Mountain Mail

SALIDA, COLORADO, MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1957 — FORMERLY THE SALIDA DAILY MAIL-RECORD — Historical Section

Townbuilders Moved Cleora Up River To South Arkansas

Growth of a town in the 1880s must have been indeed a sight to see!

May 1, 1880, the Denver and Rio Grande tracks reached South Arkansas. May 20, the railroad was "open for business' at this point. On June 5, the Mountain Mail was established by M. R. Moore, and H. C. Olney, and subscribers were being solicited for $3 per year.

The town was just a month old when the newspaper was established, but already there were many other businesses, as shown in the file of that first newspaper—now stored with the Kansas Historical Society.

Following are those merchants listed in the first issue: Chaffee County Bank, R. A. Bain, cashier, William E. Robertson, president; McIntire & Bean, feeds; Roller & Twitchell, furniture and undertaker; W. S. Smith, attorney at law; R. T. Parsons, physician and surgeon; F. S. Hallock, physician and surgeon; Hugh Moore, real estate and notary; J. R. Kessler, architect and builder; H. Fielding, contractor and builder; Rowe & Thompson's club room;

The Bank of South Arkansas (to be open June 10); H. M. French, drugs; Peter Mulvany, general merchandise; J. J. Harris, groceries and feeds; Meyer & Dale, groceries (moved up from Cleora); J. T. Blake & Co., dry goods and groceries; G. T. Bateman, hardware; W. E. Wilson, grocery and liquors; Henry Mack, lumber.

Frame & Co., groceries; Grandview Hotel (Morton and Toms were moving a house from Cleora and enlarging it to be two stories high, 70 feet deep and with 75 foot frontage on Front street); J. P. and George A. Smith (moved from Cleora); Woolman & Sturman, stationery; M. M. French, drugs;

J. G. Evans, hardware, came from Buena Vista; A. J. Thomas, lumber; O. D. Moll, tobacco; Westerfield and Roche; W. W. Wilson, groceries; Meyer & Dale, groceries (from the old town); Ratevon & Co., hay and grain; J. J. Harris, grain and grocery; Sweet & Co., grain.

Barlow and Sanderson's stables had been moved into town and were put up near the bridge.

The businessmen at Cleora, seeing that South Arkansas is to be the town, were settling here. A petition was being circulated in Cleora to move the post office to South Arkansas.

"The town had its first fire alarm last Tuesday. A tent near the depot caught fire from the stove pipe. A gentleman passing with a bucket of water extinguished the flames before much damage was done to the property inside.

William Bale, who had been keeping a hotel at the river crossing just below town for several years, had concluded to close out and retire. Barlow & Sanderson coaches stopped at his place every night for the six preceding years.

Poncha Springs free library opened the day before. The first dance in South Arkansas was held on July 5 at Ramsdell house.

Pitkin had a new two-story schoolhouse at the head of Main street, which cost $2500 and was quite an ornament to that city.

Alpine school district had 75 children in its limits. Alpine Bank had opened and Joseph Cross presided at the desk.

By the time the Aug. 7, 1880 issue was printed, the town name of South Arkansas was changed to Salida. The Mount Shavano smelter had made a very successful run the previous week and turned out a quantity of bullion. The ore treated was from the Brighton, Smith & Gray, Columbus and Monarch mines.

Work on the Neeley smelter at Poncha Springs was being pushed quite rapidly. The Indianapolis Lodge, owned by Messrs. Jones, was sold the previous week for $100,000. The Mail also had quite an interesting account of the town of Shavano (see another story in this historical issue.)

The town of Sedgwick, was located July 10 by Kasler and Traxwell, 14 miles north of Villa Grove post office, at the junction of the east and west branches of Kerber creek.

The editor also learned that at Maysville the Columbus Mine owned by W. B. Jenness and others had been sold to a Pennsylvania company for $100,000. White Pine had 100 people.

From the issue of Oct. 11, 1880, it was reported that the first copy of the Chaffee county Press had been published by W. C. and W. F. Tompkins at Nathrop.

"The largest October storm ever seen in the valley, so the old settlers tell us, visited us early this week. It began to snow Saturday night and kept it up until Tuesday. It thawed a lot during the time but snow still was ten inches deep Tuesday."

The location of the county seat was the paramount question. The Maysville Miner hit it right when it announced that Buena Vista would get the vote of Granite, Alpine and St. Elmo. Poncha Springs and Salida would vote for itself. All the other camps—Arbourville, Junction City and Chaffee City were jealous of Salida. The editor of the Mountain Mail disagreed with the Maysville editor—he believed the county seat would be in Salida.

Tin Cup was better known in those days as Virginia City.

The issue of Oct. 23, 1880 had this paragraph: "As an evidence of the rapid growth of Chaffee county it is necessary to look only at her newspapers. There are six published in the county and they are all less than ten months old."

The Denver and Rio Grande bridge across the Arkansas at this point had been completed and iron was going down on the Gunnison extension.

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EARLY DAY PHOTO—This picture was taken looking toward the Continental Divide in the early days of Salida. Note the lamp post at the right in the picture, in the upper right of the picture is the Elephant Corral, a long, narrow building with one window to a bedroom. Inscription on the back of the photograph indicates it was taken at First and F streets.

First Miners Reach County Nearly One Century Ago--Farmers Followed Shortly

(Editor's note: Information for the story below was taken by E. R. Emerson's History of Chaffee County, State Historical Society records, and early newspaper files.)

The daring and indefatigable prospector of 1859-60 made his way to the Arkansas River, and found everywhere in the sand and gravel of the river banks the glittering gold of which he was in search. The first determined effort to work the bars in the river was made at Kelley's Bar, about four miles below Granite, by a party of prospectors led by Dr. Earl, early in the Spring of 1860 and prior to the discovery of gold in California Gulch. Work was prosecuted successfully during the season and for several years yielded handsome returns.

Early in April, 1860, Messers. H. A. W. Tabor, S. B. Kellogg and others discovered and took up claims at the north mouth of Cache Creek, whip-sawed lumber for sluice boxes and made the first beginning in what were to become the best paving placer claims in the State. The dscoveries in California Gulch in the latter part of April in the same year, created such an excitement along the river that they abandoned everything and started for the new diggings. Tabor and others were among the first to open up the wonderful developments of this famous and rich gulch.

Georgia Bar, about two miles below Granite and opposite the mouth of Clear Creek, was discovered and taken up by a party of Georgians the same season. Good pay was found and several thousand dollars taken out the first season. In 1881 the property was owned by Peter Fries and Chris Kirsch, who also owned an extensive ranch on Clear Creek.

River Bed Contained Gold

The river bed and banks for a mile or more below Granite were found to be rich in gold. In 1880—when Emerson wrote his history of the valley—the property was owned by Walter H. Jones, superintendent of the Gass Mining Co., under patent from the U. S. Government.

From below the mouth of Cache Creek to above Low Pass Creek, passing through the town of Granite, a little more than a mile, the river was also found to be good pay ground and was taken up and patented by W. H. Morgan and others and in 1880 was owned by a party of Eastern capitalists.

Just below the town of Buena Vista, and below the mouth of Cottonwood Creek on the western bank of the river, rich placer diggings were found and considerable gold was taken out in the early days.

Brown's Creek Canon and the river below also afforded considerable gold to the patient worker in those early days but mining interest had played out by 1881. During the grasshopper years of 1876-77, when the ranchmen lost their entire crops by the raid of these pests, many would have been compelled to abandon their ranches but for the gold taken out of the banks of the Arkansas.

Placer diggings were found and claims taken up about the head of Squaw Creek on the Eastern Slope of Mt. Shavano as early as 1863 but with the rude appliances then in use, could not be profitable.

Farmers Came Early

In 1863, Frank Mayol took up a ranch bordering on the river, later known as Leonhardy's Ranch on Riverside, about eight miles north of Buena Vista. Emerson, in his story, said that Mayol was successful selling what he raised to miners along the river and at California Gulch. He claims to have realized $5000 for the first crop raised from less than five acres of land. He probably did, too, because potatoes were fifty cents a pound!

During the following seasons, he culitivated larger acreage and soon accumulated a fortune. In 1871, George Leonhardy, who was unsuccessful in mining in Granite, leased the ranch which he purchased the following season, for $3,750, a lot of money in those days. During the summer of 1872 he built a road to Chubb's Ranch on the divide, 14 miles, opening a much shorter route into South Park. This cutoff became the regular mail route into the county and continued as such until the mail were brought over the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad in the early 1880s.

A postoffice was established at Riverside that summer and Leonhardy was appointed postmaster. Leonhardy gradually added to his holdings and in 1880 was shipping large quantities of mining timbers and charcoal to Leadville.

In 1864, Andrew Bard and Frank Loan took up an extensive ranch on the Cottonwood near the present town of Buena Vista and used irrigation water from Cottonwood Creek. This tract produced large crops of potatoes, oats, peas and turnips. Hay was also produced in abundance and there was a ready market at good prices.

The same year Benjamin Schwander took up a ranch on the east side of the river near the mouth of Trout Creek and owned and cultivated the land in the 1880s. The following year William Bale, afterward sheriff of the county, John McPherson, J. E. Gonell and others settled along the Cottonwood, taking up the ranches

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Many Pioneers Figure In Colorful Saga Of Chaffee County In Her Early Days

Emerson's History of the Arkansas Valley lists a number of residents of the county in 1880 and their accomplishments. Space forbids printing the entire list in this edition but we have picked out those who seem to have been the outstanding citizens of their day. Many had been veterans of the Civil War.

William Bale was the proprietor of an eating house and overnight stop of the stage line to Leadville. Bale's Ranch was just below the present City of Salida. Bale was born in 1820 and came to Colorado in the 1860s. He lived on Cottonwood Creek where Buena now stands for a couple of years. Grasshoppers ate his crops so he ran for sheriff of Lake county and served a couple of terms. Afterward he bought the ranch near Salida and kept the stage station there for six years.

John Burnett was a Canadian who came to the States to work in the timber business. He came to Colorado in 1861, operating a sawmill and later mining in California Gulch. He sold his mining property in 1865, locating a ranch three-quarters of a mile from Poncha where he engaged in farming, stockraising and mining. On Oct. 16, 1878 he went hunting with friends and was accidentally shot by the premature discharge of a gun. His widow, the former Minerva Maxwell, and their six children operated the ranch successfully after his death.

Mrs. J. A. D. Adams, M. D., built a hotel and sanatorium at Cottonwood Hot Springs when the county was almost unknown. She was a member of the American Institute of Homeopathy. She, her husband and son-in-law, G. K. Hartenstein, built and conducted the Cottonwood Hot Springs Hotel.

Daniel H. Bowring was a Pennsyvanian who was a preacher in Missouri for some time. He was one of the heroes in the Sand Creek fight, serving in the artillery under Captain Morgan of Company C. In the 1870s he moved to Poncha Springs where he married his wife, Mrs. Caruth, also thrice married. Mother Caruth, as she was affectionately called in California Gulch was born in Tennessee. Her first husband's name was Maxwell and their settlement upon its banks gave the name to Maxwell Creek, south of Buena Vista. She remembered seeing 200 Indians encamped about the ranch in summer time, grazing their ponies and hunting.

Albert D. Butler was among the first to start and build up the town of Buena Vista. He sold Bain and Schutler Wagons and was a coal dealer.

George F. Bateman had learned the tinware business. He located in Pueblo in 1863 and in May, 1880, started a hardware business at the brand-new town of Salida.

Capt. John T. Blake was in the general merchandising business in Salida. He was postmaster, member of the Republican State Central committee and argued publicly that Salida should be the state capital.

Marion Boon owned a ranch at Maysville and also was one of the owners of teh Monarch and Gunnison and the Sage and White Pine toll roads.

Robert R. Chisholm, Jr. located in Grizzly Gulch in Chaffee county in 1879. He was instrumental in building the town of St. Elmo.

George B. Carstarphen came to Colorado to be a cashier of a bank in Salida and later cashier of Arkansas Valley Bank in Poncha Springs. He resigned to devote his time to hardware and lumber business in Poncha.

Alexander M. Cree came to Chaffee county in 1879 and started what has been known since as Cree's Camp. He was one of the founders of Myasville and was an owner of the Columbus Mine near Maysville.

Griffith Evans was one of the founders of St. Elmo. He was a miner-farmer, and when mines were discovered at St. Elmo, went into the grocery business.

Amasa Feathers had been in the sewing machine business in Pueblo for a year before moving to the South Fork of the Arkansas River in 1878. In 1879 he commenced building the city of Maysville on what he intended for a pasture.

Volney C. Gunnell was a prominent lawyer. He opened an office in Buena Vista in 1880 and in 1881 was appointed public administrator for the county.

George K. Hartenstein was a prominent lawyer in Buena for years. Before that he and A. P. Hereford discovered and located the Annie lode on Fryer Hill and sold out the next year for $75,000. They made money rapidly and then lost most of it on the Wheel of Fortune mine in Summit county. He was appointed county attorney in 1880.

Edwin H. Hiller was one of the first to start the Gunnison excitement in 1879 and was founder of Hillerton, a town named for himself. He started the banking house of Hiller, Hallock & Co. at Hillerton in the summer of 1879. In November, 1880, he started a bank at Buena Vista under the same name and in 1881, a bank at Aspen. He was interested in mining and timber business in the Gunnison country and in the charcoal business at Buena Vista.

Major Joseph Hutchinson was well-known politically. He came to Colorado as superintendent of Gaff Mining Co. in Lake county for seven years and then went into the stock business. In 1874 he purchased a ranch near Poncha Springs. In 1873 he represented Lake, Saguache, Park, Fremont and San Juan counties in the territorial Legislature. In 1876 he was a candidate for the Senate and was beaten by Jason B. Hall by 51 votes. In 1879 he was elected to the legislature and in that session Lake county was divided, this end becoming Chaffee county. He was married in 1868 to Anna Belle McPherson. "Joe Hutch" died suddenly in 1882 of symptoms indicating death may have been from a brain tumor.

Gustav Krause had lived in the San Luis Valley before coming to Buena Vista in 1879. He started a grocery business in a tent but soon had enough accumulated to move into a building.

Ira King came to Colorado in 1874 and built the first house at Dayton Twin Lakes. He engaged in mining and dairying. Later he bought a ranch near Poncha Springs, had 480 acres and all the comforts around him.

W. R. Logan, a printer who also had studied law, came to Buena Vista in 1881 to become joint proprietor of the Chaffee County Times. He was described as excellent at oratory.

Another pioneer newspaperman was **Percy A. Leonard** who also had studied law. He and a partner established the Chaffee County Times in February, 1880, and it is claimed this was the only paper established in the territory now included in Chaffee, Gunnison and Pitkin counties. From July 1880 until April 1881 Mrs. Agnes Leonard Hill was associate editor and gave the Times a good reputation over the state.

George Leonhardy was born in Switzerland and came to Colorado when a young man. He went to California Gulch in 1863 and mined there two years, then to Twin

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Scenic Line Band Brought Fame At Elks Convention In St. Louis

One of the great musical organizations in Salida was the Scenic Line Band, in its heydey in the latter part of the 1890s. Highlight of the band's career was winning third prize in the Elks contest in St. Louis in 1899.

Weber's Military band of Cincinnati won first, and Strausser's band of Davenport, Iowa, second. The Salida organization won $250 for third prize. Salida didn't have an Elks lodge at that time and the Scenic Line Band was sponsored by the Denver Elks.

A banquet was given in their honor at the Monte Cristo hotel, and what a feed it must have been. Next evening the band members were guests at a public reception at the Opera House.

Finance committee for the banquet was B. F. Churcher, J. F. Hutchinson, and Adolph Unger; and committee of arrangements. W. W. Roller, P. B. Smith, W. P. Harbottle. Roller was banquet chairman; Harbottle gave the address of welcome and Smith acted as toastmaster. Representing the Salida Press were J. G. Hollenbeck of the Record and J. F. Erdlen from the Mail.

Unfortunately the band as an organization died that fall due to lack of public support. A. W. Jones, the manager, said he would be willing to continue finding employment for the musicians but no longer could do it out of his own pocket. C. A. Jones later directed a band in Trinidad that had sufficient backing. The Scenic Line band was revived a while later, but it was never the organization that it had been.

A. W. Jones was manager of the band; C. A. Jones was director and assistant manager; and C. F. Johnson, treasurer.

The members of the famous organization were Abner Shirk, solo cornet; J. C. Beaver, solo cornet; Fred A. Young, solo clarinet; Frank W. Jones, first clarinet; Thomas Groutage, piccolo and flute; R. H. Ryley, baritone; Carl Herzinger, first horn; N. J. Garralts, first trombone; John Hughes, first cornet; J. F. Shirk, second cornet;

Curtis V. Shelton, trumpet; D. J. Kramer, trumpet; R. McMillen, bassoon; F. Waiking, oboe; Theodore Boer, E-flat clarinet; G. X. White, second clarinet; W. B. McLoren, third clairnet; W. H. Van Orman, also saxophone; Fred Snell, tenor saxophone; J. R. Jenkins, baritone saxophone; Henry Ferringer, second horn;

C. M. Proctor, third horn; George Proctor, fourth horn; S. Clark, first trombone; A. E. Houghton, second trombone; John Smith, second trombone; W. J. EnEarl, bass trambone; F. Killian, B-flat bass; W. H. Keagy, E-flat tuba; Jay E. Gosling, E-flat tuba; Charles Vaugh, double B-flat bass; R. E. Houghton, bass drum; H. J. Williams, drum and traps; Harry Jones, drums; Ray Hallock, standard bearer.

County Seat Traveled About Before Buena Landed It In 1880

Residents of Buena Vista somewhat unjustly earned the title of courthouse thieves in 1881. The moving of the courthouse to Buena, from Granite, actually was approved by the voters in November of 1880, but, it turned out, that didn't completely settle the matter.

Evidence of sour grapes over the courthouse matter shows up in the newspapers published at that time. The Chaffee County Press, published at Nathrop, had this to say:

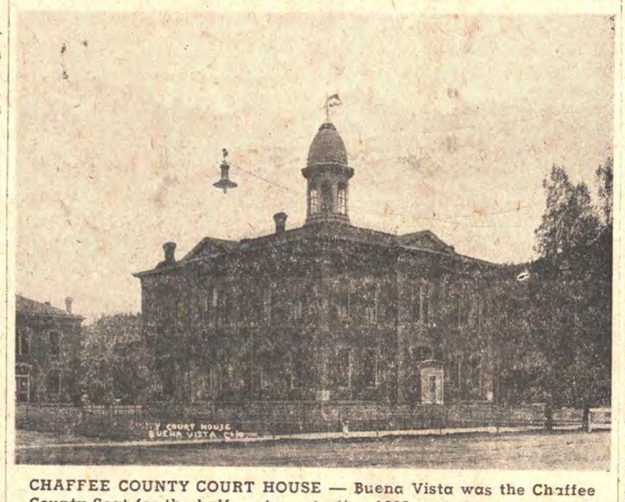
"The returns of the election were opened at Granite yesterday. The vote stands Buena Vista 1092, Nathrop 855, Salida 159 and scattering, 75. Of the vote given, Buena Vista with a population of 1200 cast 38 more votes than half. It was a busy day among the voters of that place, and they must have hurried up business rapidly to have made the rounds twice."

The Mountain Mail had less than that to say: "Confound the county seat. It ain't worth anything anyhow."

Newspaper files are incomplete and besides that, some things that would be of interest now didn't get into print three quarters of a century ago. It seems that after the voters decided on Buena Vista, Granite residents were reluctant to give up the prize plum and so Buena residents went up in the dark of the night to capture the courthouse records.

Mrs. Mary Nash Mear, who was interviewed by Richard Carroll and whose story appears in the Colorado Magazine in 1934, recalls the moving of the courthouse.

Mrs. Mear's husband was on the sheriff's staff. One night in the Spring of 1881, Mrs. Mear heard noises at the courthouse, which also served as the jail. Thinking that the prisoners were escaping, they left their house to investigate, they were held up by about a dozen men, who forced them she called her husband, and when the courthouse and the heavy back into their house. An engine and flat car, with Conductor Ernest Wilbur in charge, and with other citizens of Buena Vista laid to the nearby railroad from safe, containing the county records, was rolled on this to the flat car. It took an hour or two aboard, had come to take the records to that town. A track was to complete the task and records were transplanted to Buena Vista.



CHAFFEE COUNTY COURT HOUSE — Buena Vista was the Chaffee County Seat for the half century starting 1880, and this is the courthouse which was dedicated in 1883.

Early in 1882, plans were announced for construction of the courthouse in Buena Vista (now the high school building.) The Mountain Mail relates that the county had $10,000 available for a courthouse and hints, but does not explicitly state, that this money may have been raised by Buena residents. The Salida newspaper made a good many editorial comments that $10,000 would not build a $25,000 courthouse and that the county commissioners would do well to wait until the total sum was in sight.

The issue of January 30, 1882 said that the contract was let to E. Fisher, who built the Fremont county courthouse, for $23,345. In that same issue, there was mention of a plan to form a new county from Chalk Creek south. Contention was that the county was too large. In fact, residents of Garfield were 50 miles from the proposed county seat.

The next stumbling block to face Buena Vistans in their fight to keep the county seat was a Supreme Court decision which resulted from a similar situation in Grand County. It held that the laws were in conflict with the Constitution of Colorado, and it also was brought out in the decision that even if the law had been held constitutional, that two-thirds majority was needed to move a county seat. This Buena Vista did not have.

A couple of months later, word was received that the Supreme Court had reversed itself in the Grand County case, deciding that the law was constitutional and that a simple majority was enough to move a county seat. The Mountain Mail editor had considerable to say, including "If we didn't know any more than the Supreme Court of the State of Colorado, we would resign," and, "Salida doesn't care anything about the county seat. She doesn't need it in her business."

And so, the courthouse was built at Buena Vista. The cornerstone laying was on June 8, 1882. The Mountain Mail said that it was a big day for our beautiful and thriving suburb at the mouth of the Cottonwood. "It is doubtful if so large an assembly of people was ever before witnessed in that town, and certainly not since the days when it was the shipping point for Leadville and the bunkosteerers held high carnival."

J. E. Cole was master of ceremonies. Notables present included Governor Pitkin, the state treasurer, W. C. Sanders, Adjutant General Stevens, Mayor Morris and others. Sheriff Becker and a member of the city council represented Lake county and Leadville. Every town and camp in Chaffee county was represented—and even 100 people from Salida showed up.

The courthouse was decided on May 14, 1883. Princeton Lodge of the Masonic order had a ball, with about 80 couples attending. "Ida Rustler," who reported the affair in the Mail, said an unusual feature of the orchestra was a lady violinist. "Ida Rustler" didn't have much to say about the new building, except that the ventilation "is a perfect botch and would hardly do credit to the hottentots."

Fires Occurring In The 1880s Destroyed Much Of Business Area

In those days before the telephone and police radio system, three pistol shots ringing out in the middle of the night meant two things—a fire, or a jailbreak. If the pistol shots didn't waken the sleeping populace, then those sounding the alarm would ring bells and shout.

Soon the volunteers would be rushing down the street in various stages of undress to fight the fire or look for the men who had broken out of the pokey. Incidentally, breaking jail evidently wasn't much of an accomplishment in the early days.

One of the worst fires in the part of March in 1886. The fire city's history occurred the latter started in the old Windsor hotel, where the Salida Theatre now stands. The entire block was af frame construction and a bursted hose prevented firemen from getting the blaze under control.

Two blocks were swept away, fire destroying everything from G to F on each side of First to the alley. Only two buildings escaped destruction. The insurance companies threatened to withdraw from the town unless proper fire ordinances were enforced, and from that time on, Salida became known for its substantial buildings.

N. C. Twitchell's companies paid out $20,000. Others collecting insurance were C. C. Laub, the Masonic Lodge, Webb and Corbin, R. Deveraux, William Stevens and Charles Hayden, the Oyster Bay and Witmer furniture company.

The greatest conflagration was on Jan. 2, 1888. The fire started at the new three-story hotel building Peter Mulvany was erecting at the southeast corner of Second and F streets. The wall of the Mulvany block fell and crushed the Sullivan hardware building to powder. Two men inside were rescued.

The flames jumped across Second street and Craig's Opera House was destroyed, as was Dell Crane's liquor store on the first floor of the opera house, Hodgman row, Santa Fe Moll's, the old gymnasium, Gillett and Whitehursts, Grocery House, C. H. Clark Photography shop, G. F. Bateman and sons Hardware store and others were destroyed by the blaze.

Some of the losses included $5000 to Dell Crane, $11,000 for the Craig opera house, $9,000 to the Bateman's, $13,000 to Gillett and Whitehurst Grocery (at Second and F), $5,800 to Miller and Schafer Bros. Grocers, $18,000 to the Hodgman buildings, $8000 to al mes West for his buildings and residence, and between $5000 and $10,000 to Craig, Sandusky and Co., even though they moved out their whole stock. E. Ford and Co. moved out their dry goods stock and still had a $2000 loss.

Peter Mulvany ran a two column advertisement pointing out that he had four fires in 20 months and was ready to sell out. (He didn't sell.)

The issue of Jan. 13, 1888 reports the air still was ladened with the odor of baked beans and other canned goods that were buried in the ruins.

Mulvany's fire troubles were far from over. The Salida Mail of Nov. 22, 1889, reports that fire destroyed his extensive grocery establishment just across from the D&RG track. His account books burned and estimated loss was $25,000. Mulvany moved his business across the way to his carriage warehouse and continued.

At this particular fire the firemen were short of water and hose. And the firemen? They were paid $2.50 a day for fighting blazes.

A fire which was acknowledged as a blessing to the community occurred at the corner of First and F streets in early May, 1890. Old landmarks were wiped out.

The fire started at two o'clock on a Sunday morning in the kitchen of the Saddle Rock restaurant. There was so much grease on the floor and furniture that the blaze spread rapidly.

The fire went on to the building occupied by J. W. Warman who had a stock of cigars and confections, Schuelke's shoe shop, W. G. Westfall real estate office and W. K. Eggleston's dental rooms.

These were among the first buildings erected when the town was founded in 1880. The Mountain Mail first was published in the Twitchell building where Schuelke, Westfall and Eggleston were located at the time of the fire.

The latter part of August, 1892, another fire broke out, after which the Mail editor offered sympathy to the property owners involved, but at the same time extended congratulations to the city. After several "attempts," the old Germania House, a cheap hotel on Front street, was destroyed by fire.

In addition, the flames took Lee Chung's laundry, Comstock's restaurant, M. J. Kinneys saloon, and the four-unit tenement building owned by J. B. Randol. All were of frame construction.

"It was a pretty sight, all of the buildings burning at once," the Mail reporter noted. Firemen hustled to save old fences to the west, and also Governor Hunt's frame building on E, between First and Front streets.

Many of J. A. Eddy's shade trees surrounding the park opposite the fire also were destroyed. The loss totaled $8,000—with little insurance.

"The fire was undoubtedly of incendiary origin and there is no clue whatever to the perpetrator of the act. The losses will not be very heavy to the property owners when it is taken into consideration that the land itself has enhanced in value since the fire. The citizens sympathize with the losers in their loss."

Roundhouse Fire Loss $400,000

One of the most disastrous fires in Salida's history broke out at 5:45 a.m. on a Sunday morning, Dec. 11, 1892. Before the blaze was extinguished the Denver and Rio Grande roundhouse, shops and 17 locomotives had been burned. Loss was estimated at $400,000.

After the fire, townspeople did a lot of worrying that the community would be losing a large railroad payroll. Instead, the railroad immediately rebuilt the layout.

There was slight discrepancy between the Salida Mail account and a letter to the editor which appeared in the following issue, from M. M. Smith.

Smith wrote that at 5:45 a.m. H. T. Lytle, an engine watchman passing through the roundhouse, saw flame shooting up in the cab of the 174. At once he blew his whistle of the 529, next to the burning locomotive. All hands in the roundhouse tried to extinguish the flames but couldn't find the hose nozzle in the darkness.

Within two minutes it was impossible to stay in the flaming roundhouse. R. B. Holland, C. E. Gilman, George Hardy, Charles Ayen and William Rankin narrowly escaped while trying to subdue the flames by breaking out windows.

Smith continued that a crowd gathered and assisted in removing locomotives from the roundhouse and circle. Both hostlers, two or three engineers and firemen kept the turntable in operation, so that 20 locomotives were removed. It was impossible to remove the other 14, and eight of these were without steam. (The other three destroyed were in the shop for repair.)

Smith said that the engine that caught fire was newly painted and highly combustible. He believed the cause of the disaster was spontaneous combustion.

The Mail reporter said that the fire companies were slow in getting around and the fire got off to a good start. They connected hose at the plug at Front and D streets, crossing the suspension bridge. Besides that, they found their hose was partially frozen.

The large stationary engine that supplied the shops with power was saved by the railroad hose company. The town company confined its attention to the roundhouse and succeeding in checking the fire at the 14th stall. The offices, store room and blacksmith shop, some distance away, were not damaged.

Much of the loss was covered by insurance, the stories indicated.

Poncha Bum In Unmarked Grave

(From the Poncha Herald, July 15, 1882)

The boys have been making it lively for trout lately.

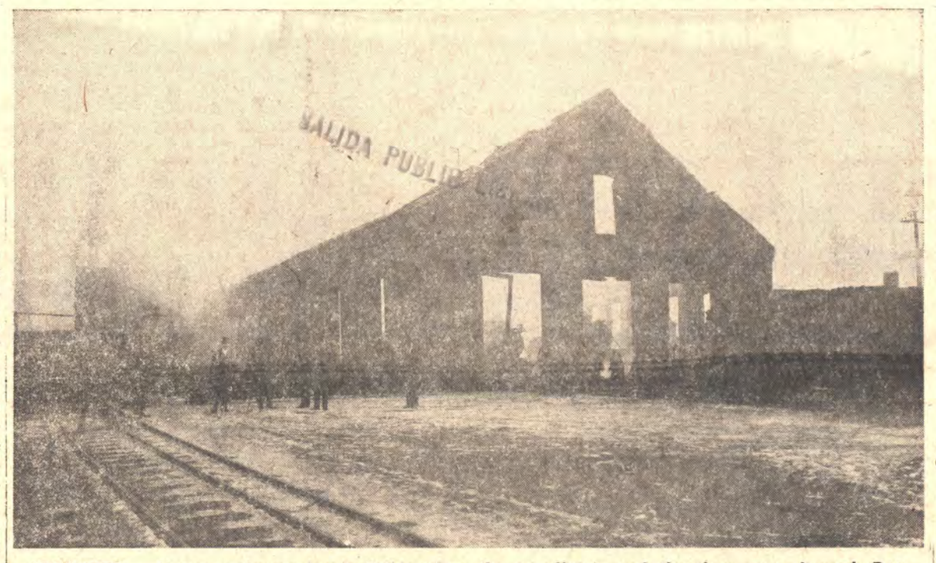
A blind man led by a boy, and one of the nuisances of the country was around begging yesterday. If you give him anything he is satisfied, but if you don't he gives you a lecture. This nuisance makes periodical visits all over the state and is, we understand, well off.

Justifiable Homicide

Earl this morning, as Marshal Russell was making a tour of the town to see if everything was all right he discovered a hard looking case lying down near Cameron's hardware store. Officer Russell immediately walked up and taking hold of him, undertook to raise him and take him off. The "bum" was considerably larger, and a great deal heavier than the marshal and would not go. Russell immediately called on the crowd for assistance, but the "bum" being a hard looking case, he was unable to procure help. Russell, seeing he could not depend on the crowd for help, seized a rope lying near and threw it over the "bums" neck and tried to pull him along. The "bum" immediately made a firm resistance, knocking out an eye in the melee.

Marshal Russell, being a great deal the smaller, drew his gun and fired, the ball striking the "bum" almost killing him instantly. Those on the forehead near the left eye, present all expressed the opinion that the killing was justifiable. No papers were found on the person of the bum by which he could be identified, and as he was a stranger here, he will probably fill an unknown grave.

Canon City is to have an artificial ice plant. Salida is too near Gunnison to make such a plant profitable here.—Salida Mail, Feb. 15, 1898.



SHOP FIRE — It was a gloomy day in Salida when the roundhouse and the shops were burned, Dec. 11, 1892. Loss was $400,000. People felt a lot better when the railroad announced plans to rebuild immediately.

GREAT SALIDA FIRE — Early day residents are shown looking among the ruins of the big fire which occurred Jan. 2, 1888. The fire started at the new Mulvany hotel building at Second and F, where the Harold R. Koster building now stands. C. H. Clark took this photograph.

Hose Company Fought Blazes

In the early, early days of the city the firefighters were strictly volunteers. The first organized fire company was formed Oct. 29, 1881 and members ncluded J. A. Israel, E. H. Webb and J. B. Bowne.

Just what happened to that first hose company isn't explained, but the Mountain Mail files show that the Salida Hose Company No. 1 was organized in August, 1882, when the waterworks project was started.

The organization received no pecuniary assistance from the town treasury but charged members a $1 initiation fee. However the town authorities did encourage the fire laddies by purchasing the hose cart. When the fire company needed funds they gave a ball or some other entertainment.

On New Year's night, 1883, a ball was given to raise money for purchase of a fire bell, large enough to be heard all over town. (Less than a month later a bad fire broke out and it was discovered that the warning bell wasn't loud enough.) The ball was a gala affair, and was preceded by the marching of the Cornet Band through the streets.

Early in 1883, the town council furnished a hose house at First and F which was complete to a tower. Previously meetings had been held in Dickman's opera house. The tower had a dual purpose—to hold the bell and also to provide space for drying the hose, and storing the leather buckets and ladders.

Membership in the hose company was limited to 30. First officers were A. T. Ryan, foreman, C. A. Richardson, first assistant, C. M. Thomas, second assistant, and A. D. Shope, third assistant. The officers in 1883 were A. T. Ryan, foreman, George Wheeler, first assistant, George McLain, second assistant, A. D. Shope, third assistant and R.A. Douglas, secretary. They had more than 1000 feet of good linen hose.

The hose company was on its way to prosperity by December, 1886, when they had received another 500 feet of hose, rubber coats and other articles of equipment and were to be given another hose cart.

The next August (1887) they added a new hook and ladder truck, purchased by the town council and businessmen. Manufactured by the American Hose Manufacturing Co., the outfit was 30 feet long and with the equipment, weighed 2000 pounds.

The Salida Mail proudly noted the wood work was the best quality of seasoned hickory and iron work was first class. The vehicle, horse drawn of course, was painted with English and vermillion, gold striped, The equipment included one 45 foot extension ladder, one 35-foot extension, one 24-foot, two 18-foot ladders, 2 roof ladders. Rubber-coyered rollers were of great advantage in unloading the ladders. The outfit cost $775 and was one of the best trucks in the state.

Salida has had a full-time paid fire department, augmented by volunteers since the turn of the century.

First Miners Reached County...

(Continued from Page 1)

later owned and occupied by Hugh and James Mahon, J. T. and E. H. Bray. In 1880, James McPhelemy occupied the ranch first taken by Frank Loan, a part of which is included within the corporate limits of Buena Vista and is known as Loan's Addition.

August 6, 1865, Cottonwood was made an election precinct, embracing all the territory south of the bridge across the Arkansas, and J. E. Gonell, William Bale and Andrew Bard were made judges of election. During this year Galatia Sprague, R. Mat Johnson, John Gilliland, Matthew Rule and others had settled at Brown's Creek. Under the stimulus of successful farming as well as placer mining on the river near the mouth of the creek, so thriving a town had grown up that Brownsville was made an election precinct in November of the same year. This precinct embraced all the county from Chalk Creek to the southern line of the county. John Gilliland, G. M. Huntzicker and John Weldon were appointed judges of election to be held at the house of Matthew Rule.

In the following Spring, 1866, John Bennett and Nat. Rich with others, settled on the South Arkansas, near the present town of Poncha Springs, and in July of the same year the South Arkansas was declared an election precinct, embracing all of the county south of Sand Creek, and W. Christison, living on Adobe Park, John Burnett and Nat Rich were appointed Judges of Election, the election to be held at the Rich home.

Dayton Next County Seat

The next year, the county seat was removed from Oro to Dayton. The following year, apparently 1867, a road was laid out from the top of the divide at Poncha Pass, following along Poncha Pass, following along Poncha Creek crossing the South Arkansas at the bridge on the George Hendricks claim, to the school at Brown's Creek and thence to the bridge crossing the Arkansas River just above the mouth of Trout Creek. The Trout Creek road already was a public highway and the two roads provided comparatively easy communication between the northern and southern end of the counties.

Discoveries of mineral about the head of Clear Creek during the early part of the season, 1867, created considerable excitement and the La Plata election precinct was created the same year. Granite also was made an election precinct in 1867.

In the spring of 1868, R. B. Newitt took up a ranch on the divide, near the head of Trout Creek which soon became known as Chubb's Ranch and was the favorite stopping place for all coming into the valley from the Denver region. During the year Charles Nachtrieb built a grist mill on Chalk Creek. For a time wheat was ground at the mill but as transportation improved it was found that oeher crops could be grown at better advantage here and wheat could be shipped in.

This same year, 1867, Granite got the county seat fever and the voters concurred. Citizens contributed literally to defraying the expense of moving the county seat from Dayton to Granite. The first meeting of the county commissioners was held at Granite on Oct. 8, 1868. Peter Caruth was chairman, Walter H. Jones and J. G. Ehrhard, members, and Thomas Keyes, clerk and recorder.

Little attention was paid to mining in the southern part of the county, which was particularly suited to the cattle industry. Joseph Hutchinson invested in cattle for himself and as agent for Gaff & Bailey.

The Lake County War

The numerous streams coming into the Arkansas from the West offered abundant water for irrigation, but early in the spring of 1874 a difficulty arose in regard to water and certain ditches from Brown Creek. This resulted in the killing of George Harrington. A ranchman and neighbor, Elijah Gibbs, with whom he had a dispute the day before, was arrested and tried for the murder, but was acquitted, there being no evidence against him, the trial taking place in Denver.

After he had returned to his ranch in the fall of 1874, an attempt was made to arrest and lynch him, which resulted in his killing three of the party making the attempt. A safety committee was soon organized and several parties were ordered to leave the county.

Judge E. F. Dyer, then county and probate judge, but acting as a justice of peace upon complaint being made to him, issued warrants for the arrest of certain of this "committee." In obedience to the summons, they with associates appeared at Granite for trial, heavily armed. The sheriff claimed his inability to disarm them. After the dismissal of the case the morning of July 5, 1875, Judge Dyer was brutally assassinated, shot dead in his own court room.

Emerson wrote, five years later, "The assassins escaped and but little effort was made to discover or arrest them. In the settlement of a new, and particularly a mining county, there always has been more or less killing in disputes over real or fancied wrongs for which some excuse may be found or fancied wrongs for which some excuse may be found or offered, but none has ever been offered for this cowardly murder of Judge Dyer and it remains the foulest blot upon the early history of the county."

Numerous murders were committed but there were few convictions. Emerson explains that sessions of district court were infrequent (about once a year), jails were inadequate or even nonexistent and transportation was difficult. Juries were reluctant to convict. This changed as the country became more stable and as churches were built. Incidentally Emerson said that not until 1879 was any building erected for or devoted to religious purposes in the county.

Game was abundant in the early days—elk, deer, mountain sheep, antelope and bison. The bison had almost entirely disappeared when the first setlers came in, and before long, other animals were scarce.

Indian Hunting Ground

The country had been a paradise for the Indians who made this their summer hunting grounds for years. Colorow and his band were very reluctant to stay on the reservation west of the main range. John D. Coon, an early ettler near Brown's Creek and other settlers were frequently ordered to leave but no violence was committed. There were no murders and the only apprehension was in 1879 at the time of the White River Massacre and it was rumored that the Indians wre headed this way.

Chaffee county was created in 1879 and was named for Jerome Chaffee, a senator in the Territorial Days.

The first election after the division of the county was held in October, 1879. Officials elected were Josiah T. Bray, chairman, T. I. Briscoe and W. H. Champ, county commissioners; James H. Johnston, clerk and recorder; Dr. E. A. Wright, coroner; George L. Smith, superintendent of schools, Daniel DeVroey, assessor; and W. B. Whipple, surveyor.

Officers in 1881 were W. H. Champ, chairman, T. I. Briscoe and C. A. Montross, commissioners; J. H. Johnston, clerk and recorder; T. M. S. Rhett, county attorney; E. H. Stafford, sheriff; S. S. Sindlinger, county judge; E. R. Emerson, treasurer; Dr. A. E. Wright, coroner; George L. Smith, superintendent of schools; E. Shaul, assessor; and W. R. Whipple, surveyor.

The county had been well and ably represented in the councils of the state in this early days. Before the admission of Colorado in the Union, and while under territorial organization, it was presented by Hon. Julius C. Hughes, who was a member of the assembly and afterward of the council. J. G. Ehrhart, one of the early settlers of Brown Creek, was also a member of the Assembly. Joseph Hutchinson was a member of the Assembly before the admission of the State, and was elected at the first election afterward as Representative for two years.

Legislature Approved Reformatory In '89

A bill authorizing an auxiliary reformatory was passed by the House and sent to Governor Cooper for signature on March 28, 1889. The Legislature appropriated $100,000 for the institution for lighter criminals.

The bill provided that the institution be located somewhere in Chaffee county, and on May 21, 1889, announcement was made that the Reformatory would be located on the Tipton ranch near Buena Vista. Three days later the Salida Mail commented that we didn't want a penal institution here anyhow.

On Nov. 29, 1889, the state auditor told a Denver reporter he would not issue the $100,000 appropriated as it would go beyond the institutional debt limit. But, the bonds were issued and the Reformatory was built.

A fine bell is on the way for the school building. The bell weighs 1,400 pounds with the nagings and was furnished through the agency of C. F. Foote. — Salida Mail, May 7, 1886.

Buena Vista 'Wasp' Quaint Newspaper

The first issue of The Wasp, published at Buena Vista, is on file at the State Historical Society library in Topeka, Kans. The date was Aug. 21, 1883. Publishers were W. Seibring & Co. The Wasp was a four-page leaflet on an 8½ by 5½ sheet.

Among the items: Spruce Beer at W Quantence's. Bert Meak in the city at the Globe restaurant.

The pipes of the water works are being laid very rapidly. Mr. Calder has nearly completed the brick work of his building.

The paper also carries the minutes of the meeting of the Lotus Club.

Ladies Regarded Vote A Privilege

A judge in Pueblo "threatened to have them on juries" the Salida Mail stated back in the 1890s when women were first allowed the privilege of voting.

The women took their responsibility dutifully and endeavored to learn about politics from the start. On March 5, 1894, 65 women met in the Presbyterian Church to organize a non-partisan Women's Suffrage league so they could learn to vote intelligently. Mrs. J. H. Stead was the temporary chairman, and Mrs. Howard Russell, secretary.

Twenty-eight signed the roster as members when the organization was perfected. Mrs. Stead was president, Mrs. E. Ford, vice president, Mrs. J. B. Stevens, secretary, Mrs. F. Ozman, treasurer, Mrs. O. E. Harrington, member of the executive committee.

That Fall, a Ladies Republican league was organized. The women adopted Silver State League Club for their name and their campaign song was Free Silver. Officers were Mrs. W. S. O'Brien, president; Mrs. A. L. Paul, first vice president; Mrs. A. J. Peacock, second vice president; Mrs. Thomas Frame, secretary Mrs. R. Kelly, treasurer; and Mrs. Malvina Brader, marshal.

Municipal Water System In Use Since January '83

City Lighted Up December 7, 1887

The first franchise for an electric power system in Salida was granted to H. H. Brown of Akron, Ohio and Pueblo, on May 6, 1887. The franchise stipulated that the poles would be wood or iron and the wires were to be not less than 18 feet above the streets.

The ordinance further stipulated 2000 candlepower arc lights for the streets, stores and large public buildings and incandescent lamps elsewhere. The franchise was to be for 15 years.

There's no explanation as to what happened but on Aug. 1 of the same year, 1887, R. M. Ridgway, S. M. Jackson and A. J. Truesdell received a franchise as the Electric Illuminating Company of Salida. Directors in addition to Ridgway, Jackson and Truesdell were W. W. Roller, Thomas Ryan, Ben Disman and J. M. Collins. Capital stock was $15,000.

The first carload of poles for the electric light system arrived, shipped by E. Gimlett of Garfield, on Sept. 9, 1887. Somewhere along the way, the firm had been changed in name to Edison Electric Light Co., and the company purchased land from Governor A. C. Hunt on the bank of the river adjoining the railroad right of way on the north side. Owen Owens, father of the foreman at the railroad shops, was named engineer.

The 75-foot smoke stack for the engine house was put into position on Oct. 28, 1887.

It was really an event on the evening of Dec. 7, 1887, when the incandescent lamps were lighted on the F street bridge. Folks were surprised that the brilliant light covered such a wide field. "It is apparent that a 32-candlepower lamp is sufficient for street lighting," the editor said in what has proved to be a misstatement. (The street lights installed in downtown Salida in the 1950s have 1200 candlepower.)

Later in December, George Waldrip, who ran the stationary engine at the machine shop for several years, became engineer with the power company.

The plant had a 750-bulb capacity. On Feb. 22, 1888, the city and power company entered into a contract, for the company to furnish 15 lamps of 32 candlepower at $50 a month.

Additional equipment was needed almost immediately. In 1889 a new arc lights at First and F, Third and F, D and First, D and Fourth, E and Fifth, and Third and Poncha boulevard.

The original plant was a frame building 28 feet square, with an attached boilerroom, containing one boiler one engine and two incandescent dynamos. By June, 1900 the plant had grown to include a 50x50 brick building, two engines of three times the capacity of the original engines, four incandescent and two arc dynamos, and a new boiler room with two boilers. In 1900 a 16x36 building was erected for offices and storage.

Company officers then were R. M. Ridgway, president; W. W. Roller, vice president; C. E. Eggleston, serctary-manager; and Ben Disman, treasurer.

Wagon Road Moved South Of Arkansas

Surveyors were laying out a wagon road on the south bank of the Arkansas River from Wellsville to Cleora in 1890, with Capt. Pickett as the prime mover in the enterprise.

The old road was on the north side. At that time the railroad was planning to go from narrow to broad gauge and there just wasn't room for both on the north side. At that, the wagon road crossed the railroad eight times in the six mile stretch.

Contracts were let the next month. John Ensign got the contract for the Chaffee county portion with the railroad paying $225 and Chaffee county, $775. The railroad was to build a bridge across the Arkansas just above Wellsville at the cost of $500. The road was in passable condition by the middle of March in the same year.

Hurt When Cart Overturned

On Sunday morning Mrs. Frank Ozman and Miss Emma Neidart, who is visiting here from the SLV, were out riding with a small grey pony and a two-wheeled cart. While turning the corner on First street to go up F the car overturned and the occupants hurled to the ground. Miss Neidhardt escaped with some slight bruises but Mrs. Ozman sustained quite severe injuries. Her head and shoulder were badly bruised. She was carried into Alger's drug store in an unconscious condition and later a hack was produced to take her home. Her mind wandered more or less all day Sunday and she seemed in a critical condition. She is reported worse this (Tuesday) morning.—Salida Mail Aug. 5, 1890.

The steam riding gallery will be moved to Buena Vista Monday. We caution the editors of that town against riding the "critter" as we are informed by reliable parties that it is not a profitable exercise for people with a tendency to have wheels in their head. —Salida Mail, May 21, 1895.

Salida's initial municipal water system was completed and put into use in January, 1883, when the town was less than three years old. The pipes at that time extended throughout the whole length of F street, along Front street to E, from F to E and G streets on First street, from F to G on Second street and from F to G on Fifth street.

There were 76 initial customers, who were charged according to the number of rooms which were contained in the building they occupied. They were separate rates for hotels, large boarding houses and similar establishments.

The waterworks were inaugurated in September, 1882 by the town government. The contract was given to Russell and Alexander of Colorado Springs. To pay for the necessary expenses $22,000 worth of bonds were issued and disposed of for 92 cents on the dollar to W. O. Cole of Chicago. The bonds ran for 15 years at 8 percent interest per annum. Arrangements had been made for a sinking fund and for the prompt payment of the interest at the time of falling due.

The water was obtained from the South Arkansas river, about two miles from town, a few rods south of the residence of Ira King. The river had about half the volume of the main Arkansas at Salida, and its water under ordinary circumstances was pure, sweet and wholesome.

A reservoir was built near the King residence, which was 30 feet long, twelve feet wide and seven feet high. The distance from the reservoir to Salida was two miles, with a fall of 128 feet to the mile. This furnished splendid pressure for the eleven fire plugs distributed through the city.

At the reservoir, the first stretch of pipe was eight inch, then it was contracted to a 6-inch size and within the limits of the town, four inches.

The only drawback to the complete success of Salida's waterworks system, but a very great drawback, was the Columbus stamp mill and its pernicious habits of discharging the tailings into the Middle Fork of the South Arkansas river. The tailings carried a large percentage of noxious ingredients and on many occasions made the water almost unfit for use, the editor complained.

The first major improvement to the system was made just a few years later. In Aug., 1889, the taxpayers approved a $20,000 bond issue to improve the water supply. The plan was to purchase the King springs, and construct a reservoir with two million gallons capacity, or the capacity of the springs for 48 hours. The Little Arkansas river also was to be tapped by an underground gallery, so arranged that the water discharged under the reservoir.

The reservoir contract was let to Spencer and Littell, and G. F. Bateman and sons did the excavation for the mains. Incidentally, the interst rate was 7 percent. The Batemans purchased the bonds at par in 1892.

On Feb. 3, 1890, the water was turned on from the new reservoir. The water had an unpleasant taste, which, the editor said, perhaps could have been averted by flushing the sewer. The spring water was the purest that could be obtained anywhere.

The city water system was further developed early in the twentieth century. Although the files don't explicity so state, the idea apparently was conceived and planned by D. P. Cook, an alderman. I. W. Wright, street commissioner and six men did the work.

A ditch was dug along the base of the hill just back of the reservoir, sinking it into gravel which constantly is full of water. About four feet of soil overlying gravel is entirely cut through and the ditch is sunk entirely below the level of the gravel. It is then timbered with red spruce poles on the sides and top, allowing a free flow of water through the gravel and into the conduit.

The pressure of the flow automatically closes the valve that connects the reservoir pipe, so that as long as the flow continues to fill the pipe no water will flow in from the reservoir. This left the reservoir as an emergency supply. The new water was pure—filtered through gravel and didn't see the light of day until it came through the water tap.

Water was turned into the new reservoir Sept. 10, 1904. The reservoir was an artificial lake 150 feet by 200 feet, sides and floor of concrete, and with a capacity of 1,534,000 gallons.

Women First Voted In 1894 Election

The State of Colorado granted women suffrage in 1893 and in 1894 the frail sex voted for the first time in the city election. Not only that, but a woman, Mrs. Alice Parks, was elected city treasurer on the Populist ticket. Mrs. Parks did not serve her term, however.

Mrs. Clara Taylor was elected to the board of trustees at St. Elmo the same year.

That election was unusual in another respect in Salida, M. K. Miller, a Populist, was re-elected mayor, the first man in Salida history to serve as second term as second term as chief executive.

Opera House Town Theatre

Focal point of Salida and any western community was the Opera House. Here the itinerant performers presented their shows, the railroad lodges had their dances, and public meetings and receptions were held.

Salida's first opera house was a wooden structure, two stories, built in the early 1880s on the site where Alexander's Drug Store now stands.

The Craig Opera House was one of the casualties of a devastating fire Jan. 2, 1888. Stock companies and vaudeville entertainers after that played in Fraternity Hall (now the City Hall.)

The community builders knew they couldn't be without an Opera House for long, so the Salida Opera House Association was organized in June, 1888 with $30,000 capital stock and erected the building now occupied by the Salida Theatre at a cost of about $25,000.

The seven directors of the company were E. W. Corbin, G. W. McGovern, M. J. Collins, Peter Mulvany, J. W. O'Connor, J. W. Woed and W. W. Roller.

They purchased the 75 by 150 lot from Kate Bender, the tract being located on first street between the Mail office and French's drug store. The Masonic Lodge was to occupy the second floor.

The building had an auditorium 50 by 75 feet and a stage 35 by 50 feet. Two store rooms, 25 by 40 feet were to be on either side. The brick building with stone caps and sills was to be lighted by electricity and heated by a furnace—truly a modern building in those days.

The new Opera House was formally opened on New Year's Day, 1889, with Cornwell, Churcher and Collins in charge. Red, white and blue bunting and the American flag decorated the interior, and it was all lighted from a steady stream of light by 75 incandescent bulbs.

Professor Simon's orchestra from Leadville played the grand march quadrille, walts and schottische.

Banquet At Monte Cristo

At midnight, the celebration recessed to the Monte Cristo hotel a "sumptuous collation" had been prepared by E. A. Thayer. There were plates for nearly 100 people. Each table was decorated with three beautifully frosted pyramids more than two feet in height with appropriate mottos on each side. A buttonhole bouquet was at each plate, according to the Mountain Mail.

Then, the guests rode in carriages back to the Opera House and danced until 3 a. m.

We never did read of an Opera being staged in an Opera House, but just about everything else in the way of a show was given in those days before movies, radio and television entertainment.

The opening performance at the new Opera House was "Alone In London," presented to a standing-room only crowd on Jan. 16, 1889. Swindensky's orchestra did themselves proud, the Salida Mail noted.

The Salida Social club with George G. Pickert as president was organized to have weekly dances at the Opera House. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers had a party the night of Jan. 31 that finally broke up at 4 a.m.

The Mail reported that on Feb. 12, 1889, the deed to the new Masonic Hall was given by the Opera House Association to Salida Lodge AF&AM for $2500. Arrangements were being made for the B of LE and Order of Railway Conductors to use it for meetings.

Many Road Shows Given

Some of the performances at the Opera House (both Craig's and the new structure) in those early days were "Kerry Gow;" "Uncle Tom's Cabin" with two uniformed brass bands; "Father and Son," "Bonnie Fish-Wife," and "Inshayogue," by the Felix A. Vincent Dramatic Co.; The Swiss Bell Ringers; a Kate Field lecture on "The Mormon Monster" (sponsored by the Grand Army of the Republic); Fisk Jubilee Singers; Lily Clay's Colossal Gaiety Co.; with forty of the handsomest ladies in the world (and a clean show in spite of some doubts raised by clergymen before hand);

Frank Mayo in "Davy Crockett"; Nick Roberts in a mirth-provoking nonsensical conglomeration by the title "Humpty Dumpty"; Rice's Oddities in "Kathleen Mavoureen" and "Fun in Our Boarding House"; John T. Kelly, Dan Mason and Lena Merville in "The Tigers!"; Madame Janausheck, the tragedienne; Barlow and Wilson's Mammoth Minstrels; Harry Webber, Eva Webber and the little child actress, Carine Webber and company in "Nip and Tuck" and "Bessie's Burglar."

Another show at the Opera House was by home talent. This was HMS Pinafore presented May 19 and 20, 1885, by Salida children aged 7 to 15 years under the direction of Prof. Swain Bach. The chorus had more than 50 voices. The scenery was painted for the occasion, and the Salida Mail was complimentary of the entire performance.

The post office at Brown's Canon has been discontinued and those who have been getting mail there in the future will patronize Postmaster Jackson.—Salida Mail, July 18, 1893.

OPERA HOUSE — The crowd had gathered around the Craig operahouse which stood about where Alexander's Drug Store does now. to watch firemen extinguish a blaze on the roof. Another fire, in themiddle 80s, destroyed the building. Stores occupied the lower floor.

Town In Existence For Ten Years Before Fairview Cemetery Opened

Can you imagine a thriving Western community without a cemetery to call its own? That was Salida's situation for nearly a decade after its founding. Fairview cemetery was opened in 1891.

In the middle 1880s the editor of the Mail pointed out the need for a cemetery. He explained that most residents didn't see the need for a burying ground. They figured to come West to make a fortune and return to their homes in the East in plenty of time to be buried.

It didn't work out that way for a lot of people. Those who died were buried at Cleora, Poncha Springs or their bodies were shipped back home. Actually, the town's pioneer citizens are buried at Cleora cemetery, located about a mile east of Salida on the south side of Highway 50.

The Mail, Nov. 4, 1887, carried a note that Mrs. E. Hampson, owner of Cleora cemetery, had it platted and asked those with relatives and friends there to help pay for a fence.

The files do mention a cemetery two miles south of Salida in 1885, but a definite location is not given.

Tried To Organize Association

B. H. DeRemer, W. D. Lee and Thomas Ryan appeared before the city council March 10, 1887 asking permission to establish a cemetery on eight acres of ground between the Denver and Rio Grande hospital and the Bales ranch. The cemetery, with space for 6,370 graves, would not extend to the river. The association would be the Riverside Cemetery Association.

Of all things to happen, a man by the name of Monahan sued the cemetery association, and on June 10, 1887, the suit was decided in favor of the plaintiff.

"This means that burials will continue to be made at the Cleora cemetery until other arrangements are made," the editor commented.

Next entry in the files about cemeteries was March 16, 1888 when it appeared "Captain Hampston informs us that he has set apart about eight acres of his land below town for a cemetery and has made arrangements to have the tract well fenced and burial lots platted." It seems to have ended right there, too.

Woodland Cemetery Founded

January 1, 1889, the Mail reported that a company of Salida gentlemen headed by F. R. Skipworth purchased 49 acres of ground on a hill south of the Little Arkansas river, on a line with C street.

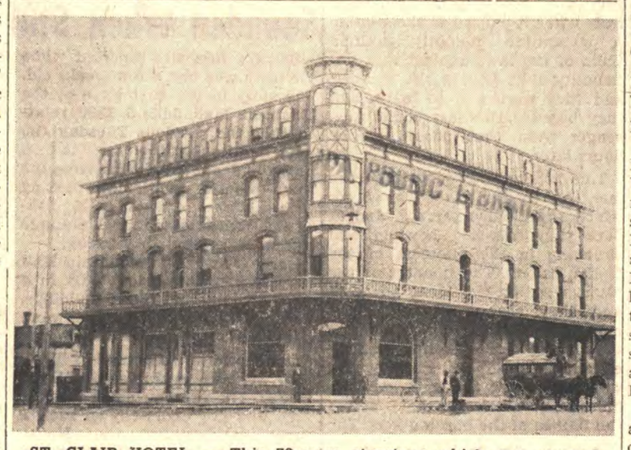
Officers were J. A. Israel, president; F. R. Skipworth, vice president; D. H. Craig, secretary; S. W. Sandusky, treasurer; and D. D. Hatfield, superintendent. The association was incorporated as Woodland Cemetery on March 1, 1889.

The files do not explain the reason for the founding of the present Fairview cemetery. However a company acquired part of the Eggleston ranch between the Harington and Droney ranches on the Mesa. The company had $900 to put in trees and fencing, and ditch water was available. A portion of the lot sales was to go into a permanent maintenance fund. The original tract was 50 acres.

Officers of the association were J. A. Eddy, president; W. W. Roller, vice president; J. B. Bowne, treasurer; J. D. Whitehurst, secretary; O. E. Harrington, superintendent; W. W. Roller, W. E. Robertson, V. C. Davenport, J. A. Eddy, E. B. Jones, J. B. Bowne and O. E. Harrington, directors.

R. C. Greiner, landscape engineer who laid out the State Capitol grounds also did the landscaping for Fairview cemetery. The cemetery has a gentle slope, somewhat broken by ravines with a portion covered with pinion trees. The lots were laid out in an iregular manner to conform to the character of the ground.

Among the first to be interred was Mrs. M. M. Davis, 34 years old, who died on Oct. 24, 1891 from typhoid dysentery. She was a resident of Salida since the town started but had been living with her husband and three children at Leadville. Death came in Salida where her father, J. P. Smith, was still a resident.



ST. CLAIR HOTEL — This 78-room structure which was opened on June 6, 1890, stood at the southeast corner of First and E streets. J. T. Johnson, contractor, built the hotel at a cost of $45,000. The building was 75 by 90, 4 stories high, and had 68 sleeping rooms. A broad piazza was built at the second story level along two sides of the structure. The building was steam-heated and had electric lights. Oak furniture and other furnishings cost $8,000. The hotel was dedicated with a grand ball under auspices of the Salida Cornet band. The first manager to lease the hotel was A. M. Gillaspey.

Mrs. Rudyard Kipling Well Known Here

Mrs. Rudyard Kipling is quite well known to many Salida people and at one time owned property in the city, the Salida Mail reported March 7, 1899.

She was a chum of Mrs. John Wallis Ohl and in 1885 assisted that lady in establishing the first Episcopal Sunday School in Salida.

Her maiden name was Balestier, the Mail article continued. Her brother, Wolcott Balestier also spent several months in Salida. While here he collected data which he afterward used in two of his popular books.

When the brother and sister left Salida they went to London and for a time Balestier was editor of London Tid Bits. He became acquainted with Rudyard Kipling and the the two formed a sort of literary partnership. Mr. Kipling and Miss Balestier afterward formed a life partnership.

(Editor's note: The following news story is printed exactly as it appeared in the Salida Mail on Friday, Nov. 26, 1886. It is typical of the wedding stories of that day.)

WEDDING IN HIGH ALTITUDE

The Hospitable House of Ed Gimlett the Scene of Marriage Festivities

Two of Garfield's Charming Daughters United to Two of the Best Boys on the Little Arkansas

For some time there have been rumors of a coming event, in and about Garfield. These floating suggestions seemed to take point when not long since, extensive purchases of household goods were made in Salida and shipped above. The furnishings of two houses in the town of Garfield was a theme for thought and expectation also and when, on the evening of Wednesday, the 23d, there appeared to be extensive preparations at the house of Ed Gimlet, the full significance of all which preceded was known.

A double wedding is an event in itself outside of whatever festivities there might naturally be in connection with a marriage, and the union of two couples so well known in the Monarch district and throughout the county as Mr. Austin Anderson and Miss Lizzie Gimlet, and Mr. George E. Swan and Miss Emma Beaver, is a matter of general interest.

The ceremony took place at 7:30 in the evening, the Rev. Alex Turnbull of the Salida Baptist church officiating. After the formalities had been finished and the congratulation of the friends given, an elegant supper was served, enjoyed by all, the newly-married people taking the lead.

With few exceptions only relatives of the families were invited and these were present, Mr. and Mrs. E. Gimlet, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. Eli G. Bettis, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Brown, George Gimlet, the Rev. A. Turnbull, Mr. and Mrs. W. Isherwood.

The presents were numerous and valuable. Among those received by Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, were the following: Bedroom suite, Mr. and Mrs. E. Gimlet; rattan racker; George Gimlet; hanging lamp, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Swan, silver cake basket and breakfast castor, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Bettis; silver pickle caster, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Brown; China tea set, Mr. and Mrs. F. Burgess; water pitcher and half dozen jars of fruit, Mr. and Mrs. W. Isherwood; glasswater set, George and Eddy Burgess.

Among the presents received by Mr. and Mrs. Swan were complete bed equipment, Mrs. E. Beaver; napkins, table linen and towels, stand and breakfast caster, Mr. Miss Ellen Beaver; silver cake and Mrs. E. G. Bettis; chamber set, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Brown; hanging lamp, Mr. and Mrs. F. Burgess; water set, George and Eddy Burgess; sofa, Mr. and Mrs. A. Anderson; silver fruit stand, China pie plates and side dishes, Mr. and Mrs. W. Iserwood.

The young people who are thus auspiciously set afloat on the "sea of matrimony", avoided the tiresome nonsense of a wedding tour and came to Salida on Wednesday afternoon merely as company for Mr. and Mrs. Bettis and Mr. and Mrs. Brown, who returned at that time. They went back on the train yesterday morning and went to housekeeping immediately, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson in the neat green cottage on the hill, originally built by H. L. Acker and presented to Mrs. Anderson by her father, Mr. E. Gimlet; and Mr. and Mrs. Swan in the James Coffman house. Both houses were handsomely fitted up a short time since and made ready for immediate occupation.

Messrs. Anderson and Swan came from the same city in Illinois and have been associated for years. Since coming to Colorado two and a half years ago they have held responsible positions of agent and assistant of the Denver and Rio Grande railroad at Garfield and Monarch.

The many friends of the young couple are profuse in their congratulations and good wishes, and the Mail hopes to be counted among the number.

EASTERN STAR SOCIABLE.

One of the Most Pleasant Gatherings Ever Held In Our City

Last evening the lady members of the Eastern Star Lodge, Eminence Chapter, gave a social entertainment in Masonic hall to their friends and many invited guests, which consisted of singing, addresses and a well-supplied table of delicacies. The attendance was quite large, and the ladies did all in their power to make the evening a most happy one. Exercises were commenced at half-past eight o'clock. Following is

THE PROGRAMME.

The evening's pleasures were opened by the singing of the beautiful quartette, "The Mason's Home," by the Misses Arnold and Bender, and Messrs. Roller and Twitchell. The quartette was superbly rendered.

Miss Bender and Miss Arnold then sang a duet, "Life's Dream is O'er" in a manner which added much to the already fine musical reputation of these young ladies.

Mrs. Lawrence delivered an address on the "Order of the Eastern Star" and such historical facts as were appropriate to that worthy and highly commendable branch of Free Masonry. The lady's eloquent address on the subject chosen showed unmistakable evidence of much deep study and research. It was listened to with much interest.

Mrs. Arnold sang the old-time plaintive ballad, "Hark, I hear an Angel Sing," in her most acceptable style. The lady was in fine voice, and the sweet tones of the melody were given with purity and pathos.

Mr. S. O. Hervey read a paper on "Freemasonry and the church." The article read was devoted entirely to the ancient order of Masonry, its foundations and its truths, all of which were commented upon is a forcible and exhaustive manner by the speaker.

Miss Bender now sang "Moreen Maurein," a solo of rare excellence, in which she won new laurels as a vocalist.

Mrs. McGregor then announced that the exercises, so far as the literary and musical part was concerned, were at an end, and, in a neat little speech invited those assembled on this joyous occasion to partake of the viands and substantials so profusely furnished by the generous ladies of the order.

THE SUPPER.

The supper tables were capable of accommodating about 100 persons and there were just about that number of people seated. The ladies had tastefully arranged everything, bouquets of wild mountain flowers and other ornaments were placed at short distances on each table, and the tempting array of luxuries were heartily partaken of by all in attendance. The ladies, assisted by several of the gentlemen present, were untiring their efforts to see that their guests were properly cared for. The refreshments were both bountiful and elegant, and were enjoyed amidst social, happy, homelike conversation.

At the close of the supper, several large, fancy cakes were sold to the highest bidders. The object of this proceeding was to procure the means to purchase a full set of dishes for use at future entertainments. The cakes, we are pleased to state, commanded good figures.

Altogether it was a most joyous affair, and the ladies of the Eastern Star Lodge deserve and will receive the unanimous thanks of their guests for the pleasant entertainment given them last evening in Masonic hall.—Salida Mail, July 24, 1884.

The B. of L. F. Ball

"Benevolence, Sobriety and Industry"

On Christmas eve the members of Ouray lodge No. 140, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen of this place were in the height of their glory. It was the occasion of their grand annual ball. Nearly 500 invitations had been sent out and all had anticipated a fine time and a large attendance. The snow blockade in the mountains prevented many from attending from the west. Over 200 tickets were sold, but there were not that many in attendance. The hall was comfortably filled, however, and the dance went on till the "wee sma' hours." The gentlemen were on their most gallant behavior and the ladies wore their most bewitching smiles. Many of the prominent people of the city were there, and all enjoyed themselves to the fullest extent. The many who expected to be there, but were detained by no cause of their own, can take comfort in knowing that those who were present had the best of times. It seems that when our railroad friends have heretofore given balls that something unusually has always occurred to prevent many from attending, and this was no exception to the rule.

THE ORCHESTRA.

Prof. Lewis' orchestra, of Denver, consisting of six musicians, furnished the best music that has ever been rendered in Salida on a like occasion. Prof. Lewis is the prince of prompters.

THE SUPPER.

At midnight the guests repaired to the Windsor hotel where one of the finest suppers was partaken of ever spread in Central Colorado. Mr. Johnson showed by this effort that as a caterer to the appetite he is unsurpassed. The tables were literally weighted down with rich and elegant cakes and good things.

DECORATIONS.

The ball room was artistically decorated and festooned with evergreens, the walls having many emblems and mottoes of the order.

FASHIONS GODDESS.

Following are a few of the toilets won by the ladies:

Mrs. L. H. Collins, lead colored cashmere, gold jewelry.

Mrs. J R. Shanley, wine colored cashmere, natural flowers, gold jewelry.

Mrs. John Thayer, plain black dress, topaz and gold jewelry.

Geneva Redfern, velvet jacket, cashmere skirt, lace collar, gold jewelry.

Mrs. Estella Krewson, black satin, ruby jewelry.

Mrs. W. H. Shaw, garnet cashmere, natural flowers.

Mrs. F. A. Soop, old gold satin, lace sleeves, gold jewelry.

Mrs. Milliken, black satin, gold jewelry, natural flowers.

Miss Edith Stewart, blue cashmere and velvet cream lace.

Miss Mable Bateman, cream cashmere and velvet, Spanish lace, gold jewelry.

Miss Emily MacPherson, wine colored cashmere, blue ribbons, gold jewelry.

Mrs. Geo. Lines, black velvet suit, gold bracelets, necklace and rings.

Miss Belle Anderson, cloth street suit.

Mrs. F. R. Parks, black silk, real lace, diamond jewelry.

Mrs. B. E. Leer, garnet silk underskirt, brocaded silk polonaise, natural flowers, lace, gold jewelry.

Alice Palmer, brocaded wine colored satin, white kid gloves and slipper, gold jewelry.

Miss Annie Anderson, dregs of wine, ottoman silk, velvet, gold jewelry.

COMMITTEES.

Reception—Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Griffith, M. J. Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Gough, J. F. Clem.

Floor Managers—J. Campbell, E. O. Cole, A. W. Lenardson, H. N. Lowery, Wm. Campbell.

Want of space forbids the insertion of the names of gentlemen present.

(Editor's note: The above list of women and costumes was about one-fourth of those published when the story appeared, Dec. 26, 1884.)

EARLY DAY HOME — This was the home of the Hutchinson family, built before the founding of Salida. The lumber was obtained at the Nachtrieb planing mill. Descendants of both the Hutchinson and Nachtrieb pioneer families still live in the valley.

Christmas passed off merrily in Salida. The festivities opened the evening before by the ball of the B. of L. F. at Craig's opera house. In the morning the children were to be seen going from neighbor to neighbor showing what Santa Claus had brought them, chattering deefully about their presents. There were few families in the city that did not have Christmas dinners. Many took occasion to visit friends, and quite a number of social parties occurred. The streets were lined nearly all day with miners and ranchmen who came to town to have a good time. The hotels all served excelent dinners to their guests. Business houses were closed in the afternoon, and the day generally observed as one of merrymaking. Most of the saloons served free lunches. The day was bright and crisp. Long live its pleasant memories.—The Salida Daily Mail, Dec. 26, 1884.

Milk Scattered Everywhere

Another free distribution of dairy products took place on F street when a horse attached to a milk wagon ran away and disappeared over the hill beyond McKelvey's blacksmith shop. — Salida Mail, May 20, 1898.

Kindergarten Class At Old Academy

Last Friday afternoon the children comprising the kindergarten annex to the Academy had their closing exercises, pending the summer vacation. The little ones, and quite a number of parents, assembled in the auditorium of the Presbyterian church and, though no attempt was made at a formal program, the exercises were very enjoyable.

There was a recitation entiled "Tiny Tim," and a song, "Owl and Pussy Cit" with games so dear to the heart of every child, "Fairy Play," "The Farmer" and "The Mill by the Rivulet." The little ones were served with ice cream and cake during intermission and afterward the games and songs were renewed, the children all passing a very pleasant afternoon.

There have been nineteen children n attendance at the school, and all have received great benefit from the instruction given. Those in charge of this department have been conscientious in every effort and the little ones have been apt and willing scholars.

Those taking part in the closing exercises were Florence and Lena Sappington, Cora Erdlen, Ethel Maguire, Worden and Pauline Abright, Isaac Foster, Lorraine Morrison, Brownie Smith, Thomas Crozer, Nellie Roller, Helen Davenport, Flossie and Butler Disman.—Salida Mail, June 13, 1893.

Intercity Highway Built By Ref Boys

A new state road between Buena Vista and Salida was being built by a gang of convicts from the reformatory, the Buena Vista Republican reported in August, 1899.

It had been discovered that a bed of clay found near the river crossing below Free Gold made a solid bottom as good as asphalt. There were a number of beds of clay below Buena of too poor a quality for brick, but good enough for roads. "This, mixed with sand, forms a road bed that will wear for years," the Republican said.

The north end dance house was formally opened to the public. Five fights was the most in progress at any one time.—Salida Mail, Dec. 31, 1881.

The Monte Christo Hotel as it looked in 1893. Depotis to the left.

Monte Christo Eating Place Of Era

One of the showplaces of Salida in the early days was the Monte Christo hotel, which stood east of the depot and served the traveling public as well as local people. In those days, several passenger trains daily were run on the Denver and Rio Grande tracks and the trains didn't carry diners.

The new hotel was opened to the public on May 14, 1883, with passengers from the Pacific Express taking dinner at 11:25 a. m.

The building was of frame construction, the main part being three stories and the wing two stories, exclusive of basement under the whole. The estimated cost was $30,000. There were 25 sleeping rooms, including four suites. Furniture was of cherry, ash and black walnut. Brussels carpets were used throughout the building, with the total cost of furnishings $8,000—a lot of money in those days.

The first story was finished in ash, the second floor in pine and the third story, painted throughout. The stairways were of heavy ash and handsomely constructed. Bedrooms were about 11x14, steam-heated, and provided with electric bells and transoms with patent locks. The pantry, kitchen, laundry and store rooms were in the basement.

The first story included the office, reading room, sample room, porter's room, another kitchen, dining room, lunch room etc. The dining room was 31 x 50 with a ceiling 16 foot high handsome gas fixtures and shutters of ash and hard polished floor. Tables were provided to seat 75 to 100.

The Mail also proudly noted bathrooms and water closets on each floor.

Lessees of the hotel were Thayer and Wallace, experienced hotel men from Chicago. E. A. Thayer and his family were prominent in Salida society for a number of years. George Harlow from Chicago was the active manager, and B. L. Graves, son of Mrs. Thayer, was the clerk. T. L. Edwards was in charge of the kitchen and C. P. Crozer managed the lunch room.

The variety on the menu of the heals served in the early days at the Monte Christo was fabulous. Here's what the diners enjoyed on Christmas, 1886: Blue Points—celery and radishes—ox tail soup—California salmon, butter sauce—boiled ham, champagne sauce, boiled tongue.—Roast loin of beef. Turkey, cranberry sauce. Saddle of elk, currant jelly. Canvas back duck—Roman Punch—Croquet of chicken, cream sauce. Tenderloin of venison brazed. Oyster patties, pineapple fritters—Chicken salad. Fresh lobsters—French peas, Sweet corn. Mashed potatoes. Sweet potatoes. Hubbard squash—Steamed plum pudding, brandy sauce. Lemon meringue pie, mince pie, pumpkin pie, macaroons, charlotte russe, vanilla ice cream—St. Julian claret. Cider.—Turkey Elna figs, Malaga grapes, oranges, assorted nuts, layer raisins, Edam cheese, biscuits.—Coffee, buttermilk, tea.

An the editor commented, "The lobsters were a great attraction being fresh and straight from New York, as Mr. Thayer assured us."

Baxter Stingley's Murder Rocked Town In 1883

The event in 1883 which brought sadness to the most people was the murder of Baxter Stingley, popular and efficient town marshal. Newspapers of that day blamed the murder on one Frank Reed, who never was apprehended. Reed was located several years later in Florida but for some reason was never returned here for prosecution.

The tragedy occurred in a saloon on Sunday evening, Oct. 28, 1883. The reporter stated that the principal cause of the murder dated two years back. Frank Reed worked at that time in Mix & Co. brick yard; cattle thievery was rampant in the county and Reed was a suspect. He had told parties in the city that he never would be taken alive.

Stingley Went After Him

Stingley knew that Reed was a desperate man but when he heard that he was in town, took a warrant and went out to look for him.

MURDERED — Baxter Stingley was murdered by a desperado, Frank Reed, in 1883. This picture was furnished by a grandniece of Stingley who now lives at Leavenworth, Kan.

Stingley walked into Arbour's variety and dance hall, and visited a short time with the Mail reporter, who said he was there looking for news. He then walked up to Reed. Stingley always carried two pistols, one of the bulldog pattern, ivory handle and blue-steel barrel. The other was a silver-plated Colt 45. He pulled the bulldog on Reed with his left hand and told him to surrender. Reed took his hands out of his pockets, and the gun battle began.

Stingley was shot three times, one wound in the right thigh, one in the left arm and the third on the left side of his chest. His friends laid him out on a table and found his boots were full of blood. A doctor was summoned and in a short time he died.

Stingley was about 38 years old and had lived in this country for 18 years. He had been town marshal for two years and gave universal satisfaction. His survivors included his father, in Ottawa, Kans., a brother, Jessie, a married sister and and uncle, all living in Missouri.

Buried At Cleora

The funeral for the dead marshal was a sad affair. The city was in mourning and flags were displayed at half mast. The Rev. A. B. Fields preached the funeral sermon at the Opera House, and then the procession formed to the Cleora cemetery.

On the arrival at the cemetery the band played "Baxter's Favorite" to effectively that it brought tears to the eyes of many of the audience present. Prayer was offered by the chaplain of the Knights of Pythias after which the remains were lowered in the grave, and the band played "Flee as a Bird." The Knights and fire company circled the grave.

The large number of people who had assembled to pay their last sad respect to the deceased stayed to the last as though reluctant to depart.

Several years later a small child of Jessie Stingley died. She was buried beside the body of her brave uncle, whom she had never known.

Self Defense Held In Deitler Killing

George Deitler, a tie contractor, was shot and killed by George O. Willard, 56, in front of Willard's cabin three miles east of Calumet on the Saturday morning preceding April 1, 1887.

Willard claimed Deitler had been cutting timber on his mining claim against his protest and that on the occasion referred to Deitler came to his cabin where an altercation occurred and he shot him in self defense.

An examination of Willard for the killing of Deitler was held in Justice Altman's court on Tuesday. Willard was not held and returned to his cabin a free man. Public sentiment sustained the decision.

At that time the legislature was working on a bill to make cutting of timber from mining or mill-site-claim of another, a misdemeanor.

Willard later was tried by a jury and was declared a free man again in May, 1888.

The enunciator for the St. Clair hotel has arrived and been put in place. Each room in the house is now provided with a call bell.—Salida Mail, July 11, 1890.

Lynching Of Coal Chute Foreman Black Mark In Salida's History

Truly a black page in Salida's history was the lynching of Oliver Briley on Febr. 21, 1891. That one event did a lot to damage Salida's reputation, and to put it in the rootin'-tootin' class, as the story became a little more lurid each time it was republished.

Principals in the tragedy were Pat Sullivan, 34, who was shot by Oliver Briley, about 22, between the D&RG coal chutes and the river.

The Mail related that Sullivan was conductor on a work train and Briley was acting foreman of the coal chutes. Briley had previous difficulty with Italians carrying away coal that dropped from the engines. The railroad had been permitting the practice but Briley tried to stop them. Several days before when he had tried to tell several Italians they could not take the coal, three or four pitched into him and a knock-down and dragout followed. After that, Briley carried a big gun.

Just prior to the shooting, Sullivan and J. M. Woodruff were sitting by a fire back of the coal chute and Briley was in the cab of a big hog-back engine on the tracks nearby. Briley saw an Italian, Mike Costella, took a lump of coal, and pulled the gun on him. Costella dropped the chunk.

Sullivan and Woodruff, in a kindly way, told Briley that Italians had done so before and probably would after he had gone. This statement was the cause for a fight, and Sullivan made a pass at Briley with a two-foot fence board. Briley warded off the blow, and reached for his revolver and shot Sullivan.

Briley turned the gun on Sam Brown, an engineer, who came for Marshal T. S. McKelvey, who met Briley in front of Comstock's.

The city was without a jail at that time, so Briley was taken to the two-story brick building between F and G on Second, being used temporarily as a jail.

He was chained to the floor in the main room on the ground floor. When word got around about the killing, feelings ran high and the marshal swore in six deputies who, with three regular deputies, took up positions at the prison. The accused murderer's younger brother, armed with a Winchester, also helped guard.

A mob advanced on the jail, but the men fled after the guards took a few shots. Later there was another attack and more shots. A few were wounded. Policeman Spencer had a head wound, and Policeman E. B. Pennington was shot in the wrist. Charley Hallock, a brakeman watching from across the street, received a Winchester ball in his right leg, between the knee and thigh. Jack Sexton, assistant yardmaster, had the third and fourth fingers shot off his left hand.

The mob finally got into the building through a side door, placed a rope around Briley's neck and dragged him out. An attempt was made to hang him from the cross-beam of the electric light pole but the rope was not long enough. The man's neck was broken and he was dead by this time. His brother asked for the corpse. Instead, the body was taken to the railroad crossing at First street, strung up and left there.

The coroner's jury held that Briley had murdered Sullivan. Briley's brother left town, but made arrangements to have Oliver buried. He was interred in Woodland Cemetery, without a minister. The Mail said that the Brileys had come to Salida about two months previously, that Oliver had seemed like a nice fellow and the murder came as a surprise. His mother lived in Ohio. Sullivan, the murdered man was married and apparently had a family. His last rites were in the Catholic Church and he also was buried at Woodland.

Later, the editor of the Mail said that while it probably was what the prisoner deserved, lynching still could not be justified.

Widely distorted stores over the United States following the lynching gave the town a bad name. The New York Sun reported that the train from Marshall Pass was greeted with yells and indiscriminate firing. "Fully 500 shots were fired, wounding several passengers and lookers-on," according to the story. The Denver papers, of course, made the most of the event.

On July 28, 1891, John J. McIvor was arrested upon indictment by a grand jury, charging him with complicity in the lynching of Briley. He gave bond at once.

On August 1 the same year, Thomas McKelvey, deputy sheriff and marshal of Salida at the time of the lynching, was brought before Justice Pursel at Buena Vista, the charge being made by Louis Briley, brother of the murdered man. District Attorney Martin filed a motion to dismiss on the grounds that 100 witnesses testified before the coroner's jury and 45 who appeared before the grand jury failed to give any testimony to implicate McKelvey. The judge dismissed the case and discharged the defendant.

McIvor was tried in district court in Buena Vista in August of the same year, and was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter. The Mail noted that this was probably the first time in Colorado history that a lyncher of any description had been convicted.

McIvor later was granted a new trial, when it was charged that a juror had previously made damaging statements. The next January the district attorney entered an order of nolle prosequi, which freed McIvor. W. H. Shaw and D. E. Wilcox also were brought to trial and cleared by the court.

Bullets Filled Air, Four Killed In Memorial Day Tragedy Of '83

Memorial Day, 1883, started out peaceably enough, but when it was all over they counted four bodies — victims in the Neinmyer killings.

In 1883, a Thomas Neinmyer, charcoal burner who worked for Millan & McKee at Brown's Canon came into town with his father, his brother, Boon, Bill O'Brien and Tom Evans. Soon all were drunk except the old man.

Thomas Neinmyer had a grudge against the town in general and its law enforcement officers, Baxter Stingley and James Bathurst, in particular. It seems that a few weeks previously Neinmyer was in town with quite a sum of money of which he claimed he was robbed by a woman of dubious character with whom he was stopping.

The town officials, lacking proof of the alleged theft, could do nothing. He said he would get revenge. He did — and how.

The party ate at Bender's hotel that fateful evening. A brawl started there and soon Stingley and Bathurst were called to get it settled. The entrance of the officers seemed to be the cue for action.

Evans had been raising the most of the disturbance and Neinmyer had been trying to keep him quiet. As the officers entered, Neinmyer made for the door, shooting as he went. Evans started for Stingley with a knife, was shot and died within half an hour. It never was determined if Stingley or Bathurst fired the fatal shot.

Stood Up At Wrong Time

An old gentleman named Gannon, a blacksmith for the railroad, was sitting at a table. He arose to leave, and was shot, apparently by Neinmyer, and died within an hour. Bathurst was shot just below the heart and died the next day. Stingley also was gravely injured, but recovered in time to be murdered that Fall by another desperado, Frank Reed.

After the shooting at Bender's Neinmyer started up First street toward Devereux's. Chris Laub tried to intercept him and was fired at, as was A. T. Ryan, who ran a stable. Neinmyer ran out past Ryan's stable and Moody's lumberyard, and by this time 50 men were in pursuit with revolvers, rifles, shotguns and every other conceivable weapon. "As they pursued him and fired he returned the salute," the Mountain Mail reporter wrote.

Shot Pursuer Off Horse

Among the pursuers was W. H. Brown, a teamster, who had a borrowed gun and was on horseback. He had reached to within a few rods of Neinmyer when the latter was on the mesa north of the railroad track and not far from the Van Every residence. Neinmyer turned and deliberately shot Brown off his horse, and was attempting to capture and mount the horse when the pursuing party headed by W. Goring, Ryan and C. A. Rose captured him and brought him to town.

There was talk of lynching Neinmyer but Mayor Westerfield and other peacable citizens urged that the law be allowed to take its course. That night Neinmyer was moved by wagon to the county jail at Buena Vista.

Neinmyer was charged with murder but never was convicted. In January, 1884, the desperado and nine other prisoners in the county jail made a successful break. He never was apprehended.

The city dads had a quick huddle after the shootings and appointed J. S. Boon as temporary marshal with Eli Chenoweth as assistant.

A quantity of fireworks were set off from Mt. Lookout last night—Salida Mail, July 4, 1890.

Fiminello Paid Supreme Penalty

Buried somewhere in Chaffee county is an Italian, Nocolo Fiminello, alias Mike George, who was hanged in the jail yard at Buena Vista August 25, 1888, for the killing of a man identified only as Casey, at Granite the previous March. The Salida Mail reporter said that the morning trains brought in a number of visitors to witness the execution and about 75 were admitted to the jail yard. It was Chaffee county's first and only legal execution.

Sheriff Crymble supervised the hanging and C. W. Erdlen, photographer, took seven negatives of the execution.

George was executed after several reprieves. The trial resulted in a verdict of guilty, after the evidence had been presented. According to the story, George and Casey had some trouble in a saloon during the evening, at which time George drew a knife upon Casey, and they were separated before the Italian had a chance to use it. He laid in wait for his victim, Casey, who was a section hand and the fatal attack apparently occurred while Casey was enroute home.

Evidence was mostly circumstantial, but most damaging was that of his bunk-mate, another Italian, who swore that George asked his help to throw the body in the river. The State was represented by District Attorney Libby, and the defense was conducted by A. W. Sindlinger, who made the best possible show in a losing case.

On July 9, Governor Alva Adams granted a stay of execution to July 26 for George because of ignorance of the language, poverty and friendless condition of the defendant, to allow him an appeal to a high court. "To the disappointment of all" another stay was granted on July 25, and a third reprieve was granted Aug. 10, as the counsel attempted to prove that a juror had made up his mind before the trial. "Some people are getting very disgusted," the Mail editor noted. There almost was a last-minute stay of execution the morning of the hanging.

The reporter noted that "As the black cap was being put on, George asked them to stop, and gave a priest one dollar which he wished to be sent to his wife and children in Italy."

Shewalter Took Smith In Tow

Robert L. Shewalter was a young fellow when he remarked that if he were an officer, he wouldn't be afraid to arrest Jack Smith. It wasn't long until he was sworn in as a special deputy, and before the word got around, he had Smith in custody. The date, March 5, 1889.

Smith was one of the parties wanted for the assault of Attorney Davis the previous Oct. 6 in Salida. He was quick with the gun and officers were not too anxious to attempt an arrest. Smith had been at Aspen but came over to Salida to see his wife, who had just given birth to a child.

Sheriff Crymble came down to arrest Smith and swore in young Shewalter as a special deputy. Shewalter found Smith in Dorsey's saloon, confronted him with a pair of six-shooters, and informed Smith that he had a warrant for his arrest.

When Smith reached for his gun Shewalter told him, "Throw up your hands or I'll cut you in two." Smith raised his hands. Marshal Haynes came along and was about to arrest both of them before Shewalter convinced him that he had the legal right to take the suspect into custody. Haynes took Smith's gun, Crymble came along and all went over to Justice Witmer's office.

The Salida Mail reported that Smith plead not guilty in his preliminary hearing but was placed under $800 bond and was taken to Buena Vista by Sheriff Crymble the next day. Later, Smith was acquitted by a jury on two grand jury indictments, but was found guilty on the third, charging him with assault with intent to do bodily harm. He was fined $100 and costs.

Lynching Explained As Necessary In Day

The recent hanging of a brace of outlaws at Maysville seems to illustrate the difference between lynch law and mob law, wrote the editor of the Mountain Mail in an editorial on July 14, 1883.

The hanging of these villians was simply retributive justice speedily administered. Laws are instituted among men for the protection of life and property, order and decency, and when the regularly constituted authorities fail to punish crimes against society and the lawless and vicious elements are permitted to escape through technicalities of the law and the aid of paid attorneys, then the lynch law becomes not only justifiable but a necessity.

Mob law is the gathering together of a crowd of heated and excited men, who, without stopping to weigh the chances of the supposed criminal's innocence or guilt, proceed to execute vengeance upon him at once.

Lynch law first makes sure of the criminal's guilt beyond the possibility of a doubt and then in a cool and deliberate manner and with a full understanding of what is about to be done proceed to administer that justice which the courts deny.

It cannot be denied that the courts of Chaffee county have failed to punish criminals as the law comtemplates, the pioneer editor continued; that scores of murders and attempted murders have been made yet through some technicality of the law or insecure prison not a legal hanging has ever taken place.

The law of self preservation is higher and above all written law and if the courts fail to punish crime the unwritten law will be enforced, the editorial concluded.

TOWN OF MONARCH — This photograph shows how the town of Monarch looked 'way back when. The railroad built an extension to to Monarch to serve the mines there in the early 1880s.

Dr. Nomamaker Murdered Wife And Took Life In Sinister Plot

Double suicide? Murder and suicide? The evidence points to the latter—but in any event the deaths of Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Nonamaker made a sinister story in the latter days of 1885.

The Salida Mail, Nov. 6, 1885, said that the town would be shocked to learn that Dr. and Mrs. Nonamaker, one of the oldest families in the county had committed suicide together at their home in Salida. (At one time he ran a newspaper at Maysville.)

Nonamaker wrote a letter to Al Wilson, the liveryman, who went with J. A. Israel and J. W. Fisher to the house and found them dead in a bedroom. Notes indicated they had agreed to double suicide at the stroke of midnight and indications were each had been shot in the temple and died with hardly a struggle. The pistols were still at their sides.

Nonamaker wrote that he and his wife were wearying of "the inhumanity of man to man." He had been bilked for over $700 on a placer mine deal, and when he needed money couldn't collect from debtors or get help from those he had befriended—or so he wrote.

The Mail recorded "The doctor has always been eccentric and by many believed to have been crazy at times." According to notes found he had contemplated suicide and when his wife learned of the plans, requested that he allow her also to commit suicide.

In their notes, they asked that they be buried in pine coffins where they would not wash out. (The Mail never did identify the cemetery where they were buried.)

Dr. Nonamaker also wrote that they had been taking Fowler's solution in small doses for a week, so the bodies would be saturated with arsenic, "and you needn't be in too great haste to bury us." He asked that the Knights of Pythias take care of the funeral.

The issue of Nov. 10, 1885, had news even more startling than the first story. There was good evidence that Mrs. Nonamaker was killed several hours before the husband committed suicide. The presence of a glass and spoon near at hand was suggestive and the authorities in those days felt quite certain that she had retired in a semi-conscious condition.

"Death was undoubtedly caused by some long instrument which was driven entirely through her head and left a triangular hole on the opposite side," the Mail chronicled. "No bullet has been found and none will be. The murderer was a physician and had surgical tools."

The Nov. 20 issue had more to the story, and with a still different turn. Letters came from Pennsylvania who had read in newspapers of the Nonamaker tragedy. It seems that the first and second spouse of the doctor died mysterious deaths, with poison hinted. The third wife stayed in Pennsylvania when he went South, and did not know that he had gone West.

The present wife—that is, the woman who was murdered in Salida—was Clara DeAngeles, who had taught music in Monument, Colo. He was 45, she about 35. The report was that he got money from wife No. 3 and her mother, and threw the mother-in-law's possessions out of a third story window when he elected to evict her.

The end of the story came on Dec. 4, 1885 when Mrs. Nonamaker's brother came from Utica, N. Y. after hearing of the tragedy. The remains of the murdered woman were disinterred and identified.

She was from a respected family in central New York and Salidans felt that she shouldn't be buried in the grave with her murderer. The remains were returned to New York.

The conclusion of the story was this: "It is expected that Dr. Nonamaker will have something to say for publication at the next meeting of the spiritualists."

HOUSE WITH HISTORY — This is the home where Dr. J. H. Nonamaker apparently killed his wife and took his own life in 1885. Dr. Nonamaker had lived in Maysville before coming to Salida. Later it was the Corbin home. Mr. Corbin was a businessman in the early days and died when in his thirties. Photographer was C. H. Clark.

Italians Left After Shooting

It seems than on Sunday morning, a party of Italians at Granite, Chaffee county, seized an ignorant German and thrust him, until his veins were frozen, through a hole in the ice that covers the Arkansas river. His shrieks finally brought the whites to the rescue and the fiendish diversion of his tormentors was stopped.

The affair created great indignation and in the afternoon laborers of the Midland grade began to arrive. There was evidently fun ahead. In the meanwhile a brace of Chinamen from Denver stepped from the Rio Grande passenger train when it paused at the station. A committee promptly notified them of the laws against that nationality that govern the locality, and they were told to leave, and they boarded the east bound passenger train that passed a few hours later.

This incident served to urge the men on to the main object for which they had organized, and at dark they marched howling and shrieking in the direction of the Italian saloon. The inmates of the resort were on the alert, however and they scampered, while the mob emptied their six-shooters at the fleeing forms as they vanished among the rocks. Entering the saloon they set fire to it, while a hideous carnival was held before the flames of the burning logs. The citizens of Granite were powerless, and after the mob had made a fruitless search for the Italians, which they avowed should be hung, they sought their camp.—Salida Mail, March 4, 1887.

Disman Full Page

One of the first full-page advertisements to appear in the Mail was purchased by Salida's Champion Clothiers, Disman and Co., on Feb. 24, 1885.

The advertisement was illustrated with five cuts of men and boys in right fancy attire. One man is wearing a long-tailed coat and stove pipe hat. A boy is wearing a sort of sailor-type hat.

Disman was agent for Burt and Packard Shoes, and also carried a full line of the well-known John B. Stetson hats. Disman was located in the Sullivan block.

Prominent Cattleman Was Lynched In City Of Saints And Long Faces

Canon City, "The City of Saints and Long Faces," was the scene on August 11, 1883 of the lynching of L. E. "Ed" Watkins, a Chaffee county cattleman who had been charged with cattle theft. The Mail called it "an act of cowardice in the name of justice that will forever blacken the name of Canon City."

As a bit of background, let it be explained that there had been a growing animosity between different camps and gangs of cattlemen and ranchmen. They all had accused each other of stealing cattle, and that a great deal of it had been done was undoubtedly true.

The Mail quoted one ranchman as saying, "It may be that Ed has hitched on to cattle that didn't belong to him but I don't believe it; but if he did he was obliged to do it to keep from running out of cattle, for they were constantly stealing from him."

At that, the charge of cattle theft against Watkins couldn't have been too much of a surprise, innocent or otherwise. In 1882 he was charged with stealing burros, but acquitted. Then, just a month before he was lynched at Canon City, rumor around Salida was that Watkins and Frank Reed had been lynched in Park county on a charge of having been engaged in cattle stealing. The Mail printed a correction the next day, stating the rumor is untrue. (We presume it was the same Frank Reed who, in October of the same year, killed Baxter Stingley—which is another story in this issue.)

The Mail was unable to get full details of the tragedy the first day, but on Aug. 13, had this account of the lynching:

"Not for many years has there been so great as excitement in Canon City as there is today. (Aug. 11). L. E. Watkins, a stock man, who was under arrest on a charge of cattle stealing, was torn from the custody of Sheriff Jones by a crowd of masked men. He attempted to escape. He was riddled with bullets, and afterward hanged to the timbers of the upper bridge over the Arkansas, opposite the penitentiary. As may be imagined, the lynching threw the town into a terrible furore. Watkins comes of a good and highly respected family, and his guilt had by no means been proven. The story of what led to the outrage and its details is as follows:

History of the Case

T. Witcher, of this county, swore out a complaint before Justice Minner, July 27, for the arrest of L. E. Watkins, a cattle man residing in the upper part of the county, near the Chaffee county line, charging Watkins with stealing several cattle belonging to Mullock Brothers and others and mutilating the brands. Watkins was arrested and brought to Canon City for trial by Sheriff W. S. Jones on Thursday of this week. Watkins waived an examination and was placed under $4,000 bonds to appear before the grand jury at its next session. It being represented that Watkins could secure the required bail at Salida, he was placed

In Charge of the Sheriff

"to go to Salida to find his bondsman. They returned on the 12:15 midnight train of last night. The required bond was furnished, all but $1000 and the whole account was to have been made up by noon today. Little did the sheriff and his prisoner, returning to the jail through the silent streets, imagine the terrible tragedy soon to be enacted. As soon as it was certainly known that Sheriff Jones was returning with the prisoner, yesterday, toward sunset were seen

Groups of Sinister Faces

dark with more sinister thoughts, quietly gathered in the hallways and other retired places. After darkness had settled upon our city, and midnight, lowering with thick set clouds had gathered in appropriate blackness, might have been seen, stealing out by twos and threes, the perpetrators of this damnable deed, gathering in in silence behind the hog back, on which is the reservoir, where 14 or 15 men met to engage in the work of death. The whistle of the approaching train

Was Watkins' Death Knell

and the signal that the time for action had come. The unsuspecting sheriff had just reached the southwest angle of the court house when he was seized by six men, his hands tied behind his back, and he was thrown violently to the ground. A masked face bending closely to his ear whispered the significant words "if you behave yourself you won't be hurt." The prisoner, immediately divining the object of these men, started on the run for the steps leading over the wire fence near the county jail. Six or seven shots were ineffectually fired, and his pursuers in the darkness fell into the wire fence. Some must have been badly injured, as the fence bore

Marks of a Severe Struggle

One other shot was fired toward the penitentiary as the prisoner was leaping a ditch. The morning light revealed the ghastly form of Watkins swinging from the timber of the upper bridge across the Arkansas river, opposite the penitentiary. An examination reveals the fact that in all probability Watkins was dead before he was thrown from the bridge. A No. 44 bullet passed one inch above and one inch to the right of the right nipple, through the lungs and part of the liver, ranging downward and backward, and was taken out near the last dorsal vertebrae."

Watkins funeral was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Salida and he was buried in Poncha Springs cemetery.

Watkins was just 30 years of age at the time of his death. He had attended Kansas University for two years and later finished his education at Erlum college in Indiana. He later was married to Miss Mary Green who attended the same school. He came to Colorado in 1877, engaging in the cattle business, first on Badger creek and later at the Agate Mountain ranch at the head of Cottonwood Gulch, seven miles east of Salida. He was known as a brave man, having fought the Nez Perces Indians in Wyoming. He was married less than five months before the tragedy.

"There is talk to the effect that Ed knew too much of the ins and outs of some of the Canon City cattle men, and that they were afraid for themselves if he were given a fair trial and allowed to tell what he knew, and that a mob was hired to dispose of him on that account," the Mail reported. "The matter should be sifted to the bottom and the leaders of the outrage brought to justice—if there is such a thing as justice in Colorado."

Several meetings were held by Salida citizens after the lynching, but perpetrators of the crime never were brought to justice. Mrs. Watkins remained on the ranch for a number of years after her husband's death.

South Arkansas' First Fire Alarm Sounded When Still A Tent City

Salida's first fire reported when the town was just a few weeks old. The story in the first issue of the Mountain Mail, June 5, 1880, related that the previous Tuesday the town had its first fire alarm. A tent near the depot caught fire from the stove pipe. A gentleman passing with a bucket of water extinguished the flames before much damage was done the property inside.

Early files of the Mountain Mail are missing, but undoubtedly in a town of tents and frame buildings, without a water system, fires were frequent.

One of the town houses of ill repute went up in flames on March 8, 1882. The fire started in the kitchen and got underway in such a hurry that inmates were able to get out with just small portions of their wardrobe. One man left in such a hurry that he lost $200 he had in his pants pocket, and cut one foot badly in kicking out the window. The house belonged to Lizzie Landon and her loss, including a $500 piano, was about $800.

A. T. Ryan, who operated a livery stable, should have received the prize for hard luck champion in 1883. Ryan had two fires, both of which were total, uninsured losses.

The first fire broke out about 2 a. m. on Jan. 22. The Knights of Pythias, in full dress uniform, were having a ball. Most of the Knights also were hose company members, so they were really dressed for the occasion when the alarm was given. They found the fire was 800 feet from a plug, which reduced the pressure in the hose. The weather was intensely cold and the firemen had a rough night. Furious winds fanned the flames. Loss included six horses, several buggies and carriages, in addition to the building and the feed.

J. P. Pierce, one of the fire boys (and not at the K. of P. ball heard the alarm while in hs tent at the Ohmertz and Gill stone quarry two miles from town, near Dead Horse gulch. The Mail reported that Pierce tore into town like a quarter horse.

Ryan's next fire was on Sept. 5 of the same year. The blaze was at the inferno stage when discovered. but when the flames had subsided someone rushed into the harness room and saved some saddles, harness, etc.

The loss included the $1300 building, Ryan's prize mare, Amanda, buggies and carriages.

Craig's opera house caught fire on Feb. 25, 1884, but the fire laddies got there before it was too late. Some water damage was sustained at the next building. The fire apparently caught near the chimney, between the roof and ceiling, but how was a mystery and there hadn't been a fire in the upstairs stoves for two days.

The editor favored lynching the fellow who apparently strated the fire at Mrs. Hanley's millinery store in November, 1884. "Mrs. Hanley has had a hard struggle and the loss will be heavy for her," he wrote. Mrs. Hanley lost her entire stock of goods, clothing, etc., valued at $1800, with insurance covering $750. About $500 in nsurance had been cancelled a few days before by threats against her property.

Judge Lynch Acted Quickly At Maysville

Judge Lynch assessed the penalty quickly when two men were taken into custody for the brutal beating and shooting which resulted in the death of James Lynn near Maysville. In fact, the men were strung up before the victim died.

The Mail of July 12, 1883 describes the incident like this:

"The name of the man who was shot is James Lynn, who came from Scranton, Pennsylvania but a few weeks ago. He is an Irishman about fifty years old and is represented by Mr. Cusick, who is a firm friend of his, as being 'an easy going old fellow who wouldn't hurt anybody.' Lynn had been paid off and was on his way to Salida when the two ruffians came upon him. He gave up all his money, something over $32 and a silver watch, and then they shot him and left him for dead. Soon after the shooting, which was seen by some persons on a ranch near, the robbers returned to Maysville and were soon taken in. After being arrested they were taken, in company with a dozen or more other persons who were strangers, in the presence of Lynn who at once pointed them out as his assailants. The prisoners were then lodged in the Maysville lockup to wait further developments.

Masked Men Move Quickly

"Between nine and ten last night about 75 masked men gathered together in Maysville for the purpose of settling the matter with the ruffians. The crowd took Newt Laws and marched him in front of them to the calaboose, and the guard would not fire on them because they could not without endangering the life of Laws who was unwillingly forced along with the crowd. The marshal refused to give up the keys, but it did not take long to break down the doors, and take possession of the prisoners. They were at once marched across the railroad track to some pine trees back of the church where the work was completed.

"Both men stoutly protested their innocence, but just as the ropes were being put around their necks, one said to the other, 'Well, you did the shooting anyway.' They were strung up without further ceremony and their bodies were left hanging until after the sun had risen this morning. The names of the ruffians were Dennis Haggerty and Henry Dowling. They had been practicing the hold-up game in the neighborhood of Maysville for several days. They had been seen loafing around the depot at that place on the look-out for persons who were paid off. They were known as hard customers and the country is well rid of them.

"Mr. John Cusick, who bunked with the old man Lynn, advised him that he had better ride to Salida on the train. Just before they left the depot after being paid off one of these same chaps spoke to Cusick and asked him where he was going. Cusick, not liking the looks of them, cursed them and told them he was going about his own business.

Reporter Certain of Guilt

"There can be no doubt, it seems, about these men who were hung being the parties who robbed and then murdered the old man. Lynn himself identified them and Mr. Thos. Ryan, engineer on the Maysville run, says he saw them following Lynn and is satisfied they were bent on mischief. And the partial confession made by one in saying that the other one did the shooting. It is a matter of congratulation that the people of Maysville and vicinity turned out so soon and so promptly to mete out justice to the villians who assaulted the poor old and friendless Lynn. They attend to such things up there more expeditiously than they have done in Salida."

And this appeared the next day: The coroner's jury that sat upon the remains of Haggerty and Dowling, the Maysville assassins who were sent off by judge Lynch, returned a verdict that the aforesaid two persons came to their end at a rope's end by the assistance of parties to the jury unknown.

HASN'T CHANGED MUCH — This photograph, one of C. H. Clark's, shows the town of Garfield from the East, taken in 1886. Note the schoolhouse in the center of the picture.

Friendless Man Died—No Warning

Accidental shooting. "A man with no friends ushered into eternity without a warning." That was a headline in the Mail on Nov. 19, 1886.

Fred Friend, an employe in S. A. Lavinsky's tailor shop between Front and First on F street was sitting at his work when a bullet whizzed through his head.

Investigation showed that a bullet from Wilbur Comstock's gun discharged accidentally. The bullet passed through four places in Fred Comstock's coat, which was hanging in the restaurant, went through a partition, through the victim's head, then through a door and beyond that point was not followed. The bullet was from a .44 calibre Colt.

The coroner's jury termed the tragedy an accident. The funeral for the friendless man was at the Methodist Church and expenses were paid by the Comstocks.

Thousands Witnessed Execution Of Marshall Clement At Saguache

December 3, 1885 was a day long remembered in Saguache county. That was the day Marshall Clement was hanged for the murder of his brother and sister-in-law. Around 5,000 men, women and children witnessed the hanging (and, we presume, brought a picnic lunch for the occasion) which came off with very little excitement.

Marshall Clements last words, in a cheerful tone, were "How soon will I drop, sheriff?"

The hanging came less than three months after the discovery of the dual murder, which was committed at Russell Springs, in the north part of Saguache county.

It seems that five weeks previously, Thomas Clement and his wife were missing, but no one gave much thought because Marshall Clement and his father gave out the report that Thomas and his wife had left the country. The neighbors recalled however that Thomas had just purchased a ranch at Russell Springs and his wife was expecting money from her people in Ireland.

It didn't sound good, so the sheriff was notified. He arrested J. D. Clement, father of the murdered man. A search disclosed the bodies of Thomas and his wife about a mile from the house of Marshall Clement. Marshall was arrested and said that he did the deed, for a few trinkets of jewelry which the murdered woman was known to possess. The father Clement, three women of the family and Marshall were locked up in Saguache.

When the bodies were found, they were two feet below the surface and coyotes had reached them, but did no harm. The back of Thomas' head appeared to have been shot away by a shotgun, and the woman also was shot.

The Mail learned of an earlier attempt at murder. Two months previously while at the table, the elder sister of the Clements family brought in coffee for the pair. Thomas suspected something was wrong and refused to drink the brew. Later a sample was taken to a Saguache doctor who disclosed that it contained laudanum.

Marshall Clement's confession to authorities was to the effect that he came to Saguache county seven years previously. Thomas said he was engaged to a girl who could get $500—and later married her. Apparently she was not popular with other members of the family and was referred to as "vinegar."

On Aug. 17, 1885, Tom and Marshall went hunting, and had "words." "We walked along and when he was ten feet ahead I picked up my gun and fired and it was done. After sitting down and looking at him awhile, I dug a grave in a sand knoll some distance away and dragged him to it," Marshall was quoted as saying.

Then he went to Thomas' wife, told her that her husband was injured and wanted to see her. They walked along and when they reached Tom's body, Marshall raised the gun and fired at her. She gave a gasp and died. "I walked around, looked at her and said, 'My God, Marshall, see what you have done. This is a great day's work'." Apparently he told others in the family, but the defense strategy was to pin the blame onto Marshall and clear the rest of the family.

The jury found Marshall guilty to murder in the first degree. Stories were rampant for years that other relatives might also have been victims of violent deaths.

The Mail reporter noted, The Old man Clements and the rest of the family seemed rather nervous until Marshall had died.

"Marshall made a late confession exonerating all the family, saying that they did not know the murdered ones were missing until four days after they were murdered."

Banta Lynched After Shooting

When "Judge Lynch" took over, justice (?) came quickly. This story came under the heading of "Tragedy at Monarch" and occurred June 14, 1888:

George Davis and a man named Harry Banta became involved in a quarrel over a game of cards. Banta claimed undue advantage was taken of him. Wednesday evening Davis was sitting quietly eating in a restaurant when Banta came in from the rear of the building, and fired two shots in Davis near the temple.

Banta soon was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Gassoway. Davis was well-liked and when word of the shooting got around the village, Banta was taken from the officers who had ordered a team from Kenedy's livery stable to take the murderer to Salida.

A rope was placed around Banta's neck and by unknown parties he was dragged down the street until life was extinct. (At this time, Davis, the man who was shot, was still alive.)

The Garfield correspondent said that on general principles the lynching idea was all wrong but in this particular case it was justifiable.

Davis died within a few days. Officers found a lot of counterfeiters tools in Banta's effects.

An extra coach was put on the train for Monarch for people who went to attend the funeral for George Davis. There was no mention of disposition of the remains of the man who was lynched.

An Italian who was making arrangements to open a saloon at Monarch mysteriously disappeared on Saturday and has not been seen since. He had about $1800 in money when he went to Monarch. Having purchased a building at that place for a saloon he came back down here and purchased goods and supplies. On Saturday he was missing.—Salida Mail, May 19, 1891.

Section Boss Shot To Death

Sept. 18, 1885—Pat Rush, a section boss for Section 38 on the Leadville division with headquarters at Brown's Canon was shot and killed at the door of Mike Carroll's cabin two and a half miles above the station.

Witnesses later said that Carroll, a track-walker, had shown signs of being out of his head and had the idea that people were trying to poison him. When Rush had been gone awhile from his men, and after they had heard two shots, a man went to the Carroll cabin and found the body. The sheriff and other officers were summoned, and came to the scene by train.

Carroll, apparently thinking he was poisoned apparently sprang forward and had attacked Rush, who had entered the cabin to see how he was. Carroll apparently hit him with the butt of his gun and then shot him. It took some time to locate the killer. The posse was unsuccessful but he gave himself up at Salida the same night.

Accounts of the tragedy said that the men had been friendly, but Carroll claimed that Rush was the head of a gang organized to poison him.

A sanity hearing was held for Carroll on Dec. 11, The jury found Carroll to be sane. "There was very little evidence produced that would tend to show the insanity of the prisoner—nothing, in fact, except there being no motive for the homicide."

Railroad Rate Somewhat Baffling

"One of the unexplained things about railroads was brought to notice recently when the C&S posted the following rates to the festival:

" 'St. Elmo to Denver, $4.85; Buena Visia to Denver, $5.' Thus for a 23-mile ride over the aforesaid pike you were paid fifteen cents and it was undoubtedly worth it."—Buena Vista Herald, Oct. 3, 1897.

Curran Killed By Marshal

This story, about the death of Richard Curran, appeared on page five of the Salida Mail, under the heading, "The Shooting." The tragedy occurred in May, 1885.

"At one thirty o'clock Tuesday afternoon Marshal E. R. Murphy was searching the house of Mrs. Curran on G street for stolen property and was attacked by Richard Curran with a club and Mrs. Curran with a knife. He received about 20 feet from the house, turned and shot Richard Curran through the head, killing him instantly."

The preliminary hearing for Murphy was postponed due to the lack of witnesses for the defense. Public sentiment was divided as to Murphy's guilt. The general impression was that since Curran had no pistol, Murphy's life was not in danger and the shooting would not have been done by an experienced officer.

May 15, 1885, Murphy was indicted by a grand jury for manslaughter and his bond was set at $5000.

Justice worked quickly in those days and just 11 days later the Mail had this comment: "Though ex-Marshal Murphy was acquitted, his case should be a warning to Salida marshals against being so ready to use a revolver when innocent lives are thereby so often sacrificed."

O'Neil Was Shot By Woman Scorned

John O'Neil, a 46-year-old railroad conductor between Salida and Grand Junction, was the victim of a woman scorned, in April, 1890.

Newspaper accounts said that O'Neil was shot in Grand Junction by Mabel Hurley, a young woman he had known for some time. She had repeatedly warned him if he paid attention to another woman she'd shoot him. She heard he was to marry a girl at Salida, and when O'Neil went to see her, she didn't inquire of the rumor but just shot him.

The Mail learned that the woman showed no remorse, only wished she had shot herself, too. The body was brought to Salida for rites by the Knights of Pythias and then was shipped to O'Neil's old home in Syracuse, N. Y.

Sheriff Outwitted Mob Seeking Suspect

Charles Stone was running a saloon at Mears in September of 1881, according to a story in the Mountain Mail. A teamster named "Shorty" was shot by some party unknown and Stone was suspected.

Stone was arrested by the sheriff and brought to Salida. A mob was raised at Mears and came into Salida on a train which they took forcibly. About 100 men composed the mob.

The hotel where the sheriff and prisoner were supposed to be was captured and searched but the prisoner had been spirited away to Bale's ranch where he was kept until morning when he was taken to Buena.

A body of militia was brought down from Buena Vista to insure the protection of the town but when they arrived the mob had dispersed and things were growing quiet. Stone had a reputation of being a bad man and many thought he should have been lynched just on general principles.

First Marshal Survived Wound

Salida's first round-up occurred when the town was quite young—City Marshal Meadows was shot down on Nov. 9, 1880, while in the discharge of his duty. "And bullets go whistling around, demoralizing one man's hand and another man's arm."

A statement was made by James Meadows that James Clendenning came after him to settle a row at Powers' saloon. Powers and William Baster, prisoner, were quarreling. Powers made no complaint against the prisoner hence Judge Hawkins turned him loose.

Meadows came home and went to E. M. Thompson's place. Powers came running there, saying Baxter had a pistol and was looking for Meadows. The prisoner came running up behind and fired. Meadows fell and theprisoner shot at his head. Several parties then came up and arrested him.

Several of the spectators took a hand and Baxter was shot in the high. He was taken to Ayers house for repairs and when sufficiently recovered will be taken before Judge Hawkins for a hearing.

It was thought by some that the ball in Meadows would prove fatal, but prospects are that he will soon return to duty. The reason Judge Hawkins did not commit theman when taken before him by Meadows before the shooting occurred was that no complaint had been entered and there was no calaboose to put him in for safekeeping.—Mountain Mail, Nov. 11, 1880.

Jail First Order Of City Business; Early Marshals Had Hazardous Jobs

Salida was incorporated in the Fall of 1880 and guess what was the first order of business at the very first council meeting, on Oct. 28— to erect a calaboose! It was so ordered with the cost to be $260.

The first jail was located at First and G streets and must have been an inadequate eyesore from the word go. Early files of the Mountain Mail indicate that jail breaks came easy and often. Nineteen prisoners escaped in the two months prior to July 8, 1890.

The jail frequently was "out of commission" and that was the case early in 1891 when Oliver Briley was lynched. Briley was being held in a vacant building on West Second street because the jail was unusable.

Often overcrowded, finally the council saw fit to build an addition to the jail in the middle 1880s.

The situation finally came to a head in a tragic way on Aug. 8, 1901. Peter Hogan, a young colored man, had been committed to the jail for some obscure reason. He spent a day on the chain gang, and made one effort to escape but was convinced to return when fired upon by a guard.

He was returned to the jail after supper and at 10:30 p. m., Hogan, the sole occupant, set fire to excelsior that had been emptied from a mattress. An alarm was turned in by a passerby and the fire department was there shortly but Hogan already was dead.

The city had to do something then, and the result was the purchase of Fraternity Hall on E street, the present city hall. All city offices were moved into the building—and, most of all, an adequate jail was included in the remodeling.

Being marshal in those days was a hazardous occupation. J. S. Meadows was the first marshal. The first outlawry in the brand-new city was on Nov. 9, 1880, when Meadows was shot and severely wounded by a man named Baxter who resisted arrest.

Baxter Stingley was appointed marshal pro tem aftear Meadows' misfortune, but resigned five days later and Thomas Reade was appointed. On Nov. 30, Meadows had recovered sufficiently and Reade was discharged as marshal. The city clerk apparently took a vacation because minutes of the meetings are missing from that date until April 12, 1881. Joseph Watt was city marshal from March 19 to April 18, 1881, receiving the standard $2 a day for his services. (Incidentally, prisoners unable to pay court fines also were allowed $2 a day for working on streets.)

A. B. Taylor was elected city marshal over Watt, the vote being 4 to 1, on April 25, 1881. Taylor also had served 22 days from March 1 to March 23, and one of his first instructions was to recover the pistol belonging to the city, which had been kept by Meadows when he quit his job.

Next marshal on record was T. H. Reed who served from Aug. 17 to Oct. 19, 1881. The city dads made Reed put up $18 when they issued him a pistol and this money was to be returned when he turned in the weapon. Reed was booted from the job and James H. Stewart was the next appointee.

Baxter Stingley was appointed as of Nov. 8, 1881. Stingley was popular with the public and apparently was an efficient and obviously fearless law enforcement officer. Stingley was shot in the line of duty in the Memorial Day slayings of 1883, in which his deputy, James Bathurst was killed. Stingley recovered only to be murdered by Frank Reed that October. Reed was a well known desperado and killed Stingley when resisting arrest. About $3,000 in reward money was offered for Reed's apprehension, but no one seemed that interested in earning $3,000.

Stingley was being paid $75 a month at the time of his death.

Stingley's successor was John Wallich who had been marshal in the busy days at Maysville. In the Spring of 1884 the new city administration re-elected Wallich by popular request of the public. In September of that year changes of conduct unbecoming an officer were filed against Wallich and a special policeman, T. W. Page. Page resigned, and Wallich resigned while under suspension. The charges had been the outgrowth of something-or-other at the ball given by the IOOF-AOUW and Knights of Pythias lodges.

J. W. Fisher served awhile as as marshal, and then J. L. Furgeson. Next was a fellow named Murphy and when he resigned, William Sisk. About this same time, William A. Hawkins was booted as police judge because of malfeasance of duty. In 1886 M. Dolphin was named marshal, for $90 a month.

Bob Shewalter also served as marshal.

T. S. McKelvey was appointed marshal in 1890. McKelvey was a professional law enforcement officer, having been a prison employe previously. Later he was a special agent for the D&RGW.

The council had trouble deciding on the marshal's appointment in 1894. They finally decided that C. C. Stevens and Charles Ankele would alternate the day and night watches. It wasn't long until Stevens had enough of that and Ankele became the full-time marshal. Ankele served until January of 1898 when he became sheriff of Chaffee county.

He was succeeded by C. B. Hays who served a year before he got fired and I. H. Howe became marshal. Howe left in June of 1901 to become a guard at the state prison and he was replaced by F. T. Herzinger who kept law and order in Salida for several years.

Barkeeper Outwitted Traveling Gambler

George Stratton is one of those toney kind of gamblers who travel on their shape. He happened in at Stewart's saloon when Teddy Rowe was setting 'em up. Teddy threw six bits on the counter and while the barkeeper's back was turned, Stratton grabbed fifty cents so the story goes. The barkeeper told Teddy there was not enough money on the counter to pay for what was called so Teddy planked down more cash.

Somebody told the barkeeper that Stratton had taken the half dollar and thereupon the barkeeper followed Stratton out and boned him. Stratton drew a gun and threatened all manner of things. He was subsequently arrested, lodged in the calaboose because he couldn't find anyone to go his bail and was thence taken to Justice Bowne's court where he plead guilty and was fined $10 and costs. This he paid and went on his way.—Mountain Mail. June 22, 1882.

Skeleton Discovered Near Howard Saloon

J. H. Freeman found a skeleton at foot of a steep bluff 300 yards west of the depot at Howard, the Mail noted on Jan. 22, 1897.

This was directly in the rear of a place where a saloon stood nine years previously. A piece of willow basket and evidence of blood stains was found with the bones. The skull and basket were separate from the rest of the body.

The Mail said this was the third or fourth skeleton found within a radius of a mile of Howard in the past two or three years. "They tell a grim and ghastly tale of departed days of lawlessness and murder."

Burro Train Parade For Mineral Day

Salida sponsored a Mineral Day on Nov. 20, 1897 at which miners were honored. Various districts had minerals on display, all but Granite being represented.

Turret district made a parade of a burro train and typical camp characters. The Salida D&RG band furnished the music.

Mayor S. M. Jackson welcomed the guests for the program at the opera house. When the curtain was raised, the audience saw a mining scene and a sign, "We'll All Wear Diamonds Yet.'

The affair was a success beyond all anticipations, the Mail noted.

L. W. Craig of the Continental Divide Bank arrived yesterday afternoon with his bride. The marriage took place in Galveston, Tex. on Feb. 24. Mrs. Craig is the daughter of General Sydney Sherman, a prominent officer of the Confederate Army and was one of the first ladies of Galveston.—Salida Mail, March 9, 1886.

John Irwin Death Unsolved Murder

John G. Irwin, who lived in a little cabin on John Mundlein's ranch half way between Poncha Springs and Maysville was the victim of another of Chaffee county's unsolved murders, late in December, 1890.

Irwin was seated at a table, surrounded by gentlemen of the neighborhood, when the fatal shot came through a window. Irwin was in difficulty, about having circulated scandulous reports about W. H. Champ's daughter. The stories finally got into writing and reached Champ. Irwin apologized and was about to sign a retraction in Champ's presence when he took that quick trip into eternity.

Irwin was 57 years old, divorced and generally peaceable except on the subject of women. A Union soldier, he was buried in Poncha Springs cemetery.

A grand jury investigated the death and on Jan. 20, 1891, reported it could find no evidence leading to the identity of the murderer.

Disgruntled Mate Sets House Afire

Another episode in the general category of law and order occurred in Monarch and was reported in the May 30, 1890 issue.

The home of H. B. Benton at Monarch was set afire, and a warrant was issued for Thomas Stoops. The suspect was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Thomas Lucas in Salida, who later turned the prisoner over to Constable Jim Gant in Salida. The prisoner got away and Gant made no effort to get him.

Stoops had been married to Benton's daughter, Lottie. They were separated, one reason being that he had a wife back East. It was the belief that he threw an oil can and lighted papers in the window of the Benton home to take her life.

Consensus of opinion was that if Stoops showed up around Monarch he would be lynched.

Mine Explosion Proved As Murder

One of the more sinister stories of the 1890s regarded the murders of Charles Johnson and Oscar Carlson.

The first story, which appeared in the Salida Mail of June 2, 1899, reported that Johnson and Carlson, working in a mine near Newitt were blown to pieces by a giant explosion at the bottom of the shaft.

The story added that both men were known to be careless with dynamite. It added that just when the tragedy occurred hadn't been definitely established and that both men had families in Denver.

The next issue stated that Coroner Shelton found evidence of foul play. Carlson had been shot and indications were that the murder was in the shaft house, and the body was thrown down the shaft. Johnson also had been shot.

John Nordenberg, known to be an enemy of Carlson was arrested. He had been one of the pallbearers at the funeral of the murdered men and assisted in the lowering of the bodies into the graves.

Justice moved fast, even in the courts, and on July 21, 1899 the jury found Nordenberg guilty on two counts. It was determined that he shot both Carlson and Johnson, robbed them and then threw the bodies in the shaft, and tried to blow up the mine to hide the crime.

The newspaper reported that the jury was out for twelve hours, taking most of the time trying to convince one man. Two or three times the jury almost came to blows.

Sheriff Ankele took Nordenberg to Canon City for a life term. At that time the state had abolished capital punishment.

"Sheriff Ankele and Coroner Shelton are congratulated for their work in the Nordenberg case," the Mail stated. "They succeeded in convicting one of the worst criminals in the state."

Bale's Station Stagecoach Stop

Just east of Salida, along the Arkansas River, is a tract of land of historic interest. This is the land known three quarters of a century ago as the Bales ranch.

The site of the old house has been a camping ground for Spanish, French and American explorers and for hunters from early times. Lieut. Zebulon Pike was believed to have camped there or nearby in December of 1809 while on his famous exploring expedition.

William Bale settled there in the 1860s, according to some sources. The obituary of Mrs. Bale, in July of 1885, said that the family come to Colorado in 1863, first to Central City, then Denver and finally to California Gulch. They moved to the place below Salida about 1872. The Bales had three daughters including a Miss Cleora Bale.

When the gold excitement of Oro Gulch near the present site of Leadville in 1869 caused the establishment of the Barlow and Sanderson stage line up the Valley from Canon City, the place was made a station. The coaches made the trip in two days, stopping at Bales station for the night. It was to secure the location of the station permanently by providing accommodations of the passengers that Bale built a big rambling house, which was torn down in 1910.

The house was build of logs and nearly every white man in the valley helped in the "raising." The station was officially known as "South Arkansas" which was the original name for the town of Salida.

The Bales place was a business and social center of the valley, its importance increasing considerably when a branch stage line was run from it to the Gunnison country. It played no small part in the blody feud of the 1870s when the entire valley was a scene of guerrilla warfare.

From 1878 to 1880 when people were rushing into Leadville from all parts of the nation, the place fairly hummed with business, the house usually being filled to capacity. Often more people were camped outside than were inside. Many of the leading men of America and most of the leading men of Colorado in that day were guests at the house at one time or another.

With the advent of the railroad in 1880, Bale's station rapidly declined in importance and the famous old house fell into a state of decay.

Shooting Scrape Ended With Fine

Another wild and woolly escapade was recorded on June 3, 1887, involving a shooting scrape in downtown Salida.

Late Wednesday afternoon, Dan Byrne, a Monarch miner, attempted to shoot a sporting man by the name of McCourtney. McCourtney started to run. Byrne, said to be inebriated, pulled his gun and opened a fusilade that brought the entire town to the spot, and doubly quick.

McCourtney ran into Thurber's drug store, gave a leap and alighted on a glass show case. When thus posing a la wild turkey, Byrne took another shot at him and missed again. At this critical moment Boss Caswell got out of the store and Marshal Haynes rushed into the vacated space, capturing the shooter.

He found the other party behind a door. Hauled into police court, Byrne was fined $50 and McCourtney was glad to use his ticket to Montrose. The Mail recalled that the previous fall Byrne was badly injured when rushed by two men in Monarch after the election. It was believed that one of these men had been McCourtney.

Thomas Penrose has leased the Poncha Hot Springs hotel and will be glad to see all his old friends there.—Salida Mail, Jan. 3, 1893.

INTERIOR OF SALOON — This picture was taken inside a saloon back in the early days. Note the law enforcement officer wearing the star, in the center back. Persons in the picture are unidentified.

Gay Young Blades Of The 1890s Rode Bicycles With Vim And Gusto

Bicycling was quite the sport for the gay young blades (and their ladies) around the turn of the century.

A bicycle club was organized in the Spring of 1894 after a number of the local devotees had enjoyed a pleasant run along the mountain roads. Charter members were Harry Yates, Fred Paine, J. A. Rogers, Frank Moore, Arthur Hawthorne, A. L. Penhallow, Theodore Martin, Harry Williams, Newt Simmons, Fred Bateman and Walter Bateman.

Bicycle riding in those days wasn't confined to riding around a city block. The Mail on April 24, 1894, told how Walter Bateman and Orlando Preston started from Salida at 5 a.m. and rode to Saguache and back, a matter of 100 miles, reaching home at 5:50 p.m. They were met at the top of the range by F. L. Bateman, A. L. Penhallow, Andy Rogers and Pat Williams who rode part of the distance.

That same season, Fred Bateman rigged a sail to his bicycle and rode' by windpower instead of footpower.

Walter Bateman apparently was the pacesetter of the bicycle riders. The latter part of May, 1894, he rode to Leadville and return, starting at 4 a.m. and returning at 8 p.m. Bateman had to ride 20 miles on the railway because of a washout along the public highway. Some of his friends started the journey but dropped out at Buena Vista.

In the summer, Walter Bateman returned from Denver on his wheel, coming by way of Cripple Creek. According to the Canon City Clipper, he made some of the trip on the train.

Proctor Made A Mistake

The late Charley Proctor was involved in a bicycle mishap when a youth, back on Aug. 27, 1895. The Mail reported that young Proctor rented a wheel at Biddle's Shop and went out for a spin. On F street he met an express wagon and team belonging to Mr. Hodgman. The light was dim and Proctor thought the team was two horses being ridden with saddles. He attempted to pass in between and the venture was not entirely successful. Neither the boy nor the horses were hurt but the wheel was in a deplorable condition.

Gals Wore Bloomers

Women who rode bicycles back in those days were very daring—they appeared in public in bloomers and they probably caused as much of a stir as the introduction of the bikini bathing suit a few years ago.

Bicycle Rider Robbed

Riding bicycles had other hazardds' 10, as witness the case of Arthur Gillette, a high school senior who was returning from Howard while mounted on a wheel. This was May 8, 1896.

As young Gillette was passing a big rock, about halfway between Howard and Wellsville, two tough-looking men stepped from behind the rock and, covering him with a mean-looking gun, commanded him to dismount and hold up his hands. He had just $3.75 cash, no watch and no jewelry. The robbers refused to take a small reading glass because it was engraved with Gillette's name.

One of the men tried to ride the wheel but was unsuccessful and pitched it down the bank. A freight train appeared and the two men hastened to board it. Young Gillette made it home on foot.

Bicycle Relays Separated Men From Boys

Bicycle relays were quite an event in the Gay Nineties.

In October, 1895, when the IOOF Grand Lodge was in session in Montrose, the Governor put a message in a leather pouch and it was relayed to the Western Slope city by bicycle.

F. W. Livesley picked up the message at Cotopaxi, and rode to Coaldale where it was picked up by Harry Yates. A. M. Alger rode to three miles west of Howard, J. D. Whitehurst took it to a mile this side of Wellsville, and F. C. Paine pedaled to half a mile this side of the old stage coach house.

David Adams took the pouch to Poncha depot, Orlando Preston to half a mile above Mears, Arthur Jackson to a mile above Keen, Walter Bateman to the top of Marshall Pass and there it was taken by Gunnison riders.

One rider missed the road out of Canon City and a search party found he had taken the road from Parkdale to Silver Cliff. This lost five hours. Bateman made the last 9 miles in 69 minutes, walking over a mile on account of breaking his wheel. The total relay took 37 hours and 35 minutes. Incidentally, the Marshall Pass riders rode over the railroad track which was a rough ride.

Another relay started June 15, 1897 when the Mayor of Salida put a message in a leather pouch at 4 a.m. to be relayed the 225 miles to Denver by 7 p.m.

The road was mountainous, muddy and rough but the cicylists had figured out the time to the minute. Salida riders were Howard Hinton, Will Densmore, Riley Gilbert, Walter Bateman, Roy Kellogg, Frank Baer, Hubert, Minor, DeVoe, Will Love, F. M. Livesley and P. B. Smith.

The first four rode 26 miles, equally divided. All were crack riders. Among casualties, Bateman and Baer each had punctures.

The Canon City riders were to meet the local riders at Parkdale but they did not appear at the place scheduled. The Mail reports that it took about two hours to find them.

Poncha School Built In '82

(From The Poncha Herald, July 1, 1882)

The foundation for the school house is laid and the lumber for finish is being delivered on the ground. The brick are being burned near here, Mr. B. Furnish having the contract. This will be the handsomest and most costly structure of its kind in Chaffee county.

Claude R. Surcouff was married to Miss Mary E. Fenton by Judge Rose, at Rosedale, last Sunday. This was the first marriage ever performed at Rosedale.

At the regular meeting of the Poncha lodge No. 47, IOOF, officers elected were H. H. Fulton, noble grand, T. M. Boone, vice grand, C. L. Turner, secretary, and B W. Russell, treasurer.

The South Park road is now running construction trains through the tunnel to the Pacific slope. Soon the road will be finished to Gunnison City. The whole extent of the tunnel is being timbered with redwood, shipped in from California at an enormous expense.

From The Poncha Herald, April 1, 1882)

Last week Poncha was troubled with pole cats, this week it is the poll tax.

Mrs. L. G. King will re-open her private school at the school house next Monday morning.

A portion of the trees have been set out in our strets, the ditches are dug and the dirt and rubbish are being cleared up, greatly improving the looks of the town.

The Poncha Brass Band are making fine progress and in a few weeks, be able to play any piece as well any old band. Rumors are that the city will construct a band stand and the band will play two night a week during the summer.

Reports are that a school house has been completed at Nathrop and also a town hall. A large and commodious hotel is just about finished by the D&SP road. The D&SF owns 15 blocks near the junction and plans are to establish a division point.

Poncha Springs soon will have a $6,500 school and a Presbyterian Church.

A boy named Stratton was run over yesterday at he corner of F and First streets by a carriage containing two ladies. The boy was standing in teh middle of the street watching something and as the horse driven by the ladies was going at a walk they supposed he would get out of the way. He was knocked down by the front wheel and was unconscious for a minute or two, but was soon able to walk home.—Sept. 7, 1894.

Eddy Brothers Developed Mesa

The Eddy Brothers addition to the City of Salida—more commonly known as the Mesa—was developed by J. A. and C. B. Eddy before the new town was ten years old.

The Salida Mail of Sept. 23, 1887, reported that the Eddy Brothers had purchased a large tract of land lying on the nothwest corner of town. The men planned to lay off the land and in an attractive manner with broad streets, a large park or two and residence lots of good size.

The streets were to be graded and lined with trees. Later in the same year they obtained the right-of-way through all the ranches along the route of the proposed Poncha boulevard between Salida and Poncha.

Lots went on sale May 8, 1888 and were advertised from $100 to $350 per lot, depending on the location. By October of 1889 there were a mile and a quarter of 12-foot sidewalks on the Mesa. These sidewalks were sand with a covering of adobe which, when hardened, formed the best kind of pavement.

Plans were made to build five brick residences on the Mesa during the summer of 1888. Each was to cost $3,000 and each was to have furnace heat, bathrooms and electric lights. The first home on the Mesa was purchased by Peter Muvany for his bride, Dec. 4, 1888.

The 160-acre tract was annexed to the city as an addition the week of Nov. 18, 1887.

The east-west streets on the Mesa bear Indian names—Poncha, Ouray, Crestone and Shavano. The cross streets are named for early Colorado governors—Routt, Pitkin, Grant, Eaton and Adams.

The Eddy Brothers were said to be wealthy men, and they also developed the Pecos Valley in New Mexico. In 1889, C. B. Eddy was a member of the New Mexico constitutional convention. J. A. Eddy, who also was a Black Mountain stockman, was elected mayor of Salida in 1889.

IN THE NINETIES — This picture probably was taken in the late nineties. Looks like someone was headed for Hematite Camp and intended to make a clean sweep upon arrival. Bicycles were popular transportation in those days.

HOTEL — Poncha Hot Springs was developed early by residents of the valley. This picture shows the hotel which once stood on the hill near the Springs. C. H. Clark was the photographer.

Many People Took Hard Spills In Horse-Drawn Vehicle Accidents

Mrs. L. F. Cornwell and Mrs. H. D. Smith had one of life's little surprises that might well have turned into a tragedy, the Salida Mail reported on Aug. 6, 1895.

It seems that about 9 o'clock on Saturday evening, Mrs. L. F. Cornwell and Mrs. H. D. Smith were going up the Mesa sidewalk to Mrs. Cornwell's home. Mrs. Smith was pushing a baby buggy in which Mrs. Cornwell's baby was sleeping.

Just before rounding a curve in the walk a train passed behind them and Mr. Thayer's carriage was driving down the hill. They didn't hear four boys coasting down the walk in a hand express wagon.

A bicyclist was racing down the hill next to the fence, and was trying to crowd the wagonload of boys into the gutter. The boys, the women and baby, and the bicyclist met on the curve.

The bicycle handlebar struck Mrs. Cornwell's hand and she received a sprained wrist, but the bicyclist just kept right on going. The express wagon and baby buggy collided and all went into the ditch in a heap. The boys got up and left in a hurry. The Thayer horses almost ran away and Mrs. Smith was bruised.

For a few moments, the ladies couldn't fined the baby. She was found face down in the mud and water in the ditch, with the wagon body on top of her. The breath had been knocked out of the little body and this probably saved the child from drowning. She recovered soon.

In all the melee, Mrs. Cornwell lost her key. She took the baby to Mrs. Campbell's house and then went down to her husband's jewelry store to get another key.

Walter Kellogg met with quite an accident on Sunday evening while riding with his wife and her mother, Mrs. Jay, the Mail reported on Aug. 16, 1892. The king bolt broke, letting the front of the carriage suddenly drop to the ground, precipitating them all over the dashboard heads first. The horse and forewheels went on until caught a short distance from the place of the accident. Mrs. Jay was the only one badly hurt, receiving a deep cut on the bridge of her nose and lesser abrasions.

Back in May of 1888, a party of gentlemen was driving up from Wellsville three miles below Salida. Attorney Hagan was seriously injured. Riding in a two-seated carriage at a good pace, one of the bolts that held the pole of the wagon to the axle suddenly broke. The wheels turned across the road and caused the vehicle to be thrown down a steep embankment. Hagan had to be carried up to the railroad track where the westbound train was flagged and he was taken to the Monte Cristo.

And then, in March of 1895, as Dr. Eggleston was driving in to attend the GAR post meeting, something hit him like a rocket, and on investigation turned out to be Clarence Bunbury's milk wagon. Bunbury's man and milk cans were thrown to the ground as if shot from a catapult, and his horse ran on with the rig. Fortunately both men escaped serious injury. Damage was excessive. Cause for the collision was extreme darkness.

Bill Champ's horse and buggy were involved in a runaway in 1890. In front of Dr. Hallock's house on G, the buggy struck a tree, freeing the horse and throwing Champ in the air. When he came to, twenty minutes later he thought he'd been in a train wreck as there were several railroad men around. His first words were "Where many hurt in the wreck?"

Young Woman Died In Bicycling Crash

One of the tragedies of the bicycling era was the death of Mrs. Etta Norton, wife of G. H. Norton of Alger Pharmacy. The story appeared in the Mail of April 30, 1897.

Miss Lelia Hawthorne and Mrs. Norton were coming down from Poncha Hot Springs, walking along side their bicycles. Mrs. Norton, not realizing the steepness of the grade and against Miss Hawthornes's advice, started to coast down the hill. She rounded a curve and in a few minutes, Miss Hawthorne walked around the curve and found Mrs. Norton lying in the road and unconscious in a pool of blood.

Miss Hawthorne drew the injured woman to the side of the road, pillowed her head and ran back to the hotel. Mrs. Norton was taken to the hotel and then removed to the hospital in Salida where an unsuccessful operation was performed to relieve brain concussion.

It was presumed that Mrs. Norton had attempted to jump from her wheel and fell forward on her head. She never regained consciousness. Mrs. Norton, 23 years old and described as a beautiful young woman, was buried in Fairview cemetery.

The Riders Met— They Did Not Pass

At 6:30 p. m. Ben Disman was riding his wheel slowly down F street, by the park, about the middle of the street, the Mail reported on Feb. 11, 1897. Walter Minor, the boy who is locally famous for his trick riding, was scorching up the street as fast as he could turn a wheel. The two riders met but did not pass.

Disman got scratches, bruises, a bloody nose and bad fright. Young Minor was knocked unconscious and vomited severely. His wheel was a complete wreck.

Al Ryan Met Tragic Death

Al Ryan, an oldtimer in Salida, met with tragic death on June 9, 1887. Ryan had been in Colorado a number of years. He lived first at Leadville, then at Cleora and came up the river to Salida when Cleora was abandoned. His wife and children survived.

Ryan had started out with one of the bill-posting outfits for the Robinson circus, Charles Patterson being the poster, the Salida Mail related. As they weer returning to Salida about 4:25 in the afternoon, they drove up to the property of the Smelters' Marble & Lime Quarry, six miles below town.

They were driving briskly. Ahead, about 100 feet, was a crossing over the railroad track, and on the other side the wagon-road took a sharp turn to follow the iron track. Straight across the track was a bluff overlooking the river.

As they neared this point they heard the rush of the oncoming Leadville passenger, a couple of hundred feet away.

Of what followed, Charles Patterson made the following statement to a representative of the Mail:

"My home is in Marion, Iniana. Ryan and I were out posting bills. As we neared the spot we saw the train about 100 feet away. Ryan started to cras sthe track ahead of the train. I told him he couldn't do it. He replied: "We'll get across all right, stay in.' I jumped out immediately. The engine struck Ryan and threy him 30 feet over the bank int othe river. One horse was kille dand the other left. The wagon was smashed up."

Undoubtedly Ryan was dead before he touched the water as blood was found upon a rock where his head struck. The train was delayed half an hour while the crew joined in the search.

Col. Ed Cavanaugh and John Ensign were a short distance behind the Ryan team and as soon as they saw the situation, immediately commenced a search for the body near Pickett's wing dam at Wellsville Hot Springs. They crossed the river in a skiff, guided by a rope, much assisted by Miss Pickett, who was familiar with the working of the ferry. As they started across, Ryan's meerschaum pipe drifted within reach. After careful search no trace of the body was discovered.

Ryan's body was found several days later at Texas Creek. The Leadville train brought the remains to Salida. They were met at the depot by the Salida Hose company of which Ryan was a member. The hearse was followed to the cemetery at Cleora by nearly all the carriages in the city, the Hose company marching in full uniform. The Episcopal Church burial service was read at the grave by Maj. H. G. Burghardt, senior warden of the Church of the Ascension.

City Lived Through Two Bank Failures In First Decades--And No Insurance

Salida had two bank failures in the first twenty years of her existence. That was long before the day of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the depositors were stuck.

The Chaffee County Bank was the first to be located in Salida, issuing the first draft on June 1, 1880. W. E. Robertson had erected a brick building when there were hardly any other structures in town, and opened the bank. Robertson sold out a year later to the Hartzells who were operating the Bank of South Arkansas.

"Busted" was the headline on a story on Sept. 5, 1882, which announced that the Bank of Salida, and the Custer County Bank of Silver Cliff, also owned by the Hartzells had gone broke.

The day before word had gone round town that the bank was about to fold and depositors went in for their money. There wasn't any available, and W. J. Hartzell left on the noon train for Silver Cliff for currency to meet the demands here. The present complication had been brought about by the management permitting themselves to run out of currency.

The town of Salida had about $9000 in the bank and businessmen lost varying amounts. Some of the bank's assests had been loans to miners in the Silver Cliff community and they had been unable to repay. In a published statement it was noted that the bank had $67,287.26 in assets and $54,868.59 in liabilities.

That looked good on paper, but the assets included $42,484.50 due from other banks. All but $4.25 of the amounts due from other banks was charged against the Silver Cliff bank.

The Hartzells were placed under arrest. A number of criminal charges followed but none ever were heard in court.

The bank was reopened later in the month, again known as Chaffee County Bank and under the management of W. E. Robertson, who had moved to Canon City.

Several businessmen banded together to organize the First National Bank but it wasn't until Nov. 15, 1889 that the Craig Brothers and others organized the present First National Bank.

Robertson's banking career was also ill-fated. His Chaffee County Bank went broke July 1, 1893. His creditors ranged from A. L. Penhallow, a schoolteacher with 91 cents in his account to E. A. Thayer and Co. which had $2 544.90. The county treasurer had $18,023.33.

This was during the Silver Panic of '93 and the First National Bank also experienced a run by depositors and had to close for a couple of days.

Robertson was a broken man when he was arrested and because of his ill health was allowed to remain at home in custody of a deputy sheriff. A bookkeeper at the bank was also arrested and was returned here for prosecution for larceny but nothing was shown that he was criminally liable and he was exonorated.

In December a jury found Robertson guilty of receiving money in the bank when he knew that the institution was insolvent. Trial was held at Canon City. In January, 1894, he was under three year cumulative sentence for fraudulent banking. His attorneys filed in the Supreme Court, asking for a supersedeas on a writ of error but his was denied.

He went to prison a sick man, and newspaper reports were that he spent much of his term in the prison hospital.

It is too late now to kick, but it seems to us the architect of this town's plot ought to have a head put on him. The idea of streets but 60 feet in width and alleys 25 feet is ridiculous.—Mountain Mail, Jan. 19, 1882.

Frank Crozer has purchased the Hanford house in Cleora and will move it up to Salida.—Mountain Mail, Feb. 28, 1882.

Knights of Pythias Were Sued

July 7, 1882 — We are informed that there is soon to be music in the air in Salida over a suit for damages, the plaintiff in the case being Miss Lillian A. Browne and the defendants being J. W. Williams, O. V. Wilson, Max Dickman and other managers of the Knights of Pythias ball Thursday night. Suit will be brought to recover 20,000 dollars which if recovered, may deprive some of the defendants of their cigar money for a brief period . . . The suit is to be brought because of the fact that the parties named above, mangers of the Knights of Pythias ball, ejected or caused to be ejected the plaintfif from the ball room on the ground that she was not decent and respectable person and therefore unfit to associate with the guests at the party.

ROBERTSON BANK — This picture shows the Robertson bank that stood on the corner of First and F streets, following the big fire of 1886. The tall figure is identified as Mr. Carstarphen. Another one of Clark's photographs.

Bicycle Races Thru Pinon Canyon Added Color To Holiday Observance

Everybody turned out for the great road race in August, 1895. The course for the 12-mile race started at Tihrd and F street, crossed the Mesa to the top of Pinon Canon, southward to Poncha and back to Salida on the wagon road below.

Possible starters in the handicap had been listed as J. D. Whitehurst, Byron Graves, W. L. Morris, F. W. Livesley, Arthur Jackson, F. W. Tretcher, Arthur Hawthron, J. N. Simmons, Arthur Roller, David Adams, Orlando Preston, Walter Bateman, J. M. Bonney and D. C. Sindlinger of Buena Vista.

Actually there were six starters, with Tretcher coming in first in 43.03½, and he received a gold watch and gold medal for his efforts. Jackson was second in 46:-04½ and was given a silver medal and watch. It took Simmons 50 minutes to make the course and we earned a silver medal, rod and reel. Adams finished in 51:37 and received a selection of ties for his efforts.

A mile out Hawthorn caught Roller's rear wheel. The wheel was knocked out of line and he went out of the race. Roller got back two more miles when the pedal snapped and he had to walk in. There was considerable rhubarb over the whole affair.

Judges were J. J. McKenna, J. M. Collins and P. B. Smith. The prizes were given by the merchants.

Similar Route Memorial Day

The Memorial Day race of 1896 was another great event. The course was from the Mesa to Pinon Canon and back through Poncha, down the lower road and finally a half mile stretch down F street to the finish.

Ten of the thirteen starters crossed the finish line, the last man coming in in 62 minutes and 55 seconds. Of course a big crowd turned out.

Winners of the handicap race were W. E. Densmore of Salida in 42:39; followed by A. E. York of Pueblo, R. Gilbert and W. Bateman of Salida. Densmore received $50 first prize and a gold medal. He also was given a pair of Morgan and Wright tires.

Another Organized In '97

Another wheel club was organized in May of 1897 and the cyclists adopted a uniform of brown figured suits and caps, white sweaters, tan shoes and belts and golf hose to match the suit.

Officers elected were Wallace Schoolfield, president; F. W. Livesley, vice president; P. B. Smith, secretary; Herbert Exter, captain; A. M. Alger, first lieutenant; and George Ganser, second lieutenant.

The May road race in 1897 was quite a success. Bateman was first and Gilbert second around the 16-mile track. The race was run without serious accident.

Races Exciting Events

Bicycle races caused no end of excitement — before, during and after. The Mail, Aug. 23, 1892, reported that "an interesting event will be the coming bicycle race between Walter Bateman of Salida and Ed Krueger of Buena Vista." A forfeit of $80 was put up and the balance, $460 apiece, was to be placed previous to the race on Sept. 10.

The match was for $100. The D&RG ran an excursion train, leaving Salida at 7 a.m. The race itself was from Buena Vista to a point near Nathrop, about 11 miles. The track and the road ran parallel nearly all the way.

Bateman had an accident and lost the race. His pedal was bent so that it would not revolve, and leg in the tumble that bent the pedal. Bateman said that Krueger fouled him but the consensus was that Krueger would have won anyhow.

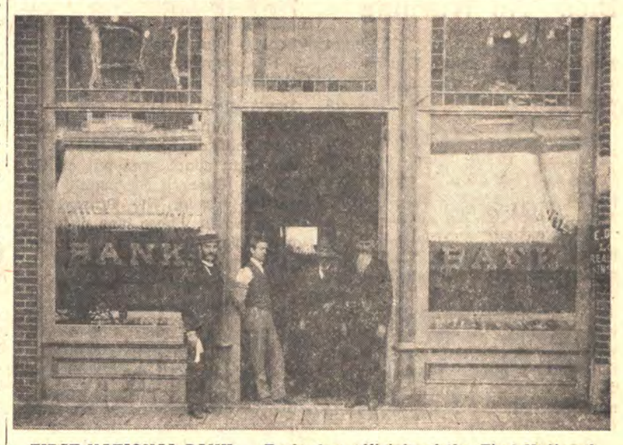
Miss Nelson Head Of Cycling Club

The ladies' cycling club and two junior organizations rode in the grand parade.

The Ladies' cycling club of Salida was organized May 5, 1896, with 21 charter members. Officers were Miss Cora Nelson, president; Mrs. William Rech, secretary-treasurer; Miss Lottie Ridgway, captain; Mrs. George Baldwin, first lieutenant; Miss Hattie Ridgway, second lieutenant. The colors were yellow and white.

The Mail of May 27, 1897 reported that the Ladies' Cycling Club had disbanded for lack of interest (imagine that!) But, the girls juvenile club was reorganized with Irene Whitehurst as captain, Daisy Droney as first lieutenant and Nellie Roller, second lieutenant.

We understand that Bender's hotel tonight is to be the scene of a gay wedding party. Miss Emma Zawachs and Mr. T. N. Youtzler (Jerusalem, but isn't that Dutch!) will be the principals and Justice Garrison will tie the knot.—Mountain Mail, April 6, 1882.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK — Early day officials of the First National Bank are shown above. The men are identified as Orlando Preston, Mr. Cotton, Judge Bowne and Mr. Chester. The photographers were White & Graham, New York Views.

Towns Born, Flourished, Died Young As County Developed 7 Decades Ago

Most of the communities that were flourishing when Emerson wrote his history of the Upper Arkansas Valley in 1881 are now just memories. Following is a brief history of some of the communities that have existed in Chaffee county.

Cache Creek joined the Arkansas at a point nearly opposite Granite. Gold was discovered early in the spring of 1860 and the town of Cache Creek once had a population of 300. The first post office in the county was at Cache Creek and the settlement was the only source for supplies and news from the outside world, for miners up and down the river. In 1863 Cache Creek was declared an election precinct.

Lost Canon also was in the north end of the county, with placer mines located above timberline on the mountain. Gold was discovered in 1860. The district had a shortage of water and the short season also produced difficulties. There was a reservoir with a self-acting headgate, automatically and continuously operating day and night discharging every hour or so often as the reservoir filled.

Granite, the second settlement of note in the county, was made an election precinct of Lake county in 1867 and became the county seat in 1868. Granite was the county seat of Lake county until the division in February, 1879, when it became Chaffee county seat. Discovery of the Yankee Blade lode and the Amizette in August, by W. L. Millard and S. B. Kellogg created an excitement that resulted in the building of two stamp mills at Granite. Numerous other rich veins were discovered and a town called Hawkinsville grew up about the mines about a mile east of Granite in 1869.

La Plata mining district is located between the Arkansas and the high ridges on either side of Clear Creek, coming into existence in 1867. In 1880 the town of Vicksburg was located and had a good hotel, several saloons, stores and post office. Ores produced in the district included lead, pyritous iron, galena and grey copper.

Cottonwood district is the area drained by Cottonwood Creek. The Gunnison toll road passes up the valley of the North Branch of the Cottonwood and crosses the main range at a low elevation.

Buena Vista, at the foot of Cottonwood Pass, was started in 1879, and was served in the early days by the D&RG and the South Park railroads. Later Buena Vista also was a stop on the Midland. The Buena Vista land company headed by Major W. M. Kasson set up the town, putting the profits in the building of streets, digging irrigation ditches and setting out shade trees. The center of the town was reserved for a park.

Buena Vista was the headquarters for gamblers, bunco men and desperadoes at one time but by 1881 the town had become more refined. At that time there were Catholic, Congregational and Methodist Churches and the contract was let for a $12,000 school building. They got the courthouse in 1880.

Cottonwood Hot Springs was located six miles west of Buena Vista and was the site of a hotel and sanitarium. The building was frame with gothic dormer windows, 40x80 main structure and two wings. The hotel had a bridal chamber, large bathing rooms and some cabins. The Adams and Hartensteins spent nearly $50,000 for the hotel and this was before the railroad came through. The furniture and materials was brought by freight teams from Colorado Springs. The water from the springs was used to treat catarrh, rheumatism and dyspepsia.

Trout Creek Mining district was discovered after the discovery of ores in Leadville. The settlement was known for years as Chubb's ranch. R. B. Newitt, proprietor of the ranch and others began prospecting and found valuable properties. An extensive vein of gold-bearing quartz was opened and a stamp mill was erected near the Arkansas river about a mile from the lodge. It wasn't much of a success.

Nathrop was the junction of the D&RG and the Gunnison extension of the Denver, South Park and Pacific. The town was located about a mile from the old Chalk Creek post office. Charles Nachtrieb and the railroad companies owned the townsite. The railroad built an elegant and commodious stone depot and Nachtrieb erected a large hotel.

Hortense was once known as Chalk Creek Springs. In the early days Dr. J. G. Stuart took up the lower spring, building a cabin, and the Rev. W. Dyer ("Father" Dyer) located a claim taking in the upper spring, which he later transferred to D. H. Heywood. In June and July, 1872, J. A. Merriam and E. W. Keyes located the Hortense Mining Claim on Mt. Princeton. Dr. A. E. Wright, Keyes and Merriam also built log cabins near the upper spring. In the fall of that year, the Chalk Creek mining district was organized, and in 1877 the Hortense post office was established.

The Springs were the hottest in the county, good for rheumatism and kidney ailments. There were two hotels for visitors.

Alpine had its heydey in the 1870s.. Mineral was discoverd in Chalk Creek in 1872 but population wasn't sufficient for an election precinct until 1875. Eastern capitalists set up a smelter, which didn't pay off, about 1875. In the summer of 1878 Foster Smelting Co. purchased the old smelter, remodeled the plant and met with success. The town had several hotels, stores, and, of course, saloons. F. A. Reynolds owned the bank with J. G. Cross as manager-cashier.

Four miles above Alpine was **St. Elmo**, starting place for the Virginia, Hillerton & Pitkin and Gunnison Toll Roads. The new town of Hancock was six miles above St. Elmo on the DSP&P. The St. Elmo Rustler was established at St. Elmo, then Forest City, Aug. 21, 1880, by Howard Russell. After the first issue it became the St. Elmo Mountaineer, and was published for four or five years, until the town folded.

Cleora was laid out by parties connected with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad in the summer of 1880, on a site about a mile below the mouth of the South Arkansas. The town was named Cleora for the daughter of William Bale.

The town grew rapidly in 1879 when it was a supply point for mineral camps with headquarters on the South Arkansas and in the Tomichi basin of Gunnison county. When the Santa Fe lost the Royal Gorge war, and a new town was laid out two miles above the site by D&RGW officials, the residents of Cleora took their merchandise and buildings to Salida.

Poncha Springs early became famous for the hot springs that burst out from the side of the mountain one mile up the pass. In addition there were numerous fine ranches in the community. The advent of the railroad in the winter of 1880 gave the town new impetus. At one time the town had a wild element but as the railroad went westward, so did the roughnecks. James P. True donated a library building and Mrs. Magruder gave 1600 books. The town had several hotels.

Maysville was the starting point of the Monarch Pass Toll road, leading through Arbourville, Garfield and Chaffee into the Tomichi mining district. A toll road also was under construction in the town's heydey, through the valley of the North Fork 12 miles, and to be extended to the head of Chalk Creek. Colonel Altman owned this road. The town once had a population of 1000, and two newspapers, the Chronicle and the South Arkansas Miner.

Arbourville was located 4½ miles above Maysville on the Monarch Pass road. A smelter was located here.

Garfield was more commonly known as Junction City. The area was rich in mining and included the Columbus which sold to a New York company for $100,000 about 1880. Ore was taken from the mine to mill by a wire tramway, gravity powered.

Chaffee City was a mile and a half above Junction city on the South Fork and was the location of the Monarch Mine from which the district received its name.

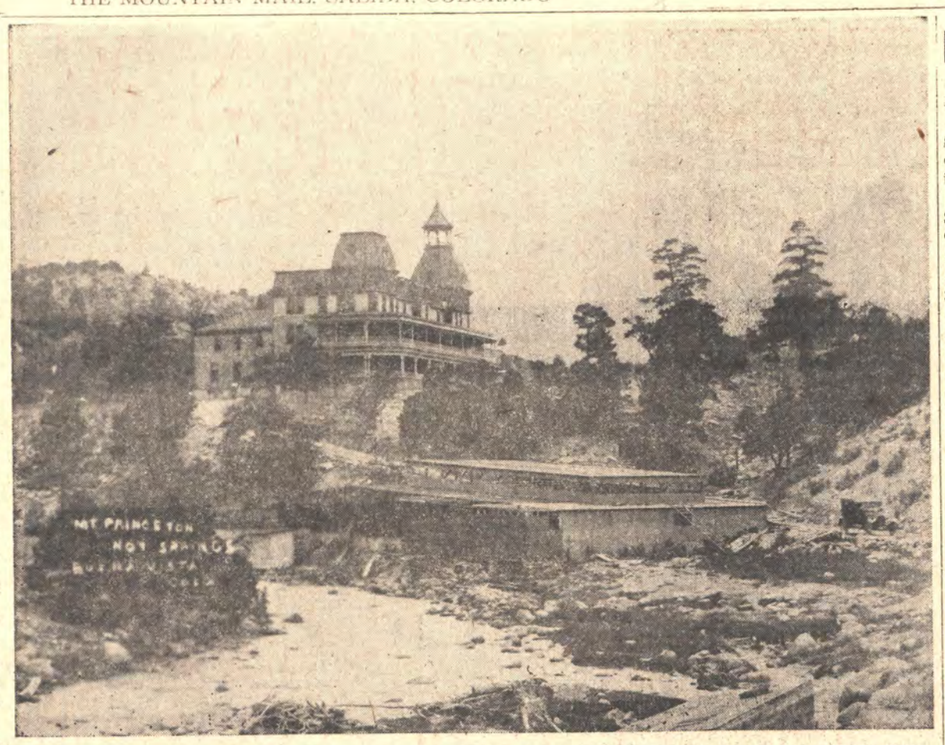
Red Mountain district was located in the northwestern part of the county on the headquarters of Lake Creek. Mineral was discovered in 1864 and created quite a stir. The district got its name because of the red color of the mountain. Difficulties of transportation, the low grade of ores and the want of facilities for treatment led to the

In summarizing Emerson said that from February, 1879 to 1881, valuation had increased from $409,000 to $1,649,990 and population rose from less than 800 to nearly 8,000.

Other towns that have had a brief part in Chaffee county history are Badger, plotted with 80-foot streets and located half a mile east of Badger Creek; Bullion, platted by A. T. Ryan, William A. Hawkins and S. S. Hawkins in 1879 probably near Maysville; Beaver (on Clear Creek); Camp Summit, Cameron; West Cleora; Cree Camp up North Fork; Clifton, on the North Fork; Hematite; Hancock, 35 blocks on the South Fork of Chalk Creek; Hilltop; Iron City; Kortz, known as Smeltertown, just west of Salida; Low Pass; Manow; McGee, on Trout Creek and DSP&P railroads;

Mears; Monarch; Midway; Newitt; Nelson; Otto; Pinon City; Riverside; Schwanders, south of Buena Vista on the DSP&P; Starrville, on Poncha Pass (must be Shirley) as plat shows dpot grounds and Gunnison branch of D&RG; Shavano, on the North Fork; Turret; Vicksburg; Winfield; Helena, South Arkansas (later became Salida) and Georgia Bar. Carmel post office was established on Cottonwood Lake in July, 1881.

J. A. Rogers has purchased a handsome fountain which will be put in place at the edge of the sidewalk in front of N. R. Twitchell's building, directly in front of Mr. Rogers' new saloon. The fountain has a basin for watering horses, which will be greatly appreciated by our citizens.—Sept. 23, 1890.



EARLY DAY RESORT — This picture shows the old Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Hotel, built about 1889 at a cost of $75,000. The hotel was built by a syndicate that purchased the old Heywood hot mineral springs property. Wilbur Thomas was the manager when the hotel was built. This picture was of twentieth century origin—note the old touring car in the right hand corner.

(From the Salida Sentinel, Jan. 31, 1883)

We are informed that the city of Buena Vista refuses to take her orders for license, and makes the businessmen of the place pay cash while those holding orders have to shave them at the bank at a ruinous discount. This is the first time we have ever heard of a corporation or individual refusing to take its own paper, and we are led to wonder if there is not a huge job in it on the part of the officials and money shavers of that town.

McIntire City's First Mayor; Officials Served One Year Terms

Following are the first city officials to serve the Town of Salida:

1880: J. E. McIntire, mayor; Robert Hallock; clerk; L. W. Craig, treasurer; Rodney Wyman, W. F. Galbraith, O. V. Wilson, R. Devereaux, trustees.

1881: W. A. Hawkins, treasurer; G. E. Gatliff, clerk; W. W. Roller, treasurer; L. W. Craig, O. V. Wilson, M. M. French, G. F Bateman, trustees

1882: O. V. Wilson (resigned) and M. M. French, mayor; G. F. Gatliff, clerk; W. W. Roller, treasurer; L. W. Craig, A. W. Jones, J. A. Israel, M. M. French, trustees.

1883: S. W. Westerfield, mayor; George Wheeler and J. B. Bowne, clerk; B. H. DeRemer, treasurer; E. H. Webb, Henry White, R. Devereaux and William Shaw, C. C. Laub, trustees.

1884: B. H. DeRemer, mayor; Dan Creamer, clerk and recorder; J. W. Fisher, treasurer; J. E. Barnes, J. P. Smith, E. W. Hively, S. O. Hervey, trustees.

1885: W. P. Carstarphen, mayor; Dan Creamer, clerk and recorder; N. W. Porter, treasurer; C. W. Woodring, D. P. Fuller, A. W. Lenardson, Thomas Ryan, trustees.

1886: L. Witmer, mayor; E. G. Bettis, clerk; M. K. Miller, treasurer; William Van Every, R. Devereux, Robert Patterson, George Sullivan, B. Amberson (resigned), L. Wenz.

1887: E. W. Corbin, mayor; E. G. Bettis (resigned) and C. E. Grapewine, clerk and recorder; J. J. Conover, treasurer; G. W. McGovern (resigned), S. M. Jackson, George Piper, A. J. Overholt, George Lines, A. C. Ridgway, B. F. McPheeters, trustees.

1888: G. W. McGovern, mayor; L. P. Rudolph, clerk; A. C. Ridgway, treasurer; A. J. Overholt, George Piper, George Lines, V. C. Davenport, R. Patterson (resigned), J. W. Wood, A. F. Duey.

1889: J. A. Eddy mayor; J. J. Conover, clerk; A. C. Ridgway, treasurer; M. K. Miller, A. E. Hanks, O. P. Titcomb, A. J. Grier, J. W. Deen, George Barnes (resigned), I. W. Wright.

1890: J. Gillett, mayor; J. J. Conover, clerk; Ben Disman, treasurer; J. W. Deen, A. E. Hanks (resigned), O. P. Titcomb (died), R. B. Hallock, J. W. Cummins J. A. Rogers, George Lines, D. A. Creamer, trustees.

1891: J. G. Hollenbeck, mayor; H. J. Burghart, clerk; C. W. Erdlen treasurer; L. Wenz, F. W. Arenburg, George Crater, J. W. Deen, George Lines, J. A. Rogers, trustees.

1892: I. W. Wright, mayor; H. W. Hauser, clerk; C. W. Erdlen, treasurer; L. Wenz, F. W. Arenburg George Crater, W. G. Sisson, Thomas Ryan and Joseph Droney.

1893: M. K. Miller mayor; H. W. Hauser, clerk; C. W. Erdlen (resigned and E. W. Hively, treasurer; J. Droney, Thomas Ryan, W. G. Sisson, George Crater, Alex Renwick, F. W. Brush, trustees.

1894: M. K. Miller, mayor; C. F. Johnson, clerk; E. W. Hively, treasurer; F. W. Brush, Alex Renwick, George T. Crater, D. P. Cook, F. L. Sheldon, A. Slater, trustees.

1895: Finla McClure, mayor; C. F. Johnson, clerk; E. W. Hively, treasurer; D. P. Cook, F. L. Sheldon, A. Slater, J. F. Clemm, J. F. Erdlen, R. T. Hodgman, trustees.

1896: S. M. Jackson, mayor; C. F. Johnson, clerk; E. W. Hively, treasurer; J. F. Clemm, J. F. Erdlen, R. T. Hodgman, F. B. Churcher, R. B. Hallock, George Montgomery, trustees.

1897: S. M. Jackson, mayor; C. F. Johnson, clerk; E. W. Hively, treasurer; F. B. Churcher, R. B. Hallock, George Montgomery, J. F. Clemm, W. G. Sisson, I. W. Wright (resigned), D. S. Watson, trustees.

1898: F. W. Arenberg, mayor; S. M. Jackson, clerk; E. W. Hively, treasurer; W. G. Sisson, J. F. Clemm, B F. McPheeters, R. B. Hallock, J. E. Hope, George Montgomery, trustees.

1899: F. W. Arenburg, mayor; John T. Ware, clerk; E. W. Hively, treasurer; R. B. Hallock, J. E. Hope, G. A. Montgomery, C. B. Coffin, C. W. Meacham, F. W. Tomlin, trustees.

Shavano Town Boomed In 1880

The town of Shavano—formerly Clifton—on the North Fork ten miles from Maysville had a population of 110 on Aug. 2, 1880, when a story about this booming town appeared in the newspaper at another booming town—Salida. (There were just two women in the town).

The correspondent wrote that the townsite was laid out a year before. Ninety acres comprised the townsite proper and McAleer and his partners had added another 40. The town proper had 30 cabins and more were being constructed.

Ground had been set apart for three smelters and a sawmill. Ground already had been given to a Philadelphia firm for a smelter. Construction was to start as soon as the road was completed and heavy equipment could be brought in.

Shavano at that time had two grocery-general stores. The first store was started by M. V. B. Shonyo, assisted by J. C. Calaghan. Another store had been started the previous week by F. H. Ringle and John Burghard of Denver, for the sale of groceries. Charley Wilson and Co. had a saloon. The two smith shops were owned by John Gorman of Iowa and F. R. Skipnith.

McAleer and Rice had a real estate in the mining office. This place also was headquarters for the Miners and Prospectors Union, of which George Nicols was president; F. R. Skipnith, vice president; and M. V. B. McAleer, secretary-treasurer. One hundred names were on the roll. McAleer also was agent for the sale of lots in the town.

Young Men Fought In War With Spain

Young men from Salida answered the country's call in the war with Spain at the close of the last century. On Aug. 8, 1899 a farewell for recruits going to serve with the 34th U. S. Volunteers in the Philippines was held at the opera house.

The GAR members and others participated. Of course the Scenic Line band played. Old soldiers gave talks and there was plenty of old-fashioned handshaking.

In fact the story in the Mail covered just about everything—except the identity of the patriotic young men who had volunteered for military duty.

Brief Bits Of '80-'81 Events

(From the Mountain Mail)

The work of transferring the old Ryan house from Cleora to the corner of F and Fourth streets has been commenced.—Nov. 29, 1881.

The number of scholars in the school is constantly growing larger. There are now about 55 in regular attendance.—Oct. 29, 1881.

The fire company No. 1 was organized in October, 1881.

Mrs. Thomas Boon, 72, a resident of the valley since 1875, died in October, 1881. She was buried in the cemetery midway between Salida and Poncha Springs where her husband and two sons are buried.

The town board at its meeting Monday night appointed Baxter Stingley marshal in place of J. H. Stewart, resigned.—Nov. 12, 1881.

Max Dickmann purchased lots at the corner of Second and in 1881, to build an opera house, 40 by 80 feet. Store rooms were to be located on the first floor and the hall on the second floor.

H. J. Hills has purchased three numbers in the old Elephant Corrall. He has purchased the old Talbot building in Cleora and will at once remove it to his lots above mentioned and fit it up for a restaurant to be occupied by Paul Marshall from Poncha Springs.—Nov. 19, 1881.

The editor's comment after Buena Vista won the county seat election in November, 1880: "Confound the county seat. It ain't worthy anyhow."

There are three gangs of men at work on the grade between Poncha Springs and the saw mill six miles up the route from Marshall Pass. The road will be completed to the saw mill as soon as the work can be done. It is probable that the old Santa Fe grade will be adopted in part, thus shortening the amount of grading to be done a mile or more.—Nov. 20, 1880.

Mr. Webb secured enough money by subscription to foot the bills for incidental expenses of the school, including seats, rents and fuel.—Nov. 20, 1880.

(From Salida Daily News, Nov. 19, 1883.)

The grocery house on First street, next door of Devereaux' saloon will be opened in a few days by James McNulty of Canon City. He was formerly foreman of the D&RG masonry corps.

Miss Ohmerts is having a well dug near her new cottage in the west end.

The city council will be directly responsible for all the property lost by fire unless sufficient hose is obtained.

The mail from this place for Poncha is usually carried to Salt Lake and delivered on the return trip, requiring about three days for a letter to reach Poncha, six miles distant.

(This above items appeared in Vol. 1, No. 72 of the Daily News. W. B. McKinney was listed as editor.)

Upset In Runaway

Frank Renwick and wife met with an accident Tuesday that very luckily did no serious damage. They were out driving when by some way the horses, which are colts, started and getting the best of Mr. Renwick, upset the carriage in front of Wm. Carpenter's jewelry store, throwing both occupants out. The carriage righted itself again and the horses continued on their course to the depot where they stopped. Neither Mr. or Mrs. Renwick were injured other than a few slight bruises.—The Mail, Aug. 5, 1892.

Baldness is either heredity or caused by sickness, mental exhaustion, wearing tight fitting pants, and over work and trouble. Hall's Renewer will prevent it.—Salida Mail, Nov. 28, 1893.

Pioneer Jeweler Caught Embezzler

L. F. Cornwell, a pioneer jeweler in Salida was the victim of a theft by an employe in 1889. He got his man, but it took a lot of chasing on cornwell's part to get it done.

The Mail relates that Henry T. Strauss, a young Jew employed by Cornwell as a watch repairman and clerk, took advantage of his employer's absence, packed up $3000 worth of jewelry and $75 in cash and left on the train. Trainmen later said that he told them he had given a man at Howard the wrong watch by mistake, and was enroute there. The trainmen thought that a rather strange reason for a trip, but "Strauss was eccentric anyhow and we didn't think much about it."

A neighboring merchant, noticing Strauss' absence, wired Cornwell at Monarch. He wired back the combination of the safe, and sure enough, there had been a theft. Immediately, the word was sent to trainmen and officers.

Chased Him To Pueblo

Cornwell received word that Strauss had got off a train at Pueblo, so he started in pursuit on a light engine. At Pueblo he found that Strauss had stolen a small amount there, and concluded that he was a specialist at that "trade."

Strauss was picked up at Norton, Kans., but a telegram became waylaid in Pueblo and by the time the sheriff got it, he had turned Strauss loose.

In July, 1889, Strauss was located in arrest in New Orleans. Deputy Sheriff Frank B. Keyes went to Louisiana for him. Governor Casper signed requisition papers only on condition that the state be released from the expense of bringing the criminal back. A petition was presented the governor, protesting the action as Strauss was already under arrest by a grand jury for embezzlement and Cornwell had gone to great expense in an effort to capture the thief.

When Keyes arrived in Louisiana Stauss was very seedy in appearance and denied he was the fellow they wanted. He was returned anyhow.

Prisoner Scared To Death

When the train reached Florence a message was received from Salida by the conductor, asking if Strauss was on the train. The conductor solemnly approached Strauss and told him that the citizens of Salida had telegraphed to know if he was on the train, and that they were making preparations to lynch him upon his arrival. The poor wretch wilted completely and begged the deputy sheriff to leave the train before he arrived in Salida. When he saw the crowd at the station he knew that his hours were numbered.

By the time the Mail went to press, Strauss had already been indicted by the grand jury and was to "languish in durance vile" until the September term of court.

Strauss was tried in September, after having admitted that he disposed of the loot in Kansas City. The only defense offered was that the indictment was faulty in charging Strauss with embezzlement instead of larceny. The jury didn't see it that way and found him guilty. Strauss was sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary.

Sued Western Union

The Governor finally relented, after District Attorney Garrison went before him, and allowed the state to bear the cost of returning Strauss from Louisiana. Cornwell had put up the money at the time.

Cornwell sued Western Union for damages incurred due to the delay in delivering messages and obtained a judgement in district court in January, 1891. A new trial was ordered, however, owing to the manner in which the jury arrived at the amount of damages given in the verdict.

Mail Said Tabor's Greatest Fault Was His Generosity

The Salida Mail had five paragraphs on page two regarding the death of one of Colorado's most famous pioneers, H. A. W. Tabor. The former senator was nearly 69 when he died.

The Mail, April 11, 1899, reported that after he went broke, Senator Wolcott, without solicitation, secured for Tabor the Denver post office.

"With this everyone was pleased. No malice was held against the old man who had done so much toward building up Denver, Leadville and the whole state. All were sorry for him and were glad of this act on the part of Senator Wolcott.

"And now the old man is dead; his greatest enemy was himself; he was everybody's friend; too generous for his own welfare," the Mail noted.

The story listed only his son, N. Maxy Tabor, manager of Brown Palace hotel as his survivor. Although the story mentioned his first and second wife difficulties, his beloved Baby Doe and their two daughters were not included among the survivors.

Mardi Gras Festival In Early-Day Buena

(From the Chaffee County Times at Buena Vista, Feb. 2, 1883.)

Sealed proposals are being taken for the water works.—J. E. Cole, mayor.

J. Hummel of Granite offers to trade seed potatoes for a cow.

Plans are being made for the Mardi Gras carnival. The committee was Jos. Vogle, L. H. Waters and E. L. Lawrence, John Tretchter, chairman and P. A. Leonard, secretary.

Charley Menger, late night watch here, better known as "One-Eyed Charley" shipped out the first week in January leaving unpaid board bills and numerous creditors of whom he had borrowed money.

(P. A. Leonard was listed as proprietor of the Times, then in its fourth year of publication. The pages were large, 8 column sheets.)

Another Dream Railroad

The Colorado Springs, Cripple Creek and Western Railway was incorporated in 1896, according to a story in the Feb. 28 issue of the Salida Mail. The terminal was to be at Salida. Winfield S. Stratton was one of the incorporators.

West'ners Sometimes Forgot Hospitality When Illness Struck

Tradition has it that the Western people were very hospitable—and they were. But there were times when even Western hospitality came in second to dread illness.

The Mail of April 15, 1890 told the sad story of the S. J. Nicholls family. Two little boys 4 and 6 years old died of scarlet fever and diphtheria. The mother was under opiates.

The little girl, nine-years-old was sent to friends at Brown's Canon who brought her back and left her on the street. No one in Salida would take her for fear of fever. Finally a room was obtained for her and it turned out that she had tonsilitis. The child couldn't be admitted to the county hospital without a meeting of the county commissioners and the mayor had no jurisdiction.

Another child, an infant, had to be kept from the mother. Needless to say the father was almost broken down under the strain.

Common causes of death in 1890 were typhoid, consumption, cholera morbus, diphtheria, cholera infantum and pneumonia. In most instances, if a person became ill with one of those dread diseases it was high time that he made peace with his Lord.

Townbuilders . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

The issue of July 10, 1880, stated that the population of Chaffee county as returned by the enumerators was about 7500.

The bridge across the Arkansas river at the foot of F street was progressing rapidly. Chaffee county bank had moved into a brick building that boasted a tin roof. The building was 20x40 with a 14-foot ceiling.

There had been excitement of another sort, too, as witness this paragraph: Last Sunday evening a laborer on the railroad grade above Poncha Springs shot and killed one of the bosses. The men who did the killing surrendered himself to the authorities. He had a preliminary examination before Judge Pinckney of Maysville and was acquitted. The affray grew out of a dispute over the purchase of supplies. The deceased pulled the defendant out of a wagon and beat him, and later picked up a carving knife and was going to cut his heart out. The defendant then shot him.

(No names were mentioned in the story.

St. Elmo Paper Ran Five Years

St. Elmo had a flourishing newspaper, the St. Elmo Mountaineer, for five years. In its fifth year, Howard Russell was proprietor, for Colley and Watts, publishers. Russell later worked on newspapers in Salida.

The issue of Jan. 13, 1885 reported that Pat Hurley had nearly finished harvesting his ice. The crop was well matured and stored away in first class condition. Charley Seitz was navigating a toboggan between here and Tin Cup on Uncle Sam's mail route.

The issue of March 7, 1885, reported that the St. Elmo public school closed last Wednesday with a good record. The teacher, Miss Kendall, "has given general satisfaction and all persons regret her departure." Miss Kendall went to Gunnison to start another school.

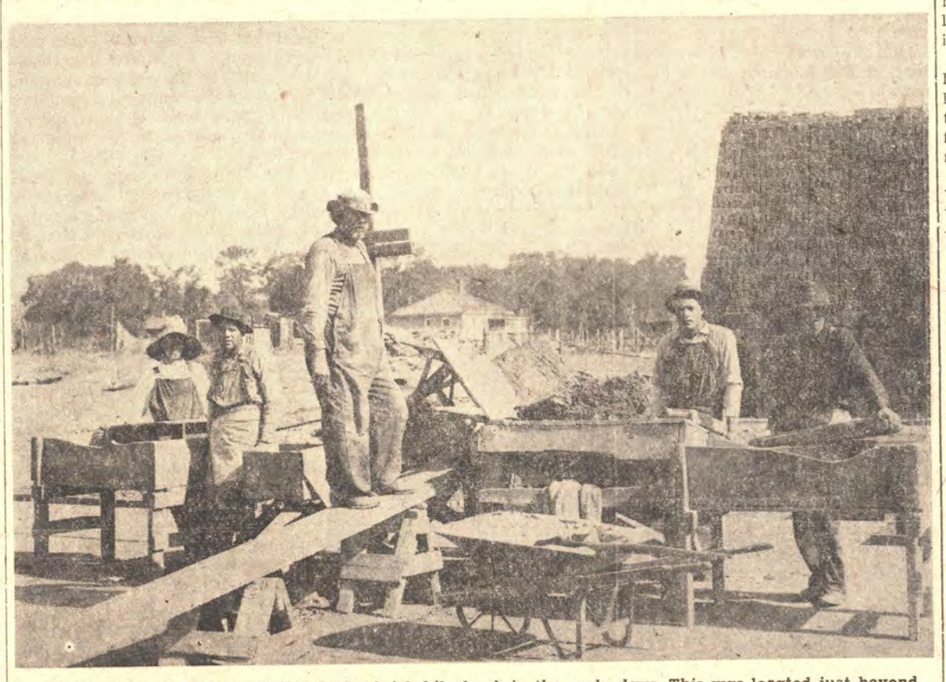
The issue of April 25, 1885, had Buena Vista notes containing this item: The resolutions of the vestry of Grace Episcopal Church, published in the Democrat this week, sustaining the Rev. Benj. Hartley against the blackmailing attack of Agnes Leonard Hill are to the point, but ungrammatical . . . The Episcopal congregation will soon begin building a brick church on Main street.

Wonder what Buena Vista will do with the $2,300 of Cottonwood road money? They ought to open the road anyway.

While in Buena Vista this week we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Scheimmerhorn, the new South Park roadmaster, recently appointed.

The Mountaineer joined the ghosts on Sept. 29, 1885. The editor wrote, "The newspaper business must have a good, substantial, paying business in order to prosper and furnish its readers with good and reliable reading matter."

One other item in the issue stated that "Cronk, who used to work in the yard at this place is now in charge of a train. He made a run up here one day this week."



EARLY DAY INDUSTRY — Salida had a brick kiln back in the early days. This was located just beyond the Denoyer place and many of the early day Salida houses were constructed from brick fired here. Roy Knickerbocker's father is in the center of the picture.

CHARCOAL KILNS — The above pcture shows charcoal kilns, and a look at the terrain would indicate that the picture might have been taken at Howard. Similar kilns also operated in Brown's Canon and elswhere. Charcoal was made from pinon wood and was used in the smelters.

Pioneers Figure . . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Lakes and later to Granite where he mined for seven years. Then he moved onto a ranch at Riverside where he farmed, and also mined, cut timber and burned charcoal. He also had been clerk of the district court, Lake county sheriff, U. S. Assessor and county commissioner.

John W. O'Connor, M. D., came to Maysville from Denver in 1880 and built a lucrative practice. He was one of the city trustees in 1880, city treasurer in 1881 and a member of the school board. Dr. O'Connor was surgeon for the D&RG at Maysville. Later he was one of those instrumental in the opening of the railroad hospital in Salida and in 1888, became chief surgeon for the railroad.

Elias Orton came to Colorado in 1875, engaged in mining at Trinidad, Lake City and Cleora until 1879. He had half interest in the Silver Queen Mine at Gunnison and sold that a profit. He bought a ranch and built a nice residence two miles from Poncha Springs around 1880.

J. S. Painter was a lawyer and editor of the South Arkansas Miner at Maysville. Before that he had been editor of the Daily Clipper at Buena Vista.

Samuel D. Quaintance managed the Quaintance Hotel in Poncha Springs. He had been in Colorado since 1860, and followed the progress of the South Park railroad in operating eating houses at Como, Weston and Buena Vista.

Col. William W. Roller moved in from Colorado Springs when surveyors still were laying out the town of Salida in 1880. He was in the furniture business and latter the partnership of Roller and Twitchell sold real estate.

James W. Rule was a successful stockman. He came to stay in 1866, did placer mining in California Gulch 2 years, then in the Arkansas Valley near where Salida now stands.

Charles E. Seitz setlled in Centerville in Lake County in 1874. In 1880 he surveyed and helped lay out the town of St. Elmo. He was the first postmaster and first town clerk and recorder there, and, in 1881, was elected trustee. He also was secretary of the St. Elmo Land Improvement Co.

Fred M. Tompkins was an editor of the Poncha Herald. He had been a printer on the Democrat at Leadville. Then he started the True Fissure at Alpine which experied with the town in the middle of January, 1880. He then took editorial charge of the Chaffee County Press at Nathrop and finally assumed control of the Poncha Herald. "May he live to herald the substantial growth of Poncha Springs until she shall rival the prosperity of other famous watering places in Colorado" —that was the wish of Emerson, the county historian.

I. G. True and **James P. True** were town fathers of Poncha Springs. I. G. True was a miner. James P. True moved to Poncha Spring in 1875, laid out the town in 1877, and engaged in general merchandising, stockgrowing and prosepecting.

Philo M. Weston came to Colorado in 1859 and for the next two years was in different camps. In 1861 he went to South Fork, crossing over the pass which has since born his name (Weston Pass.) In 1867 he moved to Twin Lakes, in 1868 built the first house in Granite and moved there to engage in mining and kept a boarding house. In 1870 he located a ranch on Cottonwood Creek, and in 1876 built an elegant stone house "with all comforts of an Eastern home."

James T. Wilson ran a livery stable in Colorado Springs from 1872 to 1876. He returned to Missouri but came back to Colorado in 1879 and bought into the Chrysolite Tunnel property in Chaffee county. In 1881 he formed the St. Elmo mining and smelting company.

James W. Yelton was foreman of a coast surveying party and in 1877 went into the mercantile department of Best, Clark and Co. at the end of the track of the Denver, South Park and Pacific railroad. In 1881 he went into the drug business with Dr. Manary in Buena. That same year he was elected one of the trustees of that city.

Others, who were early day Salidans, included:

William Van Every who died of typhoid fever in 1892, was estimated to be worth $100,000. He was a Canadian by birth. In 1879 he and his brother leased the Hannibal and and St. Joseph railroad. When the lease expired he moved to the valley where Salida now is located and purchased with Goveroor Hunt, the entire valley. He erected the first house here and named the new town South Arkansas. At the time of his death he owned about 20 cottages, valuable mining property and was a stockholder in the First National Bank and in the Opera House association.

Elias H. Webb had been in partnership with E. W. Cobkin at Cleora and Salida. They had a mercantile business handling groceries and mining supplies with branches at Malta, Bonanza and Sargents. Later he went to Denver and was elected sheriff of Arapahoe county. He died in 1898 at the age of 54.

Justus E. Barnes, who died in 1898 at the age of 43, had lived in the locality since 1876. He had gone through the ranks of the D&RG and was an engineer on the second and third divisions.

Dr. A. J. Lanterman, another wealthy man had lived in the county since 1878 and died in Buena Vista in 1898. At one time he was associated with Dr. Mattoon in Salida. He had been a professor of anatomy at Bellevue hospital in New York City before coming to Colorado.

David L. Sneddon was 48 years old when he died in 1899. He came to Colorado in 1879 and in 1888 located on Squaw Creek four miles from Salida. He left 9 children. His brother, **Richard,** died shortly after from a similar cause—pneumonia preceded by miners consumption. He left six children. The Sneddons were natives of Scotland.

E. Ruefly who died in 1899 had lived in Salida from the beginning of the town until his death.

John T. Blake was a frontiersman, Indian fighter, politician and buinessman. With Governor Hunt he platted the town of Salida and returned to Kansas City in 1886. He was estimated as being worth nearly a half million dollars when he died.

Leonard Witmer, 61, was a pioneer merchant, former mayor and member of the GAR. In the early days he had been a merchant. Financial reverses cost him his health and most property and he went to the soldiers home shortly before his death in 1899.

Frank Crozer had been agent at Cleora and then at South Arkansas. In 1899 he established a drug store which he managed until his death in 1897. He was 51 when he died.

Thomas Cameron, 69, was the oldest settler in the valley when he died in 1897. He came to this section in 1860, first locating in California Gulch. He took up a tract of land which since 1867 had been his home, being one of the earliest ranches. He also took up large tracts of hill land east and north of Salida. Cameron mountain was named for him. He was a pioneer in the Odd Fellows in this section. His wife formerly was Elizabeth Boon and they had nine children.

Peter Mulvany, an Irishman, never recovered fully from an attack of typhoid fever and died in 1899 when he was 56 years old. Mulvany had been here since the town had been called South Arkansas and was a dealer in farmers and builders supplies. He owned considerable real estate in this city. At one time Mulvany was a contractor for Santa Fe Railroad construction.

General Alex McD. McCook also figured in the really early history. He was here when Chiefs Ouray and Shavano claimed sole jurisdiction over the valley and pastured their sheep along the Little Arkansas. McCook rode over Poncha Pass in 1954 enroute to the San Luis Valley.

Ben Disman came to Salida in 1884 and did an extensive business in a clothing store at First and F street.

The Craigs came to Salida as merchants. An 1884 directory lists D. H. Craig, and L. W. Craig as being in the dry goods business, and L. D. Craig as a clerk. Later L. W. and D. H. Craig were managers of the Continental Divide Bank and the Craigs were directors of the First National Bank when it was organized. **Sam Sandusky** was a clerk in the Craig store in the early days.

George and John Lines had a cigar factory in the early days with their factory on F street near First. Their most popular cigar was the Boodle.

The Rev John Wallis Ohl was rector of the Episcopal Church here fo rabout 20 years. Before entering the priesthood he worked on a newspaper in Gunnison. He was also chaplain for the county and for railroad men. He was grand prelate of Knights of Templar in 1896.

Philander Simmons was the pioneer of pioneers, having been in the area ten years before McCook. He located a mineral claim a short distance downriver ten years before 1899. Simmons lived in cavity in a rock, off charity and sometimes in the county hospital. In the year 1844 Simmons had traveled up the Arkansas river to where Canon City now stands. Ute Indians had camped at the springs near the present prison site during the winter. To provide meat the Indians drove herds of buffalo westward beyond the Grand Canon (Royal Gorge) into the valley where Salida now stands. At the times meat was needed the Indians cut out a number of animals needed and herded them down to the springs to be slaughtered.

E. B. Jones died in August, 1899. He had lived here since the town was born and was a charter member of the Odd Fellows. He was a large property owner, Democrat, and had been city treasurer and city clerk.

"Banjo Jim" is no more, the Mountain Mail reported Sept. 5 1899. "His familiar figure and his omnipresent banjo will be no more be seen on our streets for 'Jim' has passed on to his eternal reward," the item stated. He was James Brown, age 49, a victim of typhoid fever. He was buried in potter's field at Fairview after Father Ohl had read the service of the Episcopal Church.

Robert M. Ridgway died in 1908 at his home in Lawrence, Kans. Ridgway had been roadmaster for the Union Pacific at Lawrence before coming to Colorado about 1880. He was superintendent of the fourth division with headquarters in Antonito, coming to Salida in 1884 as superintendent of the second and third divisions, serving nearly 15 years.

The Thayers were also prominent in the early days. Thayer was manager of the Monte Christo hotel. Mrs. Thayer wrote a book on wild flowers of Colorado. She also was an artist and made several of the memorial windows in the Episcopal Church.

ANOTHER OLDTIMER — One of the first businesses in Salida was Webb and Corbin groceries. This old frame store was moved from Cleora to South Arkansas in 1880. Children are identified as Libbie and Winnie Webb. W. E. Robertson, Mr. Ayres and Mr. Webb are standing on the platform.

ST. ELMO — This is how one of Chaffee county's pioneer towns appeared in 1911. The town of St. Elmo had survived several bad fires. The White Front burned in 1890. There was a serious fire in January, 1898, and the next year one of the new buildings, the Whittenberger Mercantile was destroyed by a blaze. Whittenberger had done the principal business in St. Elmo up to the time he was burned out.

Maysville Miner Printed In '80s

(From South Arkansas Miner at Maysville, April 30, 1881)

The toll road over Monarch Pass will be open to the public in a few days.

The new arrivals here are about 20 a day and in three or four weeks they will increase to 100 a day.

The C. C. and I. company have recently purchased some iron mines near Brown's Canon on the Rio Grande railway.

This issue ends the first volume of the South Arkansas Miner. We had intended to change the name with the beginning of the second volume, but so far have been unable to get the kind of a head we desire.

There is some mining activity in Boss Camp, on the north branch of the North Fork.

(From Maysville Miner, February 4, 1882)

A big strike is reported in the Billing's tunnel on the North Fork.

A very pleasant little party was had in Arbourville last week. Dancing and a thorough good time was the result.

St. Elmo Mountaineer is the latest paper to get bamboozled by John C. Fitman. It gave the old bore a fine puff recently and he is happy. Fitman is the most consumate burlesque on a lawyer we have ever known.

A new bank was opened at Poncha Springs on the first of the month. It is called the Merchants and Miners Bank and will do a strictly first class banking business. H. C. Hayden, Esq., is the cashier.

An effort is on foot to establish a Methodist Society at this place.

(From the Maysville Miner, Jan. 21, 1882)

The Columbus stamp mill at Columbus burned to the ground and this is a severe blow to the area. The loss estimate was $75,000.

Mollie Ledford, formerly of Maysville, is in Buena Vista walking in the ways of the strange women whose paths lead to destruction.

Miss Gardner opened her school last week.

G. W. Van Allen has been appointed city marshal during the illness of R. B. Rives who has held the office for the last two months.

Charles Grapewine of Junction City says that the next time he comes to Maysville he will be accompanied by a French dictionary for when he dines at the Feathers House he finds one necessary.

(From Maysville Miner, April 1, 1882)

A Leadville washwoman was robbed of diamond earrings pin, with other valuables. A wash woman sporting diamonds would seem odd outside of the Carbonate Camp.

The old ware and ore house at the corner of Thirteenth and Colorado avenue has been removed. It is said that a large building to be used as a hardware store will be erected on the lot.

The town of Maysville was offering several hundred lots for sale, cheap. The town claimed to have 1000 population.

John Broll was killed in an accident in the Monarch Mining Co. tunnel.

It is rumored that the Lady Gay dance hall is to be closed for want of custom.—Mountain Mail, March 8, 1882.

Nathrop Bustled When Rail Center

Nathrop, then a bustling railroad town, had a newspaper in the fall of 1880. A copy of Vol. I., Nov. 6, published Nov. 13, 1880, is on file with the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka. W. C. and W. F. Tompkins were editors and publishers.

The town had voted for incorporation on Oct. 23, 1880, with 26 voting in favor and none against. Julius C. Hughes, county judge and acting clerk, declared the town incorporated as of Oct. 28, 1880.

An election was to be held at A. T. Levy's store on Nov. 16 to elect a mayor, clerk and recorder, treasurer and four trustees. Election commissioners were J. R. Kennermur, N. W. Bedsworth, B. M. Clark, W. S. Myton and A. T. Levy.

Among the advertisers were Charles Nachtrieb, hardware; Evans & Bro., groceries; W. T. Carpenter, general merchandise; Witkowski and Dunbar, which had a four-horse daily hack line from Heywood Springs, Alpine and St. Elmo for Virginia City and Pitkin, headquarters in Alpine.

Clark and Tompkins, physicians and surgeons at Nathrop; J. C. Gilray was manager of the Palmer House.

Following are some of the items appearing in the newspaper: F. F. Dumont, of the firm Dumont Bros., merchants at Alpine, was in town yesterday. Fred is a first-class fellow and reports business in Alpine as flourishing.

Mr. Chas. Nachtrieb has begun the erection of a new store 50x100 feet, near the South Park road, on West Fifth street, to accommodate his extensive business.

Mr. O'Malley, an Alpine saloon keeper, was arrested in this place last night, while at attempting to leave behind him a remembrance of certain bills not met and overdue.

The construction train on the South Park road was running last Tuesday, within half a mile of the falls of Chalk Creek. A heavy force was at work on the grade at the head of the falls, and across the flats along the creek to the crossing of the county road, closing up the gap at that point.

The returns of the election were opened at Granite yesterday. The vote stands Buena Vista 1092, Nathrop 855, Salida 159, and scattering 75. Of the vote given. Buena Vista with a population of 1200 cast 38 more than half. It was a busy day among the voters of that place, and they must have hurried up business rapidly to have made the round twice.

People Lived Long Time

The Salida Real Estate Guide, published by W. W. Roller, had this item in its April, 1885 issue: The only undertaker in Salida tells us he does not average 10 coffins a year.

AYRES HOTEL — One of the first buildings in Salida was the Ayres Hotel and Meyer and Dale Groceries, as shown in the above picture. Picture was believed to have been taken in 1880.

Charley Nachtrieb Outstanding Pioneer

One of the many young men who crossed the plains to make his fortune in the mining camps of the West was Charles Nachtrieb. The young man met with success but met death two dozen years later as the final act of the Lake County War. The Nathrop settlement was named for Charley Nachtrieb.

The man who later was an early settler in Lake county (Chaffee county was part of Lake county until 1879) had been born in Germany, April 20, 1833, and came to Baltimore with his parents when he was quite young. He went to the common schools of Baltimore.

In 1859 the young man crossed the plains with the gold rushers, bringing a small stock of goods for a store with him, which he sold in Denver for a year. In 1860 he went to California Gulch (near (near Leadville) where he engaged in merchandising. There he found 2000 men and 36 women, and for a man of his obvious ingenuity and energy he probably made a good living. He seems to have been successful in many ways.

To Taos For Flour

The flour supply gave out completely in California Gulch in 1862. Nachtrieb took a pack outfit with a 17-year-old boy by the name of Henry McPherson to help him, went from California Gulch, over Poncha Pass through the San Luis Valley and to Taos, where he got a load of flour and meal and brought it back. (Henry McPherson was the uncle of Dr. Wendell Hutchinson's great-great-grandfather. Nachtrieb's descendants include Dr. Joe Nachtrieb of Salida.)

Nachtrieb kept his store at California Gulch but took up a ranch and built his family a house where Chalk Creek empties into the Arkansas River, about nine miles south of Buena Vista. He must have built his ranch house after 1865, because historians say that only white men between California Gulch and Kansas in 1865 were the Mayal Brothers. One of these brothers settled in Cottonwood Creek (now Buena Vista) in 1862 and sold potatoes to the miners the next year at three pounds for one dollar. If Nachtrieb tried to farm before he built his grist mill in 1878 he probably found going rough, because in 1865 and 1866 the grasshoppers ate everything.

Mill Powered By Water

Charley Nachtrieb built a grist mill in 1868, the first in this part of the country, "which was fully supplied with wheat from the neighboring ranches, but as transportation became less expensive by the opening of roads to Denver and Canon, it was found that other crops could be raised to greater advantage and wheat was abandoned." Probably also better flour could be obtained from the larger towns, as the mill was a primitive stone affair, run by water power. The mill stood just at the west of Nathrop until it was razed about 20 years ago. Nachtrieb also had a sawmill about this time.

In addition to his merchandising and ranching enterprises, Nachtrieb also was a roadbuilder. In 1870 he built a toll road near Poncha Springs, which he later sold to Otto Mears. When Nachtrieb's stepdaughter, Alice Parks, was a girl she would ride horseback from Nathrop to Mears Junction to get the receipts for the toll road. Sometimes she brought home as high as $1,500 for the weeks receipts. She usually rode over and back in one day, but once she stopped at Poncha Springs to hear Susan B. Anthony speak on woman suffrage.

In the winter of 1870 Nachtrieb set out from Denver with three wagon loads of supplies for California Gulch. He was caught in a blizzard at the Salt Works, where the oxen died and he was marooned with the much-needed provisions for California Gulch. The supplies became so low at California Gulch because Nachtrieb did not arrive that all the bachelors were forced to leave town and rustle for food elsewhere. Enough food was brought from the Salt Works by men on snow shoes (probably skiis) to feed the families who had stayed on in the Gulch.

The author of the Chalk Creek pamphlet remarks that it would be nice to know whether among the three loads of supplies that were caught in this blizzard was the first sewing machine that Mrs. Hall of the Salt Works owned. It was the first sewing machine in the country.

Married Widow

Historians state that in 1870, when 38 years of age, Nachtrieb married Margaret Anderson, apparently a widow. Her daughter was born in Malta in 1864. In her reminiscenses, Alice Parks does not mention her father, but says her mother came from Iowa to Leadville, where she and Maxey Tabor were the only two white children. Alice was seven when her mother married Charles Nachtrieb and went to Chalk Creek ranch to live. She remembers having the first bureau with a mirror in that part of the country. Probably Nachtrieb brought it from Denver to her.

Early in 1873 Nachtrieb bought a herd of cattle near Villa Grove and sent it to Denver over Ute Trail, South Park and Turkey Creek. It took the cowboys seventeen days to get the herd to Denver. Henry Weber was one of the men.

Actually, a biography of Charley Nachtrieb is also a history of the Nathrop settlement. The town was named after Nachtrieb, the name having been Americanized and also the other settlers had difficulty in the German pronunciation. Charles Nachtrieb himself usually was called Charley Nathrop.

Stage Line Station

Long before the railroads came in, the town of Nathrop was one of the stations for the stage line between Bale's station (the end of the D&RG near Cleora, just below Salida) and Leadville, 61 miles. The horses were changed every 10 miles. The first change from Bale's was at Brown's Creek, near Centerville, and the next change at Nathrop, which was a mile and a half above the present townsite. The change was made in three minutes by removing a pin in the tongue, driving the horses out and backing their replacements in, dropping the pin, fastening the harnesses, and off for Buena Vista!

Historians learn these stages were always full to capacity, even though it cost $21.85 from Bale's to Leadville. There was room for eight inside and two beside the driver. They carried 600 pounds of luggage and mail, and a great deal of silver bullion in 10-pound ingots. Thursdays an armed guard rode with the driver, because from $50,000 to $100,000 in money—usually currency—was carried that day.

The express rates were $15 per thousand. Gold dust was seldom carried over this route but went to Denver over South Park and the Platte Canon. Fred A. Seelinger of Salida started driving one of these stages in 1879. The old stage coach road still is visible from the present-day highway to Buena Vista.

Railroad Created Boom

When the railroad reached Nathrop—it was the D&RG but the Denver, South Park and Pacific leased the use of it—the town started thriving.

In 1881 E. E. Emerson wrote of the town: "The town is located on the plains above Chalk Creek, Post Office, and the residence of C. Nachtrieb, who, with two railway companies, owns the site of the new town. Connection is here made with trains to Hortense, Alpine, etc. An elegant and commodious stone depot has been built by the railroad company, and a large hotel convenient to the station and commanding a magnificent view of the valley of the Arkansas River and the surrounding mountains has been nearly completed by Mr. C. Nachtrieb."

The South Park railroad not only made connections at Nathrop but ran through the Nathrop ranch. A tourist guide of 1881 tells that the town consisted of a fine depot, several hotels, stores, saloons and about 200 population. "Pipes are being laid from Chalk Creek a mile above town for the purpose of supplying it with pure water." The country for miles around is good stock-grazing land. The tourist guide also mentions that "The Press" is a weekly paper published at Nathrop. This was The Chaffee County Press, published by Fred M. Tompkins and his brother. They had come to Nathrop after 1880 when the True Fissure they had been publishing at Alpine expired along with the town. Finally they went to Poncha Springs where they published a paper a good many years.

Nachtrieb did not live long after he built his commodious hotel, for on a rainy evening of October, 1883, he was shot from behind. It was evident that he was not given a chance to defend himself, because the bullet, after passing through his head, shot off his thumb and went through a letter he was reading. Whether or not his murder had anything to do with the Lake County War is uncertain.

According to Alice Parks, Bert Remington wrote Nachtrieb for a job as a rider, which was promised him. Remington was the nephew of Harrington, the first man who was killed in the Lake County War, at Brown's Creek in 1874. When Remington arrived Nachtrieb had just sold his cattle, so he put the boy to work herding sheep, which of course would make any cowboy furious. One account says that Nachtrieb had not paid Remington for a long time.

Whatever the cause, Remington rode up to Nachtrieb house one evening and asked for Nachtrieb. Mrs. Nachtrieb told him he was at the store, quite a distance away. He went there. Alice, being friends with Remington an his horse, ,says she thought she would take a ride on the horse (through the rain?) but found the horse tired from a hard ride. Remington came back from the store, mounted, rode to Buena Vista, danced all night and left the next morning on a freight car for parts still unknown.

Mrs. Nachtrieb discovered the body of her husband. After that she took over the ranch and store and reared her family of children, and died in 1909. The Salida Mail in 1885 has an advertisement from Mrs. Nachtrieb offering for sale over 1000 acres of patented land on and adjoining Chalk Creek, improvements including one dwelling house of eight rooms, one barn and other outbuildings, one gristmill, blacksmith shop, storehouse and warehouse in Nathrop, and half interest in the hotel building at Nathrop—all for $15,000!

Nobody Much Worried

The fact that the murderer was not caught seems not to have raised much excitement—and such things sometimes didn't in those days. Hugh Boon explains the situation in regard to the lawless element: "With the rapid influx of settlers, prospectors and miners, and the rough element that came with the building of the railroad in the late 70s and early 80s, things were considerably unsettled. More than on hundred homicides in this period occurred without a single conviction, it being impossible to get witnesses to swear to the killings. . . Usually the judge declared first degree murder, so the party would get out of the country and stay out. We got rid of many undesirables this way."

(Note: Most of the Nachtrieb biography is taken from the Chalk Creek Paper.)

Regarding the murder of Nachtrieb, the Mountain Mail had this report in its issue of Oct. 8, 1881:

Between nine and ten o'clock Monday evening Charles Nachtrieb was shot and killed by Bert Remington in Nachtrieb's store at Nathrop.

Remington had been at work for Nachtrieb for a little over a month and the immediate trouble between them was said to be a dispute as to whether Remington was to receive $35 or $50 per month.

All good citizens will unite in denouncing the murder as one of the most cruel of many dark deeds that have been committed in Chaffee county during the past 18 months. It is high time that justice should be dealt out to the devils that have so recklessly defied the law in Chaffee county. And it would not be a bad idea to begin on Remington if he is the desperate character he is said to be.

There may be things connected with the tragedy of which the public is ignorant. It is a fact well known to everybody in the Arkansas valley, at least every person who ever had business with Nachtrieb, that he was one of the most quarrelsome men in existence. Nine out of every men who ever had any dealings with him had a quarrel with him when it came to a settlement, unless they gave way to his demands and let him settle to suit himself.

"It is said by those who known him intimately that he kept no books in all his immense business transactions, and a fair illustration of his forgetfulness is the fact that but a short time ago he bought his own team from a man to whom he had loaned it but a few days before.

It will not be denied that Charles Nachtrieb was an enterprising and useful citizen. It is to be regretted, however, that his disposition has led him into so many quarrels that his personal enemies were quite so numerous as his friends, and that he has for the past ten years, as an intimate friend says, carried his life in his hand.

Twin Lakes Dam Built In 1898

Twin Lakes, a natural body of water, was expanded in the latter part of the nineteenth century. A story in the issue of Dec. 20, 1898, said that work on the big dam was progressing. A contract had been let with the largest immigration agency in the country for handling the farming lands of the reservoir company, located in the Arkansas Valley.

The Mail editor said the prospect was that with water available from Twin Lakes the country would settle more rapidly than it would in the ordinary course of events.

Building of the reservoir was not without difficulty. The Mail noted on May 9, 1899 that the reservoir company was spending another $24,000 in the construction of the reservior to placate the D&RG and Midland railroads which crossed Twin Lakes Creek, and the town of Granite which feared another Johnstown flood.

The company engaged the services of Schuyler, irrigation engineer from Los Angeles, who drew up new plans for the completion of the reservoir, and which met specifications of the state engineer.

The house, haystacks and outbuildings of Mrs. Nachtrieb at Nathrop, were destroyed by fire Sunday. Property destroyed was valuable.—Salida Mail, Sept. 13, 1892.