

Cañon City, Colorado 81212
December 2013 Volume 2, Issue 4

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER

NEWSLETTER

***In this issue: Volunteer Spotlight – Tammy Iubatti
Annual Meeting – February 1, 2014
New exhibits and programs***

Royal Gorge Regional
Museum and History Center



Reading Room
for local history

Exhibits

Free admission

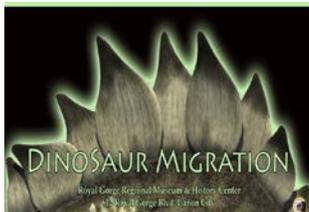
719-269-9036

612 Royal Gorge Blvd

www.royalgorgehistory.org

**MEMBERSHIP
IN THE FRIENDS**
We invite everyone to
Join the Friends this
Year and support our
Museum staff.
The dues are as follows:
Individual . . \$10.00
Couple \$15.00
Family \$20.00
Business . . . \$25.00

You can make your
Check out to Friends
Of the Museum and
Take it in to the staff.
Otherwise, mail to:
Friends of the Museum
P.O. Box 481
Cañon City, CO 81215



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

The Friends of the Museum have an annual meeting the beginning of each year, to inform the patrons and members of this wonderful museum and history center about the activities and projects accomplished by the Board of Directors and the members during the past year.

Our Annual meeting will be held on February 1, 2014 in the Events Room at the Museum, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The program will be of interest to everyone, and we hope you will come enjoy the refreshments that are always provided for our member meetings and programs.





FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER

COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT:

January 3, 2013 - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The exhibit that will be generated for the next viewing will be called “In Focus”, and will feature the cameras of the past as well as the work of Leonard Claar – a premier photographer who worked in the Fremont County areas for many years. He promoted the area by his scenic and landscape photos, as well as the coverage of many events and programs. His professional studio was the place of many graduating High School seniors photos of that momentous occasion – Graduation. The Claar collection was donated by the family, and they are still contributing in a very generous way to the processing and archiving of photographs, not only the Claar collection but many more,

We are very fortunate to be able to present this outstanding exhibit for the museum visitors, and the hundreds of tourists who annually come to see the history of our County. The museum is always glad to accept family mementos that have been handed down, and we can process them in several ways – either by an outright gift to be permanently put in our collections, by loan for scanning and archiving, but returned to the original owners, or a combination of both.

Please take time to visit the Museum in January to view our wonderful collection of photos from the Claar Collection, and the cameras that this gentleman collected through the years.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

TAMMY IUBATTI

Name:

Tammy Iubatti

How long have you been with the museum?

4yrs.

What do you do at the museum?

Filing, copying, and misc.

What do you like most about working at the museum?

There is a lot of variety and I like history.

What is your favorite artifact at the museum?

The buffalo.

What is your favorite time-period in history to study?

1800's

If you could own one historical artifact in the world, what would it be and why? (i.e. Di Vinci's Mona Lisa, the Holy Grail)

King Tut's Remains - It's Egypt's history - It's old.



The Museum and History Center is very fortunate to have the industry and concentration that our volunteer Tammy Iubatti brings to the museum.. She is helpful to all who ask, and is available whenever a research project is needed doing. We can rely on Tammy to be productive and interested in all the areas the History Center is involved in. Thanks, Tammy; your years of service are certainly appreciated.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER

HISTORY OF THE SKYLINE DRIVE

Like a ribbon carefully laid along a rocky ridge to the west of Cañon City, Skyline Drive winds its way up the steep limestone outcropping along the ridge and down the other side to connect to U.S. Highway 50. The road on top of the ridge, called a hogback, was a dream of early 1900s residents of Cañon City, according to newspaper accounts.

Col. Frederick E. Greydene-Smith is credited with the idea of a road along the hogback to the west of the city. Greydene-Smith was a retired Army officer who came to Cañon City for his health and died of tuberculosis in the early 1900s. However, the community picked up his idea and construction was started in 1905 from the Fifth Street entrance. State Senator Moses E. Lewis of Florence provided the labor for the road through his Convict Labor Road law. Inmates were given 10 days off their sentence for every month they worked on the road.

The 60 inmates began construction in October 1905 while several local men, T. M. Harding, D. E. Gibson and others collected donations from the community to pay for blasting powder and other incidentals. They raised more than \$2,000 for the project. John Allen was the inmate overseer from the penitentiary. As the road wound its way up the east side of the hogbacks, local residents began to consider a name for the “pleasure driveway” as it was called. The thought of calling it Hogback Drive was out of the question. Hogback is a geologic term for an uptilted rock layer and has been applied to the ridge to the west of the city since the 1800s.

A committee was formed and references to a citizen’s referendum was made in the Record. Some of the names suggested were Cliff Drive, Long View Road, Columbia Heights, Grey Cliff Road and Alta Vista Boulevard. It was even suggested that the ridge be called Mount Cleghorn, after the Warden John Cleghorn whose inmates were doing the work on the road. However, S. A. Van Buskirk pointed out that he had named it in the deed for the land. Skyline Boulevard was the name chosen for the new road completed in 1906.

From the top of the ridge some 800 feet above the city, travelers can see a panorama of country laid out before them like a map. On the east was the city with its tree-lined streets and green fields to the north, south and east. To the west lay the undeveloped Sand Creek Valley. The road wound down the east side of the hogback to connect with the Fairplay Road about ½ mile below three-mile spring, according to newspaper accounts.

Once the road was opened, a conflict surfaced between those who used horse and buggies and the drivers of horseless carriages. Dr. G. H. Kellenberger, a local dentist, is credited with being the first person to drive Skyline Boulevard in his Oldsmobile. However, the promoters of the road said it was intended for horses, not autos and bicycles. The point was made when a young man, Ayex Payne, lost control of his bicycle while going down the steep road and crashed into a boulder. He suffered a fractured skull and broken nose. Before 1906 came to a close, the city council had passed an ordinance banning autos from the hogback road and imposed fines of up to \$50 and/or 10 days in jail. The ordinance didn’t stand long. In early 1907, autos were allowed on the road Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons. The rest of the time was allotted to horse and buggy.

Continued on next page:

(Copied from “A Salute to Yesteryear” article – Cañon City Daily Record)

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER

Continued from page 3

SKYLINE DRIVE

The road proved to be an instant success and was featured in a national travel magazine in 1908. It became a place to take visitors to the city as well as stunts for promotional things. The Colorado Packing Co. of Cañon City had a drawing of Skyline Boulevard on its peach labels. In 1919, a World War I battle tank called "Little Zeb" was driven over the road as part of a Liberty Loan promotion. The road proved to be of little challenge to the two-man tank.

In 1920, the Skyline Pavilion was leased out and electricity provided by the city. A rock gate was added in 1932 on the west entrance to the road. Stalactites and rock formations from Mammoth Cave, KY, were among the many rocks put into the arch and walls of the gateway. Rocks from every state in the union were sent to Cañon City for the gateway built mostly by inmate labor.

During the Great Depression, the city took advantage of cheap labor to build an amphitheater between the hogback and the smaller "pigbacks." Men from the federal transient camp at Kenwood worked with picks and shovels to dig out a 200-foot bowl to seat more than 1,400 people. The Jewett Brick Co. had donated the land. On June 12, 1934, the community dedicated the Skyline Bowl with well known opera singer Karl Jorn. More than 700 people gathered to see the dedication, but within a few years the dream had washed away.

At some point the name was changed to Skyline Drive. It remained a favorite attraction to both local people and tourists, but became somewhat of a challenge for speedsters. In the early years of automobiles, it was a challenge to drive down the highway and up the road at high speed to see who could make the hill in third gear. The races with Model Ts was replaced by more powerful cars whose juvenile drivers would test their driving skills by going as fast as they could on the roller coaster road at the top. The activities resulted in numerous accidents, some fatal. Another problem was the old clay mine that was part of the Jewett Brick Co. operations. On several occasions, locals and visitors were injured by falling into the top of the shaft near the road. On one occasion, the top opening was blasted shut. By 1998, the hole had to be reclosed.

A later addition to the Skyline Drive attraction was the discovery of dinosaur tracks along the top of the hogbacks. The discovery brought on a flurry of digging by paleontologists and recognition that Garden Park wasn't the only place where dinosaur fossils are found. The tracks are under the protection of the city and care of the Garden Park Paleontology Society.

John Lemons, Daily Record staff writer wrote this story based on newspaper clippings in the records of the Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center.

(Copied from "A Salute to Yesteryear" article - Cañon City Daily Record)

We have enclosed an envelope for your convenience in returning the dues for 2014. We hope this convenience will be helpful in reminding you how important the Friends of the Museum and History Center is to the Community.
Thank you.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER

MEMBERSHIP IN THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

The organization that has evolved into the Friends of the Museum and History Center is one that started in the 1990's as a City organized group who was responsible for upkeep of the Museum, exhibit expenses, and utilities for the building. When the city hall was built at 1st and Main, in 2004, the City Offices were moved to that new building and the organization changed.

A new group was recruited and the Articles of Incorporation were changed from DeWeese Museum Group to Friends of the Museum and History Center. This new board continues to this day, almost 10 years of support and help to the staff and city in many ways - with participation in many programs and supply necessities,

The present Board is as follows:

Gerrie Collette - Chairman
Geoff Ormandy - Recording Secretary
Barbara Galloway - Executive Secretary
Ann Zielinski - Treasurer
Beverly Embry
Randy Brady
Carol McNew
Wayne Davis

The Board solicits donations from the public to help in the tasks the Museum staff feel is of importance to the continued work. Please join/renew as a member of the Friends to continue the support of our unique museum and history center.

We have enclosed an envelope for your convenience.

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FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER

Please join the Friends of the Museum and History Center. We support staff in many ways, and help to keep your museum the great place for everyone to learn something new. See Page 1 for membership dues amounts and we would love to add you to our Board of Directors. Call 275 5552 for information.

PLEASE SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHECK TO:
Friends of the Museum
P.O. Box 481
Cañon City, CO 81215 - 0481



FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM & HISTORY CENTER

Carol McNew, Webmaster/Newsletter
703 Cyanide Avenue
Cañon City, CO 81212
www.museumfriends.info
