TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Business has been going well at the Museum of Colorado Prisons this winter under the direction of Administrator Stacey Cline. We are warm and cozy (and paying less in utilities) with our recently installed inside storm windows. Chuck and Donna Nye of Energy Savers II custom designed our windows which are UV protective for our artifacts.

Stacey has done a good job of keeping costs down and the Museum Gift Shop continues to bring in good revenue. She does a great job of scheduling and keeping our employees busy. Two of our employees are in school at PCC: Taylor is majoring in marketing and Zach eventually wants to get into computer science. Jacob is in computer science and will continue his education this fall. Taylor and Jacob each have second jobs, Taylor with the Train and Jacob with Hastings. Our part-time employee DOC retiree Nona O’Malley has recently started transporting dogs for the prison dog program. So you can see Stacey has to be very creative with the scheduling.

In addition to thanks to our employees, I would like to thank Jandy Reddick for keeping our finances in order. As you can tell, it’s a real group effort to keep the Museum up and running. Thanks to the Board for all you do and donate.

Please encourage your friends and neighbors to become members at the Museum; and tell them they can come shop at the Gift Shop any time we’re open without paying admission.

Have a great 2016.

Donna Murphy, Chair
*Ed. Note: “Custom-designed” indeed; In the description of our building in the Historic Register is a very appropriate comment: “There is an astonishingly high variation of window size in this building.” The Energy Savers II people did a lot of custom framing and custom glass cutting for each window. They have our admiration and thanks for a job well done.

A Night at the Mansion
Prison Museum board members, their spouses, and museum staff received an early Christmas present on the evening of December 16th. They were invited to attend a “Thank You” party at the Gibson Mansion located at 907 Greenwood in Canon City.

Eighteen of us knocked on the front door and were warmly greeted by current owner of the mansion, board member Brendan Pardue.

What a delightful evening! Food was catered by Pizza Madness and included a table laden with chafing dishes, one filled with lasagna and the other with garlic Alfredo Chicken bowtie pasta. Sides of salad and other Italian delicacies complimented the meal. For those who wished to imbibe, beer and wine was available.

After dinner the guests were allowed to wander throughout the mansion at their leisure, from the billiard room and wine cellar in the basement to the ballroom on the third floor. All the rooms were filled with period antiques and carved woodwork, impressive art hanging on the walls and beautiful wood floors covered with Persian rugs. Not one of us admitted to seeing one of the paranormal entities rumored to inhabit the place.

There is a connection between the mansion and the prison at the end of Main Street. It is obvious the stone for 907 Greenwood was quarried from the same quarry as the top part of “The Wall” separating Territorial Prison from our Prison Museum. The first Mr. Gibson also used prison labor in construction of the mansion, saving him a great deal in labor costs.

Thank you, Brendan, for a truly memorable evening.

-Sandy Dexter

In Memoriam:
Lena M. Dice passed away in Cañon City on December 14, 2015. Lena worked for Department of Corrections as a secretary to Wardens Tinsley and Patterson at Territorial Correctional Facility. She later was in charge of time computation for the entire department for many years. In the days before computers, Lena calculated sentences and time remaining by hand. She had the respect and admiration of many who worked with her during her career. She attended the DOC retirees potluck last summer and, as of then, was living alone with her dog Trixie. She was 93.

HOW WE SURVIVED A YEAR WITHOUT THE ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE
Comparison Numbers

Without going cross-eyed analyzing financial reports and comparisons of 2014 versus 2015, a brief synopsis has us not just smiling but "filled with joy and gladness."

In 2014, the year Without the Bridge, the total attendance was 12,650; in 2015 the total attendance was 16,221.
The Admissions totals are: for 2014 $74,951.11 as compared to 2015 which brought in $98,174.96.

The Gift Shop revenues in 2014 were $34,106.58; in 2015 the revenues were $42,564.80.

This tells us the Museum did well as a tourist draw for the City even without the bridge being in operation, but the increase in people coming into our area because of the Bridge greatly improves our exposure and our participation in Colorado tourism. The complete numbers report for the years 2014 and 2015 are included on the back of this newsletter for your perusal. Keep smiling. -Stacey Cline

**Gift Shop News**

There are quite a few new inmate-made items in the Gift Shop. The newest additions have a “Dreamcatcher” theme and show a great deal of skill and colorful composition. Besides the variety of earrings, there are hanging dreamcatchers and necklaces. Come in and browse, you won’t be disappointed.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**MARCH**

**Sixth Annual Ceili Fundraiser**

The Sixth Annual Museum of Colorado Prisons Ceili Fundraiser will be held at the Abbey Events Center on Saturday, March 12, 2016. We will have the Serendipity Peak Players, an Irish string and drum performance group, playing during the cocktail hour and will serenade during dinner, and the Celtic Step dancers performing their popular Irish folk dances after dinner. There will be a traditional Irish dinner, Soda Bread, and Dessert, so please join us for a celebration of food, family, and dancing. All proceeds directly contribute to the Museum’s success in fulfilling its mission.

**Saturday, March 12, 2016**

Cocktails 5:30 p.m.
Dinner and Entertainment To Follow

**ABBEY EVENTS CENTER**

Cañon City, Colorado

$35 per person

$240 for a Table of 8

Tickets available at

THE ABBEY EVENTS CENTER

The Dungeon, Body Art Studio

THE MUSEUM OF COLORADO PRISONS
The Museum of Colorado Prisons will have a booth at the Garden Show this year. Come by and visit at the Abbey Field House. The hours will be 10-6 pm on Friday, March 11th, and 9-3 pm on Saturday, March 12th. Hope to see you there.

**Darrell Lee Howell – Prisoner #28355**

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” - Proverbs 22:6

And what of the child who has no one to train him?

Darrell Lee Howell started life with the proverbial three strikes against him. He was born April 8, 1935 in the state of Missouri, the third of five children born to Harold and Virginia Howell. At three months of age he was near death from malnutrition. The father was a machine operator and was reported to have spent all of his earnings on drink and other women. Consequently their economic status was always considered to be poor. The father deserted the family when Darrell was four years old. In 1940 the mother took her five children to Denver to live. She states, in part, “Darrell has never had a happy home life. From the time he was born to three months he was a very sickly baby. Then his father did nothing but drink and beat the children (all five of them) until I brought all five and came to Denver to live. I tried to work and support them, but could not feed or clothe them right. They would not go to school and I could not pay to have them watched so I had to place them in the Denver Orphans Home.”

Darrell and his older brother were placed in the Denver Orphans Home and later at the State Home for Boys. His mother reports that one time at the State Home for Dependent Children he fell out of a second story window onto a cement brick yard. The results of this accident are unknown. One report states: “It is quite possible that brain deterioration could result from this type of accident which could lead to a pronounced organic disability.”

He left the State Home in 1949 and had been living with his mother in a downtown hotel. The environment proved to be very unsatisfactory and he had very little supervision. Darrell became involved in an aggravated robbery with his friend Charles King, who had committed a similar offense previously.

A report from Buena Vista dated 4-23-52: “Statement of Offense: Applicant’s (Howell’s) statement of offense in application for probation; ‘I had known Charles King for about two years. I met him at the State Home for Boys. On Feb. 6, 1951
he came over to my mother’s apartment and showed me the gun he had. We planned to pull a robbery and called a boy by the name of Donald Hines to go along with us but he was not home. We then went to the Pig Parlor on W. Colfax and called for a cab. We told the driver to take us to 3440 W. Colfax. King figured this was a good place to stick up. I rode in the front seat with the driver and King in the back seat. When we got there King pulled the gun. The driver handed me his wallet and I took $17.00 from the wallet. King also took his change, which amounted to $2.60. King got under the wheel and drove and I held the gun on the driver. We drove up an alley between 14th and 15th near Glenarm and we got out of the cab. We went back to the Carlton Hotel and split the money. I was arrested next day at King’s house. I was involved in three car prowls prior to this and one auto theft. We wrecked and abandoned them."

He managed to complete the ninth grade in the Denver Public Schools. The school reports indicate he had an IQ of 92 as of Feb. 8, 1950. They further state his academic achievement was far below this level. They also state that he required constant attention and control from the teachers.

In Buena Vista Darrell had one report for insubordination 6-24-52; another report was that he escaped from a moving truck and was apprehended the next day (30 days in isolation).

In a very telling commentary from the parole consultant Mr. William Boyd regarding Darrell Howell’s Social Adjustment, we see what could be called a prophecy of things to come.

“Here we have a personality who had absolutely no chance for constructive development. Thus far, he has had nineteen years without supervision or guidance, or love, or affection, or any understanding. He has been allowed to exist in any manner that appealed to him at the time. He definitely developed a habit of impulsive behavior with no concept of consequences at the time.

“As a result of the lack of training he has had thus far and the type of person he appears to be, he must be considered as dangerous. He is quite capable of killing someone.

“His adjustment in the institutions he has been in has been an (uncertain) one. We thus have the problem, when he is eligible for release, of the individual versus the safety of society. Under the right circumstances he could, with no concern, kill someone if he feels in his own mind that he has cause. Once again it must be stated that it is doubtful if he will have any thought concerning the consequences of such an act.

“His life so far has made him a misfit in our society. Without a concentrated program of rehabilitation, which is not provided for in this institution, Darrell will probably be unchanged by the time he is eligible for release from this institution. Consequently, the prognosis for this inmate must be considered poor.

“If at some future date the administration of the institution finds that he can be trusted on one of the ranches it is believed he should have the opportunity to advance his knowledge of farm and ranch work. This seems to be the only field that Darrell has ever taken any sort of an intensive interest in and might possibly, through the personal guidance and …… of one of the overseers of one of the ranches, be the one way in which Darrell might conceivably stay out of institutions.”

He was paroled July 1, 1953.

On April 7, 1954, Darrell and William Wertman (Darrell’s brother-in-law) robbed a filling station. At gunpoint, the attendant was forced into a rest room by Darrell while Wertman rifled the till, obtaining $120.00. Acting on a tip, the police officers arrested the defendants who, when questioned, gave complete statements admitting their commission of the crime. On April 21, 1954 both defendants entered pleas of guilty to the charged offense. On June 4, 1954 Darrell Lee Howell was received into the Colorado State Penitentiary to serve 9-10 years for Aggravated Robbery.

He was not a model prisoner. A typical “report” reads:

9-9 54 – “Fighting in the dishroom with #28208 that almost turns into a gang fight
Punishment: 3 days in the Tanks, bread and water, no mattress
12-31-55 – “Talking after lights out, throwing his cup, beating the walls, calling the officers names, just raising hell after being put in the tanks. Punishment: 10 days in Isolation, bread and water, no mattress.”

On August 15, 1957 he escaped from the prison canny area at 11:45 p.m. with a man named Jones. They were apprehended the afternoon of August 17. After hiding in the chicken house to the rear of the Michels residence on Eight Mile Park, and staying there until the owners left, he and Jones proceeded to the house and forced open the screen door to the kitchen by tearing off the screen. They ransacked the house causing considerable damage, stealing food and clothing, a one dollar bill and other articles, and cutting the phone line in the house. They tried to steal a pickup truck … by tearing out the ignition lock on the dashboard and starting the motor by hot-wiring the ignition. When captured they were wearing pants and shirts stolen from the Michels residence. Punishment: 36 days in the cooler, restricted diet, no mattress; to lose all state and trusty time…Loss of privileges for 90 days.

Darrell never seemed to learn. In October, just a short time out of the cooler, he was written up for attacking another inmate while that inmate was in a fight with another. Remarks on the investigation report: “During the investigation the inmate’s attitude was very poor. Inmate wouldn’t give the examining board a chance to talk to him as he kept butting in. He did admit jumping on Biles for no reason, as Officer Tibbs had the fight under control. Claimed he did it to protect his buddy.

“Since this inmate has been out of isolation on his Escape report, he has a very bad attitude. He resents all orders given him by officers. He turns his nose up and all but ignores the orders given him.”

Darrell was released (this time) when he had served his term.

We can only glean a few more glimpses of Darrell’s life. But we know Mr. Boyd’s prophecy came true. In 1971 and 1972 in two separate homicide cases defendant Howell was found not guilty of murder by reason of insanity and was committed to the Colorado State Hospital. A release hearing was conducted in 1977 and the jury determined he was not eligible for release. On appeal, this judgment was affirmed (1978). In 1980 defendant filed a motion for release and after three days of deliberation, a jury again determined he was not eligible for release. No records are available to determine exactly when but Darrell was convicted of slitting the throat of an employee of the Colorado State Hospital in Pueblo. At some point Darrell was remanded to the Penitentiary in Canon City because he was too violent and the State Hospital couldn’t deal with him.

Again, there was an escape. April 1978, two men, Howell and Montgomery, were assigned to a garden detail at the prison. Under cover of enjoying the gardening, they tunneled under the prison’s wall and walked away at approximately 1:30 p.m. A Canon City cab driver, at knife-point, was forced to drive them to Pueblo. They released him unharmed at an exit of Interstate 25 on the outskirts of Pueblo. They took his wallet and drove off in his cab. The cab driver called the police. They were arrested after a short struggle at about 2:45 p.m. Prison officials were not even aware of the escape until Pueblo police notified them after arresting the pair.

“They called us from Pueblo and said, ‘You have anyone missing?’” said Bill Wilson, superintendent of the maximum security unit. “We had to go ahead and run a count and found out who was missing and found the hole. We didn’t know anything about it.”

Our next view of Darrell is an article in the Cañon City Daily Record dated May 29, 1990. The headline reads “Cañon City has its own prison birdman”. It tells of Howell and fellow inmate Tim Doty who cared for a lost bird. When a schoolteacher placed an ad for her lost bird in a newspaper, Doty and Howell contacted her. Although it wasn’t the exact same bird, Howell felt the teacher’s home was the best place for it and she happily picked it up a week later.

Darrell Lee Howell died in prison in 1996.

-Paula DeCook, Editor
MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP

- Individual Membership $30
  Members receive an annual admission pass to the Museum and the quarterly newsletter.

- Family Membership (4 people) $50
  Family members named below receive an annual admission pass to the Museum as well as the quarterly newsletter.

- Sustaining Membership $100
  Members receive an annual admission pass to the Museum, the quarterly newsletter, and 2 guest passes.

- Benefactor Membership $250
  Members receive an annual admissions pass to the Museum, the quarterly newsletter, and 4 guest passes.

- Corporate Membership $500
  Members receive an annual admission pass to the Museum, the quarterly newsletter, and 6 guest passes.

Membership Application in the Name of:

Name: ________________________________

Family names (up to 4):

______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

City: ________ State: ________ Zip: ________

Home Phone: ____________________________

Business Phone: __________________________

Email Address: ____________________________

Please send this form to:
Museum of Colorado Prisons
201 North First Street
Cañon City, CO 81212

MUSEUM OF COLORADO PRISONS

201 North First Street, Cañon City, CO 81212
Phone: 719 269-3015
Toll Free: 877 269-3015
FAX: 719 269-9148
www.prisonmuseum.org
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