# Museum Times

CROSS ORCHARDS DINOSAUR JOURNEY MUSEUM of the WEST

Why travel with the Museums? - Julia McHugh PhD.



Museum trips are one of my favorite ways to engage with our community. I love seeing the expressions of wonder and amazement on participants faces as I take our trip goers off the beaten path and show them the wonders of the natural world that they may have passed by a thousand times before and not seen. Geology has made such a powerful impact on the area where we live, that sometimes we take for granted the hoodoos, cliffs,

and canyons around us. I love sharing my passion for these outdoor places and seeing our trip goers get excited to learn more about their own backyards. I led a group up to Rifle Falls State Park to explore one such place. I was excited to share my quirky love of rock formations, the beauty of the waterfalls, and the geologic story of this area, from flowing water, to growing caves, to the Grand Hogback that separates the Western Slope from the Rocky Mountain region to the east.

If you are interested in traveling with the Museums, and experiencing with expertise, sign up for one of our trips happening soon. On May 14th you can learn while you hike the Old Spanish Trail from achaeologist Sonny Shelton. One June 25th, you can join railroad historian Matt Darling, and geologist Rex Cole on a tour around the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Don't miss out on these special trips with the Museums.

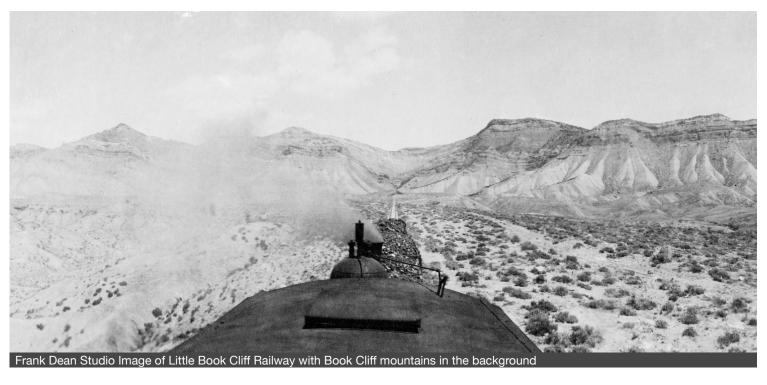
### Museum After Dark a Great Success!

Earlier this month Dinosaur Journey hosted the first event of its kind for the Museums, a 21+ educational event! This sold out event was a great success with food, wine & beer available for participants while they enjoyed scavenger hunt, trivia, and painting activities. If you were there you might now know what a coprolite is, what guarry the *Utahraptor* was discovered in, or how paleontologists know what color dinosaur's skin was. Copper Club's donation of beer and yummy tacos from Armando Taco truck made this a night to remember. Sound fun? Another **Museum** After Dark event will be happening at Museum of the West in **November** sponsored by **Family Health West!** Come have some fun with us!



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# Little Bookcliff Railway Photo Acquisition - Vida Jaber

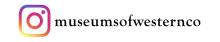


In the same week, the Museums of Western Colorado acquired two new donations relating to Frank Dean's Studio. Frank Dean [1864 -1947] was a very successful "fotographer" when he moved to Grand Junction in 1900 and photographed up until, 1945. When his studio closed and was demolished, over 2,400 glass plate negatives were saved and many were added to the Museum's archives. These new donations, make an exciting addition to Frank Dean's work in our collections and archives.

One of the donations came from Frank Dean's great grandson who donated a prop table and chair from Dean's studio. These items, each being around 24 inches tall, were used in portraits as props for children and to display items. The donor shared stories of when they were kids, playing with the table and chair, and eventually their own children being able to play with them too.

The second donation is a collection of photos of "a mine and a train" taken by Dean's Studio. The donor had little context, and didn't recognize the scenes photographed, and only had the "Dean Studio, Grand Junction" signature to work off of when she contacted the museum. After learning of the connection with Frank Dean and the information about the railroad industry, we were delighted to bring the images into the archives. Upon opening the envelope and looking at the ten pictures, volunteers Marie Tipping and Laurie Buniger instantly identified the photos and the train to be the Little Book Cliff Railway and the Book Cliff Mines dating to around 1915. Curator of Cross Orchards, and railroad historian Matt Darling, had a field day looking at the new acquisition. Two of the pictures were used in the book, *The Little Book Cliff Railway* by Lyndon Lampert and Robert McLeod. The donor was happy to learn that we have the pictures and were able to identify them. You can see all ten pictures, the chair and table from Frank Dean's studio, and other digitized materials by visiting, https://collections.westcomuseum.org







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Early season high temps followed by April freezing temps are cause for concern at Cross Orchards Historic site this spring. Curator of Cross Orchards Matt Darling says, "about 30%-35% of the crop this year is compromised from the spring freeze in mid April." Apples are a later crop, and typically less suseptible to spring freezes than peaches; however, at Cross Orchards there are several early season varieties of apples, and their blooms were on full display before the winter weather made a surprise visit. The temperatures were not the only concern, high winds damaged a sign and an out building on the historic site's grounds. Dedicated volunteers and Curator, Matt Darling didn't waste any time getting to work on repairs, the preparation for the spring opening couldn't be stalled.

Cross Orchards will be reopening for the season beginning Thursday, May 5th. Cross will resume the normal business hours of Thursday - Saturday 9am-3pm through December. The ride-on-train will run on Saturdays from 9am-Noon. The Antique Truck show will be Saturday May 28th, the Farmer's Market will be Wednesday's and Saturday's beginning in early June, and Fall Day on the Farm will be Saturday, October 15th!







#### **Museums of Western Colorado**

462 Ute Ave.
Grand Junction, CO 81501
www.mowc.co

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## Old Spanish Trail Hike!

Join local archaeologist, Holly "Sonny" Shelton on a guided hike of the historic Old Spanish National Historic Trail.

Journey along the same route that has been in use since the 1820's and experience views of the Grand Valley and Uncompangre Plateau. Meet a historic reenactor for a demonstration of how to pack a horse for a journey and experience prehistoric trail artifacts on display.





## Antique Truck Show!

Cross Orchards Historic Site welcomes trucking enthusiasts and anyone interested in the history of trucks to this show! Co-hosted by the regional chapter of the American Truck Historical Society, and featuring Cross Orchards own 1931 Firetruck & 1917 Model T! Come have fun with us, tickets available at the gate.

Saturday, May 28th || 9:00am-3:00pm

## Explore with Us!

Check the Museum's website to learn more about the scientific and cultral past of this valley.

www.mowc.co