

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

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

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Terri Meeks - Newsletter

Ann Zielinski - Activities

Penny McPherson

Aaron Malejko

719-269-9036

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

Moving Day

The city of Cañon City is changing their website provider and hoping to go live on March 11th. That means that the museum’s website address is also changing. You will be automatically redirected from the old website to the new for a brief period of time but you will need to bookmark and save the new address: [canoncity.org/museum](https://www.canoncity.org/museum). The Friends of the Museum will also have a link accessed from the museum’s page. There are bound to be changes so bear with us during this transition time but be sure to check it out.



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 "Diving Into Directories", on April 6 and "Delayed Birth Certificates" on May 11. All Zoom presentations are at 9:00 am. Registration can be completed via the museum's calendar. The "Civilian Conservation Corps" will be an in-person presentation at the museum on June 8th at 1:00.

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

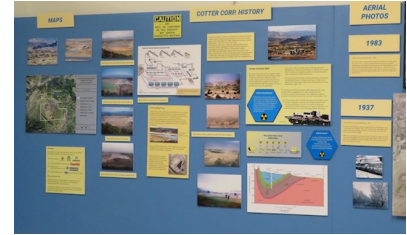
If you are interested in viewing photos from the museum's collection, follow us on instagram at rgrmhmc.

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

<https://www.canoncity.org/museum>

Cotter Exhibit

Thursday, November 30th marked the opening of the most recent museum exhibit. Centered around the Cotter Corporation and the designation as a Superfund site, the exhibit presents the history from the discovery of radioactivity to present-day activism. While discoveries and inventions of x-rays and cancer treatments are beneficial to mankind, as



with everything there are also severe consequences of too much. The exhibit highlights the mad rush to Colorado to mine uranium in the 1950s, the discovery of sick cattle in Lincoln Park in 1968, attempts at clean-up and monitor the site and the citizen involvement to the present day. Come check it out and leave your questions or comments.



Cotter Coffee

A group of locals representing various interests and multiple professional disciplines met around the coffee tables on Saturday, February 24 to discuss Cotter, its business development and changes through the years as well as the lasting consequences on the community. This coffee was the first of a series of talks focused on the continuing efforts to educate the populace about the issues and the ongoing work to resolve these issues. Watch the museum's calendar as well as the community calendars for future opportunities to hear, participate and become involved in these enlightening discussions.



Celebrating Loretta Bailey

Friends joined family members and the museum staff on January 13 to share memories, accomplishments, and the joy that Loretta Bailey brought to so many. Loretta was a volunteer at the museum for over 20 years researching local history, writing blog posts, expanding her knowledge of fossils and sharing



memories of the Cañon City she grew up in. Her family shared stories of her love, strength, humor and her giving spirit while members of the community shared stories reflecting the many facets of her life. Dan Grenard shared a wonderful story about Loretta nurturing a damaged butterfly. She named him Edgar. When Edgar passed, she even wrote an obituary for him!



Annual Meeting

Members and guests attended the Friends of the Museum annual meeting on February 3rd. After a short business meeting conducted by chair Gerrie Colette, Deb Hildebrand and Shari Mohr returned to entertain and inform us about more cattlemen, cattle ranches and cowboys in the local and surrounding areas. Deb emphasized the importance of each of us sharing our stories with our families and with our local history center. Without these records, we wouldn't have the stories about Bic Miller, the Eddy Brothers, the John Burnett Ranch, and so many more. Shari regaled us with stories about double roped cattle and small loop roping, how longhorns hide in the brush during the day, and Albert



and Alfred Maxwell - the

oldest twins in Colorado still living on the ranch where they

were born. We were introduced to the Elkhorn Ranch which existed prior to 1860, changed hands numerous times and was in the Hayden family from 1872 to 1933. We heard the antics of Frederick Koch who rode his horse up to the bar and shot the pipe out of the bartender's mouth. Shari also recounted the industriousness of Frederick Reynolds who came to Cañon City to open a bank, established the Reynolds Cattle Company and became the largest real estate owner in the county. Upon his death, his wife Magdelaine Sheetz Reynolds assumed his business interests and became the first female president of a bank. Our many thanks to Deb and Shari.



Senior Mini College

It's once again time for Senior Mini College. Classes will take place March 18-22, 2024. Registration opened on March 1 and will continue until March 11th from 8:00-4:30 weekdays. The following presentations by Museum staff and volunteers are scheduled:

Tuesday, March 19, 9:00-10:15 Jessica Ashton , Mountain Parks of Cañon City

Wednesday, March 20, 9:00-10:15 Terri Meeks, The Men Who Built the Bridge

Wednesday, March 20, 10:30-11:45 Dan Meeks, Electric Car Cross-Country Charging

Thursday, March 21, 1:00-2:15 Dan Meeks, Electric Car Cross-Country Charging (Repeat)

Thursday, March 21, 2:30-3:45 Terri Meeks, The Men Who Built the Bridge (Repeat)

Friday, March 22, 9:00-11:45 Jessica Ashton, History Hike - Point Alta Vista

A complete listing of registration procedures and classes is available in the February 20th edition of the Cañon City Shopper.

Coffee and Conversation

807 Cyanide was the discussion at February's Community Coffee. This was the location of two well-known and well-loved restaurants of Cañon City's past: Sali's Club Paradise & Janey's Chili Wagon.

Gus and Doris Salardino owned and operated "Sali's Paradise," from 1945-1984. Memories were shared of the building itself and the décor including headshots of famous visitors, Super Bowl banners from games Gus and Doris had attended, and even leprechauns painted on the bathroom walls! People remembered a feeling of community amongst patrons, and of the kindness and generosity of Gus and Doris. Another common thread memory was their famed minestrone soup.

Gus passed away in 1984 and the business continued under different management for another six years. The next business to move in to this iconic location would be "Janey's Chili Wagon."

Janey had been a single mom working as a waitress all over the country. She had always dreamed of owning her own restaurant and she found that opportunity in Cañon City. Her first location was 315 Royal Gorge Blvd. Retired chiropractor Joe Ashton shared that he and Janey opened their businesses at the same time, Janey opened on Saturday, Dr. Ashton that Monday. That was 1976.

When Janey started her business she was 55 years old, the Chili Wagon was open 6am-9pm seven days a week, and Janey worked all positions! Janey's hard work paid off and as her client base grew, thankfully, so did her staff. In 1981 Janey's Chili Wagon moved to the carriage house at the Robison Mansion where it would remain for a decade. In 1991 the Chili Wagon moved again, this time, filling the spot that was once, "The Paradise."

Chris Jenkins also attended the coffee. A few years back Chris created a wonderful video on this very topic which can be viewed on the Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center's You Tube Channel, titled "Sali's Club Paradise & Janey's Chili Wagon."

Contributed by Jessica Ashton

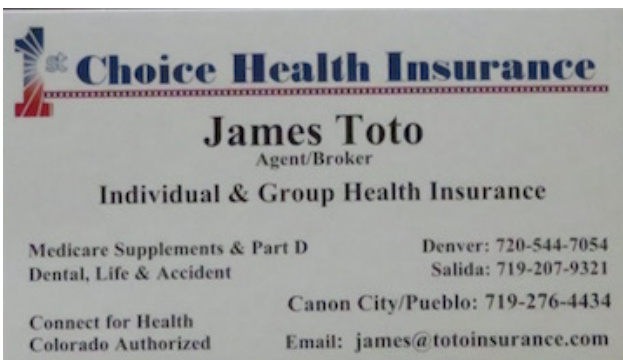
Reminder

If you have not had the opportunity to renew your membership for 2024, it is never too late.

Membership runs from January 1 through December 31 of each year. Envelopes are available at the museum. Your financial support enables the museum to continue to collect Cañon City history, to offer educational programs to the community, and to preserve and protect local history. Thank you.



Randy Brady
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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

