

CHAFFEE COUNTY.

An Interesting Letter from a Busy  
Locality.

Chaffee City, Colo.,  
Aug. 4, 1879.

The discovery and rapid development of the mining region at the head of the South Arkansas has caused the upspringing of quite a number of towns depending on the mines for their living and prosperity. First among these we will mention

MAYSVILLE, formerly known as Feather's Ranch. This, one of the newest of Colorado's mining camps, is located eight miles below Chaffee City. The following are from notes we took on that day: Altitude, about 8000 feet. It is a town of only eight day's growth, but full of life, the sale of lots having commenced on the 23 ult., on which day thirty lots were sold. At that time there was only one cabin on the ground, occupied by Wm. Feathers and his family, who owned the ranch now covered by the thriving city of Maysville. It is located at the junction of the North Fork and the South Arkansas, and is most favorably situated to be a distributing point for supplies to the various mining camps around the North Fork, Taylor's, Fouches and Green's gulches, all of which tend to settle here as their natural base. There are five saw mills in operation within ten miles, with an abundance of timber, so that lumber can be procured at reasonable figures. The present price is \$25 per M, with a downward tendency. There are now about 300 inhabitants, with fifty houses, tents, etc., and quite a number of buildings in process of construction, comprising one hotel, one boarding house, two saloons, four retail stores, one wholesale store, one livery and one feed stable. There are two lawyers, two assayers and two surveyors, but no physicians. (The town is represented by Stevens and Wheeler, of Chicago, Judge Ide, of Leavenworth, Kas., and Feathers, of South Arkansas, the last of whom gracefully does the honors of the incipient hotel, and to whom we are indebted for favors and much valuable information. Town lots are ranging from \$35 to \$75. Large numbers of people are arriving daily. Two wagon loads came in from Silver Cliff to-day who report that many more are on the point of starting. A Chicago company is about to bring in a smelter, and Mr. H. Sill, who represents the company, assured us that it would be here within the next 40 days.

On the 1st of August, about four miles above Maysville, being about the same distance below Chaffee City, on a beautiful level tract of bottom land covered with a dense growth of aspens and cottonwoods, we unexpectedly came upon quite a large encampment of men, all of whom were busy some in cutting and hauling timber for houses, some cutting and thinning out the cottonwoods, while another party accompanied a surveyor who was evidently laying off the tract into town lots. As a matter of course we stopped, and the information we gleaned was this: That this was ARBOURVILLE, and that it was laid off on the previous day, July 31st, by Arbour, Morris, English and Convert, all of Silver Cliff. One hundred lots were taken up the first day. The town plat comprises about 125 acres, (the prices for lots ranging from \$25 to \$150. About fifty people are preparing to build, and some of the cabins are now three or four logs high. The town company offers five acres of land to the first smelter brought in, and when prepared to treat ore they will donate \$1,000 in cash.) We next came to HARTSVILLE, which was laid out about the first of May, by Jas. K. Hart, of

Denver, and Walter Jenniss, of Silver Cliff. The land was first taken up as a placer claim and comprises about 47 acres, at the junction of the Middle Fork with the South Arkansas, one and a-half miles below Chaffee City. Fifteen or twenty lots have been taken up. It has a saloon, blacksmith shop, restaurant, and several other buildings partly completed, one of which, 20x42 feet in size and two stories high, will be occupied as a hotel and store.

CHAFFEE CITY, better known as Camp Monarch, was located the 15th day of May, 1879, by J. G. Evans, J. S. Boone and E. Miller. The first addition was made by Moody & True, and the second by Easley & Atwood, comprising in all about 75 acres. The population, including miners on the mountains, is estimated at 3,000. There are 125 houses, including three stores, three saloons, three hotels, three or four boarding houses, three assay offices, blacksmith shop, two restaurants and the postoffice. A building for the Mining Exchange is being erected by Capt. Evans, which is calculated to be a general depot of mining news, and where specimens of the principal mining claims will be collected for public exhibition. Mr. Henry Herrick, formerly of Georgetown, is here doing a thriving business in the way of supplying miners with groceries and miners' supplies. He is about to put up a livery and feed stable, the lumber for it being now on the grounds, while his wife will take charge of the restaurant, which she will open next week.

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Easley we found jubilant over the prospects of the region, feeling no desire to go back to the flesh-pots of Egypt as represented by the formerly popular Fall River House. We hope to see his "Little Bull Pup" grow into a big bull dog that will be its master's pride and protection. But returning from personalities to town interests, we observe among the advantages possessed by Chaffee City a saw-mill, which has been running since the middle of June. What the town and miners need is a smelter, and this locality has especial advantages to offer for the location of one or more at this place. First, the heavy bodies of mineral are on Limestone-mountain, on the south side of the valley, while iron for a flux exists in almost unlimited quantities on Iron mountain, immediately adjoining the town on the north, and it will be made more economical to transport the lighter but higher grade ores from below up to the mill, than the immense amount of heavy ore and fluxes a long distance on a down grade.

The prospect seems fair for an early location of this kind here, and we hope to see it carried into operation. True, a smelter located in any part of the South Arkansas would be of immense advantage, but more especially would it be beneficial if located in immediate proximity to the heavy ore bodies.

No part of the Rocky Mountain region is better supplied with pure, wholesome water than each of the above localities. The toll-road company have decided to continue their road across the range to the Gunnison country, the distance to Gunnison City being 35 miles. It is said to be an easy grade and a very low pass. It is about four miles from here to the top of the pass. Miners' wages are from \$2.50 to \$3 per day. )

Salida Colorado,  
April, 2, 1934.

Dear Dr. Hafen,

I am enclosing a manuscript and my time card for two days. I misunderstood about the expense money and probably allowed by expenses to amount to high.

The set of pictures I wish to send in is not complete as I want to get a picture of Granite and one of a original building of the town of Cache Creek. I also have an unsigned interview about the placer mines on Cache Creek. Perhaps I can get up to Granite in the near future and complete this work. I also have three prospects in that vicinity for excellent interviews which I had hoped to complete. One of them is 97 years of age and lives in the mountains alone! So, though I am not entertaining any hope, I do wish that the project continues under the new program.

I wish to sincerely thank you for your unfailing courtesy and kindness, it has been a pleasure to work for you; and I am very glad that my work has been satisfactory. I am looking forward to a visit to Denver and the pleasure of meeting you. Meanwhile if there is ever a service I can perform as to securing an interview, etc., or writing an article, I'll be very glad to do it.

Sincerely yours,

