

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2025

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 5

Reader: Betsy Denney

Editor: Tiffany Coleman

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

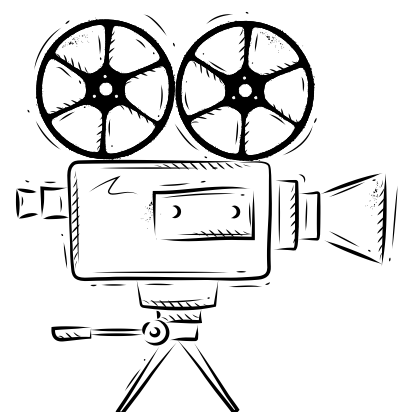
YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PROGRAM

"Canon City" - Movie

NOVEMBER 16, 2025 - SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS CHURCH,

801 SHERIDAN, CANON CITY, CO 81212

2:00 P.M. - PUBLIC WELCOME

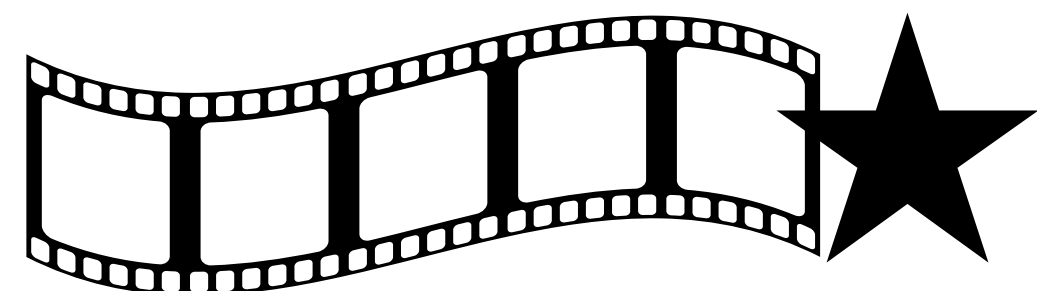


"CAÑON CITY"

Cañon City, Colorado, home of one of the first Colorado Orange Apples, home of the Territorial Prison, and home of the motion picture industry in Colorado. Silent pictures and westerns were once filmed here in Fremont County. Filmmakers were drawn to the area because of its natural beauty, topography, mild climate, the Arkansas River, the D&RG Railroad, and good light.

Tom Mix, silent film star, was often a guest in Cañon City at the Elks lodge, Hell's Half Acre, and rumored to have spent many a night in the Prospect Heights Jail. Other film stars were seen on the streets through the 20th century including Burt Lancaster, John Wayne, Slim Pickins, Lee Marvin, Charles Bronson, and Goldie Hawn. These were just a few coming here to film a blockbuster. Notable movies included *Stage Coach*, *Cañon City*, *Vengeance Valley*, *True Grit*, *Mr. Majestyk*, and *Cat Ballou*.

Join us for an afternoon of movie and popcorn as we look back on the 1947 prison break from the Colorado Territorial Prison or otherwise known as "Old Max." *Cañon City*, the movie, was shot just a year after the famous break in the same location. We will see Warden Roy Best playing himself in this epic film.



FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear FCHS Members,

I cannot believe that this is almost the end of 2025!!! The board continues to promote Fremont County's history but could always use the help. We are looking forward to the holiday season and are excited about the upcoming year. I am thrilled to announce we have a new board member, Tony Towner. I believe he will bring some "spark" along with great ideas moving forward. If you see him, introduce yourself!

This month's program is something different in that we are watching a movie. However, this movie was shot on location and features things close to us. Cañon City talks about the 1947 prison escape that happened here. We thought it would be fun to enjoy the story with friends. Hope you will join us for some fun times remembering this time in our recent history. Hopefully, we will have some personal stories told on the "great escape."

The Prospect Heights Jail saw an increase in visitors this past summer. The weather was nice and the visitors enjoyed their time with us. Our new plaque is very impressive and those who stop to read it are very impressed. We also recently had the tree trimmed. They did a wonderful job! If you haven't been by the jail, you should. We will reopen again in May. Volunteers are always needed.

This next year Fremont County, Colorado, and the United States will be celebrating 150 years as a state and 250 years as a country. FCHS is part of the Fremont County's 150th & 250th Anniversary Consortium. This consortium is organizing activities for the 2026 year. FCHS is also looking for programs to help in the celebration. If you have a program or want to see a past or future program, please let the board know. We would appreciate your thoughts.

Thank you for your continued support and looking forward to a new year!

Sincerely,

✿ Betsy Denney, FCHS President



Prospect
Heights Jail



Tom Mix, silent film star, was often a guest in Cañon City.

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“Memories”

Save the Date!

Sunday, November 9th

WFHS is hosting an open house around
the theme of “Memories.”

Bring a favorite book, photo, quilt,
jewelry item, plate, toy, or small
collection to share with others and tell
the story of why the item is so
treasured.

Light refreshments and FREE
ADMISSION.

CALL for VOLUNTEERS



PROSPECT HEIGHTS JAIL TREE TRIMMING

The Prospect Heights Jail will reopen for
patrons to come and "visit" in May.

Volunteers needed.

Contact the FCHS to help.



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Dennis Podzemny
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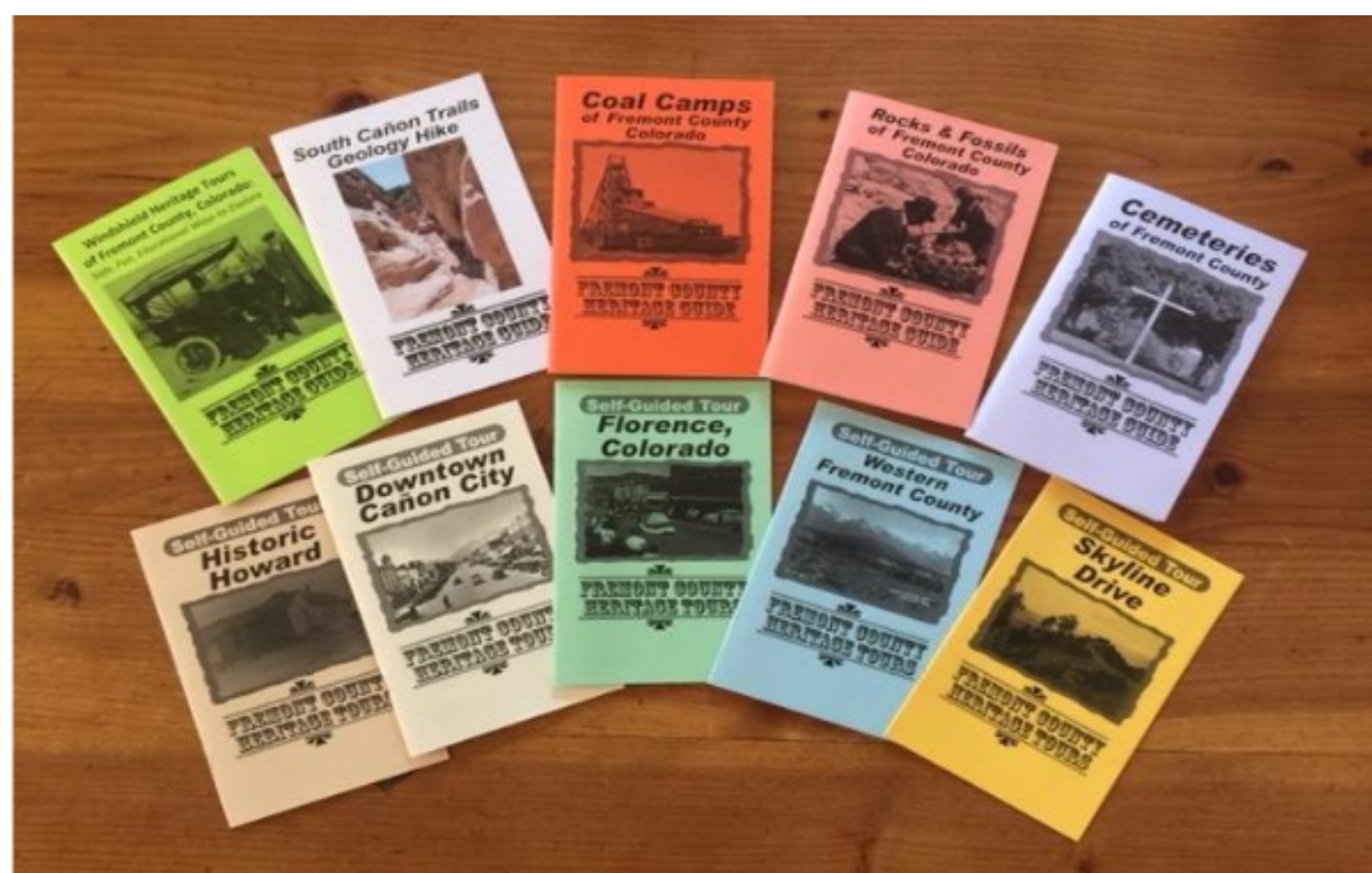
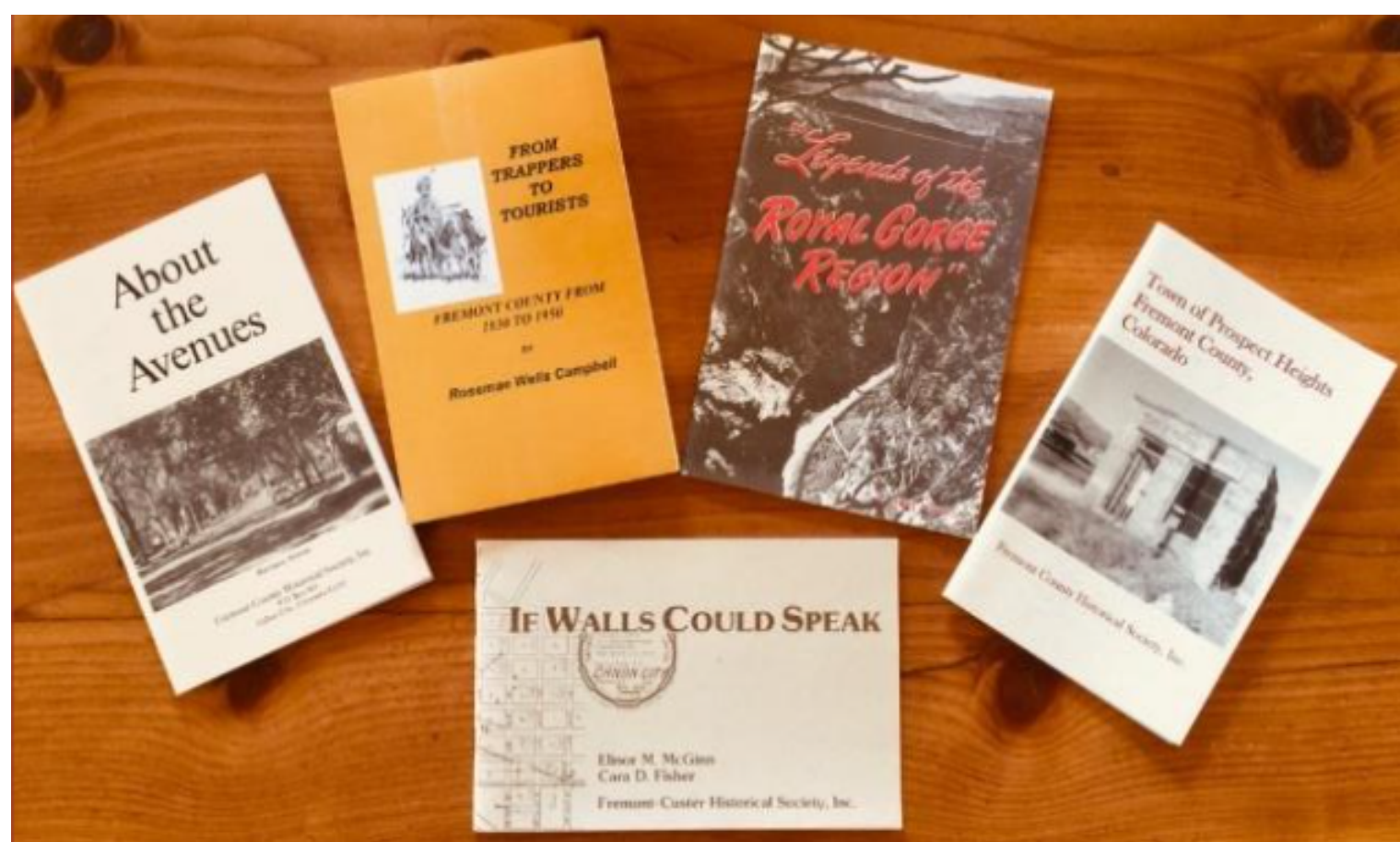
1004 S 9th St. Canon City, CO
www.canoncityinsurance.com

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025

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 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
2. ARTIST'S GALLERY
3. AUSTIN AUTOMOTIVE
4. MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER
5. PROSPECT HEIGHTS JAIL (SUMMER)
6. COLORADO MUSEUM OF PRISONS
7. 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

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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

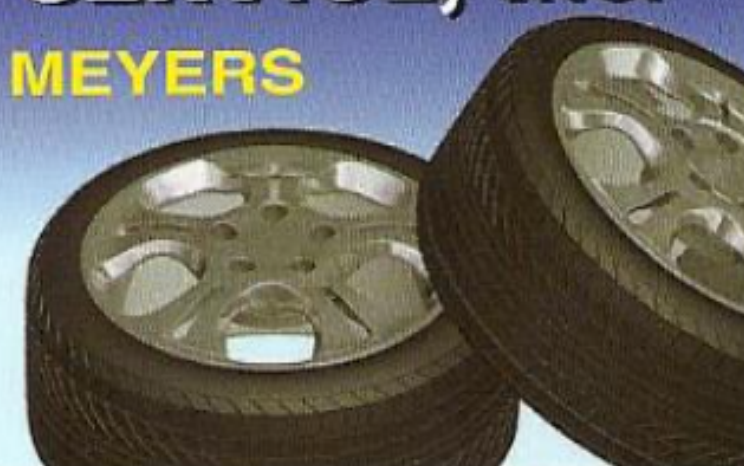
Open 10am - 4pm
Wed. - Sat.

museum.canoncity.org
719-269-9036

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275-1886 or 275-1576



Golden Age Council, Inc.

Cañon City Senior Activity Center

728 Main Street, Cañon City, CO

GAC Transit Program Call 276-5200 for a ride!

Office (719) 275 5177 Nutrition (719) 345-3064

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Director@theccgac.com or admin@theccgac.com.

Paul and Karen Austin/Owner

2625 E. Main, Cañon City, CO 81212

719-275-5055

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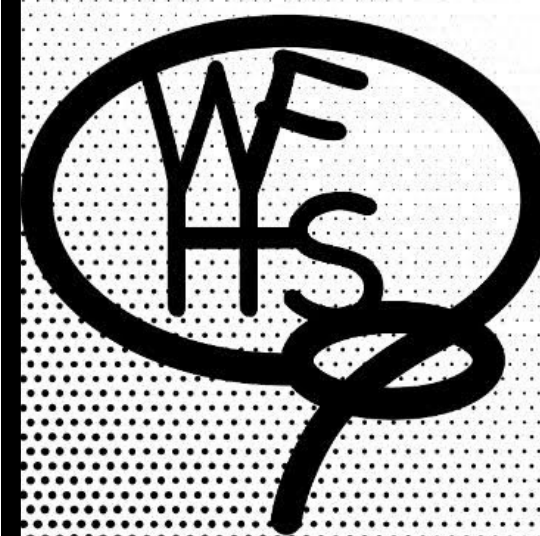
Ashley McDermott

Margaret Storm

Gloria Stultz

P.O. Box 965,
Canon City, CO 81215

WESTERN FREMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



westfremonthistory.com

wfhinfo@westfremonthistory.com

P.O. Box 181

Howard, CO 81233