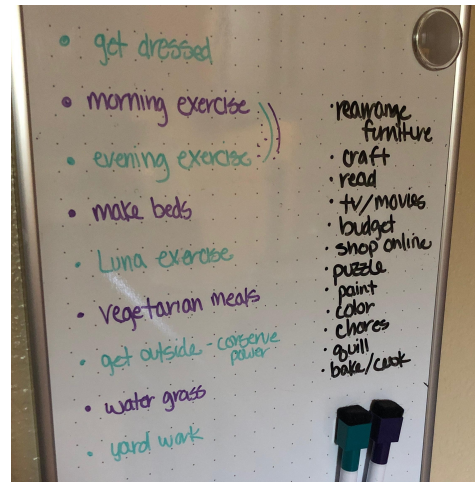
### Currently

- The museum is collecting newspapers and digital media from the county.
- Taking online submissions: Under the “Collecting COVID-19” tab on our website, we are asking for testimonials about how lives have been impacted during the last few months. (<https://museum.canoncity.org/>)

### Future Collecting

We are not collecting these items right now because, unfortunately, this crisis isn't over. When the time comes we can safely collect again, we will be looking for these items.

- Journals\*\*: if you wrote a journal during this time and would like to share, they are the best source of information for the historical record.
- Face masks: We are going to collect only a handful of these and we're going to be looking for examples of different kinds of masks that were used.
- Art and writing\*\*: if you've created a piece of art, music, poems, short stories, etc.
- Photos\*\*: store fronts, letters, thank you, political, empty store shelves, prices of meat or gas, things you did to occupy your time.
- Oddball things: your grocery lists, an empty wrapper/ container of toilet paper, tissues, or disinfectant wipes, gas receipts... things you wouldn't think would be artifacts actually could be used to tell the story.
- Physical signs: thank you to essential workers, signs of encouragement or thoughts, negatives, etc.
- Oral Histories will be done when we are able to gather in groups again.



The list of rules & activities Kathleen and I made the day after we found out we weren't going back to work.

Whether you are 9 or 90, every person offers a different view of the same situation. And age isn't the only factor. A single person will offer a different view than a family with kids; those who were paid during stay-at-home vs those who were not; essential workers vs. non-essential workers. *Everyone has something to share and we welcome it all: the good, the bad, and the ugly.*

\*\*Please keep in mind you don't have to donate the physical copy. We can scan the entries to have as a digital record. Items can also be held in private for an amount of time. \*\*

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me at the museum. Stay safe and healthy!

Katie Conrad

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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