

Max Dickman

To have made a prenatal, and two other crossings of the plains, before having attained the age of 1 year,--all by covered wagon--such as Mr. Dickman did, is, if not a record, at least something to be proud of.

(In May, 1860, Herman Dickman and wife Charlotte, crossed the plains from ~~Bloomington~~ <sup>Bloomington</sup> Illinois to South Park; traveling in a covered wagon drawn by a spiked team--three horses,--and leading a milch cow. Max was born in Park County, about five miles from Fairplay, August 27, 1860. The "old timers" informed the Dickmans that their son was the first child born in what is now Park County.)

When Max was five weeks old, the family went to Wyandotte Kansas to spend the winter; returning to South Park the following spring. This daring and intrepid German family, in making these crossings, always traveled alone; they were extremely fortunate, too, because they were never attacked by highwaymen or Indians.

(Herman Dickman was employed in various capacities and worked as a miner in the Orphan Boy Mine in Mosquito Gulch. In '61 and '62 the family was in Buckskin, where Mrs Dickman managed a boarding house; the family always spending the long winters in Pueblo. Then for the following four years, the family roamed a great deal, going from the Fairplay district to Oro City, and thru Lake County; but always spending the winters in Pueblo.)

In 1872, Max was 12, the family located on Bear Creek--a small tributary of the Arkansas--about five miles from the present site of Salida. There they homesteaded a 320 acre ranch, and stocking it with cattle, which soon counted 200 head. This business yielded a good return, though no large profits were made.

Branching out in 1880, the Dickmans began the operation of a sawmill on Bear

Creek, and about five miles from its mouth. Herewas an excellent stand of timber; the newly-born, and rapidly growing town of Salida provided a demanding market. The average price received for the lumber was \$20 per thousand feet. Inthe fall of '81, young Max and his father erected in Salida The Dickman Opera House--the first theatrical house in Salida. Occuping a corner at F and 2nd Sts., the building was 40' X 60', two stories high, and cost \$8,000 to construct. The first performance was a home talent affair. Uncle Tom's Cabin played later that season, and the admission was \$1. Proving to be more popular for dancing than theatrical performances, however, the opera house was the scene of many a gay ball.

During '81 and '83, youn Max also operated a sawmill at Alder, where he sawed out timbers for the railroad bridges that were being constructed between Salida and Ajanosa. On March, 3, 1884, Max's father died, and Max took over the management of the ranch and sawmill. The same spring he journeyed to Clearfield Penn., and there was happily married to Emma Mosher. Five children were horn to the couple, three whom are still living. Mrs Dickman passed on in 1900.

In 1902 he purchased a ranch in Missouri Park, and after serving as superintendent of the County Poor Farm from '98 until '07, he made his home on this ranch, and engaged in stock raising once more. From 1909 until 1915 he served as water commissioner for district No. 11. In January 1916 he sold this ranch and then bought another,--the present Fish Farm--which hesold to the Frantz family; and in '27 established his residence in Salida.

On August <sup>9</sup>~~2~~, 1928, <sup>21</sup>Mr. Dickman was married again, this time to Mrs Maggie Smith. In the <sup>BEFORE</sup> same year he was elected to the position of Justice of Peace, and wss also appointed as Police Magistrate. Atthe time of this writing--Dec. 1933--Mr. Dickman, active and in good health, is still filling these two positions.

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