

WELCOME TO THE CAÑON CITY 150TH JUBILEE

THE STORY OF THE CAÑON CITY 'C'

The Cañon City C has been a proud symbol of our community for many years. It is located on the south end of the hogbacks on DOC property. The 'C' demonstrates the pride of Cañon City. This is Jeff Mueller's, Jon Plummer's along with many other eyewitness accounts of how the 'C' was built.

The graduating class of 1968 envisioned the magnificent C to be placed on Department of Corrections (DOC) property. Jim Dunn was head boy and student president of the Members Of Tiger Athletic Club (MOTAC) during that time period. John Plummer was the supervisor of the MOTAC group during the construction of the 'C'. Plummer, along with Dunn, led the team to get the project started. MOTAC met with the prison warden Wayne K Patterson. Warden Patterson's main concern was that the 'C' had to look good, be properly sized, and be visible. MOTAC constructed the 'C' by gathering rocks from around the DOC property and hogbacks to create outlines and fill in the overall shape. The Short Lumber Company donated the white paint, and mops were used to apply the paint to the rocks. In addition, Dunn's father, the head of the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) at the time, allowed the students use survey equipment to properly size the 'C'. During the revitalizing project to celebrate Cañon City's Sesquicentennial in March 2022 the 'C' was given an update. The C is now constructed with a wood frame and covered with durable white sheet metal, which can be seen from much further distances and has also facilitated the addition of lighting.



CCHS student Katelyn McBroom has researched the story of the 'C' as part of her Capstone school project. With assistance from the Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center and also Jeff Mueller and the Plummer family, she composed the above information. If you would like to contribute to the collective history of the 'C' or have memories that you'd like to record, please email mcbrookr@ccs-student.org.

BRIEF HISTORY OF CAÑON CITY

PRE-INCORPORATION 1859-1871

Long before any settlers arrived this land was home to the Uncompahgre Ute people.

1859: Cañon City is laid out and the first log cabin was built on the west side of the hogbacks above Soda Springs.

1860: Cañon City platted by Buell and Boyd (1280 acres)
Anson Rudd Cabin built
Oil Discovered

1861: First Territorial Legislature authorizes the formation of Fremont County with Cañon City, the county seat.

1862: Fremont County organized

1870: First Public School

1871: Territorial Prison

INCORPORATION 1872-1899

1872, April 2: Cañon City Incorporated

1876: First Newspaper begins printing

1880: Denver & Rio Grande Railroad runs its first trains through the Royal Gorge

1883: 'Old Mose' grizzly bear terrorizes residents

1886: Hotel St. Cloud moves from Silver Cliff to Cañon

1873: Denver & Rio Grande Railroad reaches Cañon City

1900S

1905: Skyline Drive built

1906, 1912, 1923: Acquisition of our three mountain parks – Royal Gorge, Temple Canyon, & Red Canyon

1929: Royal Gorge Bridge Built

1939: First Cañon City Music & Blossom Festival

1959: South Cañon annexed by Cañon City

1974: East Cañon annexed by Cañon City

1980: First rafting company appears in the City Directory

1983: Downtown designated as a Nat. Historical District

1992: Stegosaurus, "Ms. Spike", discovered in Garden Park

1995: Ruth Carter, 1st woman mayor

1999: Dinosaur tracks discovered along Skyline Drive

2000S

2004: New City Hall Built at 128 Main St

2009: 1st Whitewater Festival in Cañon City

2013: Royal Gorge Fire (June 11) burns 3,218 acres

2016: 'Our Souls at Night' films in Cañon City

2020: New Washington School built and new addition to the Cañon City Middle School built.

2021: Point Alta Vista re-opened to the public as a trail

WWW.CANONCITY150.COM

The Sesquicentennial celebration continues throughout the year! Find more information about upcoming events, celebrations, and opportunities to join the festivities at www.canoncity150.com.

Jubilee committee members: Marty Dunning, Councilwoman Amy Schmisser, Mayor Ashley Smith