

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

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

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719-269-9036

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

DeWeese Lodge

Recently, the museum received a one of a kind donation made specifically to display in our DeWeese Gallery. It is a 3-D printed scale model of the DeWeese lodge created by retired engineer and designer Dale Boody. Dale studied every historical photograph of the lodge he could get his hands on to make this model. He analyzed even the smallest details visible from both interior and exterior images of the log house to create the most accurate replica possible. He printed out several different versions of the lodge before he got it just the way he wanted it. Dale's attention to detail and creativity has paid off in this wonderful miniature lodge he made for the museum.



In 1900, Dall DeWeese designed and built his own rustic home at 1226 Elm Avenue in Lincoln Park. The structure was built entirely out of logs and measured 44 feet x 92 feet according to *The Canon City Record*. DeWeese lived in this lodge until his death in 1928. Unfortunately, the real DeWeese lodge is no longer standing after a fire destroyed the structure in January 2007. Only photographs, and now this model, remain as a reminder of this once grand log house.

- Contributed by Lisa Studts

Be sure to visit the DeWeese Gallery on your next visit to the museum to examine some of the intricate detail on this wonderful gift.

History in the Making

Morning Line - Remember to tune in to 1400 KRLN the 3rd Thursday of every month to hear news, stories and information from the museum.

Community Coffee and Conversation - Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 7th at 9:00 a.m. to join the conversation about Cañon City's Centennial and its 125th Celebrations.

Virtual Genealogy Classes - Join us on March 19 at 9:00a.m. for our Zoom session on Genealogy Assets at the Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center. April will concentrate on identifying old photographs and May will explore the 1950 census. You can register online or by calling the museum. Watch the museum's calendar for more exciting classes.

Follow the museum's activities on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/rgmhc).

If you are interested in viewing photos from the museum's collection, follow us on instagram at rgrmhc.

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

<https://museum.canoncity.org>

Brick Production A Large Industry in Cañon City

-By *Jean Toto*

During the late 1800s and early 1900s pressed bricks were a very large industry in Fremont County and specifically in Cañon City. While the bricks were often referred to as Fire Bricks, there were actually two types of brick created. First was "Pressed Brick" which was used for building construction and second was "Refractory Brick" which was used to insulate against heat. Production was prominent in the area due to large geological clay deposits which were mined and used in the formation of the bricks. Deposits were found in Rockvale, Grape Creek, Oil Creek, Wilson Creek and closest to Cañon was a deposit in the hogbacks to the west of town (Skyline Drive).

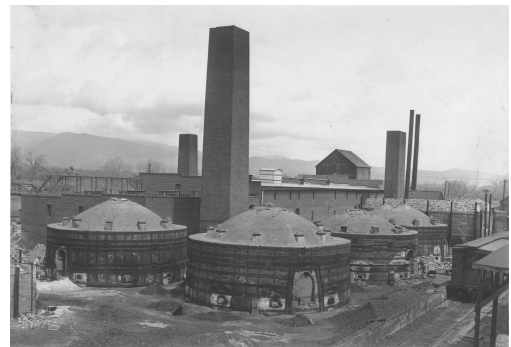
City Directories dating back to 1887 show brick plants in production in Cañon City, Penrose and Pueblo. Some of the earliest plants in production were Diamond Fire Brick Company, Cañon City Brick and Tile and Jewett Fire Brick Company. According to the "Self Guided Tour of Cañon City", these companies and others in the area produced pressed brick that was used in construction of at least nine buildings on Main Street, Cañon City and others around town.

Diamond Fire Brick

Created around 1887, located on South 9th Street, just south of the railroad track, Diamond Fire Brick Co. was one of the largest and longest running production plants in Fremont

County. Diamond stayed at its 9th Street location until 1949 when it was taken over by Laclede Christie Co., then Laclede Co was purchased by Denver Fire Clay (DFC) in 1967. Diamond was a forward thinking

company and in 1901 installed a telephone so customers could easily contact them. Diamond could be reached at #44-1. Still forward thinking, in 1908 Diamond updated its





plant with a \$15,000 investment in new machinery. Diamond also had extensive and long lasting mine holdings and began creating clay mines on the hogback west of Cañon in 1890. Opened by Diamond in 1918, the Deer Hill Mine produced approximately 5000 tons of clay for brick production by 1944. Diamond Fire Brick Co's pressed bricks were included in the construction of at least six buildings on Main Street, Cañon City, including the Central Block, Clelland Block, Masonic Lodge, Harding Building, Bengly Building and the Taggart Building.

Cañon City Brick & Tile

Cañon City Brick & Tile Company was created around 1887, located at 1600 Main Street. In 1897 after large bodies of Fire Clay had been developed in the area, plant capacity was approximately 1800 bricks per hour. Cañon City Brick considered themselves a successful operation because demand was high enough to continue at this capacity all year long. Later, to expand production, Cañon City Brick invested approximately \$7,000 in additional equipment. Pressed bricks from this plant were used in the construction of the Felter Building located at 518-520 Main Street, Cañon City.

Jewett Fire Brick

Jewett Fire Brick Company was created around 1916, located at 11th Street and Water, Cañon City. Jewett Fire Brick was in business for approximately 30 years when it dissolved at the onset of WWII. The Jewett plant and property were purchased by Pioneer Brick Works in 1946, then by Freeman Fire Brick Company in 1949. Freeman Fire Brick Company was later purchased by Ferd Mueller and other investors and became Colorado Refractories. Pressed bricks from Jewett Fire Brick Co were used to construct the Cañon City Municipal Building, now the Royal Gorge Museum and History Center.

Colorado Refractories

When Freeman Fire Brick Company owner Charlie Freeman retired, the company was sold to Harbison Walker. When Walker threatened to close the plant, Ferd Mueller and other investors purchased the plant and founded Colorado Refractories. Colorado Refractories produced their signature "Royal Gorge" Fire Bricks and provided them to CF&I Steel in Pueblo.

Recently discovered pressed bricks marked "Royal Gorge" are being offered for sale by the Friends of the Museum as a fundraiser for the Royal Gorge Museum and History Center. Vintage/used bricks are available for \$15.00 each. Unused/stored bricks are available for \$20.00 each. Bricks will be available for purchase during the March 3rd Exhibit Opening and throughout the year at Friends events.

Special thanks to: George Stevens for sharing information that began this project, Jim Nelson for research sources and the Royal Gorge Museum and History Center.

Sesquicentennial Kickoff

The museum launched their year-long Cañon City sesquicentennial celebration with a presentation by BLM liaison Joshua Broussard on Saturday, February 5th. His program, *Geology That Built Cañon City*, showed the Gilardi timescale outlining the geologic history of the area from the formation of the four types of rocks, through sauropods and theropods and their bones. Joshua's numerous detailed photos of various fossils encouraged us all to visit or revisit the Garden Park area.



He highlighted the Bone Wars and the numerous area quarries that were vying to either be the first or the best at collecting specimens. He discussed the growth of the coal mining industry, the sinking for the first oil well, and finally touched on the area's many brick-making industries. If you were unable to attend, please visit the museum's Youtube.com site to view this exciting presentation.

Community Coffee

The new Community Coffee and Conversation group met on Thursday, March 3rd to discuss colorful characters of Cañon City. Sammy Burman recounted stories of her father's entrepreneurship, a Nebraska farmer who came to Cañon City to seek his fortune. In the late 1930s he sold tires and batteries on commission and within four years owned the business. A lover of auctions, he once



came home with huge "iron things" that were actually galvanizers used to put a new tread on old tires. And Burman Retread was born. When asked at age 80 why he was undertaking a new venture in land development, his response was "because I've never done it before!"

Mike Johnson was cajoled into telling his story of Hawaiian shirts. Thanks to a 2011 article written in *American Profile*, Mike has received nationwide coverage about

his collection of Hawaiian shirts. What started as a simple way to brighten a day's work, turned into a hobby with people from all over the country contributing to his collection. He currently has 412 shirts which takes him about 14 months to wear. A woman from Coaldale carried a shirt in her car for a year and a half on the off-chance that she would meet him. And she did! A repair man working in their basement where the shirts are stored asked, "a bizarre bowling league?"

Jessica Wortman told a couple of stories of her father’s youthful shenanigans instigated by his grandfather. Sammy, Loretta Bailey and Paula Johnson all recalled stories of their youthful activities which made Cañon City a beloved hometown. Characters from their childhood: Charlie “the popcorn man,” Fred Spann who would watch children while their mothers shopped in Woolworth’s on Main, the Goat Lady, the Pig Lady and Jim the Hermit all contributed to their fond memories of growing up in Cañon City.

Sesquicentennial Exhibit

The Friends hosted a members-only viewing and reception for the opening of the new sesquicentennial exhibit on March 3rd. The exhibit entitled *Glancing Back and Looking Forward* focuses on the history of various city departments. The founding of the city and history of



the Library, Parks, Water and Police Departments are all told through

photographs, videos and artifacts. Curator Keith Wondra was on hand to welcome visitors, provide guidance, and answer any questions that might have come up.



Members were treated to cookies, punch and conversation. They also had the opportunity to purchase Royal Gorge bricks.

Come for a visit and test yourself on municipal laws, vote for your favorite part of the exhibit and take the opportunity to tell us what you love about Cañon City. The exhibit will open to the public on Wednesday, March 9th.



Renewal Reminder

If you have not had the opportunity to renew your membership for 2022, it is never too late. Envelopes are available at the museum. Your financial support enables the museum to continue to collect Cañon City history, to offer educational programs to the community, and to preserve and protect local history. Thank you.

STAYLY FARMS
 1607 SHERMAN AVE. CAÑON CITY, COLORADO 81212
 (719) 275-3936
 MONDAY-SATURDAY 10-6
 SUNDAY 12-5
 LOCAL. HEIRLOOM. ORGANIC

THE ARTISTS' GALLERY
 Ken McGowan

The Artist Gallery

416 Main Street, Cañon City

(719) 345-4070

Brady Realty

Randy Brady
719-423-9745

Royal Gorge Lodge



Come Join Us!

2022 Events

Wine Tasting

March 13, 2022

Spaghetti Dinner

April 25, 2022

Details & More Events at

osiaroyalgorge2866.com

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

Choice Health Insurance
James Toto
 Agent/Broker
 Individual & Group Health Insurance

Medicare Supplements & Part D	Denver: 720-544-7054
Dental, Life & Accident	Salida: 719-207-9321
Connect for Health	Canon City/Pueblo: 719-276-4434
Colorado Authorized	Email: james@totoinsurance.com

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