



friendship force
NORTHERN COLORADO



Cathie McCallum
Editor & Publisher

2021

July-September

Estes Park, Fort Collins, Greeley, Loveland, Windsor and Surrounding Areas

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One year ago, amid a raging pandemic, we wondered when – or even “if” – it would ever end. When would we be able to meet with friends and loved ones? When could we hug our grandchildren? Would life ever return to normal? Now it seems like that is happening. We met in person in June. Zoom kept us connected, but it does not compare to being able to see, touch, and even hug our friends. Some of us met for the first

CLEO lunch in over a year. And now we are looking forward to our picnic with Cheyenne in August, an inbound journey from Southern New Jersey in September, and a train trip aboard the California Zephyr in October. Isn't it fun to have things to look forward to again?

On a personal note, I am looking forward to a trip to Minnesota in July to see my family, especially my 93-year-old sister. Then in August I will have a three-week stint as a VIP (Volunteer in Parks) with the Apostle Island National Lake Shore. My niece and I will be campground hosts on an island in Lake Superior. We will be off the grid. There will be no Internet service. Cell phone service is intermittent, but I am not sure that, with only solar generated power for lights, we will be able to charge our phones. And, yes, we will not only be using outhouses, but cleaning them as well. My husband's family has a long history on this island, and pre-national park we owned a cabin there. We spent our honeymoon on the island, and my husband's ashes are there. So, it is a special place for me.

See you in September!



FFNC VIRTUAL PROGRAM APRIL 9, 2021

David M. Jessup: Sylvan Dale Ranch owner

Our guest speaker David M. Jessup is co-owner of Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch in Loveland. David and his wife Linda, who presently reside in Maryland, are parents of four children and four grandchildren.

Sylvan Dale first became a guest ranch in the 1920s. David's father purchased the ranch in 1946, and in 1963 it became a working ranch as well as a dude ranch. Sylvan Dale Ranch, located along the Big Thompson River about seven miles west of Loveland and near the mouth of the Big Thompson Canyon, experienced catastrophic flooding in 1976 and again in 2013. After surviving these catastrophic floods and rebuilding, David has a strong interest in resilient river restoration designs to adapt to future flood events. He serves on the board of the Big Thompson Watershed Forum, The Big Thompson Restoration Coalition, and is a founding member of the Colorado Conservative Exchange, an organization creating a new financing mechanism to help land stewards implement conservation practices through a watershed investment fund. He works with several departments at CSU on sustainable agriculture projects and a water quality pilot project to reduce nutrient runoff into the watershed.

David served with the Peace Corps in Peru, worked for human rights in Latin America with the AFL-CIO international Program in Washington, D.C., and returned to the Ranch in 2000.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Sylvan Dale Ranch. The future of the Ranch is now being planned by the Heart-J Center for Experiential Learning. (www.heartjcenter.org)

At Sylvan Dale Ranch David introduces guests to low-stress, grass fed cattle raising methods. He enjoys sharing information and stories (some of them true) of both the old and the new West. The preservation of open space and battling invasive weeds are among his passions. The sound of cowboy tunes and tales along with the hum of fly fishing in search of wild river trout are parts of life David enjoys sharing at the Ranch.





FFNC VIRTUAL PROGRAM APRIL 9, 2021

David M. Jessup: Author



David is an avid history buff and award-winning author. The history he learned about early settlers of Loveland provided the base for his historical trilogy:

1. Mariano's Crossing (2012)
2. Mariano's Choice (2016)
3. Mariano's Woman 2020

He explained that history provided the facts as to *what* happened and fiction allowed him to give the writing a *why*.

David introduced three main historical characters in his books.

Mariano Medina, born in Taos, New Mexico in 1812, died in Colorado in 1868. He was a Colorado Mountain Man as described in his biography by Zethyl Gates. David dedicated the first book of the trilogy to Ms. Gates, a Loveland historian and librarian for many years. She used the word "unrecognized" to characterize Mariano. Mariano's transition from Mountain Man who dealt with fur trapping to businessman was more successful than most. He became the richest man in the Big Thompson Valley during its first year of settlement. During the decade July 1862 to July 1872 prejudice ran high against Mexicans and Native Americans.

Takansy, wife of Mariano Medina, was born into the Flatfoot Tribe along the Bitterroot River in Montana in the early 1800s. She left her people and married a French fur trader names Louis Papin. In 1844 he traded her to Mariano Medina for the worthy cost of six horses and six blankets. The Gold rush started in Colorado in 1848. At this time history records show Takansy and Medina establishing a successful trading post and stage stop known as Mariano's Crossing along the Big Thompson near Loveland.

John Alexander, son of William Alexander, settled in Colorado for health reasons, not for ranching opportunities or in search of gold. In 1863 a sawmill was set up at the base of what is now Mount Alexander. John Alexander and Lena Medina, daughter of Mariano and Takansy, both attended Big Thompson schools as documented in school district records.

It was a pleasure to have David share his story with our club. Check out his blog: [Beef, Books and Boots](#) and his websites: www.davidjessup.com and www.sylvandale.com



FFNC VIRTUAL PROGRAM MAY 14, 2021

Stacy King: Banaba Island advocate

Our excellent speaker, Stacy King, is coincidentally the daughter of the first FF hosts of Gary & Sue Cummins when they visited Gold Coast, Australia. Stacy gave us an interesting and informative overview of the history of the island of Banaba (also called Ocean Island) which is located in the South Pacific Ocean. Stacy is a businesswoman, author and historian who specializes in Banaban Colonial history. Four generations of her Australian family were involved with the early phosphate mining industry in Banaba.

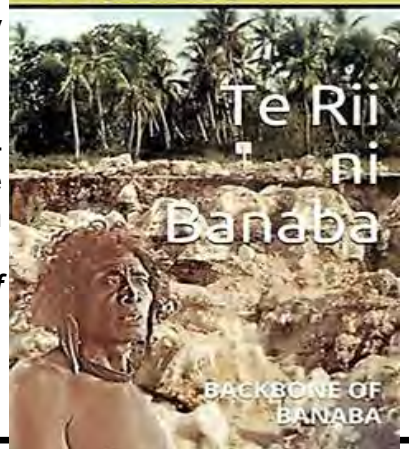
She shared a video of a 1997 visit to the island by several Banaba and mining company descendants. The boat trip, which is the only way to access the island, took about 48 hours from Australia to Banaba. Upon landing they found the wreckage and destruction of 80 years of phosphate strip mining on the 5 square mile island, which had occurred between 1900-1979. They witnessed the devastation of the once luxurious homes of wealthy British, New Zealand and Australian representatives who had shipped in water and bountiful food supplies in support of their lavish lifestyles during the height of the phosphate mining operations. Those representatives had enjoyed grand living, building swimming pools and golf courses, but they left the island in the 1980s shortly after they had exhausted the phosphate supply, and everything fell to ruin. In 1900, the mining rights were purchased from Banaba by a New Zealander, Albert Ellis, for about \$71 a year for 999 years. The indigenous people had been promised a share of the profits, but that equated to only about 1% of the huge profits gained by the mining countries of Australia, New Zealand, and Great Britain, who used the phosphate to produce fertilizer and thus greatly increase the food production in their own countries. Those countries evacuated the island in 1941, and the Japanese inhabited the island between 1942-45 during WWII. The Japanese murdered most of the 150 Banaba natives. After the Japanese were defeated, Australia retook the island and the remaining Banaba natives were transported by the British to Rabi, an island about 1300 miles away in Fiji, and phosphate mining resumed.

The islanders had been promised the land would be restored and trees would be replanted after the phosphate was mined out, but instead, the once 285' elevation of the island was mostly reduced to 65-95' and little was done to reestablish vegetation, making the island nearly uninhabitable. There is no fresh water source on the island—no rivers or lakes for storage, and frequent droughts, so crop production is extremely limited. The 300-400 Banaba people who have moved back to the island live with few material possessions, and in very primitive conditions. They receive about \$12,000 a year as a meager compensation. They must purchase nearly all their materials, water and food off island. Because there are no resources for export and no other foreign investments given to those who returned, they rely solely on assistance from non-profits. The people say they want to live there because their families were born there.

Stacy, along with her late husband, Banaban Raobeia Ken Sigrah, aspire to help rehabilitate the island and make livable settlements for the return of native families. She knows the island will need desalination plants and a great deal of outside support to become re-established. Stacy's books, *NaKaa's Awakening*, and *Te Rii ni Banaba-Backbone of Banaba* are available on Amazon.

Marcia Ross, Reporter

Raobeia Ken Sigrah and
Stacey M. King

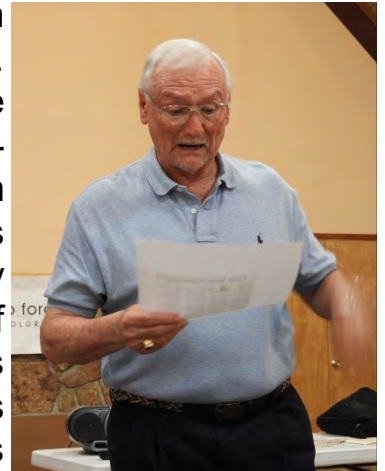




FFNC LIVE PROGRAM JUNE 11, 2021

Jim Willard: Moments to Remember

About 40 FFNC members and 3 *guests* were treated to a fun and interesting program by local trivia master, Jim Willard. Jim, an active community volunteer for decades with multiple organizations and causes, has been writing weekly trivia columns for the Loveland Reporter Herald for over 20 years. Jim tested our memory power by playing portions of 14 top hits from the 30s, 40s and 50s and then asking if we could identify the singers or the origin of the song. He then gave us a brief history of each song, telling us when it was written, if it was from a popular movie or play, and other interesting tidbits about the artists. Whether we knew the artists or not, it was amazing how many of us could remember and identify many of the old hits like “Sentimental Journey” by Doris Day; “When You Wish Upon a Star” sung by the character Jiminy Cricket from the movie version of Pinocchio; “Love and Marriage” by Dinah Shore or “Moments to Remember” by the Four Lads. Various members could identify several of the singers, but it was especially impressive how many of the singers Barb Turnbull could identify!



Marcia Ross, Reporter

INBOUND FROM SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY



We'll create *Moments to Remember* when we host FF ambassadors from **Southern New Jersey** September 24 to October 1, 2021. Marilyn Garner is Host Coordinator. Tentative activities, all dependent on availability based on pandemic restrictions, include the Fort Collins Magic Bus tour, small group dinners, Art Castings tour, picnic in Benson Sculpture Park, overnight in Estes Park, RMNP.

Watch for more details and hosting opportunities.




FFNC OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2022



FFNC officers elected by unanimous vote at the June 11 meeting to serve in 2022 are left to right, **Ken Weaver**, Vice President; **Susan Mathre**, President; **Jan Rozman**, Secretary, **Ann Lohmeyer**, Treasurer.

Thanks to the nominating committee, Kay Thomas, Doris Rogers, and Rosemary Donovan, for their work in nominating and getting the consent of the nominees in preparation for the formal vote at the annual meeting.

MEMORIAL MASS FOR BETTE YOUNGER



An Invitation

Memorial Mass for
Bette Younger

August 20, 2021
2:00 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
5450 South Lemay Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80525

You are invited to attend a Memorial Mass for former FFNC member, Bette Younger. The family is not limiting the number attending the Mass. [No reception after the service.]

Bette Younger

Born in Park, Kansas on October 25, 1930.
Died in Fort Collins, Colorado on January 22, 2021.

Burial will be in Park, Kansas at a later date.

Memorials are suggested in lieu of flowers to
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Capital Campaign
% Goes Funeral Care -3665 Canal Drive Suite E,
Fort Collins, CO 80524 and noted in memory of
Bette Younger.



CALIFORNIA HERE WE COME!



It's not too late to get aboard the **California Zephyr** trip to **San Francisco**. We plan to leave on October 13th for an overnight train trip to San Francisco. We will spend three days in the San Francisco area before the group breaks up and heads in different directions. Some will return home, some will visit family or friends in California, and some will continue traveling. **Contact LaDonna** for more information if you are interested.



2022 OUTBOUND JOURNEY MATCHES!

FFI reported two 2022 outbound matches for FFNC: one to **Raleigh, NC** and a double to Hartford, CT, *and* the **Quebec region in Canada**. Debby Jones is in the process of contacting the journey coordinators of the clubs to establish journey dates. Our *preference* is to visit Raleigh in the spring and both Hartford and the Quebec region in the fall.

Check out the FFI site for more information about the clubs in Raleigh, NC and Quebec, Ontario. [FFI information on Hartford, CT is not available at this time.] Practice translating from French to English in preparation for your journey! Stay tuned for updates as the plans develop!

QUEBEC REGION

La région de Québec est le berceau de la civilisation française en Amérique du Nord; 95% de la population est francophone et fière de ses racines françaises et britanniques. Fondée en 1608, la ville de Québec abrite l'Université Laval, la première université francophone en Amérique du Nord. Seule ville fortifiée restante en Amérique du Nord, Québec est une ville culturellement riche. En 1985, le secteur historique du Vieux-Québec est le premier secteur urbain en Amérique du Nord à être inscrit au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO. Avec une population d'environ 800 000 habitants, la ville de Québec est la capitale d'une province de plus de 8 millions d'habitants.

RALEIGH

Raleigh, the capital city, is centrally located in the rolling hills, forests, and lakes of the Piedmont region in North Carolina. With eight universities and colleges, plus the high-technology Research Triangle Park located between the triangle cities of Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, Raleigh is a center for education in America. The city features excellent state and city museums of history, natural science and art and a multitude of art galleries. It is home to a large variety of ethnic groups. The climate is ideal in spring and fall with moderate temperature and bountiful natural scenery.



CLEO in JUNE



Our first official CLEO since the COVID restrictions was hosted by LaDonna at Betta Gumbo in Loveland. Members attending were, clockwise around the tables from left, Barbara Miller, Rona Baer, Anne Brown, Kay Sheahan, Debby Jones, [Cathie McCallum-photographer], Jan Rozman, LaDonna Palm, Marcia Ross, and Kay Thomas.

LaDonna was pleasantly surprised when the waitress brought her the special birthday hat and a plate of beignets, which she generously shared.



More CLEO to come soon....

CLEO dates are **Thursdays at 11:30**, either third or fourth week.

The CLEO dates and hosts for the next three lunches are:

July 22, Marilyn Garner (970-970-581-5156)

Aug. 26, Jan Rozman (970-988-7499)

Sept. 16, Kay Sheahan (970-667-4473)

Please call the hostess by Monday of that week for details on location and so she can have a head count in advance.



Colorado
Let's Eat Out



Annual PICNIC with CHEYENNE FF

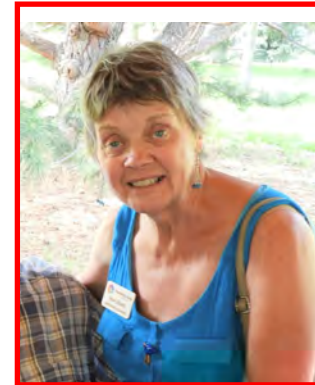
The Friendship Force Annual Picnic with Cheyenne, hosted by FFNC, is scheduled for Saturday, August 14, between 12 noon and 3:00 PM at Pavilion #1 at North Lake Park in Loveland. FFNC will provide the main dish (probably chicken), tablecloths, and drinks. Members of both clubs will bring side dishes or desserts. Members should also plan on bringing their own plates, serving utensils, eating utensils, and drink cups.

Thanks to Tony and Alice for organizing the picnic. Hope to see YOU there.



FFNC members please
report to
ALICE GIBSON
by AUGUST 1.

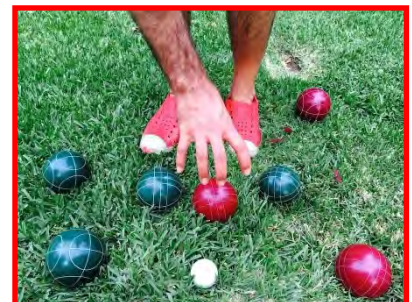
Cheyenne members
will report to
TONY ADAMS



OUTDOOR GAME NIGHT

The Tuesday, July 13 OUTDOOR GAME NIGHT starts at 4:30 in Marilyn Garner's yard at 808 East Elizabeth Street, Fort Collins. Come enjoy mild exercise, fresh air, and good friends while playing games like bocci ball and croquet. Bring a simple snack to share.

Please RSVP to Marilyn by Monday, July 12 at 970-581-5156 or via email.





In person!

virtual

JOURNEYS & EVENTS

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1

FFI Virtual Journeys

Check the FFI
website to register for
upcoming
Faces and Places

and watch *recorded*
programs that you
missed.

Annual picnic
SATURDAY
August 14
12-3
North Lake Park
details on page 9

OUTDOOR
GAME NIGHT
Tuesday, July 13
4:30 in Marilyn's yard
details on page 9

<https://www.friendshipforce.org>

Friendship Force Northern Colorado:
FFNOCO@gmail.com

2021 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT: LaDonna Palm
VICE PRESIDENT: Susan Mathre
SECRETARY/HISTORIAN:
Paulette Weaver
TREASURER: Ann Lohmeyer

Programs: Ken Weaver
Journey Coordinator: Debby Jones
Newsletter Editors/Publishers:

Sue Cummins
Marilyn Garner
Cathie McCallum

Newsletter Reporters Coordinator:
Marcia Ross,

Photographers:
Cindy Paulson
Ed Brigden
Cathie McCallum

Website & Member Directory:
Ed Brigden

Facebook: Sue Cummins

Publicity: Anne Brown

Promotion: Thelma Slocum

Membership: Cathie McCallum

Social Committee: Marilyn Garner

Meeting Greeters: Willie Westdorp

Meeting Hospitality: Suzi Gossard

Meeting Music: Rosemary Donovan

FFNC Store: Debby Jones

Ways and Means: Rick Lohmeyer