

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

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

Cowboy Days

We're taking a field trip to the Draper Ranch, 683 County Road 290, Wetmore to celebrate National Day of the Cowboy! The ranch land has had a storied history and the Draper family has been in the cattle business and rodeo for generations. Jerry Draper will be recounting the history behind these many activities at the ranch house over tea and cookies prior to guiding us on a tour of 'The Barn'. The Friends will also host a brief business meeting with the election of officers.

We will meet at the museum July 23, at 1:00 to caravan out to the ranch. If you would like to carpool, we have volunteers willing to take you.

If you plan to attend, you will need to stop by the museum prior to July 23, to register and to sign a waiver form.

J. L. Draper purchased the land from William W. Draper (no relation) in 1929. W.W. had purchased it from A. R. Gumaer, one of the city fathers of Florence.

Augustus Rose Gumaer, was born in 1852 in Monroe County, New York and came to Colorado in 1880. He lived in Cañon City working as a cashier in the Exchange Bank until oil was discovered in Florence. He organized the Florence Oil & Refinery Company, the Boston Land & Cattle Company and was also engaged in mining. The Cattle Company owned thousands of acres across seven

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 9:00 a.m. the first Thursday each month to join the conversation about Cañon City history, unique characters, and events. The topics are limitless and the coffee is brewing.

Virtual Genealogy Classes - Join us at 9:00a.m. on the following dates for our Zoom sessions. June 18 - Deciphering Handwriting, July - Using Maps in Your Research, and August will examine records to use as an 1890 Census Substitute. 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/museum.canoncity.org).

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>

counties and had a thriving livestock business for many years. Besides cattle, Gumaer raised and trained thoroughbred horses. Gumaer's fortunes rose and fell throughout his 30-plus years in Colorado. He was involved in a number of civil court cases both as a complainant and a defendant spending much of his own money. He died in Salida in October 1916 and is buried in Lakeside Cemetery.

James Louis Draper came to Colorado from Kansas in 1898 with his parents and siblings to settle in Florence. According to an article in the *Cañon City Daily Record*, Louis said " I had one ambition - to become a cowboy. And with that in mind he dropped out of school at 14, and embarked on his lifelong adventure as rancher, foreman, cowboy, and family man." Louis recounted the story that after Gumaer's death, an administration was named for the estate. The administrator constructed the main ranch house, a smaller house, and built the English design barn with 20 entrances under one roof. The original plan was for the barn to be a feeding operation. After the administrator died, the ranch became a rental property, the state having leased it for several years before Louis finally became the sole owner.

George Draper moved with his family to Wetmore in 1930. He attended Wetmore schools and completed high school in Florence. He met his wife Leona as a young teen when her family moved to the neighboring Trinity Ranch. They married in 1945 and were immediately separated when he served in the Pacific Theatre in the Army Air Corps. In the 1950s, the Draper family was involved in both television and film making. The ranch was the setting for scenes and members of the family stood in as stunt doubles or extras. They also provided horses, stock, and wagons for several productions. You might have recognized some scenes from *Vengeance*

Valley, Cat Ballou and many others. In 2000, in recognition of their years of giving to the community, George and Leona were honored as Pioneer Day Royalty. From the *Pueblo Chieftain* “George and Leona Draper have been everything from childhood sweethearts to ranchers, from history buffs to movie extras.” Knowing the importance of history and family history, George was a co-founder of the Wetmore-Hardscrabble Genealogical and Historical Society.

While maintaining their history of cattle ranching, the current generation of Drapers have adapted to 21st century needs. In 2012 they won Conservationist of the Year from the Colorado Association of Conservation District for their updates to their livestock water tanks.

Join us on July 23 to hear Jerry Draper tell us more the family’s history and stories and to see the ranch and their collection of memorabilia.

Community Coffee and Conversation

If you are interested in the history of the local area, join folks on the first Thursday of each month to reminisce about the bygone days in Cañon City over a cup of coffee. You will hear first-hand stories as well as recollections passed down by parents and grandparents. In April Jeri Fry regaled us with stories about the April 1989 Canon City Family Reunion, the Ugly Pickup Truck competition, and all the efforts required to simply say “Good Morning, America from Cañon City” She shared newspaper articles, memories and souvenirs from the event.



Honoring Carol McNew

A ceremony was held at the Fremont County Administration Building Thursday, April 28 to unveil the plaque honoring the lifelong work of Carol McNew. Four generations of her family along with representatives from the numerous organizations that Carol led and fostered were there to watch her husband Keith place the plaque on the “Outstanding Civic Leaders” wall.



Pathfinder Events Center



CSU Extension Director Jeremy McNeely guided board members through the new facilities on April 12. It took many years of planning to bring the building to fruition and it was completed without the use of taxpayer money. Individuals and organizations are already lining up to host events in their large banquet facilities, use the state-of-the-art kitchen, and take advantage of meeting rooms. We look forward to attending 4H and extension service activities. The center is a wonderful addition and will open a new chapter in the county’s history.

What Are You Doing With Your Bricks?

If you have not had the opportunity to purchase your Royal Gorge Bricks, you can stop by the museum at any time. We are also planning to have a table in Macon Plaza on first Friday, August 5th to coincide with the sesquicentennial “Old Timey Movies” evening. Vintage/used bricks are available for \$15.00 each. Unused/stored bricks are available for \$20.00 each.

We’d love to hear your plans for your Royal Gorge Bricks. A couple of people have let us know that they are sharing them with friends and family who no longer live in the local area. Others have plans to create borders in their gardens. What are your plans?

City Hall Exhibit



Next time you are in City Hall, take a few minutes to go to the lower level to view the small exhibit on ranching. Check out the running brand used by cattle rustlers to alter the registered brand on cattle. With a brief history of ranching in the area, there are photographs along with numerous items used in daily ranch life as well as during cattle drives.

Sesquicentennial Year

We know that the museum has been collecting and preserving the history of Cañon City for decades and nowhere is that more evident than throughout the city this year.



From the museum's own exhibit to the banners overhead, the clings on store front windows, the photos in the Fremont Center for the Arts, their presence at the jubilee and their input to the program, the museum

and its contributions are visible everywhere.

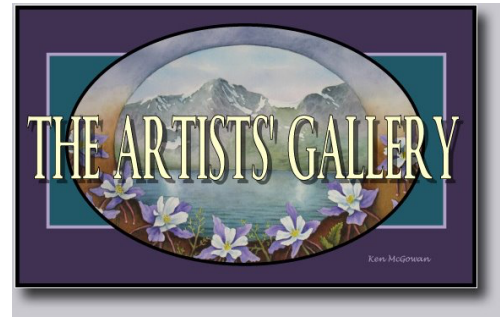
The sesquicentennial is a year long event honoring different aspects of the city's history each month. And where is most of this information coming from? The Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center! Be sure to take advantage of the many opportunities on First Fridays to participate in one of the activities, get to know the organizations and to meet and greet friends while celebrating 150 years of history. The city is even featured in *Smithsonian Magazine* as one of "The 15 Best Small Towns to Visit in 2022"



Get Your Newsletter via Email



Postage rates went up during the Christmas holidays and are slated to go up again in July. Would you like to receive your newsletter via email? If so, could you please respond to terri.meeke711@gmail.com. It would help save the cost of paper, toner, envelopes, labels, and stamps. We would very much appreciate it.



The Artist Gallery

416 Main Street, Cañon City

(719) 345-4070

Brady Realty

Randy Brady

719-423-9745



Choice Health Insurance

James Toto
Agent/Broker

Individual & Group Health Insurance

Medicare Supplements & Part D
Dental, Life & Accident

Denver: 720-544-7054
Salida: 719-207-9321

Canon City/Pueblo: 719-276-4434
Email: james@totoinsurance.com

Connect for Health
Colorado Authorized

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