

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2023

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Editor: Tiffany Coleman

Reader: Betsy Denney

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

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PROGRAM ON
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
4-MILE COMMUNITY CLUB BUILDING
E. MAIN & STEINMEIER, CANON CITY, CO 81212
2:00 P.M. - PUBLIC WELCOME

Victoria Miller: "16 Tons: The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company Mines"

Lesser known than the gold and silver mines found throughout the American West, Southern Colorado's extensive coal mines fueled the engines of western industrialization in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Of the numerous companies operating at the time, none was larger than the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company (CF&I). This presentation will focus on the working and social lives of these adaptable and resilient workers in CF&I's southern Colorado mining communities, with special emphasis on CF&I's Fremont County mines.

Bio:

Victoria Miller is a Pueblo native and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Colorado State University-Pueblo and a Master of Arts degree in museum science from Texas Tech University. With more than 25 years of museum related experience, she has held positions in various museums emphasizing in collections management, museum education, exhibit design and interpretation, and museum management. In addition to her Steelworks Museum duties, she is also a certified archivist accredited by the Academy of Certified Archivists and is responsible for the acquisition, arrangement and description, preservation and access to the holdings within the Steelworks Archives.



Historical Society Programs Upcoming Events in 2023

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

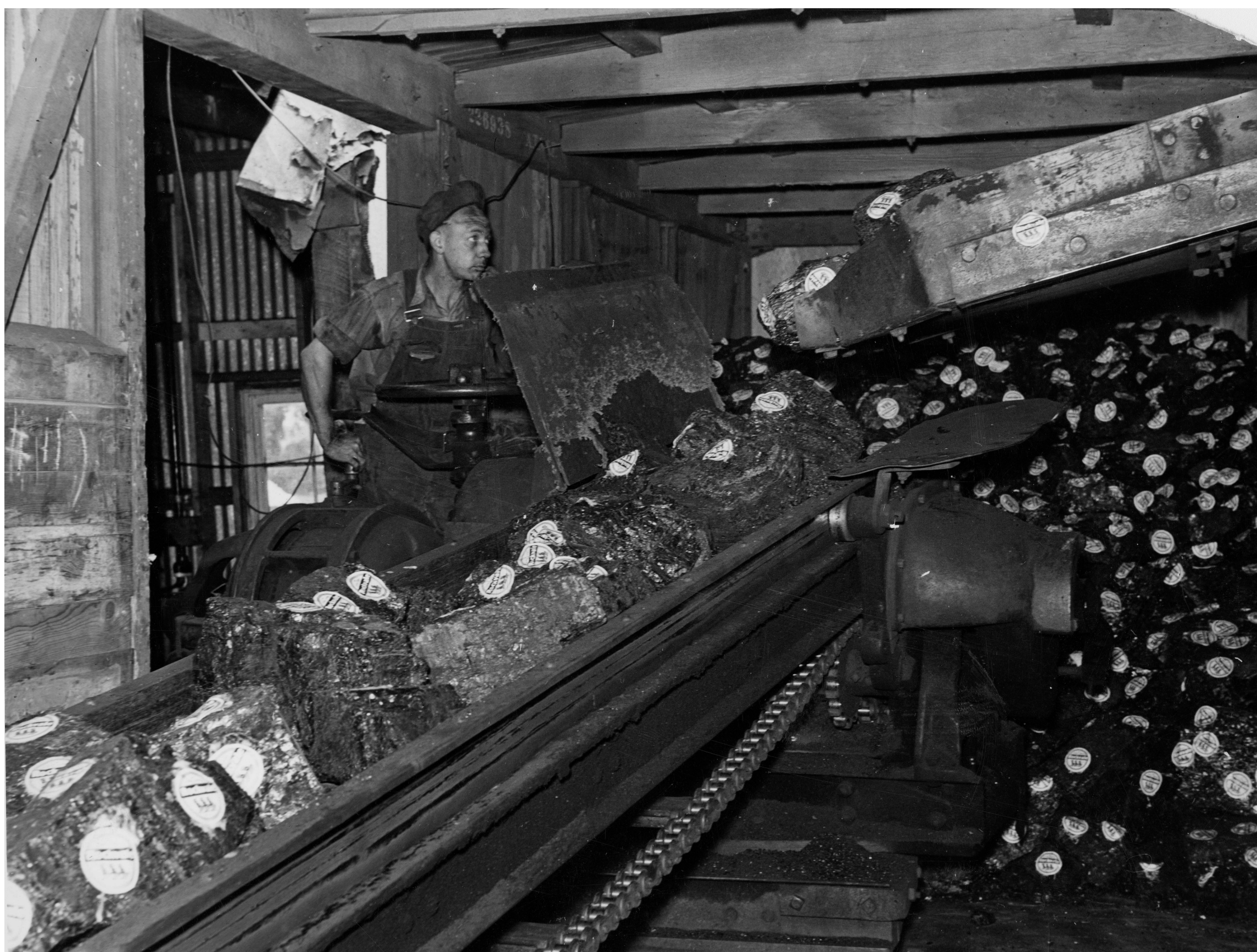
November 19 - Stacy Cline
"Prison Museum"

January 21 - Sherry Sky
"Female Felons"

"16 TONS: THE COLORADO FUEL AND IRON COMPANY MINES"

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Pictures of the Coal Creek
Miners





Oak Creek Grade Cemetery

Recently the FCHS Board of Directors took a field trip to the Oak Creek Grade Cemetery to see what we could see. As most of you know FCHS is the proud owner of the cemetery and therefore the keepers of the land. The land was donated to the society in 2000 by George Papps, who acquired the property in a tax lien sale. The deed states there are 22 grave sites on the 1 ½ acre lot but the challenge has been identifying who is actually buried there and what the actual name of the cemetery was.

Names that have popped up for the cemetery have been Galena, Yorkville, Ilse, Toplip Family and the Oak Creek Grade Cemetery. Several years ago interviews were conducted with some local residents and nobody could tell us the actual name but all agreed it is a very old cemetery.

Some remember wooden markers and wooden fences marking several graves. All these markers have gone away either from decay or used for firewood.

Although many of the residents of the cemetery are very timid to the point of not revealing their identity, one stands out! That is Bessie Rhodes, aged 9 months, 1885. Yes, this is the only resident identified by a marker. There is one other marker with the date 1892 etched in red stone that is legible. This stone is surrounded by the remains of a wood picket fence.

One news article dated November 1900 stated "Chas. Rand of Querita buried on of his children at Galena on the 28th. The little one died the previous day on Membranous Croup." Could this have been one of the last buried in "Our" cemetery?

According to school census records, District 19, there were Rant children going to school at Yorkville, Oak Creek, 1888 to 1891. Other names on the school records were: Toplip, Griffin, Rants, Hill, Stultz, Daniels, and Starr. The 1885 Colorado census for the area mentioned a family named A.J. Rhodes, wife Josephine, children Henry, Perry, and Mary. Maybe Bessie's family??

If anyone know a story and any information you would like to share, please contact a FCHS board member. We would love to hear your story.

The cemetery is in pretty good shape for its age. There is a new sign our front and a new fence going in along the property line. We encourage you to visit and pay your respects to those that call this their final resting place.

Eastern Fremont County Historical Club Begins!

Calling all local 3rd, 4th, 5th graders in Eastern Fremont County! The History Club at the Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center is about to begin! Friday, September 15th, 10:00 am registration will be open to all 3rd-5th graders who are interested in learning about local Eastern Fremont County history. The cost for joining the History Club will be \$1.00 for each session or \$25 for the year (September-May). The Club follows the Florence school calendar: unless other wise notified of closures, the Club is in session when the elementary schools are in session. If FES or PES is on vacation, so is the Club.

The Club will meet every Friday from 10:00 am-11:00 am. Parents must pick up their child(ren) or sign off on a permission sheet for the child(ren) to walk /bike home. The Museum likes to place news articles and pictures with our media sources. There is a media waiver to sign whether you will allow your child(ren) to be photographed for articles about the History Club.

Topics covered during the year will be: Native Americans of the area, the coal and oil development, John C. Fremont and his explorations, Jesse Frazer : "Johnny Appleseed" of Fremont County, James McCandless, founder of Florence, and Penrose History.

Registration papers can be downloaded from the Museum's website:

www.florencepioneermuseum.org.

Click on the "Eastern Fremont County Historical Club" link.

Other questions? Call and/or leave a message, name and contact number for Marty Lamm at the FPM, 1 (719)-784-1904.



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WESTERN FREMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Presents

“APPLE SEASON AT THE AMY HOMESTEAD”

Saturday, September 23, 2023

2280 Howard Creek Rd. (CR #4), Howard, Colorado

Open House from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

ENJOY A DAY AT THE HISTORIC AMY HOMESTEAD, FEATURING:

- Guided tours by owner Cinde McPhail at 10:30 & 1:30
- 1882 brick home listed on the National Historic Register
- Heritage apple orchard (try your hand at picking apples for cider making!)
- Antique farm implements, vintage cars, historic outbuildings
- Root cellar and hand-dug well

****WFHS members & under 17 years old - \$15.00****

****Non-members - \$20.00****

**CIDER & HOMEMADE APPLE PIE FROM AMY ORCHARD APPLES
FOR SALE - FUNDRAISER FOR THE COTOPAXI-MULLINS
HISTORY CENTER (COMING SOON!)**

Guests welcome to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in the orchard.

Wear sturdy shoes for walking on uneven ground.

**Directions: 2 miles west of Hwy 50 on Howard Creek Rd. Watch for sign at
driveway on left side of road.**

**For more information or questions, please contact Shari Mohr (719-942-3355) or
Kris Shurr (719-942-3653) or visit our website: westfremonthistory.com**

Western Fremont Historical Society is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and sharing of our local history and artifacts.


FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2023

Colorado Mountain Land Office
 Real Estate - Lot Development & Project Management



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 719-275-2501
 Earl@ColoMtnLand.com

457 Shannon Road
 Cotopaxi, CO 81223
 (by appointment only)

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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

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museum.canoncity.org
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GAC Transit Program Call 276-5200 for a ride!

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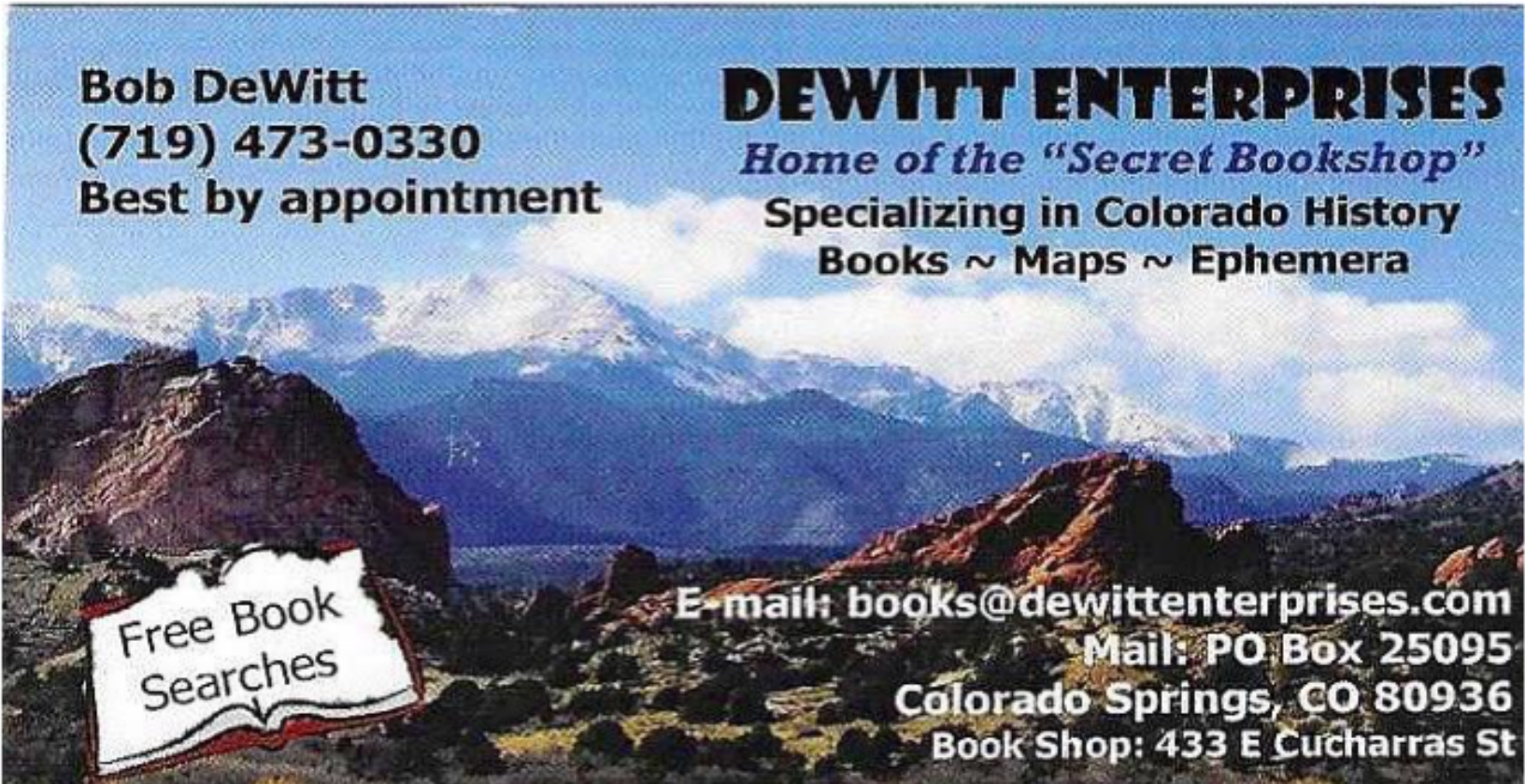
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