

Courtesy photo/Local History Center, Canon City Public Bird Millman was both dainty and daring on the tight wire during early 1900s circus shows

## See it live

Mergleman. original musical by August WHAT: 'Bird Millman,' an

at 7 p.m. April 11, 12 and 13; and 2 p.m. April 13 and WHEN: Performances are

and College, Canon City Elementary School, Ninth WHERE: Washington

COST: \$6 for adults or \$5

of Antiquity in Florence. are on sale at the Book members. Fremont Civic Theatre Corral and Safeway in **TICKETS**: Advance tickets for seniors, students and

Mergleman at 269-3108. ordered by calling Out-of-town tickets can be Canon City or the Fox Den



The musical's Millman Trio features (from left) Terri Stultz, Justin Davis and Kylie Kahnke as the young Bird Millman.



The Millman Trio featured a young Bird (right) and her parents, Jennie and Dyke Millman.





Bird drew adoring crowds of fans wherever she performed. ter, Canon City Public Library

## High-wire

'Bird Millman'

of amazing play portrays life

By TRACY HARMON
The Pueblo Chiefiain

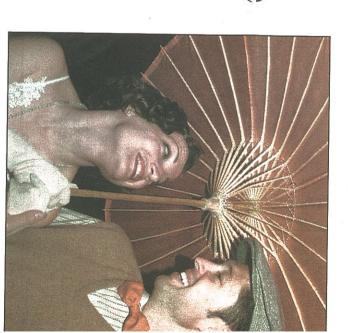
'wire walker'

ANON CITY — The unparalleled life of Bird Millman — from her feats as the foremost female wire walker to her sensational marriage to a millionaire and premature death as a penniless cancer victim—takes center stage when the Fremont Civic Theatre presents an original musical named for Canon City's most famous resident.

Bird was born Jennadean Engleman on Oct. 20, 1890, to Dyke and Jennie Engleman, who ran

"strung first a rope, then a wire between where, according to an article in "The Post Phone," Bird small circus venues. The a general store in Canon City and per-formed in Third Street

Bird was 10 when she first performed a solo act, following her father's 40-foot fall from a wire.

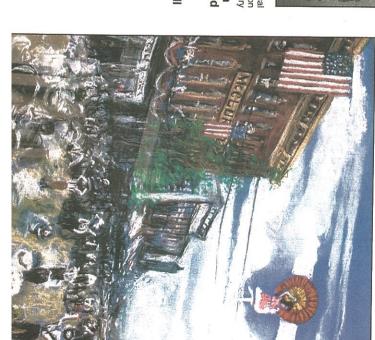


Cheri Hinz as Bird Millman and August Mergleman as I Joseph O'Day, are the lead characters in the musical we Mergleman.

to the high-wire circuit, Millman's "charming personality" endeared her to circus, vaudeville and the Ziegfeld Follies audiences in the United States and Europe, according to historical information supplied by the Canon City Public Library's local history center.

A Grand Refined Vaudeville

not only pretty, I personality and 'that captures eve skill on the wire **Please see Bird**, flyer billed Bird upon the tight w daring, dauntles; review claimed '



father's 40-foot fall and to the goggle-eyed amazement of playmates, began to practice the art that brought her fame and fortune in later years."

Armed with a new last name, the family, billed as the "Millman Trio," started performing as a threesome when Bird was 6½ years old. Bird initially performed stunts with a pony, but was also