

# FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

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

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719-269-9036

[www.fremontheritage.com](http://www.fremontheritage.com)

## Friends Memberships

Become a member to support our history & history to come.

Individual cost is \$10.00

Couples cost is \$15.00

Family cost is \$20.00

Organization cost is \$25.00

Life member cost is \$150.00

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

## Annual Meeting

Back by popular demand. Deb Hildebrand and Shari Mohr have continued to work to identify and document ranching history in western Fremont County and the surrounding area. They have agreed to continue their presentation “Cattlemen, Cattle Ranches and Cowboys in Fremont, Chaffee, Park Counties and Beyond” for our annual meeting on **Saturday, February 3rd at 1:00.**



They will share brief bios of some of these hard-working founders, stories of industry and loss, as well as humorous anecdotes.

You won't want to miss hearing about the life and times of these men and women who formed the backbone of their communities.

The Friends will hold a brief meeting at the end of the presentation and light refreshments will be served.

## History in the Making

**Morning Line** - Remember to tune in to 1400 KRLN the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 January 13 "Leaving Home", and February 10 "Southern Claims Commission". All presentations are at 9:00. Registration can be completed via the museum's calendar. "Womens' Rights" will be an in-person presentation at the museum on March 9th at 1:00.

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 rgrmhmc.

Check the museum's calendar for the schedule of all activities, registration and waiver forms.

<https://museum.canoncity.org>

## Old Timey Movies

Small groups came out to view this year's selection of movies but everyone recognized locations and even some friends playing extras in the movies. You really had to suspend reality to accept the car chase along Phantom Canyon Road as portrayed in Mr. Majestyk! With the exception of the July 4th



Wet/Dry parade, you have never seen the streets of Florence teeming with so many pedestrians!

## Hike With A Paleontologist

Western Interior Seaway expert Steve Miller graced us as the expert paleontologist for this years autumn "Hike with a Paleontologist." This hike took place south of Cañon City on the trail system in what is known as the Ecology Park. Steve shared with us many fascinating things about the geological history of the area. He is a great teacher



and taught us all about how the "hogback" ridges that can be seen all along on the western edge of Cañon City were formed and how the ecosystem here was vastly different

when this area was once a shallow sea. Thanks Steve!

*Contributed by Jessica Ashton*

## Equine Digit Tour

The rave reviews keep coming in from those who took the guided tour of the Equine Digit Support System facility in Penrose, Colorado on Saturday, October 14th. Our excellent tour guide, Carri, introduced us to the philosophy behind this family business: advanced prevention and treatment of equine lameness.



Carri began the tour in the shipping department. Here we handled tiny horseshoes for ponies and giant therapeutic wooden horseshoes for Clydesdales. Then we toured the manufacturing plant where Computer Controlled machines cut

their custom line of wood shoes. Finally, Carri finished the tour in the farrier classroom barn and we got to watch students from across the nation learn horseshoeing skills. Between the different buildings at the facility, we donned our solar eclipse glasses, observing the progress of an eclipse occurring at the same time of the tour.



*Contributed by Kris Dittmar*

## Greenwood Cemetery Tour

In cooperation with the Greenwood Cemetery Committee, the RGRMHC hosted a walking tour of the Greenwood Cemetery on October 14th.

Jessica Ashton shared with us that the Greenwood Cemetery, sometimes called “the Pioneer Cemetery,” was the first official burial ground in Cañon City and that it is the final resting place for a wide variety of our earliest citizens; politicians, farmers, religious leaders, miners, businessmen, homemakers and children, fraternal organization members and DOC inmates. The original land was donated by William C. Caitlin and the grounds were expanded over time.

Kathy Uhland, of the Greenwood Cemetery Committee, expertly led the tour around the cemetery sharing along the way many stories of the lives, and deaths, of the interesting people laid to rest here. Kathy also gave us insight into the unique challenges faced when caring for a “natural” dry landscape cemetery such as this.



*Contributed by Jessica Ashton*

## Pioneer Women Head West!



On October 21<sup>st</sup> Pioneer Women Jessica (museum staff) and Maya, Libby, and Katelyn (museum interns) headed west from Cañon City to see what they could find! So, what did they find? Over 3,000 people young and old dressed in costume and in search of candy at the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park's annual "Boo at the Bridge" event. Much (spooky) fun was had by all!

## Marshall Felch Ghost Story

Families and friends came out on a cold, dark October evening to bravely hear the ghost story written by Marshall Felch. Dan Grenard introduced the audience to the history of Marshall Felch and the background of the story which appeared in 1884 in the Denver Herald. Ed Norden read the story of Civil War veteran Oliver Kimball who was separated from his Vermont love, Gertrude Osborn. Kathy Herrin read Gertrude's poignant letters and Mark Van Rhyn played the dastardly D.G. Believe it; or not. We won't reveal the story so as not to spoil the suspense for future audiences. Thank you to our four story tellers and to JoAnn Grenard for providing a bounteous selection of cookies and hot cider.



## Welcome Steve Groff!

Steve Groff is the newest member of the RGRMHC staff, taking on the position of Curator of Collections and Exhibits. Originating in Broome County, NY, Steve attended his local state school, Binghamton University as an undergrad, earning a B.A. in history. For several years after, he bided his time by reading multiple history books a week with the aspiration of covering the entire historical record. In grad school, Steve received a nearly perfect GPA in his Museums Study program, graduating after only a year. Following this, he has accrued experience with collections diverse enough to include Space Age technology and decommissioned nuclear weapons. Steve is pleased to arrive at RGRMHC, finding both Cañon City and the museum some of the best places he's been so far.



## Paula McFarland & Shirley Carey

What do you do in your retirement? Paula McFarland and Shirley Carey are two creative ladies who cannot be stopped by age. Paula, a volunteer at the museum and board member, has been making doll houses since 2009. She started making them for her granddaughters and has expanded to great-nieces and great-grandchildren. This year, she has donated her 12th mini-mansion to the Friends for our Silent Auction ending December 2. Paula allows about three months to complete a doll house; most of the time waiting for paint or glue to dry. Each house is a labor of love from its basic construction to hand applying each roof shingle and finally choosing the paint, wallpaper and furniture.



In order to escape washing dishes, ten year old tomboy Shirley Carey was told at YMCA camp to grab a hammer and help shingle the roof of her cabin. Thus woodworking became a lifelong hobby. After years of teaching, raising a family and running a reading camp in Westcliff she still finds time to craft her special treasures. In 2019 she donated one of her triceratops rockers to the Friends and this year, she again has donated a dino rocker for our Silent Auction.



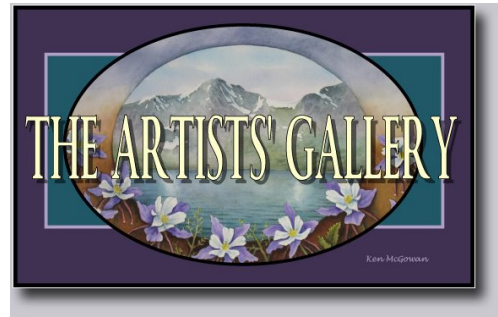
Both of these ladies are lifetime members of the Friends of the Museum and keep giving. We are deeply indebted to these ladies and wish to express our heartfelt thanks to them.

## Annual Renewal Time

As 2023 draws to a close, it is once again time to renew your membership. Membership runs from January 1 through December 31 of each year. Envelopes are enclosed for your convenience. Your ongoing monetary gifts ensure the availability of funds to support the museum's needs and programs. Thank you to those who have become lifetime members this past year.

If you are a retiree required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), a direct contribution to the Friends of the Museum is tax deductible and would go a long way to support many of the needs of the museum for supplies, equipment, and storage units. Thank you in advance for thinking of us.

We on the board would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your attendance at museum programs, your continuing financial support, and your volunteer work. **We want to wish everyone a joyous holiday season and all best wishes for 2024.** See you in the new year with more exciting programs.



**The Artist Gallery**

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 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