

Cañon City, Colorado 81212
October 2014
Volume 3 Issue 4

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER

NEWSLETTER



***In this issue: Volunteer Spotlight: Adam Bunch
Fremont Fall Heritage Festival; Greenwood Cemetery
Inventory for Master Plan; Daily Record Archives;
Grant from CMCA to Friends for Abbey Collection.***

Join the Friends!
The Friends of the
Museum and History
Center are a group of
people who consider this
one of the most impor-
tant things we can
support. The grant
funding you are reading
on the right could not be
accom-plished without
the help of the non-profit
status of an organi-zation
which is affiliated with the
Museum.
We urge you to consider
joining us for 2015, and
receive the newsletter
four times a year..

The museum's collection of 16 Holy Cross Abbey reel-to-reel films that highlight the Summer Camp at the Abbey from 1939 - 1955 will now be preserved thanks to a grant received from the Colorado Historical Records Advisory Board (CHRAB). The grant funds will go towards the conversion of the films into a digital format so they can be viewed by the public without causing further damage to the original reels. The Holy Cross Abbey Monastery and Alumni Association has offered the matching funds for the grant. The goal is to have the reels of film converted by spring 2015. Our special gratitude goes out to Brandon Mares, Library/Museum Technical Liaison, who wrote and submitted the grant on behalf of the Friends of the Museum.



THE HOLY CROSS ABBEY IN CAÑON CITY

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER

ROCKVALE

The town of Rockvale was homesteaded by William Horace May in 1863. He arrived in Fremont County from Vermont and first farmed in the Beaver Creek area. After getting flooded out twice he moved to higher ground and settled in what is now Rockvale. Colonel May built a cabin by the banks of Oak Creek where he used his land for grazing. He dug a ditch from south east of town from the Oak Creek to water his crops. Not realizing there were millions of tons of coal underneath. Small outcroppings were found and mining in a small scale continued until 1880 when the property was leased to the Canon City Coal Company. On July 10, 1882 William H. May and W.D. Thatcher filed with Fremont County Clerk and Recorder for incorporation and Rockvale became an incorporated town 11 Sept. 1886. Mr. May built a building and became the Post Master. He also had a drug store and barber shop in the building. The Post Office is still in the same building, over 125 years.

The mine was acquired by Colorado Fuel and Iron Corporation in 1896 and operated until 1927. It was dismantled, but can still be seen where it used to be by the ash dump, railroad tracks are. Rockvale was never a closed camp. It had private owned stores and houses. There was the CFI store and meat store, but you could shop at any store. The mine did have buildings built for single men to rent, a bath house for the miners. The mine employed 300 men, producing 1200 tons a day, requiring the Sante Fe Railroad to pull two trainloads per day. Rockvale at its peak had 1500 residents.

As in most towns in that era, Rockvale had a major fire in 1919. While showing a movie in the town hall on the second story the film caught fire. No one got seriously injured, but it did destroy that building along with several businesses on that block and the hotel and boarding house across got charred. The building that was the firehouse burned, the jail burned and all important documents were lost.

Up on the "hill" the school house was built. It first consisted of a log cabin. Soon after a four room frame building was replaced and three small cottages. Soon they were crowded with 350 students and a brick two story building was built in 1910. For two years they had a kindergarten class, but then needed more room so quit having kindergarten. Rockvale did have a 9th grade for a few years, but then 9,10,11, and 12th grades went on a bus to Florence. Now one of the cottages are used as a Community Room, the other two cottages were moved to Penrose and one to Elm Avenue in Canon City. The brick building was torn down when the schools consolidated with RE-2 in Florence. The frame building is going to be remolded into a Town Hall and meeting room this year.

Colonel May's cabin has been moved to the park as it was on railroad property. The YMCA is a private resident. The Catholic Church was built in 1891, but has been closed. The Methodist Church was torn down. The Vezzetti Store is still standing. It was well known for their home made Italian Bread. It was made in the house and baked in the back yard in the brick ovens five days a week. It was sold in their store and several restaurants in the county and Pueblo. The Vezzetti family was well known in Fremont County. Martin ran the store, Bill baked bread, Martha was an registered nurse, Mary taught 5th and 6th grades in Rockvale, Max had a bakery in Brookside, Annette was a school teacher and wrote the book "King Coal".

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ROCKVALE - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

In 1917 the Miner Club/ YMCA was built for the towns people. It had bowling alley in the basement (ground floor). The second story was a spacious lobby that could hold 300 people. There was a stage for plays, bands, and movies. The top floor was used as a living area for the secretary or assistant

Written and researched by Beverly Kissell Harris



FREMONT FALL HERITAGE FESTIVAL
KICKOFF THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2014

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

615 MACON AVENUE

2:00 P.M. CEREMONY FOR LOCAL LANDSCAPE DESIGNATION

3:30 TO 6:30 P.M

FREMONT CATTLEWOMEN WILL SERVE A BAR-B-QUE DINNER! \$9.00 EACH

TICKETS AVAILABLE HERE

BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE - ONLY 200 WILL BE SOLD

BUNK-HOUSE-BURGERS -----KITCHEN PANTRY

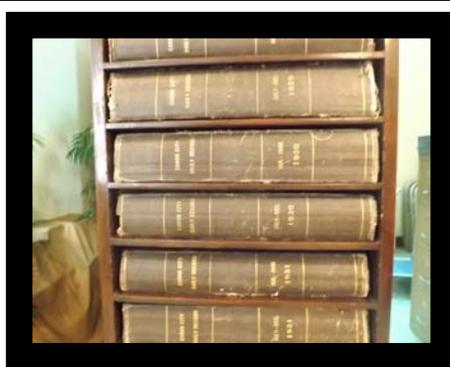
ROYAL GORGE MUSEUM & HISTORY CENTER -----COLORADO MUSEUM
OF PRISONS



Fremont County Heritage Commission

The Fremont County Heritage Commission will be dedicating the first Local Landmark Site of 2014 on October 9th at 2:00 p.m. located in the Atrium of the Administration Building 615 Macon Avenue. This auspicious occasion is the first of many Local structures and landscapes that deserve the designation "Historic Landmark", and opens the door for further designations from the State and Nation - as well as tax incentives if the owner is wanting to remodel or change the structure.

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The Daily Record story:

Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center has opened its doors to provide a home to newspapers and photos that tell the history of Cañon City and Fremont County dating back to 1893.

The Daily Record plans to relocate to a new building this fall, but the company's archives permanently will be housed at the history center at 612 Royal Gorge Blvd.

"When we made the decision to relocate, one of our first priorities was to ensure our archives would be preserved," said Michael Alcalá, managing editor of the Daily Record.

He said the newspaper has documented every significant event in Fremont County since the late 1800s.

"It was vital to make sure those documents and our bound volumes found a new home, where they could be displayed properly," he said. "We are very happy that the history center was able to accommodate our archives and give the public a place to view this important piece of Fremont County history."

The archives date back nearly to the time of the area's first settlers. Sue Cochran, assistant archivist, said the first settlers arrived in 1859 with the Pikes Peak Gold Rush, and the Cañon City Times appeared in 1860. She said the Fremont County Record was printing by October 1877 and the Cañon City Record started in about 1883.

One of the most extensive collections of family, residence addresses, business, and other memorabilia about the former residents and industries of the area. The resource we have for research into our past, our ancestors and just about anything else you are interested in is invaluable. Please take advantage of this wonderful treasure: They do accept donations, but the Museum is free - open from Wednesday until Saturday - 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER



SPOTLIGHT
ON A
VOLUNTEER
THIS ISSUE
**ADAM
BUNCH**
A VALUABLE
ASSET TO
THE STAFF
IN A VERY
BUSY TIME =
900 VISITORS
IN JULY 2014.



Name: Adam Bunch

How long have you been with the museum? 5 months

What do you do at the museum?

I am a tour guide. If needed, I also assist with various research.

What do you like most about working at the museum?

I enjoy working with people who, like myself are passionate about history. Custer and Fremont Counties have rich histories and many colorful historical characters.

What is your favorite artifact at the museum?

The DeWeese fireplace.

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

Currently, I enjoy studying 19th Century Europe and 19th century frontier America.

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)

I think I would prefer to go back in time and see the world that an artifact belonged to or speak with the person who owned it. Kind of a cop-out answer but a well-thought one!

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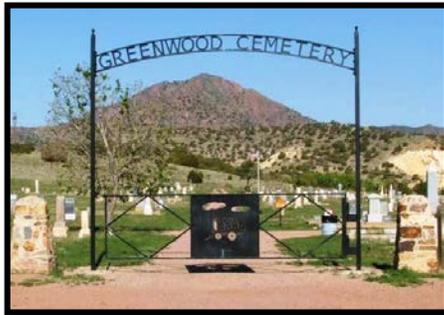
FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM & HISTORY CENTER

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

JOIN TODAY & RECEIVE
A NEWSLETTER

Individual \$ 10.00
Couple. \$ 20.00
Family. \$ 25.00
Business/Group. \$ 30.00

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



GREENWOOD CEMETERY - 1225 South 1st Street, Cañon City, Colorado

The City of Cañon City has received a grant from the Colorado Historical Fund to write a Master Plan for the future maintenance of the Greenwood Cemetery. The grant is funding the Preservationist, Charise Boomsma of The Preservation Studio in Colorado Springs to complete this task of guiding future generations in the caretaking and stone repair of this National Historic Site. The volunteers have already invested many hours in the inventory of the stones (+/- 2900). This work will continue throughout the winter and into 2015. If you have an interest in the cemetery, or would like to join a dedicated group of people guided by a professional preservationist in a worthwhile task, please call:

Charise Boomsma, The Preservation Studio,
Margaret Storm, Chairman - 275- 8071
Carol McNew, Secretary - 275 1468

Tom Monaco, dowser 275 -7231
Ann Swim - 269 8423