



TALL WALL

201 North First Street
Cañon City, CO 81212

Phone: 719 269-3015
FAX: 719 269-9148

www.prisonmuseum.org

(LIKE us on Facebook)

October 1-May 1

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Weds-Sun. only

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman

Maureen Sheridan

Vice Chairman

Malacha Hall

Secretary

Paula DeCook

Treasurer

Sandy McCoy

Board Members

Kelly Black

Donna Murphy

Brendan Pardue

Frank Martinez

Jim Jacobs

Advisory Board

Sandy Dexter

Elaine Greenlee

H. B. Johnson

Dan Korber

STAFF

Stacey Cline, Administrator

Susan Cantrell Tonya Sandoval

Josh Cline Taylor Ford

Vanessa Salano

In This Issue

- **Christmas Party**
- **Coin Toss Execution**

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.



December 31, 2018
Issue 4/2018

TO THE MEMBERSHIP:

Well, here's to another year in the books!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. I would like to thank you all for your continued support, and I hope you stick with us for another year. I believe 2019 is going to be a great year with a lot of new possibilities. We are still looking at working with the State on the Associate Warden's house at the corner of 1st and Main. We're also planning some new ghostly adventures with outside groups, and the historic "ghost walk." As always our amazing staff is constantly finding new treasures and creating interesting exhibits. I always look forward to seeing what they've found. We have some fundraising events coming up which are always fun; we will keep you posted on the dates. The 2019 Chinese New Year, is the year of the pig, their chubby faces and big ears are signs of fortune as well. Here's hoping the Chinese are right. Again, thank you and have a Happy New Year!

Maureen Sheridan

"In the New Year, never forget to thank your past years because they enabled you to reach

today! Without the stairs of the past, you cannot arrive at the future!"

— Mehmet Murat ildan

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR OUR MEMBERS

Once again the beautiful Gibson Mansion was the location for the Christmas Party for the Museum of Colorado Prisons. We can't thank Brendan enough for allowing us to have our Annual Christmas Party at his beautiful home!

The guests included Board Members, Museum Administrator, staff, and their families, and Members and Supporters of the Museum.

A lovely spread was catered by Pizza Madness, set out on the dining room table—artichoke chicken, a mouth-watering and tender pot roast, steamed vegetables, garden salad with choice of dressings, and the dessert was a decadent tiramisu, so light it just melted in your mouth, mmmmmm.



The music was provided by the fabulous "Gibson Mansion Trio"; John on keyboard and vocals, Carlos on vocals, and Richard, vocals and drums. Guests were dancing and singing along with Christmas carols, hits from the

past, and one great imitation of Elvis singing "Blue Christmas".

Board Chairman Maureen Sheridan expressed the appreciation the Museum has for the support of its members, offered thanks to the staff for their hard work throughout the year and ended with holiday good wishes to all.



Kelly Black, Corrine Fratt, Martha Pardue



Sandy Dexter, Advisory Board



Tom & Vivian McCasland having a good time.

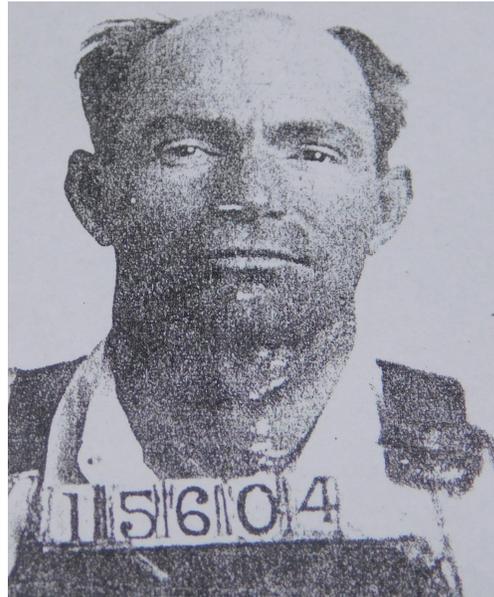


Justin Reddick with Brendan Pardue.

SWIFT JUSTICE

By Paula DeCook

The three bandits were John Walker, Claude Ray and Andrew Halliday that robbed the bank in Manter, Kansas escaping with \$3,700. In Eads, Colorado on March 14, 1930 Deputy C.A. Hickman tried to stop the bandits and was killed in a gun battle. They were captured the next day, March 15, in a cabin near Jetmore, Kansas, after an intensive manhunt both in eastern Colorado and in western Kansas. On April 10 the trial ended with a guilty verdict; the jury recommended the death penalty. The Governor of Colorado denied clemency on January 26, 1931. Their triple hanging took place on the evening of January 30, 1931.



John Walker #15604

The oldest of the three bandits was John Walker, 40 years old, who listed his occupation as an auto mechanic. The other men were considerably younger. Claude Ray was 24 and Andrew Halliday only 22. These two listed their occupations as "miners". All three had served time in state prisons in Missouri and Oklahoma.

Feelings were running hot when the citizens of Eads heard of the capture of the bandits the very next day after the robbery and killing. Rumors were flying that there would be a lynching if the prisoners were returned to Eads. Someone had called the Governor's office to warn them of the lynching threat.

The three bandits were held in the county jail in Johnson, Kansas, "in the custody of a woman sheriff." (Apparently news writers of the time felt that comment was a necessary note.) The Colorado officers said they were taking the prisoners to Denver secretly "to avoid trouble." The Kansas officers agreed to

delay the report of the prisoners' departure for four hours at the request of the Colorado officers.

The trial was held in Eads, where the killing took place. The defense attorney Thomas Hoffmire felt jurors in the local area were all prejudiced against the defendants. He used nine Preemptory challenges but at the last minute finally accepted the jury of ten farmers, one shoemaker, and one garage man. Only two jurors were from Eads. The others were from various small towns in the county. All were asked if they had any objections about recommending a death penalty. None did.

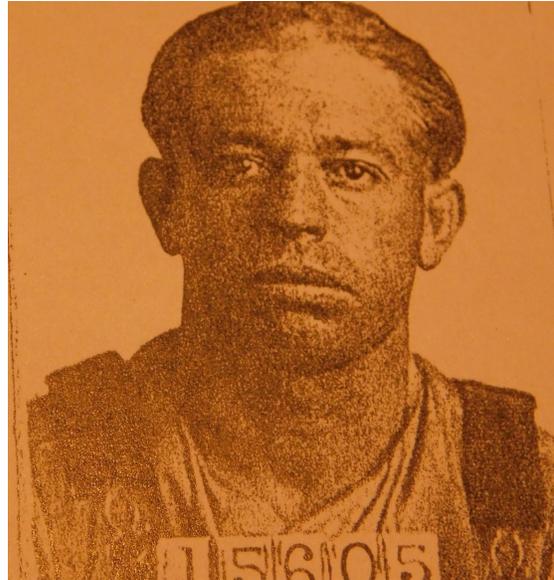


Andrew Halliday #15603

Something to be said in their favor: At some point during their imprisonment the three made depositions absolving one Allan Frizzollo from any connection with the robbery of the Mantor bank. Frizzollo was then in the Kansas State Prison serving 1 to 100 years for the Mantor bank robbery. Frizzollo was set free.

John Walker tried to spare his mother, 71-year-old Mrs. Julia Rhodes, the shock of the sentence and told her he'd only been given a ten-year sentence and Claude Ray was the one sentenced to hang. It wasn't until the week before the executions that she realized what was going to take place. Mrs. Rhodes asked to

see Governor W.E. Adams. The Colorado Supreme Court had already denied the petitions of the three men and had reaffirmed their convictions. The Governor agreed to meet with Mrs. Rhodes, who arrived with John Walker's sister Mrs. Mary Taylor, and his half-sister Mrs. Bert Brown. He only gave them a few minutes and he was adamant. He would not interfere.



Claude Ray #15605

Prison chaplain Father Regis Barrett also sought clemency. As was customary, Warden Francis E. Crawford conferred with the Governor. Clemency was denied and plans for the hangings proceeded.

The day before the executions, Walker bragged about robbing banks for twenty years before the fatal shooting of Deputy Hickman. Then Walker expressed sorrow for bringing grief to his mother, who was at his side visiting as much as she could.

"My mother gave me the best training she knew how to give and had nothing to do in any way with my career of crime," he said. "I have a good mother and I am sorry to have brought this grief upon her."

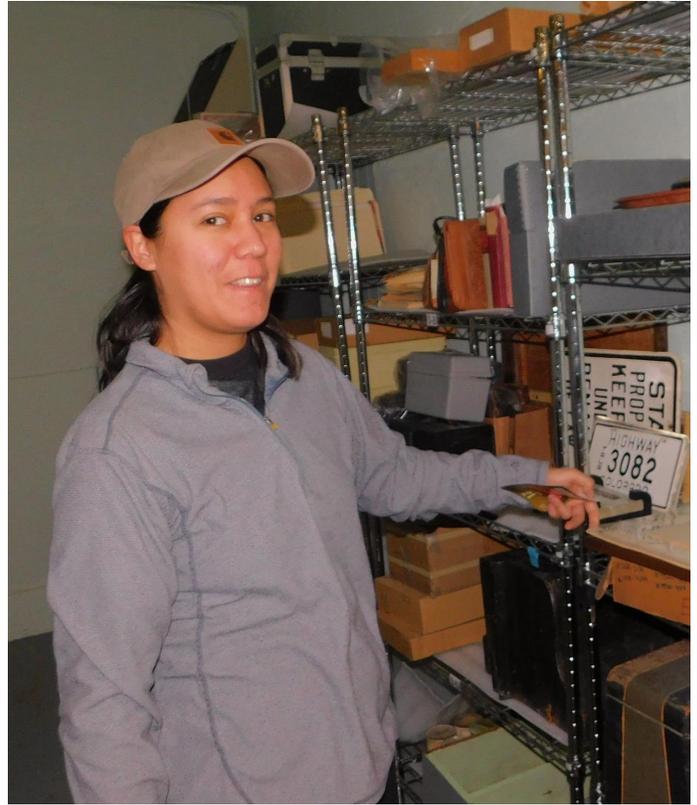
The warden, Frank Crawford, asked the prisoners if they had a preference as to the order of their executions. The prisoners

agreed to toss a coin to determine who would be the first to go to the gallows. This would become only the second triple hanging on record since June of 1896. When talking among themselves, John Walker encouraged the two younger men to go to the gallows with the carefree manner and calmness shown by the Fleagle gang who had been executed the summer before.

Information for this article was taken from the Greeley Daily Tribune, Dixon Evening Telegraph (Dixon, IL), Lincoln Journal Star (Lincoln, Nebraska)

Colorado Museum of Prisons

WHAT'S HAPPENING DOWN IN THE ARCHIVES ROOM???



Vanessa Solano works in the Archives

The Museum is fortunate to have Vanessa Solano working with Tonya Sandoval in the Archives area. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays are her usual hours but you may find her at other times working in the files and artifacts, organizing and arranging and cataloging all the amazing items the Museum has been given.

Vanessa graduated in August from Colorado State University with a degree in Computer Information Systems. She had an internship with a software company in Highlands Ranch but the commute was very difficult, as anyone who's driven to the Denver Area lately can testify.

Vanessa lives in Canon where several members of her family have worked in law enforcement. She really enjoys working at the Museum. "The history of Canon--the stories are fascinating, and occasionally you get an item that's weird and that is fabulous."

Thanks for all your work with us,
Vanessa.

BUILDING NEWS!

Electricity and Lights in the Laundry Room and the Tool Room!

Potential for expanded exhibits has increased now that the lighting has been restored in the Tool Room and the Laundry Room.

Hot Water to the Sinks in the Kitchen!

Running water that doesn't drain out on to the floor and Electric lights have made the lower floor of the Museum building much more pleasant and usable. These items were a standard part of the original building but were lost when the building stood empty for so many years. Thanks to Administrator Stacey Cline for overseeing these improvements, keeping in mind the historic register requirements to keep everything as authentic as possible.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

The Gift Shop is doing well in 2018. As of December 19, 2018, Admissions are 21.9% higher than in 2017. Gift Shop sales were 76.1% over 2017. That's Pretty AWESOME!!!

Remember you can visit the Gift Shop any time without an admission fee.

UPCOMING EVENTS!!!!

January 8th 5:30 p.m. at the Fremont Center of the Arts a preview of a documentary called "Colorado Imprisonment" to be broadcast on Rocky Mountain PBS 7:30 p.m. on January 17th.

WOMEN WHO WINE will be the guests of the Museum on April 4th at 5:30 p.m.

GHOST HUNT is on the schedule for May 3rd and 4th, Blossom Festival week. 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. Tickets will be on sale throughout the United States. For more information go to "Ghost Hunts USA.com"

Installing a New Heating System:

The Museum received the grant from the Colorado Dept. of Local Affairs and the money will be used for the heating system in the basement of the building. Kudos to our Administrator Stacey Cline for the fine work in writing the application for a successful grant!