

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017 VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2 WEBSITE: fremontheritage.com
WE ARE ON FACEBOOK, TOO: Fremont County Historical Society - Colorado



Editor: Carol McNew, Readers Margaret Storm and Barbara Hobson

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PROGRAM ON SUNDAY -- MARCH 19, 2017

LORETTA BAILEY 'S STORY ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS GIRLS FROM CALIFORNIA:

The Reel California Girls were activists in the tourist business as early as 1923, when they first decided to come to Cañon City to promote their burlesque acts and provide a place for entertainment near the wonderful Gorge. LORETTA BAILEY



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church,
801 Sheridan Avenue, Cañon City
2:00 p.m. - Public Welcome
Refreshments served

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JOIN NOW!!

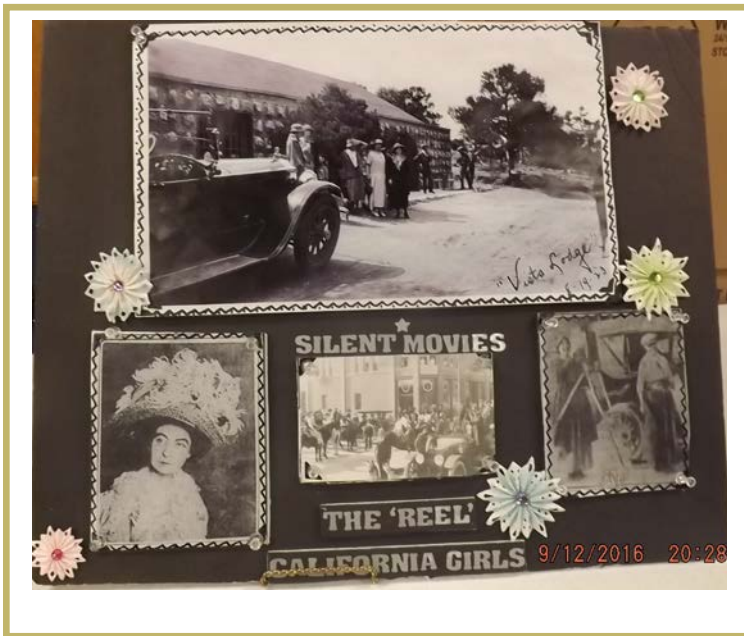
The historic structure at the Royal Gorge Park was engulfed in the fire that took the bridge area buildings and more in 2013. The many piñon trees, cedars and other growth around the building were all destroyed, leaving the stark reminder of the past glory.



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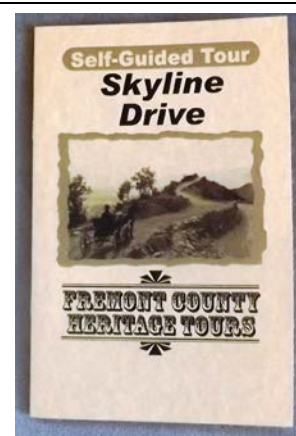
THE VISTA LODGE AT THE TOP OF THE ROYAL GORGE PARK

The story of the Reel California Girls and the Vista Lodge has been a mystery many of us have wondered about for years. The structure itself is no longer on the main road to the Gorge, and can only be reached by crossing private property. Please ask for permission before you attempt to “find” the Vista Hogan. It was engulfed by the Royal Gorge fire in 2013, and so has changed, and is starting to disintegrate.

Continued on Pages 3 and 5



The back of the Vista Lodge fireplace previous to the fire in 2013.



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FROM
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BUSINESSES IN
THE COUNTY.**

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Margaret Storm	Sue Buchanan
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Larry Linscott	Carol McNew
Pat Nelson	Kathy Uhland
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The Fremont County Heritage Commission and the Florence Historical Archives, Inc. are both part of the historical community of people who constantly help to preserve the heritage of Fremont County.

Photos courtesy of Loretta Bailey
And Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center
And Fremont County Heritage Commission
Local Landmark




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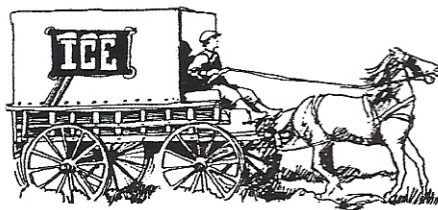


719-275-2027
FAX: 719-275-2027



The Florence Historical Archives, Inc.
600 W. Church Ave., Suite H.
(Municipal Building)
FLORENCE
OPEN: Mon, Wed, Thurs, And Fri. 10 TO 1 PM

Pictures upper right and above: Before the fire at Vista Lodge



Golden Age Center
Cañon City's Senior
Center

728 Main St.
Cañon City, Co

Phone: 719-275-5177
Fax: 719-275-7146
E-mail: ldirector@ccgac.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MAY!

PROGRAM :
MAY 21, 2017
OUTLAWS AND SHYSTERS
WESTERN FREMONT COUNTY
BY
BETSY DENNEY

Other programs that will be presented in 2017
are:

July 16, 2017
Sons of Italy - Italian History in Fremont
County
September 17, 2017
DON MOON
"FAST EDDIE"
PROHIBITION STORIES
November 19, 2017
KATHY HERRIN
"MEDICINE SHOW"

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The Fremont County Historical Society is a non-profit, 501 c 3 corporation.

ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 965
CANONCITY, CO 81215

We invite you to join our group, and receive newsletters every two months about the programs, events and historical items:

MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY

INDIVIDUAL_____	\$15.00
COUPLE_____	\$ 20.00
LIFETIME_____	\$150.00

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!



JOIN TODAY!!

The Hot Springs Hotel was at the end of Riverside Drive in South Cañon City. One of the few pictures that are still available that show this wonderful building as it was in 1935. It is now known as "The Pink House" rafting takeout.



Continued from Page 1

STORIES ARE CIRCULATING ABOUT A "DANCE HALL" ON PRIEST CANYON ROAD:

"Some people have heard some rumblings about a place in the Royal Gorge Park on Inspirational Point that was called Vista Lodge, they thought it was a dance hall in the 1920's. Some people have heard rumblings that two women, who called themselves 'The Reel California Girls' and starred in the silent movies, owned the lodge. Some people heard rumblings that there were cabins to rent close to the lodge. Some different people heard that the road to the Vista Lodge went though Priest Canyon and was built by inmate labor in 1911."

Loretta (Stevens) Bailey has the answers to those rumblings and much more about the magnificent Vista Lodge and those "Reel California Girls." There is much more to this fascinating and mysterious story. "Three concrete and rock walls and a huge fireplace are all that remain, after ninety plus years".



PICTURE COURTESY OF EMILY EGGLESTON

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MUSEUM & HISTORY
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rgmhc.org

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