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[www.prisonmuseum.org](http://www.prisonmuseum.org)  
**(LIKE us on Facebook)**

**Fall/Winter Hours**

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 Wednesday-Sunday

Adults \$10  
 Children 6-12 \$8 (under 6 Free)  
 Over 65 \$8  
 CDOC and FBOP \$8  
 Military \$8

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**In This Issue**

- **Letter to County Commissioners**
- **#5623 Clara Humphrey**

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, 2020**  
**Issue 3/2020**

**TO THE MEMBERSHIP**

Happy Fall Ya'll!

I hope everyone is doing well. It has been a strange year and it seems we'll have an early winter. The Museum is doing well and we are still open for business. Numbers are down a little but that is to be expected with all the craziness going on this year. I don't know about you but I look forward to welcoming 2021.

Some exciting news--we are slowly moving forward with obtaining the Associate Warden's house on the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> street. We will need board members for that soon so if you are interested please contact Stacey Cline at the museum. That poor historical house desperately needs our love and help. She will be an awesome addition to the museum and the preservation of our local history.

The holiday season is approaching fast. Spend time with family and friends (keeping Covid restrictions in mind) and enjoy. If you get a chance, please stop by the Museum and say hello!

Maureen Sheridan, Chairman

**“Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn.”**

- Elizabeth Lawrence

In researching the early occupants of the Colorado State Prison, the newspaper archives give the reader a few insights that the prison's official intake sheet leaves out. Following are a few excerpts gleaned from the archives of old newspapers in various towns in the early days of Colorado.

**#4065: Jessie Landers** Age 24  
Crime: Murder. Term: 5 years  
(No Photo Available)

This 1896 headline reads

“SHOT DEAD.”

‘LAKE CITY, COLO., June 11—A shooting affray occurred last night which cost Louis Estep his life. Jessie D. Landers did the shooting. She and her lover, Frank McDonald, had a quarrel in the early part of the evening, and when she saw him later took three shots at him, the first shot striking Estep at the base of the ear, killing him instantly. She then went out doors and tried to end her life by shooting herself in the side, but only made a flesh wound. At the coroner's inquest over young Estep's body, the jury returned a verdict that the shooting was intentional, but the killing of Estep accidental, as the bullet was intended for McDonald. The Landers woman was put under arrest this afternoon and will be taken to the county jail tomorrow.’

*Taken from The Daily Sentinel (Grand Junction, Colorado 13 June 1896, Sat. Page 1)*

Received at CSP 6-27-1896.  
Discharged 3-17-1900

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**#5623. Clara Humphrey.** Age 29  
Crime: Murder. Term: 40 to 60 years

“PUEBLO”

“**Pueblo. Nov. 8** (1902)—Dick Payne, a young negro was shot and instantly killed at 7:30 tonight by Clara Humphrey, a halfbreed Indian and half negro. The shooting took place in front of Arthur Burt's saloon, only half a block from where William Lawrence shot Goldstein a few weeks ago, and about the same time in the evening. It seems that the woman had been supporting Payne very largely, and this evening when she met him, asked for some money which she claims he owed her for clothing which she had purchased for him. They disagreed over \$1.65, and some bad language followed on both sides. The woman went into her room which was near, and brought out a 38-caliber Harrington & Richards revolver, which she discharged three times. The first shot struck the ground near the man's feet, the second one struck him in the calf of the leg, and the third in the

left breast, passing through his heart. Detective Wilson happened to be within a few feet of the shooting, and the murdered man fell against the detective. Detective Day and Deputy Sheriff Guy were soon on the scene and the three men had the woman in the city jail inside of 10 minutes. When she was brought in, the operator proceeded to make out the tab as usual for prisoners, and when he inquired what the charge was, the woman said, "It is murder all right, I killed him." Payne has been a resident of Pueblo a number of years, and the woman was formerly living in San Francisco."

*Taken from The Weekly Gazette (Colorado Springs, Colorado) 13 Nov 1902, Thu. Page 3)*

*Clara went on trial Dec. 18, 1902. Defense claimed insanity.*

Received at CSP Dec. 30, 1902

Clara was written up for several infractions while incarcerated: striking another inmate; quarrelling; and my favorite: "making shadow pantomimes on the wall for girls to laugh at."

Pardoned 1-1-1909

*Museum of Colorado Prisons archives*

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**#5185. Mary E. Barry** Age not listed  
Crime: Grand Larceny. Term: 3 to 5 years

## "THE NEWS OF CRIPPLE CREEK"

**Cripple Creek Bureau**

**Colorado Springs Gazette**

Cripple Creek, May 8, (1901) – After being out several hours the jury in the case of the People vs. Mrs. Mary E. Barry this evening brought in a verdict finding the defendant guilty as charged in the second count of the information. Mrs. Barry was charged with stealing a house, the property of H. E. Killian of Victor. With a couple of wagons, a house, which was a frame one, was separated into parts and the pieces moved into Victor. The jury this evening found her guilty of stealing the material composing the building. The penalty for the offense is a term of from one to ten years in the state penitentiary. A motion for a new trial was at once entered. The case was begun yesterday before Judge Seeds and completed this afternoon. This was the second trial of the case. At the previous trial the jury disagreed."

*Taken from the Weekly Gazette (Colorado Springs, Colorado) 8 May 1901 Wed. Page 1*

Received at CSP 6-18-1901

Discharged by court order 3-07-1902

Remanded to Teller County

\*\*This was not the first time Mary Barry had been in court. But moving the house was going a bit too far.

(1 Feb 1899). "Twelve men were on trial for "unlawfully instituting a boycott against Mrs. Mary E. Barry who was engaged in the wall paper and painting business in the city of Cripple Creek. A number of the men are said to be members of the Painters and Decorators Union.

“Immediately after the jury had been secured District Attorney McAllister outlined his case to the jury. He stated that he expected to prove that the men had instituted a boycott against Mary E. Barry and had attempted to drive her out of the Cripple Creek district; also that they had refused to accept her as a member of the Painters and Decorators Union.”  
*The Weekly Gazette (Colorado Springs, Colorado) 1 Feb. 1899 Wed. Page 3*

Apparently, Mary stuck to her rights to have a decorating business. We can only surmise that the house she dismantled and moved to Victor was one she had worked on and for which she had not been compensated.

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## MEMBERS' APPRECIATION BARBEQUE

Held only in our minds and hearts this year, and usually held in August, the Members' Barbeque had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 situation.

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## In Memoriam

In memory of deceased Board Member Donna Murphy, the Museum has nominated Donna for this year's "Outstanding Civic Leader of Fremont County". Following is the letter submitted to the Commissioners for their consideration:

Mr. Tim Payne  
Mrs. Debbie Bell  
Mr. Dwayne McFall  
615 Macon Ave.  
Canon City, CO 81212

Dear Fremont County Commissioners:

We the Museum of Colorado Prisons with like-minded friends and family, would like to nominate Donna Murphy for the Outstanding Civic Leader of Fremont County, and add her name to the plaque in the county building.

Donna was a volunteer and spear header of many local non-profits. She was an avid environmentalist always working toward the improvement of our quality of life. She was willing to sacrifice her time, money, energy, and comfort to make sure our community was a better and safer in which to live.

Donna has been an officer or active member of The Rialto Theater, Fremont Center for the Arts, Fremont/Custer Historical Society, the Museum of Colorado Prisons, the Sierra Club, BLM Resource Advisory Council, Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area's Citizen Task Force, Fremont/Valdai Sister City Association, Fremont Economic Development Corporation, Community Advisory Group for the Cotter Corp. superfund mill site, The Jane Jeffersons, The Italian Festival, The Cousteau Society and Cañon City's Energy Future. She also was a regional representative on Gov. Roy Romer's "Smart Growth" forums and a founding member of Colorado Citizens Against Toxic Waste.

Sincerely,

Stacey Cline  
Director of the Museum  
Of Colorado Prisons  
719 269.3015

Gerry Colett  
Volunteer, the Royal  
Gorge Museum and  
History Center

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Paranormal Nights continue. Ghost Hunts U.S.A. will be with us October 16th, 17<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>. You can get tickets for their events online at Ghost Hunts USA.

“Gold Rush Ghost Encounters” has a special Halloween tour scheduled for October 31<sup>st</sup>. The tour is from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.; snacks and coffee are provided. Tickets are \$80. To sign up for the tour, contact Mo Sheridan @prisonmuseum.org or call the Museum at 1-719-269-3015. You will not be disappointed.

In keeping with October’s Halloween theme, Denver7 News will be sending a film crew to the Museum the first week in October to film a program about the building’s paranormal activity.

The Museum will participate in activities at “Boo at the Bridge” held at the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION FOR THE 2020-2021 YEAR

The slate of officers reads much the same as the Board from the previous year:

### Officers:

Chairman	Maureen Sheridan
Vice-Chairman	Malacha Hall
Secretary/Editor	Paula DeCook
Treasurer	Sheila Lucero

### Board Members:

Kelly Black	
Brendan Pardue	Jim Jacobs
Frank Martinez	Sandy McCoy

### Advisory Board:

Sandy Dexter	Elaine Greenlee
H. B. Johnson	Dan Korber

Members are welcome to come to this meeting for the election of officers. Please call if you plan to attend (269-3015) so we can plan for compliance with the Covid-19 restrictions. A mask will be required.