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[www.prisonmuseum.org](http://www.prisonmuseum.org)  
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**October 1-May 14**

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Weds-Sun. only

Adults \$8

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

Over 65 \$7

CDOC and FBOP \$6

Military \$6

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### **In This Issue**

\* **Thanks to the Membership**

\* **“The Lamar Wolves”**

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



September 30, 2018

Issue 3/2018

## TO THE MEMBERSHIP:

Hello Everyone,

I hope you all are enjoying this time of year with the leaves changing and cooler temperatures.

We had to cancel our Alferd Packer Buffet this year. Our sincere apologies, but it was for a good cause. We are looking at helping restore the Associate Warden’s house on the corner of Main and 1<sup>st</sup> St., just down from the museum. There is still a lot of work and research to do on this project but, being history lovers, we will see if there is anything we can do to preserve that beautiful historic home.

Our paranormal activities are winding down for winter; we will pick them up again this spring if you or anyone you know wants to meet our ghostly residents. Next year we are looking at starting up the downtown ghost/history walk, so look for that.

Maureen Sheridan, Chair

“How did I escape? With difficulty. How did I plan this moment? With pleasure.”

– Alexandre Dumas, The Count of Monte Cristo

# THANK YOU, MEMBERS!!



August 15, 2018 The Museum and the Board of Directors hosted a "Thank You" Dinner for the Museum Members. You've given your support throughout the year and we wanted to let you know we appreciate all you do for us.

## Your Board of Directors 2018-2019



Maureen Sheridan, Kelly Black, Sandy Dexter, Donna Murphy, Malacha Hall, Paula DeCook, Benny Johnson, Elaine Greenlee. Not Shown, Brendan Pardue, Dan Korber



Mary McBroom with Donna Murphy



Charlotte Budy visited with several friends



Benny Johnson talking with Brendan Pardue



Frank Martinez with Nancy Skeff, autographing her book "Collector of Dreams."

# The “Lamar Wolves”

By Paula DeCook



PRISONER # 15300 GEORGE ABSHIER, left, and PRISONER # 15301 HOWARD ROYSTON

These two men were executed at the prison in Canon City, Colorado on the evening of July 18, 1930; Abshier at 9:40 p.m. and the second, Royston, at 10:37 p.m. Only 8 days earlier Ralph Fleagle, the supposed leader of this gang of robbers and killers, was also executed.



#15369 Ralph Fleagle

It all began on May 23, 1928 when four men robbed the First National Bank of Lamar. Gunshots were fired, and after only a few seconds of chaos, two bankers lay dead and one robber, Royston, was wounded. The gang managed to fill several pillow-cases with cash and bonds. They took two hostages and sped away. After a 17-mile chase on the dusty country

roads, the getaway car stopped and let out one of the hostages. Rifles were too powerful against the small arms of the police. The officers' vehicle was disabled and the robbers drove away. This was the beginning of the pursuit that would end the night of July 18, 1930. The second hostage and a kidnapped doctor who was forced to treat the wounded Royston would be murdered before the arrest and subsequent execution of 3 of the 4 robbers.

The fourth one, Jake Fleagle, Ralph's younger brother, was pursued all through eleven states and Mexico. At one point officers traced him to Kankakee, Illinois, then to Peoria. In Peoria, Illinois, Jake once again eluded the police.

On October 14, 1930, at the train station in Branson, Missouri, Jake Fleagle was confronted by 23 officers of the law who tried to arrest him. Jake drew his pistol and was promptly shot in the stomach and was killed.

Thus ended the reign of terror of the Fleagle Gang, labelled by the Denver Post at the time as the “Lamar Wolves.”



Jake Fleagle, never arrested

Information about this article came from Greeley Daily Tribune, 19 Jul 1930  
Colorado Life Magazine, Nov/Dec. 2017  
Matt Masich, Editor

## **LABOR DAY EXCITEMENT**

Monday morning September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Labor Day holiday, and the Museum already had several visitors. Anita Price was just arriving to volunteer in the Archives Room. As she walked across to the front gate, she looked up at Tower 6, which hovers over the parking lot. At the top of the wall was a man looking back at her. He waved. Anita Price ran into the lower part of the museum to the archive room where her daughter, Tonya Sandoval (an employee and retired DOC officer) and John Dodd a (volunteer and retired DOC officer) were. John called DOC to report what had happened.

Susan Cantrell, the Administrative Assistant, had come out of the office and was standing at the front entry of the Museum itself. When a museum visitor asked her if that was part of the museum experience? Susan asked, her what do you mean? She said, she just saw 2 prisoners go over the wall. The lady pointed and showed her where. Susan said, no and went back in the office to call 911. She then went to Josh Cline who was working at the front desk told him what happened and asked him to lock the back gate. Susan went and locked the front gate and went to the turnstile to secure that area.

Susan, Josh and Tonya were in and around the Museum explaining and trying to calm the visitors who now realized they were in the middle of an actual prison escape situation. Many of the visitors thought it was pretty interesting.

Two men came over the wall. One was apprehended within two blocks.

They were both captured within a couple hours of the time they climbed over the wall.

We're happy to report that there is a DOC officer at tower 6 now!



Warden Romero presented Commendations to the Staff of the Museum for their swift actions on Labor Day.



John Dodd accepts his commendation.



Susan Cantrell with Warden Romero after receiving her commendation.



Museum Staff received Letters of Commendation from DOC Officers and Warden Mike Romero for their quick action on Labor Day.

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### **KUDOS FOR OUR ADMINISTRATOR**



Stacey Cline, our Museum Administrator, has been busy with a variety of projects. Starting in December of 2017 Stacy worked with DOC's Justin Reddick for a Creative Arts project using the south wall in the basement of the Museum. Stacey talked Sherwin-Williams into donating the paint for the project.

Inmates from the ADX minimum security conceived and brought to a finish the amazing mural now on display.

“A History of the First 100 Years” was put together and presented by Stacey to three difference shifts at CTCF (Colorado Territorial Correction Facility). These were well received and there is now new interest in the historic perspective for the prison. To keep up the interest, Stacey was asked if the Museum would occasionally change out the displays in the Shadow Boxes inside the Shift Room at the Prison. That is now underway.

Stacy is also working on getting a grant from the Colorado State Dept. of Local Affairs, getting bids and contractors for a new HVAC system for the basement, and preparing to give her presentation to the Training Academy.

Supervising the maintenance of the building and grounds is also one of her duties. The grounds need to look good for our visitors' first impressions. After the incident on Labor Day, Stacey quickly made sure the pine trees on the west side of our building were trimmed back away from the prison wall. She realized the guards on the towers would need to have a clear line of sight, so she had the trees trimmed accordingly. Our neighbors to the west were very grateful.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS!!!!**

The “College Film Institute” from Denver will have a film crew working at the Museum Oct. 15 & 16.

**THE MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be December 19 at the Gibson Mansion.