

Pioneering in the San Juan

By WELCH NOSSAMAN

(The following manuscript is being published through the courtesy of Terrie Jones of Los Angeles, and Tom Nossaman of Pagosa Springs, daughter and son of Welch Nossaman, who pioneered in the San Juan in the 1870's. The story was related, at the insistence of Carl Weeks of Des Moines, Iowa, to I. E. Carlin. A copy of the manuscript has been loaned to the Colorado State Historical Society by L. C. George of Pagosa Springs.)

Welch Nossaman was born in Pella, Iowa in 1851. His father had come from Kentucky, and his mother, from North Carolina. According to Welch Nossaman, his mother "boiled the meat off the head of Chief Black Hawk" in order that "Doc" Turner could take the head back to a museum in New York.

Nossaman began his story with this sentence: "I have done all my life just what I have had to do." He worked very hard on his father's farm; cut timber and owned part interest in a saw mill; did some rail-roading; and attended school one session.

He knew Nick Earp and his three boys, Jim, Virgil and Wyatt during Civil War times in Pella, Iowa. He said: "The boys, Jim and Virg, were handy with six shooters. We used to go down to our place four miles south of Pella, hunting squirrels and rabbits and turkeys, and they could do as well with their gats as I could with a rifle. We were together a great deal."

When Welch Nossaman was railroading in Iowa, a friend, Mark Butts, and Dr. B. F. Keebles, president of the State Medical Society, were getting ready to go to Colorado. Nossaman's story follows.—*Editor.*)

When I was railroading in Iowa . . . Mark Butts and Dr. B. F. Keebles said they were going to Colorado. That was in 1876. Dr. Keebles was a doctor in the Civil War and after that was president of the (Iowa) State Medical Association, one of the good ones. Of course he was our family doctor and he had gone out to Del Norte at the time of the gold rush. Summitville Mine¹ was open at that time and was one of the big producers. So Keebles told Butts to take his little mill from down there on the Des Moines River bottom and bring it out to Colorado and they could get \$40.00 for lumber and (only) \$10.00 or \$12.00 in Iowa.

Butts got me to help him get this mill and I told him, "Mark, if I had the price I would go out with you." So we went over to Murray Cox, the station agent, and asked Murray what it would cost to get a ticket from Pella to Pueblo. He said \$45.00. Mark said, "Here is \$45.00. Better come and go along. I will just loan you \$45.00 and when you get out there you can work it out."

So we loaded his machinery and I went out with him to Newton, Kansas. When we passed this load of machinery at Newton it had got crooked on the flat cars, so we stopped at

¹ The first discovery of gold in this section of the San Juan range occurred in 1860. Charles Baker was the first white man to discover gold in the Summitville district, and to actually prove his discovery. And then in 1870, gold was again discovered in Summitville, this time at the Little Annie and Marguerite mines, and their discovery was directly responsible for the founding of Del Norte. —Fred Espinosa, "Del Norte Its Past and Present," *The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. V, No. 3, June 1928, 95.

Newton and straightened the machinery up and then went on into Pueblo.

Dr. Keebles met us in Pueblo. He had sent a mule team from Pella, and his driving team and buggy through by his son, Harry, and Charlie Bowen, and an old man named Reynolds. The old man told Doc, "I will just go out with the boys if you will just pay the expenses." So we met all of them in Pueblo, Doc, Harry, Charlie and old man Reynolds.

Then they bought some ox teams. We called them bull teams in those days, and I guess they do yet. We loaded that machinery on a truck they had shipped out with the stuff, and bought another wagon and trailed it. We bought five yoke of cattle. They told me to take these five yoke of cattle and take Harry and Charlie. Doc said he would take the buggy team back from Del Norte to Pueblo, and old man Reynolds would drive the mules with our bedding and provisions—grub wagon we called it. So we struck out. It was all new to me. Harry Keebles was a drug clerk; Charlie Bowen was a gentlemen's furnishings goods store clerk. I was really the only one that had been raised to work, so they said, "You go on and we will catch you before we get to La Veta Pass out of Pueblo."

We went out and unhitched the cattle. We were afraid to unyoke the cattle because Harry and Charlie were afraid of cattle and afraid of everything. So I just turned them loose with the yokes on that night. I went out and got them the next morning and I had a hard time to get them to the wagon to hitch up. I would tell Charlie and Harry, "Now you stand in front of them and I will hitch them up." I would get the cattle just where I wanted them, and just as quick as the cattle would flinch, away Harry and Charlie would go.

So there came along a blue eyed Mexican and I said, "Would you help me hitch up these cattle?" He no savvy and I didn't savvy any Mexican, so I took a half dollar out of my pocket and put it in his pocket and drove the cattle up ready to hitch and stood in front of them to see that they did not run off. He reached down to get the chain to hitch up and one of those oxen kicked him in the side of the head and knocked him over. His eye was bleeding and his ear was bleeding and when he got up he said, "— — — cattle kick." He could talk American all right. It made him mad, but I stood there and patted the cattle and made them stand. He got up and went over to the water bucket and washed himself and then came back and hitched the cattle up.

Then we went up to the foot of La Veta Pass and Keebles and Butts overtook us. We were going up the toll road over La Veta Pass with the boiler and machinery. Another Mexican

outfit that had loaded some lighter stuff was following. They said they would help us across the Pass and that it was level from there to Del Norte and we wouldn't have any trouble.

When we started up the little creek we had to go up a little narrow place and across a bridge over the creek. Butts came over and said, "Put your men on the off side to make your cattle hit that bridge or you will upset the boiler."

I said, "Well, those cattle on the off side are all wild. We always walk on the near side to drive cattle and I am afraid that won't do. They will throw us off on the other side."

"Well," Keebles said, "Welch, you know it is an awful good man that does what he is told. Now do what Butts tells you. Don't argue with him."

"Well," I said, "All right." So I told Charlie and Harry to get on the off side to make them make this bridge and I took the near side. Of course the boys had never driven cattle and they began to punch the wild steers on the off side, and here they came and I had to get out of the way. Off they went—wild cattle, boiler, machinery and everything, into the river.

So I said, "Now we did what Butts told us and you see what has happened. I believe I will just go on to Del Norte myself and let you and Butts take this through."

Doc said, "No, we will go on to Del Norte. I think you would have got through all right if we hadn't bothered you. I will give you \$150.00 for your expenses until you get to Del Norte."

And he went on to Del Norte and I stayed there and got the stuff out. I cut trees and got the load on skids and took the cattle and rolled it out onto land and rolled the boiler on the wagon again. I had done a lot of that kind of work and I knew what to do.

When I got to Del Norte they had contracted for some lumber at Summitville, 28 miles up in the mountains. On July 3, we got over the Divide and within three or four miles of the mining plant. Keebles and Butts came and met us and said, "You needn't work tomorrow. That is the Fourth of July. Just take care of the cattle and we will be out here day after tomorrow and go on in with you. You cut some skids and put under your wagon so when we hit soft places we won't bog down, and on hard ground it will carry."

I got the wagon all fixed ready for the next day and Charlie and I went down to look for the cattle. Harry didn't want to go and Charlie said, "Welch, do you know why Harry didn't want to go and look for the cattle?"

I said, "No, I don't."

"Well," he said, "his mother made a coffee cake and every time he gets a chance he goes into his trunk and gets some coffee cake, and he has got some whiskey and some tobacco that he smokes. Harry just wants to go on a spree today."

"Well," I said, "that is all right, because we don't have to work today." So we found the cattle and found a big porphyry dyke full of yellow magnetic iron and thought it was gold. We filled our hats and shirts and pockets and carried it up to the camp. We were pretty heavily loaded and sat down to rest.

Charlie said, "Let's not let Harry in on this—just you and me have it. Harry wasn't with us anyway. He has been that way ever since we left Iowa . . . He is doggone selfish . . ."

I said, "Charlie, if this is gold there is enough for all of us. We don't even need a saw mill."

. . . Well, we thought we were pretty rich and Charlie wrote a letter to a girl he had in Pella named Brown. Her father built the big egg house in Pella and ran it. Charlie wrote her to meet him in Chicago—that we had struck it rich—and they would go on to Philadelphia to the Centennial. Of course he got that letter off. Some fellow came along and he sent it out with him.

Then a Frenchman named Pete Poquette came along. We were showing Pete our find and he looked at it and said, "Why, that is magnetic iron. It is not gold." But Charlie's letter was gone . . .

Then we went on in, and we set up the mill and ran it, cut logs and hauled logs and sawed lumber just like we did in Iowa. The town was building.

In the fall the Golden Star mill had a fellow named Henry Leland, a rock crusher, and a fellow by the name of Harry Davis was engineer.

This Henry Leland got wound up in the lines under the mill and got all torn to pieces. We found a hand here and a foot there. Harry—we called him Handsome Harry—said he wouldn't work there any more because he thought Henry Leland would appear. So they offered me \$5.00 a day to go over there and run the engine in the mill.

I went back up and told Butts they had an accident and Handsome Harry wouldn't work there any more because he was superstitious and that they had offered me \$5.00 a day to go down and run the mill. It was only a 10-stamp mill and easy. Butts said, no, I was to work out that \$45.00 that he gave me.

"Well," I said, "what are you going to allow me for that work?"

He said, "Twenty dollars." . . . So I stayed with them until winter came and then they were going to run the mill that winter and Butts said, "We will just call it even."

I then went down and told Sperry & Morey who owned the Golden Star that I would go to work now. I worked there that winter. Then I went to Pagosa late that fall, in December I suppose.

Lafe Hamilton and Joe Baker that I had worked with in Summitville had located claims at Pagosa and so had I, and Keebles was trying to get a patent on Pagosa Springs as a mineral claim. I suppose Hamilton and Baker had gone on over to Pagosa so Keebles wanted me to take two witnesses and post up some notices. Doc had filed on 144 acres of placer ground at Pagosa. So I loaded my provisions and put up the notice in the fall of 1876. Then I sent the team back to Del Norte and stayed there that winter. Hamilton and Baker were not there. It was sixty miles to anywhere I knew of. I didn't know a soul except Indians. I didn't know whether to stay there alone or not. They told me lots of Indian stories. Keebles wrote to me and Whiteman brought it in the next spring. He said he was going to start the San Juan Mill and wished I could come over as soon as I could get there. It was sixty-two miles across the mountain, but about 150 around the way you had to go. If you went over the mountain you had to go on snow-shoes. I got a chance to go out with Old Man Johnson. That was in the spring of '77. I only had a wagon and \$15.00 with me, as I had bought my grub the fall before, and I had bought a beef. I got tired of deer and wild meat and bought a beef and 500 pounds of potatoes and it took all the money I had. The other two boys didn't have any.

I told Old Man (Race Horse) Johnson I would gladly go out with him but I only had a nickel and a 2-inch auger. Keebles said he wished we would build a bridge across the San Juan, so I took an ax and a 2-inch auger.

Johnson asked, "Well, can you drive a team of horses?"

"Yes," I said.

"Well," he said, "it won't cost you anything. I am going to Garland for supplies and you can drive one of the teams out."

So we struck out and got to the El Rito Mountains, about 25 or 30 miles east of Tierra Amarilla, New Mexico, and camped there at the foot of the hills. The boy and I had to hustle the horses every day at day light. We had 22 horses with us. We got all but two and we went back and told the Old Man that old Blade and her colt were gone. Somebody took them horseback because there was a pony track. They could catch the old mare

and lead her and the colt would follow. We said, "We followed them a mile or two, but thought we better get these that we had or somebody would run them off if we waited and followed those two up."

"Well, get your breakfast—it is ready there, and get out on those tracks and get them," the Old Man said.

So we followed them five or six miles and then saw where they went off down into the canyon. We went down in there and followed the tracks—they had made a good plain trail—and there were the old mare tied up under a big spruce tree and the colt grazing. We got back with the horses and didn't see anybody at all.

Then we went on over to Tres Piedras. There was an old fellow there at Tres Piedras that had a Mexican wife and a big gang of Mexicans around him. We had quite a crowd and 22 head of horses. We camped off about half a mile from Tres Piedras. I hobbled our horses and went out to take a look at them after supper. The next morning I got up a little after day light and the horses were all unhobbled and gone. I rode back to camp and told the Old Man, "The horses are all unhobbled and gone this morning." "Well," he said, "eat a bite and get a cup of coffee and hit the trail."

So we did, and we went out from Tres Piedras toward Taos.

(To be continued)

Montezuma and Her Neighbors

By VERNA SHARP*

Montezuma (10,200 alt.), lies in a beautiful little valley on the south fork of the Snake River in Summit County. It is surrounded by rugged, forest-clad mountains which rise to heights of twelve and thirteen thousand feet. Collier Mountain is on the east; Teller and Glacier, on the south; Bear, on the west; and Lenawee, on the north. Glacier Mountain, long a favorite with prospectors, sight-seers and mountain climbers, rises directly in front of the town to an altitude of 2,000 feet above the level of the valley. Sts. John Creek washes the southwestern base of Glacier Mountain. The south fork of the Snake River washes its northern base; and Deer Creek, its southeastern base.

According to the *Montezuma Millrun*, June 24, 1882, a prospector named Coley¹ made prospecting trips through South Park, over Kenosha Pass, up the North Swan near Breckenridge, then over the pass at the head of Bear Creek² to Glacier Mountain. There, in 1863³, he made what is often referred to as the first silver discovery⁴ in the Territory of Colorado. No one knew where Coley went, until returning from one of his trips, he showed silver ingots in Georgetown. He had smelted his ore in a crude furnace with a flue built from a hollow log cased with rocks and clay obtained from the lode for mortar.⁵

* Mrs. Leland Sharp, of Montezuma, was born in Delta County. After graduating from Delta High School and Western State College, Gunnison, she taught a year at the Fairview School on Ohio Creek in Gunnison County. From 1931-33, she taught school in Montezuma, where she met and married Leland Sharp, a member of a pioneer mining family. Material for this article was obtained by Mrs. Sharp from various "old-timers", from files of local newspapers, and from government sources.—*Editor*.

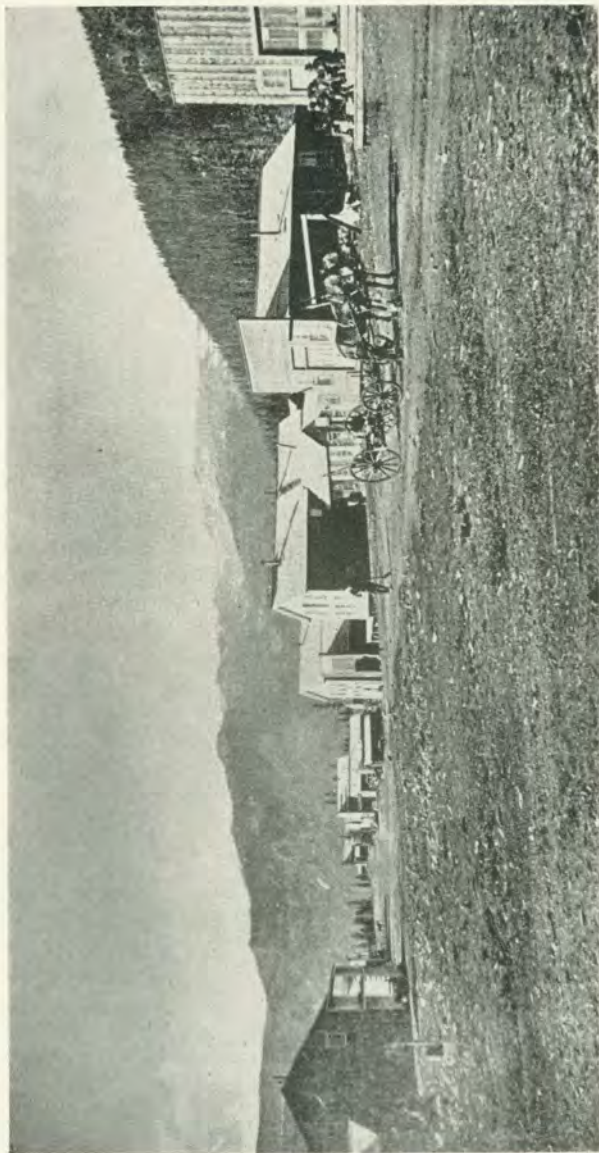
¹The editor of the (Georgetown) *Colorado Miner* refers to Coley both as "Joseph" and "John." Charles W. Henderson of the U.S.G.S. spells the name "Coaley." Coley lived in Empire.

²Bear Creek is now called Sts. John Creek, named for the town of Sts. John.

³Authorities differ on this date. Some give 1864. *The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XIX, No. 1, January 1942, p. 26, gives "1863." R. W. Raymond, *Statistics of Mines and Mining in the States and Territories West of the Rocky Mountains for 1873*, 284, 299-303, 1874 via Henderson, *Ibid.*, 233, says: . . . "it was the Coaley lode, on Glacier Mountain, that the first discovery of silver was made," but he does not give the date. Henderson, *Ibid.*, 40 gives the time as 1864. H. C. Burchard, *Report of the Director of the Mint upon the Production of the Precious Metals in the United States During the Calendar Year 1883*, 236-38, 1883 via Henderson, *Ibid.*, 238, gives the time 1864. Frank Hall, *History of Colorado*, Vol. IV, 331-332, gives 1863.

⁴That silver as well as gold was present in quantity in Colorado was known as early as 1859 from ore specimens assayed from the Gregory lode.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Aug. 20, 1859. "The Ida mine, near Empire, in Clear Creek County, was recorded as a silver lode by its discoverer, D. C. Daley in September, 1860 . . . The existence of silver was not, however, authoritatively proven until several years later.—Hubert H. Bancroft, *History of Nevada, Colorado, and Wyoming*, Vol. XXV, 493.

⁵The lode from which Coley took his first silver later became the property of the Boston Silver Mining Company. Traces of his crude furnace can still be seen on Glacier Mountain about 1,000 feet from the Sts. John property.—*Author*. The editor of *The Colorado Miner* wrote a long article about Coley in later years, in which he said that Coley had lost the sight of both eyes in an accident in 1873. He proposed that markers be placed in Colorado's State Capitol to record the works of a "galaxy of deserving pioneers of Colorado." One of these markers, he thought, should read: "John Coley, The First Man To Open a Silver Mine in Summit County, And The First Man in Colorado to Erect A Furnace For the Smelting of Silver Ore."—Clipping undated.



MONTEZUMA, ABOUT 1880

Shortly after Coley's discovery miners began flocking into the region and prospecting became general. In 1865 Edward Guibor⁶ built his cabin in what later was called Sts. John,⁷ prospected on Glacier, and located both the Potosi and the Herman. In 1866, J. T. Lynch discovered the Sukey and William Bell located the Bell.⁸ About the same time, the Chautauqua was located by G. L. Buell and Henry M. Teller.⁹ These mines were all on Glacier, but prospecting was also done on the other mountains surrounding the valley.

On Collier Mountain (13,147 alt.), rich in silver, lead and gold, were located the Cooper, Old Settler,¹⁰ Bullion, Lancaster and Blanche. Bob Espey¹¹ discovered the Lancaster. The story was that he had celebrated a little too much the night before. After starting to work, he decided it was too much effort so found a sunny spot on the mountainside and lay down to take a nap. When he awoke, he took hold of a sharp rock to assist himself in rising. The rock broke loose and Espey found that it was solid ore.

Teller (12,602 alt.), also a rich mountain, claimed some of the best properties in the district, notably the Cashier, Star of the West and the Radical.

In June 1865, M. O. Wolf, D. C. Collier,¹² Henry M. Teller, J. T. Lynch, O. Milner, D. W. Wiley and others who were camped in the valley, named the mountains surrounding it. Collier suggested the name of Montezuma¹³ for the proposed town and blazing a tree near his tent marked on it the name of the late Aztec emperor of Mexico.

As early in the spring of 1868 as the Loveland Pass was open, miners began to move from Georgetown to Montezuma, crossing over the range by pack train, the only mode of transportation at that time.¹⁴

⁶ *Montezuma Millrun*, June 24, 1882; T. S. Lovering, "Geology and Ore Deposits of the Montezuma Quadrangle, Colorado," *U.S.G.S. Professional Paper, No. 178* (Washington: G.P.O., 1935), 67.

⁷ Sts. John, about a mile southwest of Montezuma, was named in 1867 by a group of Free Masons for St. John, the Baptist, and St. John, the Evangelist, patron saints of masonry. Most of the material about Sts. John was told or written to me by members of the L. M. Clinesmith family: Irene Clinesmith Rash of Oakland, Calif.; Carl N. Clinesmith of Ellensburg, Wash.; and the late Roberta Clinesmith Sharp of Montezuma.—*The Author*.

⁸ Lovering, *Ibid*.

⁹ Henry M. Teller, for thirty years, was United States Senator from Colorado. Teller County, organized in 1899 from parts of El Paso and Fremont Counties bears his name.

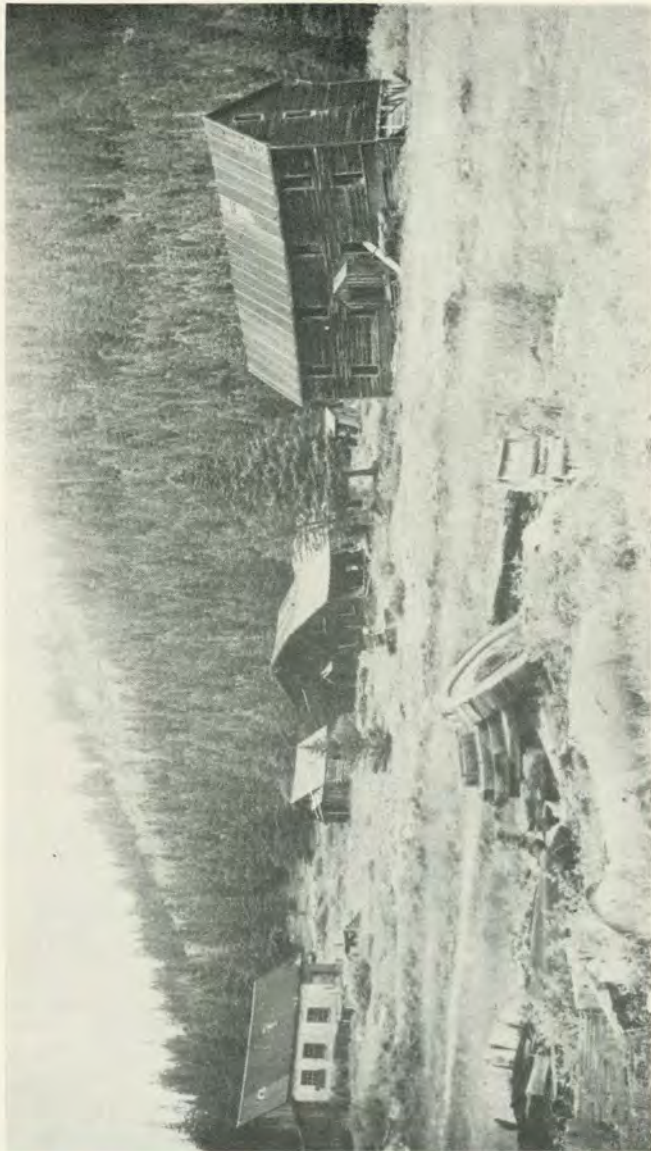
¹⁰ On the south face of (Collier) mountain and about four hundred feet above the town site of Montezuma, may be seen the discovery shaft on the Old Settler, owned and worked by Black and Milner.—*Weekly Miner*, July 7, 1870, p. 3 c 2.

¹¹ *Montezuma Millrun*, June 24, 1882.

¹² "This mountain was named Collier, in 1865, by a large number of intelligent prospectors, to monumentalize the senior editor (D. C. Collier) of the *Central City Register*."—*The Colorado Miner*, July 7, 1870, p. 4 c 2.

¹³ *Montezuma Millrun*, July 29, 1882; also, "Place Names in Colorado," *The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XIX, No. 1, January 1942, 26; Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 331-32.

¹⁴ George H. King, "My First Trip East," *The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XIV, No. 2, March 1937, 53-56.



ST. JOHN, WITH GLACIER MOUNTAIN IN BACKGROUND

In 1869, R. W. Raymond, a mining engineer reported as follows:

The silver mines of Summit County have not been developed to any extent; they are mostly strong galena-bearing veins. Silver ores proper, especially brittle silver and ruby silver, are also found. . . . A great hindrance to the development of the lodes in this country and the beneficiation (sic) of the ores has been the enormous cost of transportation. At present, however, (September, 1869), a wagon road is building from Georgetown to the Snake River mines, which will be completed within a few weeks; and doubtless the improved facilities for communication will reduce prices in every respect . . .¹⁵

A year later, Mr. Raymond said:

. . . Montezuma and Breckenridge are the principal mining towns, the former being the headquarters of quartz and the latter of placer mining. . . . Montezuma is reached by stage from Denver or Idaho (Springs), or by a direct road from Georgetown across the range . . . crossing near Grays Peak. . . . In one of these parks, through which flows the South Fork of the Snake, Montezuma is situated, while Breckenridge is about 20 miles southwest . . . The leading mine is, at Montezuma, the Comstock, owned by the Boston Silver Mining Association, Col. W. L. Chandler, superintendent. It is situated on the southwestern face of Glacier Mountain.¹⁶

In the summer of 1870, J. B. Burns wrote a description of a trip to the silver mines of Summit County, which was published in *The Colorado Miner*, on July 7. Charles W. Henderson incorporated much of this report in his *U.S.G.S. Professional Paper 138*. The report in part follows:

Under the guidance of Commodore Decatur¹⁷ I passed over the range to Montezuma and Breckenridge, the present principal mining towns of Summit county. Everybody in Colorado knows the Commodore. . . . To ride and camp with him is to acquire a "liberal education" of life in the mountains . . . The road to Montezuma passes through fine timber and a series of small "parks," or points where the canyon widens. These parks are

¹⁵ R. W. Raymond, *Statistics of Mines and Mining in the States and Territories West of the Rocky Mountains for 1869*, p. 378, 1870 via Charles W. Henderson, "Mining in Colorado," *U.S.G.S. Professional Paper 138*, (Washington: Gov. Printing Office, 1926), 227.

An Act to incorporate the Georgetown and Breckenridge Wagon Road Company was passed by the Sixth Session of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Colorado in 1867. Incorporators were: Joseph W. Watson, Wm. C. M. Jones, Richard Irwin, Wm. A. Hamill, Eben Smith, George T. Clark, "and such other persons as may be associated with them . . ." The line of the road was described as "near as may be practicable . . . commencing at Georgetown, in said Clear Creek County; thence up and along the west branch of South Clear Creek, by the most practicable route to the junction of Grizzly Fork, with said west branch of South Clear Creek; thence up said Grizzly Fork and through the Irwin Pass on to the north fork of Snake River, thence down said north fork of Snake River to the junction of the Snake and Blue rivers, thence up said Blue River to Breckenridge . . ." At the toll gate on the east side of the range, in the County of Clear Creek, the charges were: for each wagon or vehicle drawn by one span of horses, mules, or yoke of oxen, or drawn by one animal, the sum of one dollar, and for each additional span of horses, mules, or yoke of oxen, the sum of thirty cents; for each horseman, thirty cents; loose stock per head, horses, mules and cattle, ten cents; sheep, goats and swine, five cents per head. Charges were lower at the two gates on the west side of the range, the sum for one span of horses, mules, or yoke of oxen being fifty cents.—*General Laws of Colorado, 1867*, 126-7.

¹⁶ R. W. Raymond, *op. cit.* for 1870, pp. 328-332, 1872.

¹⁷ "Commodore" Stephen Decatur's real name was said to have been Stephen Decatur Bross. He was born in Sussex County, New Jersey, the second son of Moses and Jane Winfield Bross. His elder brother was Governor William Bross of Illinois. In his younger days Stephen was Principal of the Chester Academy,

crowned with luxuriant grass, which covers every foot of the soil in rank exuberance. Cool water, of crystal purity, flows at every step. These delightful parks are paradises in miniature. . . . Montezuma is pleasantly situated in one of these parks. . . . It has a hotel, a store, a sawmill, a shingle factory, a few dwelling houses and a handful of inhabitants. The reduction works of the Sukey Silver Mining Company, as well as the Sukey mine, are situated about three-quarters of a mile from the town. The works of the St. Lawrence Company, now in course of construction, and also its several mines, are in the immediate neighborhood. St. John's (sic), where are located the reduction works and mine of the Boston Silver Mining Association, nestles in a gulch about a mile southwest from Montezuma.

First in order (of the principal mines) of this neighborhood is the Comstock of the Boston Mining Association. This mine is situated on the southwestern face of Glacier mountain, at an estimated altitude of nearly 12,000 feet above the ocean level. . . . The reduction works of the company are of a very inferior character, unworthy of the splendid mine, and wholly inadequate to the treatment of the ore.

. . . Down the gulch about a quarter of a mile, also in Glacier mountain, is the mine of the Chenango Company.¹⁸ A tunnel 490 feet long pierces the side of the mountain about 300 feet above the bed of the gulch and 350 feet below the surface of the mountain. The vein is evidently of great size. . . . It is superintended by an active, clever miner named Michael Dowd.

. . . Passing down the broad gulch into Montezuma park, we visited the ground of the St. Lawrence company. Its reduction works are in course of construction, and will be completed this fall. . . . The mines of the company in the neighborhood—The Silver Wing and the Napoleon—are situated on the northern face of Glacier mountain, a few hundred feet above the south fork of the Snake. . . . The ore from the Silver Wing might be pronounced unusually base, while that from the Napoleon appeared to be generally of a fine quality.

. . . Near at hand are the mill and mine of the Sukey Silver mining Company, under the management of Mr. John T. Lynch, one of the most agreeable and intelligent gentlemen I have met in the mountains. The mill of the company is small—a mere "sample" of a mill—and is palpably the nucleus of large and more complete works. The mill consists of a battery of five stamps, one reverberatory furnace, and two pans.

. . . The Sukey mine lies on the mountain a short distance above and beyond the mines of the St. Lawrence Company. It has been opened by two tunnels—one of which is 225 feet long and the other

100—and a shaft about 40 feet deep. The vein is between four and five feet thick, and shows a body of ore exceeding two feet.

. . . There are many others in the vicinity of Montezuma, to say nothing of the legion that clusters around the important but now neglected district of Peru.

In 1874 the Snake River district was reported as developing more slowly than any other, principally because of its "great inaccessibility and the heavy and unpromising character of the ore." Early in the year "an excitement sprang up concerning the mines" and about 200 prospectors invaded there from Georgetown, South Park and Denver. Since transportation over the Snowy Range was possible only in the summer, they were driven out by the deepening snows.¹⁹

During 1875 the Snake River and Peru districts both were said to be steadily improving. The Champion, Tiger, Printer's Pool, Peruvian, Blanche, Orphan Boy, Silver Wing, Potosi, Coley, Sukey, and the Comstock were worked fairly regularly, and all except the last mentioned shipped ore. During the summer the Sukey mill made an unsuccessful run. The St. Lawrence mill was hauled to Georgetown and sold to the Pelican Company.²⁰

Montezuma built up rapidly and drew business and professional men, as well as miners. Among those who came in 1870 was Professor John H. Yonley, who in 1872, was appointed Territorial Assayer. He built the Sisapo Smelter and Sampling Works. M. P. Felch and George Turnbull built the first hotel in 1868, and R. O. Jones started the Preston House in 1869.²¹ The Rocky Mountain House was built in the late 1870s. The population in 1881 was 743.²²

In September 1881, Montezuma was incorporated.²³ Its first election, held in April, 1882 resulted as follows: M. O. Wolf, Mayor; Hugh R. Steele,²⁴ Stewart Poudre, Jonas Conwell and George Fiedler, Trustees; J. W. Swisher, Clerk and Recorder. C. W. Moore was appointed Marshal and T. R. Newman, Police Magistrate. At the first meeting of the Trustees, L. R. Vredenburg, Jr., was appointed Town Attorney.²⁵

¹⁸ Henderson, *op. cit.*, 234, c.1.

¹⁹ R. W. Raymond, *op. cit.*, for 1875, 282, 285, 217-321, 1876. Lovering, *op. cit.*, 71-72, 73.

²⁰ In March 1883, the Summit House, formerly the Preston House, was remodeled.—Author.

²¹ George A. Crofutt, *Crofutt's Grip-sack Guide of Colorado*. (Omaha: Overland Pub. Co., 1881), 123.

²² *Montezuma Millrun*, June 24, 1882; Notice of Incorporation, clipped from Breckenridge newspaper (name unknown), pasted on first page of *Minute Book of Montezuma Town Meetings*, April 5, 1882-June 4, 1910. Record in office of Secretary of State, Denver.

²³ Hugh R. Steele, son of Robert W. Steele, the first governor of the territory, came to Cherry Creek in 1859. Owner of the Mt. Vernon and Mountain City toll road, he settled at Mt. Vernon in 1860. He moved his family to Empire in 1862. It was during their residence there that R. W. Steele, James Huff and Robert Taylor discovered the Belmont lode in East Argentine, which they sold for \$100,000. In 1865, Steele returned to Iowa with his family for the purpose of educating his children. He returned to Colorado later and settled in Georgetown in 1867. He later went to Cripple Creek where he served as mayor and as private secretary to W. S. Stratton. He died in Denver on Nov. 2, 1923.—*Georgetown Courier*, Nov. 10, 1923.

²⁴ *Montezuma Millrun*, June 24, 1882.

Orange County, New York. He prospected around Georgetown, about Peru and Montezuma, and in 1866-68, represented that mining district in the Colorado Territorial Legislature. In 1870, he became Associate Mining Editor of the *Colorado Miner*, Georgetown. "Old Sulphurets," as he was called, christened Peru and the Snake River districts "God's Country." Much of the widespread reputation of Clear Creek and Summit Counties was due to his earnest enthusiasm. He located Decatur Gulch mines west of Argentine Pass, also many properties in Summit County. Later he was among the first miners to reach the silver boom at Silver Cliff in the 1870's. Although his brother and a nephew visited him in Colorado, he refused to recognize them and claimed that his name was not Bross. Frank E. Root, coauthor of *The Overland Stage to California*, (Topeka: Root & Connelley, 1901), 345-47 wrote that Stephen Decatur Bross visited with him at old Latham station, telling him his real identification, in 1864. Root said that he was with Kearny on his famous march to Santa Fe and Chihuahua. The Commodore died at Rosita, Colorado on June 3, 1888.

¹⁸ "With his partner, Captain Short of New York, my father became interested in the Chenango mining property at Montezuma. . . . The summer of 1868 was spent at Montezuma in developing and operating the property. There must have been a pretty fair profit."—George H. King, *op. cit.*

Most of the town officials served without pay and made their living in other ways. Maurice Wolf was postmaster, an officer in the Sisapo Sampling Works, and ran a general merchandise store. J. W. Swisher practiced law and Hugh R. Steele was a surveyor. C. W. Moore was a blacksmith. T. R. Newman mined and operated the Rocky Mountain House. When they weren't busy with official duties and making a living, they dabbled in politics and for relaxation most of them played poker.

They took their politics seriously especially anything concerning candidates or legislation that affected mining. Most of them, with James Oliver, of the *Montezuma Millrun*,²⁶ were ardent Democrats.

By 1884, Montezuma was a well established town with more than one hundred buildings, including comfortable homes, a school, a church, a bank, post office, three general stores, three hotels, several restaurants, and the usual quota of saloons.

During the campaign of 1886, Montezuma was host to Alva Adams and his party supporters. *The Millrun* was the only Democratic newspaper in the county and James Oliver carried on a spirited political feud with O. K. Gaymon of the *Dillon Enterprise* and the editor of the *Breckenridge Journal*. During election years the feud, on Oliver's part, at least, almost reached the shooting point. Some of the accusations and complimentary name-calling would, in this day and age, have resulted in libel suits.

Montezuma's officials took their poker playing as seriously as their politics, and although they weren't professional gamblers, they played for keeps, and it wasn't penny ante. My mother-in-law, Roberta Clinesmith Sharp, who was a niece of T. R. Newman, told me a good many stories about those early day poker sessions. One concerned a professional gambler, who was making the rounds of the other mining camps and towns in Summit County. Rumors were that Montezuma was to be his last stop on his way back to Denver, and that he would arrive with several hundred dollars won from his unfortunate victims in other places.

²⁶ In the summer of 1882, James R. Oliver came from Central City to Montezuma and established the town's first newspaper, *The Montezuma Millrun*, which he published weekly from June 24, 1882 to September 17, 1887. He then sold it to J. W. Swisher, who continued its publication until June 1, 1888. Colonel James R. Oliver was born in Morristown, New Jersey, June 2, 1833 where he lived until he was fifteen years old when he moved with his parents to Farmington, Iowa. He learned the trade of a printer in Bethany, Mo. In 1860, he came to Colorado. After stopping for a time in Denver, he went to Mosquito and then joined Dick Allen in publishing the *Fair Play Sentinel*, at Fairplay. Three years later he went to Black Hawk where he enlisted with the Tyler Rangers. In 1876 he issued the first number of the *Black Hawk Post*.—Maria Davies McGrath, *The Real Pioneers of Colorado*, Vol. III, 32. According to the *Owray Times*, March 25, 1882, James R. Oliver leased the *Central City Post* to Alexander & Rodolf. James Oliver was one of the men in the *Rocky Mountain News* building when it was struck by the great flood of 1864, and narrowly escaped with his life.—*The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XII, No. 6, November 1935, 222.

At last the gambler arrived and engaged a room at the Rocky Mountain House for one night. He announced that he would be leaving on the stage the next morning. Early in the afternoon he let it be known that he was not averse to playing a friendly game of cards. He was soon accommodated. And as afternoon merged into evening and evening into night, the players dropped out one by one until there remained only the gambler and "Theo." as T. R. Newman was known to his friends. The hours wore on and when the sun arose, the gambler was seen slowly walking toward Webster Pass. He wasn't waiting for the stage which he had planned to take. He didn't have the necessary \$3.00 fare.

As in all early day mining camps, transportation and mail service were among the first great problems. In 1869, Oliver Milner²⁷ carried the first mail from Montezuma to Breckenridge.²⁸ From Montezuma he went up through Sts. John, crossed over a pass at the head of Bear Creek, and followed the North Swan River to Breckenridge. The pay was \$15 a trip, paid by private subscription.

On March 3, 1869 there was organized the Georgetown and Snake River Wagon Road Company,²⁹ with the following incorporators: John Lynch, Stephen Decatur, John Collom, John Shawson, Howard C. Chapin, William Spruance, William S. Campbell, William N. Byers, and Henry M. Teller.

This Argentine Pass road, an important passenger and freight route, ran from Georgetown by the way of Decatur, Chihuahua,³⁰

²⁷ Oliver Milner's name appeared on the first claims on the Buckskin Joe Lode.—*The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XVIII, No. 5, September 1941, 174, Roy A. Davidson, "Some Early Manuscript Records of Park County, Colorado, 1859-63."

²⁸ At that time (early 1870's) Breckenridge was reached by stage from Como.—Henderson, *op. cit.*, 33.

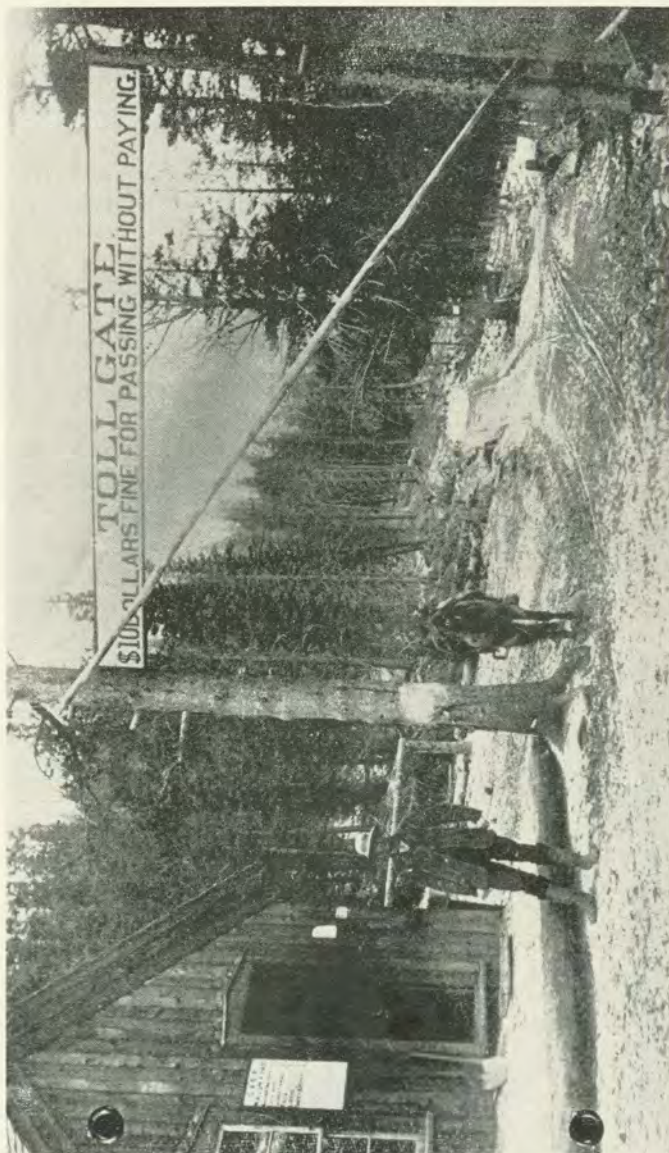
²⁹ Articles of Incorporation, filed April 23, 1869, Book C, 517, Office of Secretary of State of Colorado.

"A wagon road from Georgetown to Montezuma . . . exists, but, owing to its unfortunate location and the steep grade on which it is built, it is but little used, except during the summer months and then only as a trail for jack trains and for travel on horseback."—R. W. Raymond, *op. cit.* for 1873, pp. 284, 299-303, 1874.

³⁰ Chihuahua is one of the early camps and contains a large number of valuable mines, which were worked to a greater or less extent during 1881.—Henderson, *op. cit.*, 236. Founded and incorporated in 1880, this mining community . . . was presumably named for the State in Mexico.—*The Denver Daily Tribune*, Oct. 8, 1880.

Concerning the name, Chihuahua, a reporter for the *Daily News*, Denver, said on Sept. 8, 1880: "There was an old gray-headed Indian . . . called Shu-Wa-Wa—meaning chase a deer and stick a stub in your foot. But the old Indian is dead and the new Chihuahua is a wide awake and prosperous mining camp surrounded by mountains of silver and gold."

Between Chihuahua and Decatur are (1955) the remains of some cabins known as the Mitchell cabins. The couple who lived there also had a mine near the cabins. They did not get along. She lived in one cabin and he, in another. They even worked separate parts of the mine. Mitchell was the mail carrier from Decatur to Montezuma. Mrs. Mitchell made money to operate her share of the mine by writing stories for magazines. She was a good miner and did most of the work herself. She had a reputation for being miserly. The story was told that she hired a miner to help her and boarded him. When pay day came his board bill equaled exactly the amount of wages she owed him.



TOLL GATE BETWEEN MONTEZUMA AND CHIHUAHUA
GEORGETOWN AND SNAKE RIVER WAGON ROAD

Montezuma, Haywood,³¹ Dillon and Frisco to Kokomo. One toll gate stood at the junction of two roads about half a mile west of Chihuahua. One branch, a two-mile stretch was a separate toll road built by Jim Blanton and his brother. The other branch, a continuation of the Georgetown and Snake River road, joined the main highway near the Snake River, northwest of Montezuma. About 1883 the counties of Summit and Clear Creek bought this road for a public highway. So little money was spent on it, however, that in a few years the Pass itself was impassable for teams and wagons.

All so-called Post Roads over Argentine, Loveland and Webster Passes were toll roads. Post Road No. 40, over Webster Pass was built in 1878 by William and Emerson Webster, in partnership with the Montezuma Silver Mining Company, by way of Hall Valley³² through Handcart Gulch to Montezuma. Webster, for many years, remained the chief freight route from Denver to the Snake River mining district.

The following was written by Stephen Decatur for the *Colorado Miner* of Georgetown, on October 19, 1878:

The blockade on the mining industry of the Snake River mining district has been raised. The Snake River and Hall Valley Wagon Road has been completed. Hipla! Hurrah! Carry the news everywhere! Hurry up the Denver and South Park Railroad! A new route to Leadville-Montezuma, the half-way station! Here is a fine opportunity to establish a daily stage route from Denver in connection with the D. and S. P. at Hall Valley, thence by stage over the Sierra Madre, down through the valley of the Snake, up the valley of the Ten Mile, thence to the metropolis of carbonates. The road just finished is said to be the best and have the easiest grade of any road in the state. There is Joy in the Halls of Montezuma.

Post Road No. 13 over Loveland Pass from Georgetown via Silver Plume, Montezuma, Dillon and Frisco to Kokomo was completed in 1879 by the Bakerville & Leadville Toll-Road Company. The trustees were: Anthony Blum, G. G. White and A. H. Reynolds. This road called the "High-Line Wagon Road" charged the following toll rates: Vehicle with span of horses . . . \$1.00; Each additional span, 30c; Horseman, 30c; Horses, cattle and asses (each), 10c; and Sheep, hogs and goats (each), 5c. By June 4, 1879, reports from the road indicated that teams were passing over it at the rate of fifty a day.³³

³¹In 1880, Haywood consisted of a single log cabin that housed a post office, hotel, and wayside eating house. It was situated on the High Line stage road between Georgetown and Kokomo at the junction of the North and South Forks of the Snake River. It probably was named for Mrs. Kate Haywood, who was appointed postmistress.—Croft, *op. cit.*, 107; *Denver Tribune*, Jan. 12, 1882; "Place Names in Colorado," *The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XVIII, No. 4, July 1941, 147.

³²*The Colorado Miner*, Oct. 19, 1878; William L. Candler, John H. Yonley, Franz Fohr, Sampson Ware and W. P. G. Haywood are the trustees of the Snake River and Hall Valley Wagon Road Company, whose articles of incorporation were filed in the office of the Secretary of State yesterday. The company will construct and operate a toll road from Montezuma to Hall Valley. The capital stock is to be \$10,000, divided into 1,000 shares at \$10 each.—*Denver Tribune*, April 18, 1878.

³³*Georgetown Courier*, March 6, 1879.

Small settlements grew up as stagecoach and freight stations for these Post Roads. Haywood and Warren's were regular stations for stage and wagon travel over the passes. Haywood consisted of a post office, hotel, and wayside restaurant all in one building. It was located between Dillon and Silver Plume at the junction of the roads via Loveland and Argentine. It was called the Halfway House and served travelers over Argentine and Webster until the 1890's.³⁴

Warren's Station was built at the foot of Loveland Pass in 1879 or 1880, by Chauncey Warren, who came to Colorado from the East, first locating in Central City. He moved to Silver Plume in 1876, thence to Warren's Station. The Warren family moved to Frisco in 1882, and when travel over Loveland Pass was discontinued, abandoned the station.³⁵

For a time after the Loveland Pass road was built, mail was brought in by stagecoach to Montezuma. Later, in 1881, when the train reached Breckenridge,³⁶ the mail came there and thence to Montezuma. Delivery was uncertain even after the building of the railway and one enterprising postmaster had a long tin horn that he blew to announce the arrival of the mail.

Education and the spiritual needs of the valley were not neglected. As early as 1876 a school was established midway between Sts. John and Montezuma. It was named the Halfway Schoolhouse. Children from both towns attended the school until 1880. The teacher in 1877 and 1878 was Miss Mary Wolff. In addition to teaching the twenty school pupils, Miss Wolff organized and taught a Sunday School of thirty.

Although the school district was regularly organized in 1876 as District No. 2, and included Sts. John, as well as the territory in which Chihuahua and Decatur were located, it was 1880 before a permanent location was chosen. In that year the school was established in Montezuma.³⁷

The increasing school population soon outgrew the first schoolhouse, and in 1884 the present building was erected. The entry hall and belfry were added later. A bell was presented by the town. Programs and box socials given by the community singing school

³⁴ The remains of the building may be seen (1955) from US 6, a few hundred feet northwest of the junction with Highway 294.

³⁵ Information about Warren's Station was obtained from Mrs. Bessie Blundell, daughter of Chauncey Warren. Mrs. Blundell was born after the family moved to Frisco and does not remember hearing her family talk much about Warren's Station. The only story she remembered was one her mother told about the death of a baby brother when they lived at the station. The baby had been ill and Mrs. Warren had been to Denver with him. Coming home, as they neared the top of Loveland Pass, the passengers had to get out and walk, as the road was too steep for the horses to pull the loaded coach. A man who worked for Mr. Warren at the station, was carrying the baby. When they reentered the coach at the top of the pass, he discovered that the baby was dead. Apparently the altitude had been too high.—Author

³⁶ The Denver, South Park and Pacific reached Breckenridge in 1881, by the way of Boreas Pass.

³⁷ The first school building is now (1955) a private residence.



SCHOOL HOUSE, MONTEZUMA
Built in 1884

ONLY REMAINING CABIN
Chihuahua (1955)



FIRST SCHOOL, MONTEZUMA
Built about 1880

TOWN HALL, MONTEZUMA
Built before 1883

raised enough money to buy the first school organ. With renovations and installation of modern furniture and equipment, the building has been used through the years, with the exception of a three-year period in the 1940's when there were no children of school age.

Decatur and Chihuahua each had its own school. After 1880, the children from Sts. John came to Montezuma, making the long walk twice a day. Several of the women who lived in Sts. John when they were children, have told my husband and me about walking to the foot of the Sts. John road barefooted, and then putting on their shoes and stockings before going on to school. Mrs. Isabella Black,³⁸ a pioneer of Montezuma and Sts. John, also tells of carrying pails of milk from Sts. John and delivering them before school. Although the school term was short—a five months summer and fall session—getting an education in those days seems to have been slightly rugged.

Religious services in early years were held by traveling ministers. One of the first of these was Father John L. Dyer, the beloved Methodist missionary, who went from camp to camp, winter and summer to hold church services in any place that was available. He was known as the "Snowshoe Itinerant."

James Oliver reported in *The Montezuma Millrun*, September 12, 1885, that:

Father Dyer preached to a large congregation Thursday evening. Yesterday he gave us a number of reminiscences of early days in this gulch. His first visit to Montezuma was in the sixties. He tramped over the mountain from the Swan and located some of the mining claims now owned by the Boston Mining Company at Sts. John. The first religious services he held in Montezuma were in 1865. They were held out-of-doors and about 75 attended. The call to worship was given by pounding on a circular saw with a piece of iron. In 1865, he also preached to eight persons in Commodore Decatur's cabin at Horseshoe Basin above Decatur. Father Dyer is a very interesting speaker, and can tell many stories of his experiences in the mining camps.

As Montezuma grew and prospered, prospecting spread and other towns had their beginning, some in reality; and some, in the minds of men.

Franklin (the early spelling was Franklyn),³⁹ the most elaborately planned of these new cities, was to be the headquarters for the Montezuma Silver Mining Company. Its proposed site was one and one-half miles south of Montezuma on the north bank of the Snake River near the junction with Deer Creek. The company helped build the Webster Pass road, acquired several mining properties,

³⁸ Mrs. Isabella Black, one of the few remaining pioneers of Montezuma, came to the town in 1883. Her step-father, Joseph Bianchi, worked at the Preston tunnel for several years. He, accompanied by several nephews, came to Montezuma from Central City. The family had Americanized their name to Banks and by that name they were known.

³⁹ *The Colorado Miner*, October 19, 1878; also, Roberta Clinesmith Sharp, Montezuma.

including the Radical⁴⁰ and Chautauqua, and drew up plans for an up-to-date town. A large two-story residence was built and beautifully furnished for the company superintendent, George Teal. It was the meeting place for wealthy investors from the East who were lavishly entertained during their visits. The Franklin House, as it was called, was a show place for years, but it, a boarding house, and a sawmill were all the structures ever built in the proposed town. There is no record of what happened to this dream town, but nothing remains of Franklin now (1955), except parts of the foundation of the big house, a little arbor, and broken champagne bottles.

Another dream town was Adrian,⁴¹ begun by a Dr. McKenney from Illinois, who planned a model town. It was to be a pleasure resort with excursion boats on the Snake River. Several cabins were built about two and one-half miles north of Montezuma. Then Dr. McKenney died, the project was abandoned, and years later the cabins were torn down.

Filger City,⁴² the last of these so-called towns, was built on Lenawee Mountain, near the Winning Card mine. Fabulously rich ore had been discovered in the Winning Card by Isaac Filger and a large crew of men worked there. Some leased and some contracted, with plans for a big development. Hopes were high. Several cabins, the nucleus of a future city, were built. According to the *Millrun*, April 11, 1885, the following town officials were elected: James Elliott, Mayor; Messrs. Kane, Lancaster, Bruner and Mantel, Trustees. Then the rich ore gave out. Further exploration proved useless and Filger City was a ghost town before it was a real city.

Sts. John, originally called Coleville, the first town to be built after Montezuma that became anything more than a dream, was second in age, but the Sts. John mine was the oldest in the district. This was a company town, most of it being built by the Boston Mining Company, when that company took over the mines in 1878. The Comstock lode of the Sts. John mine had previously been operated by the Boston Silver Mining Association,⁴³ and about 1872 this

⁴⁰ "On Lenawee Mountain the Eliza Jane is being systematically developed . . . The Montezuma Silver Mining Company owns the Radical, Chautauqua, Erie, General Teller, and several other lodes on Glacier and Teller Mountains . . ." H. C. Burchard, *Report of the Director of the Mint upon the Production of the Precious Metals in the United States During the Calendar Year, 1883*, via Henderson, *Ibid.*, 240-241.

⁴¹ *Montezuma Millrun*, March 14, and May 30, 1885; also, information from Emmett Brophy.—*The Author*.

⁴² Named for Isaac Filger, who discovered the Winning Card lode, which became famous for its production of rich ore. Born in Wooster, Ohio in 1845, Filger died at Breckenridge, Feb. 13, 1903. He was a resident of Georgetown in the 1870's.—*Georgetown Courier*, February 1903.

⁴³ Data from the Clinesmith family, Montezuma. The Clinesmiths were early pioneers of this region. They came from Iowa when Roberta and Carl were small children. The younger children were born in Montezuma, and the family lived here and in Sts. John, with one year in Dillon, until the death of Mrs. Clinesmith in 1902. Then the home was broken up and most of the family moved away. Roberta stayed in Colorado, taught school in Argentine (formerly Decatur), and later married Thomas Sharp. Their children were born in Montezuma and still make their homes here. L. M. Clinesmith died in Ellensburg, Washington in 1931, and Roberta Clinesmith Sharp died in 1945.—*Author*.

company built the most complete and up-to-date milling and smelting works available at that time. The machinery was shipped in from the East and bricks for the smelter came from Wales. In 1875 the mine was worked by the Boston Silver Company. Then the Boston Mining Company took over the mines in 1878 and completed the building of the town. There were: an assay office, a company store, a two-and-a-half-story boarding house, a guest house ornately trimmed, homes for the general superintendent and the foreman,



SMELTER AT THE STS. JOHN MINE
Only the old smokestack remains.

and a mess hall, as well as homes for the miners and their families. Sts. John boasted that there wasn't a saloon in the town, but there was a library of more than 300 volumes donated by Boston friends. Eastern and foreign newspapers were sent regularly to the Library from Boston.

The superintendent's home was completely furnished with Sheraton furniture brought from the East. He did not live in Sts. John the year around. The manager of the boarding house took care of the house and kept it ready for his visits. My mother-in-law lived in Sts. John in the 1880's and again in the 1890's, where her father, L. M. Clinesmith, was mine superintendent. Her mother managed the boarding house. Roberta Clinesmith and her sister were sometimes allowed to accompany their mother when she opened the superintendent's house for an official visit. They said it was, to them, like something out of a storybook, to see the beautiful furniture, dishes, draperies, pictures, and knicknacks. In later years,



SCHOOL AT MONTEZUMA—1886

Miss Briggles, Teacher (in doorway)

1. Virginia Charest, 2. Minnie Bijou, 3. Jennie Swanson, 4. Charlie Steele, 5. William Williams, 6. Mary Bijou,
7. Annie Bijou, 8. Nida Stephens, 9. Bertie Clinesmith,* 10. Frank Peeny, 11. Charlie Frey, 12. Harry Steele,
13. Katie Harrington, 14. Lena Frey, 15. Mamie Harrington, 16. Aggie Williams, 17. Will Oliver, 18. Amanda Swanson,
19. Florence Symonds, 20. Gertie Myers, 21. Will Hyatt, 22. May Hyatt, 23. Julia Harrington, 24. Lizzie Frey,
25. Nona Stephens, 26. Issie Banks, 27. Laura Charest, 28. Goldie Domedcon, 29. Bessie Williams, 30. Harry Milner,
31. Eddie Harrington, 32. Eddie Charest.

* Family later spelled name Clinesmith.

when the Boston Mining Company disposed of its interests in Sts. John, the superintendent walked out of his home, shut the door, and left the house just as it stood. It is still standing, but the contents disappeared item by item—where, no one now knows. The fate of the library was the same.

The Clinesmith family lived in Sts. John during the "hard" winter of 1898. Carl, the oldest son, told me that they counted ten snowslides in one morning. He said the snow was up to the second story windows of the boarding house and that his family burned candles or kerosene lamps all day. It was his job to keep an entrance open to the boarding house. He did this by cutting steps from the top of the snow down to the door of the boarding house. He had a framework on which another door rested. Each night or during a storm, the door, which worked on the order of a trapdoor, was closed. After each snowfall, Carl would go from the Clinesmith home, through a connecting snowshed to the boarding house. Then he would climb out of a second story window onto the crusted snow and shovel the new snow off the wooden door and frame. After digging more steps, he would reset the framework and the trapdoor was ready for use until the next storm.

The Clinesmith home, between the boarding house and another building, was not as tall as either. Consequently the snow drifted onto the Clinesmith roof, instead of blowing off. It also was Carl's job to keep the kitchen stovepipe free from snow. He did this by adding a joint or so of pipe after each storm. By spring the stovepipe towered above the roof like a smokestack.

Regardless of what their elders thought, the Clinesmith children had a wonderful time during that winter of 1898. They never used the entrance to the boarding house in order to get in and out of their own home. It was more fun to go into the boarding house, climb out of a second story window, and slide down the snowbank. After they were older, they admitted that their mother must have endured a horrible time managing the boarding house under such wintry conditions.

Chihuahua was the second of Montezuma's sister cities. It was three miles northeast of Montezuma in the valley of Peru Creek at the mouth of Chihuahua Gulch. For several years it was one of the busiest mining towns in this vicinity. The population in 1881 was 200. In that year W.M. Crilly was appointed postmaster. The following is a description of the town given by the Chihuahua reporter in the first issue of *The Montezuma Millrun*, June 24, 1882:

The valley in which the town of Chihuahua is built is about a quarter of a mile in width and a mile in length, and in summer seasons is one of the pleasantest places in Summit County. The first settlement was made here in 1879 by Messrs. Aldrich, Eddy, Foster, Snively, and De La Mar. The land on which the town is

built is owned by Messrs. Boyer, Lou, Teal, and Sanders of Georgetown. There are 54 substantial buildings in town; one hotel, three restaurants, three saloons, two grocery stores, a butcher shop, a large dry goods store, and many well built homes. The town is situated in the center of the largest mining district in Colorado. For grandeur and beauty of scenery, it is unsurpassed by any mountain town in the state. Grays Peak rears its giant head on the north, Collier Mountain is on the south, and Lenawee on the west. For beauty of its sunset views, it has no rival on this continent. There are no physicians as their services are never required. There are two lawyers, but they might as well take in their shingles, as there is nothing for them to do; the people being honest, virtuous, and happy, enjoying their religion under their own vine and fig tree (which is a Norway pine, by the way). The clergy seldom visit this Arcadia of the mountains, as their mission is to call the sinners not the righteous to repentance.

Also in the valley of Peru Creek, and about four miles from Montezuma, was Decatur.⁴⁴ Although there was prospecting there as early as 1864 and 1865, no permanent settlement was made until 1879. In that year the townsite was surveyed and a number of buildings were erected. In 1880 several new mines were discovered and eastern capital invested. In 1881, when the population had reached 300,⁴⁵ preliminary steps were taken toward the incorporation of a town. In the spring of 1882 the first election was held. The first town officials were: W. T. Lewis, Mayor; B. F. Bailey, James Nunan, H. J. Domedeon and H. P. Shadholt, Trustees. B. F. Bailey was also appointed Surveyor; and W. H. Townsend, Treasurer and Town Attorney.

Decatur prospered for several years. The Pennsylvania mine, discovered in 1879,⁴⁶ was one of the few mines that operated steadily during the lean years that followed the panic of 1893. The town has had periodic revivals since then, which accounts for the confusion caused by the change in name. Each time the population decreased, the post office was discontinued. Then, owing to a revival in mining and an increase in population, the post office was re-established and the name of the town was changed. The Decatur post office was discontinued in 1885. The town was called Decatur until 1893 when the Rathbone post office was established. In late 1902, the name of the post office became Argentine,⁴⁷ by which it is now known.

⁴⁴ Named for Stephen Decatur (Bross). In 1892, according to a report of the Director of the Mint, the Decatur Mines Syndicate produced \$319,275 worth of silver. Again some work was done in 1899. Production was resumed in 1906, but fell off in 1909. From 1911 to 1924 milling operations were spasmodic.—Henderson, *op. cit.*, 33.

According to the *Rocky Mountain News*, June 13, 1868: "Mr. William M. Dailey came down from Peru yesterday. He says there is considerable activity in mining and prospecting in his district and also in Snake River and East and West Argentine. Work is being prosecuted on the National Treasury lode in Peru and the Anglo-Norman is to be exploited this season. Dr. King is putting up reduction works on the Coley lode in Snake River district. . . ."

⁴⁵ Crofutt, *loc. cit.*

⁴⁶ T. S. Lovering, *loc. cit.*

⁴⁷ Data from Roberta Clinesmith Sharp, verified by old postmarks.

North of Decatur is the Horseshoe Basin, so named because of its shape. Although there was never a town in the Shoe Basin, a boarding house and a few homes were built near the Peruvian mine. The mines in this basin have never been operated for more than a few years at a time, but intermittent work at some of them has been carried on in recent years. The Paymaster, located in the 1860's, and the Peruvian, discovered in 1874, were probably the two most important early discoveries in the Shoe Basin. In 1883 the Bufa [Buda] Mining and Milling Company was pushing development on the Bufa [Buda] lode.⁴⁸

"All work and no play," was not the motto of these little Summit County towns. The social and recreational life was gay and varied. In summer picnics, excursions on horseback and baseball games were the order of the day. Not only community, but inter-community picnics were enjoyed. Favorite picnic spots for Montezuma, Chihuahua and Decatur were the Franklin House and the fine soda springs north of Montezuma. The socially-minded of these towns often joined Dillon and Frisco for an all-day picnic, or the picnickers from all over the county met at Ellwood's ranch. Montezuma boasted a fine baseball team and challenged all comers. Friendly rivalry between the teams of this valley and Dillon and Breckenridge was carried on all summer.

Generally the holidays, especially the Fourth of July, were celebrated with elaborate programs and street decorations.⁴⁹ In 1865, D. C. Collier, one of Montezuma's founders, reported that:

The Fourth passed off pleasantly. In the evening Father Dyer, whom everyone respects and esteems, preached a sermon which was listened to around the campfires by about 30 persons. The "Star Spangled Banner" was sung under the leadership of Commodore Decatur. The evening closed with the firing of a salute. A vote of thanks was given to Father Dyer for his kindness in speaking here, thus preaching the pioneer sermon of this region.⁵⁰

On July 10, 1886 *The Montezuma Millrun* reported the Fourth of July celebration as follows:

The Fourth of July

As Celebrated in Montezuma on the Fifth

The program for the festivities on the fifth was fully carried out. The singing exercises were excellent and greatly praised. The introductory speech of welcome by Mayor Charles Preston, presiding officer of the day, was one of good words to all true Americans. Mrs. Gaymon of Dillon read the Declaration of Independence in a very creditable manner, and the speeches were all well received.

The most exciting events of the day were the drilling contests. The contestants and a large number of citizens assembled on the ground back of the schoolhouse, and about two o'clock the double-

⁴⁸ H. C. Burchard, *op. cit.*, 1883, 236-38, 240, 426, 433, 1884.

⁴⁹ The old street flag with thirty-eight stars still (1955) hangs on the wall of Montezuma's Town Hall.

⁵⁰ *Daily Miners' Register-Call* (Central City), July 8, 1865.

jack contest began. The first team to the hammer was George Berry with John Montgomery as turner and S. J. Nichols with John Sylvester, turner. Both teams began work as with one tap of the hammer, and for 15 minutes the drills were churned up and down at a lively rate. When time was called Berry and Montgomery had drilled 15¼ inches and Nichols and Sylvester, 10¼ inches. Berry strikes a steady heavy stroke, does very pretty work, and was loudly cheered when the result was announced.

The next teams were Peter Cunningham with John Tully and John Oliver with William Barrows. The start was even and the pace steady. Cunningham is a beautiful hammer man and bored through the rock in 12 minutes. He had to start another hole and when time was called he and Tully had drilled 18 inches, and the other team 15¼ inches. First money of \$27.50 was won by Cunningham and Tully. Berry and Montgomery won second money of \$12.50. The contest was exciting and all were cheered by their friends.

The entries for the single-jack drilling were: Vincent Banks, Nick Weber, and John Sylvester. It was hotly contested and when time was called, Vincent Banks had drilled 7 inches, John Sylvester, 8½ and Nick Weber, 11¼. Weber won first money and Sylvester, second.

The drilling events were followed by footraces of all kinds and a horse race. The celebration closed with a dance and supper at the Summit House. The hall was full of merry hearts and light feet and the music led by George La Gue was lively and cheering. Those present enjoyed the dance fully, and the supper was praised by all. Over a hundred partook of the feast and the host and hostess outdid generosity in their efforts to please their guests. Among the dancers were Mr. and Mrs. James H. Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. William Stouffer, Mr. and Mrs. O. K. Gaymon, Mrs. McVicker and Eugene Kremmling of Dillon, as well as a large number from Chihuahua and the Horseshoe. It was a gala day for Montezuma.

The singing school, box suppers, and dances helped while away the evenings, both winter and summer.

The Chihuahua correspondent sent the following item to the *Montezuma Millrun* for August 5, 1882:

The social event of the season was the "hop" given by the Chihuahua Club. The toilets of the ladies were varied and elegant, many of them would have done credit to our fashionable Eastern watering places. Mrs. Deniston wore a handsome dress of black silk and wine camelette cloth; Mrs. Godfrey, blue brocade satin with elegant diamonds; Mrs. E. A. Warner of Chicago, black brocade satin, jet ornaments and natural flowers; Mrs. Haskins, cashmere and silk; Miss Jones of Ashland, Kentucky, a lovely costume of nun's veiling and scarlet and white geraniums; Mrs. Fallon, cashmere and silk; Miss Crilly, brocade silk and satin de Lyons with pearl ornaments; Mrs. Crilly, nun's veiling, cameo jewelry, and natural flowers.

The gentlemen's costumes, though not regulation evening dress, were all that could be expected in a place so new and where the inhabitants are more occupied in hunting hidden treasures than paying attention to the requirements of fashionable society.

A number of distinguished guests were present from neighboring towns. Colonel La Fountain, contributed to the amusement of the evening by showing the young people how they used to cut the pigeon-wing in days of lange syne. With mirth and dancing, all went "merry as a marriage bell," till the "wee sma' hours" admonished them that for Saturday night it was getting rather late, and as they separated, winding their several ways home-

ward, each carried with him the memory of a pleasant evening to lighten the cares and toils of the coming week.

Decatur gave a return ball which was recorded on September 30 in *Montezuma's Millrun*:

Decatur gave a ball last Saturday evening at the residence of Caspar Heck in honor of Miss Jones, who has so successfully taught our school the present season, and whose labors ceased Friday.

All the *elite* and *ton* of Decatur, Chihuahua, and the rest of the Snake River country were present and helped to form an assemblage which for beauty and refinement has never been equaled in our lovely hamlet.

Everything was most *recherche, chic* and most utterly one, two, three; from the dulcet notes of the violin, superb banquet, and charmingly bewitching toilets of the ladies, to the smoothly waxed floor which glistened like our mountain peaks after a snow-storm.

Miss Jones was undoubtedly the "Belle of the Ball," and wore a lovely dress of wine silk en train, trimmed with valenciennes lace. A few hawthorn berries, especially imported for the occasion, adorned her hair which was most artistically arranged.

Mrs. Heck and Mrs. Shadbolt were most tastefully dressed; the one in blue, and the other, in a pink silk with slippers to match.

Mrs. Chipeta Ouray wore a dress of lyonnaise velvet and a seal-skin sack. Even then she complained of the cold, but we imagine it was because she was not accustomed to the altitude.

The other ladies who graced the festive occasion wore charming costumes, but fear of trespassing on your space forbids specific mention.

The gentlemen were all dressed in the latest fashion. Dan Mullharon wore a full dress suit of black broadcloth and had his shoes blacked; Joe Shadbolt was bewitchingly dressed in a spike tail coat, corduroy vest, and canvas pants. He took the cake.

Colorow, who accompanied Chipeta, wore a Prince Albert coat, made of an old army blanket, and buckskin breeches. His hair was dressed a la Oscar Wilde or an Indian herb doctor.

The festivities of the occasion were kept up until Aurora, daughter of the fair haired morn, kissed the mountain tops and warned all to disperse.

Many of the suppers and dances were benefit affairs to raise money for some worthy cause. Montezuma especially, sponsored this type of gathering and the *Millrun*, August 2, 1884, mentions this kind of a social in an item of free advertising:

The evening of the 13th of August has been designated as the time; the Summit House as the place, for holding the "Bal Basquette" for the benefit of the Catholic Church. Promoted by the Misses Minnie Feeney and Rose Hall, the principal feature of the ball will be that each lady will bring supper for two and inclose in the basket her card. The baskets will be sold, and the purchaser is assured of a good supper with someone to help eat it. The cause is a worthy one and the citizens of Breckenridge, Swan, Frisco, Dillon, Hall Valley, Chihuahua, and Decatur are cordially invited.

Now, don't forget
The Bal Basquette,
But bring your ladies fair;
And in the ear,
Whisper, "My dear,
Your basket lunch I'll share."

Although more law abiding than most early day mining camps, not all the events in the early history of the Montezuma vicinity were as peaceful as the parties and dances just related. Violence was not unknown.

One story concerns three prominent Montezuma business men and an unintentional murder. These three men: Messrs. L., W., and E., and an Irishman known as "Red Mike" hauled freight from Webster to Montezuma. They would leave Montezuma one day, get to Webster and back up Hall Valley to the place where the Handcart road went up a small gulch to Webster Pass. Here they would camp for the night and complete the trip the next day. All of them being drinking men, they carried plenty of liquid refreshments. On this particular trip, about 1879, while playing poker at their evening camp, Red Mike got so drunk that the others decided to hold a Kangaroo Court. The verdict of the court—almost as inebriated as Mike, was: "Hang him!"

They dragged him to a tree, put a rope around his neck, pulled him almost up on his feet and tied the rope to the tree. Then they went back to the poker game and forgot him. When they awoke the next day—sober—Red Mike was dead. Frightened, they divided Mike's load among the other three wagons, turned his team loose, and took a solemn oath that they had left him in Webster and knew nothing about him. It was a week before Red Mike was found and years elapsed before the truth was discovered. In those years it became a very bad deal for Mr. L. More prosperous than his partners in crime, he had to more or less support them as a price for their silence.

Another story of violent death tells of the citizens taking the law in their own hands. Sometime in the 1870's, in the little canyon between Decatur and Chihuahua, three robbers ambushed and killed two prospectors who were on their way to Montezuma. Taking their victims' guns and money, they started up a small gulch on Ruby Mountain. The alarm was spread and prospectors fanned out in search, catching the trio near the top of Ruby Mountain. They did not bother with a trial, but killed all three, then brought the five bodies to Montezuma. Two graves were dug on the north side of the cemetery. The robbers were buried in one and their victims, in the other.

Two versions are told of another episode of this mining area. According to one version, two men were working in the Georgetown district and were in love with the same girl in Missouri. They decided to come to Montezuma and look things over. They crossed Argentine Pass and camped at the foot of the pass near Decatur. Eventually they started talking about how much money they had saved and how soon they could start for Missouri. That night one

of them was unable to sleep. He kept thinking that if he killed his partner he could start for Missouri right away and win the girl. No sooner thought than done. Then he started east. The officers were waiting for him when he arrived. In due time he was brought back for trial. They stopped in Denver and the man decided to forget the girl for a while and to use his ill-gotten wealth to hire a lawyer. Meanwhile in Montezuma, the Justice of the Peace, whose zeal was greater than his knowledge of the law, was having a scaffold built so there would be no time wasted when the prisoner arrived.

When the criminal was brought into court, the Justice immediately started to sentence him to death. The lawyer arose and informed the Justice that the prisoner was brought before him to be found innocent or guilty and bound over to the district court for trial. By the time the wrangling was over, and the Justice and the Marshal had been instructed in the finer points of the law, it was discovered that the prisoner was missing. He had mounted a horse that his lawyer had provided and had left for parts unknown. He was never heard of again.⁵¹

Although the panic of 1893 doomed the smaller silver mining towns, and two disastrous fires destroyed many of the original buildings, Montezuma has had years of prosperity and has been occupied continuously since it was founded.

Sts. John, Chihuahua, and Decatur (Argentine) are true ghost towns with no one living in them. In them the winds, snows and avalanches of the more than sixty years since their boom days, have taken their toll.

The lack of important discoveries since 1885, discouraged the residents of Chihuahua, and after the town was almost destroyed by fire about 1889, it was never rebuilt. One cabin is all that remains, although several foundations of buildings are still visible.

Decatur lay in the path of snowslides from Ruby Mountain. Few buildings are left on the north side of Peru Creek. The Pennsylvania Mill, the boarding house, dormitory, and the combination

⁵¹ This apparently was based on the story of "The Tragedy of Geneva Gulch," as reported by Frank Ira White to the *Denver Post*, and was recopied by the Georgetown Courier in May 1900. White claimed that the story was related to him in 1881 by "Placer Bill" Hughes who said: "A fork of the creek which comes down from Collier's mountain had been found to have some fine showings and a number of prospects were being worked up there. Two handsome young fellows by the names of Fred Long and Charley Ogden had a claim about four miles from camp. They were bright boys, one of them from Pennsylvania, and the other from Ohio, who had drifted together while coming west, with a wagon train and had become partners . . . One Sunday they did not come to camp as usual, and the next and the next their absence was noted . . . A committee of three was appointed to visit their cabin . . . I was one of that committee." A visit to the cabin was made and Fred Long was found on his bunk murdered. He was known to have had considerable money, while Ogden was a ne'er-do-well. Hughes was delegated by his companions to go back to Ohio and check up. There he found Charley Ogden, who had told that Long had died of illness. Hughes took him back to Colorado to the cabin where the murder had occurred. There a "committee" hanged him to the ridge pole of the cabin and "the soul of Charley Ogden was released to go before the judgment bar of a higher tribunal."

office and assay office are about all that still stand on the south side of the creek. There are a few scattered buildings in the Horseshoe Basin.

The Sts. John mine has been worked almost continuously the last fifteen years, but the town is unoccupied. The skeleton of the mill and the brick smelter stack are all that remain of the original milling and smelting works.

(Note: An article appeared in the *Denver Post*, November 27, 1955 telling of the new \$45,000 mill built by the Burke-Martin Mines, Inc., to mill ore taken from an extension of the old Silver Wing tunnel. The mill is equipped to handle 50 tons of good ore a day. . . . The Martins say they have a year's supply of ore—more than \$1 million worth—in sight, ready to be mined and concentrated. —*The Editor.*)

Colorado and the Indian War of 1868

By ROBERT G. ATHEARN*

(The principal sources from which this material was drawn are found in the Frank Hall Papers, Historical Collections, University of Colorado. Copies of telegrams sent and received by both Hall and Hunt are in this holding. Some of the same dispatches are found in the *Biennial Report of the Adjutant General of the Territory of Colorado for the Two Years Ending December 31, 1869*. The correspondence of Sherman comes from the W. T. Sherman Papers, Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress; his official dispatches in the War Records Division, National Archives; and his annual report published in the House Executive Documents. For Sheridan's writings, see the Sherman-Sheridan Correspondence (two volumes of original letters) in the Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress and in his printed report for 1868. Additional information is contained in *The Colorado Chieftain* (Pueblo), *The Rocky Mountain News* (Denver), *The Daily Colorado Tribune* (Denver), Irving Howbert, *Memories of a Lifetime in the Pike's Peak Region* (New York, 1925), Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado* (Chicago, 1889), and W. B. Vickers, *History of the City of Denver, Arapahoe County, and Colorado* (Chicago 1880).—Author.)

Colorado, like most other frontier Territories, had its periods of crisis resulting from Indian war scares. On the high plains generally the situation was most tense during the latter 1860's and early 1870's. These were the years of railroad penetration and the beginning of mass settlement. Beginning in 1865, the Union Pacific rapidly pushed across Nebraska toward its ultimate junction with the Central Pacific at Promontory in 1869, and simultaneously a road known as the Union Pacific, Eastern Division (later called the Kansas Pacific) moved across Kansas toward Denver. These roads cut sharply through ancient hunting grounds of the central plains Indians and soon the intervening area was "off limits" to the natives. A wedge of such proportions, shoving Indians to the north and south like a giant snowplow, dislodged thousands from their homes. Such a dislocation of any peoples was bound to cause serious repercussions and it is small wonder that the Indians objected violently.

In the larger picture the resulting conflict caused minor casualties. Such battles as occurred resulted in few deaths, as wars go, and the white fatalities from Indian attack for any given post-Civil War year were considerably less than those suffered on modern highways over a current Labor Day week end. But after 1865, America was technically at peace, and when the Indians retaliated over the invasion of their lands the news of only a few deaths was widely publicized in the nation's press. Westerners, sensitive over their isolation from "the States,"

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complained loudly when their people were killed in even the remotest section of the new land. They felt that the national government should protect them, no matter where they might choose to roam. The government's punitive force—the army—was rapidly shrinking at this time and its task of guarding every little settlement obviously was an impossible one. But those who lived in sparsely settled sections of the West could believe only that their nation, rich and powerful, had the means to protect them if it chose. When it failed, their cries of derision were long and loud.

Several factors tended to heighten the tension in Colorado. Widespread discontent among the Indians, who had been remarkably quiet during the Civil War, commenced with the Chivington slaughter at Sand Creek in 1864. News of the disaster flew from camp to camp and the Indians who watched the white tide rise in the East, resolved to resist. Coupled with their anger felt over such affairs as that near Sand Creek, was the growing restlessness at broken treaties and constant incursions upon their hunting grounds. Meanwhile the white population along the Rocky Mountain front, all the way from Montana to New Mexico, was itself uneasy. Placer mining, the quick means of extraction, had begun to peter out and business in general was on the decline. Denver merchants complained not only that Indian depredations were cutting down their source of eastern supply, but that the hostilities were frightening away settlers, i.e., potential customers. They were extremely anxious for peace, and yet out of their very complaints that they did not have it arose an uneasiness among those who were poised at jumping off places like Missouri.

By 1868, as the Union Pacific Railroad approached the Continental Divide, and the Kansas Pacific knifed toward Colorado, dismay among the Indians reached new heights. There had been depredations ever since 1865, but the coming of the railroad with its ability to quickly transport soldiers and settlers, caused extreme restlessness among the Indians. This, to them, was the beginning of the end. Alarmed, the whites appealed to the central government for protection and when it was not at once forthcoming in quantity, they fell back upon the old request for permission to raise local militia. The resulting clamor in a still isolated Territory furnishes a good case study of an American settlement trying to solve its own problems within the framework of the federal government. Far from the seat of government, these people regarded themselves as colonials and when even their attempts to help themselves were frowned upon by the parent there were dark words heard about the system under which they lived.

During August, 1868, a band of Arapahoes reported to be about two hundred in number, commenced raiding and stealing stock along the eastern slopes of Colorado's mountains. From Colorado City came a request for help. Not only were the Indians taking what they pleased but promised to be back for more. "What to do?" asked one of the city fathers in a telegram to the Territorial capital. Governor Alexander C. Hunt was then in the mountains with a vacation party headed by Vice-Presidential candidate Schuyler Colfax. The request was referred to Acting-Governor Frank Hall, who at once asked General Phil Sheridan for troops. Sheridan, at Leavenworth, sent word that Hall could call on the commanding officer at Fort Reynolds¹ but he could not have the company of the Seventh Cavalry just ordered to Fort Dodge. This did not satisfy the Acting-Governor who became excited and told Sheridan that the Arapahoes were killing settlers and destroying ranches "in all directions." "For God's sake give me authority to take your men from Reynolds," he asked. And then he added that he was going to allow local organization of volunteers for "the people are thoroughly roused and will not be restrained." To underscore the seriousness of the situation Hall reported further to Sheridan that Colorado was practically surrounded by Indians; Wells, Fargo & Company men had to fight their way into the Territory. He next turned to General W. T. Sherman, who commanded the whole region from the Mississippi out to the Rockies, and told him that no less than six hundred warriors encircled the settlements of Colorado. Help was needed. Sherman answered that "You can organize your militia & defend the lives & property of your people." He did not say who was to pay the men; there was no promise of other financial support. Then in his own blunt way he asked, "What cause do you assign for this sudden change of conduct on the part of the Arapahoes?" He and Grant, the presidential candidate, had visited Colorado only a month before and all seemed peaceful then.

As excitement surged through Colorado, Sheridan and Sherman tried to correctly ascertain the degree of danger to the Territory. Hall frantically telegraphed that Speaker Schuyler Colfax and the ladies in his party were in imminent danger of having their Colorado visit terminated by an Indian attack. The old device of using such political pressure on the army was familiar. Neither Sheridan nor Sherman panicked over the threat to such a dignitary as Colfax. Excited calls from Territorial governors were not new. "I have no reports from Ft. Wallace

¹ Fort Reynolds, Pueblo County, was on the south side of the Arkansas River, near the present side of Avondale. Built in 1867, it was named in honor of General John F. Reynolds, who was killed in action at the Battle of Gettysburg (1863). The post was abandoned in 1872.—*Denver Times*, April 30, 1896.

(Kansas) to confirm such reports as you send and the stage goes westward daily to Cheyenne Wells with a guard," Sheridan telegraphed to Hall. With equal caution about current stories, Sherman expressed doubt to Hall that the Arapahoes had six hundred warriors to put in the field. Undeterred, Colorado's acting governor kept the telegraph wire hot. Fourteen men had been killed in the last forty-eight hours he informed Sheridan. Four to five hundred Indian warriors, Arapahoes and Cheyennes, were in the field. Colorado had to have immediate relief. Before long the bombardment paid off. Sheridan directed the commanding officer at Fort Reynolds to hold up the Seventh Cavalry men ordered to Dodge. "Let him have the company," he said of Hall.

Most of the communication between Hall and the senior army officers occurred on August 26 and 27. By August 29, the Acting Governor was issuing war reports. When A. A. Bradford of Pueblo telegraphed a request for one Lieutenant Autibee² to raise volunteers, Hall gave his approval but said he had only arms and ammunition to give. Then, as if to show that this was a sufficiently attractive offer, he added, "Had a nice battle at Latham yesterday. 5 killed and 15 wounded. No volunteers hurt." Such a favorable report was not without its benefits. Shortly there came news that at Georgetown fifty mountain boys "good & true" had been raised within twenty minutes. Bradford at Pueblo anxiously inquired how soon he could get marching orders for his man Autibee. Hall took the rather unusual course for territorial governors at that time of asking about Autibee's qualifications. "Is he all right. Do you endorse him?" he asked Bradford. He was in Baxter's company at Sand Creek, came the answer. "He is a good man to fight Indians." It was sufficient recommendation.

By the last day of August the "war" was in full swing with Hall firing off telegrams in all directions. E. T. Stone of Colorado City, was begging for ammunition and guns. He had nothing "but a few condemned Garibaldi muskets." "Be patient" was the best answer Hall could give him. "My men are fighting the Indians every day at Latham & I am compelled to keep them supplied." Then, reporting on his field force to Sherman, he told the General that he had two hundred men near Latham and promised that they would "undoubtedly acquit themselves creditably." Then, giving the veteran of the Atlanta campaign a

² One of the Autibee (or Autobee) family, well known in Southern Colorado. Charley Autibee, believed to have been unable to sign his own name, had long been a scout in the region. He served with Chivington in 1864 and under Colonel Penrose in the 1868 campaign. Either of his two sons, Jose or Mariano, may have been referred to here by Bradford.—Author, Major Hal Sayre in his *Diary of the Sand Creek Campaign*, referred to "Lieut. Autobees", of the Third Colorado Cavalry.—*The Colorado Magazine*, March 1938, Vol. XV, No. 2, 52.

little gratuitous advice, he predicted that the Indians, who he thought were commanded by Little Chief, would make Fort Laramie and could be intercepted. Turning then to Hal Sayre, his adjutant general, Hall directed him to repair at once to Georgetown and persuade those people to drive the Arapahoes out of South Park. Tell the volunteers to "kill every one they see," he advised, and please try not to get any Utes mixed up in the casualties.

While the acting governor fulfilled his duties as commanding officer of the territorial volunteers, the press did its part in support of the war. "To arms! To arms!" bugled the *Colorado Chieftain* at Pueblo. "The red fiends are again on the warpath. The bloody scenes that have been witnessed for years past in our Territory are being re-enacted. Whole families are being murdered and scalped by these devils incarnate. The temporizing policy of the Government is felt to be inadequate to our protection." Complaining that at the "very time of our dire necessity, we are left to our own unaided efforts to protect ourselves," the editor begged able bodied men to report for service. Within a few days he could boast that there were "about 250 Colorado volunteers in the field and doing nobly."

If those in the field were doing nobly, the boys still stranded at home had less exciting news to report. Autabee, at Pueblo was having trouble with enlistments. Even though he asked Hall for authority to keep all the booty that might be captured, there was little local enthusiasm for his project. By September 2, he still had no organization because he had no horses. On the next day Hall admitted that the enterprise at Pueblo had failed. Meanwhile, cries from Colorado City became louder and more bitter. On September 1, E. T. Stone reported that forty-three men had enrolled and officers elected. The following day he sent word to Hall that he was much disappointed at not getting arms and ammunition. The Indians were openly stealing stock and he could not follow them for the want of arms. Hall promised to send arms at once, by the next stagecoach. His efforts brought only bitterness. "What are ten guns for an entire community?" asked George A. Bute of Colorado City. "Are we the step children of the territory. Send us at least twenty-five guns & let us have at least a show with the Red Devil." Hall scratched out an immediate answer and handed it to the operator. "Keep your temper its the worst time in the world to get excited. I have sent you all the guns in my power to send. Your citizens have some. These must satisfy until I can send more which will be by next coach." Then, in a telegram to E. T. Stone, of the same place, the Acting Governor admitted he had no cartridges that would

fit the Garibaldi rifles at Colorado City. "Use buck shot or mould bullets to fit," was the best advice he could give. Just as he was inundated by requests he could not fill and swamped by various and conflicting reports of danger, Hall received succor. The Colfax party, including Governor Hunt, and escorted by a band of friendly Ute Indians, arrived in Denver.

"Just returned," Hunt telegraphed to Sherman on September 4. "Fearful condition of things here. Nine persons murdered by Indians yesterday within a radius of sixty miles of the city. We want guns and ammunition to arm settlers." Making his request more specific, Hunt asked the commanding officer at Fort D. A. Russell, near Cheyenne, for three hundred breech loading guns with ammunition. "Have but forty muskets in store. Shall I send them?" was the answer. A dispatch from General C. C. Augur, commanding the department of the Platte, in which Fort Russell lay, promised some Springfield rifles there. They were "an excellent arm," he told Hunt. How many, and where should they go?

On the following day a "council of war" was held in Secretary Hall's office, with Governor Hunt presiding. Schuyler Colfax was present. Frank Hall said later, in his *History of Colorado*, that "Mr. Colfax was asked to lend his powerful influence toward securing military aid, whereupon he telegraphed General Schofield, Secretary of War, an epitome of the condition of affairs on this frontier and requested him to send a strong force of cavalry with orders to use it for the protection of isolated settlers. Copies were sent to Sherman and Sheridan . . ."

When the request came to Sherman, through Grant, he commented upon it in his own crisp way. "The governor of Colorado . . . represents matters as awful, and he prevailed on Colfax to make to me a lengthy dispatch, to the effect that I ought to send immediately to Denver and keep there one full Regiment of Cavalry on the theory that from Denver as a center they can better protect the settlements than from any other point. In my whole Division I have four Regiments of Cavalry." Of the four regiments, he explained, Sheridan had three, two of which were then operating against the Cheyennes. With a twin-headed strike about to be launched against the Indians, Colorado was probably safe. In fact, Sherman felt those people ought to stay home and concentrate on defense. "The settlers should collect & defend their own property leaving the regular troops to go after the Indians," Sherman had already told Frank Hall. If they wanted to fight, there would be ample opportunity. So far as Colfax was concerned, Sherman had an answer for him, too. He advised "Smiling Schuyler," as he was known to his colleagues, that

Sheridan had the only cavalry available for service in Colorado. He would have to judge how it could be best employed. It was a military matter.

The war went on. Governor Hunt apparently again absented himself from Denver for correspondence concerning the hostilities was once more directed to Frank Hall. On September 7, he asked General Augur to direct General H. W. Wessells at Fort D. A. Russell to send down five hundred Springfields with as much ammunition as could be spared. He then promised E. T. Stone, at Colorado City, that more guns were on the way and praised the volunteers who had recently fought a brief action at Bijou. "They died nobly," he said. To the south there was still some interest in the war. B. B. Smith of Trinidad, who signed himself "Ex Major," asked for permission to raise a company "for what we can make." There is no record of Hall's answer, but that he did not consider the request unusual is suggested in a telegram he sent to General Sheridan. He had dispatched two scouts eastward to make contact with Colonel George Forsyth who was working his way along the Republican River. "My parties are very anxious to join this command," said Hall. "He can't fail to get an immense amount of plunder and perhaps a big fight." To mention the familiar battle of the Arikaree, or Beecher's Island³, is sufficient reminder that Forsyth got his "big fight" without any dividends in robes or horses.

The affair at Beecher's Island indicated that the federal army had its hands full in western Kansas and on the Colorado borderland. Sheridan pointed it out well when he answered Schuyler Colfax's request. His small force had to be spread out to guard about fifteen hundred miles of travel routes including that along the Arkansas River and the stage coach line from Fort Harker to Denver. Rather than sit at Denver, on the defensive, Sheridan planned to strike the home territory of the Indians, hitting at their families, in order to draw off the raiding parties that harassed settlements to the West. "I can let the Governor of Colorado have arms and ammunition but troops I have not." If the Hon. Schuyler Colfax would be patient, federal army heat applied to the main body of Indians would draw off the tentacles that stretched out toward Colorado. Within two months "Little Phil" made good his promise. In a campaign that culminated with the Washita battle⁴ he gave the southern plains tribes a sound beating.

Meanwhile, Sheridan must have wished that important polit-

³ A three-day battle was fought on a small island in the Arikaree, in which Colonel George A. Forsyth was wounded, Lieutenant Beecher and twenty companions were killed.—The Editor.

⁴ Frank Hall, *History of Colorado*, (Chicago: Blakely Printing Co., 1889), Vol. I, 462.

ical figures would stay out of hostile country. Not only did Colfax's party have to be returned eastward under a heavy guard, but the Honorables Roscoe Conkling of New York and Samuel Hooper of Massachusetts were also in the Denver area. The scout Frank Hall had sent out to meet Forsyth reported that he had met the Conkling party and it was accompanied by a very heavy guard. "All of which is very nice for these eastern men that are afraid of loosing (sic) their hair," he commented dryly. Protecting famous topknots drew off soldiers badly needed elsewhere; it was just another complication facing the federal army.

While regular troops under Sheridan's command moved against the Cheyennes on the plains, small bands of Arapahoes continued to frighten small Colorado Settlements. On one occasion a band of them came into Colorado City, looked over the state of military preparation there, and then saying they were after the Utes, moved on into the mountains. Before long E. T. Stone warned Hall that there were about two hundred Utes near that city and with Arapahoes in the region it was hard to tell one Indian from another. "Please devise means to prevent trouble," he asked. It was a large order. Hall could do nothing but suggest that all measures be taken to prevent a collision. Nothing could be more disastrous than to bring the Utes into the affair. "Do they appear saucy or troublesome?" he asked Stone.

By the middle of September, about three weeks after the first "scare," the situation in the Colorado communities became more normal. Frank Hall admitted it when he telegraphed his congratulations to Sheridan for that officer's promptness in sending troops against the Cheyennes. "I feel that you are master of the situation and that the Indian problem so long considered, and from which little save vexation and useless expense have thus far been evolved, is approaching a practical solution in your hands. Since informed of your policy I shall look for the utter abandonment of our frontier by Indians during the present week." Three days later he informed Sheridan that there had been no further depredations along the mountain front. After another raid in the Monument Creek area, on September 21—which occasioned another sharp scare among the settlers—the disturbances ceased almost entirely. By October regular troops began to enter the territory in sufficient numbers to insure peace and quiet. The summer campaign on the plains was drawing to a close and Colorado had been only on the outer edge of the conflagration.

The war scare of 1868 was in no way unique in frontier history. Similar outbreaks had occurred in thinly settled regions for more than two hundred years. Actually there were few casual-

ties and no major battles in Colorado Territory. Hall himself admitted it when he said to Sheridan, "Many skirmishes have occurred though but little damage has been done to either side." Irving Howbert, a well known pioneer from Colorado City, confirmed the statement when he later wrote that the company in which he served returned home "without having seen an Indian during the whole campaign." The enemy had come and gone. Winter was approaching and further raids were unlikely. His company, with no more military duties, disbanded. Howbert, and others, simply had answered the call to arms on a personal basis, as had their forefathers along the Atlantic frontier before them. Colorado Territory had no organized militia, and no money to raise one.

Of more significance than the age-old call to arms and alarms in the night was the conduct of Acting Governor Frank Hall. Upon several previous occasions, both in Colorado and Montana, Territorial Governors had assembled troops and subsisted them by issuing scrip against the federal government. Governor William Gilpin of Colorado had tried it and had got into difficulty over it⁵. Governor Sidney Edgerton of Montana had employed it to the dissatisfaction of the merchants who found the scrip issued nearly worthless. Acting Governor Thomas Francis Meagher and Governor Green Clay Smith, of Montana, had taken the same course and had been repudiated by the central government.

Back on the evening of August 28, when the remains of a woman and her son⁶—victims of the Indians—were brought into Denver, a mob quickly assembled and Frank Hall, passing by, was seized and thrust into an express wagon where he was invited to explain what he had done and what he proposed to do about such outrages. The easy thing to do was join the panic, turn Territorial Volunteers loose in the merchants' stores, and involve the government in debt. Hall chose to do otherwise. He later explained his stand: "To convene the Legislature in extraordinary session, a measure frantically demanded by many, would accomplish nothing. When organized, what could the members do? Certainly no more to the purpose than to authorize the unlimited issue of scrip. In this the history of Montana during her last expensive effort to reduce her own turbulent tribes, would be repeated. Conceive the consternation that would prevail in our poverty-stricken money-market, when half a million dol-

⁵ In the course of his administration, Governor Gilpin issued drafts amounting to about \$375,000 to pay Colorado volunteers. Washington refused to honor the drafts. Appointed in the spring of 1861, Gilpin was removed from the office of Governor after serving about a year.—Frank Hall, *op. cit.*, 272.

⁶ On the evening of August 28, the remains of Mrs. Henrietta Dieterman and her son about five years of age, were brought into Denver. They had been killed the day before by Indians on Comanche Creek.—Frank Hall, *op. cit.*, 458-9.

lars' worth of Territorial scrip should be suddenly thrown upon it. What would be the result? Probably ten, or at the most twenty cents on the dollar." As the acting governor correctly said, to call in troops for three months' service, provide them with arms, horses and subsistence, would have resulted in only the coming of winter, the disappearance of the Indians, and the accumulation of an enormous debt.

When the first excitement died down, sober heads saw that Hall was right. Hal Sayre, his adjutant general, related that pressure to call out the militia had been great, but Hall "very wisely" had not succumbed to it. A writer signing himself "A Pet Lamb,"⁷ wrote in Pueblo's *Colorado Chieftain* on September 17, 1868, that Hall's conduct had been sound. He said troops would have cost a half million dollars and before they could be organized and put into the field "there would be no Indians in the country to fight." Not only did the acting governor have to face his fellow men on the street, but as usual, the press catered to public demands for an orgy. There were sarcastic editorial demands that the central government remove its troops from Colorado on the ground that they might take sides with the beleaguered settlers. "By all means, let our red brethren have a fair chance," was the biting comment. Nothing the Colorado officials, or the federal army, could do was right to the newsmen. The Indian wars were not conducted at all to their satisfaction but were "waged in a spirit of timidity and spurious humanity." They approved when "some of the boys" went out pirating on their own account, bent upon killing Indians—any Indians—for such loot as they might find.

In the face of such pressure Hall stood firm and weathered the storm. While he was naturally somewhat excited at the outset, and his calls for help were loud indeed, he was not panicked into involving the territory financially. The very press that urged calling out militia, and plunging Colorado into debt, had only weeks before candidly admitted that business was slack. Experience had shown that when an isolated community felt depression it frequently regarded a local war boom as a means of alleviating the distress. Governmental money—federal or territorial—was welcomed by both merchants and the temporary soldiers into whose hands the goods went—at a high price. The fact that Hall refused to go along with the local clamor, and was supported in his stand by some of the more solid residents, indicated that Colorado had commenced to grow up.

⁷ The First Colorado Cavalry, First Colorado Regiment, adopted a banner on which was the figure of a lamb, with the word "Pet" above it, in memory of the term, "Pet Lambs," applied to the regiment by the soldiers of General Sibley's army up to the day of the second battle in La Glorieta Pass, during the Civil War.—William C. Whitford, *Colorado Volunteers in the Civil War*, (Denver: The State Historical and Natural History Society, 1906), 148.

Ranching in Chicorica Park

A DIARY KEPT BY GEORGE MILLER, 1873-74

(The following diary, kept by a young Englishman, George Miller, in 1873-74, was made available to the State Historical Society by the late G. Kercheval Miller of Denver, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Miller, who pioneered in the ranching business, thirty miles south of Trinidad, Colorado in Chicorica Park, New Mexico. A similar diary, kept by Mrs. Miller, who remained in England for six months, while her husband was getting started in Colfax County, New Mexico, will be published in the April issue of *The Colorado Magazine*. The Millers built the first frame house in Colfax County, hauling the lumber from Trinidad. In 1884, they exchanged their ranch property for Denver real estate and moved permanently to Denver. For some years they lived in the Richthofen house at 1633 Federal Boulevard, adjoining the La Fevre property. The Miller property had five terraces of grass.—*Editor*.)

1873 Wed. 8 Oct. Left home (Ilkley) for America via Liverpool. A step long contemplated, but always with aversion. "Necessity knows no law." I pray my God to have my beloved Wife and children in His holy keeping. May he direct and bless my enterprise! 8th Oct. Stayed with Arthur, 133 Chatham St. Charlie Behrens¹ saw me off at Leeds, dear fellow; and Gustave, at Manchester. 9th Oct. Gustave came to Liverpool and spent the morning with me shopping. He came off to the *City of Richmond* with me and was the last friend to grasp my hand and wish me God speed. God bless him! Sailed about 1:00 P.M. 10th Oct. Arr' at Queens-town at 11:00 A.M. Met *Celtic* steaming out. Sailed again 5:00 P.M. Blowing gale without until Monday when I felt quite well and continued so to the end of voyage. Sat at Dr. Dore's table with Dr. Write of New York. Andrew Wilson of Glasgow. Voyage uneventful and enjoyable. Arr' New York 20th October. Weather worthy of the Thames in Novr. Herbert and Frank met me. Former got my baggage through unopened. Staid at Stevens' House, a poor Hotel. Called upon Mr. Cripps, my Father's old friend, who introduced me to Messrs. J. & J. Stuart & Co., Bankers, 33 Nassau St. Opposite the Post Office, who bought my Bill of Exchange and advised me to take my money with me, which I therefore shall do. 21st. Oct. Left New York this evening with Frank (Marsland) via N.Y.C. & Hudson River Rd. arrd at Niagara 2 P.M. Spent 4 hours there. Went on to Detroit. 23rd. Went on to Ann Arbor to see Ted Swift. Spent the day with him. Saw the buildings of University of Michigan. Arrd at Chicago 6:30 A.M. Oct. 24. Staid at Burke's Hotel on Madison St. a good house. The effects of the great fire are still very visible, but the completion of so many fine streets is quite marvellous. Left at 4:20 P.M. for Ottawa, Ill., on a visit to M. H. Swift. 25th Oct. (Went thro Stock Yards at Chicago with Nelson Morris.) Reed. first

¹ Son of Jacob Behrens, an importer of blue serge.



GEORGE MILLER

letter from Gina² at Ottawa. Frank stayed in Chicago until Wed. 5th. Enjoyed my visit extremely. Left on Monday, 2d Nov. via C.B.Q. two tickets through to Granada [Colo.] \$89. Arrd Emporia 5th. Spent day with Mr. Werland. Left 6th. Arrd Granada 2:00 A.M.

Oct. 7th. Arthur [Marsland] met us with wagon and span of mules. Left at 12:40 P.M. stayed night at Culver's Rancho 25 miles out. 8th. Slept at Las Animas 30 miles. 9th Camped out having missed Anderson's Rancho 26 miles. No fire, and frosty but clear. 10th Watered mules and dined at McMinty's Rancho 18 miles. Watd again Iron Springs 12 miles. Slept at Hole in the Rock (Bloom's) 15 miles (total today 65) Tu 11th. Drove into Trinidad 36 miles arrg at 5:15 P.M. Scenery very fine. Stayed at Overland House. Abbotts'. A curious looking town mostly built of Adobe (sun dried brick). Left at 2:30 P.M. 12th drove thro most grand scenery. Slept at Dick Wootons³ [sic] Hotel 12 miles out. 13th Thursday. Arrived at Deer Park Rancho on the Sugarite (Indian spelling Chuquirique) At 5:00 P.M. A picturesque drive all the way. 29 miles. Total dis-

² Frances Georgina Miller, wife of George Miller.

³ Richens (Uncle Dick) Wootton had a toll gate at Raton Pass. His name has been spelled in various ways by past historians, and writers. The family now insists that the name is spelled: Wootton.—*Editor*.



MRS. GEORGE MILLER
"Gina"

tance to Granada 190 miles. The ranche is very prettily situated bounded on three sides by precipitous hills with wooded sides, standing in the midst of grass with the creek running close at hand. Sat. 15 Went to Fine Earnest's⁴ with Arthur to "round up." 19 Wed. The weather has been brilliant. Today we had a deer hunt and saw about eighty, including back and white tails, and Antelope (7) but failed to bag any. 20th. 2nd letter from Gina. 21st. Wrote to Gina, C. Behrens, Mr. H. Swift. 22nd Sat. Deer hunting. Again without success except by T. Bennet a fawn. Snow fell at 4:00 P.M. and a gale from North lasted all night. Very cold. Snow flew over the room. 24th Stove is now in adjoining room where we have our meals instead of in Clifton's room, a great improvement. Reed Gina's

⁴Finis (Fine) P. Ernest was born in Arkansas on March 19, 1843. He fought in the Civil War and later joined the revolutionary army of Diaz in Mexico. In 1869, he married Elizabeth Stockton, daughter of a well-known New Mexican cattleman. Ernest's first venture in the cow business was in New Mexico in 1871. By 1874 his cattle herd had increased to such an extent that he was able to lease part of the Maxwell Land Grant and drive 3,000 head of cattle onto this new range. In the spring of 1876, after the death of his wife, Ernest moved his herds to a ranch on Bijou Creek, near Deer Trail, Colorado.—Harry E. Kelsey, Jr., "Finis P. Ernest," *The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XXXI, No. 4, October 1954, 290-299.

letter of 4th Novr. also her birthday present, her hair mounted as a watchguard; very beautiful, very precious.

November 26th. My 32nd birthday. Wrote to Gina. A pleasant day. 28th Left at 8:00 A.M. with A [Arthur] and T. B. [Tom Bennet] for Trinidad. Dined at Wootons. 29th. Took out declaration paper before Mr. George Brite or rather his deputy Pearson. Starting my intention to become an American citizen, worse luck! Slept at "Overland" last night. Left today at 12:30 with T. Bennett and a heavy load of goods. Arthur followed on "Ute." All slept at Whootons. Met here Jessup, Grey, Americans from Philadelphia, and Armytage, an Englishman from Bedford, who was formerly with Fowler and Mr. Collins, Engineers Hall. They are travelling with full camping outfit, thro New Mexico, the former two with a view to settle for a time. Arthur asked them to camp near the Ranche and hunt awhile. They came on with us gladly. 30th Reed letter from Chas and Mina Behrens dated 9th Novr. and Rolly. 29th Oct. from Dieppe. All well at Ilkly they say.

December 1873 2d Decr. Hunter came in without any deer. 3rd. T. Bennett went out and killed a White Tail Buck and a fawn. Arthur and Clifton spent some days in fetching home the cows and calves, but before more than . . . had been brought up a severe snowstorm stopped the rounding and a number went down in the night. This storm broke on the afternoon of Friday 5th. Decr. Clifton and Gray had previously left for Trinidad. Tom Bennet went with them and on to Kansas City to see his wife: he said he wd. try to be back the 1st Jany. to go South with Clifton. 7th Clifton and Gray arrd back about 2 P.M. said there was no snow to speak of on the Prairie. Whilst here it remained 2 inches deep and a heavy fall of hail took place soon after they arrd. 8th Rode to Willow Springs⁵ for Mede (not come) dined with Thackers.⁶ Rode to Earnest's for Mail. No letters for me. He sent up load of oats today. FEM killed a grouse. 11th. Rode again on Armitage's Grey pony for Mail to Clifton, Red River station. Reed letter from Mr. Swift, Ottawa, Ill. dated 29th Novr. Gray killed a fawn.

12th Friday. Jessup rode to Trinidad. Denby came up, shot a deer on the way. He talked over the proposed Partnership of myself with Arthur and Frank and we soon came to terms. I to purchase one-third interest in Ranche and live and deal [in] stock for a sum we agreed upon. Denby will be able to start work on my house or the Dairy after Xmas. At night when I wanted to hand Frank the cash discovered a note for \$1,000 missing. Searched all the things in the box night and morning without success.

⁵Willow Springs was the name formerly given to Raton Pass.

⁶Thackers owned a ranch between Miller's ranch and Red River.

13th Frank rode Ute into Trinidad, paid \$500 on account of Partnership. Clean hard frost last night. Snow still lies on the flats. Arthur and Hugh (Miller) drawing wood. My right foot which was pierced on the side with a rusty nail on the 24th Novr. and has hurt me more or less ever since, was more painful yesterday eve and I touched it with lunar Caustic today. I found a sack of skin had to be cut off as big as a 2/-piece, and the whole surface cauterised. Very painful all day. Bob Gray went out deer hunting at 10:00 A.M. and did not get back until 8:15 P.M. having dragged a buck about 4 miles. We fired shots after dusk and halood and were glad to hear him answer about 7:15. His feet were slightly frostbitten and became very painful. We steeped them in snow. Sunday 14th. Sent letter to Edith by Arthur to post. Wrote to the Mother. 15th Frost always at night. Less snow remains. Armitage and Hugh went out hunting. The latter did not get a shot. The former brought a small black tail in and heavily wounded a large one. Arthur, Frank and Jessup arrived about 3:30. Recd. letter from Gina dated 26th Novr and paper from Bobby; also letter and drawing of plan of house from Mr. Wherland of Emporia, who wd have me settle there. 16th. Scarcely any frost last night. Thermometer in our room 8:00 A.M. 50°. 17th Posted letter to Gina by Arthur who drove to Trinidad with Jessup, Bob Gray and Hugh, four mules in hand. Wrote, "Arthur likely to start for England about 15th Jany and return with Gina, the children and Sarah,⁷ Thursday 16th or 23d April." My foot well. Rode Armitage's pony to Whootons. Mrs. Denby \$3 washing. 18th. Hard frost last night. Some snow still on the flats. Three men came up the pass with yearlings and 2 year olds, Texans from "Coe's" herd. Frank shot a white tail buck about 3 P.M. just under Swift's hill, one of a herd of five. Wrote to Arthur and Richard. 19th Heard from T.G.M. recd. *Punch* and 2 *Saturdays York* and *Post* from Miss Behrens. Rode to see Mr. Cook about the lost note to which I can get no clue. He promised to write to Kansas City.

20th Severe frost last night. A slight snowstorm about 10 A.M. Arthur & Co. returned about 11:00 bringing for us 1000 lbs corn. Fine Earnest and Taylor rode up. Arthur saw Mr. Terry, Banker, he will make inquiries at Kansas City about note. Mild at night and Sunday, 21st a fine pleasant day. 22nd. Weather fine. Arthur rode down the Creek, and went with Finch to Clifton for mail. None for me. Pulled up the floor in bathrooms to look for note; no success.

December 23rd. Mild last night and this morning, but snow fell and snow blew heavily after 3 P.M. Arthur and Hugh took four mules and went for Finche's hay. 24th. A & H got back at 5 P.M.

⁷ Sarah Cullen was an English maid who came to America with Mrs. Miller. Later she went back to Scotland and married a stonemason. He built the Peoples Theatre.

with one ton hay. No wind. I weighed 159½ pounds. I went hunting and wounded a White Tail badly at 75, folld track of blood 2 miles to the Park. Saw him once. Denby came up. 25th Thursday, Christmas Day. Followed same deer track for five hours but did not come on him. Weather fine and very mild. Thertr 60° in our room without a fire. Dined at 5:30 P.M. "Carte": Oyster soup (excellent), roast turkey stuffed with oyster, and grouse baked, the latter very fine eating. Plum Pudding with flavg of rum. At night Whiskey punch and a rubber Party. C.A. Mr. F. and Mr. G.M. Jessop, Armitage, Gray, Mr. Clifton and Hugh. Newspapers recd all American. *C. Times* to 19th. E.M. to 17th. 26th Arthur rode to Willow Springs and posted letter to Gert sr Frank walked to Denby's and stayed night. 27th. Frank brought back a Mink and a duck. Arthur and Hugh went for hay. 27th contd. Thank God! my lost note for \$1000 was discovered by Gray in the book it was first placed in, but so diffieult was it to see that one could not be sure anything was there until I extracted it with pincers. Time 2:30 p.m. Cook brought us a Mail. Letter from Gina of 5th Dec. She recd mine written on



FIRST FRAME HOUSE BUILT IN COLFAX COUNTY,
NEW MEXICO, 30 MILES FROM TRINIDAD

arrival at Trinidad 10th Novr. Mon. Letter from Lucy with sad account of her children's health. Recd *Sat Review* 28th Nov. Paid the firm balance owing on purchase of third interest in business, and \$250 as my equal share of additional capital.

28th Arthur and Hugh got back 3 p.m. 29th Made contract with H. Armitage to build my frame house complete, chimneys excepted, for \$675. Denby came up to find stone for Dairy and took my washing down. Weather extremely mild the last two days. Yesterday I agreed to pay Arthur's expenses from England to

Ottawa with Gina and the children. 30th December. Ar. down creek. Drove into Trinidad with Clifton, who sent his Deed to England properly witnessed. Took the boys butter. Key to Denby's dairy. Deposited \$1500 with Messrs. Thatcher Brothers with interest at six per cent per annum for all amounts lying three months or longer. Drew cheque in favor of R. E. Armitage for \$200 on account & paid him \$10 in currency on a/c. Armitage rode his pony in with us. Posted letter to Gina. 31st. Left Trinidad at 1:00 P.M., staid supper at Denby's Got mail, of newspaper only.

1874 New Years Day Ute Indians came down the Creek at 1.00 P.M. and camped. Chief, brave and papoose came about. Arthur rode "Ute" to Thyke Stockton's. Ernest dined with us at 2 p.m. off Tomato soup, sirloin beef, and excellent Plum pudding. He offered to supply us with Beef at five cents per pound. We killed two porkers yesterday. Weighing 78½ and 66 lbs. Weather very fine and warm these three days. January 2nd. Salted pork. Fetched wood. Gale from S.W. 3rd. Frank and Hugh fetched lumber from Ernest's. Arthur rode down creek, Gale from S.W. still blowing. At 11 a.m. it chopped round to the North and a snowstorm set in; the cold for a time was intense. Sent *Trinidad Chronicle* to Gina, Lucy, Mr. Shaveley and J. P. Clark. Arthur had to stay night at Jim Finches on a/c of storm. Ill of indigestion.

4th. Sunday. Severe frost. Arthur brought Mail. Late *Review* 6th Dec. *Times* 9th Dec. both from Miss Behrens. Indigestion very painful. Rose at 1 p.m. 5th. Arthur rode to Coe's herd. F. Earnest and R. Stockton came up. F. E. pd for beef and oats. Baby's Birthday Denby came back with Hugh and the lumber and stayed to commence on Dairy. Wrote to Arthur. Self rather better. Denby brought me two squaches. 6th. Denby found good stone easy to get and shaped. Mr. Coe, son and man brought 8 head 3 and 4 year olds and stayed all night. I cooked; bread not a success. 7th. Coe's cattle got away in the night and he only got back with them at 4.45 p.m. Arthur and Jessup rode to Thacker's and Clifton. No mail for me. Lean poles for roof of hut on upper claim. Arthur brought 57 lbs. beef from Ernests. I lent Jessup \$10. 8th. Coe and Co. left. Arthur rode to Finche's and bought a hind quarter of beef of him. @ 5c per lb. Denby and Frank hunted without success. I cooked: bread excellent. Very warm 9th. Fine and warm. Arthur rode up Johnson's canyon to see cattle. Team loading firewood. 10th. Arthur round by Thackers. Self cooking. Frank & Hugh felling poles. Armitage arrd from Trinidad at 7:15 p.m. a week after he expected. Denby went home Sunday. 11th Arthur rode to Finche's. 12th Arthur started for England. I drove in with him and Miss Phillips went with us on her way home and Miss Finch and Miss Thacker to see her off. All staid at the Overland. I drew 300\$ from

Thatcher Bros and lent it to Arthur. I also lent him half a sovereign He also owes me 12.50\$ in addition.

13th Breakfasted together at 5.30 a.m. Coach left for Las Animas at 7 a.m., one hour late. A fine morning. Would that I were going too! Wrote to Gina. Got mules shod (6 H) and started back at 11.10 a.m. Got home about 8.30 p.m. Found letters from Gina of the 17th and Reyer do. 16th. Denby got stone for under pining my House. Armitage, self, and Hugh felled and hauled three logs for house. Dan Young staid, night. Jessup and Gray returned having bought Doggits Ranche. 17th. Ernest came up. Dan Young returned with him. We paid Ernest 500 \$ in one note for the pick of ten of his Milk cows, receiving a bill of sale witnessed by Denby and Dan Young. Denby at H. 17th Frank, self. Denby and Jessup went down to Denbys, selected the cows and branded them then drove them up to our corral. I fetched 319 lbs. beef from Ernest, and borrowed his iron vat. Balanced with Mrs. Denby pd 2 H (Also 130 lbs for Denby) Reed Mail of papers. None for me. Weather always fine and mild. 18th Sunday. Tried to herd cows, but had to corral them. Strong wind blowing up the Creek less towards night. 19th I herded the cows until they broke for home: then corralled them. Killed 4 pigs today. Jessup rode to Clifton for Mail. Newspapers. Goffy and cold. Posted to Gina. Denby came at noon, worked at Dairy. 20th I rode to Clifton for Mail. Letters from G.E.M. dated 23rd Dec. Denby getting stone and underpined house. 21st. Denby at house. Jessup and Gary took 4 mules to Trinidad. Cold. 20th. Continued. I paid Armitage 220\$ on a/c of housebuilding. Armitage rode his pony into Trinidad to look after the dressed lumber. 22nd. Bitter cold. Denby unable to work at house. 23rd. Denby underpining house. 24th Denby half day at house. He went home after dinner. Weather warmer. Armitage came back yesterday morning. Found lumber not begun on as boiler wd not work. Jessup and Gray arrd at 6 p.m. brought 500 lbs. corn and 10 galls. coal oil for us.

25th Sunday. Beautiful spring day. Reed letters from Mina, Chas. and Fred Behrens: also from Arthur from Ottawa. Replied to Mina. B. & C. B. posted Mon. 26th by Jessup who rode to Doggits, Marr's and Clifton. 27th Jessup retd at 2 p.m. Frank and Hugh put up claim of latter and brought pig from Earnests. 28. Some lodges of Utes in the pass. Armitage and I brought up red and white heifer. 29 Made pickle and put in some 22 lbs. beef. Weather beautiful up to date today signs of storm. 30th Cold and storming. Denby ed not work at anything he worked 3 days before this week. Earnest came up. We paid him 17 H on a/c. I lent 'firm' 15\$. Reed letter from Gina dated 6th Jany. 31st. Denby worked at house, until 3 p.m. and went home. Still stormy. D. nearly fin wallg.

February Sunday 1st. February Frank rode to Clifton. Mail of newspapers only. Fine but cold. 2nd. Jessup went with me to Denby's. I tasted his butter with a view to purchase, but refused it as some tasted rancid, and in my opinion the bulk wd not keep. Denby said he tasted rancidity in the tin case and one keg. 3rd. Posted letters to Gina, Donaldson, Bootmaker and Gibbons and Gawler, Tailors, Leeds. Denby came up to dinner and finished the walling under my house. Total time 9½ days at 1.50/f per day—14.25 H Frank rode to Earnests and brought a Beef, two hides given in. Cold and stormy p.m. S. Armitage finished frame of house 4th Snow last night and today: no work done. This day made 6 galls pickle and put beef in. 5th Snowy and cold till noon, when Denby dug at Dairy foundation. Posted letters to C.A.M. & Mr. Griffin, Pueblo Newspaper and to C. & Fred Behrens and A.M. Recd. letter from Swift, and *Daily News*. 16th Jany. fm. F.G.M. 6th Armitage rode to Trinidad. Paid him 100 H on a/c Wrote cheque payable to his order for 150\$ remainder for self. Frosty but fine. Denby at Dairy.

7th Reed letter from F.G.M. and Tom Marsland dated 16th Jan., by Frank who went with Jessup and Hugh to Red River and fetched a Beef from Earnests weighg 514 lbs, returng on 8th Sunday. Armitage got back at night. Planing Mill was workg and his lumber will soon be ready. 9th. Frank took his Butter to Mesick sold at 50c Reed *Sat Rev*. 10th Jany and *N. Opinion*. Jessup rec his money. They staid at Earnests and J. went to Doggitts. Denby came up at noon and got out stone for chimney. 10th Hugh and I load stone ½ day, 4 loads. Denby got out stone. J. & Earnest came at night. 11th. Denby got out stone. Hugh and I hauled 8 loads. Jessup, Earnest and Bob went to Trinidad. 12th. Stormy. Denby ed not work morng. but did in afternoon. When Hugh and I hauled 4 loads of stone. 13th. Wrote to F.G.M. Fine day. Armitage and Clifton rode for Mail. reed letter of 20th Jan. F.G.M. *Wkly Gazette*. S.R. 17th Jany Liverpool and Albion 24th. Denby all day at house. 14th
do do

Tribe of Utes came down and camped: papooses set grass on fire round hut but it did no harm. The wind has risen after breakfast these three days and blown strong. 15th Sunday. Wrote to F.G.M. Mild, calm day. Jessup rode in from Trinidad via Red River: no mail. 16. Slight snow last night, fell heavily without wind at first, from 10 a.m. all day. Gale fm N.E. Frank rode to Earnests and returned with Gray. Wrote to Morris, and S. Stanley. Posted above letters by Frank on 17th. no mail had come in from East. Recd. *Weeks News* 17th Jany from F.G.M. Hard front on 17th. Fog at night. Denby came up. 17th. Thaw. Denby worked a little at Dairy, but went home afternoon. Utes moved to Miller's canon.

Hugh and Clifton worked at Cow bails.⁸ Thawing. Bob Gray came in wagon to collect Jessup's things; staid night.

19th Gray left. Saunders came to fetch horses. Utes went to Red River canon. Bitter cold. 20th Clifton rode for Mail. Letters from Edith, Arthur Miller and Nettleton of Pueblo about Paint. *Times* of 22nd and 23rd Jany from Miss Behrens. *Weeks News* 24 Jan. Fine and thawg. but deep snow lying from Earnests to Clifton. A carpenter came in at 8 p m. 21st. Very hard frost last night, *bitter cold day*, all in doors. Driving snow. 22nd Sunday. Bitter cold but lessoned and today occasional snow. Thermometer at 20° at 7.40 a.m. in our room. Wrote to F.G.M. and Arthur Miller, E. Nettleton, Esq Pueblo and this evng. posted 23rd. Cold last night at 6.0 p.m. 26° frost. same at 9.0 a.m. 23rd. Frank and Armitage rode to Trinidad and returned Friday. Paid H. E. Armitage 120 H on 2/c 24th 17° frost in my room at 9.0 a.m. At 6 p.m. 34° outside: at 9 p.m. 22° co. Breakfasted at 12. Then found beam on fire under grate and dug it out. 25th. 20° frost at 9.0 a.m. 22° at 6.0 p.m. Denby came up to dinner. Tom Bennett got here at 6.0 p.m. Wrote to C.A.M. 26th Fine warm day. Quick thaw. Denby at Dairy. 27th Rode with Clifton for Mail. Letters from F.G.M. 30 Jan. Lucy 4th Feby. Vurp. 1st Feby. 2 lost Posts 3rd and 4th Feby 28th Earnest came up. Denby at Dairy. Fine day.

March Sunday 1st March. Beautiful day. Rode to Thacker's, dined, posted letters to Lucy and Sec. C.C. I Co. Denver. 2nd. Killed three pigs. 3rd. Pigs weighed 358 lbs. Hauled 3 loads wood. Gray came at 7 p.m. brought letters. 5th and 11th Feby from F.G.M. 24th. Swift. 4th. Gray and Armitage left. Frank and Hugh got out logs for Hen House. Denby came at noon, worked at chimneys ½ day. Tom Bennett digging cellar since Monday. price 7 /f and board. Size 10 x 14 x 7 ft. 5th. Frank and Hugh put up walls of Hen house. Hung Bacon in kitchen. Denby at Chimneys. 6th. Denby at chimneys also T. Bennett ½ day. put down foundation. Hugh hauled poles. Jessup and Armitage came at 5.30. Letter from B. R. Keim, ticket agent K.P. Kansas City thro' ticket New York to Denver \$79.90 to Las Animas \$73.40. Sent it to Herbert. Wrote to F.G.M. and Herbert posted by Frank 7th who staid at Earnests at night. Saturday Denby and T.B. building chimney. D. sent home. Frank came early Sunday brought letters from Mrs. Goodall and Gerbruns and *Times* Wed 22Feb. Sat R. 7th *Weeks News* 7th and L. *Abrión* 14th and several *New York Posts*. Armitage wt to Td. 9th. Three days of fine weather after 4 of windy. Denby gone with Jessup for a week. T.B. digging cellar. Hugh and Frank at Hen House. Reed ton of hay (22½ dollars) from Thacker.

⁸According to Webster, a "bail" sometimes means, "An outer defense of stakes; a palisade", or partitions separating animals in an open stable. These might have been milking stalls, or corrals.

10th. Bennett at cellar. . . th. Mr. Wadworth came and staid night. A Wiltshire farmer. T.B. finished cellar at 4.0 p.m. Total time 7 days 3 hours. 12th Wrote to Herbert. Sent Denver paper to Lucy. Fk and Hh took wagon to Clifton to repair. Bennett and Clifton finished "Bails." Paid Bennett ten dollars on a/c which he sent to his wife. 13th Fk and Hh got back early. Mail fm F.G.M. and C.A.M. 20th Feby. Newspapers. *Saty Rev.* 14th Feby. *Times* 17th *Graphic* 14th and others. Armitage ret'd from Trinidad. T.B. laid hearth-stone in Bedroom. 14th Fk and Hh fetched slabs from Earnests and seven fowls and a Rooster fm Millers. T.B. at pig pen and helping Hugh plough garden. Sunday. 15th. Fine weather. Ever since last note. Fk rode to see Jim Finch. 16th Denby gone to Trinidad. Clifton posted my letters to F.G.M. C.A.M. and Swift. Reed letter fm. A.C.M. Liverpool *Albion* and *Land and Water*. Self. Fk and Hh fetched up 27 cows, 12 yearlings, and 4 calves.

17th Two loads lumber arrd. T.B. removg earth at house. Strong wind 18th Self, Hh and Clifton fetched up 9 cows and 4 calves and 1 yearling. T.B. ½ day moving earth. Wrote to B. R. Keim, K.P. Kansas City asking reduced fares. 19th Armitage rode to Trinidad. Two loads lumber and trail wagon got here. Fk and Hh got oats . . . lbs at Earnests. T.B. fenced betn Hen and Store houses morning. Helped Hugh move earth at house ½ day. Denby and Billy Parker came down pass. 20th Denby came at noon and worked with T.B. on chimneys. T.B. and Hh ½ day remog earth. I rode to Clifton for mail. Met Amenges. Letters of 25th and 27th Feby F.G.M. 1st March Miss B. *Sat Rev.* *Times*, *Weeks*, *News*, *Standard & L. Albion*. 21st Denby and T.B. at chimm. Hugh hauling rock for do. Jessup called. bot gr. beef of him 47 lbs. Mr. Armitage got back. 2 Beautiful days. Wrote to F.G.M. and C.A.M.

22nd Sunday 23rd. Rode for Mail *Times* and *Daily News* and L.R. 28th Feb. Sat Thacker at Vega. Denby and T.B. at Chimneys. 24th Snowy. Went with Denby and T.B. to hunt Turkeys but only got to Thackers. Bought 105 lbs beef @ 6c and 4 lbs butter @ 50c. Pd for Butter only. 25th Denby and T.B. half day at Chimneys. 26th Denby all day and T.B. ½ day at chimneys. T.B. down creek in morning. Skelly came with two loads lumber. Hugh asked for his wages and left with them. I advanced sixty dollars to the firm to pay him. I paid Skelly seventeen dollars on a/c of Armitage. At night advanced 55 /f to T. Bennett, by letter to Thatcher Bros. Trinidad asking them to foward the money per express to Mrs. Appey J. Bennett Kansas City.

27th Denby and T. Bennett at chimneys. Fk, Clifton and I rounded up cattle below Black Mountain 7 cows 5 yearlings 1 calf brought up. 28th Rode with Armitage to Jessup's Ranche and staid

night. Denby and T.B. at chimneys. Wrote to Arthur and posted on Sunday 29th also to Herbert and F.G.M. enclosing to the latter a letter esc fr Herbert, and to Arthur one from Beverly R. Keim, saying he will give our party tickets to Denver fr K.C. 1st class at emigrant rates, viz 25.55 instead of 41.50. Weather contins fine. Fk and Clifton brought up 3 cows 8 yearlings and 1 calf. 30th Denby and T.B. at chimneys. Harry repaired wagon. Strong wind. 31st. Snow last night, too cold for work this morning. Denby and T.B. ½ day at chimney. Clifton and I hauled wood. Frank unwell.

April 1st. Went with Clifton to Jim Finch's brought up 6 cows, 6 yearlings one calf. Denby and T.B. at chimneys. Beautiful day. 2nd. Denby and T.B. at chimneys. Fk and Clifton brought up 6 cows, 6 yearlings, 1 calf. Total to date: 60 cows, 45 yearlings, 2 Bulls. 3rd. Fk and Clifton rode to Finch's but found him out and brought no cattle. I fetched mail. Letter from F.G.M. 11th March and C. Behren's 10th. Arthur to Fk also. *Times* 9th. *Sat. Rev.* 7th Wrote to F.E.M. and B. R. Keim. 4th. Denby and T.B. at chimneys. Total Time T.B. 12½ days. and finished the dining room block. Went home at night. I and Clifton fetched 4 cows and 2 yearlings and 2 calves fm hills above J. Finche's. Hugh Miller came back at night drunk! 5th Easter Sunday. How I long to be with Gina Today! Jessup came and staid all night. Harry caught dish of fish. 6th. Denby came at noon and worked half day at chimneys with T.B. I and Jessup rode to Trinidad to see Bulls in Colorado. Snowing as we got to town. Snowing heavily on 7th and 8th. On Thursday wrote Swift. 9th Denby came up and worked with T.B. ½ day. I came out to Dick's with Gray and Dr. Cooper. 10th Denby and T.B. at chimneys. Jessup came out, and I home. 11th Denby and T.B. finished chimneys in Bedrooms except hearthstones. 12th. Sunday. Fine day. 13th Denby came at noon. Dillon and Nation called. T.B. at pig pen.

14th. Denby and T.B. after logs. Snowed, harder and lightened at times. Mornng and aftern 3 inches fell. Gilt has litter of five. before morning of the 15th other 3 inches and lightly during the day. Went with Fk and Denby to Dillons: bought one light roan cow with bull calf born 28th Octr 1873 and one red and white cow with Bull calf born 17th Jany 1874 all for 100 H Paid Dillon by own cheque on Thatcher Bro. Rode on to Clifton reed letter from F.G.M. 25th Mch with the good news that the party leave per *City of Brussels* 23d April. *Saturday Review*. 21st April. *Public Opinion* 14th Came from Clifton alone. Letter fm Arthur Marsland to Frank.

16th More snow last night and during day. Frank came fm Clifton. No stage in. 17th Storm continues. Fk and Hugh fetched 13 pigs fm Earnest at 3H Wrote to Swift date of FGM and AM sailing. To E. H. Cooper Insurance Agent Pueblo.

18th. Storm continues. 18 inches of snow must have fallen since Tuesday. 19th Sunday. Fine day, and thawing. Frank corraled the cattle to count them. Armitage rode to Clifton posting above letters (17th) and schedule to John Lee, Cimarron. 20th Harrys pony appd without him. I rode him to meet Hy and met him beyond Earnest's. Pony had broken away at Clifton. Letter from Swift. Denby came. More snow coming home but melted as it fell: a fall of 2 to 6 inches after 9 p.m. 21st. Thawed all day but stormy looking. Denby and T.B. at work 1/2 day gettg logs. Hugh getting logs for my Hen House. H and T.B. got two loads of wood yesterday morning. Wrote to Arthur Miller. Snow fell at night and storm contd. all 22nd. 23rd. I fetched 663 lbs oats for Earnests. Armitage took 150 lbs of them. Met Jessup with Deardon, an Englishman fro Halifax. They came up. Hugh got enough logs for the house. Fine day. 24th. Fine Earnest, Jessup, Billy Parker and Rex Stockton rounded up here. (Posted to Arthur Miller). Fk staid at Earnests. 12 head of our stock in his corral. 25th. Hugh and T.B. got gravel. Harry, Deardon and I rode to Jessup's after dinner. Fk and Clifton rounding up with Earnest. Fk staid there and fetched Mail from Clifton. Letter from F.G.M. 1st April. *Land and Water* 4th April. 26th Rode to Clifton saw Col. Marr: to Thackers who will take his Mules to Las Animas for me if he can and charge 4H a day and all found. Hy and T came home. 27th. Hugh hauled four loads of gravel and some rock. Harry got boards nailed to roof. Denby and T.B. at Dairy. T.B. broke off aftern. 28th. Harry and I laid part paper on roof. T.B. setting posts around garden. Denby at Dairy. Hugh went to Thackers but ret without Hay. 29th Harry and I finished laying paper. Denby put down hearthstones all day. Fk and Hugh fetched 7 Bails hay from Thackers and traded Ute for Tony and 15 H to boot. Bot 4 lbs butter for 2H. Fine weather continues. T.B. setting posts. 30th. T.B. do do. Hugh helped Harry at roof. Clifton and (I) rode for mail. No letters. L.R. 21st and 4th April. *Times* 4th Apt. Went on to Dillon's for cows. Staid all night. Fine warm day. 1st May. Bot. red 3 year old heifer of Dillon for 35H brought her and two cows and their calves home. Baldy pony sick last night and this morning, left him with Thacker. Pd Dillon by own cheque on Thatcher Bros. T.B. heard his wife had gone

to Iowa. He will follow when his money is worked out. He has worked for me as follows

	\$
Digging cellar	7.00
15 1/2 days at Chimneys	23.25
3 1/2 days Earth moving	3.50
	—
	33.75
	—
Cash advanced him by me	35.00
	—
do do By Firm	30.00

2d Rode to sale at Clifton. Saw Scott's horses sold but had to go on to Thackers to see Baldy whose legs had filled: bled him both fore-legs. Staid night and led him home on Sunday. Much better. Exs. 350 Letter from F.G.M. 9th April M. Lt. Swift 25th April. Posted to F.G.M. and Arthur to Ottawa. T.B. at garden. 2nd Hugh hauling rock. Harry rode to Clifton after dinner and on to Jessups. Sunday 3rd. I came home. 4th T.B. at Garden. Hugh finished hauling rock. Total 74 loads. I cooked. Dillons' boys brought Red Bull. 5th Frank started in wagon with Hugh to Clifton and goes on to Trinidad by coach. Letter from Lucy. 15th April. Note from Fk to say Sander-son of Barlow & S. will take me down to Las Animas for 135H T.B. garden. T.B. at garden and helping Hugh haul logs for Dairy on 6th. I rode to Finch's and Jessop's and came back at night with Armitage. Jessup came as far as Fine's. 7th. Jessup and Parker came to dinner. Hugh fetched spade etc. fm Clifton. 390 lbs. oats fm. Earnests. pd 1 H for repairs, and 1H exs. Letter fm F.G.M. 17th *L. Albion* 18th. 2 *Daily News* 14,16. *Figaro*. T. B. began contract to dig well at 1.50 per foot, by getting stones: dry after-noon. 8th Great wind. Jim Finch came to dinner, looking for John-son & co. rounding up. He and I rode to Earnests and staid all night. T.B. digging well. 9th. I rode to round up at mouth of Sugar-ite, drove cows, a dun, and 1 calf, and 3 yearlings on to Vega. Came home by Clifton. Letter from F.G.M. 21st April last fm. England before they sail. (Shoeing Jack 2 1/2 H Ews 50. Eggs 50) Letter fm Arthur Marsland and Frank. Wrote to F.G.M. at Ottawa, and to Fk. Bought Beast of Thacker delived at 5 cents. T. B. hauling logs with Hugh.

10th. Cook came up to supper. Sunday. I drove American Cattle fm cars. Hugh and T.B. went to Dillons Canon. Brought 200 lbs. potatoes fm Willow Springs. 11th Thacker sent 400 lbs beef at 5c. Hugh pickling. T.B. helping Denby at Dairy. Light fall of hail and rain. Dillon's Bull had lost a horn. Ride with Fine E. to Jessup's, staid night. 12th Rode to round up at Dan Youngs, brought

Red and white milk cow and red yearling to Red river. I spent night at Earnests. Recd. news from F.G.M. of her safe arrival with Family and Arthur Marsland at New York on the 4th. Heavy rain and hail storm on Red. Ri. 13th Frank returned home. 13th. I went with Armitage and F to Mezick's party. 14th Round up herd and on Red River. Fk and I slept at Clifton. T.B. helping Denby these four days. Hugh hauled logs for bunkhouse and T.B. helped him to split them on Friday 15th. Today Denby finished Dairy. Fk and I rode to Gomea (?) up beyond Red River, at mouth of it, and brought 3 cows, 5 yearlings to Thackers. Letter from Miss Behrens of 27th and 2 *Daily News* and *Saturd.*, also *Land and Water*, and *Field* fm Arthur. Got home at 10 p.m. dead tired. 16th Fk and Hugh rode to Thackers. 9 cows and 16 yearlings still out. T.B. working for us. I drove to Jessup.

Sunday 17th Borrowed his harness and Col. Marr's⁹ wagon, drove by way of Clifton to Trinidad. Telegram for Arthur to say they leave Ottawa 20th. Letter F.G.M. and papers 18th Collected stores in Trinidad. 19th came home. 20 Drove to Trinidad. Paid Dick Whooton ten dollars for one year's toll for the boys and self. 21st Drove with Denby. Hogs back. 22nd. Slept at Vogels Canon. Travelled 45 miles. 23rd. Arrd. at Las Animas. at 4:15 o.m. and found Gina and the children¹⁰ with Arthur. All well, Thank God. Staid at Connors American House. Sunday 24th. Came out. Arthur lent me twenty dollars. To Suzers Ranche 9 mi. 25th Made Bent Canon at 7:0 p.m. 45 miles. 26th Made Hogs Back 28 miles. 27th Reached Trinidad at 4:30 p.m. Arthur lent me ten dollars. also on 28th one hundred dollars for Denby and one hundred and fifty dollars cash.

⁹ According to G. Kercheval Miller, Colonel Marr was a well-known ranchman. He owned the first wagon with four wheels in that area.

¹⁰ The Miller children were: G. Kercheval about 5½, Pleasance 6½ and Georgina, the baby.

A Trip to the Troublesome

By E. S. KASSLER*

In the April (1954) issue of *The Colorado Magazine*, I read, with unusual interest the article on page 119 entitled, "To The Bear River country in 1883," by David Taylor. In the summer of 1885, with a party of four boys, and again in 1891, in a group of five I covered, to a large extent, the same territory.

Mr. Taylor outlined the journey as follows: "Starting the middle of June, our route was to be over Berthoud Pass, through Middle Park, over the Gore Range, through Egeria Park and down the Bear River."

I kept a diary on both of my trips in this area and from it have compiled the following article. On my first trip Howard F. Crocker, Albert Dugan, an Easterner, my brother, Charles M. Kassler, and I left Denver on July 7, 1885, headed for the Mt. Vernon Canyon road.

After three nights of camping, passing through Idaho Springs and Empire, we arrived at the foot of Berthoud Pass. Snowfields were all around us and mosquitoes, by the million. The next morning after four hours of hard climbing, with frequent stops to rest the horses, we reached the summit. It commenced to rain hard. We stabled our horses in a building formerly used as a saloon and station for changing stage horses.¹ On our way up we passed many patches of wild flowers, some growing right on the edge of snowbanks, and, in about an hour, while it was still raining, we started down the Pacific slope of the Rocky Mountains. We met three teams on the way and had difficulty in passing them, as the road was so narrow and slippery.

That night we pitched our tent for a several days' stay on the Fraser River. Our dinner consisted of canned corn, Boston baked beans, bacon, bread, pickles, ginger snaps and coffee, plus a fine cake that had been given to us by girl friends when we left home.

While camped on the Fraser we were entertained by a party of three campers from Denver. The next day we dined them and served a dinner of trout, fried potatoes, hot biscuits, corn

* (E. S. Kassler, member of a pioneer Colorado family, took two hunting trips to the Bear River country, one in the summer of 1885 and one in 1891. He kept a diary of both trips and has written the following account from the diaries for *The Colorado Magazine*. Because of lack of space we can, at this time, publish only the account of the trip in 1885. George W. Kassler, father of E. S. Kassler, made the journey from Omaha to Denver in 1860. He was a Director of Denver's first Chamber of Commerce.—*The Editor*.)

¹ Evidently this stop was at old Spruce Lodge stage stop.—See: Edward T. Bollinger, "Middle Park Stage Driving," *The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XXVIII, No. 4, 278.



COLORADO CAMPERS

Edwin S. Kassler, Fred W. McCartney, Walter C. Mead

bread, canned peaches, coffee and cake. The evening was spent visiting around the camp fire. There was no rain, but it was quite cold. After three days' camping we started for Hot Sulphur Springs² with the weather still very cold. Frost covered our

² Hot Sulphur Springs—"the townsite and the hot springs were bought with Indian Script [sic] from Susan Boshman, a Ute squaw," by William N. Byers. The town was first platted in May 1860 at a meeting held in Montana City. Plans were then made for the Saratoga West Town Company. The townsite was called Saratoga West for the noted watering place in New York State and was incorporated in 1860. The enterprise, however, was soon abandoned. In 1863, on the same site was a small settlement called Grand City. Byers later acquired the land. *The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XVIII, No. 4, 153-4.

table in the morning and ice formed on our water pail, but by noon it turned hot. On our way down we lost a gun and a shovel, but fortunately both were returned to us later by travelers on the road. We camped for the night near the Cold Sulphur Spring. We also took time out for a bath at the Hot Sulphur Spring. The temperature of the water was about 117 degrees, too hot to get in all over.

On Wednesday, July 15, we left for Troublesome River and camped at Jim Thompson's³ Ranch, about six miles up from the mouth of the creek, plagued by more rain and mosquitoes. On our way up we shot several sage hens and jack rabbits and the next day saw antelope, which were too far away to shoot. More rain fell, compelling us to move our camp to higher ground.

Up to date we had been fortunate in fishing, but the hunting was poor, consisting of only a few sage hens and grouse. On July 19, we started for a slide, estimated to be two miles away, to look for specimens (ore), but the jaunt proved to be the longest two miles we had ever walked and during it we were overtaken by the usual rains. It was well worthwhile, however, as when we reached the top we had one of the most magnificent views ever pictured by an artist. Beyond lay the valley of the Troublesome, well marked by its low bushes and high bluffs, which could be seen for a long distance winding up toward the Rabbit Ears. Almost directly in front of us was our camp, seeming to nestle among the bushes of the stream. In reality it rested on the edge of the bluff. To our tired eyes it looked to be two miles distant, but was nearer ten. Over beyond our camp could be seen the Gore Range, the starting place of all of our rainstorms. Even then, we could see a rain coming as usual.

Following the valley of the Troublesome down toward the South we came to the Grand River,⁴ and again, running our eyes along the line of trees that marked its course, we caught occasional glimpses of the Grand itself as it wound in and out, trying to twist itself up into fancy knots and looking like plates of hammered silver in the afternoon sun.

In the angle between the Grand and the Troublesome we could see herds of cattle grazing, unmolested, not even a cowboy to spoil their evening meal. Again looking far to the south, we could see the tall peak of some neighboring mountain with its side covered with snow and its peak well above timber line. We returned to camp just in time to miss another heavy rainstorm.

On Monday, July 20, after a late breakfast, we started about ten o'clock for the East Fork of the Troublesome, where we had

³ Major James Blair Thompson, an early Indian Agent of the Utes.

⁴ Name of the Grand River was changed to Colorado River by the General Assembly of Colorado in 1921.

the best fishing so far on our trip. During the afternoon came one of the hardest rainstorms of the season. All of us were soaked through. When we returned to camp our firewood was too wet to use, so the Thompsons permitted us the use of their kitchen to get our dinner. The next few days were spent around camp, making preparations for our next move to Egeria Park. We had built up a close friendship with the Thompsons. They had been more than kind and friendly and we left them with much regret.

Thursday was an eventful day for us. After a warm morning drive, we were ready to rest for lunch when we met a ranchman named Woolery, driving a four-mule team with a heavily loaded wagon of supplies headed for Steamboat Springs. He had been stopped by a big mud-hole. We helped him fill the hole with brush, then all had lunch and started on together. All went well until about 5:00 P.M., when we came to a sidling place on the road. We crossed safely, but not Mr. Woolery. When his outfit was nearly across, his wagon slipped and turned over into the creek.

All of our party went back and helped him get out. He suffered little damage to himself or his belongings, except delay. Then we all went on and camped for the night about 10:00 P.M.

On Friday, July 24, all were up at 5:30 A.M. prepared for an early start. Two of Woolery's mules were missing. They were found after a two-hour search and we started on. In less than a mile Mr. Woolery got stuck in another mudhole. After about an hour's work, we helped him clear that and again we set out.

Nothing more happened until just about dinner time when we started up the Gore Range. After about 500 feet of climbing, another mudhole stopped Woolery. Having dug out his wheels and brushed the road, he attempted to start, but could not make a go. About this time three teams came down the road and, with the help of a pair of their mules, the Woolery wagon was pulled to level ground. It was so late by this time, we returned to the foot of Gore Pass and camped for the night. At this point Mr. Woolery left a part of his load to lighten the wagon for the trip over the Gore Range. The next day, on Saturday morning, after another attempted start, a mudhole compelled Mr. Woolery to stop in less than two hundred feet from our camp. Up to that time he had been a good Christian, but his patience was exhausted and he started talking to his team in good old Missouri-mule language, the first we had heard him use. The mules seemed to understand at once and pulled him out without further trouble.

The road over the pass was indescribably bad, the worst we had encountered anywhere—mudholes every fifty to a hundred feet, from six inches to eighteen inches deep. All the hills we crossed on the way to the top seemed to be at an angle of about forty-five degrees. We finally reached the top and parted company with Mr. Woolery, who had to return for the part of load which he had left behind. He so appreciated the help we had given him that he invited us to make his ranch one of our camping grounds. We did so later on.

We camped for the night on Rock Creek, where horseflies were peskier than the mudholes and nearly ate up our horses. One of the horses was covered with blood as a result of the bites. Our next camp was on Toponas⁵ Creek. On Sunday, July 26, we started for Thayer's Ranch, stopping for mail at Egeria. After writing letters home we went on to Thayer's for a week's stay. On the 27th, we moved our supplies from tent to cabin and spent part of the day hunting and fishing. We caught plenty of trout and shot two grouse, all in the midst of more rain. On the way down, Howard killed a deer so we had a real feast that night. On August 4, we broke camp and started for Steamboat Springs, arriving about 2:45 P.M. where we found more mail.

We camped on the bank of Soda Creek where we all had a welcome bath in a hot spring, prepared by local people for public use. Steamboat Springs had a population of between fifty and seventy-five and supported a weekly paper⁶ and Sunday School. Fishing was very good here, but the rain continued.

On August 11, we broke camp and started for the Woolery Ranch on the Bear River, arriving in time for a noon lunch. We spent three days there fishing and enjoyed the best we had had at any point. We filled two kegs with salted trout to take to Denver. On Friday, August 14, we started for Hahns Peak,⁷ forded Elk River three times and the Bear River once and passed through very pretty country. At Hahns Peak we watched parties hydraulic mining for gold and learned that they had taken out about \$50,000 during the season. Our next stop was at Red Park, about eight miles from Hahns Peak, most of the way over very bad roads. Reportedly the road was used only about three times a year. In some places, in order to go on, we had to chop trees that had fallen across the trail. Our camp that night was in one

⁵ According to *The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XVII, No. 3, May 1940, 115, Toponis Rock in Egeria Park is named for a Ute word for chimney. The post office is spelled Toponas.

⁶ *Steamboat Pilot* was founded by James Hoyle in 1885.—Charles H. Leckenby, "The Founding of Steamboat Springs and of Hahns Peak," *The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. VI, No. 3, 96.

⁷ It was in 1862 that Joseph Hahn and two companions started westward from Georgetown in search of gold. After prospecting for weeks along the range in Middle and North Parks, they finally crossed to the west of the second range and gazed upon the Yampa Valley. . . . On a creek in Hahns Peak basin, placer gold was found.—*Ibid.*, 96-7.

of the best places we had reached, with plenty of firewood, fine water, good feed for the horses.

We spent a day there hunting for deer and got one. On Monday, August 17, we started for Hog Park, passing through some of the finest scenery we had seen on our trip. We set up camp about 6:00 P.M. The next day we hunted without success, but with more rain. The following day also was spent in hunting. Howard killed a big buck way up on the side of a mountain and returned to camp about 4:30 P.M. for a horse on which to bring it in. Charley went with him to help get the kill. They did not return to camp until eleven o'clock that night. In the meantime, we kept a big fire burning to guide them back to camp.

On August 20, we started for Big Creek Ranch and passed over very bad roads, some of them resembling the dried bed of a creek filled with big stones. The road was so rough that three of our party preferred to walk, which left the driving to me. My diary states, "There was no cloth on the seat of my pants when we reached the foot of the hill." We arrived at the ranch about six o'clock and had a warm welcome from the owner, who permitted us the use of his kitchen and gave us plenty of butter and milk.

We slept in a haymow for the night, which was a luxury! We saw hundreds of antelope during the day, but they were too far away to shoot. At one place we were able to pick a quart of red raspberries, a delicious addition to supper.

On Saturday, August 22, we started for Pinkhampton,⁸ about twenty-five miles away. The road was pretty good. The following day, however, we found the way muddy and slippery. At one place, pelted by continuing rain, we had to tie a rope on the top of the wagon and three of us, standing on the side of a hill, had a tug-of-war to keep the wagon from tipping over. We camped for the night on Sand Creek, sleeping intermittently through terrific thunderstorms.

The next few days were spent traveling without special incidents, except for more rain. We reached Denver on Friday, August 28, all well in spite of the heavy rains we had encountered. It rained at least twenty-six days out of the sixty-three we were out.

The modern generation, flipping forward the back seat of their hard-top station wagon to make more room for the airfoam mattresses, may load for a similar camping trip with a blessing

⁸James O. Pinkham, the first settler in North Park, lived a mile south of the Berry roadhouse on Pinkham Creek. Pinkhampton was named for him and there was a store conducted by Hanson and Seifert, who had been in business in Camp Teller during a mining boom.—Payne and Harvey, "Early Days in North Park, Colorado," *The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XIV, No. 6, November 1937, 230.



PLACER MINING NEAR HAHN'S PEAK

on this day of vacuum-sealed coffee cans, ready mixes and portable coolers. One look at the expense book of our 1885 expedition, however, leaves the 1956 advantage somewhat in question.

Our records show that after acquiring a preparatory haircut for only 35c, we stopped at the store of George K. Bagley, dealer in groceries at 521 Champa Street on the Corner of 20th St., in Denver, and stocked up on 8 pounds of coffee which totaled \$1.35. One hundred and fifty pounds of flour cost \$3.60. A can of pepper was a dime. Handy as the canned hams are at present at about \$6.95 for four ready-cooked pounds, the party of 1885 took two hams, weighing 24½ pounds, at a cost of \$3.15. Their 18 pounds of bacon at 13c was only \$2.30.

Transportation costs on the trip were (as noted on a memorandum advertising Simmons Liver Regulator, Renovator and Fever and Ague Pills):

Horses	\$190.00	Shoes	\$ 3.10
Wagon	80.00	Nailed50
Harness	36.00	Bridle	1.00
Wagon Cover	9.75		

Lumber for a provision box at the end of the wagon cost 95c and entries for hay ran from 10c up to a maximum of 45c.

Canned corn, beans, tomatoes and fruit showed little difference in price from today's super-markets. But six pounds of oatmeal cost 6c a pound. A quart of milk was 10c. A few items which the 1956 camper should find unnecessary were: 100 feet of rope to pull the mares out of the mud, axle grease, picket pins, coffee mill and two nose bags.