

Colorado - Cochetopa
National Forest

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA NATIONAL FOREST

Compiled by

FRED B. AGEE, Forest Supervisor.

. and

JOSEPH M. CUENIN, Forest Ranger,
COCHETOPA NATIONAL FOREST,

Salida, Colorado

1924

Published by The Salida Mail
Salida, Colorado

Jul 8 82
Feb 13 86 25
Mar 8 86
AUG. 3 1992

History of Cochetopa National Forest

INDIANS

The earliest information regarding the region shows it occupied by the Ute Indians. They were in possession of the country at the time of the first Spanish explorations, which date back to the beginning of the 17th century. Antelope, buffalo, deer, elk, mountain sheep, and other game were abundant in those days, and the region around Cochetopa Pass appears to have been a favorite hunting ground for the Utes. Trails worn down into the solid granite on Sawtooth Mountain by ages of travel bear mute testimony of the extensive use of that country by the Indians long before the advent of the white men. Their main trail from the eastern to the western slope crossed the Continental Divide over the present Cochetopa Pass. The earliest Spanish explorers speak of it as a trail worn deep in the soil by long usage. This pass was at that time known among the Indians as Cochetope (Ute word meaning "buffalo gate"). The Spaniards applied a name of similar meaning to it, "El puerto de los cibolos." Later a corruption of the original Indian name was given it, "Cochetopa Pass," by which it is known today.

The Utes were a powerful tribe of Indians and in the early wars easily held their own against the

fierce Arapahoes on the east and the savage Cheyennes of the north, whether fighting in their mountain fastness or on the open plains. The rocks just west of Villa Grove and the old battle field on Ute Pass near Saguache, where one hundred and twenty-six graves may be counted, are grim reminders of the sanguinary conflicts between them.

There is little in written history on the relations of these Indians with the Spanish explorers and settlers, although marks on the ground give evidence of occasional hostilities. At the time of the influx of American settlers back in the early 70's, there existed on the divide between Razor and Needle creeks the ruins of an old fortress, dating back to the Spanish occupation of the country, whose logs filled with lead bear evidence of the fierceness of the encounter which must have taken place there. Back in 1863, when the first American prospectors came to the country, they found on Noname Creek near the present town of Whitepine, remnants of an old wagon which had been burned and near it two human skeletons, probably Spaniards who had been attacked and killed by the Indians. Even as late as 1853, after the country had passed from Mexico to the United

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

States, a party of five Americans and several Mexicans trailing some sheep through to California were set upon by the Utes to the west of Sawtooth mountain and all killed.

Again in 1858, a party of Indians raided some settlers near the Colorado-New Mexico state line, and drove off a large number of horses. A detachment of cavalry from Fort Massachusetts (later Fort Garland) set out in pursuit, overtaking them on the mesa a mile west of the present town of Salida. The Indians made a stand and a fight ensued. It did not last long. The Indians made their escape, but were so hard pressed, they were compelled to abandon the horses. The soldiers did not continue the pursuit, but took possession of the stolen stock, returning it to the owners.

Notwithstanding these sporadic outbreaks, the Ute confederacy was never at open warfare with the whites, nor was the tribe as a whole ever hostile to the numerous parties of immigrants coming to or passing through the country during the two decades following the acquisition of the territory from Mexico. The peaceful attitude of the Utes may have been largely due to the influence of their head chief, Ouray. In general intelligence and foresight, far above the average Indian, it is probable that he saw the inevitability of it all, and sought to gain in part by diplomatic means what he could not hope to accomplish by warfare against the whites. In this field he showed considerable ability as is evidenced by the early Ute Indian treaties which allowed the acquisition of the more rugged mineralized sections of the country not wanted by

the Indians, but reserved the more fertile valleys against their possible future needs for pasture and agriculture. At any rate, he was always a staunch friend of the whites, and dealt summarily with any member of his tribe committing hostile acts against them.

But the wars between the Utes and their traditional enemies, the Arapahoes and the Cheyennes, continued long after white settlers were coming into the country. In 1867 a party of Cheyennes raided some Utes near South Park. The war signals were given, and the following day Utes were pouring into the Arkansas valley from all directions, and hurrying northward. Some of them stopped on their way at the Boon place on the Little Arkansas (the present Velotta ranch), and tried to borrow rifles and powder. Hugh Boon was there and loaned them such guns and ammunition as he had, the Indians willingly leaving their blankets as security. The Cheyennes made their escape, and the Utes came back in a day or two. Those who had borrowed guns from Boon returned them and got their blankets.

The following year, a large party of Utes in turn raided the Arapahoes on the plains to the east, returning with more than five hundred ponies.

The high ridge jutting into the Arkansas Valley near Brown's Creek and the tall butte near Shirley were favorite signaling points for the Utes. The arranging of rocks in certain ways by passing parties served the place of written communication in advising their friends which way they were traveling and how they

NATIONAL FOREST

were faring. Fires were also used in signalling when help was urgently needed.

At one time in the late 60's, it was remarked by the settlers that there had been no Indians in the Arkansas Valley for some time past. Nat Rich made a friendly wager that he could get some there within twenty-four hours. His wager was accepted. He knew something about Indian signalling, and immediately climbed the butte near Shirley, building certain fires upon it. In half a day, there was a fair sized but badly bewildered assemblage of warriors. Rich later collected his bet. He did not, however, inform the Indians as to who had given the signals.

Originally the Ute Indian Reservation included all the lands in the San Luis valley east of the Continental Divide, but by the treaty of 1868 these were ceded to the whites and the Indians took in their place lands to the west embracing about a third of the total area of Colorado. Shortly afterward the central Ute Agency was established on Los Pinos Creek on what is now the W. C. McDonough ranch. Some of the old buildings still remain there, among them Chief Ouray's house built of logs and daubed with a mixture of mud and buffalo hair, now in use by McDonough as a blacksmith shop.

The first Indian Agent there was Jabez Neversink Trask, a man of high standing in the Unitarian Church of Boston, but totally lacking in the qualifications necessary for successful dealings with the Indians. His efforts to change their mode of life, and to civilize and Christianize them in a day, met with poor success. His lack of understanding and per-

sonal eccentricities too, involved him in constant difficulties. He was superceded in 1872 by General Charles Adams, who brought with him a varied and invaluable experience in dealing with Indians gained by his association with them while engaged in military service at Fort Union, New Mexico. He was also supposedly a staunch and strong Unitarian, which it seems at that time was one of the first requisites for consideration for the post of Indian Agent. He successfully conducted the affairs of the Agency for three years, and under his administration a great many of the difficulties were smoothed out. But alas! The ways of the Indian Agents were beset with many pitfalls. It was discovered that he had been raised a Roman Catholic, and had professed that faith until early manhood. Upon the recommendation of the Unitarian Church he was removed in 1875 and the Rev. Henry Bond appointed to succeed him. The Rev. Bond after a short tenure of office beset with difficulties was superseded by Major W. D. Wheeler in 1876. In the meantime, during the summer of 1875 the Agency had been removed from the Los Pinos and was now located on the Uncompahgre river.

About 1870 an influx of settlers into the San Luis valley and adjacent country commenced. During the period which followed, there were continual difficulties between the settlers and the Indians and it was only through the constant efforts of the Indian Agent on the one hand and the influence of Chief Ouray with his Indians on the other that serious trouble was avoided. The Indians claimed the settlers encroached upon

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

their lands. The settlers accused the Indians of stealing their horses and cattle. Reprisals by the settlers were not infrequent.

The difficulties between the whites and the Indians continued, and the situation was further aggravated by an influx of prospectors following the discovery of gold on several parts of their reservation. During the winter of 1877 it was learned that the Indians were secretly buying up all the ammunition they could get preparatory to an outbreak in the spring. A detachment of cavalry was promptly dispatched from Fort Garland under the command of Lieutenant Conline and the trouble averted. With the Agency located as it was, remote from settlement and unsupported by troops, there is little doubt as to what the outcome would have been so far as the Agency employees were concerned.

These continual difficulties finally culminated in the killing by sub-chief Douglas of N. C. Meeker, the Agent at the North Ute Agency, near the present town of Meeker, and of all the men employees of that agency (known in history as the Meeker Massacre). Meeker's wife and daughter and a Mrs. Price also at the Agency were carried off as captives. At the same time two sub-chiefs, Jack and Colorado, ambushed Major Thornburgh at Milk Creek, who with a detachment of the 4th Cavalry and two companies of infantry was marching to the protection of the Agency. Major Thornburgh was killed, his command surrounded and almost annihilated before the relief column, composed of the 5th Cavalry under General Wesley Merritt, could reach it from Fort Steele, Wyoming.

The perpetration of the Meeker Massacre was contrary to the wishes of Chief Ouray and without his knowledge. The women captives were recovered and Chief Douglas and all those who had participated in the massacre were turned over to the Government for trial, Chief Ouray in surrendering them making the stipulation only that they be tried in Washington instead of Colorado because of the bitter feeling against them here.

Following this incident a new treaty was negotiated with the Indians whereby the northern and central Utes were to accept lands in Utah in place of those in Colorado. The Indians were finally induced to sign this treaty and a year or two later were moved to Utah.

Following the Meeker Massacre there was a feeling of unrest also among the central and southern Utes, and the settlers feared a general outbreak. A detachment of cavalry under command of Major Rose was dispatched to the Saguache country. They established camp some thirty miles west of the town on the Cochetopa Pass road (Cantonment Creek), where they remained until the following spring, 1880. This site has been known ever since as Camp Rose, and remnants of the old encampment may be seen there today. During the winter in camp there, one of the soldiers of the detachment, named Charles Sheidler, perished while out hunting deer. It is probable that he became lost in a snow storm, and froze to death. His body was found the following spring in Saguache Park, and was buried there near the forks of Saguache Creek. A rough stone today marks the lone

NATIONAL FOREST

grave of this soldier.

The feeling of unrest among the Indians continued. The cavalry was withdrawn, but the settlers still fearing an attack, obtained authority from the Governor to raise a company of militia. It was organized at Saguache, and was known as Downer's Guard, being named for Major Downer, an old-timer in the country and one-time employee at the Indian Agency when it was located on the Los Pinos. R. H. Jones was its captain, E. H. Woodard, First Lieutenant, and L. L. Thomas, Second Lieutenant. They established camp on Cochetopa Creek near the present Perry Campbell ranch, where they remained during the summer and fall of 1880 and the winter of 1880-81, keeping a close watch on any movements of the Indians. They were then disbanded.

In September 1880, a year after the Meeker Massacre, and before the Indians had been removed to Utah, trouble was narrowly averted. A freighting party, under the command of J. H. Jackson engaged in hauling supplies from the railroad to the mines in the southwest, was intercepted by a party of Indians. The Indians were drunk and quarrelsome. A. D. Jackson, a nephew of J. H. Jackson, fired on them, wounding one of their number. The Indians then departed and the wagon train continued on its way. Little thought was given the matter, since it was believed that the Indian was only slightly wounded. The Indian died that night and it developed that he was Johnson, son of War Chief Shavano. The Indians, about thirty in number, with two white men, Hoyt and Holmes, returned the next

day and surrounded the party. Shortly after, Indian Agent Berry and Mr. Meacham of the commission at that time engaged in negotiating the new treaty with the Indians, and Captain Kelley arrived with fifteen soldiers. They placed the entire party under arrest. They were held there that night under a guard of only two white men and ten Indians. It was necessary for the guard to keep pushing the Indians back all night. The next morning they were marched to the Cline ranch where they were completely disarmed, even taking away their pocket knives, and then all but A. D. Jackson were ordered to continue on their way. They were in the heart of the Indian country. Colonel Beaumont stationed near by, but who had nothing to do with the conduct of the Indian Agency affairs, actuated by motives of humanity, ordered some of his men to accompany the train until it was well out of danger on the Saguache road. But for this action by Colonel Beaumont, there is little doubt but that the entire party would have been massacred by the Indians.

A. D. Jackson, who was held for the murder of the Indian, was sent out on the stage to Gunnison for trial, guarded by Captain Cline, Hoyt, and Holmes. The Indians intercepted the stage, easily took Jackson from the guard, and as it developed later, proceeded to the edge of a cliff where they shot him and threw his body into the ravine below. It was found the following spring.

J. H. Jackson learned of the Indians taking his nephew and hearing nothing further believed they had burned him at the stake. The feeling against the Indians, already intense

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

at Saguache, was wrought up to white heat by hearing Jackson's story. Several months afterward, a party of Ute chiefs on a special mission to Washington, accompanied by Commissioner Meacham and Captain Gline, were to pass through Saguache. They camped at the Monk ranch, about sixteen miles west of the town. That night a large party of whites prepared an ambush for them where the road leads out of the gulch to the top of Hoagland Hill, and awaited their coming the following morning. Fortunately for the Indian party, they lost their horses that night and were delayed in starting the next morning. The Indians not arriving when expected, the whites concluded they had learned of their plans and had detoured by the river road to the north. They hurried over to the river road to intercept them. In the meantime, the Indians found their horses and passed over the Hoagland hill road prior to the return of the whites. They saw the ambuscade which had been prepared for them and decided not to stop at Saguache. Making a wide detour of the town, they hurried on to Del Norte. The numerous small rock barricades behind which the whites were in waiting may still be seen on Hoagland hill near the present auto road. Had the encounter taken place, it is improbable that any of the Indian party would have escaped with their lives, and what the ultimate outcome would have been is difficult to predict.

Even in 1881, after they had signed the new treaty there was still a feel-

ing of resentment among the Indians over their prospective removal to Utah. In April a large band of them, sullen and threatening, were encamped with their horses on the Gunnison river, at the spring four miles below Montrose. Andrew Slane, whose father owned a stock ranch in the San Luis valley, and who, himself, was the equal of any Indian in the arts of scout-craft, with his brother, Dan Slane, and Ed Ellis, swam the Gunnison river by night, and succeeded in escaping with the horses without arousing the Indians. The next morning the Indians, to their surprise, found all their horses gone. Slane and his companions were overhauled a few days later after they had almost reached Saguache with the Indians' ponies. In this instance, the humorous side of the situation saved the day. The Indian Agent compelled Slane to return the horses and the matter was dropped.

Later that year, a small band of Indians left their reservation and crossed over into San Luis valley. A detachment of soldiers was sent from Ft. Garland. They established their camp at the spring a few miles northwest of Saguache, from which base they gathered up the Indians and returned them to the reservation.

By the close of September 1881, all of the Indians had been rounded up and taken to their new reservation in Utah, and thus ended the long period of difficulties between the white settlers and Indians in this region.

NATIONAL FOREST

EXPLORERS

It is not definitely known who was the first explorer to visit this region. Some historians claim that Luis Moscosa de Alvarado, who succeeded De Soto in command when the latter died and was buried in the Mississippi, visited the San Luis valley in 1543 in his wanderings to reach Mexico City. Some of the most credulous even go so far as to state that he entered the San Luis valley, crossing the Sangre de Cristo range over the present Mosca Pass and to assert that the name is derived from a contraction of Moscosa. The word Mosca means in the Spanish language "horsefly" and this supposition is further contradicted by the fact that this pass was originally known by the name of Rubideau. Bancroft, in his history of Colorado, and later Wilbur Fiske Stone, both discredit the story that De Soto's party ever visited this part of the country. They think it very improbable that it touched the state of Colorado at all on its return trip to Mexico City, and that in all probability it crossed far to the east of it.

However, as early as 1598 Juan Oate, fired by the stories of fabulous wealth in the region to the north, headed an expedition up the Rio Grande in search of gold. About 1600 gold was discovered by him near the present site of Ft. Garland, from whence he explored the region to the north, prospecting all of the streams flowing into the San Luis valley. A few years later, his nephew, Juan de Zaldivar, also led an expedition into the San Luis valley and it is probable that he continued northward to near the present site of Denver. For half a cen-

tury following these expeditions, little is known in written history of the occurrences in this region, although it is probable that other Spanish parties visited it in their search for gold.

In 1761 Juan M. Rivera led an expedition into the San Juan country which was likewise in search of gold. On his return trip, he crossed over the present Cochetopa pass returning to Santa Fe through the San Luis valley. He discovered little of the precious metal, but is supposed to have found in the Sawtooth mountains the beautiful seven-riven jasper, afterwards used in decorating the old cathedral at Mexico City,, the only jasper of this kind known to exist.

Following Rivera's expedition for almost half a century the region is again shrouded in mystery so far as any existing historical records, although it is probable that the Mexican settlers coming up the Rio Grande were establishing themselves in the San Luis valley.

In 1806 Lieutenant Zebulun M. Pike, after discovering the peak which bears his name, entered the San Luis valley from the north, probably crossing the present Poncha pass, and continued south to the Rio Conejos where he built a fort. The country south of the Arkansas was at that time Spanish territory. Pike was captured by the Spaniards shortly afterward and taken to Chihuahua but was later released.

It is probable that in the early part of the last century American trappers from the various fur companies visited the region, since beaver and other fur bearing animals

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

were abundant. At the time the country was settled by Americans, about 1870, there existed on Cochetopa creek the ruins of an old cabin which undoubtedly dated back to the fur trapping days.

In 1845 John C. Fremont on his third expedition passed through the region continuing up the Arkansas and crossing over Tennessee pass. On his disastrous fourth expedition three years later he entered the San Luis valley over Mosca pass (then Rubideau pass) during the month of December continuing on up the Rio Grande past Wagon Wheel Gap in an attempt to cross over the Continental divide to the San Juan country. He encountered unusually cold weather, deep snow, and storms, and his little party rapidly became demoralized. In his efforts to extricate them and reach the slopes of the Saguache valley, he turned northward, evidently in search of the old south Ute trail over Halfmoon pass. Here again he missed his way, but crossed the La Garita range at the head of Wannamaker creek and camped on the Saguache side at timber line. He was unable to proceed further on account of the depth of the snow and was obliged to turn back, finally reaching the settlements at Taos, New Mexico, after eleven of his little party of thirty-two men had perished from cold and starvation in this attempt.

No exact diary of the route taken by Fremont on this expedition was kept by him and there has always been some doubt as to the actual country traversed after the party passed Wagon Wheel Gap, but the earliest settlers in this region found some remnants of old pack saddles

and other equipment on the head of Wannamaker creek, evidently abandoned by Fremont, and there is little doubt as to this being the route taken.

In 1853 Captain John W. Gunnison of the U. S. Engineers, in charge of a reconnaissance party looking out a route for a transcontinental railroad, entered the San Luis valley during the summer of 1853, crossing over Cochetopa pass and continuing westward to Utah, where he was killed by the Piute Indians near Lake Sevier. A month or two later General Edward F. Beale, then superintendent of Indian affairs for Arizona and California, enroute to Arizona, traversed the San Luis valley and crossed over the Cochetopa pass, following almost identically the route taken by Gunnison. In December of the same year Fremont heading his fifth and last expedition, which was likewise in search of a route for a transcontinental railroad, entered the San Luis valley via Sand Hill pass in December. He purposely made this trip and the previous one during the winter months so that he could properly judge as to snow conditions. After crossing the San Luis valley, he camped in the little park near the present town of Saguache where his party killed twelve deer. They remained there several days, killing additional meat and drying it preparatory to the trip through the desert region to the southwest. On December 13 of the same year, he continued on westward crossing Cochetopa pass the following day. He mentioned finding a number of crosses cut into the trees on the pass, dating back to the early Spanish explorations.

This was the last of the several exploring expeditions into this region. Within the next decade, the influx of settlers and prospectors

started and by 1870 there were numerous prosperous towns and communities.

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

SETTLEMENT

The first prospecting in this country was in Weldon gulch on Mt. Shavano in 1863, by Nat Rich and a party of Georgia miners. They found some gold. The excitement spread, and by fall there were several thousand people in and about Weldon gulch, but no paying mines having been discovered, the camp was soon abandoned. The old placer workings there may still be seen.

Although there were prosperous mining towns at Granite, Oro City, and other places on the upper Arkansas during the 60's, no important mineral discoveries were made in this section until 1878. During that year N. D. Creede discovered mineral in paying quantities near the present Monarch camp, and was one of the original locators of the Monarch mine. Two years later in 1880, George L. Smith and a party named Gray located the Madonna mine, afterward one of the best paying properties in the Monarch district. About the same time, Lake, Cook, and Cornet also discovered mineral at Whitepine and staked out some claims.

Following these discoveries, there was a mining boom, and a period of general prosperity in the mining industry set in throughout the region. Towns sprang up at Monarch (originally Chaffee City), Garfield, Maysville, Arborville, Shavano, Bonanza, Bonita, Sky City, Tomichi and Whitepine. By 1885, there were 2,000 people at Monarch and Garfield. The Madonna was shipping fifteen to twenty carloads of ore a day, and large quantities were also being taken from the other mines in the district. Maysville, further down

the Little Arkansas was a prosperous town of more than a thousand people. Extensive development work was going on at Bonanza, and Sky City gave promise of being a thriving mining camp. This period of mining prosperity continued until the big slump in the price of silver concurrent with the panic of 1893. Monarch and Garfield have survived the vicissitudes of the mining industry of the past twenty years and small quantities of ore are still shipped from the Madonna and other mines in the district. Bonanza, at this moment is undergoing a revival of its former prosperity, and considerable development work is in progress there. Its population, reduced to less than a hundred people a few years ago has again increased to almost a thousand. The Akron mine at Whitepine is still worked at intervals and small quantities of ore shipped from it. Of the former prosperous town of Maysville, only a single dwelling and school house remain. Shavano, Tomichi, Bonita, Arborville, and Sky City have long since gone to join the "Ghost cities" of the west, their mines either abandoned or dormant awaiting the discovery of a more economical process for handling low grade ores or more favorable conditions for the mining industry.

In the Lake City district the discovery of metal in paying quantities antedates by about ten years the period of mining activity in the vicinity of Monarch, Whitepine, and Bonanza. By 1872, Lake City had been incorporated and was a prosperous town with one newspaper, "The Silver World", edited by Enos Hotchkiss. Like the other mining camps, it was a thriving

NATIONAL FOREST

ing town until the drop in the price of silver in 1893. Since then it has suffered a gradual decline until now only a few of its mines are worked and its population has decreased to three hundred people.

The development of stock raising and agriculture seems to have been contemporaneous with the development of the mining industry, and its rapid growth during the decade from 1880 to 1890 may have been in part due to the mining prosperity. At any rate, there was a ready market for farm and garden truck at the mining camps, and a part of the beef produced.

About the time Nat Rich with his Georgia party was prospecting in Weldon gulch, Tennessee came to the country, settling on a piece of land near the present town of Salida. He brought a herd of shorthorn cattle, mostly purebreds, constructed an irrigation ditch, and was soon established in the farming and livestock business. John Burnett preceded him coming to the country in 1862, but did not locate on his ranch at Poncha Springs until four years later in 1866. Joe Hutchinson, Ike Schriver, Otis White, Dave Boon, Noah Baer, Jack McPherson, D. C. Travis, Philip Stahl and the Steele brothers settled in the country shortly afterward.

The first school was started in 1867, and was located on the south side of the Little Arkansas about opposite the present store at Poncha Springs. A Miss Maxwell, who afterward married John Burnett, was the first teacher, and had twelve pupils. A postoffice was established at Poncha Springs in 1869, with Jack McPherson as the first postmaster. A few years later, James True opened a store there, and by 1880 when the

D. & R. G. railroad was building into the country, it had developed into a prosperous town of more than a thousand people, with a bank, several stores, and a newspaper, "The Poncha Herald", edited by the Tompkins Publishing company.

After the railroad built beyond the town it gradually declined until there is only one store and a few dwellings remaining. Salida, which was started when the main line of the D. & R. G. railroad reached the forks of the Arkansas in 1880, gradually became the leading trading center, and is now a town of more than five thousand inhabitants. By 1881, Salida had a newspaper, "The Mountain Mail", published by a person by the name of Moore. It is now known as the "Salida Mail", a bi-weekly publication edited by John M. O'Connell.

As far back as 1880 the hot springs near the town of Poncha Springs were well known for their medicinal properties and people came from distant points to take the baths. They have not been developed to any extent since then, and today have only a small hotel and a few bath houses.

Otto Mears left the San Juan country and came to Saguache in the spring of 1866. He took up land and engaged in growing wheat. He brought the first threshing machine into the country in 1867. A great many of the Mexican settlers at that time were growing small patches of wheat. It is said that Mr. Mears experienced difficulty in getting them to use his machine. They were afraid if they fed their grain into the machine it would not come out. Most of them continued the use of the flail for several years after. There were no flour mills in the San Luis valley, and in 1867, Otto Mears constructed a wagon

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

road over Poncha pass to get his wheat out to Charles Nathrop's mill being set up on the Arkansas. It was operated as a toll road.

Grant Neidhart preceded Mears, settling in 1867 on a ranch near the present town of Villa Grove. John Lawrence, Nate Russell, Woodard, and others followed, taking up land on lower Saguache creek. Sam Hoagland trailed in five hundred head of horses from California and located on the upper Saguache where the old road house now stands at the forks of the Hoagland hill and river roads.

A town, Milton, was started on Saguache creek on what is now the Woodard ranch. By 1872 it had a general store run by Otto Mears and Isaac Gotthelf, a brewery, blacksmith shop, and several saloons. Otto Mears started a newspaper in 1872, known as "The Chronicle" (now the "Saguache Crescent"). In 1873 Mears and Gotthelf moved their store to the present site of Saguache. Others followed, and Saguache became the leading town of the upper San Luis valley. Milton gradually declined and the last building, the Presbyterian church, was moved to Saguache in 1886.

Settlement continued and the country prospered until during the decade from 1880 to 1890, there were more settlers in the vicinity of Saguache than at the present day. Since that time there has been a decline in population, the original homesteads having gradually concentrated into large holdings owned by fewer people. During the 80's, the town of Saguache reached a population of about three thousand people. Besides being surrounded by stock ranches, it was on the main freight route from Alamosa, and a stopping place for the stages

and incoming traffic to the mines. George Jeep, who ran the blacksmith shop, stated he took in fifty dollars for blacksmithing one morning by nine o'clock. Although the country is reasonably prosperous today, the town has declined in population until now there are less than a thousand inhabitants.

The houses built by the early American settlers were patterned after those of the Mexican inhabitants, that is, they were made of adobe brick with dirt roofs. Most of the early houses had walls from eighteen inches to two feet thick and the walls were extended about four feet above the flat roofs, so that they could be used in case of necessity as forts for protection against any marauding parties of Indians. Two of these old houses, one on the I. L. Gotthelf ranch and the other on the Gotthelf & Noland ranch, just west of Saguache still stand and are used as dwellings. The upper part of the walls have been removed to the level of the roofs, but they still have much the appearance of small forts. John Farrington, one of the early building contractors, states that up to 1881, there were but three shingle roofs in the town of Saguache. The summer of 1881 was an unusually rainy one, and the dirt roofs, comparatively flat, did not furnish sufficient protection against the rain. The Indians having been removed to their new reservation in Utah that fall, most of the upper walls on the houses were removed the next year and the dirt roofs on many of them replaced with shingles.

As was the case in many other parts of the west where there have been mining booms or rapid settlement of the country, the development of

NATIONAL FOREST

the Governmental functions for the enforcement of law and order did not keep pace with the rapid growth in population which took place in the upper Arkansas valley in the 70's; and as in other places, there was a period when vigilante committees were active.

This period started in the Arkansas valley in 1874 with the murder of George Harrington, a settler on Gas creek. Elijah Gibbs, who had recently come into the country from Texas also settled on Gas creek. Gibbs and Harrington constructed an irrigation ditch in partnership. Later there was some altercation over the use of the water from a spring which had its source on the Harrington place. The following day someone set fire at night to an outbuilding on the Harrington place, and as Harrington ran out of the house to it, shot him down from ambush. Gibbs, because of his previous quarrel with Harrington, was suspected. A party of citizens decided to take the law into their own hands and make short work of him. Gibbs, however, received word of their intentions, and when they called for him had gathered together some of his friends and refused to surrender. After some parley, he agreed to give himself up to the regularly constituted authorities, stand trial, and abide by the verdict. Accordingly, he was later taken to Denver, tried, and acquitted for lack of evidence. He returned to his ranch on Gas creek. Some of the citizens, still thinking him guilty, again set out to hang him. A party of fifteen men called one night at his cabin where he was staying with his wife and children. A Mrs. Hutchinson was also there that night. They

demanding that he come out. He refused. They then gathered together some fagots preparatory to setting fire to the building. He opened fire on them, killing Sam Boon, Dave Boon and Fin Kane, two brothers and an uncle, and wounding a man named Reese. The party then left. Gibbs escaped the country and so far as known was never heard from later.

Vigilante committees were then formed and started in to clean up the country. The country divided itself into two factions, both claiming to be the exponents of law and order. The one faction largely from upper Lake county supported the vigilantes. The other faction made up largely of settlers from around Brown's Canon and the Little Arkansas in the lower end of the county, opposed them, and were supported by Elias F. Dyer, who was then Probate Judge at Granite. A number were hanged by the vigilantes, and about forty were rounded up and given a certain time within which to get out of the country. Judge Dyer was given three days in which to resign his office and leave. This he did, going to Denver, where he remained during the winter, but returned to Granite the following spring, 1875, and acting as justice of the peace swore out warrants for a number of the vigilantes. The vigilantes turned out to the number of about thirty at the trial, all armed. The prosecuting witnesses would not testify, and the parties were not bound over to the district court, for lack of evidence. A few minutes afterward, five persons entered the court room from the back stairs. Shots were heard and Dyer was found dying on the floor. The five people

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

came down and mingled with the crowd. They were never apprehended. So far as known, they were never identified.

In time the trouble quieted down. An attempt was made to reconcile the two factions and some of those who had been obliged to leave the country were allowed to return. There was a bitter feeling though for many years afterwards. Several of those supposed to have been identified with the vigilantes later met violent deaths, among them Charles Nathrop who was mysteriously killed in his

store some years later, supposedly by a man named Remington who had been working for him. Many thought the killing a sequel to the earlier disorders in this part of the country.

Those days are gone. Conditions change much more rapidly in newly settled countries than in old established communities. A stranger visiting the peaceful, rather prosperous towns along the Arkansas today would little dream of the disorders and troublesome times through which they passed a generation ago.

NATIONAL FOREST

ROADS, MAIL ROUTES AND STAGE STATIONS

As with the construction of the railroads, the building of wagon roads followed closely upon and was at least in part a result of the early mining activity, although in a few instances, it preceded mining development. The original road into this section of the country was through South Park from Denver coming out to the Arkansas near Buena Vista, and thence down the river. There was also a road down the Arkansas river to Canon City, which turned northward from there and joined the other road in South Park. A great many of the settlers came to the country over it. So far as known, neither of these roads was ever operated as a toll road. The one from Denver was the mail route for many years.

The trail over Ponch Pass was widened into a wagon road by Otto Mears in 1867 to enable him to get his wheat from the San Luis valley to Charles Nathrop's flour mill on the Arkansas. It was used as a toll road for several years afterwards. Charles Nathrop also had an interest in this road, and operated the toll gate on the Arkansas side, near the present Otto siding on the D. & R. G. W. railroad.

The road over Cochetopa Pass was built in 1869 by John Lawrence and was operated as a toll road for a few years, after which it was taken over by Saguache county. It was extended up the Pinos and over to Lake City in 1872 by a company promoted by Otto Mears and Enos Hotchkiss. There was a toll gate at the old Ute agency on Los Pinos creek, one at the White place, another at the Mont Hill ranch, and still another

about nine miles from Lake City. It was used as the mail route during the 70's and a regular stage line operated over it. There were stage stations at each of these toll gates and one at Summit Park in the Sawtooth range. Sam Hoagland ran a roadhouse and butcher shop at the old Hoagland ranch about fourteen miles west of Saguache. The old roadhouse still stands there.

A company promoted by Boyd & Haynes built the toll road to Monarch (Chaffee county) in the late 70's and extended it across the continental divide to Whitepine in 1880. Hugh Boon, who is still living at Salida, had charge of the construction work. There was a toll gate just above Maysville and another on the western slope at Black Sage. About the same time a toll road was built from Maysville up the North Fork of the Little Arkansas to the Shavano mining camp.

Otto Mears constructed the toll road over Marshall pass in 1877, and a few years later, one from Bonanza connecting it at Shirley. The latter operated as a toll road only a few years and was then abandoned. The Marshall pass road was the regular mail route from the Arkansas valley to Gunnison until the D. & R. G. railroad built into that town in 1881. Barlow & Sanderson operated a stage line over it carrying mail and passengers. There was a stage station at Shirley, another almost at the top of the pass, and still another on the western slope near where Chester siding now is on the D. & R. G. railroad. The ruins of the two last mentioned stations may still be seen. During the same period Barlow &

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

Sanderson also had the mail contract and ran the stage line to Monarch and that over Poncha pass to the San Luis valley, the three lines starting from the old town of Cleora at the forks of the Arkansas, and going to the destinations mentioned.

Practically all of the early roads through the country were constructed as private enterprises and operated under charters as toll roads. Some were later taken over by the counties and others abandoned. None have been used as toll roads during the past thirty years.

Little actual construction work was done on any of them. Usually someone with a team and wagon would start through the country, cutting out the

way, where necessary, as he went. Then other wagons would follow, and soon there would be a well-defined roadway. The Bonanza-Mears and the Marshall pass, however, are both splendid examples of pioneer road building. They were surveyed out and built according to established grades, none of which exceeded ten per cent. The Bonanza-Mears road was abandoned more than thirty years ago, and no work done on it afterwards until last year, when by the expenditure of a few hundred dollars it was made passable for automobiles. The Marshall pass road could again be opened to travel with very little reconstruction work.

NATIONAL FOREST

TIMBER

The earliest use of timber from the Cochetopa Forest was by the original Mexican settlers in the San Luis valley for corral poles and wood-work in their adobe houses. Such lumber as was used in those days was manufactured by the use of whip-saws operated by two men, the log being placed on a frame-work, one man working on the log and the other beneath.

There were no saw mills in this country until 1868 when Tom Cameron brought one in and located it on Lake creek near Twin Lakes. This mill was on the Leadville Forest, but supplied lumber also for many of the settlers lower down on the Arkansas in the vicinity of the Cochetopa. Henry Weber, who has been one of the timber operators on the Cochetopa since the Forest was created in 1905, worked for Cameron in 1868. He stated at that time the logs were hauled to Twin Lakes, made into small rafts, then towed around the margin of the lake with a team of oxen to the opposite side where the mill was located. Shortly afterward, another mill was set up in Iowa Gulch and a third in 1869 on Chalk creek, about ten or twelve miles above the town of Salida. These mills were all operated by water power, using the old style penstock wheels. They had the old sash saws, an upright saw operated in a frame about four by six feet. It required about twenty minutes to half an hour to saw off a single plank and usually about a week to manufacture a wagon load of lumber.

Lumber sold at the mill in those days for \$60.00 per thousand feet, board measure. Today, an operator

receiving such a price would undoubtedly be open to the accusation of profiteering, but considering the time it took to saw out a thousand feet of lumber in those days, there was not a great deal of profit in the business.

In 1879 William White and Henry Newby were operating a mill in Kings gulch near Salida. In 1882 Tom Starr set up a mill on Poncha creek near the present Mears station on the D. & R. G. railroad. Henry Newby had a mill in Weldon gulch on Mt. Shavano the same year and a little later Max Dickman installed one on Little Cochetopa creek. Some of the lumber in the dwelling house on the Mundlein ranch was sawn out by White & Newby at their Kings gulch mill. All of these mills were operated by water power and there were no steam power mills in the country.

Across Poncha pass in the San Luis valley, Bob Jones was running a mill on Ford creek in 1881. All of the rough lumber and lath for the old courthouse at Saguache was obtained from this mill. The finished lumber and shingles were shipped in from Chicago and were of Michigan pine. At that time there was another mill operating on Carnero creek further down the valley.

The first cutting of timber for railroad ties on what is now the Cochetopa Forest was on the Middle Fork of the Little Arkansas in 1874, when the A. T. & S. F. railroad was extending its line from Las Animas to Pueblo. Hugh Boon and one of his brothers made a contract with the A. T. & S. F. railroad to furnish a large number of ties. It was their

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

intention to drive them down the Little Arkansas to the main river, and thence down to Las Animas. They worked a large number of choppers the winter of 1874-5, but the snow being light that winter with an unusually short high-water period the next spring, they had considerable difficulty in getting the ties out. Some of them are still in the woods and others scattered along the Little Arkansas. Boon brothers went bankrupt and were unable to complete the contract.

About 1880, following the mining boom in and around Leadville, there was a big demand for charcoal used in smelting the ore, and charcoal kilns were started in operation throughout the country. The first one was in the vicinity of Mt. Elbert on the present Leadville Forest, but it was found that the softer woods at the high altitudes made an inferior product, and the operations shifted to the foothill pinions. Kilns were installed at Riverside, Cleora, Poncha Springs and other points along the Arkansas river. Large quantities of pinion were converted into charcoal and rather extensive areas completely denuded of this timber. The D. & R. G. W. station above Poncha Springs is still known as Charcoal Spur, and one of the old kilns is still standing there. The use of charcoal was discontinued about 1890 when the price of coke became such that it was no longer profitable to manufacture it.

There are a great many large burns on the Cochetopa Forest as a result of forest fires. Probably those prior to 1880 can be laid to the Indians. It is difficult to trace down the source of the more recent ones and they have been attributed to various

causes. The big fire on Marshall pass occurred in 1881 or 1882, shortly following the building of the Marshall pass branch of the D. & R. G. railroad. It was likely due to the large amount of tie slashings in the vicinity of the right-of-way, although there is some difference of opinion among the old timers as to its cause. The big fire on the head of Saguache creek occurred in 1893, during the panic when a great many miners were leaving Creede, Colorado. It has usually been attributed to some one of them setting a fire. The fire on Pass creek was started by W. H. Champ and a surveyor named Olway, who were making a location survey preparatory to filing on a reservoir site there. The various fires which occurred on Sawtooth mountain some thirty or forty years ago have been attributed largely to sheep men setting fire to the timber to improve forage conditions. A number of other fires have been laid to the cow men who, in the early days, would set fire in the spring to the old grass on the larkspur poison areas to keep their stock away from them. The source of most of these fires will never be known. Prior to the last twenty or thirty years, the timber in the mountains was thought by the settlers to be an inexhaustible resource. Consequently little attention was paid to fires in the mountains either as to their cause or the extent of the area burned over, although even in the old Territorial days prior to 1876, there was a law against setting fires on the Public Domain and leaving fires unattended. If a fire once started, it would usually burn for weeks at a time or until there was a rain to put it out, unless it was so located or of such proportions

NATIONAL FOREST

as to threaten private property, in which case the settlers would turn out and try to get it under control. One instance is recorded, however, as far back as the 80's of a settler hiring men and paying them from his own funds to fight a forest fire that

he had allowed to get under way, but which did not threaten private property.

So far as known, there has never been any extensive destruction of timber on the Cochetopa by insects.

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

GRAZING

The first cattle brought to this country was by an Italian named Tenassee, who settled in the Arkansas valley near Salida in the early 60's. It is very probable that the Mexicans who settled in the San Luis valley long prior to that time had a few milk cows, although not engaged in running cattle on the range. Tenassee's were of exceptionally good quality for those days, nearly all purebred shorthorns, and three and four-year-old steers would quite often weigh as much as sixteen hundred pounds.

Henry Weber, who came to this country with his parents in 1860, mentioned that he worked for Tenassee in 1865. At that time the Indians had stolen one of his favorite saddle horses. Shortly afterward Sub-chief Colorado came through with his band of Utes. Tenassee promised if he would recover the horse he would give him a fat beef. A month or two later, on his return trip, Colorado stopped and turned over the stolen horse and received the promised beef.

Shortly after Tenassee came to the country, Joe Hutchinson, who had taken up a ranch near Poncha Springs, bought a part of his stock and also started in the cattle business, both for himself and as manager for Gaff & Bailey. By 1866 he had built up a fair sized herd and had a beef contract with the Denver Ute Indian agency. Within the next ten years the Joe Hutchinson and Gaff & Bailey herds were built up to several thousand head. Ike Schriver trailed a bunch of milk cows through from Iowa about 1865 and settled on what is now the John Mundlein ranch on the Little Arkan-

sas. He wintered these cows on the Little Arkansas, but in the summer would take them up the Arkansas and sell milk to the miners, returning again in the fall. Mundlein bought out Schriver in 1868, and used the milk cows to start him out in the livestock business. He grazed these cattle on what is now the Marshall Division of the Cochetopa Forest, commencing with the summer of 1870, which establishes him as one of the oldest grazing users of this Forest. He has been a continuous user up to the present time. In 1866, John Burnett, who had taken up a ranch near Poncha Springs, was running about one hundred and fifty head of cattle. He probably antedates both Mundlein and Hutchinson in the use of the Marshall pass range.

In the meantime the country was beginning to settle up. D. C. Travis had a place near the old town of San Isabel. Philip Stahl and Steele Brothers had taken up ranches further up the Arkansas, and Hugh Boon had settled on his place near Salida. All were running a few cattle. In the San Luis valley a Swede by the name of Peterson had settled on Peterson creek, near Villa Grove. George Neidhardt had located near by; Jack Hall had also taken up a ranch there; and Andy Heiss was ranching near Alder. All were engaged in the cattle business. Nate Russell took up land near the present town of Saguache in 1867. Bob Monteith also located there in 1870 and went to raising cattle. Lillie & Coberly leased the Baca Grant from Governor Gilpin in 1869 or 1870 and were grazing large numbers of cat-

NATIONAL FOREST

tle on it.

In 1872 Charles Nathrop, located on the Arkansas, made a trip into the San Luis valley and bought a bunch of cattle from Jack Hall. These cattle were trailed to the Denver market by Henry Weber and Hugh Boon, they making the trip on foot. The cattle must have been from old milk cows, since a man on foot could not keep in sight of the ordinary range cattle run in the country a few years later.

In 1867 John Lawrence came to the San Luis valley, located near the present town of Saguache, and a year or two later engaged in the sheep business. During the next twenty years most of the sheep in that part of the country were owned by Lawrence and Woodson who were in partnership, the number varying from twenty to fifty thousand accordingly as it was a good or bad year. The losses some years were tremendous. These sheep were run by Mexican lessees who received a share of the profits. A few sheep were also owned by Nat Russell, and eight or ten thousand by a man named Torres.

In the late 60's or early 70's, Sam Hoagland came in from California trailing five hundred horses with him, and settled on what was afterward known as the Hoagland ranch on Saguache creek. After his arrival, there was no further scarcity of horses in the San Luis valley.

Information as to forage conditions in the early days varies a great deal. Some of the old timers claim that there was grass from two to three feet high everywhere. Others claim that the range was not much better than today. Taking the information as a whole, though, it indicates rather clearly that feed conditions were

much better in those days than now. At any rate, the notes made by General Beale's party when they went through the country in June, 1853, show that the creek bottoms and moist slopes in the vicinity of Cochetopa pass were covered with dense stands of clover. It seems reasonably certain that this part of the country has undergone a change in type from overgrazing. There is no clover now along the creek bottoms on either side of the pass. It also appears reasonably certain that many of the other ranges on the eastern slope have undergone changes in type.

The country continued to settle up, until during the 80's there were more people engaged in the livestock business than today, although it is doubtful if the total number of stock grazed equals the present number. Saguache Park at least is carrying almost double the number grazed on it during the 80's. Since that time there has been a gradual concentration of the livestock and ranches into the hands of a few large owners.

Almost from the start there was the usual conflict of interests between the sheep and cattle owners, so common throughout the West in the early days. Lawrence agreed upon lines with the cattlemen, but these lines were not always respected by his lessees, and it was not an uncommon occurrence for them to throw their sheep across upon the cattle range if the riders were not around. No serious trouble occurred until 1903, when a brother of Felice Chavez, one of Lawrence's lessees, was killed while trailing sheep through Saguache park. At that time, Zack Clark, George Curtis and Wilbur Curtis, and some others were running cattle in Saguache park, which was

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

supposed to be cow range. Felice Chavez had been lambing his sheep on Cochetopa creek and wished to trail them across Saguache park to the Carnero creeks to shear them. He asked the cow men regarding it, and they agreed providing he would hold his sheep on the designated route and there would be no unnecessary delay in crossing. Accordingly, the sheep were trailed across to the Carneros and sheared. On the return trip to the Cochetopa, Tom Tucker, who was riding for the cow men, found the sheep grazing on Wannamaker creek, several miles off the agreed route. In the altercation which followed Tucker killed Felice Chavez's brother, who was in charge of the sheep. Tucker claimed he shot in self defense after Chavez had started to draw his gun. There were no witnesses to the killing, and Dr. O. P. Shippey, the coroner who held the inquest, was of the opinion that, from the course the bullet had taken through the body Chavez must have had his arms raised in position to shoot. Tucker was acquitted. Nevertheless, there has always been some doubt as to which was really the aggressor. Feeling ran high both at the trial and later, but things gradually quieted down without further bloodshed.

A couple of years later, further difficulty arose between one of Lawrence's sheep men and Mike Jordan who was running cattle in the vicinity of Fullerton park, but Jordan's abiding sense of humor probably prevented the situation from becoming

serious. They had a verbal agreement whereby the sheep were to have the larkspur infested range on the east side of the park, but were to reserve the west side for cattle. Several times Jordan's rider came down and informed him that the sheep were on his cattle range. Each time Jordan would make a trip up there, but the herders would agree to stay on their side of the line, but would not observe it while he was away. Finally he went up taking along seven or eight head of extra horses. He informed the herders that it was his belief that the sheep and cattle could be successfully handled together. He showed them he had plenty of extra saddle horses and told them he would handle the cattle carefully in distributing them among the sheep. The herders objected to this, but Jordan was insistent. They then held a consultation and told Jordan they would keep their sheep on the other side of the line if he would not throw his cattle amongst them. They kept their agreement afterward.

There was more or less trouble between the sheep and cattle owners until the range was included in the National Forest in 1905, after which lines were definitely established and both sides respected them. In late years a great many of the old time cow men have also bought sheep, and it is not an uncommon thing for a stockman to run both classes of stock. The old-time feeling has died out.

NATIONAL FOREST

GAME

Not a great deal is known of the actual fur trapping operations in this part of the country during the first half of the nineteenth century when the big fur companies were sending trappers into all parts of the West, but since beaver were abundant there is little doubt but that it was trapped the same as in other parts of the Rocky Mountains.

During the early part of this period, the country was under Spanish rule, and since the Spaniards were unfriendly to American trappers, particularly so following Pike's expedition into their territory in 1806, such trapping as took place was largely in the nature of incursions into the country from camps on the north side of the Arkansas river, which was then the boundary.

In 1814, Phinlebert with a score of French trappers from St. Louis spent the summer trapping on the upper Arkansas and undoubtedly visited the region south of the river. He was successful in getting a large catch of furs, but did not get them out of the country that fall. Leaving a part of his men, he went back to St. Louis, returning the following year with the Chouteau and De Munn party of trappers, also from St. Louis, to rejoin his own party.

When the Chouteau and De Munn party reached the upper Arkansas, the main body went into camp there, and De Munn with a small contingent continued on to Taos and Santa Fe, New Mexico, to see if he could get permission from Governor Maynez to trap the headwaters of the Rio Grande and other streams flowing into the San Luis park (now San Luis valley). He was unsuccessful and returned to his comrades on the Ar-

kansas, where trapping was continued throughout that summer. The following spring, 1816, Chouteau and De Munn returned to the Arkansas, and De Munn again made the trip to New Mexico to see the Spanish governor. Allande had succeeded Maynez as governor, and De Munn not only did not get permission to trap on Spanish territory, but his outfit was confiscated and he was escorted back to the Arkansas river by Spanish soldiers, with a warning to stay on the American side. He stayed there the remainder of the year, maintaining his camp on the north side of the river, but probably trapping the country both to the north and the south.

This condition continued until 1821, when Mexico achieved its independence from Spain. During the two decades following there was a more friendly attitude towards American trappers, until 1838, by which time the fur trapping industry had passed its zenith and commenced to decline.

In the early 30's, Antoine Roubideau, an adventurous French trapper, after whom Mosca pass (formerly Roubideau pass) in the Sangre de Christo range was originally named, established a trading post on the Gunnison river near the mouth of the Uncompahgre. It was later abandoned. It is probable that during his wanderings from 1824 to 1844 on trapping expeditions he crossed and recrossed the Cochetopa country many times. Kit Carson, Bill Williams, Jim Beckwourth, and other free trappers (men who trapped and traded with the Indians, but were not in the employ of any of the fur companies) were familiar with the San Luis val-

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

ley and Cochetopa pass country long before Fremont visited it in 1848. None of them, however, were men of science, nor were they interested in scientific exploration. They were simply free lances, skillful frontiersmen, unexcelled as scouts, who wandered at will wherever adventure or fortune called them. They made no maps, kept no written records of their trips, and were not interested in latitudes and longitudes. Therefore few of their many interesting experiences, so intimately associated with the early history of the country, have been left to posterity.

At the time the country was settled by Americans, about 1870, there was an old cabin on Cochetopa creek dating back to 1830 or 1840 which in all probability was used by one of the early trappers. As late as 1850 a man by the name of Robinson trapped in the vicinity of Russell lakes in the San Luis valley, getting mostly beaver.

Commencing about 1861, four parties by the name of Joe Wilson, Louis Simpson, Tompkins and Marx followed fur trapping for a livelihood, spending their winters in the Arkansas valley near the present town of Salida, but making annual trips each spring over Tennessee pass into the White river country, returning in the fall with their burros loaded with beaver, marten, coyote, and bear pelts. These annual excursions continued until about 1870.

John Mundlein, one of the oldest settlers in the vicinity of Salida, stated that when he purchased the relinquishment on his present ranch in 1868, then held by Ike Cchraver, the intake of his irrigation ditch was not on the Little Arkansas river, but came out of a large beaver dam. He

stated that the same was true of a number of other irrigation ditches and they encountered some difficulty from beaver damming them up. This indicates that beaver were plentiful in this region on the eastern as well as the western slope of the Continental divide, which is contrary to the assumption of some of the late writers on game, who contend that beaver did not exist in the early days on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Other stories from old timers bear out Mundlein's statement and indicate that beaver have always been more or less plentiful on the eastern slope in this region, except during periods when they have been trapped excessively.

Antelope, buffalo, deer, elk, mountain sheep, and bear were originally very abundant here. General Edward F. Beale on his trip to Arizona in 1853 mentions crossing Cochetopa pass on June 19 and that his party killed a mountain sheep near the top of the pass. This in itself would indicate that mountain sheep were not only plentiful at that time but considering the season of the year, that they originally occupied a range much lower than the craggy peaks which now constitute their habitat. General Beale also mentions seeing numerous elk horns and buffalo skulls in this part of the country. After later encountering a disaster and losing the greater part of his supplies in attempting to cross the Grand river during the high water period, he was obliged to send a part of his men back to Taos, New Mexico, for provisions. In doubling back, they recrossed Cochetopa creek near Cochetopa park, then bore to the southwest through Saguache park and down the Carnero creeks.

NATIONAL FOREST

They mention frequently seeing antelope and deer and that there were large numbers of grouse in the country.

The conclusion that buffalo were originally plentiful in this country is further borne out by the original name of Cochetopa pass, which was known to the Utes as "Cochetope" and later by the Spaniards as "El puerto de los cibolos" both meaning "buffalo gate", indicating that it was a crossing place for these animals from the eastern to the western slope. Cochetopa creek was originally known by the Utes as "Cocchumpah", meaning "buffalo creek" or "buffalo river."

Later, in December, 1953, General John C. Fremont, in his westward course to California, camped at the little park near the present town of Saguache. He mentions that his party killed twelve deer the day they arrived and that they remained there several days killing additional deer and drying the meat preparatory to the long journey through the desert regions to the southwest. This likewise indicates that deer not only existed in large numbers in the early days, but also that this section of the country may have been particularly favored in this respect. Fremont in three previous expeditions had crossed the region beyond in western Colorado and Utah and was familiar with it and the conditions existing there. His action in halting his party for several days in the Saguache country to recoup the meat supply was probably based on his knowledge that game would be much more plentiful here than farther along the route.

Buffalo were, however, practically if not wholly exterminated before the country began to settle up in the

60's. Old timers both in the Arkansas and San Luis valleys claim there were few if any buffalo when they came to the country. It is not definitely known what became of them, but the old timers state the Indians told them that there was unusually heavy snows one winter and all the buffalo perished.

Wild turkeys were particularly plentiful in the pinion foothill country around Poncha Springs when the first settlers came to the country, and all would turn out for a turkey hunt before Thanksgiving and Christmas. Pinion nuts were abundant and the turkeys would get exceedingly fat in the fall of the year. One old settler mentions killing a gobbler that weighed forty-five pounds.

Deer and antelope were plentiful then and for many years afterwards furnished a supply of meat for the general market. Hunting for the market on a large scale commenced about the time the mining town of Leadville sprang up or in 1879. At that time there were a great many people engaged in freighting supplies from the end of the railroad to Leadville, passing through this section of the country. After hauling the supplies to Leadville, they would load up with game on the return trip and sell it on the market, most of it going to Colorado Springs.

A party by the name of Robert Curry was particularly active in killing elk and deer for the market. Mr. Mundlein, one of the old timers in the Arkansas valley, recalls seeing him haul out freight wagons with trailers heavily loaded with elk and deer meat. Hunting in the San Luis valley for the market started about 1879 or 1880, John Cur-

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

tis and James Hazard among others being actively engaged in this pursuit. By 1886 the elk had been reduced to the point where there were only a small number remaining, and deer and antelope were also too scarce for further commercial hunting.

In 1890 George Hazard, son of the James Hazard previously mentioned, killed seven elk at one time in California gulch. Sentiment was already beginning to take form against the wanton slaughter of game and his act aroused considerable resentment among the local people, everybody considering that he had killed too many at one time. There was some talk of prosecuting him, but it seems that although there were game laws, no definite action was being taken at that time to enforce them. The matter was finally dropped. While the killing of game continued, it was confined largely to such numbers as settlers needed for their own use.

The first record that can be found of a game law prosecution in this part of the country was at Gunnison in 1898. Gus Youngberg, who was foreman for the Doctor mine, killed a couple of does. He was tried in Gunnison and fined \$75.00 and costs. Lee Stanley and A. L. Stanley, later a Forest officer stationed at Yampa on the Routt National Forest, were the complaining witnesses in this case. There was some ill feeling existing between Youngberg and the Stanleys and when they heard he had killed the two deer they promptly reported him to the local authorities.

However, for many years following, there was really no organized effort towards the enforcement of the game laws or the protection of game animals. Each settler claimed as a

personal prerogative the right to kill such meat as he needed for his own use.

In 1904 Herman Hudler and Harrison Heiss were accused of butchering a calf belonging to one of the stockmen. The meat was seized and they were brought into court on a charge of cattle stealing. The case was tried at Buena Vista. Hudler and Heiss brought along a mountain sheep head, produced it in court, and swore that the meat in question was mountain sheep. They were acquitted. The court then asked that complaint be filed against them for the illegal killing of game, but the plain-tives dropped the matter saying that if they could not get a conviction for cattle stealing, they would not bother about a conviction for game killing.

In 1906, William Givins, a state game warden stationed at Florence, Colorado, visited this country and made a conscientious effort to enforce the game laws. He apprehended two parties for illegal fishing, Jack Hope and a party named Johnson, and convicted both. He was, however, game warden only a short time.

People who were living in the country at that time inform me that the first organized effort to enforce the game laws was following the creation of the Cochetopa National Forest and the acceptance of the Forest Officers of commissions as deputy state game wardens. Even then rapid progress was not made for several years as public sentiment had not sufficiently crystalized that Forest Officers had the moral support of local people in protecting the game. While there were no convictions for several years, the attitude of the Forest Officers undoubtedly did much to prevent the wanton

NATIONAL FOREST

slaughter of the game. The first case of a conviction for the killing of big game other than Gus Youngberg in 1898 was that of Charles Hedrick, a noted game law violator for many years past. He was apprehended by Forest Ranger J. M. Cuenin and Forest Examiner W. O. Sauder, in January, 1917; convicted and sentenced to six months in jail. Since then, there have been eight convictions by Forest Officers during the past four years. Public sentiment is becoming more favorable towards game law enforcement, and it is thought that game law violations are decreasing.

When the Forest Officers became state game wardens the deer had been greatly reduced in numbers and only about thirty head of elk were left, consisting of a band which wintered each year in Saguache park. Mountain sheep were also reduced almost to the point of extermination. With gradual improvement in public sentiment and active efforts to enforce the game laws during the past six or seven years, conditions have improved. The remaining band of elk has increased to about one hundred head and there has also been a marked increase in two bands of mountain sheep in the Cebolla river country. What the outcome will be cannot be accurately predicted. The settlement of the country itself has considerably reduced the range for game animals and whether or not they will ever again become plentiful remains to be seen.

Native trout were also abundant in the streams when the country was settled, both in the Arkansas, the streams of the San Luis valley, and those of the western slopes. John Mundlein states that in the early 70's he witnessed a school of fish going

up the Little Arkansas river, and that the fish were so thick in the water while the school was passing they could be thrown out with a pitchfork. A settler by the name of Watkins who was then living on the Velotta place procured about one-half bushel of these fish in that manner. Mundlein's statement is supported by that of a number of other old timers.

Fishing for the market was also common in the early days, and probably commenced about 1879 or 1880, contemporaneous with hunting for the market. One of the old timers here mentions that a party by the name of Cline fished in the Arkansas during 1879 and 1880, selling them on the market, and that during the following year he came to the Saguache country where he continued this pursuit for a number of years until the supply had been reduced to the point where it was no longer profitable. Some fifteen or twenty others also followed fishing for the market as a means of a livelihood.

Some of the old timers state that the supply of fish in Saguache creek was further reduced following the big forest fire on the head of this stream in 1893. For a year or two after this fire, the stream was almost constantly muddy from cinders and eroded earth, and the fish did not do well.

The first efforts towards restocking these streams were made about 1894 when through the efforts of Game Warden Johnson some rainbow trout fry were obtained from the State and planted in Saguache creek. About the same time H. Preston and Dr. McLure of Salida each received a consignment of rainbow trout fry which were placed in Boss lake and the lake at the source of the North Fork

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

of the Little Arkansas. For several years following, little was done in the stocking of the streams, but during the past twenty years, through the efforts of individuals, and also the Forest Service during the past twelve years, more or less regular consignments of young fish have been obtained from the state and federal hatcheries and placed in the streams. At present, there are brook, native, and rainbow trout in them, and also some lochlaven in the Arkansas river. While these plants have been a success, the work has not been on a sufficiently large scale to prevent a gradual depletion and there are less fish in the streams than thirty years ago.

A few years ago the people of Saguache, fearing, with the increasing number of fishermen, the complete depletion of Saguache creek, organized themselves into an association, and in cooperation with the Forest Service, started a fish hatchery near the town. They were undertaking on a large scale the restocking of Saguache creek and its tributaries with rainbow and native trout. About five hundred thousand fry of these species are turned into this stream each year. Considerable effort is also being made by other communities to restore fish to their former abundance in their now badly depleted streams.

NATIONAL FOREST

DEVELOPMENT

The first irrigation ditch constructed was by the Italian, John Tenassee, who built it from the Arkansas river to irrigate his ranch. This was in the early 60's, probably 1862 or 1863 but he did not get to decree for the water until 1866. Ditches No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4 from Saguache creek were constructed in 1866 and ditch No. 5 in 1867. By 1870 a large number of small ditches had been taken out of the Arkansas, Little Arkansas, Kerber and Saguache creeks. At the present time all of these streams are greatly appropriated over and above their natural flow.

There have never been any large irrigation projects undertaken in this part of the country. One was contemplated on Saguache creek some eight or ten years ago, but was later abandoned. There are hundreds of thousands of acres of undeveloped farm lands in the San Luis valley and there is little doubt but at some future time large projects for impounding flood water on the San Luis streams will be undertaken.

The projecting of railroads into this country was largely due to the mining activities following the booms of the late 70's and early 80's. The D. & R. G. extended its main line to Malta in 1880, and the next year reached Leadville. In 1881 a narrow guage line was constructed over Poncha Pass to Mineral Hot Springs. It was the original intention to continue this line over Cochetopa pass to Gunnison and a depot site was laid out at Saguache on the ground used later for the courthouse. The project, however, was abandoned and this road was never constructed. Marshall pass was selected as a more direct route into Gunnison and the

mining country to the southwest. This branch of the D. & R. G. was also constructed in 1881 and during that year they completed another narrow guage line through Maysville, then a prosperous mining town of about two thousand people, up to Monarch. Since then the narrow guage line to Mineral Hot Springs has been extended to Alamosa, but otherwise there has been no further railroad construction in this section of the country.

The first water power development was in 1904, at which time the Salida Power, Light and Utility Company constructed two reservoirs on the south fork of the Little Arkansas below the town of Garfield. The power was used largely in lighting the town of Salida. Three years later transmission lines were constructed from this project to the town of Monarch and to the Lilly mine. The project was later transferred to the Central Colorado Power Company and is now owned by the Colorado Power Company.

There was no further development of power projects until 1917, when the Colorado Power Company extended a transmission line into this country from their large plant at Shoshone on the western slope. At the present time practically all of the mines in the vicinity of Monarch, Garfield, Whitepine and Bonanza are operated by power brought in over this transmission line. During the past summer an extension line was built into the town of Saguache and it now receives its electric light from this source. Two of the sawmills on the forest are also being operated by electric power from these lines.

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

The city of Salida is rapidly becoming an important tourist center. It is at the junction of four of the D. & R. G. railroad lines and also at the intersection of four main traveled auto highways. Consequently most of the tourists visiting the south and west parts of the state either spend some time in or pass through this town. During the past year the city has maintained a tourist bureau for the purpose of giving information to travelers as to the scenic attractions in the mountains beyond and how to reach them. It is also doing considerable work in developing the attractions in the mountains near by, to furnish recreation and entertainment for its numerous visitors. There is little doubt but that in the

years to come it will become one of the main tourist centers of the state.

Saguache, located almost in the foothills of the Cochetopa range, a picturesque little town with its long avenues of shade trees, is yearly attracting an increasing number of tourists and fishermen. Its citizens, in cooperation with the Forest Service, operate a fish hatchery for stocking the nearby streams. About one-half million small trout are planted each year in Saguache creek, and there is little doubt but that in years to come it will become one of the best fishing streams in the state. With its good hotel accommodations, and opportunities for trout fishing, it is an attractive place for a short outing during the summer months.

NATIONAL FOREST

EARLY FOREST OFFICERS

The Cochetopa National Forest was created by Presidential Proclamation on June 13, 1905. It embraced all of the lands within its present boundaries, and that portion of the present Rio Grande Forest lying north of the main Rio Grande river. R. W. Shellabarger was its first Forest Supervisor, with headquarters at Moffat, Colorado. He was also in charge of the San Isabel Forest to the east.

In July following the creation of the Forest, John H. Hatton, now Assistant District Forester, in charge of Grazing, Denver, Colorado, gave a Civil Service examination for Forest Rangers, at Sargents, Colorado. The following are some of the candidates who passed that examination:

C. J. Stahl, now Assistant District Forester in charge of Lands, Denver, Colorado.

H. N. Wheeler, now Chief of Public Relations, Denver, Colorado.

Eugene Williams, afterward Supervisor of this Forest.

J. M. Cuenin, now Ranger in charge of the Poncha District of the Cochetopa.

John Cline, later Ranger on the Cochetopa.

Arthur G. Hicks, afterwards in charge of the Sargents District of the Cochetopa.

Louis A. Swallows, afterwards Ranger on the San Isabel Forest.

Oscar Proffit, later appointed Ranger on the White River Forest.

C. A. Mack, afterwards Forest Ranger, and stationed at Buena Vista, on the Leadville Forest.

J. M. Cuenin was appointed Forest Guard in July, 1905, with headquarters in Bonanza, Colorado. Eugene Williams was also appointed Guard and stationed at Saguache,

Colorado, but shortly afterwards became Supervisor of the San Isabel with headquarters at Westcliffe.

To J. M. Cuenin was given the distinction of making the first timber sale, in November, 1905. It was for a small quantity of dead cordwood to the Josephine mine near Bonanza. The sale price was 25c per cord.

It was not, however, until the summer of 1906 that the Forest was fully organized and placed under active administration, at which time its organization comprized the following persons:

R. W. Shellabarger, Forest Supervisor.

Carl J. Stahl, Assistant Ranger, at Creede, Colorado.

J. M. Cuenin, Assistant Ranger, at Bonanza, Colorado.

Leslie Alexander, Assistant Ranger. John Cline, Assistant Ranger, on Cochetopa creek.

Tibo Gallegos, Assistant Ranger, Carnero creek.

Arthur G. Hicks, Assistant Ranger, Sargents, Colorado.

Charles N. Miller, Assistant Ranger, Marshall Pass country.

The first personnel of the Cochetopa was recruited from various walks of life, but each had some special qualification which made him fit into the organization. Shellabarger had previously followed ranching and livestock growing. At the time of entering the Service, he was running his father's ranch near Moffat and grazing cattle on the Baca Grant near by. Cuenin likewise had engaged in ranching in his younger days, his father at one time owning a cow ranch on Cochetopa creek, but had later taken up surveying, mining and assaying. He had served

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

two terms as County Surveyor for Gunnison county and later was three times elected County Surveyor in Saguache county. At the time he received his appointment as Forest Guard he was engaged in mining near Bonanza, Colorado, and owned a part interest in a group of claims in Chloride gulch. Alexander was a jeweler by trade, but previous to entering the Service had also engaged in mining and prospecting. Stahl had taken a business course in book-keeping, stenography, and typewriting, and later had held various positions with different business firms in Cleveland and Chicago. It was said that he was one of Mark Hanna's secretaries during the presidential campaign of 1896. At the time of entering the Service, he was engaged in mining at Whitepine. Cline had followed various occupations. Back in the 80's he and his father were engaged in catching fish for the market. At one time he owned a ranch and ran it. At another time, he was engaged in rounding up wild horses, breaking, and selling them. He had been Marshall of the town of Saguache two different times, once for a period of one year and again for three years. At the time of his appointment, he was operating a steam-power wood-saw at Saguache, selling fuel wood. Gallegos had engaged in various pursuits, mostly relating to ranching. He had worked as a ranch hand, punched cattle, worked a ranch owned by him and his brother near Saguache, contracted the putting up of hay for other ranchmen, and in addition, in his boyhood days had herded goats for his father. He was considered an exceptionally good cowman. Miller had followed ranching largely and at the time of his

appointment was in partnership with his brother-in-law, running about two hundred head of cattle on the San Isabel Forest. Hicks, the youngest member, was only twenty-two years old at that time. He had not settled down to any regular occupation. After graduating from high school at Saguache, he had helped his father in a store at Sargents, helped in ranch work, and engaged in a rather desultory mine prop business, selling the props to the C. F. & I. Company.

While most of them had had some experience in ranching and the livestock business, it would be hard to find associated a similar number of men who had engaged in more diverse occupations than this small group. All had had past experience that fitted them for some part of the work, probably none had experience that fitted them for all lines of it. The work of the Forest Service was then at its inception, and naturally a trained personnel was not available. The training must follow.

One can look back in fancy to that first summer of 1906, and picture the perplexities of the erstwhile "cow-puncher" trying to apply the Decimal C rule and tally the results in the scale book, the ex-jeweler trying to mill man to cut low stump and pile his brush; the former "broncho-buster" trying to decide whether he should allow this sheep-herder to water his flock on that creek or at yonder spring just within the cow range, and the difficulties of the heretofore county surveyor in convincing his former associates that they should desist from killing game out of season and thus help conserve the wild life of the region. As one get the "hard-boiled" old-time saw-

NATIONAL FOREST

Forest Officer expressed it, he did not at that time know the difference between the Golden Rule and the Decimal C rule. Even the supervisor, a man of considerable natural ability and with many sterling qualities had a great deal of difficulty in mastering the intricacies of the surveying equipment, but was properly compensated whenever nightfall overtook him in that the surveyor's chain served him the useful purpose of a picket rope for his saddle horse.

A not unimportant qualification at that time, with the bitter local feeling against the Service, was familiarity with western conditions, tact, and ability to deal successfully with Forest users, ability to hold out for the things for which the Service stands and to work towards their accomplishment without further arousing the antagonism of the local people. Probably the most important qualification in those days, more important than past experience, more important perhaps than basic education, and more important than knowledge of technique, was native ability in the individual, ability of the indi-

vidual to go ahead with meagre instructions, without guide or precedent, and work out the numerous problems confronting him and get things done. Those were the unorganized pioneer days of the Service and probably no one thing did more to overcome the then chaotic conditions and put the Service on its feet than this quality so common in the individual.

Eighteen years have now passed since that summer of 1906. Only two, Cuenin and Gallegos, remain of the original eight. Many have come and gone as Forest Officers since that time. More than fifty persons have since served on the Cochetopa. Some have been transferred to other lines of activity or advanced to higher positions in the Forest Service, some resumed their former occupations, many through training and experience gained have left to fill more lucrative positions in other fields of endeavor; but few, if any, of them do not look back with fond remembrance on the old pioneer days in the Service.

FRED B. AGEE,

Forest Supervisor.

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

STATEMENT OF JOHN MUNDLEIN OF EARLY HAPPENINGS IN THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

John Mundlein, after serving four years as an artilleryman in the confederate army (Army of Virginia) following Lee's surrender made the trip west by ox teams, arriving in Denver on February 26, 1866, where he worked for about one year for Casey & Macksey as a blacksmith in their shop, which was located at that time at the corner of 15th and Wazee streets. This was only a few years following the Chivington Indian massacre and both the Kiowas and northern Sioux were rather hostile. It was customary for the soldiers to hold up the immigrants until there was a sufficient number of them together before allowing them to pass through the territory of what is now western Nebraska and north-eastern Colorado. If the immigrants were not properly armed, they were supplied with good muskets, which they were obliged to turn in at Ft. Sedgwick after they had passed through the dangerous country. He stated that their party actually encountered no Indians, but passed by one or two settlements where the houses had been burned by them, and that the ruins were still smoking when they arrived.

In 1867 he located at Granite, Colorado, opening up a blacksmith shop there. In 1868 he bought out a party by the name of Ike Schriver, who had squatted on a piece of land on the Little Arkansas river near the present town of Salida. This is the ranch on which he is at present living. During the following twelve years Mr. Mundlein would run his shop at Granite during the summer and when mining let up for the win-

ter he would make the trip to his new ranch on the Little Arkansas.

He stated that at the time he bought out the Ike Schriver claim there were only a very few settlers in that part of the valley. He purchased a small bunch of cattle from Schriver at that time. They were milk cows which Schriver had driven across the plains from Iowa. It was the custom of Schriver to drive these cows to the upper Arkansas during the summer and sell milk to the miners, returning them to his place on the Little Arkansas in the winter. Mr. Mundlein remarked about the difficulty which he had with these cattle; immediately spring would come, they would all start for the upper Arkansas and his man on the ranch found it almost impossible to keep some of them from getting away. This established Mr. Mundlein as one of the first grazing users of what is now the Marshall Pass Division of the Cochetopa. He finally got his cattle broken so that he could graze them on that range during the summer. At that time Joe Hutchinson had taken up some land and was running a few head of cattle, furnishing beef to the Indian Agency at Denver under Government contracts. Probably the first cattle brought into that part of the Arkansas valley in the vicinity of Salida were owned by an Italian named Tennessee. He stated that Tennessee's cattle were exceptionally good quality for that time and that his three or four year old steers quite often weighed as high as 1600 pounds. About 1868 Joe Hutchinson bought some of these cattle from Tennessee and started in

NATIONAL FOREST

the cattle business. He mentioned that Tenassee also built the first irrigation ditch in this locality. Hutchinson likewise grazed his cattle on what is now the Marshall Division of the Cochetopa Forest probably as early as 1870.

Mr. Mundlein, on being asked in regard to the Indians in the country at that time, stated that the Utes were quite numerous, but that they were broken up into families and did not travel much in bands. He especially recalled one whom they called "Spooks", located on the Little Arkansas, who, he stated, would steal anything he could get his hands on.

On being asked as to whether there were any outlaws in this part of the country at that time, he stated that most of the people were outlaws, but that there was practically nothing to steal. Grown cattle were worth only about \$22 a head and there was little else in the country.

At the time he came to this country, a party by the name of Charles Meyer was running a store on Cache creek near Granite. He worked for Meyer a short time in this store. Later, aside from running a blacksmith shop, Mr. Mundlein was treasurer for one of the James Gaff Mining companies in that locality.

He mentioned the killing of a Swede by the name of George Holgar by a German by the name of Fred Lotus in 1872. Following the killing of Holgar, a party of miners came down from the mining camp to lynch him. Mundlein secreted Lotus in his cabin and they were unable to find him. Later he turned Lotus over to the sheriff and in October, 1872 he had to make a trip back to Denver

where Lotus was tried and sentenced to the penitentiary. Mundlein appeared as a witness against him. He stated that Lotus afterwards turned out a generally undesirable citizen and he expressed his regret that he had prevented the miners from hanging him. In Lotus' later mining operations in the vicinity of Tin Cup he mentioned one instance where he had hired a man to work his mine and the party's wife to run the cook house. Later in the fall when the mining operation slowed up, he turned them out without any way to make the trip back across the range to the settlements. The man and wife had to make the trip out, carrying their blankets, encountered a severe snow, and had a great deal of difficulty in getting back to the Arkansas valley. He stated that Lotus died some fifteen years ago. He was found in an old cabin near Ohio City in the spring, probably having taken sick and died there during the winter.

He stated that he recalled very clearly a great many instances when the vigilantes were active in this part of the country in the 70's and mentioned the killing of George Harrington on Gas creek in 1874, supposedly by a party named Gibbs. There was a dispute between Harrington and a party by the name of Lovell, brother-in-law of Gibbs, over a water right on Gas creek, and Harrington was later killed. Gibbs was taken to Denver and tried for murder, but acquitted for lack of evidence. Upon his acquittal, he returned to his ranch on Gas creek. He was waited upon by a committee of the vigilantes. They demanded that he come out, but he refused to do so. The vigilantes gathered up some willow fagots

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

with the intention of smoking him out. He opened fire on them, killing Sim and George Boon, Fin Caine, and wounded a man named Reese. He escaped unharmed himself.

There was a more or less general reign of lawlessness at that time; a great many dead men were found who could not be accounted for. The vigilantes took the law into their own hands and there were a number of hangings. Judge Dyer had warrants issued for a number of the vigilantes and their trial was in progress at Granite during the fall of 1877. A number of the other vigilantes rode into town. Dyer became alarmed and dismissed court. A little later in the day he was killed. Mundlein stated that he, John Dietrich (Soldier Jack), and another party were working in the blacksmith shop at the time, heard the shot, and ran out. He stated that he saw the parties leaving, but to this day he does not have a definite idea as to who they were. The parties were never apprehended.

He also told the story of Soldier Jack, who was with him at the time. He stated that a few years previous, a company of soldiers were passing through the country. They camped one night at Granite where all of them, including the lieutenant in charge, got hopelessly drunk. John Dietrich, one of them, who, as he expressed it "was a little cracked", got particularly troublesome and was placed under arrest. The detachment left Granite the next morning, still loaded to capacity, and with Dietrich under arrest, a soldier marching on either side of him and a sergeant directly behind. A few miles down the road, Dietrich grabbed a gun from

one of the soldiers, shot both of them, and was in turn shot from behind by the sergeant. However, the bullet glanced off and did not kill him. For some reason, they turned Dietrich over to the civil authorities for trial and the party of soldiers continued on their way. Dietrich was returned to Granite and when he had recovered, was placed in irons. Mundlein mentioned making the foot irons for him and fitting them on. He was held about a year without trial and Mundlein was asked to fit him out with a second pair of irons. He did so, but overlooked clamping the rivets in them. Much to his surprise, Dietrich who was now referred to as "Soldier Jack" did not make his escape. He, Mundlein, finally approached him on the subject and asked him if he did not know that the rivets were not clamped. Soldier Jack replied that he was getting along all right where he was, was getting his board and lodging and that he had no desire to leave the country. Later he was brought to trial and, of course, the Judge dismissed the case, since he had no jurisdiction.

Mundlein stated that when he came to this country, deer, elk, antelope, and mountain sheep were very plentiful in the vicinity of the present town of Salida, but that there were no buffalo. He stated that at one time he saw more than a hundred head of deer congregated at the small flat on the present Davidson ranch. Fish were plentiful in the Arkansas at that time and in the 70's he recalled a particularly large school of fish going up the Little Arkansas during the latter part of the month of June after high water.

NATIONAL FOREST

He stated that a cockney from London named Watkins had rented a piece of land on what is now the Velotta ranch and was raising vegetables, selling them to the miners. Watkins and another party by the name of Wilson were along the stream at that time. He met them later with about a half bushel of fish in a sack. They showed him the fish and told him that if he would get a fork, he could throw as many out of the creek as he wanted. He stated that he got a fork, but that the biggest part of the fish had passed. He saw lots of fish. The statement was rather interesting, since the story was often told and he was supposed to have thrown out a great many fish with a fork. He stated that the fish were all rainbow in those days. When asked about the beaver, he said they were very abundant in the streams when he first reached this part of the country and mentioned that the ditch on his place at the time he purchased it from Ike Schriver in 1868 was not taken from the river, but had its intake in a large beaver dam. This fact, also, was somewhat interesting since it has been claimed that beaver did not exist or at least existed in

no great numbers on the east side of the Continental Divide in the early days. He stated that they were very abundant here and that some difficulty was encountered by the ranchmen in keeping their ditches open.

He stated that hunting for the market commenced about the time that the Leadville mining camp started in 1879. The freighters would make a trip from the nearest railroad point into Leadville with supplies and quite often load up with game for the return trip which was sold largely on the Colorado Springs market. He mentioned in particular a Robery Curry who used to haul loads of elk and deer meat to this market, and recalled once seeing him haul a wagon and trailer both loaded with elk and deer out of the country.

He stated that there was no very extensive traffic for furs in this vicinity, but that Joe Wilson, Louis Simpson, a man by the name of Tompkins, and another by the name of Marx used to make a trip to the White River country each spring, returning in the fall with their burros loaded with beaver, marten, coyote, and bear hides. These annual trips started about 1861 and continued for many years.

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

TOLL ROADS

He stated that Boyd & Haynes built the toll road to Monarch in the 70's. The toll road up Poncha creek was constructed by Charles Nathrop about the same time. He had a toll gate near the present siding at Otto on the D. & R. G. W. railroad. There are also remains of an old toll gate at Shirley on the Otto Mears toll road. Barlow & Sanderson built the Marshall Pass road.

LUMBERING OPERATIONS

He stated the first sawmill in this part of the country was on Lake creek near the present town of Leadville. It was installed there by Tom Camman in 1868, and later sold to a man by the name of "Ohio" Knox. Shortly afterwards another mill was set up in Iowa gulch. A third in 1869 on Chalk creek owned by Charles Nathrop. Lumber in those days sold for about \$60 per thousand feet B. M. In 1879 William White and Henry Newby operated a mill in King's gulch near the present town of Salida. In 1882 Tom Starr started a mill on Poncha creek above the present station of Mears. Henry Newby set up a mill in Weldon gulch on Mt. Shavano in 1882 and later Max Dickman on Little Cochetopa creek. He stated that some lumber in his present residence on his ranch was sawn in 1879 by the White & Newby mill in King's gulch. All of these mills were operated by water power. The one on Poncha creek owned by Starr had one of the old-style penstock wheels. An upright saw was used set in a frame 4x6. He stated that the demand was very good for lum-

ber in those days and quite often when Nathrop was operating his mill on Chalk creek it would be necessary for the wagons to wait several days for a load of lumber until the logs could be gotten out and sawed. The teamsters in such instances were the guests of the sawmill man until the lumber could be manufactured and their wagons loaded.

The first tie camp in this part of the country was operated in 1877 on what is now the townsite of Leadville. Green & Busch had a contract with the D. & R. G. railroad for 1,000,000 ties. They got out about 150,000 and went broke. Mundlein recalled that the stumps from this cutting were particularly thick on what is now Harrison avenue of the town of Leadville. Gus Meyers offered to sell Mundlein an entire block on this avenue for \$500 about the time the town started up. Mundlein refused the offer, stating that he would not grub the stumps on the block for \$500. A year or two later this block was sold for \$10,000.

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

CATTLE GRAZING

Mundlein stated he grazed cattle around Marshall pass during the summers of 1870, 1871, 1872 and 1873. At that time there were not a great many cattle in the country. D. C. Travis had a place near the old town of San Isabel and grazed a few. Philip Stahl and Settle Brothers had a ranch further up the Arkansas and also a few head of cattle. Hugh Eoon had taken up the ranch at present owned by him. A Swede by the name of Peterson had located on Peterson creek near Villa Grove. Charles Neidhardt had located in the same region, Andy Heiss near Alder, Joe Hutchinson on the present Hutchinson ranch, and all were running a few cattle, in addition to those originally brought into the country by Ten-

assec.

He stated he made a trip into the San Luis valley in the fall of 1873 with Joe Hutchinson, Ed Clayton and J. B. Hall. Having heard some very extravagant stories as to the amount of feed in that part of the country, they decided to look up locations there. They went as far south as Ft. Garland and then returned to the Arkansas, having reached the conclusion that conditions were as favorable here as in the San Luis valley. He mentioned that feed was especially good at that time in Missouri park. He also mentioned that when he made this trip he stopped at what is now the town of Saguache and that Gotthelf and Mears had opened up a store there.

RAILROADS

He stated that work was commenced on the Marshall pass and Monarch branches of the D. & R. G. railroad about 1880 and described in some detail the difficulty which he had with the railroad officials in regard to the right-of-way through his present ranch. The damage to all the places to be crossed by the railroad had been appraised at \$33.33. He and a few of his neighbors along the north fork of the Little Arkansas decided to hold out for more money. When the construction crew reached the first ranch, the owner protested, but the foreman ordered the fences torn down and work continued. Mundlein's ranch was further up the creek. His old friend, Soldier Jack, who had a kindly regard for him because of the foot irons with the unclinked rivets, had at one time informed him if he ever needed help to call on him. He sent word to Granite for Soldier Jack to come down. There was also a man in the country by the name of John Wilson, afterwards tried for the murder of Kid Vernon, who offered to help him. In due course of time, the construction crew reached the Mundlein place. Mundlein, Soldier Jack and Wilson were waiting for them. They protested against their going upon the land. The foreman immediately ordered the fences torn down to make way for the construction work. As the men advanced to tear down the fences, they were met at the point of rifles and desisted. There was considerable argument, but the foreman could not get anyone to tackle the fences. A few days later J. R. DeReamer, the superintendent of the D. & R. G., made a trip to the Mund-

lein place and reopened the argument. He repeatedly ordered the men to tear down the fences. They hesitated, since Mundlein and his two aids were there with the rifles. Finally Mundlein informed DeReamer that he looked like a husky man and suggested that he get off his horse and try his luck tearing them down. He stated that it was purely a bluff, but that it worked and worked fine, and that he thought a bluff was as good as anything else so long as it worked. The railroad officials then tried a different tack. They got a hurry-up injunction from County Judge Hughs. Mundlein was aware of the fact that the County Judge did not have jurisdiction in such cases. He employed a lawyer by the name of Hartenstein and managed to put them off. A little later they got a second injunction from District Judge Elliot. Upon reading it, Mundlein noticed that the land was erroneously described. His ranch was located in Section 6, but the injunction described it as in Section 9. The sheriff, a man by the name of Morris, served the injunction. Mundlein noticed the mistake, but did not mention it at the time. He informed Morris that he would like first to consult an attorney. They then proceeded to Maysville, a then flourishing town a few miles distant, where Mundlein immediately engaged the services of Attorney Chamberlain. Chamberlain was well acquainted with Morris and familiar with many of his previous attempts to make the country dry by drinking it dry. His advice to Mundlein was first to get Morris drunk. This task required most of the remainder of the day.

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

Morris, when drunk, had a habit of getting directly in front of a person when talking to him. After the party had been in progress for a number of hours and Morris had become particularly chummy and was telling Mundlein a story, Mundlein surreptitiously took the injunction from the sheriff's inside pocket. That evening Sheriff Morris returned to Salida and could not definitely remember as to whether he had properly served the injunction on Mundlein. Also, much to the chagrin of the D. & R. G. officials, he could not locate the injunction and could not account for what had become of it. If alive, he does not to this day know how he lost the papers.

Mundlein stated that he practically

won his point in the settlement, but that the \$750 was not sufficient to cover the costs and worry involved. He stated that he had to keep Soldier Jack and Wilson drunk to keep them with him, that his action in holding up the construction crew at the point of a gun was intended merely as a bluff, and that he did not want it to result in any killings, that Wilson and Soldier Jack were drunk at all times and he was afraid that they would start shooting on slight provocation. Neither of them had any property in the country; both had good horses and in case of a killing he was well aware that they would immediately quit the country and leave him to do the explaining.

NATIONAL FOREST

EARLY MINING

He stated that the first prospecting in this country was in Weldon gulch on Mt. Shavano in 1863. It was by Nat Rich and a party of several others from Georgia, who had left that part of the country the latter part of 1862, it is presumed with the idea of avoiding the Confederate draft. Mundlein, being an old Confederate soldier who had served during the entire war, often

inquired of them as to just why they left Georgia at that particular time, and he stated he could always get an argument out of them.

He mentioned that the present Madonna mine near Monarch, Colorado, was discovered by George L. Smith and a party by the name of Gray in 1880.

HISTORY OF COCHETOPA

ISOLATED FACTS

He stated that the first sheriff of Lake county was a man by the name of Bayles, who served as such during the years 1876 and 1877. At that time Chaffee county was still a part of Lake county. Mundlein himself was sheriff during 1877 and 1878. He was still located at Granite during the summer months. At that time there was a controversy between Leadville and Granite as to the location of the county seat. Finally some parties from Leadville made a trip to Granite, stole such of the county records as were at Granite and took them to Leadville. This ended the controversy.

Mundlein stated that a man by the name of McPherson was postmaster at Poncha Springs during the years 1867, 1870 and 1871.

He also gave an account of the killing of Kid Vernon which occurred directly in front of his house. It seems that Vernon, Perry, Radcliffe, Brierly and Williams were suspected of rustling cattle. There was some feeling against them in the country. One evening Vernon rode up to the gate of his ranch. Wilson was stopping there with the in-

tention of jumping a claim which had been taken up by Jim Bailey, who was not at that time on it. Mundlein was eating supper, but was seated so that he could see out of the window. He did not notice any altercation, but unexpectedly heard a shot, and looking out, saw that Wilson had shot Vernon. He knew there would be serious trouble over the matter so he immediately hitched up to a buggy and drove Wilson to Salida, turning him over to Deputy Sheriff Mix. He had just turned over the prisoner and was stepping out of the building when he was met by the other parties mentioned who had hurriedly ridden up. They informed him that it was a mighty good thing he had acted quickly, that if they had overtaken Wilson on the road, a trial would have been unnecessary.

He stated that the Pass creek fire which burned over considerable country was started by Champ and Tow Olway who were filing on the Lakes there in 1880 and it was started in some way by the party making the survey and maps for the filing.

