

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULY 2023

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 4

Editor: Tiffany Coleman

Reader: Betsy Denney

website: www.fremontheritage.com Facebook page: Fremont County Historical Society - Colorado

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PROGRAM ON JULY 16, 2023
4-MILE COMMUNITY CLUB BUILDING
E. MAIN & STEINMEIER, CANON CITY, CO 81212
2:00 P.M. - PUBLIC WELCOME

WESLEY BROWN: HOW THE 1959 GOLD RUSH PUT COLORADO ON THE MAP

Back by popular demand, Wesley Brown the “Maps Guy,” is presenting his historic maps of Colorado.

Wes is noted for his presentation that provides a history of the discovery and exploration of the place that will become Colorado. This information is revealed on maps of the interior-west from 1540 to 1861, when Colorado was just a territory.

The story is told in six chapters: the mythical mapping of New Spain, mapping the Rio Grande valley in the 1600s, discovery of the Mississippi valley and the western plains, new Spanish expeditions from Santa Fe into Colorado in the late 18th century, official government expeditions of the early 19th century, and the 1859 gold rush that puts Colorado on the map. Today he will be talking about the Colorado Gold Rush.



--- Continued on page 2

Historical Society Programs Upcoming Events in 2023

July 16 - Wes Brown
"Historic Maps"

September 17 - Victoria Miller
"Coal Mining in Fremont Co"

November 19 - Stacy Cline
"Prison Museum"

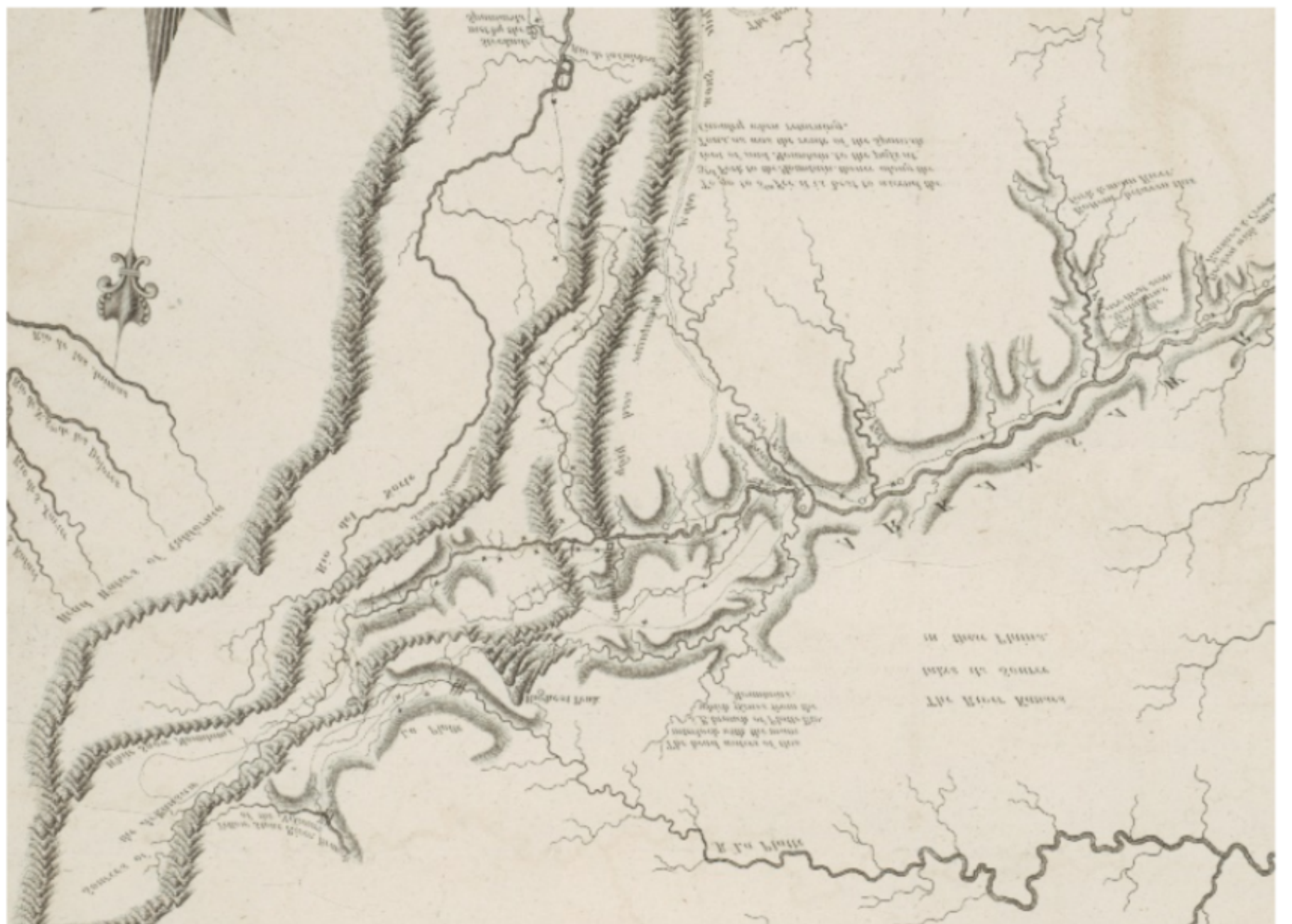
BROWN: HOW THE 1959 GOLD RUSH PUT COLORADO ON THE MAP

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In the spring of 1858, Colorado's Front Range area was uncharted and inhabited only by natives. But by the close of 1859, 100,000 fortune seekers had thoroughly explored the Front Range, north of Pueblo to the Wyoming border. In their quest for gold, they left their footprints on the landscape, establishing dozens of settlements and blazing numerous trails. This presentation will teach you about Colorado's gold rush and how this important chapter of history influenced Colorado maps of today.

Wes Brown has been a collector of old maps for forty years with special interest in the exploration and settlement of the West and Colorado from the 16th through 20th centuries. A Denver resident, he co-founded the Rocky Mountain Map Society in 1991 that continues a monthly lecture program.

Wes has served as the Co-Chairman of the national map and geography society of the Library of Congress and on the board of the Society of the History of Discoveries. He is a frequent speaker at map and history conferences and has published many papers on maps. Wes fell in love with maps at age 16 using U.S. Geological Survey maps for climbing mountains.



*Florence Pioneer Museum & Research Center
Presents*

**A NIGHT AT THE
MUSEUM**



**Saturday, July 8th, 2023
4:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Join the museum for a look back at our
pioneers in the farming/ranching of Eastern
Fremont County.**

**\$10.00 a person: wine, coffee, water, and light
refreshments by “Chef” Joe Lippis.**

Book signing by Sherry Skye Stuart.

www.florencepioneermuseum.org

FLYING HIGH FOR GOVERNMENT BONDS

Bird Millman, a Canon City, Colorado girl, was a famous high wire artist. She performed in follies, vaudeville, and with Ringling Brothers Circus. Bird helped raise money for the Liberty Bond drive during the first world war. She did this by walking across a wire twenty-five (25) floors high above Broadway in New York City.

Popular Mechanics Magazine featured her on its cover in February 1917. She was “Dancing with Death Above the Skyscrapers.” Bird dreamed of walking a wire across the Royal Gorge. This was never done because of high wind blowing through the gorge.

Bird Millman died August 5, 1940 and is buried in Lakeside Cemetery, Canon City, Colorado. She was elected to the Circus Hall of Fame, twenty-one (21) years after her death. Bird was the “foremost female wire-walker in show business history.”

Information taken from Popular Mechanics, February 1917.
AAUW American Women in History.

Compiled by Sue Buchanan, FCHS Board Member.



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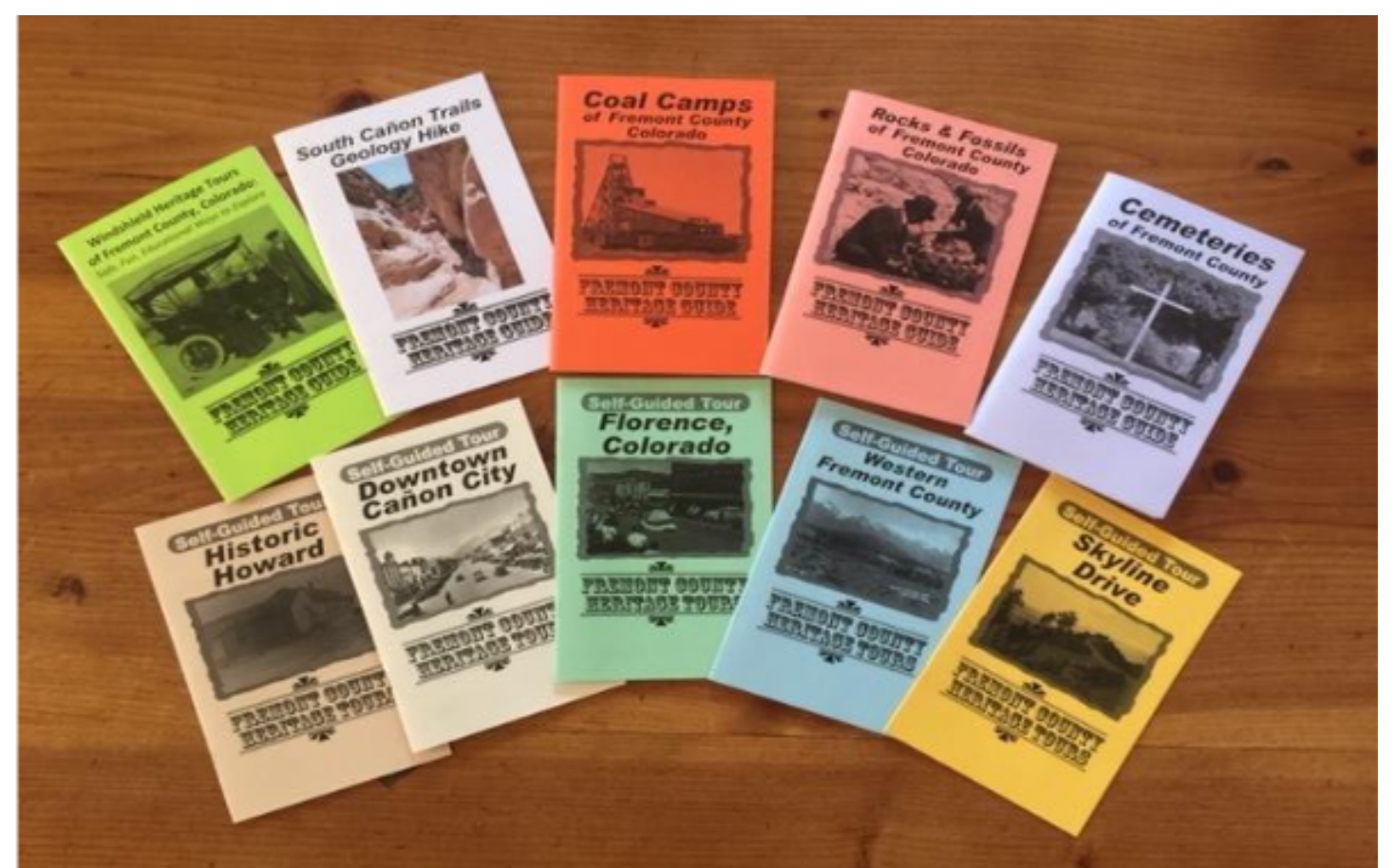
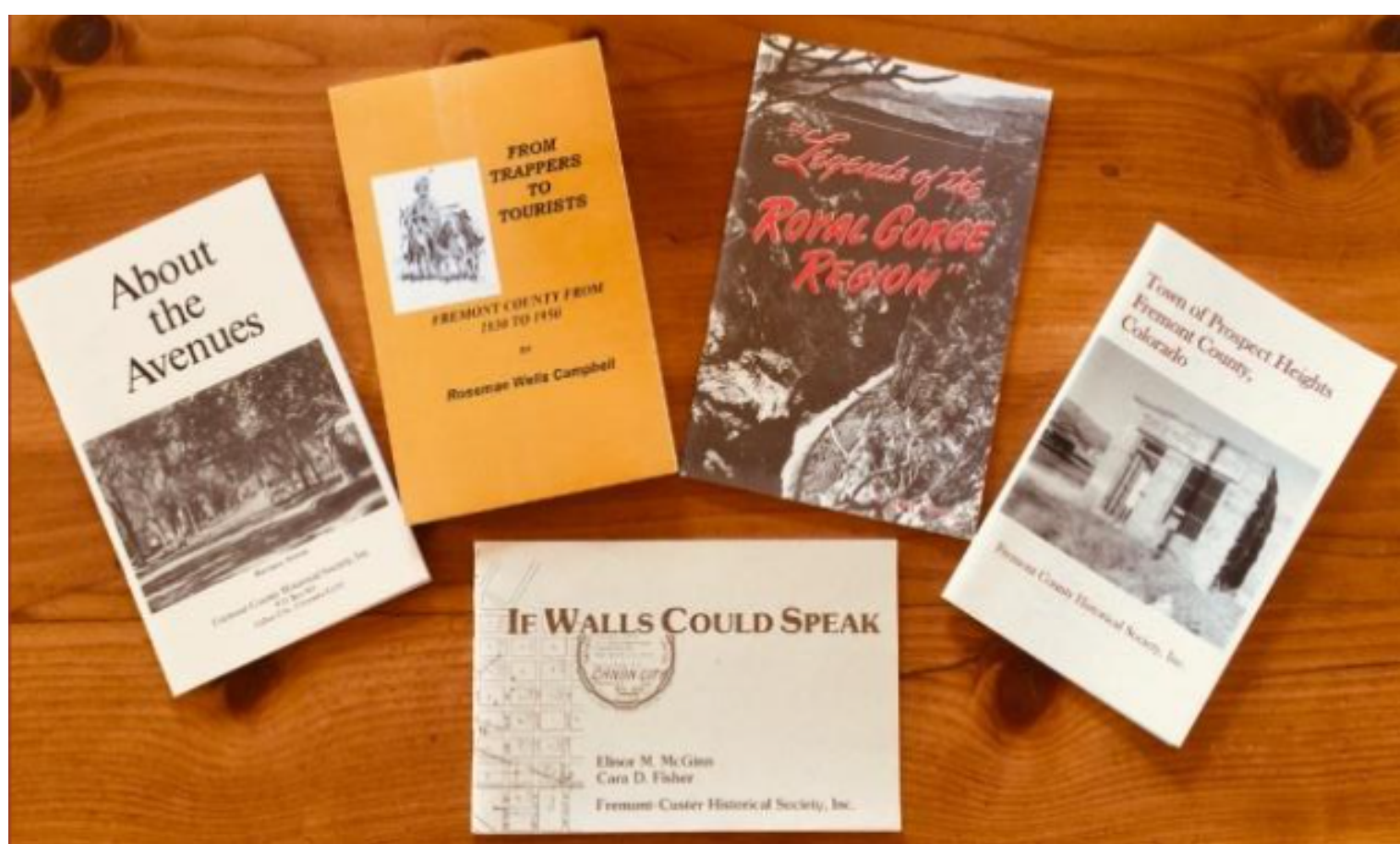


FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER JULY 2023

ROYAL GORGE REGIONAL BOOKS FOR SALE

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 Canon City and Florence.

These have been added to the library of Fremont County Historical books published in the past four years by the Historical Society. The titles are *Canon City*, *Skyline Drive*, *Florence*, *Howard*, *Windshield Tours*, *South Canon 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.

CANON 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 COUNTY AREA
1. HOWARD MUSEUM (CHURCH)
 2. COTOPAXI STORE

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Thank you to all the new members who have joined this year – we are glad you have joined us. Dues cover December 31, to January 1.


- Individual.....\$15.00
- Family.....\$20.00
- Group.....\$25.00
- Lifetime.....\$150.00

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

Fremontheritage.com



FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER JULY 2023

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

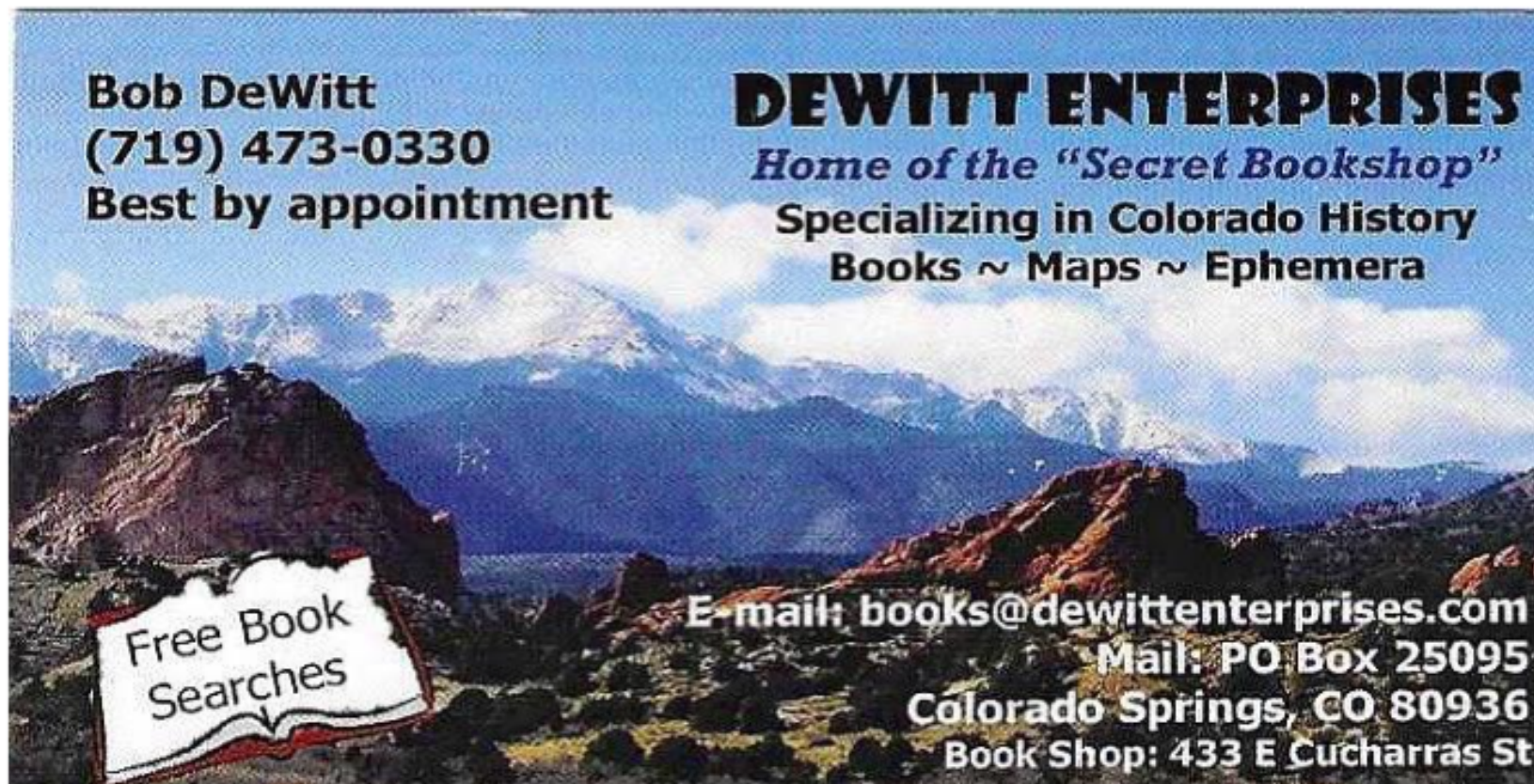


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