FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2026 - VOLUME 25, ISSUE 6

Reader: Betsy Denney Editor: Tiffany Coleman

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

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PROGRAM

Cannibal! The Musical

NOVEMBER 15, 2026 - SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS CHURCH,

801 SHERIDAN, CANON CITY, CO 81212

2:00 P.M. - PUBLIC WELCOME

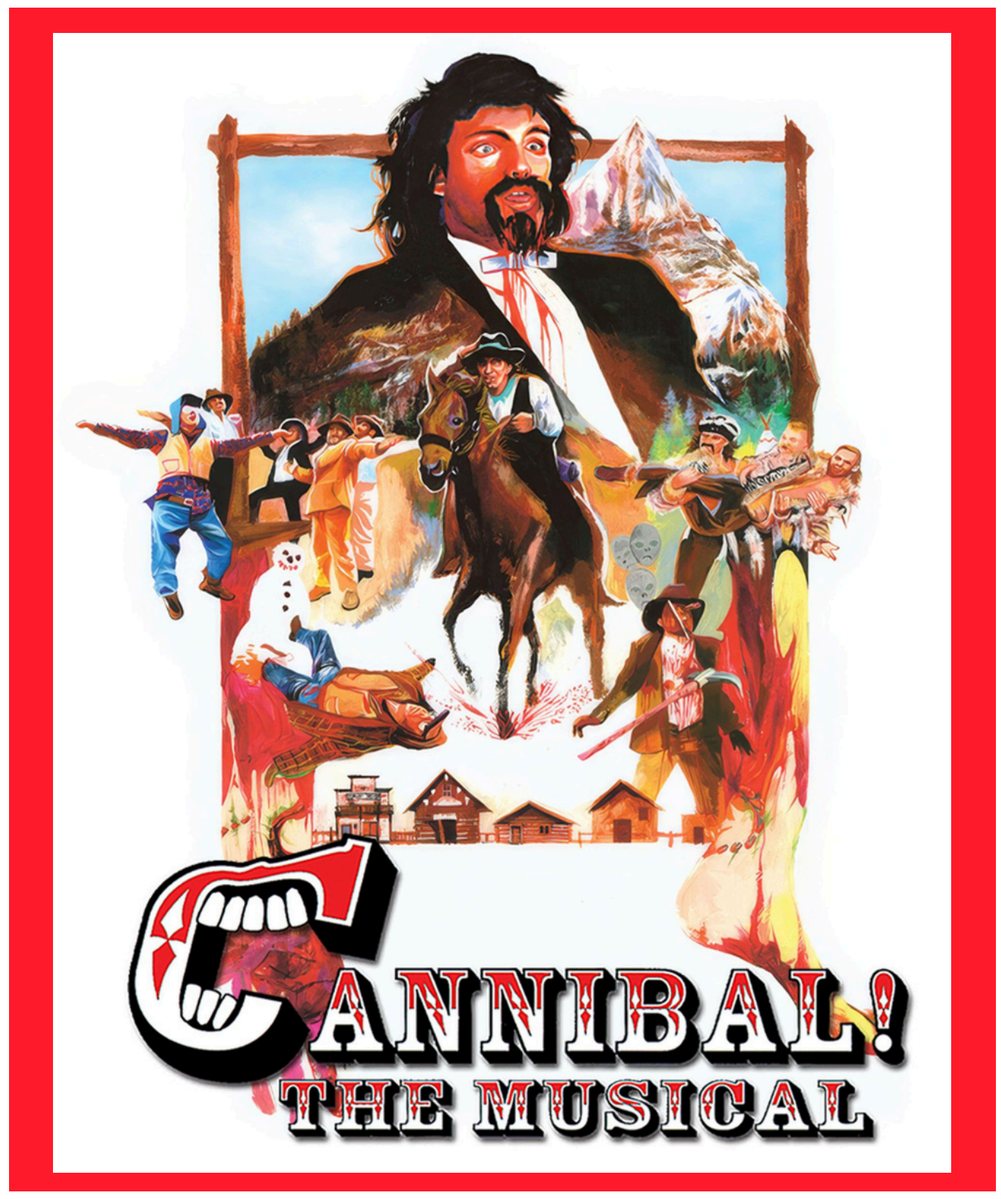
Lights . . . Camera . . . Cannibal! The Musical

In the Spring of 1993, a group of film students out of CU Denver set out to make an ambitious film about one of Colorado's more gruesome tales. It wasn't your run of the mill slasher/horror flick though. They had bigger plans: a musical.

Not just any old musical either, this one was about Alfred Packer, otherwise known as the Colorado Cannibal! Among these students were two individuals who would later become a large part of Colorado history, Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

These students would go on to animate a short video entitled "The Spirit of Christmas" as a VHS greeting card of sorts that would eventually find a copy in the hands of the executives at Comedy Central. This short film served as a pilot for what would become the cult phenomenon *South Park.*

Trey and Matt would further their career with numerous films and productions including *Team America* and even a Broadway musical, *The Book of Mormon,* which won 9 Tony awards, has grossed over $900 million, and is one of the longest running productions on Broadway with over 5,000 performances.



In September of 2021, they became entrenched in Colorado history after purchasing the iconic Casa Bonita of Lakewood. To think it all stems from a college film about the Colorado cannibal...

Cannibal! The Musical is where it all began. Despite its silliness and lack of funds, it has a genuine feel to it, and manages to be one of the better films regarding the details of the Alfred Packer story.

A Note from the President:

Little details and easter eggs are hidden throughout for history and film buffs that really give the film character and make it so special. You can also see early tests of jokes that would resurface in later works, including the voice of *South Park*'s Eric Cartman.

"Why is this being screened by our historical society?" you may ask. Cannibal was one of the last films to be shot at Buckskin Joe, here in Fremont County, before its closure and upheaval to a private property in Gunnison.

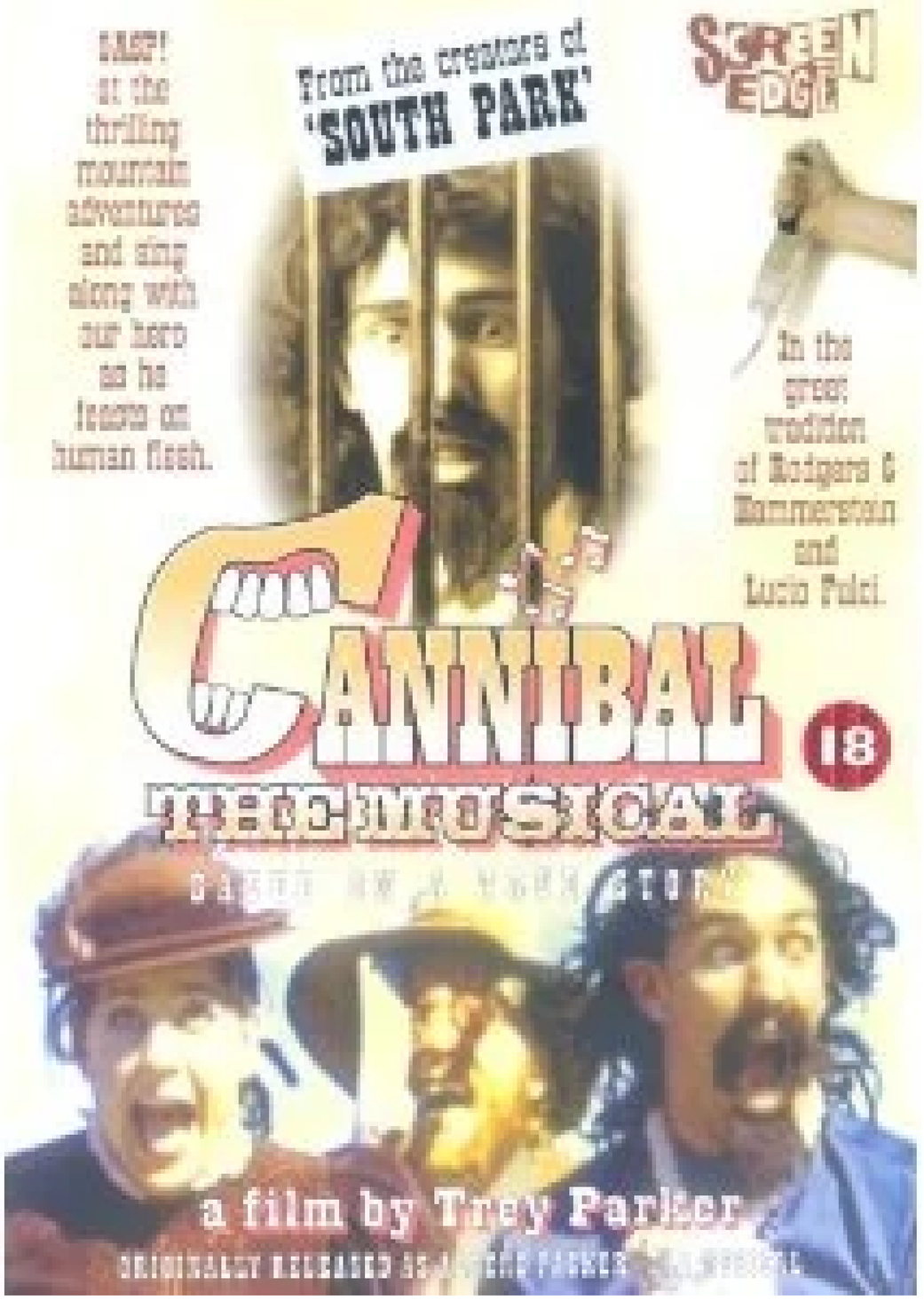
Thankfully, this film serves as a bit of a time capsule, showing that Fremont County was still trying its best to make films even in the 90s, long after the era of "Hollywood of the Rockies." The film also serves as a great highlight of other real historic locations, the most impressive of all being the fact that the courtroom scenes are actually shot in the very same courtroom where Alfred Packer was tried in Lake City!

Needless to say, our VP is very excited to share this amateur, somewhat crass, slightly gross, student film that plays a very integral role in our modern pop culture across the US.

Please join us for a free screening to celebrate the 30th anniversary of *Cannibal! The Musical*'s theatrical release. We would love to have you . . . for lunch . . .



Alfred Parker,
the Colorado Cannibal.



FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2026

A Note from the President:

Greeting Fellow Society Members,

Fall is finally upon us and we are getting some much-needed moisture and most of it is in the form of rain. Halloween just passed us by with very little fuss. I did get my two little trick-or-treaters, and it was wonderful to see them all dressed up in their outfits as Darth Vader and Yoda.

Since I live off the beaten track, I only see a couple of the local kids, mostly family. So you are wondering why I am talking Halloween. Here you go. . .

Our program this month is a movie, *Cannibal, the Musical*. This was filmed in Canon City and is about Colorado's most notable cannibal, Alfred Packer. Please join us for a movie and popcorn on Sunday, November 15th at 2:00 p.m. The Broncos will be off that day, so no excuses, hahahah.

The board continues to do updates on the FCHS Constitution and By-Laws. We will have a copy of each at the November meeting for you to look over and you will have an opportunity to make comments prior to the final approval at our annual membership meeting in January, 2027. That is when a membership vote will occur. The board, by that time, will have approved the updates that will then go to the members for approval. Please let me know if you have any questions on either of these items or the process.

Hope each of you will have an enjoyable holiday season and looking forward to seeing you on November 15 at the Shephard of the Hills for Movie and Popcorn.

Sincerely,

Betsy Denney

Betsy Denney
Board President

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



WESTERN FREMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Presents

The "Great War" Exhibit Honoring Our Veterans

Sunday, November 8, 2026 1:00-3:00PM

Cotopaxi-Mullins History Center--51 Plum Street (Corner of CR 12 and Plum Street)

Over 100 years ago the "Great War" was the main topic of conversation all over the country. Let's honor Veterans Day by viewing this very personal exhibit of Frank Lastovica donated by the Lastovica family, and photos and artifacts contributed by area residents.

Come Share the Stories of Your Military Family Members!

2027 Historical Society Program Schedule

(subject to change)

Stay tuned! Schedule coming soon!

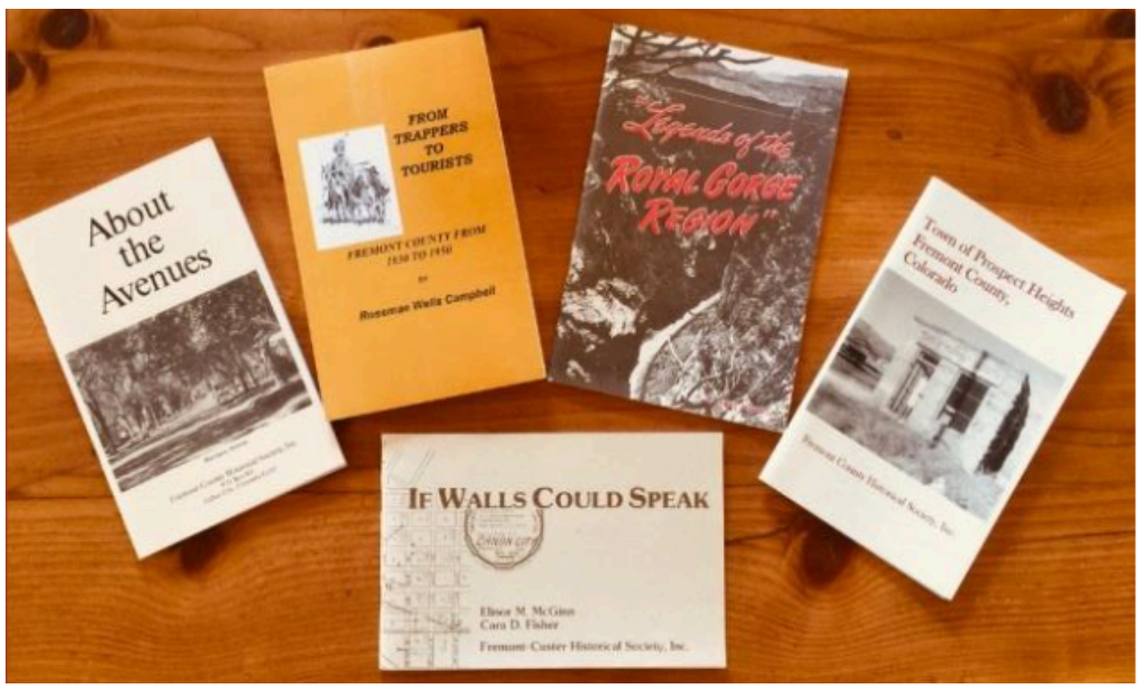


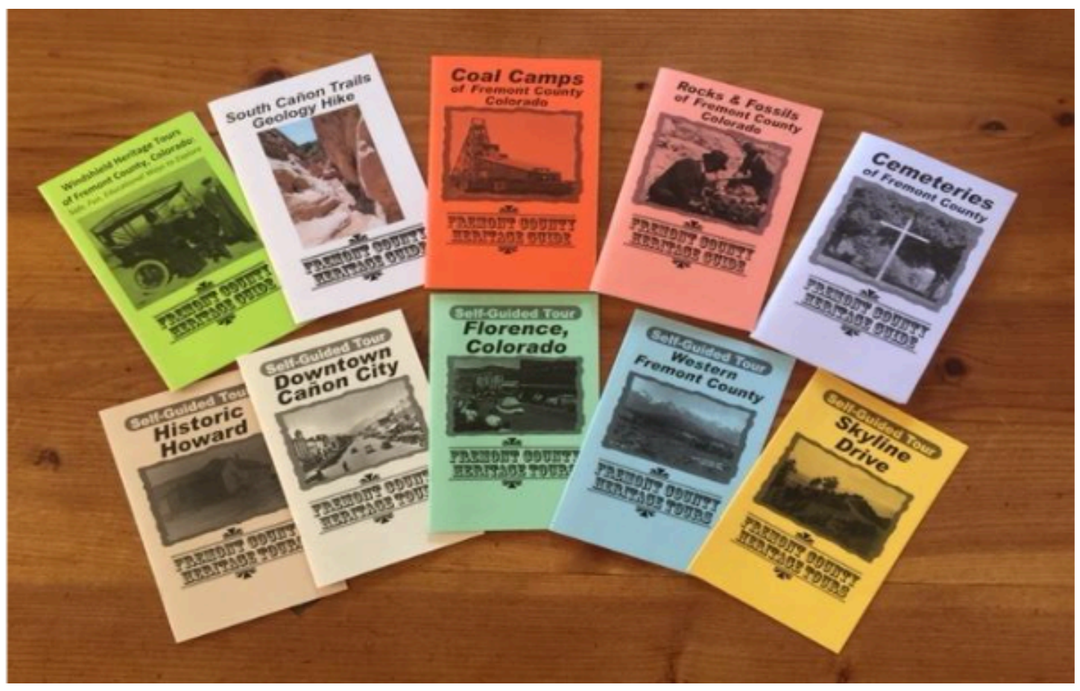


ROYAL GORGE REGIONAL BOOKS FOR SALE

The history books written by Cara Fisher and Eleanor McGinn have been reprinted. A new book, *Legends of the Royal Gorge Region* by Janet Sterling, has been added. The new *Prospect Heights Town* book is also available at retail outlets in Canon City and Florence.

These have been added to the library of Fremont County Historical books published in the past four years by the Historical Society. The titles are *Canon City, Skyline Drive, Florence, Howard, Windshield Tours, South Canon Trails Geology Hike,* and *Western Fremont County*. The guide books for Rocks and Fossils, Cemeteries, and Coal Camps are also available online at www.fremontheritage.com/fchs.





ROYAL GORGE REGIONAL BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING OUTLETS -- PRICES VARY.

CANON CITY AREA

1. FREMONT COUNTY ADMIN. BUILDING
2. ARTIST'S GALLERY
3. AUSTIN AUTOMOTIVE
4. MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER
5. PROSPECT HEIGHTS JAIL (SUMMER)
6. COLORADO MUSEUM OF PRISONS
7. AUTUMN'S ATTIC
8. ANY BOARD MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY

FLORENCE AREA

1. FLORENCE HISTORICAL ARCHIVE, INC.
2. FLORENCE PIONEER MUSEUM AND RESEARCH CENTER
3. ANTIQUE SALVAGE ON MAIN
4. BELL TOWER ART CENTER

WESTERN FREMONT COUNTY AREA

1. HOWARD MUSEUM (CHURCH)
2. COTOPAXI STORE
3. COTOPAXI-MULLINS HISTORY CENTER

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Thank you to all the new members who have joined this year – we are glad you have joined us. Dues cover December 31, to January 1.

Individual.....$15.00
Family.....$20.00
Group.....$25.00
Lifetime.....$150.00

Fremont County Historical Society. P.O. Box 965, Cañon City, CO 81215

Fremontheritage.com

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2026

Colorado Mountain Land Office
Real Estate – Lot Development – Consulting

Earl Pfeiffer
Broker - Owner & Home Builder
719-275-2501
813-416-4076 c
Earl@ColoMtnLand.com

457 Shannon Road
Cotopaxi, CO 81223
(by appointment only)
CRC 058278

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

612 Royal Gorge Blvd.
Cañon City, Colorado

Open 10am - 4pm
Wed. - Sat.

museum.canoncity.org
719-269-9036

NEW and USED TIRES
CUSTOM TIRES and WHEELS
MICHELIN - BF GOODRICH - GOODYEAR - MULTI-MILE

JIM'S TIRE SERVICE, INC.
J. D. MEYERS

1005 South 9th Street
P.O. Box 1005
Cañon City, CO 81215
275-1886 or 275-1576

FCHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Tony Towner, V.P.
Ashley McDermott, Sec.
Cinde McPhail, Tres.
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Gloria Stultz
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P.O. Box 965,
Canon City, CO 81215

BE PART OF SOMETHING BIG
AMERICA 250 - COLORADO 150

Paul and Karen Austin/Owner
2625 E. Main, Cañon City, CO 81212
719-275-5055
Austin Automotive

WESTERN FREMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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wfhsinfo@westfremonthistory.com
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