

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 2022 VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2

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WEBSITE: www.fremontheritage.com Facebook page: Fremont County Historical Society – Colorado

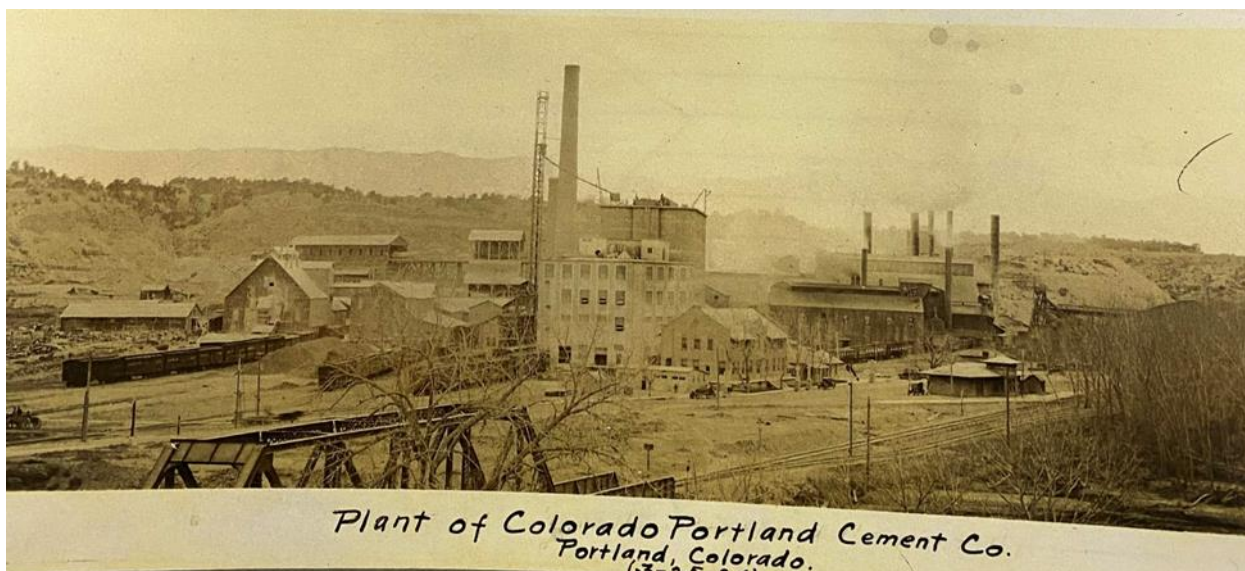
**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PROGRAM ON MAY 15, 2022
STEEPLE EVENT CENTER – 7TH AND MACON
CAÑON CITY, CO 81212
2:00 P.M. PUBLIC WELCOME**

Portland Cement – 125 Years

From early beginnings to a community with school general store and doctor's office. We are pleased to share the history of Portland and the cement plant that has been going strong for 125 years.

During our time we would love to share how the industry has changed and how our company is looking to make changes sustainable for the future and the plant. Also see how culture and the community have changed in the last 125 years.

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PAGE 6: Our advertisers help to send this newsletter by mail; please save the newsletter to get their contact information!



*Plant of Colorado Portland Cement Co.
Portland, Colorado.
(3-25-24)*

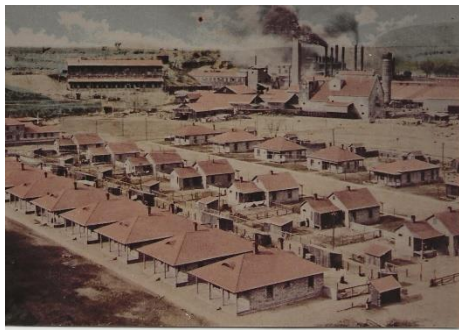
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Portland—A Company Town

In 1869, Charles Boettcher made his way from Germany to America. Along the way, he became interested in cement and saw cement as a building block for the future of business. He realized it would be needed in many phases of construction in the “fast growing West”: foundations, buildings, housing, bridges and factories. Boettcher acquired his first cement plant at Portland Colorado in 1899. He made Portland so successful, Charles was able to buy more plants like it.

In the early 1900’s, company houses and a brick schoolhouse were surveyed and platted out by A. B. McFall. Fourteen lots, 75’ by 150’, were planned for housing. The plat was filed in September 7, 1901 to begin a new town and plant.

In 1902, Portland Village was started. On the south side of the plant was a company store and a hotel that housed 60 single men, as transportation to the plant was difficult. By 1903, a “Certificate for Portland” was issued for



Portland slowly became a town in 1905. There established and run by Dr. J.W. master of Portland. It was drug store. T. A. was also the company doctor and served as post master until 1952, when the Portland company closed the post office.

By 1920, Portland could hold its own as a small company town. It had: 120 homes that rented for \$15-\$18 a month, Wilber’s General Store, T. A. Davis Pharmacy, a pool hall, a theater that could put on movies or live stage plays, a post office, boarding houses, and the D & RG had passenger trains stop at the Portland Depot.

The flood of 1921 devastated Portland. Up in the mountains, Skagway Dam could not hold the water from a sudden cloudburst. The water overflowed the dam’s spill way and followed 8 Mile Creek into Florence, Penrose and Portland and on into Pueblo. Flood waters took out buildings, homes, bridges, and railroad tracks in Portland. A second flood in June of 1921 from the Arkansas River delayed repairs to the plant.

The name has changed over the years: Portland, Ideal Cement, Ideal Basics, Holnam Inc., Holcim Inc., LaFarge/Holcim, and today in 2022: Holcim.

By Marty Lamm, Florence History Museum

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Millie Wintz, 2022 Doc Little Award

This award is given annually to a person who has significantly contributed to the preservation, education, and dedication of the historic sites and the rich heritage of Fremont County. The 2022 recipient of the Doc Little Award is Dr. Mildred Wintz. She was presented the award at the monthly FCHS program on March 13.

Millie is a member of the Fremont County Heritage Commission, Fremont County Historical Society, Florence Historical Archives, the Florence Arts Council, Spirits of the Past, Cañon City and Florence Historic Preservation Committees, Pikes Peak History Coalition, Fremont Co. Stones and Bones, and sits on the Board of the PCC-Fremont Senior Mini College.

Millie was honored at the 2022 Cañon City Gala Celebration on March 30, for her lifetime commitment to Historical endeavors.

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Fremont County Historical Society

May 15 – Portland Cement History

July 17 – Doug Walker Presenting *100 years University of Kansas
Geology Field Camp History*

Sept. 18 - Eve Nagoda Presenting *Wood Stave Water
Pipeline*

Nov 20 - John Anderson Presenting *Culturally Modified Trees*

Greenwood Pioneer Cemetery

Memorial Day Ceremony Saturday, May 21 - starting at 11 AM.

Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center

The Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center has many maps of Portland's townsites, plant maps, pictures and information about Portland. Drop by for a "look-see" at what the museum has! Business hours: Tuesday-Friday, 1:00-4:00 pm, Saturday: 10:00-4:00 pm, closed Sunday – Monday.

Western Fremont Historical Society

Access Sundays at the History Center in Howard will begin again on April 24th and continue on the last Sunday of the month through October unless there are scheduling conflicts. April 11th at 11 a.m. was set for clean-up day at the History Center in Howard, with tentative program schedule as follows:

April 24 – WFHS history notebooks and flash drives

May 22 – vintage toys

June 26 – travel collections

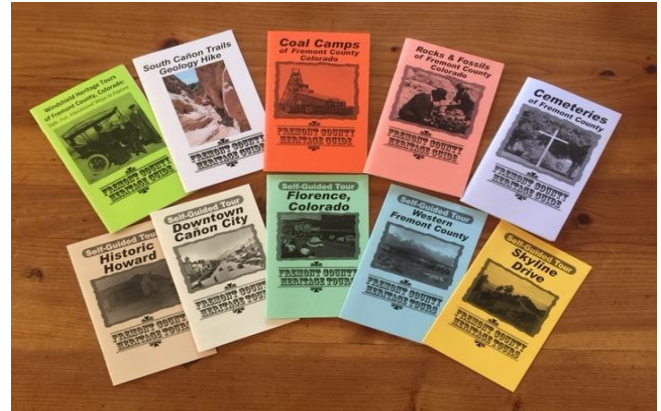
July 4th – possible open house at History Center if Howard Hall Assoc. has an event

Summer tour – Parker Homestead/Coaldale area, date to be determined by Terry Andrews, since she will be main presenter

Fall tour of Amy Homestead?? Possible, depending on apple crop

Display highlighting Western Fremont County is currently featured at the Fremont County Administration Building, thanks to Debbie Hildebrand and crew members.

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The history books written by Cara Fisher and Eleanor McGinn have been reprinted. A new book, *Legends of the Royal Gorge Region*, by Janet Sterling, has been added. The new Prospect Heights Town book is also available at retail outlets in Cañon City & Florence.

These have been added to the library of Fremont County Historical books published in the past four years by the Historical Society – Titles are: Cañon City, Skyline Drive, Florence, Howard, Windshield Tours, South Cañon Trails Geology Hike and Western Fremont County. The Guide books for Rocks and Fossils, Cemeteries and Coal Camps are also available online at

www.fremontheritage.com/fchs

ROYAL GORGE REGIONAL BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING OUTLETS-- PRICES VARY.

CAÑON CITY AREA

1. FREMONT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
2. ARTIST'S GALLERY
3. J & J STONES AND MINERALS
4. MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER
5. PROSPECT HEIGHTS JAIL (SUMMER)
6. COLORADO MUSEUM OF PRISONS
7. ANY BOARD MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY
8. AUSTIN AUTOMOTIVE

FLORENCE AREA

1. FLORENCE HISTORICAL ARCHIVE, INC.
2. FLORENCE PIONEER MUSEUM AND RESEARCH CENTER
3. SPIRIT RIDERS ON MAIN STREET
4. BELL TOWER ART CENTER
5. ANTIQUE SALVAGE ON MAIN

WESTERN FREMONT COUNT

1. RIVERSIDE CAFÉ, HOWARD
2. HOWARD MUSEUM (CHURCH)
3. COTOPAXI STORE
4. BIG HORN LIQUOR (COTOPAXI)

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Thank you to all the new members who have joined this year - we are glad you have joined us. Dues cover Dec. 31, 2020 to Jan. 1, 2022.

Individual \$15.00
 Family \$20.00
 Group \$25.00

Fremont County Historical Society, P.O. Box 965, Cañon City, CO 81215

Fremontheritage.com

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Colorado Mountain Land Office
Real Estate - Lot Development & Project Management




Earl Pfeiffer
Broker - Home Builder - Owner
719-275-2501
Earl@ColoMtnLand.com

457 Shannon Road
Cotopaxi, CO 81223
(by appointment only)

  CRC 058278

The City of Cañon City is pleased to print the Fremont County Historical Society Newsletter as a contribution to the Society. Thanks for all you do for Fremont County History.



ROYAL GORGE **REGIONAL MUSEUM & HISTORY CENTER**

612 Royal Gorge Blvd.
Cañon City, Colorado

Open 10am - 4pm
Wed. - Sat.

museum.canoncity.org
719-269-9036

NEW and USED TIRES
CUSTOM TIRES and WHEELS
MICHELIN - BF GOODRICH - GOODYEAR - MULTI-MILE

JIM'S TIRE SERVICE, INC.
J. D. MEYERS

1005 South 9th Street
P.O. Box 1005
Cañon City, CO 81215
275-1886 or 275-1576



Golden Age Council, Inc.
Cañon City Senior Activity Center
728 Main Street, Cañon City, CO

GAC Transit Program Call 276-5200 for a ride!

Office (719) 275 5177 Nutrition (719) 345-3064
Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Director@theccgac.com or admin@theccgac.com.

Paul and Karen Austin/Owner
2625 E. Main, Cañon City, CO 81212
719-275-5055



FCHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Gloria Stultz, Pres.
Burl McCullar, Sec.
Larry Linscott
Reta Brunner

Pat Nelson, Treas.
Sue Buchanan, Sec.
Kathy Uhland
Sandra Haimerl

Helene Blake
P.O. Box 965, Cañon City, CO 81215