

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MAY 21, 2017 VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3 WEBSITE: fremontheritage.com
WE ARE ON FACEBOOK, TOO: Fremont County Historical Society - Colorado



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PROGRAM ON
SUNDAY - MAY 21, 2017



DESPERADOS, SHYSTERS AND OUTLAWS:

The stories about the seamier side of life in Western Fremont County, including the James Gang, the McCoy Gang, the Salties Fraud, and several others with whom you may not have been familiar.

We start our story with a powerpoint explaining the details of the stories that will be told throughout the program. If you have questions or comments, please wait until the end of the presentation, and you can ask Betsy for information you would like to have.

This program has been presented to the Senior Mini College at PCC, as well as Western Fremont Historical Society. The people are all familiar names to any old-timer in the community, and we know you will be entertained by this presentation.

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

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PAGE 6: Our advertisers who help support the mailing of this newsletter



Standing: Will Carver, "News", Harvey Logan, aka Kid Curry

Sitting: Harry Longabaugh (Sundance Kid), Ben Kilpatrick and Butch Cassidy

Continued on Pages 2, 3, 4

Question: How many trains ran through Texas Creek in 1910? See Page 4.

ABOUT BETSY DENNEY

Betsy was born in Cañon City. Her parents were also born in Cañon City, so she is definitely a native of the county. Her mother was Bernadine DeTata, and her father was Thomas Young from Cotopaxi.

Betsy spent her childhood in Cotopaxi on the family ranch, doing ranch work, and attended school at the Cotopaxi School for 12 years. She then attended Colorado State University in Fort Collins to achieve to Bachelor Degrees in Agriculture and Education. She achieved a Masters Degree in Education from Adams State College in Alamosa.

Her great- grandmother, Cora McCrory, was a story teller about the family and history of the West end of the County, where she was the first white child in the area. Her family ranched and was prominent in business for the first 100 years of Fremont County. Betsy received her love of history from this lady.

Betsy was always interested in history even in college and took many classes in history, and also taught history in high school level.

She is now retired from teaching, and is busy as a crop adjuster for the Farm Service Agency, thus she travels throughout Southern Colorado, still in the ranching mode.

Continued from Page 1

DESPERADOS, AND VILLAINS

Kid Curry is the one desperado that we know was in Western Fremont County because of the stories told about him."In 1896, the brothers (Logan) then received employment on a cattle ranch, arranged by their cousin, Bob Lee, near Texas Creek on Joe Lamb's ranch in Sand Gulch, Colorado." Pinkerton agents trailing Curry gave up his trail briefly. Curry, Lonny, Walt Putnam and George Curry formed their own gang around this time.

The McCoy family of Dick, Susan, Charlie Joe, Tom, and Street lived on the McCoy ranch near Texas Creek, and the Gulch was named for them. The family was charged with several crimes over the years and spent time in the Colorado Penitentiary in Cañon City.

Jesse James was also a frequent visitor to the area. He was a close friend of Lyman Hayden and was seen visiting the Hayden's on several occasions at the Hayden place on Lake Creek in the Hillside area. Even though Harvey Logan and Jesse James were known, their true identity was often masked by alias names that were used while in the area. There is no evidence as to how long James stayed but came and went often. It is claimed he died an old man in the Wetmore area, and was buried as John Sears in the New Hope Cemetery. (That grave is now empty.)

Continued on page 4,

FCHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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 Canon City, Florence & Penrose
 Suggested Donations: General Public \$2
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Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGES 1, 2](#)

PERFECT "HOLE IN THE WALL," "ROBBERS ROOST" COUNTRY IN FREMONT COUNTY

The area from Parkdale to Coaldale north and south of the Arkansas River was very rough and isolated and many legendary outlaws were rumored to have visited the area. Some, such as the Dalton Gang and Butch Cassidy may have spent time here; however Harvey Logan a.k.a. Kid Curry and Jesse James were here.

In the late 1880's, 90's and 1900 it was a safe place to hide, enjoy good company and help the ranchers with their cattle. A cabin in Sand Gulch is named "The Curry Cabin."

Harvey Logan was one of the Wild Bunch and had warrants for killing fifteen people and it was generally said to be twice the number. William Pinkerton, head of the Pinkerton Detective Agency, called Logan "the most vicious outlaw in America with no redeeming feature and not one single good point." Logan, hearing about the McCoys, came to the area from Cripple Creek posing as a prospector but actually scouting the area as a hideout. They explored the hills south of the McCoys which was the Sand Gulch Ranch owned by John and Charles Lamb.

Logan was known as a good cowboy and friendly man working for the Lamb brothers on different occasions, often bringing other members of the Wild Bunch with him.

Harvey Logan killed himself near Palisade, Colorado, when he was surrounded by lawmen after robbing the Denver & Rio Grande train. He preferred death over prison when he was wounded and couldn't escape. He died June 9, 1904, at the age of 37.



TERRITORIAL DAUGHTERS OF COLORADO - SOUTHERN CHAPTER (TDC)

We are a non-profit group that was founded on February 10, 1910, and chartered to perpetuate the memories and traditions of the pioneers who laid the foundation for the State of Colorado. All members trace their direct heritage to pioneers who resided in Colorado Territory prior to statehood, August 1, 1876. Membership is limited to female descendants age 18 and older who are related by blood or adoption.

Pursuits of the Southern Chapter, started in the San Luis Valley in 1940 and now encompassing all of Southern Colorado, include:

- Preserving and publishing family histories in a book series format.
- Placing historic markers throughout Southern Colorado.
- Presenting historic programs to other groups.
- Providing college scholarships to women studying history.

The Chapter is creating kiosks representing the **Taos (Trappers') Trail** throughout Huerfano County and placing a Geocaching Trail with the markers. When complete there will be 16 kiosks.

A booklet is being written for a driving tour for the Trail.



One kiosk memorializing the trail is located on County Road 520 in Huerfano County, Colorado. Join us at our website: www.southerncoloradoterritorialdaughters.org, on FaceBook, or email us: territorialdaughters@gmail.com

TEXAS CREEK was a bustling little railroad center when these children of the Percy Noble family lined up for this photo outside of their home in 1910.

The Nobles ran the general store at Texas Creek for 13 years and passengers who got off the main line D&RG trains to wait for the branch train in Hillside and Westcliffe could find homemade snacks to satisfy their hunger.

The children were, from left, Hazel Noble, 3; Lawrence, 6; Nona (now Mrs. Nona Heiner of Cañon City) 8; Margie, 10; and Edna (now Mrs. Edna Caywood of Cañon City) 14.

Lawrence Noble of Cañon City, recalls that six Rio Grande passenger trains stopped at Texas Creek daily: Nos. 1, 3, and 13, which were westbound and Nos. 2, 4, and 16, east-bound. Nos. 15 and 16 were the night trains.

Texas Creek in that 1920 period had a depot, section house, the general store, a one-story schoolhouse, several cabins and residences and a number of charcoal kilns. The school served children from Texas Creek and some of the neighboring ranches and the average attendance was around 13, ranging from first graders through eighth. Noble recalls that some of the teachers were Lela Dickinson, Blanche Hall, a Mrs. Strouse and a Miss Wilson.

In 1914, the Nobles purchased the James Mow ranch at Hillside, and later moved to Caon City in 1919. In this photo the alfalfa field in the background was owned by Abe Danielson, and later part of the Nelson Taylor holdings. 00W.T.L.



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!



UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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"**

Always held at the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church at 801 Sheridan Avenue, Cañon City.
Showtime: 2:00 pm. Refreshments served
PUBLIC WELCOME

**CROSSROADS THROUGH TIME
DEDICATE THE STEGOSAURUS
AT PCC**



Fremont County Historical Society Board members with CTT members April 24, 2017, celebrating the Trail

**THE DENVER GEM AND MINERAL SHOWS
THE GREATER DENVER GEM AND MINERAL
COUNCIL
CROSSROADS THROUGH TIME GRANT**

We are pleased to announce that our companion group with the Crossroads Through Time has received a sizable grant from the Denver Gem and Mineral Shows Council in order to further the work at the PCC Pathway of geological and paleontology interest.

This pathway has a centerpiece of the Stegosaurus which is the state dinosaur, and was first found in Fremont County. The dinosaur will be a major feature of the Pathway when it is finished.

We urge you to think about attending the shows, in Denver on September 15-17, 2017, Denver Mart, 451 E. 58th Avenue.



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HERITAGE AND HISTORICAL NEWS:

Local Landmark Sites are being sought by the Fremont County Heritage Commission. The application and criteria are available on the Fremont County website, www.fremontco.com, as well as on the Heritage Commission website: fremontheritage.com

If you own a property, or are interested in a property you know is historic and of importance to the Fremont County scene, please contact us through our website, and we will help you develop an application.

NEW HISTORIC GUIDEBOOK

The Fremont County Heritage Commission and the Fremont County Historical Society are nearing completion of another Guide Book to Historic places.

The Coal Camps of Fremont County are a fascinating part of the area that has faded into the dust of time because of the cessation of mining in that area.

The books will be available this summer from a number of outlets and any member of the groups:

- Royal Gorge Museum and History Center
- Museum of Colorado Prisons
- The Artist's Gallery and the Cup & Cone
- La Fuselier Winery
- The Kitchen Pantry
- The Cellhouse and the Chamber of Commerce
- Florence Historical Archives, Inc.
- The Belltower Cultural Center, Florence
- The Riverside Café in Howard

I'M SUPPOSED TO RESPECT MY ELDERS, BUT IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER FOR ME TO FIND ONE, NOW.

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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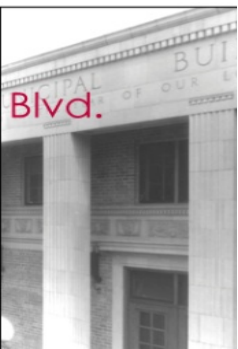
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