

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

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

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Terri Meeks - Newsletter

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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

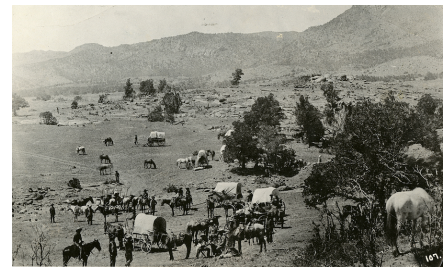
Organizations cost is \$25.00

Life members cost is \$150.00

Friends of the Museum & History Center, P.O. Box 481, Cañon City, CO 81215-0481

Day of the Cowboy

Deb Hildebrand and Shari Mohr, Western Fremont Historical Society board members and Friends of the Museum members, will be at the Royal Gorge Museum and History Center on Saturday, July 22 at 1:00 p.m. to present “Cattlemen, Cattle Ranches and Cowboys in Fremont, Chaffee & Park Counties and Beyond.” The program highlights area ranchers during the 1850s through the 1950s and provides glimpses into their lives before and during their ranching history.



Included will be short bios of William Murray, Charles Nachtrieb, Albert Griffin, Adolph Guiraud (Buffalo Peaks Ranch), John Reeves Witcher (76 Outfit), Henry and Charles Beckham, and many others.



Join us as we welcome Deb and Shari to share and honor the National Day of the Cowboy and to sample some cowboy snacks.

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 - Watch the museum's calendar to join the conversation about Cañon City's history, its people, buildings and institutions.

Virtual Genealogy Classes - Join us for our Zoom genealogy sessions on June 10 "Hidden in the Pension Records", July 8 "Overcoming Pitfalls" and August 12 "Off to the Hoosegow". All presentations are at 9:00. Registration can be completed via the museum's calendar.

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

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>

Jr. Paleontologist Fossil Activity Day

Saturday, June 17th at 10:00am-2:00pm

Hosted by the Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center. This special event is free, open to the public and for the whole family! Stop by anytime between 10:00am-2:00pm to join the fun!

Activities will include:

Discover fossils in the Florissant Fossil Quarry's "Fossil Mobile;" Dig Jurassic with the Western Interior Seaway Paleontological Society; Sedimentary deposition activities with paleontologist Joshua Broussard; Visit the Museum's "pop-up" exhibit; Take home fossil activities; And more!

Kids must be accompanied by an adult.

Bring a sack with you to carry home your activities!

The Museum and History Center is located in the City of Cañon City's former Municipal Building at 612 Royal Gorge Blvd. The hours of the Museum and History Center are Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information, please call the museum at (719) 269-9036 or send an email to historycenter@canoncity.org.

Keeping It Local

The work continues each week with members of the Western Interior Paleontological Society coming to share their knowledge and expertise with visitors. If you haven't taken the opportunity to come to watch and learn, you are missing some of the best highlights and instruction. Cleaning of the distal tibia has been completed with the matrix at the top of the fossil having been removed with an aircscribe.





Gastroliths (stomach stones) from our herbivorous dinosaur have also been found adjacent to the top of the fibula. These are characterized by their shiny surface thanks to the digestive process and the fact that no other similar type of stones were found in the area.

And teeth marks! Scavengers had a feast when our dinosaur died and left their impressions for us to find thousands of years later.



What does it take to turn a large fossil? A lot of preparation. Volunteers Hilary, Casey and Indalee worked putting wet paper towels to shield the fossil, mixing just the right consistency of plaster and then applying burlap strips to create the temporary jacket prior to turning. And on the count of three, voila!

Now that the fibula has been turned, work continues to clean the fossil. Close inspection seems to indicate that there is some bone present in what appears to be rock and that additional care must be exercised in the work.



Coffee and Conversation

“Neighborhood Markets” drew a crowd of long time residents on March 30th to talk about their favorite small shops from years gone by. Being able to walk or ride your bicycle to the nearby store to complete an errand for your mother and the lure of candy drew many of the then-young folks to readily head to the various stores located throughout Cañon. Big 3, Cañon Market, Anderson Morgan, Stu’s Market, Oxford Market, Ott’s Candy Store, Rosedale, Hilltop, Dremel’s Grocery, Prospect Heights Mercantile, Haines, Art’s Market, Moschetti’s, Bailey’s Produce were some of the many stores that brought back memories.

Ethnic heritage was another topic this spring. Family stories of immigration from Slovenia, settlement in the community and generational success were told. Prospect Heights, Royal Gorge Town, Brookside, and South Chicago neighborhoods were discussed. Stories of family traditions and holiday celebrations, many of which focused on ethnic foods or music, were shared. Another sharing and learning experience for those who attended.

Senior Mini College



After a three year hiatus, Senior Mini College came back as a rousing success - over 100 instructors and 300 participants. The museum was well represented by staff and volunteers with a number of programs. Jessica Ashton led off the week giving a history of local tourism augmented with photographs from the museum's collection.

Lisa Studts showed and described key elements of the many types of home architecture found throughout the community with the focus on historic preservation. Many of the long-time residents added personal comments about some of the featured structures which added special interest to the class.



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Volunteer Loretta Bailey and her daughter Kimberly Worsham shared a history of snake oil from the early side-show salesmen to modern pharmacists. Their display of historic newspaper articles and their personal collection of bottles led to many questions and comments.

Dan Grenard and Jessica Ashton led a field trip on Friday discussing the geological formations at Skyline Drive and Red Canyon Park. A truly wonderful week of sharing and learning.



Historic Main Street Walking Tour

The threat of rain discouraged no-one from participating in our walk down Main Street. We started our tour at the museum with a 1934 parade down Main Street filmed by Dr. Kon Wyatt. We then moved to the corner of Third Street and Main to start our walk, comparing what we had just seen in the 1930s with those buildings and storefronts immediately in front of us. Jessica Ashton led our group through more than a century of architectural history and store timelines along the south side of Main Street from the 300 through the 600 blocks. From the earliest wooden structures that appeared on Sanborn Insurance Maps to the Owl which has been in its current location since 1937, each building told a story.





One of the unique buildings is the Reynolds/McGee Block at 330 Main Street. The east half of the building was owned by Frederick Reynolds and served as a bank while William McGee owned the west half for his mercantile company. Downstairs there was a dividing wall between the two properties while both owned the stairway leading to the second floor apartments!

Visible signs of by-gone stores are still apparent today. The tour was a great success. All of the participants agreed that they would like to hear a similar history of the north side of Main Street.



Paleo To The People

May 20th marked a red letter day for paleontology enthusiasts. Attendees from elementary school students to retirees, hobbyists to professionals were treated to excellent lectures and enjoyed opportunities to ask questions to learn more.

Joshua Broussard and Jana McKeeman recounted the story of the discovery, extraction and prepping of the current fossil find as well as future plans to develop a paleontology program for the museum.



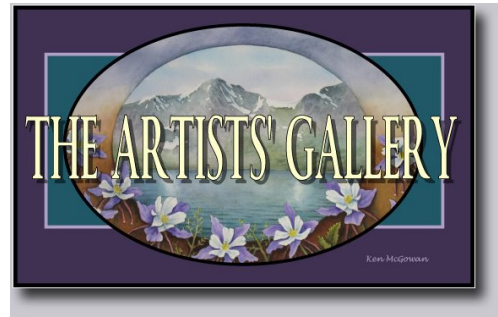
Dan Grenard shared his vast research into the correspondence of Marshall Felch, Felch's commitment to the study and preservation of the fossils and his realization that he was part of a greater story.

Carly Henry from the Indian Springs Trace Fossil Site brought a series of great photographs of traces and tracks along with actual samples that attracted the attention of many.

Melissa Smeins explained to attendees what it means to have a National Natural Landmark designation and the laborious process involved in obtaining that status. She emphasized that expansion of the Garden Park National Natural Landmark land area is vital for the protection of future fossil discoveries.

Jim McKeeman rounded out the day with a slide presentation of Dr. Ken Carpenter's work at the Marsh and Cope sites in Garden Park, the importance of the discoveries and the many men who worked to preserve these finds.

The Friends of the Museum would like to express their thanks to the speakers and to all the attendees who supported this day of learning.



The Artist Gallery

416 Main Street, Cañon City

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JoAnn Grenard
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 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