



201 North First Street
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www.prisonmuseum.org
(LIKE us on Facebook)

Fall/Winter Hours

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Wednesday-Sunday
 Adults \$7
 Children 6-12 \$5 (under 6 Free)
 Over 65 \$6
 CDOC and FBOP \$5
 Military \$5

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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

July 30, 2022

TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Hello Everyone,

Summer is filling up with activities, programs, and festivals. We're looking forward to some great activities at the Museum. The public's interest we saw with the June 3 history walk downtown inspired the return of the Ghost Walks. There is consistent interest in the paranormal activity the Museum hosts on a regular basis. We'll do another "Movie on the Wall" on an evening in August. The Members' Barbecue is coming soon. So, the calendar is filling up.

The Museum building itself has had its repairs completed and is looking it's best. In one year's time, the Museum has had over 20,000 visitors - not only from throughout the U.S. but also from at least 13 foreign countries. We're very proud to be an interesting and instructive member of the local community.

If you haven't visited us recently, you'll be interested to see the changes. We appreciate your support and hope to see you at the Barbecue!

Sincerely,

Maureen Sheridan, Chairman

"The best things in life are free. The second best things are very expensive."

-Coco Chanel



The Museum hosted the June 3rd Birthday event with an History Walk down Main Street...



Michaelene & daughter Stephanie Jacobs



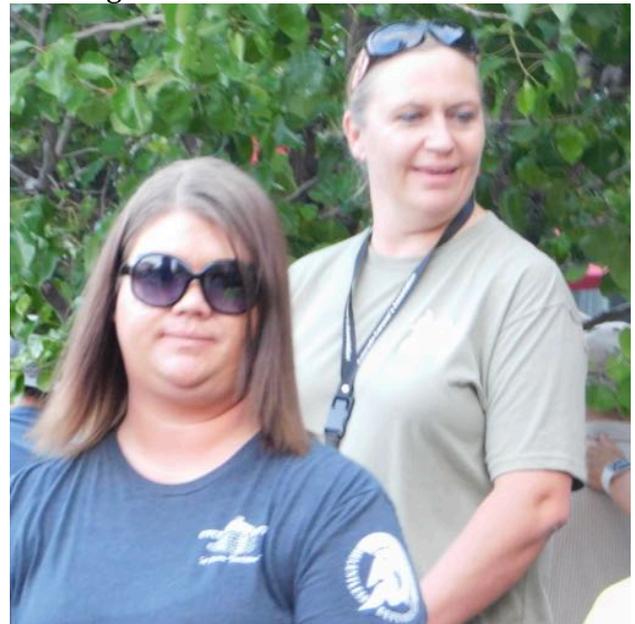
Sandy Dexter and the Strathmore Hotel



Maureen Sheridan's talks included stories of the ghosts who appear in Canon's various buildings.



Crowds equaled more than 400 people



Stephanie & Mo kept us on track and moving.

*You are cordially invited to
the Annual Membership
Barbecue !!!*

Please mark your calendars for the Membership Barbecue to be held on the Museum grounds **on August 17th, 2022. So, by all means, renew your membership!**

The Barbecue is held on the third Wednesday because it is considered the official monthly meeting of the Board of Directors. Each year a slate of officers is presented to the membership and attendees will be voting for the next year's Board of Directors -- which takes about 8 minutes. Then the food and fun are generously served. Come join us. Call 719-269-3015 so we'll know how many to plan for.

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DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND:

GHOST WALKS

**will be held Saturday, July 23,
and again on Saturday,
August 27 for the nominal fee
of \$10 each.**

Get your tickets early. The crowd for each session will be limited to 30 people. Tickets are available at the Museum of Colorado Prisons 201 N. 1st St.,

**Canon City. Call 719 269-3015
for more information**

**ANOTHER
SUMMER TREAT !!
"Movie on the Wall"
August 13, 2022**

Plans are being made for another Movie on the back wall at the Prison Museum. Popcorn will be furnished with your \$10 ticket; a food truck will be on hand, both soft drinks and adult beverages will be available. Bring your lawn chair, relax and enjoy the double feature:

"These Walls" and
"Canon City".

Tickets are available for purchase at the Museum, 201 N. 1st Street,
or
call 719-269-3015.



Howard Potts #23207

by Paula DeCook

On June 23, 1943, 42-year-old Howard Clarence Potts was escorted to the gas chamber by Warden Roy Best. They spoke cordially about incidental items of interest and Best later explained Potts had been a model prisoner in the year and a half he had been in the prison.

According to newspaper reports, it all started in May of 1943 with a domestic dispute over a chicken dinner.

Mrs. Mary Potts occasionally had worked as domestic help for Mrs. Robert Russell. Mrs. Russell for some time tried to contact Mary but Mary's husband said she had gone to California to visit a sister. But no sister could be reached. The neighbors of the

Potts family also were puzzled over Mary's disappearance. Her cats had been yowling almost every night for the last few weeks. Mrs. Russell went to the police.

When the police started talking to the neighbors, they were told that on the night of April 1st Mrs. Potts, her face "discolored and swollen, had asked Mrs. Robert Miller if she could stay overnight because she was "scared something terrible would happen." The next night Mary Potts spent the night at the home of another neighbor.

The police got no response when they went to the Potts home. They entered through a window and found Mr. Potts in bed. After extensive questioning, Howard admitted he had pushed his wife down the cellar stairs during an argument because of her failure to serve dinner on time. When he discovered his wife had died in the fall, he went out the next day and bought a new pickax. He buried her in the furnace room in the basement. Potts showed the authorities the location of the grave and sat calmly smoking a cigarette while they exhumed the body. The police found the body under two feet of soil. Potts later told Denver detectives he had stomped her to death on April 3 in a quarrel over her tardiness in preparing the chicken dinner for him.

(Ed.-Apparently in 1943 Rehab for Anger Management was not an option.)

Sources for this article include:

Newspapers.com

Greeley Daily Tribune May 1943

Prison Museum Archives

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Paranormal Nights:

8 p.m. - 3 a.m.

August 20th

September 24

October 30

Call the Museum for Information
and Tickets

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Meet Roxane Urban. She'll be helping this summer at the Museum and the Gift Shop. Drop in and say hello. Remember, no entrance fee is charged if you come in to shop the Gift Shop.

ITEM OF NOTE:

In the last six months visitors to the Museum came from at least 13 Foreign countries.

The list includes Mexico,
Guatamala

Colombia Panama

Trinidad Tobago Albania

Georgia (the country)

Morocco Ghana

Kenya Kosovo

and Pakistan.