

# FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

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

## Contact your board of directors for more information

Gerrie Colette- Chair

Geoff Ormandy- Vice

Paula McFarland- Treasurer

Jim Nelson- Secretary

Jean Toto- Newsletter

Paula McFarland - Newsletter

Terri Meeks - Newsletter

Ann Zielinski - Activities

719-269-9036

[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

Couples cost is \$15.00

Families cost is \$20.00

Organizations cost is \$25.00

Life members cost is \$150.00

Friends of the Museum & History Center, P.O. Box 481, Cañon City, CO 81215-0481

## From Ditch-Bank To Dinner Table

The Friends of the Museum and History Center annual meeting will be held on Saturday, February 6th at 1:00 p.m.

Fremont County has long produced the vegetables, fruit, meat, fish, milk, eggs and beverages that fed hungry (and thirsty!) mining-camps, growing front-range cities and distant urban areas via early iced railroad cars.



Fremont County was one of Colorado’s leading agricultural producers and was supported by a host of canning, bottling and transportation companies that delivered produce, fruit and berries to distant markets. Farming and ranching also influenced banking and financial organizations here as well as land development and real estate. As evidenced by the spring “Blossom Festival,” County Fair and other events, agriculture was a key social and educational influence. State leadership in early agricultural organizations drew heavily on individuals from this area and the area was actively represented at state, regional and national level expositions.

Join us to hear the history of agriculture and some first-hand accounts of growing in the local area.

## History in the Making

**Pickup Day** - Stop by the museum on Saturday, December 5 between 10am and 3pm to pick up some holiday crafts.

**Museum Blog** - Check out the POSTS on the museum's website. Various aspects of the history of the local area are presented in each post. Learn about historic buildings, by-gone towns, local personages and other aspects of Cañon City and Fremont County.

**Christmas Traditions** - The museum will host a presentation on Tuesday, December 15th at 1:00 exploring the origins around the symbols of our Christmas celebrations.

Follow the museum's activities on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/museum.canoncity.org). Simply look for the Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center to get tuned in to all the articles and activities.

If you are interested in viewing photos from the museum's collection, follow us on instagram at [rgrmhc](https://www.instagram.com/rgrmhc).

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

<https://museum.canoncity.org>

## Geoff Ormandy, Popcorn Man!

–Editor's Note: Geoff serves as the Friends vice-chair and maintains our membership roster. He gives much of his time to the community and I asked him to write a brief article about himself and how he became 'Popcorn Man'.

We, Jeanine and I, planned to live in Cañon City for two years. I would work at the *Daily Record* to gain experience as a reporter/photographer and then would make my name as a journalist on a big-time metropolitan newspaper.



That was the plan 51 years ago. How did this happen? Some of you 'recent settlers' are asking themselves that same question.

In our case, it started as a tip from Al Grainger. He was the Fort Carson Public Relations person. I was an Army First Lieutenant. *The Cañon City Daily Record* is looking for a reporter, he said. "Wear your uniform". We moved to Cañon City in June of 1969.

Over a span of ten years, I was a reporter, a photographer, and the managing editor at the *Record*. Three years as a copy editor at the *Pueblo Chieftain* followed that. Then there were 22 years working as a full-time wastewater plant operator and ten more years as a part-time operator followed by retirement.

I was on the East Cañon Sanitation District Board for nine years and Cañon City Council four years. I am currently on the boards of the Fremont County Community Concert Association, the Friends of the Museum and History Center, and a member of the University Men's Club.

My fascination with the Friends of the Museum started in 2008. I like stories about this area. The Old Timey Movies and the National Day of the Cowboy are favorite events. I am the guy who pops the popcorn and Jeanine bags it for the Old Timey Movies. I particularly enjoy working with the board and the museum staff to preserve and share the rich history of the area. -Geoff Normandy

## Behind the Scenes

Beginning mid-August, museum volunteer Barbara Dittmar and I began the task of conducting an inventory of the Rudd House. It took a total of 12 days to complete.



We began at the top! Starting with the top floor, we went through the ten room house taking count of every single object in each room, ending in the basement. During the process we were able to clean, dust, and hang blackout curtains on every window to reduce light exposure.

There are some magnificent and beautiful pieces in the house - some of which I wouldn't mind in my own home - and some strange artifacts we had no idea what they were! Paintings by Fannie Rudd and Laura Giem Huntley, an embroidered picture frame, school desks, books from the late 1860s, a large spinning wheel, a dry sink, pump organ, hall trees, LOTS of chairs, rockers, and wheelchairs, a tabulator, a bed frame, many dressers, a couple of stoves, and many other things! The task seemed daunting at first but when it came down to it, it was like playing a life-sized game of *Tetris*! We were able to reorganize the house, putting all of the chairs and rockers (that we could lift) upstairs, and make room to maneuver and relocate artifacts.



The ten room Rudd House was built by Anson Rudd and his son Anson Jr., from stone from the prison quarry in 1881. They had spent the previous 20 years living in the log cabin next to the house. Anson Jr. married the following year and lived in the house with his parents, his wife Fannie, and soon his two newborn daughters, Edith and Jean. The senior Rudds lived in the rock home for 23 years before moving in 1904. The home was rented for next the 14 years. In 1918, Mr. McClure,

who owned several properties in Cañon City, bequeathed the property of the house and cabin to the city. In 1928 the Municipal Building was built, and the maintenance worker for the building lived in the rock house until 1975. The Rudd House was opened as a museum on July 4, 1976 with granddaughter Jean as the guest of honor. The house closed as a museum in 2003/2004 and used as storage for the museum collections. In recent years, the roof has been replaced and the foundation was surveyed. In the coming months of 2021, the issues found in the survey will be worked on.

The next phase of the plan is full of detective work - piecing together little bits of info, searching through inventories, looking in files, and peeking at photographs for all the artifacts in the house. The goal of the project is to make sure every artifact is photographed, numbered, and catalogued. When it's all said and done, we documented 343 items in the house. Phew!

—Katie Conrad, Curator of Exhibits and Collections

## Wolf City, Molybdenum or Cañon City?

Sellout groups came to the museum on both September 17th and 18th to see friends, watch **Cat Ballou** and enjoy popcorn. Nat King Cole and Stubby Kaye narrated the story in song and Lee Marvin made us laugh as the notorious though drunken gunman Kid Shelleen and frown at the villainous Tim Strawn. Fans of Dobie Gillis will recognize Dwayne Hickman as the “Drunk As A Skunk” minister and uncle of suave and debonair (?) Clay Boone played by Michael Callan. And don’t forget the horse!



So how do you pronounce Molybdenum? Well according to **The Brothers O’Toole**, it’s Molly-Be-Damn! Buckskin Joe’s played a prominent role throughout the story of Michael O’Toole who was mistakenly identified, jailed, and tried as notorious bank robber Desperate Ambrose Littleberry. Like Lee Marvin in **Cat Ballou**, John Astin played a dual role. Patty Duke, his wife, had a cameo appearance as the stage agent.

Our thanks to the museum staff, to Geoff Ormandy for providing the tasty popcorn, to Dan Meeks on sound and to our enthusiastic audiences for their support. A number of folks asked, “when are we going to do this again”?



## A Unique Birthday Gift

[Reprinted from the Museum Blog posted October 16, 2020]

The museum received a bittersweet acquisition this month on behalf of the family of Don Packard, our favorite Cañon City Tiger. Mr. Packard passed away in September, leaving behind a legacy and slogan that will live on in Cañon City history.



For his 90th birthday, Don's family asked what he wanted. He responded with a 1929 Packard. (Don was born in 1929 and the Packard is a beautiful Roadster.) What he got was this diorama! Built by Lon Rogers, with help from Don's nephew Jon Edwards, the diorama was presented to Don at his 90th birthday party last year.

The diorama features 6 prominent areas of Don's life: City Hall where he was a city councilman and mayor (two terms each!), his home on Greenwood Avenue with his family, Sweet Adelines Church, In-N-Out Conoco where he spent countless hours drinking coffee with his friends, and the Cañon City High School and football field. Don announced Tigers sports from 1960 - 2010 - 50 years!

The diorama measures just over 4 feet wide and will be a wonderful addition for those who visit the museum. We are so grateful to Don and his family for donating it to the museum.

-Katie Conrad, Curator of Exhibits and Collections

## Special Thanks

In this unusual year, we on the board would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have supported us this past year with your attendance at museum programs, your financial support, and your volunteer hours. It has not been easy. Thank you to the following volunteers who have donated hours to the museum working on various projects: Loretta Bailey, Sarah Baxter, Lori Chivington, Barb and Kris Dittmar, Nancy Malejko, Paula McFarland, Penny McPherson, Dan and Terri Meeks, Maizy Myers, Carrie Robertson, Rick Romano Erin Sauer, Bob Saulmon, George Stevens, Ron Taylor, Jean Toto, Bruce Wheeler and Logan Williams. Your time and contributions are greatly appreciated. Special thanks also to Denise Warren, City Administrative Assistant, who prints this newsletter, Barbara Hobson who prepares the labels and does all our mailings, and to our fellow board members who meet and plan programs and fund raising activities. We also want to recognize the extraordinary efforts of the museum staff to ensure everyone's safety and to maintain some semblance of normalcy during this very difficult time.

## Paleontology Pickup Day

The museum hosted an Activity Pickup Day on Saturday, October 10th in honor of National Fossil Day, an annual celebration held to highlight the scientific and educational value of paleontology and the importance of preserving fossils for future generations.

Folks both young and old turned out to avail themselves of the activities. Kathleen Easton, education coordinator, shared specimens from the museum's collection and handed out 70 packets for everyone to enjoy at home.



## Annual Renewal

As 2020 comes to a close, it is once again time to renew your membership. Envelopes are enclosed for your convenience. Your ongoing monetary support ensures the availability of funds for the museum's educational programs, conservation and preservation projects. Do you know someone who would like to support the activities and ongoing mission of the museum? Membership makes a wonderful gift.

**This year we want to wish everyone a safe holiday season and all best wishes for the New Year. See you in the new year with more exciting programs.**



**STATELY FARMS**  
 1607 SHERMAN AVE. CAÑON CITY, COLORADO 81212  
 (719) 275-3936  
 MONDAY-SATURDAY 10-4  
 SUNDAY 12-5  
 LOCAL. HEIRLOOM. ORGANIC



**The Artist Gallery**

416 Main Street, Cañon City

Open Monday-Sunday 10-6

(719) 345-4070

**FREMONT CAB**  
 STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION  
 AIRPORT SERVICE  
 DELIVERY SERVICE  
**719-784-2222**  
 806 W. 5th Street Florence, CO 81226

**Brady  
 Realty**

Randy Brady

**719-423-9745**

**Always Buying Books**  
 We Make House Calls!  
**Adventures In Books**  
 (719) 641 - 6681  
 Bill Porter  
 The Antique Gallery  
 117 South Wahsatch Ave.  
 Colorado Springs, CO

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

Office: 719.269.1212 ~ JoAnn: 719.429.2345  
 1212 Main Street  
**HOME TOWN**  
 REAL ESTATE OF CAÑON CITY  
  
**JoAnn Grenard**  
*Managing Broker*  
*My 38 years of experience and results have earned me the status of #1 REALTOR in Cañon for the past 6 years!\**  
\* 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