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[www.prisonmuseum.org](http://www.prisonmuseum.org)

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**May 15 – September 30**

**Open Daily**

10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Wednesday-Sunday

Adults \$8

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

Over 65 \$7

CDOC and FBOP \$6

Military \$6

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# TALL WALL



June 30, 2018

Issue 2/2018

## TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Well Folks, what an amazing summer it has been so far.

I want to thank everyone who came to our chuck wagon supper. I had a lot of fun and loved the band. I sure hope you enjoyed yourselves.

We have had a lot of visitors and the paranormal nights have been popular. As always, I want to send out a huge thank you to everyone for your support, we could not keep history alive without you!

Maureen Sheridan, Chair

**“History isn’t just the story of bad people doing bad things. It’s quite as much a story of good people trying to do good things. But somehow, something goes wrong.”**

**--C.S. Lewis**

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.

**We're having a busy summer!!**

## **Museum Booth Blossom Weekend**



Visitor Jackie Bruce chats with Museum Board Member Malacha Hall on a warm day in May. The Museum booth was set up in Veteran's Park for the Weekend of the Music & Blossom Festival. The crowds came from everywhere and enjoyed the beautiful and interesting items presented by all the vendors. The Museum ALSO had a booth at the **Whitewater Festival** June 22 and 23.

## **Bluegrass in June!!**



The Museum lawn was filled with guests on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> as the Museum of Colorado Prisons presented their first BBQ and Bluegrass Festival.



**The Blue Canon Boys** lived up to their reputation as a "High Octane Colorado Bluegrass Band". They set up their equipment near the old Gas Chamber and didn't bat an eye at the Guard Tower directly behind them. And then they went to work. Drew Garrett on Bass, Gary Dark on Mandolin, Jason Hicks on Guitar, & Chris Roszell on Banjo gave everyone a full evening of fast-paced, good-time, new and old-time, toe-tapping bluegrass music.



The food was served on trays resembling the original trays the prisoners used for their meals when the building was an active prison. Each guest received a souvenir drinking cup with the Museum logo on it.



Guests Ruth Disher and Keith Brogotti enjoyed the evening



Board Chair Maureen Sheridan relaxed with friends after working in the kitchen .

**A VERY Special Thanks to**

**Skyline Liquors**

**The Bottle Shop Drive-In  
Liquor**

**Gateway Liquor**

**For the donation of Beer, Wine, and  
Soft Drinks. We couldn't have done it  
without you!**

**###**

**ITEMS OF NOTE!!**

**ON JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> THE MUSEUM HAD A  
VISITOR FROM AS FAR AWAY AS  
AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS!  
From June 1, 2017 to June 1, 2018 our  
Museum has had  
18,997 visitors**

**###**



**Sandy McCoy, Treasurer for the Board of  
Directors, helped serve wherever a helping hand  
was needed**

**SUSAN P. ANDERSON,  
MATRON, C.S.P.  
By Sandy Dexter**

When sisters Gay Del Duca and Jeanie Turse found themselves owners of a family heirloom, they were faced with a dilemma: What to do with a beautiful silk "Chinese shawl" owned by their great grandmother, Susan P. Anderson, an early matron at the Colorado State Penitentiary (C.S.P.) in Canon City.

After a great deal of deliberation, the two decided the shawl needed a permanent home where it could be safely displayed for many to come, see, and enjoy. What better place than the Museum Of Colorado Prisons? Included with the shawl were family photos of Susan Anderson and personal items she might have used while serving as matron. These artifacts donated by the sisters, are now part of a display at our museum honoring early female employees.

Researching information related to Matron Susan P. Anderson called attention to how little we know regarding female employees of C.S.P. during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Conversations with Susan's family helped humanize this particular employee and make her more than just a job description.

Susan was familiar with adversity. Her husband died, leaving her a poor widow with four young children to raise. But even in Denver there were few choices of work available to women. Susan was determined to provide for her family. She opted for a profession and became a licensed practical nurse, specializing in maternity and pediatrics.

Everything about Susan was a contradiction. She was a large woman, dark haired, with a stocky body and an ample bosom. Yet, she loved delicate, dainty things. The family said everything she owned had some type of crocheting or lace tatting on it, made by her own skilled hands. They thought it probably made her feel a little bit more feminine.



It was through a friend who was connected to the governor that Susan learned of the opening for the position of matron at C.S.P. in Canon City. The family always thought the governor appointed her, but Stacey Cline says no, the warden was responsible for hiring staff. However, depending on how close this friend was to the governor, it is possible Susan could have shown up in Canon City with at least a recommendation of consideration from the governor or his office, and it would be hard to dismiss such a request, even for a warden.

Susan was hired and worked for C.S.P. from approximately 1900-1910. She moved her family to Canon City and took up residence at 325 Greenwood. The house, which is still there, is a small wood frame home set well back from the street. A small bridge is used as a walkway over the irrigation ditch running through the front of the property. One of her children, a son, Sevi Anderson, is mentioned in the Canon City directory as being a member of her household, and working as a candy maker for a business on Main Street.

## WE'RE GOING BE ON TV AGAIN!

For the second time, the Museum Of Colorado Prisons will be featured on the popular Travel Channel series, "Mysteries At The Museum".

Shooting for this episode took place on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, and will be aired in six or seven months.

If you've ever watched the program, you know they start the show by displaying an object or artifact, and having the museum director explain what the item is. From that point the story unfolds.

This time around the camera hones in on a small doll, a seated lady dressed in a pink flounced dress with a hat to match. The doll's hair is red – just like Pearl O'Loughlin's. In fact, it is Pearl O'Loughlin's hair. She clipped some of her own to fashion a wig for the doll. And who is Pearl O'Loughlin? Ahh, that is the mystery.



Flash back to 1930, Fort Collins, Colorado. Pearl O'Loughlin is a tall, titian-haired 31-year-old woman accused of brutally murdering her 10 yr. old stepdaughter. The child was fed ground glass, beaten unconscious, and then thrown into



325 Greenwood – present day

Ironically, it was a day or two after Susan's great-granddaughter spoke with me at the prison museum that I discovered where Susan had lived.

According to the late warden, Wayne K. Patterson, in his book "Keeper Of The Keys", the term matron was given to early female guards. It is obvious Susan was a "head" matron, as it is her name that appears on the biennial reports made to the warden during her tenure at C.S.P.

It is in these reports Susan's true character and understanding of need for change shine through. She describes in carefully worded sentences how female inmates "keep the prison clean, do the cooking, laundry work, and make underclothing for the male prisoners". She ends each report with a plea to provide some industry that would teach them occupational skills to be able to earn an honest living after they are discharged. Her pleas for social reforms went unanswered, and Susan took it upon herself to teach the women crocheting, knitting, and other fancy-work skills.

Around 1910, Susan left C.S.P. and returned to Denver to live with her daughter. Her final resting place is at Crown Hill Cemetery in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. But, because of a silk shawl donated by her family, Susan's face and her words, written at the beginning of a new century, will be seen and read by many of the visitors touring The Museum of Colorado Prisons.

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the city park's Berkley Lake to drown. Pearl's husband, Leo O'Loughlin, was a city detective. He, too, ate some of the glass but survived.

It took the jury only one-hour and thirty-six minutes to find her guilty. There would be no death penalty because there were no eye-witnesses to the crime. She was sentenced to 20 years hard labor at the Colorado State Penitentiary in Canon City. Minutes before the jury returned their verdict she had been laughing and joking with her attorney.

According to a newspaper account, when returned to jail, Pearl walked to her cell, removed her clothing, put on a pink wrap, and combed her hair. Apparently pink was her color.

She never did hard labor. In fact, for the last 10 years of her sentence, she worked as a "trusty" for Warden Roy Best. Not only was she his housekeeper but also was governess to the children living in his home, a niece, nephew, and stepdaughter. Pearl was paroled June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1951.

It was quite a trek for the crew filming this segment. The independent company, Optomen Productions, which is based in New York City, is commissioned by the Travel Channel. The group flew into Denver on Friday, rented a van, drove to Canon City, spent the night, filmed all day Saturday then drove back to Denver and returned to New York City Saturday night.

Working from a script, the company provides footage necessary for the following months of post-production, basically exterior and interior shots, and the interview with Stacey Cline, our museum administrator.

Field Producer Jen Merrick had been here for the first shoot in 2013. Two other members of the team were Crawford Watson, "shooter" and Raymond Chen, Associate Producer.

Its exciting that our Museum of Colorado Prisons is receiving national media attention. The publicity is priceless.

- contributed by Sandy Dexter

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## GIFT SHOP NEWS



A new supply of T-Shirts and summer-weight hoodies are now available. This one has a map of the Corrections Facilities in the Canon City area! Come in and browse through the newly remodeled Gift Shop. Remember, there is no charge for visiting the Gift Shop and it's open whenever the Museum is open....Daily 10:00 to 6:00.

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### ***Of Special Note:***

***Our Museum Administrator Stacey Cline was invited to the Territorial Correctional Facility to give a presentation on the history of the Territorial Prison and of the women's prison that shares the east wall. Stacey gave presentations to each of the three shifts and all seemed very pleased with the information she provided.***

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## **The Dash**

**By Linda Ellis**

**I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on their tombstone from the beginning...to the end.**

**He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.**

In Memory of

**For that dash represents all the time that they spent alive on earth. And now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.**

Phyllis Johnson

April 1, 1932 -- April 30, 2018

**For it matters not, how much we own, the cars...the house...the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.**

**So, think about this long and hard. Are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged.**

**And be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.**

**If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile, remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.**

**So, when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash...would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash?**