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Summer Hours

10 a.m. –6 p.m. Daily

Adults \$8

Children 6-12 \$6 (under 6 Free)

Over 65 \$7 Military \$6

CDOC and FBOP \$6

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The *Tall Wall* is published quarterly for Museum members. If you have comments or are interested in having information published in the *Tall Wall*, please send articles, pictures, and/or correspondence to the above address.

TALL WALL



June 30, 2017
Issue 3/2017

TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Hello to all,

Well, summer is here and we are looking forward to a successful one. The Museum has been participating in the community to a great extent so far this year and the results are an increase in visitors. We had a booth at the Music and Blossom Weekend event, at the Balloon Classic at the Abbey on Memorial Weekend, and at the Whitewater Festival the last weekend in June. Kudos to our Administrator Stacy Cline for all the work of putting up the booth for each event; selecting, transporting, and displaying the items from the Gift Shop, and manning the booths during each event. Thanks, too, to Donna Murphy and to Elaine Greenlee for help in manning the booths.

By the way, the Museum Gift Shop now carries baked items from the Culinary Program. Please stop by and get some yummy goodies.

As always, a huge thank you to our supporters; we couldn't do this without you.

Maureen Sheridan, Chair

"History is not what was, it is."

-- William Faulkner

Women in Prison
Who, Why, and What Happened

Last year our own Museum of Colorado Prisons put together an exhibit for the Fremont Center for the Arts featuring the conditions for women who were incarcerated during the 1800's. The exhibit explained that the Territorial Prison had no facilities whatever for women prisoners and it took years of correspondence with the State authorities in order to have even minimal accommodations made for female inmates.

The first woman to be sentenced to prison was Maria Antonio Manzanares, inmate #24. In 1871 Maria was the paramour of a Mexican named Francisco Fernandez. In order to keep her lover, he insisted she had to get rid of her husband. She chose strychnine. Apparently it was quite a large dose as he died within two hours. Keep in mind she did not commit this crime by herself. Fernando escaped prosecution by heading for Old Mexico, leaving Maria behind. She would have been acquitted of her charges because she was thought to be "weak of mind", but the jury could not overlook the facts, complete with corpse, and she was sentenced to life in prison.

In February 1874 Maria gave birth to a baby. A statement was found dated February 5, 1874, in prison records stating "we were informed that a female life convict was employed in doing housework at the warden's residence". This statement was made without actually seeing her. At this time there were 38 men, 1 woman and 3 guards. The Warden was C.J. Reed and everything was overseen by the U.S. Marshall Marc A. Shaffenburg.

In June of 1874, #24 Maria Antonio Manzanares was pardoned by then acting-Governor Jenkins. At that time the elected Governor was Samuel Hitt Elbert. Researchers recently discovered that because Jenkins was not the elected Governor, none of his papers had ever been archived. Therefore there are no official documents or records regarding Maria's pardon.

By 1906 there was a separate area on the second floor of one of the buildings that was set aside for women inmates.



There we find Prisoner #6339 Hattie C. Jones, age 43, arrested for Bigamy. Hattie had five children and was incarcerated from June 3, 1905 until she was discharged on April 23, 1906. Of course with a Bigamy charge there was a corresponding incarceration for her husband, Prisoner #6340 Isaac Dexter, who was sentenced to "12 months" for "Marrying a Married Woman". Isaac was also discharged on April 23, 1906. No further information has been discovered regarding Hattie and Isaac. Our sympathies are with these two who were probably just trying to survive in a very difficult world. Did Hattie's first husband desert her and the children? As a single man working as a rancher and maybe needing a cook-housekeeper, was Isaac simply trying to help Hattie feed and clothe her children? Or were some of these children Isaac's???? We'll never know.

SOMETHING NEW COMING TO THE MUSEUM !!!!

You can look forward to news in a future issue of the Tall Wall regarding the “Cuseum” App and how to use it in our Museum.

More later.

THE GALLOWS

By Sandy Dexter

Gallows, as defined by Webster, is an upright frame with a crossbeam and a rope, for hanging condemned persons. The first official execution in Canon City, Colorado, occurred on November 18, 1890, when Novento Griego, inmate number 2349, was hanged in the penitentiary yard. Within two months a unique machine had been invented by Deputy Warden Dudley.

Though primitively constructed, the machine was effective. Four upright boards formed a square frame. In the upper portion of the frame a bucket was placed containing 29-pounds of water. A rubber hose with a valve was connected to this bucket and to a second bucket in the lower part of the frame. At a height of 6 feet an iron rod was attached to the upper bucket by a lever. On the other end of the iron was a 40-pound ball. When the water was drawn from the top bucket, a 250-pound weight would descend. From this large weight a rope ran through two pulleys and over a partition into the execution room where it hung directly over a 3-foot square platform. The machine was set into motion by the weight of the condemned man stepping onto the platform, which opened the valve drawing water out of the top bucket. As the large weight descended, the condemned man was jerked about 3 feet into the air.

In essence, this meant that the "Mandate of the Courts, to be hanged by the neck until dead" was fulfilled by the prisoner himself.

It is also a reason why there were a few failures. Weight. A prisoner with low body weight would not be jerked into the air with enough force to break his neck.

What happened to the Canon City gallows after the last hanging took place in 1934 remains a mystery. Being constructed of wood, it was probably chopped up for kindling.

However, a similar contraption used by the State of Kansa for its executions is still in existence and on display at the Kansas State Historical in Topeka, Kansas. It was built in 1944, ten years after Colorado outlawed the noose in favor of the more humane hydrocyanic Gas Chamber.

Two of the most notorious men hanged in Kansas were Perry Smith and Richard Hickock. Their crime and punishment were well-documented by author Truman Capote in his novel "In Cold Blood". Capote wrote the final chapter of the novel after witnessing the execution of the two men. An interesting side note is the fact that Territorial Prison in Canon City was used for filming the prison scenes when the novel was made into a movie.

The scaffolding may be long gone but the noose used in the last official hanging was saved and is on display at the Museum of Colorado Prisons.

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BLOSSOM FESTIVAL WEEKEND

May 6 & 7, 2017

by Sandy Dexter

Blossom weekend, the 5th, 6th, and 7th of May, was a big weekend for the prison museum. The weather co-operated beautifully for a change with abundant blue skies and heat.

We did not have a float in the parade this year simply due to a lack of personnel. We do not have enough staff, volunteer or paid, to keep the museum open, man a booth at Veteran's Park for two days, and manage a float, all at the same time. But we were still well represented on all fronts.

My sister-in-law, Julie Dexter, decided to visit from Wisconsin specifically to see what Blossom Festival was all about. She had been hearing about it for years from our family. Knowing the Museum needed a visible presence on Main Street, I suggested she and I dress up as convicts and hand out brochures up and down the parade route. That way not only would my sister-in-law get to see the parade, she would become part of it. I suggested the idea to the Museum Director and Stacy thought it was a grand idea.

We had a ball with nothing but positive feedback.

One of the highlights of our walk from 9th and Main to 3rd Street was a chance encounter with a group of deaf people. Some things are just meant to be. My sister-in-law has a daughter who is deaf and so she is proficient in American Sign Language. She was able to communicate with them and tell them all about the museum. They were thrilled.

A couple of the people we talked to along the way actually did visit the museum and left a message to thank us for suggesting it as a destination.

Our booth at Veteran's Park was a popular spot. Probably because what we had to offer for sale was so different from other booths. You never know what will be a big hit with the general public. This year it was our striped prison aprons, locks, and antler key racks. Go figure! Stacy reported sales of over \$500 in two days.

It was fun to be part of Blossom Festival, to mingle with the crowds on Main Street, stand in line at one of the vendor's booths for a funnel cake, hear the marching bands from around the state, and see people just enjoying themselves at a perfect Music and Blossom Festival weekend.

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**4TH ANNUAL
BALLOON FESTIVAL
May 27,28,29, 2017**





6:00 a.m. Stacy Cline sets up the Museum Booth with items from the Gift Shop.



Whitewater Festival

June 23 & 24, 2017



Once again the Museum of Colorado Prisons set up a booth in the vendors' area of Centennial Park to participate in the crowd-drawing events of the annual Whitewater Festival. Friday was cloudy, cool, and rainy, but the vendors were all set up and ready for participants and observers alike to enjoy the events. The river was running high, fast, and dangerous (which contributes to the thrills) and the events were well attended.





Donna Murphy, Stacy Cline, and Elaine Greenlee at the Whitewater Festival.



Donna Murphy trying to stay warm on Friday, setting up the booth in the rain.



Stacy's ready for sunshine and customers

Recipes from Behind the Walls

D.O.C. has a very creative group of inmates when it comes to meals and snacks. A microwave in the day hall, coffee pots and small crock pots are the tools. Add an order for special ingredients using "canteen" credits and the possibilities are delicious. We are privileged to present a few of these in our newsletters. Thanks for sharing, guys.

Peanut Brittle Recipe

Werther's Original Candies

Peanuts

Melt Werther's in the microwave and mix in peanuts; let cool to harden.

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Upcoming Events

The ALFERD PACKER CANNIBAL BUFFET

We're looking forward to September and the Cannibal Banquet. Our host Alferd Packer's Buffet specialties will be Fingerling potatoes, Elbow macaroni, chicken Thighs, barbeque Ribs, candied Ears and Fingers...the menu is still in the planning stages. Mark your calendars for September 30th at the Gibson Mansion at 9th and Greenwood. Watch for further notice in the Daily Record, the Shopper, and at the Museum.

