

Issac Williard Haight

He was born in the year 1851 at a small town near Battle Creek, Michigan; receiving his early schooling at the place of his birth, then entering and graduating from college at battle Creek.

In the early '70s he set out for Colorado, traveling with emigrants and freighters, but walking most of the way. Locating in Leadville, he at first engaged in prospecting, then he contracted for and erected various buildings in the booming town.

The spring of '80 saw the founding of the new town of South Arkansas. Hearing of the demand for building contractors, Mr. Haight located in the embryonic town, and soon after completed the first residential structure. He erected other residences, and various business buildings, including the Douge Hotel.

Later he went to Chaffee City--now Monarch--and engaged in building there; afterwards returning to South Arkansas--then renamed Salida.

He was happily married in Buena Vista, on June 30, 1884, to Sarah J. Fuller of Salida.

In the early '90s Mr. Haight erected a beautiful residence near the confluence of F Street and Rainbow Blvd. During this time he bought out the furniture business of Mrs Gaisher, and then added the undertaking business. Later he sold the business to O. L. Johnson, who in turn sold to Mr. Guy Travers; the business still being carried on in its original location on East First St.

Mr. Haight then acquired a large interest in the First National Bank. He served as a director of this institution, and, at the time of his

death, was the president.

It was Mr. Haight's suggestion that a scenic highway should be constructed to the top of Tender Foot Mountain, which would be, not only a benefit to the people of Salida, but an added asset as a tourist attraction. The highway was completed and Mr. Haight donated funds for the erection of a beautiful lookout building, from where a splendid view of Salida and the surrounding country can be seen; many people, both local and transient, having taken advantage of this extraordinary panoramic treat.

He also donated the statuary which decorates the lower F Street entrance of Alpine Park.

Mr. Haight was one of Salida's foremost public-minded citizens, and his passing was a loss keenly felt by the entire community. He passed away October, 14th, 1933. Mrs. Haight survives him, and still makes her home in Salida.

*Sarah J. Haight.*