

Timothy G. Graham, Scout and Soldier Helped Capture the Espinosas

By E. CHASE VARNEY AND SALLY GRAHAM VARNEY*

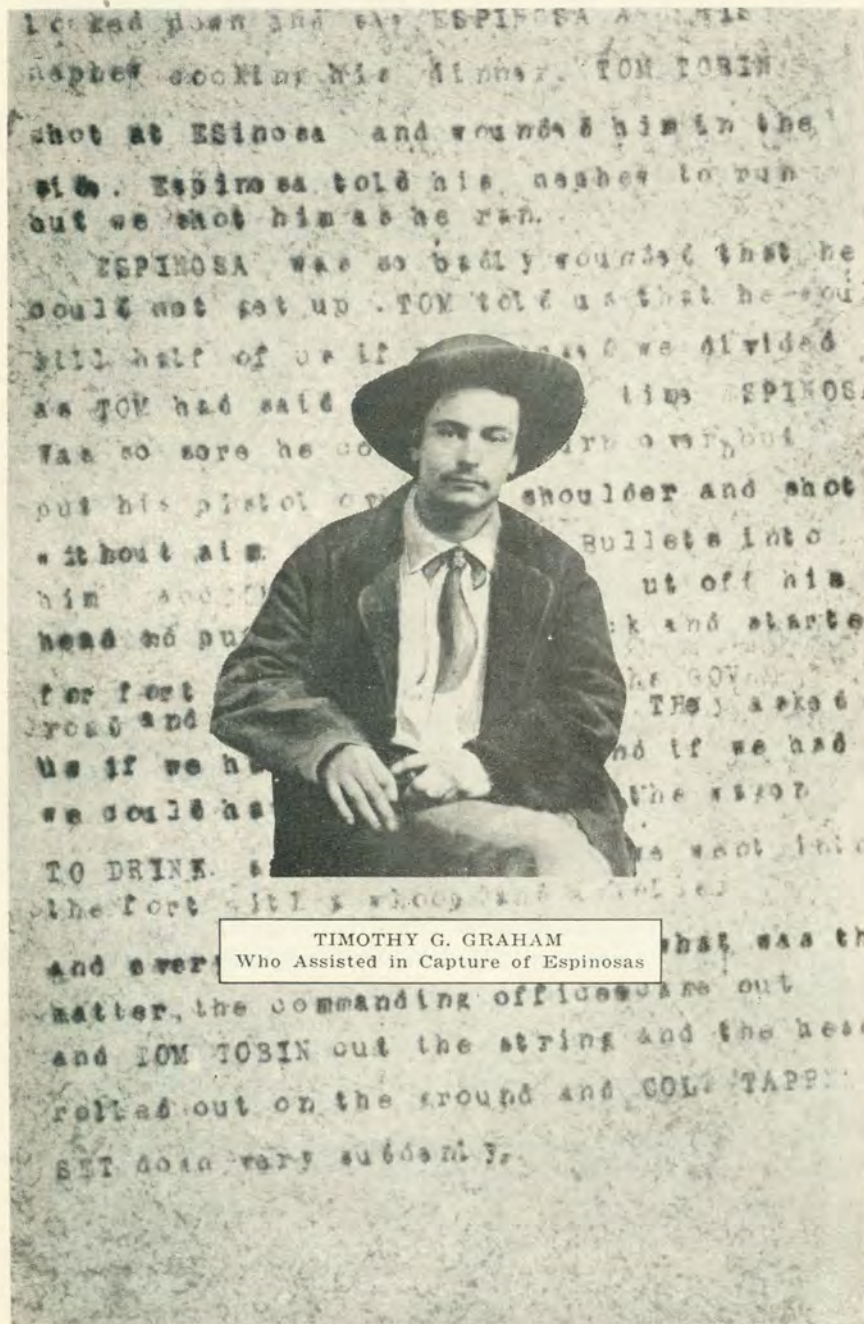
(According to Mrs. Rosamond Slack, recent Resident Curator at Fort Garland, the word has spread that the portrait of Tom Tobin, which hangs in the cavalry barracks at the fort, has an uncanny way of looking right through you, regardless of the position in which you are standing. "I have had many come just to look at Tom Tobin's portrait," says Mrs. Slack. "They said they only had time for that, so did not go through the buildings." It will be remembered that Tom Tobin, scout and frontiersman, with a small detachment of picked men, killed, in 1863, the Espinosas, outlaws, who had spread a reign of terror among Colorado pioneers. An original manuscript dictated by Thomas T. Tobin about the affair is on file in the State Historical Society's Library and was printed in the *Colorado Magazine*, Vol. IX, No. 2, March 1932, pp. 59-66.

Recently Sally Graham Varney brought to the Society a statement made by her father, Timothy G. Graham, who was one of the men with Tom Tobin when the Espinosas were killed. This statement, which was printed by Graham's young son, on a child's printing press, is shown in part in a cut in this article.—Editor.)

One evening in the year 1910, a peaceful old man sat in the glow of the lamp light in his home in Salida, Colorado, telling to his son the story of his part in the capture of the Espinosas. Timothy G. Graham, the man, had married late in life, and his son, Walter, was only eleven years old in 1910. Walter had heard the story before, as had his younger sisters, Sally-Maude and Hazelle. They also had heard other stories of their father's youthful exploits—stories of La Glorieta Pass, Santa Fe, Cherry Creek, and old Fort Garland. But the horrible Espinosas' story was the best.

This evening, however, young Walter was not sitting big-eyed and entranced as the tale was told. He was busy trying to print it with his hand printing press. It was only a small press and he did not have much type. When he had set a line or two he had to stop

*Mrs. E. Chase Varney, daughter of T. G. Graham, is a member of the Archives Division of the State Historical Society. She has made available to *The Colorado Magazine* data about her father, his photograph, and a photostatic copy of his story of the capture of the Espinosas, as told by him to his son, Walter. Mr. Varney, who is well known in Denver art circles, and is an engineer by profession, has assisted in compiling data for this article.—Ed.



TIMOTHY G. GRAHAM
Who Assisted in Capture of Espinosas

and print it, then strike, and re-use the type for another portion. Slowly, line by line, the intriguing story was put in print direct from his father's lips.

The story, with some corrections in spelling and punctuation, follows as written and printed by ten-year-old Walter Graham:

THE CAPTURE OF ESPINOSAS

In 1862 the government train started from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas to Fort Union, New Mexico. This was called a settlers' train. To explain fully a settlers' train—it is a train loaded with groceries and dry goods for a fort. While on their way they were attacked by three of the Espinosa brothers and from that time on the Espinosas were bandits. The government offered a reward for their heads.

And the Espinosas took to the mountains for refuge and murdered and killed all the white people they came in contact with. . . . They left Conejos for Canon City and murdered eight or ten people in or around Canon. The citizens turned out en mass and run them out.

Up near Fairplay they killed Colonel Shoup's brother. Then the citizens of Fairplay chased them out of there. And they came back to the Sandicrisco (sic) range near Fort Garland.

In 1863 Governor Gilpin¹ of Colorado Territory was ordered to go to the Conejos valley to make a treaty with the Ute Indians for the San Luis Valley. He took eight companies of Colorado First, one of battery. While we were there making the treaty we readily heard of the murder committed by Espinosa. . . .

After five days the treaty was completed and the land bought from the Indians. We were ordered to Denver. And at Fort Garland, Espinosa had captured a man and killed two mules. Company C, Colorado First, was ordered to stop at Fort Garland and to capture Espinosa and not to go to Denver without him.

Tom Tobin, an old Indian guide and scout, who had forty years experience on the frontier, offered to capture Espinosa, if the government would furnish 10 men, so 9 men were detailed to go. We were given five days' provisions and ordered not to return without him.

We heard that Colorado had offered \$3,000 reward for his head. New Mexico offered \$3,000 Reward for him dead or alive.

The morning of the fourth day about ten o'clock, Tom Tobin, the scout, seen a raven circling over our heads in the heavens. Tom says, "Boys, there is where he is cooking his dinner or killed his

¹ Evidently a mistake in names. It was Governor Evans who made a treaty with the Utes in 1863. Governor Gilpin was replaced by Dr. John Evans in May, 1862.—Ed.

meat." He then got off of his horse and began to examine the ground and discovered a track.

And says, "Here is where he has driven his meat, and where the raven is, is where he has killed it."

We then went on foot over a small mountain and when we got on the top and looked down we saw Espinosa and his nephew cooking dinner. Tom Tobin shot at Espinosa and wounded him in the side. Espinosa told his nephew to run but we shot him as he ran.

Espinosa was so badly wounded that he could not get up. Tom told us that he would kill half of us if we fired. We divided as Tom had said, and by that time, Espinosa was so sore he could not turn over, but put his pistol over his shoulder and shot without aim. We put 15 U.S. bullets into him and Tom rushed forward and cut off his head and put it in a gunny sack and started for Fort Garland. We got on the Gov. road and met an ammunition wagon. They asked us if we had got Espinosa and if we had we could have everything in the wagon to drink and the result was we went into the fort with a whoop and a holler and everybody came out to see what was the matter. The commanding officer came out and Tom Tobin cut the string and the head rolled out on the ground and COL. TAPPEN² set down very suddenly.

* * * *

Mrs. Sally Graham Varney says of her father:

Timothy Gladden Graham, born in Buffalo, New York, on May 16, 1842, was the oldest son of Dr. and Mrs. Curtis Graham, who had a family of five boys and three girls.

The family moved from Buffalo to New York City and then to Kansas where Dr. Graham was sent by the Methodist Church.

In this new western home, Timothy heard many stories of Colorado and the Indians. In order to escape a strict home life, he left home when he was seventeen years of age and arrived in Denver in 1859. At that time the Pikes Peak gold rush was just beginning and Denver was only months old.

Tim Graham worked on ranches near Denver, where he learned to handle horses and cattle. On October 31, 1861, he enlisted with the First Regiment of Colorado Volunteers, Company C, as an Indian scout. He was company clerk. His handwriting is still legible in the pages of the company Clothing Book, which is now in the Archives of the State Historical Society of Colorado.³

² Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel F. Tappan, of the First Colorado Regiment.
³ He was mustered out on Dec. 31, 1864. He re-enlisted on Jan. 5, 1865 and served with Company G, First Colorado, Cavalry, until he was honorably discharged on Oct. 28, 1865.—Original army records in possession of Mrs. Varney.

Young Graham was in several Indian skirmishes and encountered the Texans, in 1862, at the Battle of La Glorieta Pass (Apache Canyon).

He was with the troops near Fort Garland in 1863, when the orders came through for the capture of the bandit, Espinosa. Tom Tobin, a civilian scout, led a party of soldiers to Espinosa's hiding place in the mountains and they successfully captured and killed the desperado and his nephew.⁴

Mr. Graham lived in Denver for some time after he was mustered out of the army, then went to Alamosa where he studied and practiced law. Later, he decided to give up the law and worked on a horse ranch near Santa Fe, New Mexico. After several years he became an apprentice in the shops of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in Denver. He rapidly worked up to the position of engineer. He ran the engine that took the first train over the new railway from Salida to Alamosa and continued on that run for many years, making Salida his home.

When he was fifty-five years of age, he married Miss Edna Rout,⁵ who was twenty-one years old. They were the parents of: Walter R. Graham and Mrs. Hazelle Mesplay of Pueblo, and Mrs. Sally Varney of Denver.

Timothy Graham died at Monte Vista on February 3, 1916 and was buried in the Soldiers' Military Cemetery there.

Ranching on Ohio Creek, 1881-1886

By H. C. CORNWALL

(H. C. Cornwall and his brother, George, both graduates of the School of Mines of Columbia University, were among the early settlers of Ruby Camp in Gunnison County, in the town later named Irwin after Richard Irwin, one of the original discoverers of silver in the region. They located there in the summer of 1879. In 1881 the brothers bought a ranch on Ohio Creek where H. C. Cornwall lived until 1886 at which time he returned to New York City, evidently intending to return to his brother and parents whom he left at the Colorado cabin. He, however, did not come back. At the insistence of relatives, he later wrote of events as he remembered them during his years in the West. Some of these writings are now on file in the Library of Western State College, Gunnison.)

In answer to a niece who said that his stories of the same events varied from those told by her father, Mr. Cornwall said: "My best answer to her statement is to quote her mother, 'that while George and I both remembered the happenings equally well, my version of them was somewhat regulated by my conscience.'"

¹ See: "The Capture of the Espinosas," by Thomas T. Tobin: *Colorado Magazine*, Vol. IX, No. 2, pp. 59-66.

² In 1919, Mrs. Graham married Arthur Meeker and now lives in Pueblo, Colo., where she is active in the Corps of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic. She is one of the youngest, if not *the youngest*, living widow of a Volunteer of the First Regiment of Colorado Volunteers.—S.G.V.

The Colorado Magazine is indebted to Dr. Lois Borland, Regional Vice President of District 10 of the State Historical Society, and an authority on Western Slope history, who has copied the following extracts from Mr. Cornwall's manuscript on "Ranching on Ohio Creek."—*Editor*)

In 1881 George and I bought a ranch of one hundred and sixty acres of bottom land, which was practically all hay meadow. From this time until we left Colorado, our headquarters were at this ranch, although we still kept our interests in Irwin, and I generally ran a surveying office either there or in Crested Butte.

The ranch was on Ohio Creek¹ about ten miles from Gunnison City and twenty miles from Irwin. All of the original one hundred and sixty acres were in the creek bottom which at that point was about one-half mile wide. On each side of the bottom land the mesa extended about half a mile to the beginning of the foot hills which in turn ran up to the mountains. We later homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres on the mesa on each side of the creek, giving us four hundred and eighty acres in all.

Ohio Creek Valley was most attractive. The stream started in the Anthracite Range about twenty miles above our ranch and ran into the Gunnison River about eight miles below us and just above Gunnison City. For the first fifteen miles the hills on either side of the valley were not over one thousand feet higher than the valley but farther up they ran up several thousand feet. Being fed from hills that were in places well timbered and with a very heavy snowfall, the stream always carried an abundant supply of water. The creek was about thirty feet wide, with a pebbly bottom, and the water was as clear as crystal. The stream was full of trout.

All of the lower hills were covered thickly with grass, and as none of the land outside of the actual valleys had been taken by settlers, and as there were at that time no government restrictions as to the use of public lands, there was unlimited grazing for horses and cattle, especially as the number that each ranchman could keep was limited to the number that he could feed through the winter. During mild winters cattle might live out on the range, but it was not safe to take chances.

George and I had no money of any account but cheerfully borrowed the price of the ranch and optimistically started in to make our fortunes.

Unfortunately the collapse of the mining boom reduced the demand for hay, also the railroad was being pushed rapidly to Gunnison City so that the amount of supplies, and the distance that it was necessary to haul them by teams, were greatly reduced. From that time there was a bare living on a ranch if one worked

¹ Ohio Creek Valley is one of the richest valleys adjacent to Gunnison City. It is north of town.—Dr. Lois Borland.

hard but nothing more than a living. If we had possessed capital with which to stock the place with cattle and horses, we would have been much better off. We, however, worked hard and steadily and managed to get along.

It was hard work, from not later than five in the morning, which was long before daylight in the winter, until long after dusk at night.

We took Ramsden and Hudson into partnership for a while, and we four were able to make many improvements in the place. When we bought the ranch, the only buildings were a small one-room log cabin and a good-sized log stable. Our first big piece of work was to build a good house which took all of our time for an entire winter.

The new cabin was in a horseshoe bend on the bank of the creek where the land was several feet above high water mark. The stream ran on three sides of the house. The cabin was about the best log cabin I have ever seen, although probably many better ones have been built. It was one story high, in the form of a cross fifty feet on the long sides and eighteen feet at the ends. The walls were of green white pine logs and carefully selected and carefully handled so as not to injure the bark. The logs were all faced with a broadaxe on the side that was inside the house, so that the inside walls were as straight and true as if made of boards. The bark was left on the logs except where they were faced for the inside wall. The floor beams and the rafters were hewed from small white pine or spruce trees, and the floors were of white pine boards planed and matched. The roof was of white pine shingles hand-shaved from carefully selected trees.

We covered the walls and ceilings with cotton cloth, which was sewed and fitted to each room, then was drawn tight and tacked into place. This cloth was then covered with wall paper pasted on the same as on a plastered wall, from which it could not be distinguished. There were three brick chimneys, with a good-sized fireplace in the living room.

In the stream just above the cabin, we built a water wheel which raised water from the brook, which ran into the kitchen through a pipe. Then we built an ice house which was filled in a rather unusual manner. We simply laid a rough floor with raised edges, made the cracks water-tight by sprinkling with water which instantly froze. Then we ran water in slowly from our water wheel, and as it froze, which it did very quickly, we kept raising the boards at the sides and in a few days had the house filled with one large cake of ice.

We certainly worked hard on the house and were proud of it when finished.

Ohio Creek was a wonderful trout stream in those days, and we could get enough for a meal at any time after the water cleared in the spring until it froze in the fall. The stream was one unfailing source of meat supply. The trout were the regular mountain trout with black spots but no vermilion spots like our eastern trout. They ran up to four pounds in weight and were very good eating, better if anything than the Eastern trout as they were entirely free from the earthy taste that so many Eastern trout have. They were not, however, as gamy as the Eastern trout but were a little more sluggish. We had no fly tackle so I cannot say if they would rise to the fly, but they no doubt would do so under proper conditions. Our usual baits were small yellow-bodied grasshoppers or fish eyes. There were no angle worms in that country, probably because the ground froze so hard and so deep.

George spent practically all his time at the ranch, but I was away a considerable part of the time engaged in surveying work. We were, of course, still partners and all of my earnings as a surveyor went into a common purse.

Our principal crop was hay. In raising this, it was necessary to irrigate the meadows constantly from the time that the grass first sprouted until a week or two before it was cut. The idea was to keep a few inches of water moving over the meadows all of the time. If it became stagnant at any place, the grass died there. If the water was turned off from time to time and the ground simply kept moist as would be the manner of irrigating any vegetables, fruit, or grain, weeds would flourish and ruin the hay.

This method of irrigating required a large amount of water, but fortunately Ohio Creek at all times gave us more than was needed. As our hay land was all in the creek bottom and was nowhere more than two or three feet above the level of the banks of the creek, we were able to irrigate from a dam on our own land with a very simple system of ditches on each side of the creek.

Ohio Creek ran very fast, with a pebbly bed. We had great difficulty in building a dam that would not wash away at every freshet. This always occurred in the spring when the snow melted in the mountains. Finally we copied the beaver and built our dam just as they build. After that we had no trouble. Beavers build by first laying small trees and bushes flat on the bottom of the stream with the tops down stream, holding them in place by putting gravel on them—simply continuing to lay brush and small trees with gravel until the dam is high enough. The butts of the trees form the face of the dam, which may be twelve or fifteen feet wide at the bottom. The result is merely a mass of twigs, branches and gravel all bound together by the action of the water. The faster the water runs, the tighter it binds the dam, which will

never wash away. It might not do for all streams, but for Ohio Creek it was perfect.

As soon as our dam was finished, a colony of beaver gave it the stamp of approval and took possession of the pond above the dam. Unfortunately, they persisted in damming the ditches that ran out of each side of the dam which they no doubt considered to be breaks in the dam. This caused us no end of trouble as it cut off our supply of water and caused the meadows to go dry.

For some time we tore these dams out of the ditches every morning, only to have them rebuilt the next night. As our meadows were getting dry every night, we were compelled to trap the beaver and we caught eight or ten of them. After that they left us. We sent the skins east to our families who had them tanned and found them very handsome fur.

Our nearest neighbor on Ohio Creek was John Bohm, and a sterling good chap and neighbor he was, but for that matter so were all of the near-by ranchers, and during our life on the ranch we were always on the best of terms with them all.

John was a German, industrious and frugal, with a German wife of the same type. To illustrate how these frugal ranch women made use of everything that came to hand—all of the flour then came in heavy cotton cloth sacks, the ranchmen usually buying fifty and one hundred pound sacks. One day I rode up to Bohm's ranch and his wife came to the door. She was wearing a blouse and skirt made from flour sacks, and with an eye to artistic effect had made the garments in such a way that the stencil marks giving the names of the brands of flour in red letters about three inches high, appeared symmetrically upon the garments. Mrs. Bohm was rather a plump woman. Across her bust was "Pride of the Family" and across her skirt "Rough and Ready"—these being the favorite brands of flour at that time.

Mrs. Bohm's sister, a buxom German girl, came from the old country to live with them. Her arrival caused much excitement among some of the bachelor ranchmen of the valley, and if John had any idea that he and his wife would have her services for any length of time, he was quickly undeceived.

She had been with them only a few days when the competitive courtship began. The most persistent suitor was somewhat precipitate in his love-making and everyone thought that John would be after him with a gun, but his only comment was that "Frank ought to have waited until he knowed her a little better." She married Frank, however, and we always wondered how he proposed, because he could talk no German and she no English. They were a happy and contented couple, however.

We bought our butter at times from John. One day in the coldest part of the winter I went down to his ranch for butter and went with him to an outside shed where it was kept. I noticed a peculiar-shaped something covered with burlap, lying on a bench, and asked John what it was. "Oh, that's my wife's cousin; he died last week and the ground is froze too hard to bury him, so we wait till spring. He keep all right this weather." The butter was on a shelf just above the wife's cousin. I took it but did not eat butter until that particular lot was gone. The others never knew the difference. But we bought no more butter of John until spring.

One spring I ran across John and in a neighborly spirit asked how he was prospering. "Bad, Harry, bad, my black mare lost her colt, my best milch cow lost her calf, and my wife lost her baby. No luck at all with the livestock this year." It will be noted that the baby came last as being the least important item.

Our next nearest neighbors were George and Frank Lightley, brothers, and most perfect specimens of physical manhood. Their boast was that there were ten children in their parents' family, including two girls, and that their combined weight was one ton. Later, George Lightley married Minnie Harris, daughter of one of our summer neighbors.

The next ranch to the Lightleys was the Henry Teachouts.² This family was from Missouri and came across the plains in 1880 in wagons, bringing the household goods with them. There were five girls from twenty-two years old down to probably eight years old and one boy about sixteen or seventeen years old. Three of the girls were from eighteen to twenty-two years and were the belles of Ohio Creek. They were all bright and pretty, as good as gold, and as shy as partridges. They were all well brought up, very religious and most proper, not to say prim.

The first year after their arrival the family lived in a small log cabin which was later replaced by a good-sized two-story cabin, also built of logs.

They brought across the plains a little parlor organ or melodeon which was a thing of joy. Their cabin was a gathering place for those of the young fellows who measured up to the Teachout standard as to character and sobriety, and the little melodeon was busy almost every evening. Minnie, Leafy, and Daisy, the oldest three girls, could all sing, and we did our best which seemed to somehow get past. Let me tell you that "Ma" Teachout was a demon chaperon and that our behavior was circumspect. No one with any question as to his reputation was received.

²In 1954 the Will Redden place; formerly the T. W. Gray home. It was T. W. Gray who built around and above the log cabin, making a commodious country place.—L. B.

When Ohio Creek became pretty well settled and there were enough children in the neighborhood to warrant our having a school, we made application to the County School Board,³ who agreed to provide and pay a teacher if the residents of the district would provide a school house. All of the men on the creek turned out, cut and hauled the logs and in a week we had a good school house about twenty by thirty feet in size all ready for the teacher. The Board lived up to its promise, and the teacher came in a very short time. It was arranged that she should "live around" at the different ranches where the owners were married, and as father and mother were with us at that time, we were glad to have her come to us on arrival.

She was a slim, pretty girl from Kansas. It was evidently her first departure from home and she no doubt had a somewhat biased idea as to rough ranchers, being I think about frightened to death as to what to expect in the way of treatment and manners. She was certainly somewhat surprised when she met father, mother, Ramsden, Hudson, George, and myself, but in a few days she fitted

³ Lewis H. Easterly writing for Fogg's *Welldresser*, Vol. 1, No. 15, in 1934 said: "There were but a few families with school children when the proposition was made to organize a school district on Ohio Creek beginning north of the Gunnison river and taking in all of the country up to Fisher Canyon and up the Ohio Valley to the correction line on the north side of Township 51 North. A meeting was held (1882) and a petition signed asking the County Superintendent, George Spratt, of the public schools, for permission to organize District Number 10. The right was granted. An election was held to choose a school board and to select a site for the school house. Henry W. Teachout was president, Lewis H. Easterly, secretary, and George Cornwall, treasurer. Then a call was made for a bee to go to the hills for timber to build the school house. The logs were brought from Mill Creek and the walls erected, without any roof. It was now time to begin a short term of school in the fall of 1882. So a door was sawed out of the south end of the wall and a big tent procured and placed inside the wall and benches made of lumber were used for seats and desks. Rev. Thomas Cook of Mill Creek was hired to teach three months of school. Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Teachout and family of six daughters and one son, Ed Teachout's son, George; the Cornwall orphan children, George the Third, Adolphus, and Elizabeth, grandchildren of George Cornwall Sr., and the Lehman family of four, Lee, Joseph, Maggie and Fred were students and attended school.

"At the end of school for the holidays we had an exhibition for Christmas in the tent. Such was the condition of school days at that time on Ohio Creek, Fairview District.

"The next summer and fall which was 1883 the school board hired me to complete the log building with a door and windows, shingle roof and good floor, and pointing of the cracks in the walls and to do the ceiling. That fall we employed a Mr. Larson, a young school teacher from Kansas to teach a three months school. The Board purchased patented seats and desks at this time. The children who attended were the same as at the first term. At Christmas time there was held another exhibition. There were no automobiles in those days and people came in bob sleds and on horse back when there was no snow, but we had more snow in those early Christmas days. The next year we hired Miss Marian Kendall of Egin, Illinois, and an acquaintance of mine, for a four months school which also ended with an exhibition for the Christmas holidays. The law had been changed to require four months of school instead of three.

"The people in the district joined in helping to improve our exhibition. The Cornwall brothers, George and Harry, graduates of Columbia University of New York City, and a Mr. Van Dike, a mining engineer of Irwin, Colo., each took part with the school. The Cornwall brothers blacked themselves with lamp-black and gave us a good darkie show which was well enjoyed. Mr. Van Dike wrote a prophecy about what conditions would be like on Ohio Creek fifty years later. He predicted some things which have come true. The telephone has come as he thought it would. He said the wicked barbed wire fences would be replaced by fine white-washed board fences. The low, dirt roofed cabins were to go and be replaced by fine frame or brick houses. He did not know of the automobiles and the electric or gas lights such as we have now, or the aeroplanes. The people enjoyed the entertainment very much."

into the family circle very well, and we were all sorry when she moved along to the Henry Teachouts.

I well remember Ramsden's remark after her first meal with us—"and our first school marm eats peas with her knife and bread with her fork."

The school was a success from the start. Some of the children came eight or ten miles to attend but all of the ranchmen had ponies which were plentiful and cheap and even young children rode. It was decided that the school must have a library, so an entertainment was given at the school house to raise funds for the purpose. The entertainment was a great success; certainly the performers said so. All was by home talent except one friend who came up from Gunnison City to help us.

The salient features which I remember are a duet which Ramsden and I sang with a banjo accompaniment by our friend from Gunnison. Our selection was "My Old Kentucky Home." I never was blessed with a voice but Ramsden sang very well, and the banjo played by "Banjo Mack" (who in ordinary life was John MacDougal and was called "Banjo" to distinguish him from his brother) was loud and we got along very well.

I also took part in a tableau with Daisy Teachout, "Coming thru the Rye." In an unfortunate incautious moment I stated that to make the tableau more realistic and true to the song, I should kiss Daisy as the curtain rose, continuing the kiss through the time that the curtain was up. Some kindly soul carried this suggestion to "Ma" Teachout who said nothing but stationed herself just behind the scenes with a large stick.

The stage was small and she was only about four feet from me. She stated in very plain language that if I kissed her girl she would use the stick and she certainly would have done it. The tableau was lifeless. I did not kiss Daisy at that time.

Ramsden and Daisy gave "King Cophetua and the Beggar Maid." We had great difficulty with the costumes. Ramsden's costume in this tableau almost broke up the dress rehearsal. It was somewhat on the style of Charles I with ruffles and lace at neck and knees. This was all right on the shirt but for trousers he wore a pair of short white flannel knickers with lace at the knees. When he appeared in this rig, the girls all ran out into the sagebrush with their hands over their faces. In those days girls wore "undies" and they thought that Ramsden had purloined someone's panties. After this matter was explained, Daisy refused to appear in bare feet (her skirts were probably about four inches from the ground). Girls' legs were at that time sacred from the ankles up. Finally we arranged to have a bear rug on the steps of the throne, on which she could stand and wriggle her toes well under the cover

of the long hair. I do not remember what parts George took in the show but he must have been in several tableaux. I am sure that he did not sing. We used to say of him that he recognized two tunes—"Yankee Doodle" and one other.

Frank Teachout, the only son, was seventeen or eighteen years old and badly spoiled. He "knew it all" and was correspondingly sure of himself.

One summer, after we had finished gathering our hay crop, Ramsden suggested having a "Harvest Home" after the English fashion. We provided a few kegs of beer and a supper and dance for the men who had worked on the hay, and for some of the neighbors. Frank was the only Teachout present as the others all objected to dancing.

I noticed that Frank was drinking a good deal of beer and tried to head him off. He was greatly offended, and I could do nothing with him, and he did get too much. When the dance was over about eleven o'clock in the evening, Frank was pretty drunk so two of the men took him home. Neither George nor I knew of his condition or we would have kept him away from his family. With commendable prudence the men drove quietly to within a hundred yards or so of the Teachout house, carried Frank to the door, leaned him against it, knocked loudly and beat it.

When "Pa" Teachout opened the door, Frank fell into the house. The family was immediately in an uproar. Nobody realized what was the matter with Frank and all thought he was frightfully sick. The girls screamed "Paw, he is dying, pull off his boots quick, don't let him die with his boots on; think of the disgrace." "Dying with the boots on" meant a violent death in a fight and was not considered to be in good form in the best Methodist families.

We certainly regretted the occurrence, and it was some time before we were forgiven and restored to favor with the Teachout family.

They left Ohio Creek shortly after we did. They wanted a warmer climate. As one of the girls said, "Poor Paw can't stand the cold, he gets so humped up every cold morning that he doesn't get straightened out before noon."

They were good neighbors and good honest people. I trust their lives have fallen in pleasant places.

Ed Teachout, whose ranch⁴ was next to his brother Henry, was one of the first settlers on Ohio Creek. He had been there some years previous to 1879 and was well established with a good ranch and substantial buildings. Mrs. Teachout was a fine handsome

⁴ In 1954 the Don McKee place.—L. B.

woman with bright red cheeks and fair hair, and a most wonderful cook and housekeeper. As I have said before, their ranch was about twenty miles from Irwin and was at the end of the wagon and sled road the first winter we were in Ruby Camp. They had only one child, a young boy, but Mrs. Teachout's niece, Miss Fairchild, lived with them several years. She was a bright, jolly girl and we were all very good friends. She married a lawyer in Gunnison City named Thomas⁵ who became prominent in the law and in politics and was for a long time Attorney General of Colorado.

Another neighbor, whose name I have forgotten, was either a bachelor maid or widow and ran a small bunch of cattle. One day she appeared at our ranch on horseback, and asked if we had seen anything of her "gentleman cow" who had broken out of the pasture. Hudson blurted out "do you mean that spotted red and white bull?" In those days modesty was studied by the fair sex.

One of our neighbors, while calling one day, admired mother's teeth. "Mrs. Cornwall, where *did* you get your teeth, I should like to get some like them." Mother who was proud of the fact that she was still blessed with her own teeth which were beautifully white and shapely, replied with much dignity, "God gave them to me; you might ask Him for some, especially if you promise to take care of them."

Other neighbors, both in Irwin and Ohio Creek, were named Harris. They had certainly reduced the labor of living to a minimum. He was an assayer and metallurgist. The family consisted of Harris, his wife, one daughter, Minnie (who married George Lightley),⁶ and a young boy. Their annual program was as follows: the summers were spent in the mountains, wherever there was a chance of making assays for the prospectors. They had two light, covered platform wagons especially arranged for their needs.

At the mines, he would open an assay office in a tent, and the family lived in other tents and in the wagons. At the end of the summer, they loaded their belongings into the wagons and drove down from the mountains and across the plains to southern Kansas, just on the border of what was then Indian Territory. They would travel leisurely, stopping some times for several days wherever it pleased their fancy. Several times they camped near us on Ohio Creek on the way into or out of the mountains. This drive would probably take two months, during which they lived principally in the wagons.

When southern Kansas was reached, a permanent winter camp was made in some chosen desirable spot. In the spring, they drove back to the mountains to earn some more money. They were well

⁵ Theodore H. Thomas.

⁶ Their daughter is Mrs. Harry Endner of Gunnison.—L. B.

educated, well read, and cultivated people but certainly did lead a nomadic life, with very little work or care. [What is common now seemed strange then.] Harris used to say that southern Kansas was the poor man's paradise. There butter, eggs, poultry—in fact, all farm products cost only a song. Corn was so cheap that it was largely used as a household fuel, being cheaper than coal or wood. These ears of corn made a wonderful fire in a cook stove, equal to the best of hard wood.

One of the first men who worked for us on the ranch was Charley Munday. Charley was a good, faithful chap, but he used to annoy me by wearing my arctic overshoes.

His first duty in the morning was to build the fires in the cabin, and he never waited to fully dress, but stuck his bare feet into my arctics after getting some miscellaneous clothes on. He always got them covered with ashes and sometimes snow or mud. Finally I thought out a plan to cure him. I poured about a third of a cup of molasses into each overshoe one night after Charley had gone to bed. This became hard as stone during the night, and the molasses accordingly was not noticeable when Charley put on the shoes in the morning, but after he wore them a while, it softened up and was quite a mess.

Charley was profanely indignant, but the only satisfaction that he received was to be told he had been asked not to wear the overshoes, and that anyway they were my shoes, and that I liked molasses in them. To be sure, this spoiled the overshoes, but it cured Charley.

In the fall of 1879 Father had an option on the Forest Queen mine which he was trying to sell to a New York syndicate. While the negotiations were in progress, a rich lot of ore was discovered in the mine. It was, of course, important that word of this "strike" should be sent to New York at the earliest possible moment as the option expired in a short time. The nearest telegraph office was over in South Park eighty or ninety miles away. To get there it was necessary to cross the main range of the Rocky Mountains, as well as several smaller ranges. The only possible way to make the trip was on horseback.

Our pony, Croppy, had just come in from a hard trip, and could not possibly be used, so George bought an Indian pony especially for the trip, expecting that it would just about ruin him. He had never tasted grain, and was just in from the range. George started about three in the morning and arrived at the railway and telegraph station before five that afternoon, and the pony still had plenty of "go" left in him. He showed no ill effects of the trip. He was a bright chestnut with a white strip on his face, and four white feet and ankles, with a short-coupled back and a

big belly. I took him for mine and rode him all the time I was in Colorado. From the shape of his belly, we named him "Punkin."

During the much-talked-of visit of President Grant⁷ to Irwin and surrounding country, Punkin was chosen as the President's personal mount, as he was considered about the most sure-footed pony in camp. During his stay Grant rode Punkin every day. I asked him if he had not found the pony sure-footed. "Too damned sure-footed," he grunted. To be sure, the pony was hard-gaited and shook his riders up considerably.

In about 1884, four of us went on a hunting trip that was memorable because of the wonderful country we visited, as well as for the game seen and killed. We left the ranch during the latter part of September for our winter's supply of meat, and after traveling only about thirty-five miles west from Ohio Creek, found the most wonderful game country imaginable. We were at the headwaters of a stream which ran south into the Gunnison River, which was probably about twenty miles away, but as it emptied into the river where the latter was in a deep canyon, there were no ranches, and the country had been hunted very little. The country up to timberline was heavily covered with spruce, with hundreds of natural open spaces or "parks" in which the elk and deer were plentiful. Higher up above timberline, mountain sheep could be seen at almost any time. It was a hunter's paradise. Our camp was on the edge of a lake about 500 yards across, in an ideal spot. We had no difficulty in killing all the elk and deer that our ponies could carry, in a few days' hunting.

An Index to *The Colorado Magazine* covering Vols. I-XXV may be obtained at \$4.50, from The State Historical Society.

⁷In its day Irwin was visited by all kinds of people, including Wild Bill Hickok, Bill Nuttall, of vaudeville fame, Theodore Roosevelt, Governor Routt, and General Grant. Grant's visit caused the greatest excitement, the "town being agog about how to entertain its distinguished guests." Irwin had no regular band but "they loaded a kettle and a bass drum into a spring wagon, pulled by two little mules . . . and drove up through town to the Ruby Chief" mine ahead of the General and his party.

All the miners who owned horses brought up the rear in a whooping, shooting cavalcade to add flourish to the affair. At the Ruby Chief some fine specimens of ore were laid out for the guests' inspection and a trip through the mine was arranged. Later Grant was entertained at the exclusive Irwin Club, the only place outside of a saloon where members could meet friends or discuss business.—Muriel Sibell Wolle, "Irwin a Ghost Town of the Elk Mountains,"—*Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XXIV, No. 1, pp. 12-13.



WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTION, DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

HOTEL DE PARIS

Hotel de Paris and Its Creator

GENE M. GRESSLEY*

Last spring [1954] the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Colorado embarked upon a program of restoration of the Hotel de Paris at Georgetown, Colorado. In so doing, they are reviving an oft-told tale of a nineteenth century world-famous chef and his hotel.

Adolphe¹ Francois Gerard, alias Louis Dupuy, was born in Alencon, France, October 12, 1844.² At an early age Adolphe

* Gene M. Gressley, who recently resigned as Assistant Historian in order to study for his Master's Degree at the University of Indiana, Bloomington, Indiana, has devoted considerable time to intensive research on Fort Garland, Bent's Old Fort and the Hotel de Paris. This research work has been done under the personal direction of President James Grafton Rogers of the State Historical Society of Colorado. In speaking of his research on the Hotel de Paris, Mr. Gressley says: "A perpetual task, involved in any historical research, is separating legend from fact; this is nowhere more vividly illustrated than in the tale of Louis Dupuy and his Hotel de Paris. Contradictions are rampant in the story; herewith are what I believe to be the best conclusions from these varied disputations."—Ed.

¹ Americanized form is Adolphus.

² According to his army enlistment record he was twenty-two in 1868; however, Jesse Randall, editor, and John J. White, lawyer, both confidants of Louis, gave October 12, 1844 as his birth date.

was sent to a seminary in Saez, France. Evidently the confining atmosphere of the seminary did not agree with Adolphe; we find him next in Paris, France. Here he is supposedly setting about the task of dissipating \$50,000 and learning the culinary art.³

An interval later he lands in London, England. After doing some translation work for English periodicals Adolphe sailed for America, arriving in New York City in 1866.⁴ He allegedly sold a couple of articles to *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*.⁵ He was accused of plagiarisms; perhaps for this reason he enlisted in the United States Army at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, New York, on August 18, 1868. The enlistment record describes his physical appearance as follows: grey eyes, brown hair, fair complexion and five feet eight and one-half inches tall. His Second Cavalry regiment was sent to Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo., via Fort Riley, Kansas. Evidently army life did not appeal to Adolphe for he deserted April 1, 1869.⁶

Upon arriving at Denver he was employed at the Buffalo warehouse of Jim Tynon. At this time he assumed the alias of Louis Dupuy. The *Rocky Mountain News* of October 13, 1869, notes the following:

The patrons of the NEWS will today notice a change in our carriers. Mr. Richard Sheriff, who for six years has acted as our carrier and collector, to-day retires from his place, and is succeeded by Mr. Louis Dupuy. Mr. Sheriff goes into the express business in our city, and as he is well known and has a host of friends, he cannot but succeed. For this end he has our best wishes, and we commend him to the public as a man who has proven honest, prompt and faithful, and as one who will attend well to all business entrusted to his care. Mr. Dupuy, his successor, is yet new at the business and we ask for him the favor and indulgence of our patrons.

After a period of being an itinerant reporter with the *Rocky Mountain News* he started working in the mines at Georgetown, Colorado. On March 6, 1873, Louis was seriously injured in a mine explosion. The *Rocky Mountain News*, of the same date, gave the following account:

On Thursday evening the miners working in the Kennedy tunnel, near the Cold Stream mine, Sherman mountain,⁷ Georgetown, fired two shots, and thinking both had exploded, Louis Dupuy went into the tunnel to see what they had done. He was heard to call out to his comrades that one shot had not taken,

³ For most of the basic facts on Dupuy's pre-Colorado life we are indebted to Jesse Randall and Arthur Kellogg, salesman, who wrote a fifteen page manuscript on Louis' life.

⁴ Jesse Randall, *Georgetown Courier*, October 13, 1900, p. 3 c. 3-4.

⁵ A search of the records of the New York Public Library failed to uncover any information relative to the sojourn of Louis in New York.—Letter dated April 7, 1954 from Edward G. Freehafer, Chief of the Reference Department, New York Public Library, to G. M. Gressley.

⁶ Enlistment Record, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

⁷ The Coldstream Mine was located at Silver Plume. According to *Fossett and Georgetown Quadrangle Monograph* the lode was on the east part of Sherman Mountain near Cherokee.—J. G. R. to G. M. G.



DENVER POST

LOUIS DUPUY, CREATOR OF
HOTEL DE PARIS

and the next instant the blast went off, mangling the unfortunate man in a most cruel manner. His collar bone and one rib were broken, and one eye badly damaged. The accident was caused by a defective fuse.

Louis was taken to a Catholic Hospital in Georgetown, maintained by the Sisters of Saint Joseph.⁸ After his convalescence Dupuy rented Delmonico's bakery, later incorporating the bakery into the Hotel de Paris. Said the *Colorado Miner*, October 16, 1875, p. 3, c. 2:

Attention is called to the advertisement of Louis Dupuy in this issue. Mr. Dupuy, one of our eldest and most respectable citizens, has rented the building formerly occupied by the Delmonico Bakery, on Alpine street, refitted and furnished the house in elegant style, and proposes to keep a first-class Hotel-Restaurant, both for the accommodation of regular boarders and those who desire only an occasional "square meal." Oysters, game, and all the delicacies of the season will be kept, and one of the best cooks in the Territory will prepare the viands. No bar is attached to the establishment, but gentlemen who like a glass of ale, or porter, French or Rhenish wine, with their dinners, can be supplied the best. A fine suite of furnished rooms will give regular boarders the opportunity of having a home in the building. We are confident that the enterprise, energy and good taste displayed by Mr. D. will be rewarded by the patronage of our citizens.

Dupuy was occupied with the building of the Hotel from 1875-1890.

⁸ Hospital records for that date not available. Sisters of Saint Joseph in Denver say that July 22, 1880 is the earliest date in their records of the hospital in Georgetown.—G. M. G.

The *Georgetown Courier* traces the history of the Hotel structure.

Louie Dupuy, of the French restaurant, has been making some improvements in his building and will, in a short time throw open to the public his handsome new rooms, which will be elegantly furnished and carpeted with Welton [sic.] carpets, heated steam and in the centre of the old dining hall he proposes to have a fountain. Louie furnishes the best of everything to a hungry public, and always welcomes his friends with a beaming smile, and it is well worth while to any one to go through the culinary department and examine the convenient manner in which everything is arranged. Louie well deserves his popularity.⁹

On March 21, 1889:

Mr. Dupuy is making the Hotel de Paris one of the most substantial buildings we have. During the coming season he will finish the rear part of the structure which he commenced last fall, making it entirely of stone. Within another year he will commence putting up the front of the building, making the three buildings into one, and finish the structure in an attractive manner.¹⁰

Louis did most of the work himself. At sundry times he employed Chinese laundrymen.

The facade of the Hotel, when completed, had the air of a small provincial hotel in France. The walls were of heavy masonry approximately three feet thick; over the masonry was spread stucco. On top of the stucco were painted square outlines, to give effect of cut stone. On the roof of the Hotel was placed a statue of the figure of Justice. French and American flags were painted on the west wall.

A lion, made of soldered pieces of zinc, reclined over the entrance into the east courtyard and on top of an outside wall of the west courtyard was placed a stag.

The first floor contained six main rooms: reading room, sample room, kitchen, dining room, library, and Louis' bedroom. Behind Louis' bedroom was the east courtyard with the west courtyard in back of the reading room. Surrounded by a high wall, the courtyards were fringed on the south side by a storage room and four small bedrooms. These bedrooms were believed to have housed Dupuy's over-flow. They did not have running water or electricity. On the second floor of the Hotel were ten bedrooms. Running water and electricity were installed in each of the bedrooms for the comfort of the guests. Regular bedroom furnishings were: walnut bedstead, bureau, chest of drawers, wash basin in one corner, rug, curtains, small radiator, and a miscellaneous assortment of chairs. Marble-topped wash basins, with cabinet enclosed plumbing beneath, were scattered throughout the hotel.

⁹ *Georgetown Courier*, December 12, 1882, p. 3, col. 2.

¹⁰ *Georgetown Courier*, March 21, 1889, p. 3, col. 2.

The Hotel had no bar, but it was noted for its wines, both domestic and foreign, which were obtainable with a meal. These were all housed in large casks lining the walls of the wine cellar. Dupuy bottled his own wines from these genuine bulk casks. The bottling machine is still in the cellar. As of this writing, twenty-eight different labels have been discovered, including: *Chateau Margaux, Saint-Emilion, Cantenac Medoc, Chateau Larose, Riesling, Zinfandel, and Cognac Vieux*. These titles illustrate the high grade of wines which Dupuy selected and served. There are no wine racks present. The citizenry of Georgetown have no recollection of there ever having been any.¹¹

Mrs. Hazel McAdams states the wine cellar was locked from 1902 until 1954. This would account for the good state of preservation. There was also a cold storage room in connection with the wine cellar; here Dupuy kept his quarters of beef, his hams, lambs and the like. On shelves against the cellar wall there were found, in 1954, imported French peas and beans in cans dating from long prior to 1900, and unopened bottles of anchovies and other delicacies. A paint room was located in the cellar, also.

The dining room has aroused a considerable amount of interest. The floor has alternating maple and walnut strips. A walnut wainscoting extends around the room. Rumor has it that the design in the walnut woodwork was made by Gally, a local French cabinet maker. The plaster on the walls and ceiling along with the rest of the first and second floors of the Hotel was stippled. The plasterers who were at work in restoring the Hotel believe that the stippling was done with a wet sponge or wool pad. The design at the top of the walls was done by Italian craftsmen, according to legend. Dupuy used another unusual decorative device on the walls and ceiling of the room. He took quarter inch rope, fastening it to the walls, and then painted it over, giving the walls a modified panel effect.¹² Western scenes hanging on the walls of the dining room may have been painted by Cooper. One is signed by him. At the back of the dining room between the two doors which were entrances into the kitchen was a buffet. Imported canned food, meat sauces, and other culinary delicacies rested on the buffet.

A "breakfront" in the southeast corner of the room displays Haviland (Limoges) china. This "breakfront" was in the reading

¹¹ Dr. James Grafton Rogers, *Notes on Wines and Liquors Served At The Hotel de Paris, Georgetown, Colo., 1875-1900* By Louis Dupuy. Manuscript written July 18, 1954, Georgetown, Colo.

¹² "An examination of the rope shows no evidence of nails. It is possible that paste was used to fasten the rope." Dr. James Grafton Rogers, *Answers To Questions by Gene Gressley In Regard to Louis Dupuy*. July 30, 1954, Georgetown, Colo.

Hotel de Paris and Restaurant Dining Rooms.

ORDER BILL OF FARE.

Georgetown,

187

Porter House Steak - - - - -	75	Tenderloin Steak - - - - -	60
" " with Onions - - - - -	35	" " with Onions - - - - -	70
" " with Mushrooms - - - - -	1.00	" " with Mushrooms - - - - -	70
Sirloin Steak - - - - -	40	Veal Cutlet - - - - -	40
" " with Onions - - - - -	50	" " Breaded - - - - -	50
" " with Mushrooms - - - - -	70	Mutton Chops - - - - -	40
Ham - - - - -	40	Pork Steak - - - - -	40

FRIED

Breakfast Bacon - - - - -	25	Liver with Salt Pork - - - - -	40
Mackerel - - - - -	35	Ham and Eggs - - - - -	40
Sausage - - - - -	35	Pigs Feet - - - - -	40
Tripe - - - - -	35	Brains - - - - -	40

GAME

FISH

EGGS.

Boiled - - - - -	25	Ham Omelet - - - - -	40
Fried - - - - -	25	Cheese Omelet - - - - -	40
Scrambled - - - - -	25	Jelly Omelet - - - - -	50
Poached on Toast - - - - -	25	Rain Omelet - - - - -	50
Omelet, Plain - - - - -	25	Mushroom Omelet - - - - -	60

MISCELLANEOUS.

Cold Roast Beef - - - - -	25	Apple Fritters - - - - -	25
Cold Ham - - - - -	25	Bread and Milk - - - - -	25
Cold Tongue - - - - -	24	Mush and Milk - - - - -	25
Pigs Feet, Pickled - - - - -	30	Welsh Rabbit - - - - -	25
Pickled Tripe - - - - -	35	Milk Toast - - - - -	25

Wheat Cakes - - - - -	10	Coffee, per cup - - - - -	10
Corn Cakes - - - - -	10	Tea, " - - - - -	10
Buckwheat Cakes - - - - -	10	Milk, per glass - - - - -	10
Toast - - - - -	10	French Chocolate - - - - -	25

POTATOES, 10c.

All orders above 25 cents are furnished with Bread, Butter and Potatoes

MENU OF HOTEL DE PARIS

room in Louis' day.¹³ The fountain, placed in the center of the room in 1882 or 1883, gave an additional cosmopolitan touch. According to Miss Margaret Ennis, born in Georgetown, "the foun-

¹³ *Georgetown Courier*, December 12, 1882, p. 3, c. 2.

tain is not right now as the water came out of the goose's mouth, not out of a spout. The tin toothed roll at its foot was around the water basin, painted dark green, put on top of the shells or leaves at the edge of the pool to prevent splashing. Louis put little trout in the pool and would catch and cook them for guests. I knew the Hotel and Louis and Aunt Sophie as we were neighbors. Schauer's daughter and I would sometimes carry cinnamon rolls from Schauer's bakery on Alpine Street up to the Hotel on Fridays to help Louis, who would walk up with six pies on a baker's tray balanced like a waiter over his head. We would deliver them at the kitchen door through the corridor under the lion."¹⁴

The kitchen was the scene of Louis' most consistent triumphs. A large brick oven was north-center in the room. The dimensions of the oven were approximately four by six by eight feet.¹⁵ The oven faced the dining room, with an iron grill at the east end. The route of the chimney remains in a semi-mystery. Mrs. McAdams is convinced that it went from the east side of the oven out the east kitchen wall. Louis put firewood in on the north side. His shining copper pots and pans hung on hooks placed in two boards on the east wall near his oven. In the cool room, with dimensions the thickness of the wall and six feet high, were kept the viands. The cooler was located in the southwest corner of the kitchen. Louis' icebox was nearby. A panelled glass room, about six by eight feet, was placed in the southeast corner of the kitchen. In recent years it has been used for a laundry room; Mrs. McAdams believes this to be the original Delmonico Bakery. She thinks that it was across the street from the present day Hotel.¹⁶ Under a window at the west side of the kitchen was a small sink in which Louis would wash his glassware. To the north of the sink was a table on which Mrs. McAdams remembers were kept the Hotel dishes with a cloth covering them.

There were two other sinks in the kitchen, one to the north of the table and another on the east side of the room. In the center of the roof, was placed a sky light which could be opened by two long poles hanging from it. A large container of water was in the west courtyard where Dupuy kept fresh lobsters.

In the reading room were four walnut folding beds, which were shaped to resemble desks. These were used when the Hotel had a capacity crowd.

¹⁴ Dr. James Grafton Rogers, *Interview with Margaret Ennis of Krenmling, Colo., at Georgetown, Colo., Sept. 6, 1954.*

¹⁵ The dimensions are a composite of Mrs. McAdams' and Mrs. Keatings' remembrances.

¹⁶ "There are early maps which show a little frame building about this size in Lot 6 Block 21, and a small frame house set back from the street on Lot 3 of Block 20." Dr. James Grafton Rogers *Answers to Questions by Gene M. Gressley in Regard to Louis Dupuy. Op. Cit.*

Louis had a very extensive library. His books were chiefly on long shelves on the west wall of the library and bedroom. Dupuy's erudition was of unceasing amazement to his guests. He possessed a materialistic philosophy. The volumes on his shelves were written mainly in French and English by many of the prominent social and radical theorists of the age. An inventory of his library included the following titles: *King Capital*, by Croille; *The Anarchists*, Mackay; *Call to Action*, J. B. Weaver; *Work While Ye Have the Light*, Tolstoy; *Ingersolia*, R. G. Ingersoll; *Irrepressible Conflict*, Moses Hull; *John Bull and His Island*, Max O'Rell; *Twice Told Tales*, N. Hawthorne; *Fabian Essays in Socialism*, G. B. Shaw; *Socialism*, Stark, Weather, and Wilson; *Pierre and Jean*, DeMaupassant; *Un Vie d' Artiste*, Dumas; *Les Confessions de Rousseau*, Rousseau; *Alf-Laylah Walaylah*, Burton; *History of France*, Guizot; *North American Review*; *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 9th edition. Louis would invite a select few into his library in the evening to converse on philosophy, science, and mechanics into the early morning. On the east wall of the library was a small fireplace which was used only for ventilation. Statuettes were scattered around the room.

Louis Dupuy's personality has been the object of unending stories. With the passing of years his personality traits have slowly been unveiled. Dupuy was a gruff and sometimes trenchant host, in other moods it was his nature to be hospitable to guests that he appreciated. When visitors that he didn't like came to the Hotel he would send them over to the Elliott house operated by Mrs. Sarah Burkholder, later owner of the Hotel. Travelling salesmen were among the most frequent guests at the Hotel. They desired good accommodations, were steady trade and were considered the elite of the hotel business.

Arthur Kellogg writes:

He disliked crowds and avoided them whenever he could do so, preferring the quiet of his own rooms, and we find in one of his letters to a friend, referring to a noisy celebration of Independence Day in Georgetown, the following, "I closed the hotel on the Fourth and came over to the ranch¹⁷ to avoid the mob."¹⁸

Louis had few confidants in Georgetown; John J. White, his lawyer; Jesse Randall, newspaper editor; Armidas Raymond, miner; Dr. Wright, druggist, were among the closest. The townspeople liked him but few knew him intimately and still fewer

¹⁷ Louis Dupuy's ranch was on Troublesome Creek, northwest of Hot Sulphur Springs. It comprised about 173 acres located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{2}$ and Lot 6 in Sec. 6 TP 2N R79W, also Lot 1 and SE $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sec. 1 TP 2N R 80W, with water rights.—Dr. James Grafton Rogers. *op. cit.*

¹⁸ Arthur Kellogg, *Louis Dupuy, Student, Scholar, Philosopher and Genial Host*, p. 8.

ever went into the Hotel. During the Christmas season he would carry wine and cakes to his intimate friends.¹⁹

Dupuy employed no servants. "Aunt" Sophie Gally was his only help, and Louis referred to her as a guest! "Aunt" Sophie's history in America was even more elusive than Dupuy's. She was of French descent. There is no record of her husband.²⁰ Most accounts tell of him being a carpenter and helping to build the Hotel de Paris.²¹

"Aunt" Sophie was tiny, rotund, drew her hair back over her head and tied it in a knot. She wore black dresses with white waist aprons. Her knowledge of English was very limited. "Aunt" Sophie seldom left the Hotel. Mrs. McAdams remembers her giving an admonition, "I'll cut your heart out," to children who would attempt to crawl over the Hotel de Paris walls. Kellogg relates that Louis gave her an allowance of twenty dollars a month. The townspeople remember her charging most of the things she wanted to Louis.

Louis was kind to children but not overly affectionate. Mrs. McAdams remembers that when she was a little girl she fell in the street outside the Hotel, skinning her knee. Louis picked her up, carried her into the Hotel and washed her knee off at his Italian fountain.

Dupuy's personality trait that has been emphasized is the fact that he was a misogynist. This prism of his personality has been overplayed and distorted. His Hotel registers record the visitations of numerous women guests. It is probably true that he had a reticence towards women, as he did indeed towards most men! Only one hint of a romance has been linked to his name. Joseph Emerson Smith, authority on Dupuy, told the story in a television program on February 28, 1954:

... One of the little girls who watched with a petit four in her mouth, the Hotel de Paris grow, had French parents and Louis' interest turned to love, his first and last. When after graduation from the high school, she taught in the public school to help support her invalid widowed mother. A devout Christian, instructing her class in Sunday school, she was pained that the man, old enough to be her father, who had loaned her books and been so kind to the family after her father's death, was an agnostic. She had learned this when, to assist in her education, he talked philosophy and science.

¹⁹ Dr. James Grafton Rogers, *Interview with Mrs. John Keating of Georgetown and Denver, June 23, 1954*. Georgetown, Colo.

²⁰ Various clues have been run down but none proved productive of information. "Aunt" Sophie was the oldest child of Etienne Francois Bladier and Marie Rose Gazay.—Dr. James Grafton Rogers.

²¹ Mrs. Keating states, "Her husband was named Galli (not Gallet) and may have been Italian. He was killed in a mine and died at the Catholic hospital. It may have been the same accident at which Louis was hurt."—Dr. James Grafton Rogers, *Interview with Mrs. John Keating of Georgetown and Denver, June 23, 1954*. A search of mine accident records of Georgetown did not disclose Gally's name. G.M.G.

When he asked her to marry him, she refused, saying she did not love him. He told her he would not abandon hope and wrote her letters urging his suit, beautifully worded and breathing of the wholly devoted heart that in maturity was experiencing selfless devotion to one "whose beauty of face and candor of eye portrays purity of heart and nobility with understanding and charity of mind" as one letter said.

The young woman kept the letters, hid them in her *escritoire* and evaded encountering the suitor who, despite her silence, continued to plead by letter, telling of himself, explaining actions and deeds so that she would know him better. His word portraits of her were poetry of high quality; though in prose, they would bear comparison with the "Love Sonnets" of Elizabeth Barrett Browning in the depth of revelation of passion at its purest, and there was never a line to offend.

The missives ceased when the young woman married and left Georgetown. Thereafter women were not welcomed—indeed, they never had been—at the Hotel de Paris, but now this was pronounced to the extent that Louis became known as a "woman hater," a pronounced misogynist.²²

One hot and rustling summer afternoon in 1896, an event occurred which was to leave Louis Dupuy's indelible stamp on the educational curriculum of America. Dr. James E. Russell, Professor at the University of Colorado, but soon to become the Dean of Columbia University's Teachers' College, a position which placed him in foremost prominence of the educational world, arrived at the Hotel de Paris lugging his valise. Louis extended him the same gruff welcome that many of the Hotel's guests received. After Russell had eaten what he termed as one of the daintiest meals ever set before him, the two scholars fell to discussing educational philosophy. Dupuy quickly outlined his materialistic viewpoint, saying:

Man is a machine for storing energy and giving it off in work. Man should work if he would keep the machine from rusting out but he needs fuel to keep it going. He has learned from experience what fuel is best—long before you damned professors cooked up theories about it—and there are a few specialists who knew the secret. I am one of the greatest in this country.²³

Later in the article Dr. Russell stated,

It was my first introduction to the household arts and sciences to which I have since devoted a large share of my professional career. I have no doubt that my efforts to put domestic economy on a university footing were really initiated that night. Materialistic as his philosophy was, it was a logical deduction from his fundamental premises. And he was no crude thinker. I discovered later that he was well versed in the pessimistic philosophy of Comte, Hume and the German school. He had taken his stand on a mechanistic basis and followed it to the end.²⁴

This is the evidence for Louis Dupuy's title of "Father of Domestic Science in America."

²² Joseph Emerson Smith, interviewed by Dale Morgan on KFEL-TV, February 28, 1954. Later printed by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Colorado.

²³ Dr. James E. Russell, "Louis Dupuy and the Hotel de Paris of Georgetown," *Colorado Magazine*, Volume XIII, pp. 210-215.

²⁴ Dr. James E. Russell, *op cit*.

On December 26, 1897, Louis noted in the Hotel Register "Louis Dupuy depart/pour la France . . ." The trip may have been made to claim a small inheritance. The *Georgetown Courier* of April 23, 1898, noted, "Louis Dupuy returned this week from a visit to his former home in France." Louis developed pneumonia from taking his daily baths in icy mountain water,²⁵ in late September, 1900, and died October 7, 1900.²⁶

Louis Dupuy, proprietor of the Hotel de Paris, died suddenly Sunday morning of pneumonia, after an illness of several weeks duration. It was believed he was recovering when a relapse set in. By his death a part of the secret of his life was revealed and the public became acquainted with his true name . . .²⁷

Jesse Randall continued the story with the first published account of Louis' life. His funeral was held October 10, 1900.

Before Louis left for France, he made a will leaving his entire property to Sophie Gally. At the same time he had "Aunt" Sophie make a will leaving her possessions to him. Both wills are in Dupuy's flourishing hand writing. They are both identical in general legal wording.

I Louis Dupuy of Georgetown in the county of Clear Creek & State of Colorado give devise & bequeath all my property both real and personal to Sophie Gally—

I appoint said Sophie Gally to be sole executrix of my will—
In witness whereof I the said Louis Dupuy have hereunto set my hand this (15th) Fifteenth day of December Anno Domini One Thousand Eight Hundred & Ninety Seven

Signed & acknowledged Louis Dupuy
by said testator in the presence of us, who, at his request have signed as witnesses to the same.

John J. White
John Tomay

After Louis' death "Aunt" Sophie made another will.²⁸ She did not know the correct spelling of her relatives' names and one relative, Auguste Etienne Bladier, (Augusta Blaquier in her will) was dead before Sophie Gally made her will. "Aunt" Sophie signed with her mark.

I, Sophie Gally, being of sound and disposing mind and memory do hereby make and declare this to be my last will and testament, revoking all other wills by me heretofore made.

1. I direct that my funeral expenses and other just debts be paid.
2. I bequeath and give to the Roman Catholic Church at Georgetown, Colorado, Two Hundred (200) Dollars, to be paid out of my estate.

²⁵ Mrs. McAdams believes that he developed pneumonia from shoveling coal to his basement. Gene M. Gressley, *Interview with Mrs. Hazel McAdams, June 3, 1954*.

²⁶ The date on the tombstone is October 8, 1900. The date, October 7, however, appeared in John J. White's Affidavit and the *Rocky Mountain News* Obituary notice.

²⁷ *Georgetown Courier*, October 7, 1900, p. 3, c. 3-4

²⁸ This will is in the handwriting of John J. White.—J. G. R.

3. I give and bequeath to Emilie Dominquez of Georgetown, Colorado, Five hundred (500) Dollars, to be paid out of my estate.
4. I give and bequeath to Armidas Raymond of the same place, Five Hundred (500) Dollars, to be paid out of my estate.
5. I give and bequeath to John J. White Two Thousand (2000) Dollars, to be paid out of my estate.
6. All the remainder and balance of my property left, after the payment of said bequests and debts; real and personal and mixed and where-ever same may be situate I hereby give, devise and bequeath to Augusta Pouget, Angelie Lefebvre, Ferdinand Blaquier and Augusta Blaquier, relatives of mine, in a foreign country or countries and also Rose Pouget, who is now supposed to be in a foreign country, each to share equally and alike.²⁹

I hereby appoint John J. White as executor of this my last will and testament.

Witness my mark this 19th day of January A. D. 1901, My only signature.

Her mark witnessed by Ensign S. Wright Phil Poirson Sam Strousse George E. Marsh	her Sophie X Gally mark
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We, the undersigned, have subscribed hereto, as witnesses of the foregoing instrument; that we saw her make her mark to said instrument in our presence and she declared same to be her last will and testament and at her request and in her presence and in the presence of each other we subscribe hereto as witnesses.

Georgetown, Colo. Jan'y. 19th, 1901.
Phil Poirson
Sam Strousse
Ensign S. Wright
Geo. E. Marsh.

"Aunt" Sophie died February 17, 1901; she was buried beside Louis. On their tombstone was carved "Deux Bons Amis"—Two Good Friends. Louis' estate was opened by a petition of Sophie Gally for probate of the will filed October 31, 1900 and the final decree was March 24, 1903. The estate of Sophie Gally

²⁹ The final decree in the Gally estate interprets the will and finds as follows: Rosa Pouget, Angeline (Not Angelie as named in the will) Lefebvre (not Lefebvre as in the will) and Auguste Pouget (not Augusta but masculine) get each 2/9 or 2/3 in all as children of her deceased sister Rosa. These are the first, second, fifth persons named in the will. Angeline's name appears later in the deed to S. B. as Lefebvre but also Defebvre.

The Ferdinand Blaquier that Sophie names is found to be her brother Joseph Ferdinand Bladier (this being her own maiden name misspelled) who died in March 1901 just after her own death on February 17. His four children are given 1/15 share each.

The Augusta Blaquier she names in the will is found to be her brother Auguste Etienne Bladier who predeceased her. The other papers show he died in 1900. The decree gives five of Auguste's descendants, four children and a grandchild, each 1/75 of the estate. The later papers show considerable confusion in the real names.

The main present interest in all this is that Sophie, unable to read or write, could not even dictate her own maiden name, did not know that one of her brothers was dead. The will was drawn pretty hastily and carelessly.—J. G. R.



"AUNT" SOPHIE GALLY
WHO INHERITED DUPUY'S ESTATE

was opened February 20, 1901, and the final decree is dated March 24, 1903.³⁰

Mrs. Sarah Burkholder bought the Hotel from the heirs of Sophie Gally through Henry C. Charpiot, their attorney, and the French Consul by a deed March 24, 1903. This was for the two-thirds interest of the Pouget group. Mrs. Burkholder secured the other one-third interest from the other group represented by John J. White by a deed on June 4, 1903. The total sale price of the Hotel was \$7,000.

Armidas (Joe) Raymond was paid one hundred dollars a month as consideration for running the Hotel, February 21 to April 21, 1901. Mrs. Burkholder rented the Hotel for thirty-five dollars per month from April 23, 1901 until the final decree, March 24, 1903.³¹ Louis' ranch on the Troublesome in Grand County was bought by Edmund Becker, who was his former partner in the cattle ranch.³²

³⁰ Dr. James Grafton Rogers, *Answers to Questions by Gene Gressley in regard to Louis Dupuy*; taken from my notes. July 30, 1954.

³¹ Dr. James Grafton Rogers, *op. cit.*

³² See Footnote 17. The brand used by Louis Dupuy was 6 Diamond. It was recorded in his name in Grand County between 1885-87. Recorded with the Secretary of State on June 30, 1900 in Brand Book M, p. 279. On March 23, 1902 this brand was transferred by John J. White, Executor, to Edmund Becker, Kremmling. Sold by Becker to Pickering, 1924, who let the brand go in 1927.—State Brand Inspection Records, Denver.

On May 6, 1905 the *Georgetown Courier* announced the grand opening of the Hotel de Paris by Mrs. Sarah Burkholder after a redecoration and rejuvenating program had taken place. It said:

... On the inner side of this hotel, and upon entering a brilliantly lighted room the scene becomes entrancing. Here the work of the artist is to be seen. Here is to be found marble busts of Moliere and Mirabeau, holding places of honor with bronzes of Montesquieu and Voltaire. In a central position is an oil painting of the "First Council," while the walls of the libraries are surrounded by bookcases arranged in artistic disorder. The dining room is a work of art, and the cookery department is and always has been, an art that appeals to all mankind. The china cabinets, filled with choicest of Haviland and cut-glass, is constantly used on the Massive tables of the Renaissance period, furnished with solid silver is indeed pleasing to the eye. To the right of the dining room, one enters the gentlemen's library and smoking room. To the left is the front library, wherein is to be found the works of all the noted authors, French, English, and American. Heavy oak book cases are built around the walls, and are mounted with works of art by old French masters. Here may be found the works of Tolstoi, Mondes, Gautier, Rousseau, Bourget, Sand, De Branteme, Dumas, and any number of great and famous authors, and the student of history breathes contentment. In the rear library is to be found the works of the standard authors, including histories, encyclopedias, fiction, both French, and English, also folios of French art pictures. The sleeping apartments are all furnished in heavy oak and upholstered leather. The walls are painted in pleasing colors, thus insuring perfect sanitation. Each room is provided with hot and cold water, while the mirrors of both walls and dressers are French plate beveled glass. Arranged in an artistic manner are paintings and steel engravings of French art. The floors are covered with heavy velvet and moquette carpets, and as one walks heavily no sound is heard. The entire furnishings of this hotel were imported from France and are of antique origin. A number of suites are provided with bath, while the stairway entrance, has two full length mirrors. Noiseless toilets have recently been installed, in addition to making many other notable changes which will prove of great benefit to the guests honoring the institution with their presence. New plumbing has been placed throughout the building and the sanitary condition is now considered perfect. The edifice is heated by the hot water system, and the arrangement of the mechanism is such that hot water is at all times at hand, even though the water should be drawn from the city mains.

Last, but not least, in the successful management of the popular hostelry, is the kitchen. This room is provided with a hard wood floor, and is large and perfectly arranged. It has the reputation of being the handsomest and most unique kitchen in the world. The walls are magnificently decorated with art pictures, and are painted in the colors of the French nation.

At the present time additional improvements are in contemplation. The toilet rooms, both on the first and second floors at the west end of the building, have been removed, in order to

provide an entrance way from the first and second floors to the double porches which will shortly lend dignity to the appearance of the building. With this work completed the guests will be provided with a place where they may see all the beauties of the surrounding country and enjoy the sunshine and balmy air of beautiful Georgetown. The rooms in the court are being remodeled, and the walk around the building made attractive, thus insuring that the Hotel de Paris, will continue to shine in the estimation of the traveling public, both as a home of rest and a place of recreation.

The citizens of Georgetown and the entire upper Clear Creek district are proud of the famous Hotel de Paris, and full realize that under the management of Mrs. Burkholder its high standard of excellence will be maintained. What more could one ask?³³

Mrs. Burkholder was a beautiful, energetic and very capable woman. She ran the Elliott house at the northwest corner of Taos and Fifth streets. Her husband, Jim Burkholder, operated a hardware store on Alpine street. Mr. Burkholder died December 24, 1906. The Burkholders had two children: James Edward and Hazel. James Edward was a musician who enlisted in the First World War and died in Pennsylvania. Hazel, a school teacher, married Ralph McAdams. Mr. McAdams died young. Mrs. McAdams later took over active management of the Hotel. Mrs. Burkholder ran the Hotel with the help of her daughter Mrs. McAdams from 1905 to 1920. After the First World War, Georgetown became a sleepy little hamlet and the trade of the Hotel de Paris was the miners and the local laborers. After 1920 because of illness Mrs. Burkholder leased the Hotel. Mrs. Burkholder died in 1932. Ed Herbst leased the Hotel from 1921 to 1923,³⁴ from 1923 to 1928, Mrs. Burkholder and Mrs. McAdams again assumed active management.³⁵ C. M. Forquer managed the Hotel from 1928 to 1939.³⁶ From 1939 until 1941, Mrs. H. N. Edmundson was proprietor of the Hotel.³⁷ Mrs. McAdams intermittently ran the Hotel from 1941 until this year.

On May 4, 1954, the Colonial Dames Society Historical Foundation, Inc., acquired the title to Hotel de Paris.

Now again, as in Louis' time, visitors have a chance to sip tea and nibble French pastries in the quaint courtyard, marvel at his philosophical books, admire the massive dark walnut furniture and breathe the spirit of a bit of Old France nestled in the Rocky Mountains.

³³ *Georgetown Courier*, May 6, 1905, p. 1, col. 3, 4, 5.

³⁴ *Colorado Business Directory*, 1921, p. 565.

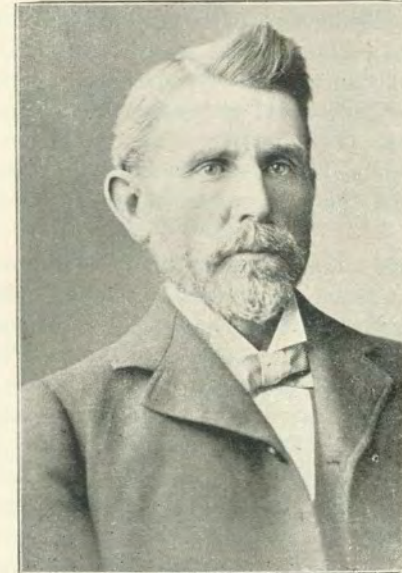
³⁵ *Ibid.*, 1923, p. 577.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, 1928, p. 577.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 1941, p. 671.

W. A. Colt—Builder of Railways and Mountain Highways

BY CHARLES W. HURD*



W. A. COLT
"The Sage of the Rocky Mountain Region"

Mr. W. A. Colt, formerly of Las Animas, but now of Lyons, Colo., is nearing the century mark in his career. Yet, despite his years, his age is not apparent in his actions, his thinking, nor his aspirations. He is probably the youngest old man in all these parts. Throughout his life he has been known for his achievements, his optimism, his faith, his spirit of goodwill and his fine art of living.

As is evidenced by his breadth of vision and the soundness of his judgment, Mr. Colt is up-to-date in his thinking and in all that he does; yet he likes to talk of the early days, when the East was in the making and the West was young; when the history of a town or a community was written in the lives of its leading citizens. As he looks back, he draws inspiration from the lives of the great men with whom he has been associated and he realizes that men

* Charles W. Hurd, Curator of the Pioneer Museum, Las Animas, Colo., who spent the summer traveling in Europe is back in Colorado and busy again collecting data for articles about Colorado's builders, industrialists, and financiers.—Ed.

of our time have a priceless heritage from the pioneers, in strength of character, great courage and a will to win.

William Albert Colt was born of Danish ancestry on December 1, 1856, at Lewiston, N. Y., six miles below Niagara Falls. He was the son of J. B. Colt. The Colt family still has an interest in one of the elevators that serves tourists at the Falls.

Long before William was born, his father's father was tomahawked by an Indian while he was fishing in the Niagara River, in the rain. That made an orphan of the boy, J. B. Colt. Thereupon his mother turned him over to an uncle, under an agreement that he was to live with him until he was twenty-one years of age. At the age of eighteen he bought his liberty by paying the uncle \$100.00 for each of the remaining three years of his period of bondage.¹

When possessed of his freedom the young man, J. B. Colt, soon found a wife. Then he obtained a tract of land that was well timbered. He already had an exceptional yoke of oxen as each of the animals weighed 2,000 pounds. He was often called on to move heavy loads when other teamsters got stuck. On the farm the young man worked hard cutting tall trees and dressing out heavy timbers thirty-five feet long, thirty inches wide and eight inches thick for use in building canal boats. At that time, the Erie Canal was under construction and when the foreman saw what Mr. Colt could do with his big team he offered him a job.

The work on the canal lasted two years. In that time Mr. Colt came to like construction work and he got a thrill out of having a part in big business, with the result that he, his sons after him, and his grandsons followed construction work on major projects through the best part of a century.

In 1864 when William was only seven years old, the family left New York and journeyed up the Great Lakes to Chicago, traveling part way by rail but covering most of the trip by boat.

By that time Chicago had become the gateway to the Middle West where a spectacular period of economic development was about to take place. Railroads had not yet ventured beyond the city but were about to do so as the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company was ready to take the lead. Its builders did not have trackage through the city and when their first locomotive arrived from the east they moved it through town on planks laid through the muddy streets.

¹This matter of bondage was an old custom—a common practice until about the middle of the past century. It was based on the theory that a boy living with another family owed his services to the father, or head of the house, who took him in, in compensation for his keep; and it was generally understood that while he was serving his time he would learn a trade. Kit Carson was one who met the same proposition, but Kit broke bonds when he escaped from the harness maker of Franklin, Mo., in the night.—*Author.*

The coming of the railroads stimulated a wave of economic development that soon spread over Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa; then leaped the Missouri and spread west to the Rocky Mountains with amazing rapidity.

Into this new awakening that covered all the land, came the Colts who were destined to have a part in important events throughout the country. No one at that time realized the significance of events then taking place; nor were the participants conscious of the fact that they, themselves, were making history. The Colts were among the many caught in the new movement, some in a small way, but each one playing his part, great or small, in laying the foundations for empire in the West. The railroads and highways which the Colts helped to build are in use today from the Mississippi to the crest of the Rocky Mountains.

The early settlers west of the Mississippi frequently met hard times. The pioneer age was one that tried the souls of men. It was especially hard on the first generation, the fathers and mothers; and so it was with the Colts.

After a short stay in Chicago, where James B. Colt, the father, was getting his bearings, the family moved to northern Iowa and filed on a homestead. There they went into the sheep business, raising and grazing 1,500 head on the abundant grasses. As wool was selling at a dollar a pound, Fortune seemed to smile on the new venture. But disaster from an unanticipated source struck suddenly and with terrific force. In the third winter there came a terrible storm, piling up the snow so deep that 1,150 of the sheep smothered. That put an end to the farming effort in Iowa. With the remaining 350 sheep they gathered their small possessions and headed south across country.

The going was slow and some of the experiences were tough. After they had traveled a few hundred miles and were near Clinton, Mo., the Colts ran out of money and had to stop. There they tried farming again.

James B. Colt was well qualified by nature to meet the rigors of frontier life. He was strong in mind and body, forceful and resourceful, noted for his perseverance. He never became discouraged because of the hardships he encountered and disaster never got him down. Obstacles that seemed insurmountable only proved to be stepping stones to greater achievements. The qualities that made him a success in life appeared again in his sons and his grandsons.

Being out of money and short on provisions made it necessary for the father (J. B.) to get work at once to earn a little cash. Freightage offered immediate relief, whereby all might eat and

live. With his team and wagon he hauled supplies between Clinton and Sedalia for about a year.

Then came the first great movement in railway building that swept west from Chicago and St. Louis in the middle 'sixties. The excitement that covered the country took hold of Mr. Colt. He moved the first shovel of dirt in building the first railway through Clinton, known as the Tebo and Neosho road, but later called the M. K. & T. Ry.² He was construction foreman and he got a contract to build twenty miles of the grade. From that time to the end of his working days he was a builder of railways.

During most of the time when James B. Colt was doing construction work in Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas he kept his family with him. They lived in tents by the side of the road and were always ready to move as necessity demanded or as opportunity offered. As soon as the boys were big enough to do so, they went to work on the "grade."³ William was only twelve years old when he began driving a team hitched to a scraper. In 1879, when he was twenty-one years of age, he became one of the partners in the firm of J. B. Colt and Sons.

When William earned his first big money as a contractor, a banker friend advised him to put his money in the bank where it would be safe and he would not have to worry about hard times. He thanked his friend for his interest, but said to him: "I know that your advice is good but I want to take that money and do something with it."

In later years he went broke five times and he often thought of his banker friend and of the bank account he might have had.

In 1879 the Colts were at work on a contract with the Texas, Pacific and Fort Worth Railway Company building into El Paso, Texas. There they were held in high esteem by the superintendent because of the quality of their equipment and the fine work that they did.

For twenty years or more the Colts used horses, mules, and oxen—with highest honors going to the oxen. J. B. always used them in rooty ground or when he was plowing hardpan, "making dirt" for the scrapers. When the going was tough he would hitch several yoke together and could plow to considerable depth. As late as the early nineties, in Colorado, when W. A. Colt was working on the Fort Lyon Canal he found that horses and mules were not adequate for the heavy work. He went to Missouri and brought back eight yoke of oxen and their driver. This string of oxen later appeared in a Santa Fe Trail Day parade at Las Animas.

² Missouri, Kansas & Texas Ry.

³ Railway road bed.—Ed.

For twenty years the Colts continued their railroad work on Jay Gould lines in Missouri and the Southwest. One of these roads was the famous Iron Mountain Southern Railroad. They were generally moving dirt but they sometimes contracted to build a railroad complete, including the telegraph line, the depots and fences. At that time laborers were paid \$1.00 to \$1.25 for a ten-hour day and it cost 12 cents to move a cubic yard of dirt.

During a period of about twenty years following the Civil War, the country was in a precarious financial condition. The Nation's finances had not reached the measure of stability such as we have today. Panic followed panic at short intervals. Sometimes the railroad companies were not able to pay the contractors when they had finished their work. Naturally the contractors went broke, too, and the Colts were no exception.

J. B. Colt showed his wisdom when he took his two sons, William and Morris, off the job and sent them to the Kemper Military School at Booneville, Missouri, in 1873. There William graduated in 1875 and is now the oldest living alumnus of the institution.

As a student at Kemper, William's staying qualities seemed to mark him for a man of ability. He was strong, healthy and happy. His leisure hours were never wasted as all his spare time was used in hard work, earning money to pay expenses. He could usually be found sawing wood, for which he was paid a dollar a cord. He could saw a cord an hour. He had two helpers handling the wood to and from the saw. He paid these men twenty cents. That left him eighty cents for his hour's work. As soon as school days were over the two Colt boys were back with their father helping him with the work on the railroad grades. The years from 1882-1887 were slow because of a panic.

Yet early in 1887 the firm obtained a contract to build 300 miles of railroad grade from McCracken, Kansas, to Pueblo, Colo., for the Missouri Pacific Railway Company. That was a rush job as the graders had to keep out of the way of the tracklayers who were working under a time contract. The graders reached Pueblo on December 1, having accomplished their work in 220 days.

Contracts such as this one called for large sums of money for equipment and to take care of a heavy pay roll, but the Colts always had credit with the home banker at Clinton, Mo., where they had the reputation of always meeting their obligations promptly.

On that job the Colts used 800 mules and more than 1,000 men, most of whom were Irishmen. It was characteristic of the Colts that in the matter of equipment they always had to have the best. On the Missouri Pacific job they had a new ditching and grading machine, the first of its kind ever built. It was put out by The

Western Wheeled Scraper Company of Aurora, Ill. It plowed up the dirt and put it on an endless belt that carried it to the grade, or to waiting dump wagons. This machine was so efficient that as much as two miles of grade could sometimes be built in a day. It was pulled by fifteen of the best mules, eleven of them in front and the other four hitched behind. Two men were required to operate the machine and there were two teamsters.

The building of the Missouri Pacific to Pueblo, in 1887, proved to be one of the turning points in the life of W. A. Colt. It brought him to the "sunshine state," and ever after he was a Coloradan. When the grader was opposite Las Animas he came over to confer with T. C. Henry, the famous builder of irrigation systems in Colorado, and with his secretary, H. L. Lubers,⁴ regarding prospective construction work on the Fort Lyon Canal. The result was that he got a contract for the work and he did most of the digging of the main stem of the canal as it exists today. According to the terms of his contract with Mr. Henry he took one-third of his pay in land, at \$20.00 per acre, earning 1,200 acres, and that's how he came to be a farmer in the Arkansas Valley. The Colts, especially W. A.'s brother Morris, also did a lot of construction work for Mr. Henry on irrigation canals in the San Luis Valley.

In 1888, J. B. Colt withdrew from the firm and sold his half-interest to two brothers-in-law, J. A. Reinhart and W. C. Burke. The firm of Colt, Reinhart and Burke did business in Las Animas for ten years. There W. A. Colt was a leading citizen and was generally busy. He was mayor of the city and acted as superintendent for his extensive farm operations. He paved the city streets and built the Carey dam. He was forever planning some new venture, usually something big.

In 1900, the firm of Colt, Reinhart and Burke was dissolved and Mr. Colt made his two sons, Bryant Douglas and William Albert, Jr., his sole partners. These two boys continued as contractors for many years, even after their father retired.

No attempt is made in these pages to enumerate all of the important works that Mr. Colt has accomplished in Colorado. While he lived at Las Animas he did construction work on several of the irrigation systems between Lamar and Pueblo. He also put up quite a number of large store buildings in Las Animas and other cities. As a part of his large-scale farm operations, he fed sheep extensively.

During World War I, when the Germans mixed up the shipping so that the United States could no longer get a supply of jute

⁴ Mrs. Lubers was the granddaughter of William Bent and Owl Woman. *Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XIII, No. 1, p. 19.

from India for the making of heavy ropes needed by the United States Navy, Mr. Colt got a contract with the government to furnish vast quantities of tough fibre that might be used as a substitute for jute. He and his sons hired 1,000 men in New Mexico and went into Texas, not far from El Paso, with their heavy machinery to cut soapweed⁵ and prepare it for shipment in bales to St. Louis, Mo. They handled 3,000 tons a month that were made into rope and other much-needed articles to help win the war. All went well on the soapweed contract until the stock pile took fire and 1,400 tons of Colt's "bear grass" went up in smoke at a loss of \$25,000.

William A. Colt's home life has been filled with domestic happiness that has contributed to his peace of mind and to his success in a work-a-day world. He lost his first wife (Elizabeth "Betty" McPherson Colt), after five happy years. Then he married his wife's cousin, Miss Sallie Douglas, of St. Louis, Mo. This union of continued happiness lasted seventeen years, when death again entered his life. Still believing in domesticity, he married a third time—a very dear friend of the family, Jennie L. Lowe of Independence, Mo. The third Mrs. Colt lived true to the traditions of her predecessors and was always a helpful companion to her illustrious husband. She went with him on the job and lived in a trailer as he built the Trail Ridge Road in Rocky Mountain National Park. She passed away on July 29, 1954.

Mr. Colt had two sons and one daughter. W. A. Colt, Jr., was born of the first wife, while Douglas and his daughter, Mary, were children of the second wife. Mary became Mrs. H. S. Eilley of Connecticut and is the only one of the three children now living.

Mr. Colt's building of important modern highways in Colorado began in 1922 on Wolf Creek Pass, where he had a contract for the construction of six miles of road leading from the summit down the east slope. He began the work in December and worked a week when a great storm buried his machines twenty-five feet deep in snow and he could not get going again until the following June. Some of his competitors were jealous of Mr. Colt over the low bid he made on the Wolf Creek Pass project, but he completed the job ahead of the specified time limit, in spite of interruptions caused by bad weather. He also made a nice profit. He never handled a contract on a railroad or a highway job on which he did not make a profit. His success as a contractor moving dirt was due to a lifetime of experience and to the fact that he always stayed on the job, giving personal supervision.

⁵ Common name for yucca.—Ed.

On Independence Pass, Mr. Colt obtained a contract for the construction of a heavy duty highway covering a distance of nine miles—three miles on top and three miles down each slope. The work required three years for completion.

In 1929, when Mt. Colt was seventy-three years of age, (an age when most men are out of commission), he obtained the contract for building the famous Trail Ridge Road from Estes Park to Grand Lake, a distance of seventeen miles. Ten miles of this was above timber line, over the crest of the range. It practically followed the route of an old Ute Indian Trail. Because of the rigors of winter, work could be carried on only in the summer months. Four years were required to complete the road and the cost was half a million dollars.

The building of the Trail Ridge Road was the last major undertaking of the Colt company but the firm continued in operation until 1937 when W. A. Colt withdrew from active participation in construction work and retired. The Trail Ridge Road was Mr. Colt's largest government job carried on in the state and the finished product is the pride of his life.

During Mr. Colt's years in the hills, building modern highways over the great passes and on the heights, he formed a lasting attachment for the mountains, whose lure was irresistible. So when work was finished he chose a beauty-spot at the foot of the mountains, just west of Lyons, where two creeks meet. There he built a spacious and comfortable home. In this mountain retreat, close by the side of a well-traveled highway that leads to Estes Park, he lives at ease and watches the world go by. Through the air and by printed page he keeps in touch with the news of the day. Three daily and several other newspapers, together with letters, and messages, come to his desk.

He is supposed to be in retirement, yet he is seldom idle. His various interests, indoors and out, keep him busy. His fish ponds and his nursery of walnut trees are his delight.

Mr. Colt is interested in people. It is his contention that all women and most men are honest. His faith in humanity has stayed with him in spite of a few sad experiences. He has always been known as a friend to man. When he was paving the streets of Las Animas one of his men came to him and reported that another employee was stealing their gasoline. Mr. Colt thought for a minute, then said, "Well, I guess he needs that gasoline or he wouldn't be stealing it."

Another incident shows his unbounded faith in a Deity that rules the affairs of men. About 1910 he was living in Manzanola, where he had a nice new home. He was feeding a considerable

number of sheep that year when the bottom fell out of the market and most of the feeders suffered heavy loss. Mr. Colt went to Kansas City with the last of his flock. When he had sold out and counted his money he found that he lacked \$5,000 of having enough to pay the banker and cover other bills. All the way home he kept pondering the problem of his financial situation, of what he was going to do, what he was going to say, and how he was going to pay. He felt, however, that in some way all would come out well. Beaty Brothers, the bankers, were his friends but he wanted to hold that friendship. He wanted to make good. Next morning while everyone was seated at the breakfast table the doorbell rang and a man asked, "Do you know where a man can buy a house?" Mr. Colt's reply was, "Yes. You can have this one."

He sold his property for enough to pay the bankers and cover all outstanding debts. He says, "Things always come out that way."

Although the active years of his life have passed, Mr. Colt is much interested in the irrigation problems of Colorado now before the people of the state, including the Trans-Mountain Water Diversion and all of the others.

In the Arkansas Valley he is interested in a very large undertaking to reclaim 400,000 acres of dry land extending from Fowler to Lamar, between the Arkansas River and the Missouri Pacific Railroad. He owns a vast acreage in that area and a considerable part of the balance is government land.

His plan is to tap the river above Fowler and make use of flood waters that come down the Arkansas. An old river bed can be utilized as a convenient inlet for the storing of water in Lake Meredith. Without thought of self, he wants this accomplishment to be a heritage to his friends and to future generations in the Arkansas Valley.

If this can be accomplished it will furnish ranch land for a great number of homeseekers and will be a means of increasing food production at a time when many persons think that humanity is facing the bread line.

This reclamation scheme, which has come to be known as the "Colt Project," had its birth years ago when Mr. Colt was working on the Missouri Pacific. A study of the contour of the land opened his eyes to the opportunity for an irrigation project that would cover a vast area at low cost. He talked with T. C. Henry of his findings and was told that the plan seemed practical.

Mr. Colt looks upon ours as an age of opportunity. There is need, up front, for men of vision who have the courage to undertake the world's work.

Because of his many accomplishments, his clear understanding of the times, the life he has lived, and his many years, Mr. Colt has won the title of "The Sage of the Rocky Mountain Region." His charm is in the manner of man that he is. He does big things; he thinks big; and he is big. High ideals are the ruling factors of his life.

The nearly ninety-eight years that he has lived have not cooled the enthusiasm that he shows in his quest for ways of accomplishing the world's work. They have only slowed his step.

His sterling traits and his staying qualities are typical of the age, of which he was a part. The story of his life is deserving of a place in our "Hall of Fame," where future generations may read and catch inspiration.

Reuben A. McCray — "Uncle Mac"

By GERTRUDE DUNNING GAMMON*

Your Uncle Eugene Gammon and I have found much of interest in the records filed away in his father's old desk of which his mother, Roxie, once said, "Well, Gene, you had better take the desk." He being the eldest son, accepted it, little realizing the value of its contents. Now we've learned to treasure the things in the desk and have filed some of them in the Colorado State Historical Society in Denver.

From this data and from information gathered wherever I could find it, I have assembled this story of Reuben A. McCray—your Uncle Mac.

When I was visiting Roxie Green Gammon at the home of her daughter, Erma Gammon Ryan, in Topeka, Kansas, years ago, she handed me a long, narrow account book "to put back in Julien's desk." Its first date is March 1, A. D., 1841. The book was the property of her family of Greens at Washington, T. P. [Township], Sandusky County, Ohio.

* Mrs. Gammon, now a resident of Fort Collins, Colo., is the wife of the late Eugene Gammon, son of Julien and Roxie Gammon and the great-nephew of R. A. McCray, who was a partner of Julien Gammon, in the cattle business. Their OZ outfit was near Ramah on Big Sandy. Eugene Gammon is said to have been the first white child born in the OZ settlement. The original ranch house where he was born, later remodeled into a small cottage, is reputed to be the oldest house still standing in that part of eastern Colorado. In 1937 Representative C. A. Hillman introduced a Bill into the State Legislature asking that the Gammon Ranch be made a state park because of its historical significance. The Bill, however, did not pass.

With much devoted effort, Mrs. Gammon, who taught at Ramah prior to her marriage, has been for some time assembling family data for "the coming generation." Recently she placed with the State Historical Society of Colorado many rare historical items including an account book and diary, an 1882 Brand Book, brand certificates, clippings and photographs. She compiled a story of "Uncle Mac" primarily for the fourteen living grandchildren of Julien and Roxie Anne Green Gammon, niece of Reuben McCray. Graciously she has consented to have this story, with some rearrangement, published in *The Colorado Magazine*. Later will come a story about Eugene Gammon and more about the OZ.—*The Editor*.

On the last written page are the names of the Green family. They appear later at Nevada City, Colorado! No date is given, but here is the first *recorded* location of Reuben McCray, that I have found. Below his name are listed: Roxy Ann Green, Rosella Maria Green, Sophia Jane (McCray) Green (who was Reuben's sister), Joshua R. Green and Abel W. Green. Stephen R. Green and Barbara A. Green. S. C. Joshua, Stephen and Sarah were three children of Abel Green contracted to the care of one Mrs. John Ward for 18 months at a rate of \$12.50 per month. This contract was dated May 6, 1850.

Tom Stark, who ranched near Uncle Mac northeast of OZ, Colorado, in the late 1870's and 1880's, told me that Uncle Mac had been in the West dealing in furs in the early 'fifties. Eugene's mother, Roxie Green Gammon, a niece of Uncle Mac, told him that she well recalled Uncle Mac returning to their home at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, when she was a little girl. His wagon load of furs from the West brought him \$800.00. He was known to be both a fur trader and trapper. Judging from Roxie's age, this trip made by Uncle Mac must have been about 1865, as she was born in March 1860.

Gene has the buffalo gun Mac carried in the 'fifties and on. It is dated Sept. 12, 1843, and is of the first issue out of the Sharps Rifle factory in Hartford, Connecticut. It is still in good condition. Once when our sons, Gene Arthur and James Boyd, had used all the twenty-two shells, so there were none to shoot a hog for butchering, Gene used this gun. The shell was old and powerful. When the smoke cleared away less than half the hog's head remained. It did not require the customary bleeding. Dr. Wagar, gun expert at Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College, told us that this type gun was perfected for carrying saddleback in the open West. Its lower side is worn where it rubbed on the saddle.

Mac also had another rifle, a repeating carbine which he used for antelope hunting. His well-trained horse, Old Baldy, was a fine animal, sorrel and with a white stripe in his face. He was trained to stand where Mac left him until he heard the sound of shot. Then he would go in that direction, hunting Mac to load the game behind the saddle.¹

According to Dr. Howard A. Kelly,² Uncle Mac had lived first in Ohio (Sandusky), and his great early occupation was in "leading

¹ This probably was in the early 'eighties. Gene was too young to recall it.—*The Author*.

² Howard A. Kelly, a nineteen-year-old medical student at the University of Pennsylvania, spent more than a year at the OZ and ST ranches on Big Sandy, 1879-1880. He and Uncle Mac became great friends and young Kelly made many notes in his diary about his conversations with Uncle Mac. Dr. Kelly later was one of the founders of Johns Hopkins Hospital. He made visits to the ranch in later years and told me many things about Uncle Mac.—*The Author*.



A HUNTING PARTY IN COLORADO ABOUT 1879
R. A. (Uncle Mac) McCray, guide, is No. 2—Howard Kelly, No. 4

parties of emigrants across the plains into the West, guarding them against the risk of Indians as they traveled in their prairie wagons out across Nebraska, over the Platte River, and down, it seems into Colorado. On one of Mac's trips west by ox team his wagon box was well caked and when he drove to the Missouri River and found it at high water he paid no attention to warnings of others who were waiting for the river to go down. Mac drove his oxen into the river heading them downstream with the current. By angling slowly he came out on the other side of the stream three-fourths of a mile below the usual ford, but *he* was across and his load was dry."

Dr. Kelly and Mac had some interesting talks about Indians. The Doctor recorded in his diary:

... he was familiar with such tribes as the Omahas, Pawnees, Poncas, Sioux, Arapahoes, Cheyennes, Potawatomes, Comanches. He stated that they raised dogs to eat. Dogs will follow a man's tracks when he is out hunting antelopes and rabbits to get what is left after killing, and wolves will eat coyote meat. The Indians poison their arrows by rubbing them on their teeth! He cited the case of a Pawnee who killed a man in 1864 by making a little flesh wound on the thigh.

Commenting on my measurement of the jump of a jackrabbit which was twelve feet and eleven inches, he said that he had measured deer tracks on a jump of eighteen steps equal to fifty-four feet. He had seen gray squirrels jump fifty feet from a tree into another, describing an arc like a flying squirrel.

Reuben A. McCray was a man of strong, large, active, physical stature. Somewhere references have been made to a Scotch family. An old notebook of pocket size which he carried for years gives glimpses into where he was and what he was doing from 1863 to 1874. His first entry is:

	Palo, Iowa	Apr. 9, '63	
	To one mule of Green		\$100.00
29	of John Jones		26.00
	Murdock		6.00
June	I B Smith meat 400		100.00
Cr	on same Flour 7.00		11.00
	John Miller		8.75
	Jones for chain		2.00
	Ranch bill with Smith		6.00
	One Poney 2 Days to		
	Denver City 1.00		2.00
October	of Stephen Green		40.00

The book entries are rather muddled as to order but some periods are very easily followed.

The second date of value is March 15, 1865, Julesburg, beneath which is:

	George Woolley Dr. To Cash	\$50.00
	Doz. pair socks	1.25
	2 lbs. of meat	1.10

Right here appears a faded entry for Maggie Jones, known to be Roxie's cousin. Also A. W. Green is mentioned. On April 1, 1865, Uncle Mac records: Due Maggie Jones Three hundred and forty-three dollars and 40 cents. Pencilled entries show various payments to Maggie Jones. It appears that the money due Maggie Jones was received as follows: from Randel Knapp \$25.00; of Tague \$13.40; of Tague \$6.00; of Collins \$24.00; of Hyde \$175.00.

Now we approach the clearest, continuous record in the little book. It covers a trip in which Uncle Mac evidently was freighting from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Denver City, and on to Cassel's Ranch above Central City. Butter appears to be one of the chief items freighted.

The following appears in the book:

	Bought by R. A. McCray		
	Shoeing		\$7.00
	Coffee 360		11.35
	Coffee Pot		.75
	1 keg butter 119 lbs @40		45.20
	Roll " 175 @35		61.25
	1 keg		1.25
	Expenses en route		4.00
	1 Waggon		37.50
Jan. 19	Kosta		2.00
	20 Gernel (Grinnell)		2.25
	1 Box Greese		.30
	21 Skunk River		2.00
	23 Adairs		3.00
	2 Keggs 272 lbs.		108.80

5	Keggs 576	224.00
57	lbs. ham.	9.50
24	Knight	1.75
	Do	2.00
26	Dalmanatta 2 nights	4.50
27	Grove City	2.00
28	Big Grove	2.00
95	miles. Bluffs [Council]	2.00
	one plow	21.50
	one kegg Tobacco	
30	Turnip seed 1½ lbs.	3.00
	meat 66# @ 20	13.20
	Crackers	10.04
31	Omaha	2.50
Feb.	1 Elk Horn	2.00
	Do for corn 2 bu.	3.00
	2 Platte River	1.50
3 & 4	Shell Creek	3.50
	5 Loop Fork	1.50
	6 Eagle Island	.50
	7 Lone Tree	.50
	4 Boxes Pills 25	1.00
	Bill at Tazier	3.60
	Esties	2.00
	Hylers	2.00
	Murdocks	14.50
	Townsley	35.25
	Plum Creek	1.25
	Millers	3.00
	Bakers	3.00
	Cotton Wood	5.00
	hay	\$1.00
	Julesburg "	\$1.00
	Godfries	\$2.00
	Cutoff	\$2.00
	Fremonts Orche (Orchard)	2.00
	Cash bepew (Cache la Poudre)	1.00
	St. Vrain	1.25
	Pikes Peak House	1.50
	1 Sack of Oats	10.35
Mch 29	Napp Dr.	
	By Cash	40.00
	Do	20.00
	Denver 4 days	10.00
	One meal	1.00
	Bread	.80
	Golden Gate	2.50
	Toll " " 65 2 (wagons)	1.30
	Black Hawk	6.00
	Flour \$75.00 Freight	116.20

Evidently Uncle Mac sold butter along the route. An entry under Feb. 17, 1865 reads:

5	Butter Cr.	
	lbs. Butter 50	2.50
	Murdock	3.00
	Ridell	14.25
	Wood River	2.50
	Kearney	17.60
	Do	20.00
	Julesburg	104.00

J. T. Peck	one kegg Dr.	
of butter	114 70	79.80
Kept at home	113 lbs. Butter	
Expences from Cedar Rapids to Cassell Ranch		
in Cash		\$171.25
Central City Apr. 1st		
Cash for Hay		23.00
Soda 40 Paper 50		.90
Do George Douglas		
Dr.		15.00
August 26, 1865		
Paid Wm. Green One Hundred Dollars the Balance		
that was due him. R. A. McCray.		
Sept. 13th Received of		
R. A. Ford		45.00

An entry on Nov. 17, 1865, shows—

Cassell Ranch. John Cochern Dr. to one pair of wagon wheels at fifty cents per day.

Records in the Court House at Central City for Gilpin County are in beautiful shape from 1863 on. There I found numerous references to Reuben McCray's business deals as well as a few for Julien Gammon, up to 1866. Time prevented me from doing research beyond that date.

One of these records in Book 31, p. 608 is as follows:

Reuben McCray to Steven Green, August 16, 1866 ½ interest in wood on Ansel Cassel Ranch and a span of black horses, harness, wagon and one bay pony.

Another record is:

R. A. McCray of Gilpin County, August 14, 1866, \$200.00. ½ interest in and to a certain ranch together with improvements and all buildings there on at the head of New York Gulch in the Eureka district, Gilpin County, Colorado, said known as the Ansel Cassel Ranch and contains Section 4, township 3S Range 73W, of 6th Prin. meridian.

It was at the Cassel Ranch, above Central City, that Julien and Uncle Mac were snowbound. The location was high in the slash (small timber) country. At last a driver, team and sled came through trying to get to Leadville to sell a load of cabbage buried in hay in the sled box. Mac wanted a cabbage and told the driver that all he had was \$10.00. "Well, ye can have the least one," was the reply so Mac had some green food.³

Many entries in the little book kept by Mac show work in cutting timber and in selling it. One item under November 17, 1868 reads:

Sold to S. A. Waite in Eureka Gulch one piece of slash and wood cut in Hamlin gulch . . . Two Thousand and Seventy-five dollars, the same being the west corner of the Slash.⁴

Mac also sold to Waite, Turnips for \$25.00 and 910 lbs. of potatoes at 2c per pound, and 75 pounds of potatoes at 2c.

³This incident was told to me by Tom Stark.—*The Author.*

⁴This is also of record at the Court House, Central City.—*The Author.*

About a month previous he had sold turnips to "Californians" for \$15.00.

Further research in the old court records of Gilpin County undoubtedly would produce many interesting items about R. A. McCray and Julien Gammon. According to Dr. Howard Kelly, Uncle Mac and Julien sank thousands of dollars in mines which produced poorly.

Just when the two men decided to leave the mountains and move to the valleys and plains is not certain. Eventually, however, they came to the lowlands and entered into the cattle business. It is known that they collected their first cattle along Cherry Creek. The first book of records in the Court House of Douglas County at Castle Rock shows numerous entries of Uncle Mac's land deals.⁵

Julien Gammon and R. A. McCray located at the OZ place before 1874. Their territorial brand certificates were issued in 1875. The 3H Brand made out in two territorial counties, El Paso and Elbert, to Julien Gammon has remained in the Gammon family and is now (1955) owned by Eugene's son, James B. Gammon, livestock representative for the Denver National Bank, Denver. The 3H Brand issued in El Paso County was signed by Irving Howbert, then county clerk. Mr. Howbert later was an outstanding historian of the Pikes Peak region. Mac's brand was 44. About 1875 a third partner, William E. Bates, added the brand Open ATS to the partnership. These three men did many years of cattle business, their brands and outfits showing up strong in the history of the Big Sandy Round Up period.

When Julien and Mac first located their land, they soon went to Denver for a few days. Upon their return they found the dead body of a settler lying near his dugout, about one and one-half miles below OZ. His cattle were gone. This undoubtedly was the work of Indians.

Tom Stark told me that he met Mac when he had just located in a dugout on the north side of the stream near the later post office, store and home at OZ. He said that Mac was rather cold to newcomers and Tom felt a hole had been looked through him before he left. Later the men became close friends during active years in the cattle business.

Tom Stark and Julien Gammon first met when hunting ducks down on Antelope Creek one cool, fall morning. Ducks always

⁵ Andy Shidler, a pioneer, gave me a hint as to Mac's activity on upper Cherry Creek, the stream which runs north into Denver from the Arkansas-Platte Divide. One day when hauling supplies to our sheep camp on Mt. Rosalie, I stopped by the Court House at Castle Rock and examined the records.—*The Author.*

seek deep, open pools. The creek was named by Julien who got his first antelope there.

Big Ed Stark told me that one day in April 1876, he rode over to OZ to see Mac. There was action across the creek from Mac's dugout. Closer observation revealed Mac and three women folk. Mac had been to River Bend to meet the Kansas Pacific train bringing his widowed sister, Sophia Jane McCray Green, and her two daughters, Roxie Anne and Rosalie from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Roxie was sixteen and Rosalie some younger. Mac had bought a load of lumber for a new cabin. They had unloaded it too near the stream for safety and were carrying it to higher ground because of threatening storm clouds in the west. This mother and daughters were territorial citizens, since Colorado was not admitted to statehood until August 1 of that year.

On January 23, 1878, Roxie Anne became the wife of Julien Gammon.⁶ Her mother, Sophia Jane Green, passed away in 1880. She was buried in the pioneer cemetery at Bijou Basin, the settlement about twenty-five miles northeast of Colorado Springs, in the edge of the Black Forest.

It was in Bijou Basin that the Hundred Day Men trained for military duty in 1863-1864. Julien Gammon trained there. And there settlers came from long distances for protection during Indian uprisings.

Rosie (also called Rosa) married Ezra Failing, son or grandson of the pioneer family of Failings who settled north of the present town of Sedalia, south of Denver on Plum Creek. They first located on Big Sandy about half way between OZ and Big Sandy post offices. Two of their large family were born there. In the mid-eighties they moved to Littleton and on to Bailey and Pine in the mountains where the family was reared in a comfortable home still standing on the highway.

Uncle Mac and Mr. and Mrs. Bates, residents of the permanent OZ location, were close friends and very fond of James Hobbs' daughter, Rosalie,⁷ a lovely child, with few chances to go visiting. Mac often stopped by when freighting or riding but when the little girl saw him coming with a horse and buggy her joy knew no bounds for that meant she was to return with him to visit Auntie Bates for several days. The drive east over Schockley Bluffs and on down the trail road on the north side of Big Sandy covered about 25 miles so was a good day's drive. Dinner was available at Z-Z, the Big

⁶ The old desk contains the marriage certificate signed by R. A. McCray, J. P. He undoubtedly was the first Justice of the Peace on Upper Big Sandy. Witnesses were Anna and William Bates. To the Gammons were born three sons: George, Eugene and Charles, and two daughters, Erma and Mary. Mrs. Gammon died in 1932; Mr. Gammon, in 1902.

⁷ Mrs. Rosalie Hobbs Scott, former president of the El Paso County Pioneer Society, now lives at the Alta Vista Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Sandy post office. Rosalie told me how kind Mac was to tell her stories of his experiences. There was a great question in her mind—which was greater, Abraham Lincoln or Uncle Mac.

Her mother and the three small children were stormed in during a big blizzard. A milch cow only a short distance from the cabin provided milk. Mrs. Hobbs followed a rope to the shed and back. Mr. Hobbs walked into the ranch days later and found they had survived the storm.

One of the most severe storms on record in the Big Sandy area occurred on March 4, 1878. A few days previous, readers of the Heavens reported two heavy rings about the moon, the outer one encircling four stars. This was "sure sign of a coming storm in four days." That proved true.

Uncle Mac had driven about fifteen miles to the northwest of OZ to the Black Forest for pitch posts for fencing. (Barbed wire was not yet available). The storm was very severe, being of low temperature, strong winds and heavy snow fall. Mac had a protection of logs and canvas suitable for average weather. He built a fire close in and fought for his life for over 72 hours. Later, upon reaching the Bates ranch on Big Sandy, he was reported as being hollow-eyed, near exhaustion and the color of ebony, his face being smoked from the pitch fire he had kept going.



McCray-Gammon-Stark Cattle Camp, St. Elmo, 1880

Reuben McCray with rifle

Julien Gammon on horse

Howard A. Kelly on stump

Thomas Stark at edge of photo

Records in Julien's old desk prove that the Stark and Gammon ranches were busy from 1879-1880 supplying meat for the crew piercing the Continental Divide with its first tunnel. Dr. Howard Kelly helped drive cattle from OZ to St. Elmo, the supply base below the Alpine tunnel.⁸ It took about a month to drive the cattle and not lose flesh, approximately 180 miles. Mac was a valuable person in this work. The day's slaughter stuff, about a dozen (not every day), was turned into a small, strong, pole corral. Mac was an expert shot and fearless. He disdained poking a gun through the rails, so would step inside and begin firing. Once the smell of fresh blood reached the nostrils of those range cattle they were on the defensive. Stark men told us they had seen a charging animal drop just in front of Mac. His record at one time was 49 kills with 50 shells. This meat was pushed into snow banks for keeping and was supplied to the construction camps as ordered. Starks ran a retail meat market also. More than 800 cattle were furnished by the Stark-Gammon-McCray outfit. The first herds were all driven but the last seem to have gone in by rail via Pueblo.

In the winter of 1880 Dr. Kelly and Mac planned a trip down into the Sappa Creek country of the southeast to get one of the few remaining buffalo. A cold spell, however, with a thermometer registering 52° below zero in Montana, kept them from risking such an experience.

Of especial interest to those students of the history of Colorado's range livestock industry are the entries in Uncle Mac's account book which give the names of the men and outfits on the roundup, the tallies of various brands, lists of things to be ordered for the ranch, the cost of weighing cattle, number of calves branded, sales of cattle and hides, and so on. For instance, on February 3, 1881, Uncle Mac recorded: "3595# beef and 8 hides sold at Leadville. Total \$236.88." In 1881, evidently for 12 days board @ 50¢ on the Roundup, he listed: "Frank Henington, George McGuire, Luplow, Wily Adams, Sunny OZ, Happy Jack, Lee Smith, Bob Moore, K. B. Balard, Berry Cohan and Wagner Holt." Another entry was—"Lem Gammon, 6 steers \$200.00 Fiddle \$12.00"

Intermingled with the tallies of steers, heifers, cows and bulls, and the cost of prod poles, are lists evidently requested by the women folk for: 1 pair side lace shoes, 12 yards dress goods, 16 yards comfort calico, carpet, camphor, Tot's jeans, 1 dozen small steel buttons, cinnamon, cake pan, plus nails, saw set and file.

Brands listed "Down Shawnee Creek" are: Bates, 44, 3H, Half Circle D, S Lazy T, S, W, TH, CM, D, 7 B, Open A T S, H Connected F.

⁸ Denver and Rio Grande Railway tunnel.

The trading for the OZ was done largely in Colorado Springs. One receipt folded in the little book is from H. Hathusen and another one is from D. J. Martin, "dealer in Dry Goods, Carpets, Clothing, Hats, Caps, Notions, Ladies Goods and Novelties a Specialty. Stone Building, Tejon Street."

When Eugene Gammon was in a hospital in Colorado Springs in 1930, Tom Brigham, an 81-year-old cattle buyer, visited him and told him a story about Uncle Mac in Indian days. Mr. Brigham said that he (Brigham) rode from Colorado Springs to the Liptrap ranch to get cattle to bring to the Springs to butcher that he had bought previously.

Liptrap, with horses already saddled, some with side saddles for the women to ride, would not gather cattle because the Indians were reported near and the Liptraps were going to Bijou Basin for protection. They were molding bullets, on his arrival, preparing ammunition for defense.

Tom Brigham went back to OZ from Liptraps' ranch and watched cautiously at each hill and gulch for Indians, for he had no gun. He had not been able to get one from Liptraps for they could spare none. At OZ he bought 25 fat cows from Uncle Mac which they gathered in the afternoon. They stood guard over them all night. Early the next morning he and Uncle Mac started to Colorado Springs with the 25 fat cows. Colorado Springs was out of meat and Brigham was anxious to get the cows in as soon as possible. By seven o'clock that evening they arrived in the Springs with the cows. Uncle Mac turned right around and started home that night. Both men carried guns that day but no Indians showed themselves in the vicinity of the Liptrap ranch or OZ postoffice.

Bill Gentry, a fine individual from Pike County, Missouri, who was Julien Gammon's foreman for fourteen years, wrote Eugene Gammon that he visited Uncle Mac during his last illness. Uncle Mac, who was in St. Francis Hospital in Colorado Springs, was lonely and begged to go back to the OZ ranch. Julien moved him back.

From Julien's diary, which he kept only through Jan. 22, 1897, I quote:

January 1, 1897. Uncle Mac died at 4 in the morning. A snow storm. Lem⁹ and Ed Riley helped dress him. Mr. Cameron came up. Jim Hobbs came on the morning train. Wm Bates and Fred Eubanks came down, from Calhan, at noon. Mr. Lee Liptrap came up and went home and brought Mrs. Liptrap up that night. January 2 Took Uncle Mac to Colorado Springs (by train) and buried him in Evergreen Cemetery. Mrs. Liptrap, Mr. Bates, Mr. Househ and Lem went with Roxie and I, a cold disagreeable day. Sunday Jan. 3. A cold wind from the north. Willie Liptrap came after his mother and brought Carrie and Stanley Jones so they could go to the Spgs.

⁹Lem was Julien's brother; Ed Riley, a neighbor.—*Author.*

And so this strong, capable life ended and the body was put to rest amidst the active weather elements he had known and always conquered. Everyone I have ever heard speak of him deeply respected him—Uncle Mac.

Dallas Wilson Spangler Three Career Man

SELETHA A. BROWN*

When Dallas Wilson Spangler came to Colorado in 1889, at the age of twenty, he would have laughed in derision if a fortune teller had told him he was to have three careers, be listed in *Who's Who in America*, and live to celebrate his golden wedding anniversary. "D. W.," as he is commonly known, had contracted tuberculosis which at that time gave him a life expectancy of a few short years, perhaps only a few months.

Today at eighty-five-plus years, Mr. Spangler supervises a thriving nursery, taking part in the irrigating, cultivating and transplanting. Until a year ago he had an apiary of more than one hundred colonies. He has now relinquished this to his grandson, Richard Wilson Spangler, but at honey gathering and separating times, D. W. still "lends a hand."

D. W.'s third career was that of educator. He looks back on fifty years of teaching in private and public schools, mostly in the Longmont community. To middle-aged men and women, who sat in his classes in their youth, and perhaps stole watermelons from his gardens, he is still *Professor* Spangler, a man who taught them much that couldn't be found in the textbooks.

Two hours before Gen. Ulysses S. Grant was inaugurated as president of the United States, Dallas Wilson was born at Lanark, Illinois, on March 4, 1869. Following an urge similar to that of paternal ancestors, who migrated to the New World in 1732, the parents of Dallas Wilson likewise migrated west. They joined a settlement of Pennsylvania Dunkards and settled in Morrill, Brown County, Kansas, buying a farm along a road called by the settlers, Pennsylvania Avenue.

Mr. Spangler has written a history of this early community in which he tells of hordes of grasshoppers descending upon his parents' farm.

* Mrs. Seletha A. Brown of Longmont has preserved much valuable historical data through her interviews with pioneers. She has for some years been a contributor to the *Colorado Magazine*. Mrs. Brown wishes to thank Private 1st Class Richard Wilson Spangler, U. S. Army, for the use of material found in his high school theme, "Biography of Grandpa." Much of human interest found there was incorporated into this article. —Ed.

"It was noon," he writes. "Father had put the horses in the barn, and was coming towards the house when a huge shadow appeared on the ground. Father stopped, looked up, shading his eyes with his hand. Grasshoppers had partially hidden the sun. They swooped down upon garden and fields, and by nightfall almost every vestige of crop had been devoured. That winter many of our meals consisted of 'pap soup,' flour boiled in milk and sweetened with sorghum."

In spite of hard times, these doughty pioneers built schools and enticed trained teachers from the east to teach their children. D. W. was so inspired by these teachers that, at the age of eight, he, too, determined to become a teacher. He stuck to this resolve, continuing his schooling until he had completed three years at the Morrill Normal College. Then he began teaching in neighboring districts.

"When I was told by my doctor that I had tuberculosis," Mr. Spangler relates, "and was advised to seek health in Colorado's mountains, I recalled that our *Home Mirror*, a magazine devoted to health and wisdom, published in the '80's by J. S. Flory of Hygiene,¹ Colorado, had told of a Church of the Brethren, [formerly called "German Baptist"] commonly called Dunkard, near Longmont, Colorado. I thought if the Indians and gunmen of the West were tamed sufficiently for the Brethren to live at peace among them, it would be safe for me.

"A half-hour after I stepped off the train in Longmont," continues D. W., "I was knocking on the door of the Reverend D. H. Weaver, pastor of the church. I was kindly received, and invited to stay overnight. The next day they took me to the farm of another church member, Taswell A. Turner, where I roomed for a number of weeks.

"Soon I was able to go on a sight-seeing trip to the mining town of Ward, then teeming with tents, log cabins, miners and saloons. This trip gave me my first close-up of the rugged Rockies which I have come to love."

When D. W. was able to work, he found employment with George Webster, pioneer farmer and nurseryman, whose farm was

¹ Hygiene (250 population), Boulder County, is on the Burlington Railroad near St. Vrain Creek. About 1861, a group of emigrants from Pella, Iowa, settled a short distance south of the present town and named the place Pella. There was a post office here for ten or twelve years, when it was moved two miles northeast; this settlement was called North Pella. In 1879 or 1880, Jacob S. Flory, a Dunkard preacher, settled on the Perry White farm between the two Pellas. He built a church, which bears a plaque dated 1880; a sanitarium, which he called Hygiene Home; edited a newspaper, *The Home Miner*; and in 1883 was the first postmaster of the town, which absorbed the two Pellas and became Hygiene. The sanitarium for which the village was named was eventually destroyed by fire.—*The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XVIII, No. 4, July, 1941, pp. 155-6.



D. W. SPANGLER AND HIS FRIEND, DR. WILLARD JUSTIN WHITE, OCTOGENARIANS, ON WAY TO LIONS CLUB (1954)

located in Crane Hollow on St. Vrain Creek² west of Longmont. The farm seemed like a paradise to young Spangler. There were on the place: a two-acre Concord grape vineyard, an apple orchard of several acres, plum and cherry trees, patches of berries and currants, and vegetable gardens. Large walnut, cottonwood, elm and maple trees afforded shade for the many farm buildings. The St. Vrain ran by the kitchen door.

Mr. Webster's first dwelling on the farm had been built with removable partitions so that one large room could be formed as a meeting house for parties, church and political gatherings. The farm continued to be a favorite stopping place for tourists, friends and church camp-meetings for many years.

D. W. learned that Mr. Webster had done much to advance fruit growing³ in northern Colorado. He had made two trips to California to obtain nursery stock for lining out and resale. In the spring of 1890 Spangler helped Webster set out six thousand apple grafts in his nursery. This was the beginning of D. W.'s training for his own future business.

"Climate and weather seemed conducive to fruit growing in northern Colorado," says Mr. Spangler. "At the turn of the

² A tributary of the South Platte River.

³ Boulder County in 1890 had 500 acres in fruit, with 200 acres added during 1891, mostly in the vicinity of Boulder. The first introduction of fruit along the St. Vrain dates back to 1866.—Alvin T. Steinel. *History of Agriculture in Colorado*. (Fort Collins, 1926), p. 510.

century, many fields around Longmont, Hygiene and Lyons, that now grow sugar beets and alfalfa, supported apple orchards. It was common practice to ship apples from the area in box-car loads."

After a time, Spangler came to Longmont to work for George and Samuel Fesler, two prominent members of the Church of the Brethren. These men did a thriving business in hay, grain, and farm implements which included Studebaker wagons, buggies and carriages. Since the original Studebaker Brothers manufacturing firm was said to have been organized by members of the Dunkard church, the Fesler Brothers took pride in selling what they considered the finest of vehicles.

This job offered one prime advantage for D. W. On special occasions or in inclement weather, it afforded the loan of a smart horse and buggy—a decided aid in D. W.'s courtship of Lottie B. Gregg, a petite school teacher with twinkly blue eyes.

"Although the Gregg homesite is well within the Longmont city limits now," D. W. tells, "then it was 'way out in the country. Lottie was organist for the Presbyterian church, playing for Sabbath School, morning worship, junior Christian Endeavor, Young People's Endeavor, and evening church each Sunday. It was a taxing assignment for a young lady, and I offered my services in seeing her home after the evening meetings."

A mischievous twinkle lights Mr. Spangler's brown eyes as he tells this. He looks fondly at this former organist who has been his wife since August 28, 1895, and her answering smile speaks of many shared memories and jokes.

In 1891 Mr. Spangler felt his health was such that he could return to his chosen profession. He was hired as teacher and janitor of Chapman school, four miles northeast of Longmont. His regular way of reaching this school was by "shank's ponies,"—walking. Occasionally, he hitched a ride with the section crew of the Colorado and Southern Railroad by taking a turn at the pump of the handcar. At Chapman, D. W.'s classes ranged from the first through the eighth grade, and some of the pupils were almost as old as he was.

Two years later, he accepted a position in the Presbyterian Academy of Longmont; teaching English, book-keeping, penmanship and other subjects, and serving as secretary for the Academy.

In the fall of 1896, the Academy closed its doors and Professor Spangler joined the staff of the Longmont High School, as assistant principal and teacher. Here he remained for forty-three years, teaching twenty-three different subjects, during that time. He started with the academic English and history classes, but soon changed to science, then to other departments as new trends in

education developed. Professor Spangler prepared himself for these changes by taking extension courses, night school classes and summer sessions at Colorado's institutions of higher learning. He chose his courses from the college or university which seemed to offer the strongest courses in the field of his endeavor, never bothering to work for a degree.

Prof. Spangler was largely responsible for an early introduction of Agriculture into Longmont's high school curriculum. He taught agricultural classes from 1914 to 1921 when H. L. Dotson,⁴ a teacher trained under the Smith-Hughes Act, took over. D. W. then turned to his first love, the teaching of biology, geology, physiography and Life Problems, developing one of the best equipped science laboratories in the state.

In his early years of teaching, Prof. Spangler received much inspiration from Prof. Ellsworth Bethel, who was then biology instructor in the East Denver High School. The two men had first met at a Thanksgiving dinner in Greeley, on November 28, 1889, where Bethel was instructing in a business college and D. W. was selling stereoscopes. A lasting friendship was formed between the two. When Longmont teachers went to Denver for "Observation Day," Spangler invariably spent part of the day in Professor Bethel's classes, and the two men held lengthy discussions concerning their work.

In the summer of 1910, Mr. Spangler found an unidentified blister rust on pines, in three different spots, near his cabin in the Allen's Park area. He collected specimens of the rust, sending them to Professor Bethel who was teaching summer school classes at the University of Colorado. Professor Bethel was much interested in the growth, and during the week that followed, Mr. Spangler received a communication *every day* from Professor Bethel. He gave Spangler explicit directions for seeking out other stages of the rust's cycle, and Spangler sent armfuls of vegetation from the area to Bethel. From these, Bethel found the second host, and the life cycle of the rust was traced.

It was such eagerness and searching, Mr. Spangler feels, that brought Professor Bethel into the United States Forestry Service, where he spent the latter years of his life in distinguished service.

Ellsworth Bethel also persuaded Spangler to join the Schoolmaster's Club; those eager students of history, The Westerners; and the Colorado State Historical Society. Mr. Spangler takes pride in the fact that he has collected a complete file of *The Colorado Magazine* which is to become the property of the St. Vrain

⁴ Harry (Hap) L. Dotson now (1955), Vice President of Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College, Fort Collins, Colo.—*Author*.

Valley Historical Society, and that several articles of his writing have appeared in *The Colorado Magazine*.

Professor Spangler served as Assistant Principal throughout his forty-three years at Longmont High. He was offered the principalship but modestly replied: "I'm a teacher, not an executive. I prefer to remain close to the lives and thoughts of the young people."

That this was a wise choice is shown by the eminence achieved by some of his former pupils. Among these, is Raymond Beard, Ph.D., who took graduate work at Antioch and Yale and won a Fulbright Scholarship which sent him to Australia for a year's research, to study the devastating sheep grub. He is now a member of the National Research Council of Science, and also is connected with the New Haven, Connecticut, Experimental Station, division of insect control. R. Clare Coffin, chief geophysicist for Standard Oil of Indiana, and Judge Claude C. Coffin, who with his son received national recognition for discovering evidence that Folsom man once occupied Lindenmeier Site, twenty-eight miles north of Ft. Collins, Colorado, credited Spangler with arousing their initial interests. Mark Kiteley, widely known for his hybrid seed corn grown near Longmont, and Professor Spangler's own son, Raymond, a graduate of Kansas State Agricultural College, former head of the division of marketing for the state of Idaho and now with the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C., are products of Spangler's "ag." classes.

By rising early and working late, Mr. Spangler carried on his nursery and apiary simultaneously with his teaching. He says he entered honey producing more by accident than by design.

In 1903 a colony of bees lodged in the pioneer house of John Rothrock, on Boulder Creek. The Rothrocks sent an S.O.S. to Mr. Spangler, asking him to remove the bees. From that colony Mr. Spangler gradually increased his stock until for a time he had three hundred colonies, producing more than ten tons of honey a year. During World War One he received twenty-five cents a pound for honey, but he recalls selling it for as little as four cents a pound. For a number of years Mr. Spangler was director of the Colorado Honey Producers Association, a marketing organization, now extinct.

D. W. liked to experiment with trees, and to try out plants that many thought unsuited to our high altitude. He was one of the first in the state to promote the Carolina Poplar. He bought his first Carolinas from an Eastern nursery and, from the cuttings taken from those trees, he propagated a great many more. In 1901

he planted a European Linden on the high school grounds in Longmont that is now one of the show trees of the community.

Mr. Spangler added to his responsibilities by teaching, for many years, a Sunday School class. He joined the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the American and Colorado associations of Nurserymen, the Bee-Keepers association; he served as Junior Chairman of the American Red Cross and as judge of the Court of Honor for the Boy Scouts of America for some time.

"Why, I had so many irons in the fire," smiles D. W., "it's a wonder the school board didn't kick me right out the door!"

But the board and patrons knew that the professor's interests added vitality to his teaching. Upon Mr. Spangler's retirement, Harry L. Dotson wrote:

"You may, or may not, have realized that when, as a young teacher, I asked to sit at a desk in the back of your classroom, supposedly to grade papers, I was in reality observing your methods. Of all the teacher training that I received, that which did most for me as teacher, and as an individual, I received from you. I shall always cherish my close association with you. . . ."

Another co-worker, Marguerite Porter, wrote: "Some influence young people more at seventy than others at twenty. . . . I feel that you should never have left school work, for your influence on everyone connected with schools meant very much to the school."

Retirement from the schools brought Mr. Spangler more time for the pursuit of hobbies. He took an active part in compiling a history of the Longmont Presbyterian church, writing an account, himself, of each pastorate up until the time of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the church. He set about collecting material for a biography of Mary Stewart, author of the "Collect for Club Women," and co-founder of the Business and Professional Women's Clubs, who started her career as principal of Longmont High School, when the two were young.

At the request of the regents of Ohio State University, Mr. Spangler collected a wealth of material concerning the early life of Dr. W. O. Thompson, president of Ohio State University for twenty years. Early in his career, Dr. Thompson had served as president and founder of two Longmont institutions, namely the Longmont Presbyterian College and the Presbyterian Academy. Minutes of the boards of both the college and academy had been kept in the same book, and, since Spangler had served as secretary of the academy, he had this book and other valuable letters and pictures. From correspondence and the searching of old newspaper files, he found other facts, all of which the regents described as "manna from heaven" when they were sent to them.

With retirement came many honors to Mr. Spangler. At least six different organizations bestowed upon him honorary membership. These are: Colorado School Master's Club, which has a limited membership of 300 from without the state; Colorado Bee-Keepers Association, Longmont Chapter of Future Farmers of America, Longmont Chamber of Commerce, Columbine Chapter No. 11 Order of Eastern Star and the Lions Service Club of which he is also a charter member.

Down through the years D. W. tried to be a good "family man." In 1909 he bought a cabin and three acres of land three-fourths of a mile from Allen's Park, Colorado. Before it was thought possible to reach this area by auto, Mr. and Mrs. Spangler would load their four sons into wagon or surrey and drive to their cabin. Here they worked together, converting a buggy shed into two bedrooms, and making the living room larger. They fished, hiked and hunted, or just rested.

"It is still a favorite family retreat," says son Keith. "So many funny things happened there—like the time 'Hap' Dotson awakened in the early morn to see Dad in a short night shirt, bare-footed, running across the cold floor to throw a shoe at a packrat. 'Hap' got a kick out of telling that on 'The Professor.'"

Mr. Spangler strokes his beard and chuckles with the rest when jokes are told on him. This beard has become a "trade mark" of Longmont's "Mr. Chips." By it former pupils, business acquaintances and friends identify the Professor in crowds or in strange places. This brings many gratifying contacts to Mr. Spangler.

Originally, he wore the beard as a matter of faith, as did all men of the Church of the Brethren. When he joined the Presbyterian church, after becoming disgusted with some narrow-minded elders of the "Dunkard" sect for opposing the newly formed Christian Endeavor, Spangler wore a beard or mustache from habit. Just once, when he was taking part in a faculty play, he shaved clean before going onto the stage. Even his own family didn't recognize him until the play was well under way. He soon grew another "trade mark."

Today Mr. and Mrs. Spangler spend little time in looking backward. They're busy looking forward to visits from their sons and their families which include: Raymond, serving with the Department of Agriculture, Division of Fruits and Vegetables; Carl, a die-maker of Torrance, California; Keith, City Clerk of Longmont; and Donald, a Las Vegas, Nevada, druggist; as well as four grand-children and two great-grandchildren.

Genealogists have looked far back into the Spangler history, however. According to the Spangler book, published in 1895, the remote ancestor is George Spangler (Spengler), cupbearer to the Prince Bishop of Wurtzber, Godfrey of Piesenburg. This Bishop and his cupbearer, Spengler, accompanied Frederick Barbarossa, Emperor of Germany, on the Third Crusade to the Holy Land in 1190 A. D. Another ancestor, Lazarus Spengler, was coadjutor of the revolutionary Martin Luther. When we read that eleven Spanglers were ennobled for reasons of heroic, chivalrous or meritorious service rendered in the *domain of human achievement*, we would like to add a twelfth, Dallas Wilson Spangler of 1030 Collyer Street, Longmont, Colorado.

Certainly Mr. Spangler has every right to cherish the coat of arms of the Spangler family which according to Siebmacher is: Gules—an eagle displayed sable, a beaker argent, on a trimount or, accosted with four estoiles, crested with a bishop's bust proper.



Colorado's First Highway Commission 1910-12

FRANK MERCHANT*

Colorado's first State Highway Commission spent the three years from 1910 through 1912 inclusive in anticipating most of the work of the present Department of Highways and providing future Commissions with notable examples of public leadership and education.

The record of this achievement, which meant starting a State road system "from scratch" and working with elusive human materials as well as with more tangible drawing boards and gravel, is contained in two printed Biennial Reports¹ and a manuscript ledger, "Minutes—Book I," which is kept in the office of the 1955 Department's Chief Engineer. The printed records afford surprisingly lively reading for the non-technical investigator of today. The 1910 Report is illustrated by photos which convey both the amusement and the heroism of our highways' beginning. The "Minutes" ledger was obviously the source from which the two first Highway Commission Reports were drawn. It shows the 1910-1912 Commission working with a unanimity and zeal unusual among even the best public governing bodies of any time.

The chairman of this Commission received \$1200 a year and the other members \$600, plus expenses. The body employed itself

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¹ *First Biennial Report of the State Highway Commission . . . November, 1910, and Second Biennial Report . . . November, 1912* (Denver, 1910, 1912). The still existing Denver firm of Smith-Brooks was then State Printers.

near enough to full time to meet 23 times in its first year of existence.

As appointed by Governor John F. Shafroth on January 1, 1910, the first State Highway Commission was composed of C. P. Allen of Denver, William M. Wiley of Holly, and Thomas H. Tulley of Durango. Allen, who was elected Chairman by the other members at the first meeting, on January 17, was to serve until January 1, 1916, Wiley until 1914 and Tulley until 1912. Tulley was re-appointed to serve through the last year of the first Commission's existence. On March 17, 1913, Governor Elias M. Ammons signed a new Highway Act setting up a State Highway System headed by a Commissioner and a five-man Advisory Board.

The New Commissioner and Advisory Board held their organization meeting on April 7, 1913.² The Commissioner over the new organization was Thomas J. Erhardt, who had served briefly on the old Commission, succeeding William M. Wiley, who resigned January 21, 1913. The first Commission met for the last time, to approve a \$30 railroad mileage voucher for Chairman Allen on February 10, 1913.³

It had taken at least seven years of organization and propagandizing by Colorado's early automobilists, from 1902-1909, to get the first State Highway Commission. That Commission's job was to survey, select and designate a State highway system from the confusing pattern of roads maintained by the counties, to provide the County Commissioners with technical advice and to apportion to them the meager funds—\$56,000 in 1910—made available by the General Assembly.⁴

The Legislature, it is true, had shown an interest in State regulation of a highway system since territorial days. In 1865, it had passed an act regulating toll roads and since 1867 had voted small amounts for road improvements. In 1868, in a bill replete with copyist's errors, the Legislature designated a territorial system of "the most usually travelled roads between the following places" and corrected and revised the bill's errors in the early 1870's.

In the first generation of Colorado's statehood, the General Assembly had made apportionments from the Internal Improvement Fund for useful highway improvements, but such road apportionments had behind them political trading and the Fund was

² *Third Biennial Report of the State Highway Commission . . . 1914* (Denver 1915), 5.

³ *Mss. Highway "Minutes, Book I,"* 305-307.

⁴ *First Biennial Report*, 14-16. Of this amount, \$46,500 was appropriated to the counties and \$9,425.77 went for salaries and expenses.

regarded as a "Pork Barrel."⁵ This Fund was money resulting from the sale and administration of lands granted the State by the Federal government. It could have been, but was not, a basis for the first Highway Commission's establishment of a State road system. Because it was not devoted to State roads until the Act of 1913 and the establishment of the Advisory Board, the first Commission was prevented from doing more than energetic preparation for the highways and the public interest in highways which exist today.

That public interest was first aroused in 1902, with the formation of the Colorado Automobile Club, which in 1905 called the first Colorado Good Roads Association meeting at Denver, on July 27 and 28. A second State Good Roads Association meeting was held in Denver from December 4-6, 1906 and the Association, as part of a national movement, started lobbying for a State Highway Commission. The first attempts to obtain such an Act were beaten in the General Assembly but in 1908 the good roads forces were consolidated into the Rocky Mountain Highway Association, which obtained passage of the first Highway Act in 1909.

From then on, the Colorado Good Roads Association or its various guises in consolidation was the assault battalion of the agitation for a definite monetary provision for State highways.⁶ And from the printed histories and the first Commission's "Minutes," one can see that the most energetic figure in the Associations—indeed, always their vice president—and almost an unofficial member of the first Commission was Dr. F. L. Bartlett of the Denver Chamber of Commerce.⁷ Dr. Bartlett was strongly supported in his good roads efforts by the Denver Chamber of Commerce's president, the Salem, Mass.-born Charles Alfred Johnson, who was also president of the Rocky Mountain Highway Association, and in 1911, of the Colorado Good Roads Conference Association.⁸

After organizing on January 17, 1910, the first Highway Commission met again on the 18th to settle itself into Room 27 of the State House, decided to meet on the 15th of each month—a decision almost doubled in that first year, as we have noted—and to appoint two employees who may be regarded as the precursors of the modern civil service Department of Highways.⁹

⁵ Stone, ed., *History of Colorado*, I, 576 ff.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 579 ff.

⁷ "Minutes, Book I" shows Dr. Bartlett active with the first Commission from March 5, 1910, on agitation for the Taylor Bill for Federal aid to roads through advancing money of his own on February 17, 1912, for publication of the first State map booklet.

⁸ W. C. Ferril, *Sketches of Colorado*, I (Denver, 1911), 267.

⁹ The Department of Highways was created by Legislative statute in 1921, with a Civil Service Chief Engineer and Civil Service staff and an eight-member appointive Advisory Board. In 1953, the Highway Reorganization Act substituted an appointed eight-man Commission for the Advisory Board.

James E. Maloney of Littleton, the Secretary and Engineer, had his salary set at \$2500 a year. He was employed in this office under the succeeding Commission-Advisory Board setup and was, from the Department's establishment in 1921 to his retirement in the 1930's, Assistant to Highway Engineers Blauvelt and Vail. The first Commission's "office force" was Stenographer William F. Higgins of Denver. Vouchers approved by the first Commission show that several field assistants were hired on either piecework or monthly basis to help Maloney on his surveys. The most regularly employed of these were T. C. Allen and J. C. Van Horn, who usually got a \$65 a month rate, but did not work full months, and Elzie E. Montgomery, a Littleton neighbor of Maloney, who received \$100 a month plus expenses and who was regularly employed from May, 1910.

At the end of 1954, Elzie Montgomery was still attending Department banquets failing to boast that he was the oldest living Highway employee. At his retirement in 1950, he was engineer in charge of the Department's Denver division.

On February 15, 1910, the Highway Commission settled down to business and began considering how to map the roads in Colorado. It had asked for maps from the counties and received the first one from Otero County.

Secretary-Engineer Maloney "reported visiting La Junta upon invitation of the County Commr's. to inspect the road from La Junta to Rocky Ford—advised the Commissioners in reference to the road and bridge between La Junta and Rocky Ford." Field survey work was advanced further by "Letters sent Commrs'. of Bent & Prowers Co. asking them to meet Engineer of Comm. on Thursday Feb. 24-10 to go over road."

The Secretary also reported that he had sent out the first 60 of the 1,000 copies of the Act establishing the Commission to county and other local officials and commercial clubs with letters asking their cooperation. Requests for advice and reports on highway construction had also been addressed to "the office of Good Roads, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture; to the Highway Commissions of other States."

The last paragraph of those February 15th minutes summarized under three headings what still are major concerns of the Colorado State Highway Commission and Department: "Matters discussed: Publicity; Care of Earth or dirt roads; Co-operation of County Commrs'."