

Fremont County Centennial

March 4, 1993

Today, March 4, 1993, is a very special day to remember. You are all here to celebrate a birthday. Fremont County is 100 years old today. I hope that some of the things that are shared today will a lasting impression on your mind so that you can share them with the rest of your family.

There are a lot of things that could be told about the County, but we as County Employees, will just talk mostly about this historic building that we are in today.

A little History: A man named CH Moon established his home where the Tony's store now is located. Shortly after Mr. Moon came to this location, Fremont county was created, which at that time consisted of everything north of Idaho Falls. This county originated from part of what is the northern part of Bingham County..taking in Jefferson, Madison, Clark and Teton counties at one time. When Fremont County was created, it became a question where to locate the county seat. It was agreed that St. Anthony should be the county seat, but that Rexburg should have the offices. This was to go on for 5 years and then a vote was to be taken requiring 2/3 majority to establish the county seat. It was voted that St. Anthony be the county seat.

Fremont County was born on March 4, 1893. The building of this structure began in April 1909. The land that this building sits on was donated by St. Anthony which at that time was approximated \$10,000 value. The people of the city raised \$30,000 more to help towards the construction of this building. As you leave the building today out the front door you may want to go the south east corner of this building and in the corner look up and you will see the corner stone that says April 1909.

Until the Courthouse was built-for approximately 16 years- the County office was held in the building that at one time was the Wardrobe Cleaners which is now Nels Sahls office.

Miss Gusta Fletcher became the first school superintendent. Mr. Moore and Mr. Fuller taught school in teh old school house which is now known as the VFW hall right across the street from the front door of the Courthouse. Where teh Jr. High now is, was a 4 room rock school house which at that time was plenty of room for all the students.

In 1903. a bill was introduced that brought the State Industrial Training school here which we call the Youth Services Center now.

There have been many buildings torn down, many are still in use. As we ponder the Centennial of Fremont County, let's try to keep our history alive with stories, thoughts and pictures and becomming involved throught out the year. We are a part of history. Let's let this live on from generation to generation. These memories are priceless.

Tour Information:

We are probably going to have to do this by trial and error. It may be best to start on the main floor and split into 3 groups. The information that I have listed on the attached sheets will help you in explaining the rooms. We must take into consideration the age of these school kids. Try to make it as much on their level as possible and we must make sure that we keep the groups together and not take too long at each level. Be courteous to the other groups and do not go to that level until the other tour is done or at least stay to the other side of the tour for less congestion. We will have a paper that the tour guides should see that each teacher gets so that she can take it back to the school and let each student sign it. We will put the signatures in a binder for safe keeping the safe for future centennials!!! We can go into more detail about each level with the older students and any adults that may take the tour. Any suggestions or changes, please let me know. We want to make this a memorable and enjoyable time for all--especially yourself. I have scheduled the tour guides and if there is a problem let me know or arrange a change with someone in your office. The roaming guide can see that the displays are not handled, help with the tours if needed, watch the pop machines, or just add your Centennial smile. Each office should have a least one person in the office or close by to take care of any customers and answer the phone.

If your tour starts:

In the Basement: your next stop is to the Main floor- then go Upstairs. End up on the main floor for refreshments.

On the Main Floor: your next stop is to go Upstairs--then the Basement. End up on the main floor for refreshments.

Upstairs: your next stop is the Basement--then the Main floor. End of tour with refreshments.

Tours begin at 9:00 Scheduel attached.

Basement: (Start on East Side)

We are now in front of the Health Department. At one time many years ago this served as the only Jail. The thick cement walls were to hold the prisoners in. There was only one big Jail cell for a long time. After the Old Jail was built- which was on the same spot the new Jail now sits- the prisoners were moved from here to be housed in the New Jail and then the County Agent moved in here. After he moved out and went upstairs, the Health Department moved in. Across the hall is now Motor Vehicle. That is where all the license plates for the County are issued. At one time the Sheriff's office use to be here.

(Walk to west end of courthouse and go up the stairs to the Main floor.)

Comment on the posters on the walls and explain that the closed doors were and are still used for storage.

Main Floor: (Start with Lois's room and mention that after the tour they will come back to this floor for refreshments.)

The Computer room used to be the Attorney's room. As you will notice on this mail floor, almost all of the legal things were done here. Attorney, Judges and Clerks. This room is now used as the Roll Clerks room and she puts most everything on the Computer for County information. Years ago all of this information was done by the Assessor, Treasurer and the Clerk so the Roll Clerk didn't really exist for several years. What is not the Assessors office was once the Judges office. (If at this time you have time and are with older students you may want to explain a little bit about the Assessor's Office.) Where this hall way is now, you will notice the pictures and names on the wall. These are past Assessors and also the current one, Mr. Ingram. Over here on the table you notice some old things onced used in the Assessors office. This hall way used to be part of the Assessors office as well as the adjourning room which is still the Assessors office. You will notice the large safe in the corner. That is to hold important documents and to keep them safe from fire or any other damage. This room has always been related to the Assessor.

This room to your left is the Treasurer's office and it always has been. She also has a large safe in the corner. She is responsible for the tax money or any other monies that pass through this Courthouse. Notice the old calculator that at one time was used which now we use everything electric. We have certainly come a long way.

You will notice as we leave this room, the pictures of the past Treasurer's and also the past Clerk's as well as the current ones. Also you will see names and pictures of past Commissioners.

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You are now in the Clerk's office. This has always been the Clerks office as you will also notice the large safe where important documents, books, money and maps are stored. Under this glass top you will notice very old Warrants or Bills paid. As we go take a look at the Recorders office, you can take a look inside the old safe. Don't go inside but just look at how large and heavy it is.

The Recorder has always had this as her office also. You will notice all the old books and their beautiful penmanship from years back. Records were kept from the beginning of this County and are kept and recorded daily through this office. Our next stop is what is now the Kitchen. Many years ago, this use to be a stairway. Below us was once the Jail and above us is the Court Room. Many years ago, the stairs that were in this room and might still be there if we were to tear down the walls and ceilings, were used to transport the prisoners from the jail to the courtroom. They didn't go through any other part of the Courthouse. In this corner (by fridge) there used to be what we call a "dumb waiter". This was a platform that was pulled up and down by a pulley. This had the prisoners food put on it and it would either go down to the Jail or up to Courtroom. The stairs led clear to the top of teh courthouse up to the dome. As you go to the outside of the building look up at the top of the Courthouse and you will see the dome.

This little room was once the Magistrate Clerks office. She would take care of the Court appointments and handle the money for fines etc. Her office is now upstairs next to the Judges office. This next room has always been the Commissioners room. Three selected Commissioners meet in this room twice a month to go over the affairs of the County and to listen to people that have concerns. On the wall to your right as we leave this room, you will find pictures of past Commissioners.

This next office at one time was the judges office and back in this little room was his chambers. These offices are now used for the Ambulance Co-ordinator and also the Welfare personnel.

I want to draw your attention to the beautiful mosiac floor. This floor is the original. Although many changes have been made in this courthouse to repair or upgrade, the overall structure of the Court House has been preserved as best as it can be. Notice the beautiful wood work and stair railings around the coridor.

Upstairs:

Notice the beautiful glass above you. This is called the skylight. Farther above that is the dome that I told you about. To our left is the Court Room. This is where the Judge presides & Courtroom cases are heard. The Judge sits up there, the jury sits over there and the attorney and their clients sit here. The audience is required to sit back here. The door to the back was used several years ago to store evidence.

The room that is now the Ag Agents room use to be used for School storage. The Home Economist Office used to be the Ration Room and after that the School Superintendent office. This door next is where Janice Stimpson has her office now, and that use to be the Selective Service room.

The next room which we call the Red Room use to be the City Clerks office. Until the City Building was built, this Courthouse use to take care of the City as well as the County affairs.

Next is the Magistrates Clerk Office. This room and the next room, hall, and the Judges room were all part of the Public Library. There is a small room back in there that is still the Judges Chambers. His law books, and robes are hung in there. You will notice the display in the hall of the beautiful wood chair that holds the Judges robe, and the table that has the Jury wheel on it. The Jury Wheel is used to put names of prospective jurors in and the wheel is turned several and names are drawn out to be called to serve as jurors when ever there was a trial.

Tours:

8:30	Jan Reynolds Class	Vicki
9:00	Lincoln School (100 students) Janet Losekie (9 children 3 adults)	
9:50	Jan Reynolds class	Vicki
10:00	Lincoln School (101 students)	
11:00	Central (50 students)	Brooke
12:15	Central (25 students)	
12:30	Parker (50 students)	
12:45	Central (25 students)	
1:00	Lincoln (140 students)	
2:00	Jan Reynolds class	Vicki
3:30	Gretchen (adults and children)	