

# History of Salida Is Subject of Two Papers

## Early Days of Salida

(As given by Mabel D. Hulse at the January 14, 1947 meeting of the Literature, Music and Art department of the Tuesday Evening club at the request of Mrs. Bessie M. Shewalter who had charge of the program "Remember When? Early Days of Chaffee County.")

In the summer of 1879 John T. Blake founded a town at the upper end of the grand canon of the Arkansas, and called it Cleora. The town was advantageously situated, as it seemed to be at a point from which the whole interior of the state might be easily reached by the traveler coming up the long canon of the river from Canon City, that had been for many years the "limit of civilization." The Denver & Rio Grande railroad was building to reach Leadville, the great San Juan, the San Luis and the western portion of Colorado. The road had reached Cleora, and from that point it was thought that branch lines would reach out, penetrating the state. Within a few weeks there was a booming town at Cleora, and in October the first town board was elected to administer its affairs.

The travel to Leadville was all by stage from Canon City up to this time, and the Bales tavern was famous as a resting place for all who were seeking fortune in the wild interior of Colorado. The tavern was only just across the river from the town. In the spring of 1880 the town of Cleora had a population of over 600.

Start of Salida

About this time a station was established at a point two miles up the river, where the railroad builders had made a junction point, one line designed to run over Marshall Pass to Grand Junction and the other a branch line to Leadville. There was a water tank at this point, and a box car had been pressed into service to do duty as a telegraph station. The place was given the name of South Arkansas. There was a rumor that this would be made the terminal and junction point of the system, and a committee of Cleora citizens went to Colorado Springs to interview the promoters of the road, to ascertain the truth of the rumor. They were told that the road would make that point the town, and when Governor Hunt, who was one of the chief promoters, was asked why he did not favor Cleora as a townsite, he said, "God Almighty makes a townsite, not men." Recognizing the truth of this statement, the committee returned to Cleora and did the sensible thing. They accepted the inevitable and began to move their town to the new site.

Thus did South Arkansas (Salida) spring into being. Within a few weeks the town had grown to surprising proportions, and was soon dignified by the election of a town board, the personnel of which was as follows: J. E. McIntyre, chairman of the board; O. V. Wilson, R. Wyman, W. F. Gilbraith and R. Devereux. R. B. Hallock was clerk and recorder, L. W. Craig was treasurer and Asa James, attorney.

At first the tin-horns and toughs were almost in control of the town, but as time went by the decent element asserted its power. The history of all western towns is a sort of evolution from the rule of the toughs and outlaws to the control of the upright and law-abiding.

Cleora was moved bodily, as it were. Merchants had their light frame buildings mounted on wheels, and as they traveled over the two miles intervening between Cleora and the new town, goods were sold, as business was lively.

#### **The Salida Mail is Born**

On the 28th day of May 1880, a newspaper plant was moved up from Cleora. The plant was put in shape for use while a building

was being built over it. This first newspaper was the Mountain Mail, which still continues under the name of The Salida Mail. A little later the Salida Record was founded and now exists as the consolidation of several newspaper ventures that were from time to time absorbed by the older paper.

The town thrived from its inception. The Chaffee County bank was soon established and issued its first draft on June 1, 1880. Every incoming train was crowded, and there were long trains of freight wagons to and from the outlying districts that were booming at a tremendous rate. Cleora was almost totally absorbed in a few weeks. People lived in tents, and many business houses were compelled to get along for nearly a year before they could obtain permanent places. Soon the Bales tavern was closed, never to reopen. The day of the stage coach was past.

Otto Mears was the "Pathfinder of the Rockies." He paved the way of civilization with his toll roads that threaded the passes of the mountains, and to his pluck and enterprise Salida owes much for her wonderful growth and prosperity.

Poncha Springs, Monarch and Maysville were thriving at this time. All are older than the city that started as a box car station and soon absorbed the very life from all of them.

Governor Hunt was pushing the town, as he owned a big part of the townsite. The Bank of South Arkansas was opened on June 10.

On June 24 the name of the town was changed from the awkward and unmusical "South Arkansas" to the beautiful, euphonic and expressive "Salida." The newspapers rejoiced in the change, thanked Governor Hunt for his kindness, told what the word meant and impressed the people with the importance of giving it the proper pronunciation, "Sah-lee-dah." Their instructions have been disregarded, and the less musical English accent is prevalent.

The population of the town was given at 303, Buena Vista had 1,957, Maysville, 561, Cleora 184, Poncha 170, Centerville 166. The population of the county was 6,503.

#### County Seat Fight

There came a sectional strife that cast a cloud over the county and made many bitter enemies. The location of the county seat was to be determined. It had been temporarily located at Granite when the county was segregated from Lake county. Buena Vista carried the election by a big majority, and then followed charges of corruption. For fear of a contest, the records were taken by force from Granite. A pledge of \$10,000 by the town to be used in putting up county buildings, pacified matters, and Buena Vista was allowed to possess the prize in peace.

The first church social was held at the home of J. P. Smith on October 20. The first grand ball was given for the benefit of the public early in the fall. At this ball it was said that almost every state in the Union was represented.

(To be Continued)

# HISTORY OF SALIDA BY MABLE HULSE

(Continued from yesterday)

On November 9, the first incident of outlawry occurred. The town had been quiet and orderly, but there was an element of toughs and tin-horns that menaced the peace and comfort of the community. The outbreak finally came. Marshal Meadows was shot and severely wounded by a man named Baxter, who resisted arrest. A by-stander, Charles Creek, was also wounded. Many similar and worse scenes of outlawry have since marred the history of the town.

On March 1 there was not a foot of railroad in the county. On January 1, there was nearly 100 miles. Salida was a solid and substantial business town, a wholesale and shipping point of great importance, and was growing into a town of homes and good residences, with many of the social advantages that go to make a good place in which to live.

About this time there was strong talk of the immediate building of the short line to Denver and of the creation of a new county from parts of Chaffee, Saguache and Fremont, with Salida as the county seat. Neither of these propositions advanced beyond the stage of talk.

In April the Chaffee County bank was sold to and consolidated with the Bank of South Arkansas, owned by Hartzell & Co.

## First Fatal Shooting

On April 16 the first fatal shooting in the town occurred. Charles Roth shot John Elliott. A Mrs. McBriar was the cause of the shooting. There were so many cases of this kind in the county and so few prosecutions — nearly all cases being made out as self-defense — that Judge Helm, in the May term of court, made it the subject of an address to the grand jury. Too many men were carrying guns contrary to the law.

In July 1881, Banker J. P. True of Poncha Springs shot and killed Randolph Carpenter. The incident occurred in connection with an attempt to burn the bank. Crime was rampant. A gang of cowboys rode into Salida and "shot up the town," but no one was hurt, though the boys had all the fun they wanted. A teamster was shot at Mears. Charles Stone was arrested and brought to Salida. A mob captured a train and came down to lynch him. The officers slipped away with him to Bales' ranch, and a company of militia came down from Buena Vista, but the mob had dispersed and the excitement was over. Mears at that time was an important toll gate station on Mears' road, and as lively a nest of outlaws and toughs as could be found anywhere.

Another killing occurred late in the summer at Maysville. A man named Wilson was accused, and took refuge from a mob in Salida. The officers guarded him and narrowly prevented a lynching in the town.

(To Be Continued)



## History of Salida

By MABEL HULSE

(Continued from Tuesday)

In August of 1881 the matter of choosing a permanent site for the state capitol came up, and Salida was a strong applicant for the honor. It was shown that the town was in the geographical center of the state and was the great prospective railroad center. The thing was thoroughly agitated, but when the votes were counted Salida was compelled to be content with the advertising that had come out of the agitation.

### Fire Department Organized

When a fire company was organized, W. F. Galbraith was the first captain, and J. B. Browne was treasurer.

A company was organized to build an ore reduction works, using the Saltz process then coming into great favor. W. W. Roller was one of the chief promoters, and was the manager of the company. About \$10,000 was invested in a plant before it was found that the process was a failure.

In January, 1882, the county hospital was located in Salida.

Within six months the number of families in the town had doubled. The county was nearly \$100,000 in debt, with no county buildings to show for it. Corruption and bad management was the cause.

Dickman's opera house was built on the corner of F and Second streets. It was a two-story frame, and was the best building in the county. The spring months also witnessed the death struggle of

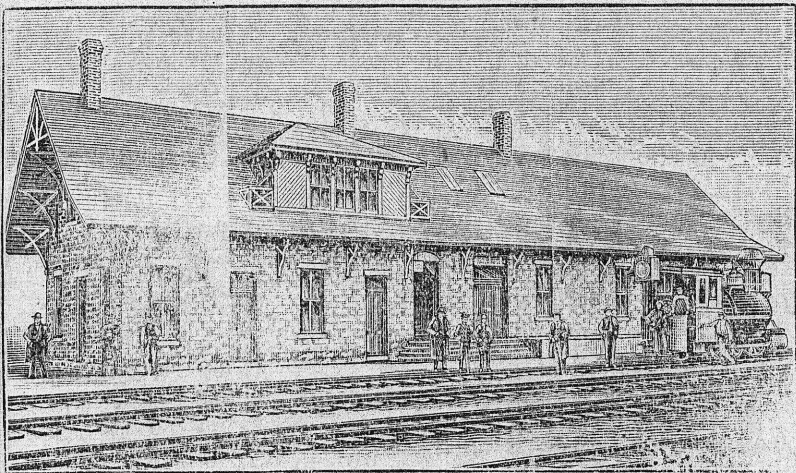
Cleora in the discontinuance of the postoffice.

### First School House Built

During the summer a \$3,000 school building was erected. The corner-

fare to Denver was reduced from \$11.65 to \$9.20. The depot, one of the best in the state, was begun.

The population of Salida had increased to 1,500 by the beginning of



Rio Grande Depot 1882

stone of the courthouse was laid in Luena Vista, and Salida was ignored in the demonstration. The June pay car distributed \$30,000 among the 453 employees in Salida. The

the fall season.

The Hartzel bank failed and caught many depositors in the crash. Poncha Hot Springs hotel burned, and there was talk of piping the

water to Salida. School opened in the new building with 95 pupils. There were 18 saloons in the town. The Maysville 'exodus' had begun, and the town was being moved almost bodily to Salida. This removal continued though many months.

Early in the fall work was begun on the Rio Grande shops. Soon after, the Monte Cristo hotel was begun, and when completed, was pronounced to be one of the finest in Colorado.

In September the town water-works system was completed, and was regarded with no small amount of pride by the people. The system was built by the municipality.

The spring season marked the advancement of Salida to the position of being the largest town in this

section of Colorado, a place it has ever since held.

About this time several tragedies and shootings occurred. Reform came into vogue, and the council began to make restrictions on the gamblers and dance halls. The town was getting civilized.

The finances of the town were tangled and began to "smell bad." In September the debt was said to be \$35,000, with little to show for it.

In August the Odd Fellows' lodge was instituted. Governor Hunt gave lots on the corners of D and 4th street to various churches, and the Methodists were to build at once. The first band was organized in October. There were 225 pupils in

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the school. The Rio Grande shops were rebuilt and enlarged.

In June the stock yards were built, and Salida made a feeding and transfer point. The G. A. R. was organized in July, with E. H. Webb commander. The Masons procured quarters. The Knights of Pythias were flourishing, and W. S. O'Brien was Chancellor Commander.

Major Williams, adjutant on General Sheridan's staff, visited Salida, and recalled the fact that 20 years previous he had been in command of a detachment that had fought a battle with the Indians on Poncha pass.

Cy Warman began to come into local prominence as a poet and writer. He was a jolly engineer on the Rio Grande, having begun in the round house as wiper. His first literary efforts were published in a little periodical entitled "The Frog," published in Salida.

#### **Kipling's Wife Here**

Wolcott Ballestier, a man since noted in literature and the brother-in-law of Rudyard Kipling, spent several months in Salida as the guest of H. R. Smith, and while here collected data that he subsequently used in two books of romance. His sister was also a guest for several months of the family of E. A. Thayer.

In November, 1884, the academy was located in Salida by the Presbyterian synod, this town being chosen from among many applicants. The first Catholic service was held in Salida by Father Curtis of Buena Vista. A new era of building set in, and there was a great demand for brick. It was proposed to build a city hall, jail and fire department house. Disman & Co. opened a clothing store in June. The building boom was limited for a want of material. The money was appropriated for building the D street school building. The first Episcopal church service was held in the Methodist church, on July 1. The roller skating rink was all the rage. The school census gave the number of school children as 531. That fall R. M. Ridgway was located in Salida as superintendent of the third and fourth divisions of the Rio Grande road. A great many brick residences were being built. The cattle thieves that had for years terrorized the county had almost disappeared. In the spring of 1895, Colonel J. H. Stead represented this district as senator. G. S. Nelson was installed as station agent for the Rio Grande. The first bridge at the foot of F street was built to be replaced in the early 1900's by the present bridge. The building of the Church of the Ascension was begun.

On May 5, another shooting affray occurred. Marshall E. R. Murphy shot and killed Richard Curren. The marshal had a search warrant to look for stolen goods in Curren's house and Curren and his wife tried to run him off the premises.

Another tragedy, this time a

suicide and probable murder. Dr. J. H. Nonamaker and wife were found in bed dead. Both were shot through the head with revolvers. Letters showed that the two had deliberately planned to kill themselves at a certain hour, but it was believed by many that the doctor murdered his wife and then killed himself. Investigation tended to show that he had previously poi-

soned two other wives in the East.

In the same month the Rio Grande road experienced a strike. The trouble originated in the company employing some obnoxious foremen in Denver. As the road was in the hands of a receiver the men had to buck against government officials. The trouble was soon settled.

(To Be Continued)

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# The Salida Daily Mail

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## History of Salida

By MABEL HULSE

(Continued from Saturday)

### First Academy Graduation

On June 19, the first academy graduation was made the occasion of a grand demonstration. There were six teachers employed in the public schools and there were 46 applications for positions filed with the board.

In November, 1885, the Rio Grande hospital was opened. To Dr. O'Connor was very largely due the success of the enterprise. Governor Eaton and many other notables were present to assist in dedicating the institution.

The last week of July the local  
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## HISTORY—Continued

papers mourned the death of General Grant, the town making an appropriate demonstration.

On March 9, 1886, Jerome Chaffee, for whom the county was named, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. U. S. Grant, Jr., near New York. The deceased was ex-senator of Colorado and a prominent mining man.

### First Big Fire

In March the first great fire in the history of the town occurred. But one fire since has done such great damage. It started at noon in the old Windsor hotel that stood where the theater now is. The entire block was of frame and bursting hose prevented the firemen from getting it in control. Two half blocks were swept away, the fire destroying everything from G to F streets on each side of First to the alley. Only two buildings escaped, the one occupied by Barto & Dennison's jewelry store and Crozer's stationery store on F street and the one occupied by Hafner's saloon on lower F street. Barto & Dennison's jewelry store occupied the space where the Home Bakery now is and Crozer's store was next to it. The insurance companies threatened to withdraw from the town if proper fire ordinances were not enforced and from that time on the town began to improve in the character of its buildings.

In October the corner stone of the academy building was laid. In November the Baptist church building was begun.

The legislature, then in session, passed a law by the terms of which towns of Salida's class were given six councilmen and a mayor to constitute the town board. The first mayor to be elected under this law was E. W. Corbin, a member of the wholesale supply firm of Webb & Corbin.

In September the Eddy brothers bought 200 acres of land adjoining the town and platted the Mesa addition.



## Salida's Biggest Fire

On January 2, 1888, Salida experienced the greatest fire in the history of the city. Peter Mulvany was completing a fine three-story brick hotel on the corner of F and Second streets where the Knights of Pythias building now stands. About 10 o'clock a workman dropped a spark into a pile of shavings and in a few minutes the building was a mass of seething flames. The fire department was inadequate and soon the fire was communicated to neighboring buildings. The heat was so great that buildings seemed fairly to melt in the path of the fire. The falling walls of the hotel crushed the hardware store of George Sullivan and caught two men, Edwards and Young. By heroic efforts they were saved from burning in the ruins. Four half blocks were burned, all four corners on F and Second streets. Again the old brick building occupied by Barto and Dennison's jewelry store acted as a stop to the fire and saved the new part of the town built up after the former great fire. The total loss was estimated at \$175,000. Nearly 60 business men suffered loss. Not since this time has Salida experienced a great fire, as all the buildings were replaced by solid brick structures, making the business district one of the safest from fires of any city in the country.

At this time there was talk of securing a city form of government as the population had increased beyond the necessary number to entitle the municipality to a city instead of a town form of government. The effort failed as the expense was considered too great. Not until 1903 was regular city government secured|

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# History of Salida

By MABEL HULSE

(Continued From Tuesday)

## Hoodoo Friday Engine

On April 18, 1889, train No. 7 was wrecked in the Black canon, Fireman "Noah" North being killed and Engineer Ryan experiencing a very thrilling escape. Their engine was swept from the track by a big boulder rolling down the side of the canon for a long distance above. This incident was years afterward made the subject of a very pretty story by Cy Warman, who represented that the engine was a "hoodoo Friday" engine and not to be trusted.

On April 19 the office of City Clerk J. J. Conover was broken into and a part of the records destroyed. Later it developed that Conover was a defaulter to an amount over \$5,000, money that he had used in an attempt to secure election as county clerk. He made his escape to Mexico. His bondsmen were never forced to pay his bond.

In May, President Harrison and party passed through Salida and were given a grand ovation at the depot by the school children.

On December 11, 1892, Salida was again visited by a great disaster. The Rio Grande round house and shops were destroyed by fire, causing a loss aggregating \$400,000. The fire started early on a Sunday morning, originating in a box of greasy waste in the cab of engine No. 419, and spread so rapidly that all the fire equipment of the company and the city could not check it. Seventeen engines were burned, the others being run out of their stalls by railroad men. Salida had grave fears that the shops would never be rebuilt, but President Jeffrey immediately set all fears at rest by notifying the people that no time would be lost in rebuilding on a much larger scale than before.

## Silver Panic Begins

The summer of 1893 witnessed the closing of silver mines and smelters over the state, precipitating the panic from which the state did not recover for seven years.

Following in the wake of general disaster, the Chaffee County bank failed, closing its doors on July 1. Investigation disclosed the fact that the institution was rotten. The disaster caused a run on the First National bank and that institution closed its doors for a few days. A meeting of citizens was held in the opera house and a committee appointed, at the request of the bank officials, to investigate the condition of that institution. The committee made the examination and on their report that it was perfectly sound, business was resumed and the run was over.

William E. Robertson, cashier of the Chaffee County bank, was convicted of the crime of defrauding his depositors and served a term in the penitentiary. The total losses to Salida depositors amounted to \$75,000, many people being ruined financially by the disaster.

## Tuesday Evening Club

The Home and Current Events Department of the Tuesday Evening Circle, met with Mrs. Harrington on a Tuesday in December 1903. "The American Indian" was the subject for the day. Mrs. Harrington gave some personal reminiscences of Chiefs Shavano and Ouray, which should be of interest to Coloradoans.

The land on which the city of Salida stands was sold or transferred by the Indians to the United States government on October 1, 1868. Two months previous to that date the Indians camped here, hunted, fished, gambled and raced horses. Where the smelter was located was their race track. At last the ox wagons arrived, loaded with gifts for the Indians, provisions of every description, guns, ammunition, blankets, trinkets of the cheapest kind. There were about 2,000 Indians gathered. The governor of the territory with other United States officials were present. There was not enough of anything to go around. The war chief, Shavano, saw the swindle and became very sullen and looked the

savage he was. He declared he would take his warriors away and they would fight. Chief Ouray appeared upon the scene. He occupied the office of "peace chief" and received for his services in that capacity \$600 a year from the government. He spoke to the Indians for an hour, entreating them to be patient. Finally two oxen were given them for a feast. Chief Shavano, however, refused to compromise until he had been given 600 head of cattle, to be delivered at their reservation in the "Uncompahgre valley." In due time, Mrs. Harrington said, the cattle passed through on their way to the reservation — small cattle and lean. Alas, how the poor Indian was robbed.

### **Chief Ouray, the Pacifier**

Mrs. Harrington described Chief Ouray as being under the average height of an Indian, but finely formed, with small feet and hands.

He wore an officer's uniform, a light felt cowboy's hat, with fancy band, white shirt, a new red blanket hung gracefully from his shoulders, presenting altogether a very picturesque appearance. He possessed a very handsome watch and chain, a gift from the president of the United States. His manner was gentle. He had been educated at a Spanish Mission in Mexico, could read and write Spanish, but spoke English mostly through an interpreter. He was a member of the Catholic church and wore with pride a gold cross, suspended by a black cord, about his neck. He called himself the white man's friend.

The Indian was long to remain in peace on his reservation. The white man soon discovered that the beautiful valley of the Uncompahgre was rich and fertile and only awaited the magic touch of water when there would be blooming orchards and fields of grain; and the "Everlasting Hills" that meant protection from the winter's winds to him had concealed in their bosoms untold wealth in silver and gold and only awaited the miner's pick to yield their treasure.

And again, this "fast vanishing race" was told to "move on."

### **Historic Gun Fight**

The most startlingly sensational  
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### HISTORY — Continued

tragedy in all the history of Salida, and one that takes rank with the most blood curdling incidents of the once wild west, occurred on the streets of the town on May 30, 1883.

A man named Ninemeyer and his partner, Evans, came to Salida from Brown's canon for the purpose of making trouble and "evening up" with Marshal Baxter Stingley and Deputy J. H. Bathurst. The men had had trouble with the officers prior to this time on account of their drunken debauches in the various saloons and dance halls of the town and had sworn vengeance.

About 5 o'clock in the evening the two men were in Katie Bender's boarding house and saloon, located on the ground now occupied by the theater. They were noisy and Bathurst went in to quiet them. Instantly both men opened fire on him, mortally wounding him, but he emptied his gun at the outlaws.

Men rushed in, and many shots were fired. Evans was hit, and crawled out on the sidewalk to die. An innocent man sitting at a table in the dining room, separated from the saloon by a thin board wall, was shot dead when the first volley was fired.

Marshal Stingley rushed in. He was the man that Ninemeyer was after. He began firing, one shot shattering a big silver watch in Stingley's vest pocket and another hitting him in the thigh, laying him out of the fight, but not mortally

wounding him.

Ninemeyer ran out First street across the railroad, a big crowd following and shooting at him as he ran and fired back at his pursuers. Marvelous to relate, no one was hit during this part of the fusillade.

A wood hauler named Brown saw the fight from the mesa. Unhitching one of his horses, he mounted and rushed down to head off Ninemeyer and help to capture him. A wild shot from the pursuing crowd struck him and he fell dead from his horse.

About the same time a shot hit Ninemeyer in the wrist and he dropped his gun and surrendered.

Pandemonium reigned. Two innocent citizens were dead. The deputy marshal was dead and the marshal severely wounded. One of the outlaws was dead and the other, the chief instigator, was wounded and under heavy guard. A mob gathered and a lynching was seemingly the next feature of the program.

While the angry crowd debated as to the manner in which Ninemeyer should be lynched, the officers spirited him away and got him into the Buena Vista jail. A few weeks later he broke jail, with a

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## **HISTORY—Continued**

number of others, and was never recaptured.

### **Another Tragic Shooting**

In December, 1889, John G. Irwin was shot dead while sitting in his own cabin on the ranch where John Mundlein used to live. Irwin had circulated bad reports concerning the family of a prominent man in that vicinity. He was asked to retract and finding that he was in the wrong, he agreed to sign a statement to that effect. As he was sitting at his table surrounded by a number of the residents of the neighborhood who had gathered to talk the matter over, and as he was in the very act of placing his name to the paper, a rifle shot rang out and he fell dead, shot through the heart. The shot was fired from the outside through the window. The murderer was never apprehended.

Now we come to the climax of all Salida tragedies, the most inhuman and disgraceful thing that mars and blackens the pages of her history and the last. For years it cast a pall over the town and many said: "It is the vengeance of Providence cast upon us."

### **A Lynching Bee**

Pat Sullivan was conductor on a work train. Oliver Briley was foreman of the coal chutes. Sullivan was on his engine near the chutes. Briley was about the chutes. Some Italians had been taking coal and Briley was attempting to enforce orders that no more coal was to be taken. Sullivan told him he ought to let the Italians alone and Briley took offense and a quarrel arose. Sullivan started at Briley with a piece of board in his hand and Briley shot him, the wound being fatal.

Sullivan was a very popular man with a family and Briley was a new man in the town and unmarried. Ex-

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citement soon reached fever heat.

Briley was arrested and put under strong guard for fear that he would be mobbed. He was kept in the building now occupied by Dr. Baker on Second street. As a further precaution he was chained to the floor.

A mob surrounded the building and with difficulty the officers held the excited people back. Finally some turbulent and excitable men got in the rear of the building and began shooting through the building. Policeman Spencer was standing at the front door holding the crowd back when the shooting began in the rear. A bullet struck him in the back of the head, glanced upward and plowed a furrow across his scalp. His was even less than a literal hairbreadth escape. Charles Hallock was in the crowd and was hit in the knee by a bullet. The wound crippled him for life. Jack Sexton, then assistant yardmaster, had the third and fourth fingers of his left hand shot off.

The mob became furious and the officers had to abandon an attempt to get the prisoner out of the city. The guards were overpowered and soon a rope was around the unfortunate man's neck and he was jerked loose from the floor by dozens of furious men pulling on the rope. He was dragged into the street and an attempt was made to hang him to a light pole, but the rope was too short.

The man was dead by this time, but the howling mob still dragged his body about and kicked and cuffed it and tried to find a place to hang it.

His brother was in the crowd,

having been one of the guards trying to protect him, and begged for the body, but even this little consideration was refused. The mob then dragged the body to the corner of G Street and then down that street to the railroad crossing on First street, where it was strung up to the crossing sign and shot full of holes.

#### **Crime Not Punished**

No one was ever punished by law for this awful crime that made all Colorado shudder and worked a great detriment to the city. The state press held up Salida as an example of lawlessness and brutality. As a consequence business suffered and the growth of the city was checked for years. Several arrests were made, but after long legal struggles and the expenditure of a great deal of money by the accused and their friends the case was dismissed.

Almost without exception some element of tragedy was mixed in the incident of the death of each of those most closely associated with the tragedy. It was commonly said that a vengeance followed them to their graves. But that is a part of the unknowable.

The memory is all that is left and the curse it left for so long seems to have faded away.

From these tales of the early days we see that Salida was truly a town of the Wild West.