

Tom Sharp's Post

Tom Sharp's Post, a log and adobe Indian trading station, built in 1870, is a familiar sight to those traveling Highway 305, in Huerfano County, between the remnants of Malachite and the top of Pass Creek Pass. The post, about a mile from the site of the once-thriving town called Malachite, stands near the Huerfano River crossing of the Gardner-Red Wing road.

Sharp's place was known as Buzzard Roost Ranch because hundreds of buzzards roosted in the cottonwood trees along the stream there. A well-traveled Ute Indian trail over the Sangre de Cristo range ran through the ranch, thence to Badito, and on to the Greenhorn Mountains. Ute Chief Ouray and his wife, Chipeta, often visited Sharp while their tribesmen camped nearby.

W. T. (Tom) Sharp, a native of Missouri, served with the Confederate forces at the beginning of the Civil War. His general was Sterling Price. In 1861, Sharp was paroled from the service because of wounds, and was placed in a wagon bound for the Far West.

Surviving the trip across country, he joined a half-breed Indian hunter named "Old Tex," and for a time the two supplied meat to mining camps in California and Oregon.

Later Sharp headed eastward. With a partner, John Miller, he contracted to supply telegraph poles for the Union Pacific Railroad, then building into Wyoming. In 1867, he was a deputy sheriff in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In the autumn of 1868, Tom Sharp, John White, and John Williams, with an old prairie wagon, came into the Huerfano Valley looking for a location. Captain Charles Deus, who had been in the West since 1845, and who had settled in the valley in 1858, persuaded them to remain.

In 1870, Sharp founded the town of Malachite, named after an ore found on Pass Creek. A stamp mill, Sharp's trading post, and a cluster of adobe and log houses, made this for a time, the most important community in the county, next to Badito. Sharp envisaged a boom town, but only a foundation in ruins now remains of the early hopes of Malachite.

Tom Sharp was a pioneer cattleman. His brands were Reverse S Bar and Lazy S Bar. He shipped in white-faced (Hereford) cattle, and was among the first to bring purebred horses into the West. He was at one time president of the Querno Verde Live Stock Association. In addition to promoting the State Fair of Colorado, he was for a number of years, superintendent of the horse department of the fair.

W. T. Sharp was initiated into the Huerfano Lodge No. 27, A.F. & A.M. of Walsenburg on December 4, 1875. On the following May 20, he received the Third Degree in Masonry.

Mr. and Mrs. Sharp began housekeeping in a small cabin on the Buzzard Roost ranch, later moving into the Trading Post. They had three children: William, Elizabeth, and Emma. Only Emma survives.

Tom Sharp continued to live on his ranch until his death on November 26, 1929, at the age of 91 years.¹—*Editor*.

¹Much of the information for this introductory section was obtained from Mrs. Lida A. Meyer, a long-time resident of Gardner, Colorado. Mrs. Meyer suggested that the Editor get in touch with Mrs. Jeannette Thach of Walsenburg, who might be an excellent source of information on the Sharp family. This proved to be a splendid suggestion. Mrs. Thach graciously permitted *The Colorado Magazine* to use the transcription of a tape recording which she had made with Tom Sharp's son, Bill.—*Editor*.





History of Upper Huerfano Valley

Interview With William (Bill) P. Sharp

BY JEANNETTE F. THACH

On November 21, 1957, Jeannette F. Thach, [Mrs. William M. Thach] of Walsenburg, made a tape recording with Bill Sharp, son of Tom Sharp, which we are pleased to print verbatim. Mrs. Thach, a native of Huerfano County, has collected a vast amount of local history, during a period of years. With her keen appreciation of things historic, she purchased and is preserving some of the furniture used in Tom Sharp's home. Among these things are a large, floral-designed Bissell rug, a love seat, two matching small chairs without arms, and two large chairs. The three larger pieces are done in gold, antique velvet; and the two small chairs, in red velvet.

The Colorado Magazine is exceedingly grateful to Mrs. Thach for preserving the following facts about Huerfano County's early history. Too, we wish to thank her secretary, Hazel Anderson, who helped transcribe the tape.—*Editor*.

Mrs. Thach. Bill Sharp! I'm so glad you came upstairs to see me, and this is just four days before your birthday. Your eighty-fifth birthday, is that right? Is it November 25? Now, you were born in 1872. Hold the microphone, and tell me where you were born.

Bill Sharp. My father came here in 1868, settled on the Huerfano. His full name was William Thomas Sharp. He came from Marion County, Missouri. His first trip to Colorado was in 1859 to Pikes Peak. He went back, and came again in 1861. He traveled all over the West, into Canada and British Columbia, for eight years before he came here and settled on the Huerfano River in 1868. He had a little store and traded with the Indians and Spanish in tobacco and clothing. He bought quite a bunch of Union Army suits, officers' suits, and he had the Spanish and Indians dressed up in the British suits. Blue with brass buttons.

TOM SHARP'S RANCH HOME FOR MANY YEARS

Built by Captain Deus in 1883. Given by Tom Sharp to his son, Bill, upon his marriage in 1907. Near site of Malachite, Colo.

He was a very good friend of Chief Ouray. Ouray's wife, Chipeta, made my mother a pair of moccasins of fawnskin with elk soles. The most beautiful piece of work you ever looked at! She gave them to her as a present.

Mrs. Thach. What was your mother's name?

Bill Sharp. Katherine Durrett.

Mrs. Thach. Where was she born?

Bill Sharp. In Marion County, Missouri, 1844. My father was born on May 30, 1838, in the same county.

Mrs. Thach. How many children did they have, I mean your father and mother?

Bill. Three. Myself, Elizabeth, and Emma.

Mrs. Thach. When did your father and mother get married?

Bill. 1871 . . . in northeast Missouri.

Mrs. Thach. Were all three of you born on the Huerfano?

Bill. No, because mother went back to Missouri for my birth. On both sides of the house my grandparents—my father's father came from Virginia, and his mother from Kentucky. My mother's father was from Kentucky, and her mother, from Virginia. They came to Missouri in the early days with ox teams. Settled about 30 miles west of Quincy, Illinois. My wife's name was Tina Mae Millsap. We had four children born to our union—William Lee, Lillian Katherny, Nille Pearl, and Thomas Newton (named after his two grandfathers).

Mrs. Thach. Now, Bill, your father brought some horses. Tell me about them.

Bill. He went back to Missouri in 1870, there is where he married my mother, and he shipped out a carload of horses and some furniture. The head of the horses was a stallion named John White,² a thoroughbred Kentucky race horse. He lived to be 37 years old, and one of the mares shipped out lived to be 39 years old.

Mrs. Thach. Did you raise a lot of horses?

Bill. Yes. My father was quite a horseman. He and a man named John White brought in 225 head of big, Indian ponies from Idaho to raise race horses for saddle horses. They were the toughest horses I ever saw in my life. Very few are left of the descendants in this county, especially the thoroughbreds. Later on he changed into trotting horses. The Cleveland (Bay) called McBeth cost \$1400, shipped from England, and one of the others, Francois, was a trotter. Cost \$1800, shipped from France. These registered horses crossed between the Cleveland Bays were what they called the hunting horses. They were fine saddle horses, especially in the mountains. They could jump most anything they came to.

² Bill Sharp's sister, Emma, stated that the stallion was called just John.—*J.F.T.*

Mrs. Thach. A while ago you said Chief Ouray used to hold you on his lap.

Bill. Yes. I used to sit on his lap³ when he would come over to visit my father. His camp was just south of our house, about a quarter of a mile. This was the Indian winter quarters for a number of years. We asked him why they stayed there in that particular place, and he said there was short grass there the year around. When the snow came it would blow off the ridges, and the ponies would come out fat in the spring.

Mrs. Thach. Who lives in that house now?

Bill. Gonzales has a piece of land just south of the old campground, and it is still owned by Pontaleon Gonzales' heirs. His wife is still living. He has been dead for a couple of years.



W. T. (Tom) Sharp, 83, on Tonapah, a fast pacer

Mrs. Thatch. Did you say he was a blacksmith?

Bill. Yes. His father was doing blacksmith work up there where Homer Benson's store now is at Red Wing. The Indians would bring in solid chunks of silver, and melt it up in different forms so they could make jewelry of it.

³ Numa James of Denver states that Bill Sharp told him that Chief Ouray used to hold him on his lap, and once gave him a pair of moccasins.—*Editor.*

Mrs. Thach. Was there once a mill there where they stamped money on the Huerfano?

Bill. Yes. Captain Charles Deus settled there in the early 1860's. He came through the Mexican Wars, and he found good native metal there, and decided he would come back and make his home. He filed on it, and that's where he made his home the rest of his life. And in 1876, a man by name of George Easterday came over from San Luis and built a flour mill. It's been torn down. The mill ground the flour for the Spanish, and everyone, from spring wheat. It was pounded out, and that's the only flour we had. They had to sift the chips out to make our bread. It came out of the mill all together—bran, shorts, and chips. They used some of the grind for poultices instead of feeding it to the milk cow or chickens.

Mrs. Thach. What was the mill like?

Bill. It was a burro-mill. Run by burro water power. The ditch was about a mile long, then there was a court above five feet square, and the water turbine was in the bottom of this, that turned the mill.

Mrs. Thach. Aren't those timbers still standing there in the river? Some of the mill still there?

Bill. Yes, there is part of the pedestal. It stands just under the hill from the old Captain Deus home.

Mrs. Thach. How many Indians would you say were there?

Bill. I wouldn't have any idea. I know there was a lot of them. It was quite a tribe. They moved out of the west about 1876—out to the Ute Indian reservation on the Western Slope.⁴ Later on my father went over to visit Chief Ouray. They built a mansion to live in, but the old feller wouldn't have anything to do with it. He pitched his tepee in the yard, and wouldn't even go in the house.

Mrs. Thach. Where was the house?

Bill. It was on the reservation, over in the Mancos country.⁵ The town of Ouray was named after him.

Mrs. Thach. What did the Indians do in the winter time?

Bill. Well, they would store in their "jerky" in the fall of the year, enough to do them, and they raised what they called squaw corn, made meal out of that with their grinding rocks. They put the wheat on the grinding rock, and then ground it with another rock. Then they had fish—mountain trout, soaked and salted, and bear meat, smoked and salted. The white people did the same thing so they wouldn't starve in the winter.

⁴The old Los Pinos Agency on Los Pinos Creek was in the Cochetopa Hills west of Cochetopa Pass. There the U. S. Government constructed a home for Chief Ouray near the agency headquarters. (This agency should not be confused with the present Consolidated Ute Agency which is on Los Pinos River.)—*Editor.*

⁵In 1875, the Utes moved to a new agency in the Uncompahgre Valley south of present-day Montrose. It was from that location they were sent, in 1881, to Utah.—*Editor.*

Mrs. Thach. What was it most of the ranchers did up there to make money?

Bill. It was always strictly a livestock country. There were no fences, except for a few acres around the houses where they kept the milk cow, or so. It was open range everywhere. The cattle grazed on the higher country in the summer, the wild oats and peas in those parts was so high you couldn't see a cow in them in August. The cattle came down



W. (Bill) T. Sharp and his son, Tommy

into the foothills in the fall, around the Huerfano and Greasy Creek, and Poison Canyon, where the grass was high enough to make hay out of it. So they came out in the spring fat. It was well sheltered, and plenty of springs for water.

Mrs. Thach. Are you tired of talking, Bill?

Bill. No.

Mrs. Thach. Tell me, who were the earliest neighbors you remember, outside of Chief Ouray?

Bill. Well, there was Captain Charles Deus. He was a German, born in Germany. He was a cavalry officer during the Mexican War.⁶ When they first came through they went over the Mosca Pass, south, and over the ridge, and camped at the south end of the Sand Dunes, or they went up higher and camped in a big, yellow pine forest. But now the forest has been completely covered with sand, because the Dunes are constantly working closer to the mountains and up the canyons.

Mrs. Thach. Did the captain have a family?

Bill. A first class batch! His first wife was Spanish. They had one son, Frank Deus, before she died. Then he married Juanita Gallegoes, a sister to one of the soldiers that was with him in the Mexican War. To their union was born another son, Pete. When Pete was a little fellow he lived with my father so he could learn to speak English. He became one of the finest interpreters ever known anywhere. He could translate English into Spanish, or Spanish into English. He died in Pueblo.

Mrs. Thach. Are there any of the Deus families living around here now?

Bill. There is one of them, I think. Charlie, Pete's son, was with the *Denver Post* for about thirty years. Then one of them was around Tioga, and one in Pueblo, Tony.

Mrs. Thach. Now, Bill, I've given you a little rest, and turned the record over, and I'm hoping you remember something, as told you, about the Ute Indians. So just talk along about it. I'll try not to interrupt you.

Bill. One thing the Ute Indians busied themselves at was watching day and night for the Apaches, from the top of Little Sheep Mountain. They had a guard up there, and he would signal in the daytime on the west side where the Apaches couldn't see him and use smoke signals, and at night, the same thing. He would come down and use light signals. Then they would send the hunting parties out for buffalo, and would get locoed and mixed up with the Apaches, and have quite a little scrap. Then when they caught the Utes going down to make a fight parley with them they would stay up

⁶ Charles Deus, born in Prussia on August 12, 1822, was of French lineage. He served in the United States army under General Stephen Kearny, and accompanied General Sterling Price on his march into Mexico in 1847. In 1858, he settled near Gardner, where he raised crops and ran cattle along the Huerfano.—Eugene Parsons, "Captain Charles Deus," *The Trail*, Vol. XV, No. 6 (November, 1922), 3-9.

all night a-whooping and a-hollering, and come out the next morning with war paint on, and ride down past my father's house.

As they told me, my father killed buffalo and furnished meat, and he and his two partners helped to build the Union Pacific into Cheyenne. At the terminal of the road they started for Oklahoma, and got below Badito there toward St. Mary's and were attacked by the Apache hunters and had quite a scrap. In the meantime, a few of the Utes were hunting so they joined up, and cleaned up on the Apaches.

Then they took my father and guided him and his partners up into the valley. That's how he came to get up into the Huerfano country, now called Huerfano Park. There was a big park of tall cottonwood trees growing along the Huerfano, and in the evenings the buzzards flocked in to roost over night, and it just looked like a black forest, so that's why we called it the Buzzard Roost Ranch.

Mrs. Thach. Now, let's start talking about your neighbors. Who was there besides Captain Deus?

Bill. There was John White and John Williams, who came up into the park in 1868, together, from Cheyenne, Wyoming, and settled on the joining ranches. In later years White had one son, Johnny, who married the daughter of my father's ex-partner, Bill Macafee, and moved on to the Mancos. Her maiden name was Mary Arley. She was a Swiss. The three May brothers were bachelors—George, Billy, and Dick. When things got too tame for them up there, they went to Mancos for supplies. When they came back their cabin was burned, and they found the body of their younger brother in the cabin. The Indians had killed him, so their pastime was killing Indians as long as they lived, after that. They left this country because there were too many people around. They were frontiersmen.

Another old-timer was George Elmire. My father hired him in 1869. He worked for my father seven years and never drew a dime. Father bought all his clothes, tobacco and stuff, and he never went anywhere. Finally he went out west to Mancos to see the May brothers, and later on he came back and married Mary Rahn, a neighbor girl. Her father was an old pioneer here, too, F. C. Rahn. He and his wife came from Germany.

Mrs. Thach. That was the grandfather of Phillip Rahn who lived in Huerfano.⁷

Bill. Yes. It was Rahn's original homestead, owned now by Alton Tirey, at Malachite. Another pioneer was a fellow named Williams. Settled on Williams Creek. He came from over at Fort Garland where he furnished the meat for the army at

⁷ Phillip Rahn died on April 16, 1959. He had an original homestead above Gardner. After his death his goods and land were sold at auction.—J.F.T.

the fort, and also hay for their cattle. His wife was a full blood Cherokee Indian. Later on they moved to Mancos, and the man who took his place was named Craig, with a whole house full of children. They went to the Western Slope.

Also the Irvins, Carrols, Reeds, all settled there, then went to the Western Slope. Then a man named John Robinson settled there on the Muddy where Greasy Creek comes into the Muddy below him. In the old, old times, there was a man named Hamlet. I don't know what became of him. Then there was Rev. A. J. Quillian (organized the Gardner church) that came in from Georgia with an ox team and settled up on Williams Creek, above the old John Williams place. Aaron Willburn, the school teacher, later married the oldest daughter of Rev. Quillian. They lived and died on Turkey Creek.

Mrs. Thach. That is Jim Willburn's father and mother. Do you know anything about the Bensons? When did they come here?

Bill. One of the next old-timers was Palmer. He came from Missouri. He bought out a man named Manzanares, who was a very honorable gentleman. Then there was B. P. Wright came out in 1877. J. J. Wilson came out about the same time from Missouri. Then Caldwell settled over on Pass Creek. He took up a homestead there and had two sons, George and Bob. That was about 1873 or 1874. Then there was Carl Schmidt, another man, and his wife came from Germany and settled on Turkey Creek, and finally Pass Creek. They lived and died there. The oldest and youngest boys are left. The oldest daughter married Billy Martin, Ed is still an old bachelor, regular hermit. Henry died a couple of months ago, so did Fred, so that just leaves Ed and Bill Schmidt of the Schmidt family. Then there was a man named Lou Railey. He was a very old-timer, lived on Pass Creek. I don't know where he moved to, but his place was taken up by Arthur Swarthout and Patton, old-timers.

Mrs. Thach. How did Malachite get its name?

Bill. It received its name for malachite copper ore. It was there on the greyback mountain, on Pass Creek, and there was 160 acres of my father's place staked out for a town. They thought they had the world by the tail down there. They built a copper stamp mill down on Captain Deus place to stamp out the ore. They never could strike the main vein, but later found it on top of the ground. Pure pieces of copper laying on top of the ground. Nobody knows where it comes from. It sort of blew up from down deep.

Mrs. Thach. (Showed Bill an album with pictures of the area). Bill, that was taken a long time ago, of the country as it looked right after Goose Lake went out, there at the foot of Mount Blanca. Now I know there was an old mill and lots of old buildings. You told me, it must have been a month ago,

that you went up there with your son and saw parts of the old mill there. What was amazing to you was that the office building was still standing. I don't know any of the history of that mine, and I would like to know what the name of the company was and what they were trying to mine.

Bill. Looking at this picture here (Mt. Blanca) the first prospector was a man named Decker. Later on he sold out to L. P. Santy, who sold out to an eastern syndicate and called it the Santy Gold Mine and Milling Company. After the mine petered out they left, so then Billy B. McMillan came from Eagle . . . and bought another claim from Decker.

Mrs. Thach. Oh, right at the foot of that long crack in the mountain?

Bill. Yes. Along the fissure there. They say that McMillan spent over \$150,000 of his own money, and then they formed a company and drove the tunnel in over 1800 feet, and built a concentrator, a mill down about half a mile below there, and brought the ore from the mine down to the mill on an aerial tram. That tram was swept away about 50 years ago by a big landslide, a snowslide. It was about 200 feet off the ground in one place. The buildings were down on the bottom on Hawkins Flat. Another company, Anderson and Hanks, mined in there for a couple of years. Pappy Klein, who used to be in Walsenburg, had a building there. All their buildings were swept out by a big flood. I was up there about six weeks ago, October 1957. My two sons, Lee and Tom, and I went up and took a look around. The boys got smart with a good jeep, so we decided to see how far we could go. We went past the old mill, up the slide rock and to the edge of the glacier. Such a bumping and thumping I never knew a machine could take as much as that old jeep took.

Mrs. Thach. Did you get to Lilly Lake?

Bill. No. The boys got there by holding down the jeep.

Mrs. Thach. Was that the Decker claim a few feet from the base of Mt. Blanca?

Bill. Yes. They put up \$25,000 and dug a hole about 5 or 6 feet square, and that was all the ore they ever did find there.

Mrs. Thach. Was that an English company that came—the McMillan Company? You keep telling me there was some English money spent in this part of the county.

Bill. No. This was Henderson and Hanks. I don't know where they came from. Henderson was a captain in the Civil War. A very fine man. There was a number of companies worked in there.

Mrs. Thach. Well, I saw that mill in 1925, when just a girl, I went up there with a group of young people from Gardner. I guess Bruce Tirey was our chaperon. I remember going up there to look at that mill, and at that time it was pretty well in order. It had been neglected, but the buildings were still there

then. They are all gone, you say—nothing but the office is left?

Bill. Mrs. Stanley has a guest ranch down on the Huerfano.

Mrs. Thach. Dr. Stanley's wife?

Bill. Yes. She bought the lumber in the mill, and brought it out. Everything like tools, small machinery, belts, etc., everything that was loose was carried out. There were some cables and buckets.

Mrs. Thach. Who were the first people who came to Red Wing, and why was it named Red Wing?

Bill. Red Wing is named after the song, Red Wing.⁸ The original name of the town was Christonis.

Mrs. Thach. Yesterday you told me that Captain Deus crossed the Huerfano River with his soldiers at Badito. Now that was supposed to be the main trail from Santa Fe Trail near Pueblo, going south and west, and you said at St. Mary's, somewhere in there the trails broke up into three separate trails.

Bill. That was the old Government Trail, crossed there at Badito. St. Mary's came up the south side at Oak Creek, just above Badito. One branch went over Oak Creek and head of Pass Creek and on down McDowell Park through Placer and Russell and on to Fort Garland. The other branch went up south to Malachite, just north of Red Wing. There it branched and one branch went up to Chama and over the head of Manzanares and down Pass Creek into Placer. Fort Massachusetts⁹ was seven miles above Fort Garland, right at the foot of the mountain called Buck Mountain. A trail there went into Fort Massachusetts, turned down what they called Salt Creek, just south there of Moyer Vega, named after an old engineer, Jake Moyer, that made the run over La Veta Pass for years. That was on the Rio Grande Railroad, then over Buck Mountain on to Fort Massachusetts. There is just a few foundations left there and the old fireplaces are all that is left of that. There was a little fort east of there, Fort Necessity.

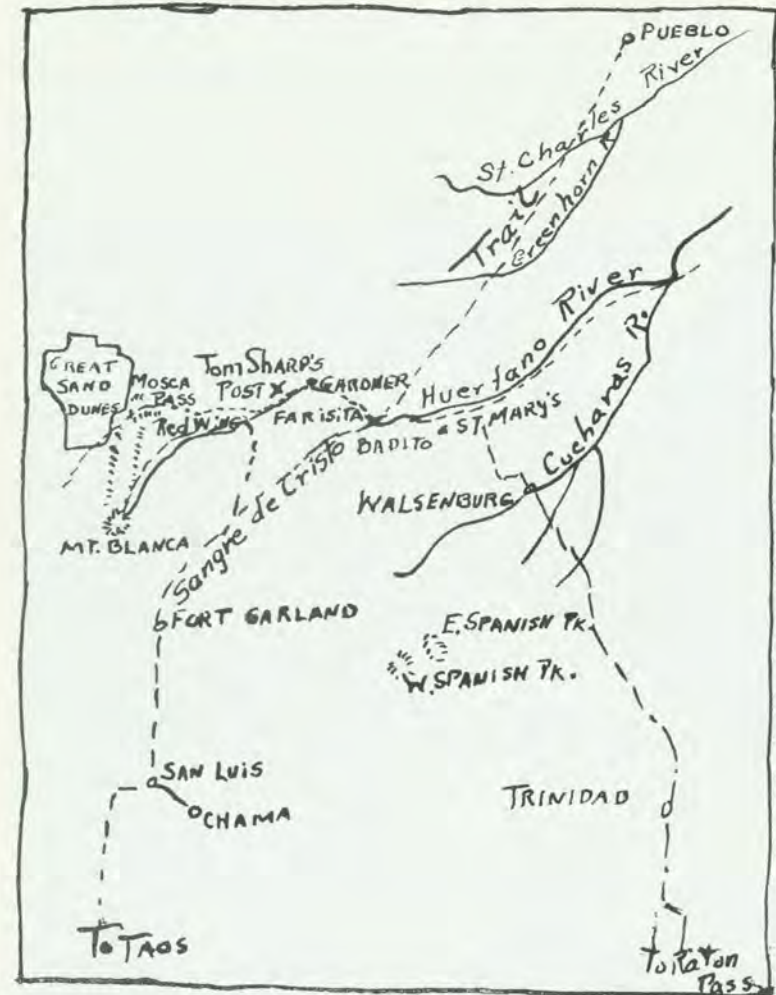
Mrs. Thach. Who built that? They say the Spanish built the fort.

Bill. There was some dispute about that.

Mrs. Thach. Bill, I'll tell you something. The D.A.R. women put a monument up there. Addie Hudson had something to do with it. They went up on Oak Creek and put a monument up at the head where they thought the fort had been, but years

⁸ The song, with words by Thurland Chattaway, and music by Kerry Mills, was published in 1907.—Julius Mattfield, *Variety Music Cavalcade* (New York: Prentice-Hall, 1952), 279; Emma Sharp says Charlie Addington named the place Red Wing.—J.F.T.

⁹ Fort Massachusetts "was established June 22, 1852, in the valley of San Luis [sic] 8,000 feet above the sea . . . at the foot of the White Mountain which is perpetually snow-topped; and on Utah Creek at the mouth of a ravine. Its site was moved 6 miles farther south on June 24, 1858, and it was then called Fort Garland."—Col. M. L. Crimmins, "Fort Massachusetts, First United States Military Post in Colorado."—*The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XIV, No. 4 (July, 1937), 128, 131.



later, in 1937, I asked Don Juan Ulibarri, who lived at Farisita, (you remember him), to take me and Bill on horseback to the fort. He always told me his father brought him over the trail that you just described, up Sangre de Cristo to McDowell Park and down to the head of Oak Creek. He told me he spent his first night in the Huerfano country in an old fort. He said he remembered it was built by the Spanish people to protect themselves, I mean built by the Spanish Government's money. And when they spent the night there, there was nothing but walls left. The windows were small holes where the cold came in on them that night. They built a fire in a fireplace and slept there. He took Bill [Thach] and me up there and showed us where it was. All that is left was a rectangular-

shaped foundation, and he pointed out where the fireplaces and everything were, showed us where the Indians and the Spanish had been buried on a hill up above. We found signs of there having been a campgrounds, too. Now, that is the earliest fort built by any government in this country. Now, Bill Sharp, this is the fourth record. You and I got started on the location of that fort. Now you tell me about the mine.



Upper: Goose Lake, reservoir site at foot of Mount Blanca. Lower: Same area years later (about 1915). Tim Hudson, husband of Addie V. Hudson, on horseback.

Bill. Just north of that, I was told by one of the old-timers named "Buckskin," because he always wore buckskin, his real name was Manuel Martinez. He lived on Pass Creek around Spring Branch, a little tributary of Pass Creek. He said when he was a boy herding goats he had seen three fellows working that mine, and they were pulling ore up out of this shaft with a burro, over a pulley. They were surprised by the Indians, and they covered this shaft up. It wasn't a very deep shaft. One man got away. He drew a map of this place which he left in the hands of a niece in Kansas.

Mrs. Thach. Where was the Government trail? On the other side, the third branch?

Bill. It started just the other side of Red Wing, just a little east of the bluff, and over toward Poison Canyon, up along the steep, rocky hill, and upon the Mosca prairie. It comes out right by the old glacier, you know that old wet meadow there on the mountain. It went up the ridge south of Mosca Pass to the top and down the ridge on the other side by Rush Gulch, and came out there. The wagon road was built later, which was a toll road. Fellow by the name of Holley, Doug Holley, built the toll road.

Mrs. Thach. Do you know anything about Goose Lake? I understand it was below the McMillan mine. Can you tell me about it?

Bill. It was Goose Ranch. They called it the Goose Ranch. Later on there was a reservoir site made by Bob Smith, Billy Martin, and Bill Curtis. It was a flat, swampy place. The way it got its name was from geese flying east over the valley, stopped there at the reservoir to rest in the grass and stuff. There was times when it was just black with geese.

Mrs. Thach. Was the reservoir ever full of water?

Bill. Oh, yes. It was used for several years, and later called Goose Lake. In 1902 a big rain came down there and filled this reservoir, knocked it out and the flood came on down, and knocked out another reservoir dam down below. It was built by the Meyer brothers. It really came down. It ruined that whole canyon there. There were great piles of timber and rocks over what was once a beautiful area.

Mrs. Thach. Do you know who this is on the horse in this picture? It's Tim Hudson. His wife, Addie Hudson, wrote a poem, and the book of poetry that was called "The Land Where the Cowboy Grows." That picture was one used to help tell the story of the book of poetry. I just love it. Now, we were talking about old-timers, away up at the head of the Huerfano, high as you could live. These were the headwaters of the Huerfano. Do you know anything about Mr. McIntyre?

Bill. Yes, there were three of the McIntyre brothers, and Archie Mack, another old-timer. Alfred McIntyre came out later than the others, and homesteaded at Sharpsdale (named

for my two uncles on the Sharp side). Later he was getting older, and sold out and moved to Walsenburg, where he died. His older daughter, Clara, married Alvan Neally, a school teacher, and the younger daughter, Mae, married Will Wycoff, who had a drugstore in Walsenburg. He sold out to the man who owned the building where the Fawk Drug store is now. The McIntyre's sister married a man by the name of John Moncrieff.

Mrs. Thach. Do you remember about Alvi McIntyre being a surveyor? You used to tell me he surveyed a lot.

Bill. He was a civil engineer for the McMillan Mining Company. He helped to survey for the mining companies in north-western Colorado, which got the first uranium ore for Madame Curie, the French woman, who discovered radium.¹⁰

Mrs. Thach. Did you know we were talking about Bill Curtis a while ago. His father died about a year ago, and you know Pete Goemer died today, and they are burying James Tressler today, Nov. 21, 1957. What do you remember about the town of Gardner? Was it there when you were a boy?

Bill. The town of Gardner¹¹ was named after a man named Gardner from Boston, Mass. He came out here with Mr. Baxter. Old man Baxter settled above Badito. Another fellow by the name of Davis, they called him "Shaky" Davis. When he died they buried him on the hill about a quarter of a mile north of what is now known as the Chester Bartlett place, and later on Mr. Baxter requested he be buried by the side of him, up on the ridge, and when Mr. Gardner died he was buried right in Gardner, at the bend of the Huerfano there where a house now stands. And as near as I can remember it's built right over his grave, but they don't know it.

Fred E. Cowing, Maurice Cowing's father, came to Gardner in 1883, and built the only real home in the whole country, at that time. It was built of adobe and had bay windows. Last week it burned down. That's the one that stood there close to Fred Waggoner's. Mr. Cowing and Mr. James DeCamp had the store there. Cowing bought him out later on. There was Thomas Brown, Joe Brown, and Dan Costillo, who came from Ohio about the same time. Thomas bought the old John White place, a man who came here in 1868. Then there were the Addingtons, and the Watts, and Quillians, and a number of others who came from Georgia. Old man Butts had the first store in Gardner. It used to stand where the Ranger Station stands

¹⁰ In 1898, Monsieur and Madame Curie, French scientists, recognized the value of carnotite ore, because of the unusual high percentage of radium in it. Hundreds of tons of ore, including pitchblende, were shipped to the Curies from the Paradox area (western Colorado) and from Gilpin County, which they used in experimental work.—"Early Discovery of Uranium Ore in Colorado," by T. M. McKee, *The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XXXII, No. 3 (July, 1955), 196.

¹¹ In 1872, Herbert Gardner, son of Henry J. Gardner, former Governor of Massachusetts, started ranching in the Huerfano Valley. The town was named for the Gardner family.—"Place Names in Colorado," *The Colorado Magazine*, XVIII, No. 2 (March, 1941), 60.

now. There's where DeCamp bought him out, and later Mr. Cowing bought out DeCamp. Then a fellow named Jack Roberts had a store further down, close to where the post office is now. There was a hotel there. The Huerfano River washed them both away. They were adobe buildings. J. B. Hudson, Tim's father, also had a big roller flour mill there at Gardner. He operated it for years. It also was run by water power. Across the creek from Butts' there in Gardner, a man, Jake Patterson, was another old-timer. Dan and Nance Reed, Williams and Potts—there was a whole bunch from Georgia moved up there. Most from Georgia and Tennessee.

At the head of the Muddy there was an English Colony. Billy Squires, called "English Billy," came about 1875. I can't remember all the names, but a few. There was Frank Brooks and Eskridge. Eskridge moved to Pueblo and was a city policeman there. Squires moved his cattle over on the Western Slope, and Eskridge used to get the cowboys in city hall and say "all right, boys, the town is unlocked, and the key's thrown in the well, so help yourselves." (He was Chief of Police.)

Mrs. Thach. Now, let's come on down the Huerfano River, and talk about the German Colony. The Harmes started right there at Farisita, which was in 1860 called Huerfano Canyon, and later Talpa, and in 1921, changed to Farisita,¹² where I grew up.

Bill. Yes, Harmes Harlicker and the Thornes came in 'way late. Old fellow named Fouch, a Frenchman, came into Badito and built the houses there. He had a store and post office. It was closest post office to us people up around Malachite, and Red Wing, and Gardner. The mail came from Walsenburg. Tom Sproul brought it out.

Just below Badito there was a Miller place, later the Fowler place, and just below there was a mill built there by Captain Hayden, father of the late Charles and Dana Hayden. He had two children. Then farther down there was Perry Kimbrell, he was an old-timer, too.

Mrs. Thach. Yes, I know. We bought his ranch from his grandson, Abbey Kimbrell. We are the second owners of the Kimbrell ranch. I found some papers which proved he bought some cattle in 1862 with the double circle brand. It is now our brand. Thank you, Bill Sharp, and here's wishing you a very happy birthday with many more to come.¹³

¹² Farisita, Huerfano County, was first called Huerfano Canyon, but when the post office was established, the shorter name of Talpa was adopted. Confusion with Talpa, New Mexico, necessitated another change. Asperidon S. Faris, the postmaster, suggested Farisita (Sp. "little Faris girl"), the nickname by which his eldest daughter, Jeannette, was affectionately known to the Spanish-speaking residents of the town.—"Place Names in Colorado," *The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. XVIII, No. 1 (January, 1941), 25.

¹³ Bill Sharp passed away in April, 1959, before another birthday came.—*J.F.T.*

Tales About Tom Sharp

COMPILED BY AGNES WRIGHT SPRING

Tales about Tom Sharp, who ran a small trading post in the Huerfano Valley in the 1870's and 1880's were published anonymously in the *Denver Field and Farm* in the 1920's. A collection of these tales has been preserved in *Dawson's Scrapbooks* in the Library of the State Historical Society of Colorado. In order to conserve space some condensation has been made, but on the whole the stories are here reproduced as written by a reporter for *Field and Farm*.

The Utes Visit Tom Sharp

Ouray's band came over the mountains late every summer ostensibly on a trading and hunting expedition, but really to get something to eat. Every time the Utes came over the old trail that led down from Mosca Pass, they camped for several days in the beautiful valley above Badito in Huerfano County. On these occasions Chief Ouray would invariably pay regular visits to his good friend Tom Sharp along about meal times.

Tom was batching in his little store near what later was named Malachite, and was always glad to see Ouray. It was Ouray's polite custom to sit on a bench outside the door while his host cooked the best beefsteak on the ranch.

Tom would spread the table and set the dishes with great care. When everything was in readiness he would invite Ouray in, and the chief lost no time in slipping into his place opposite his good white friend. He was pretty well up on table manners, and could handle tools as cleverly as anyone. No man ever hid away a square meal with greater enjoyment, and it did Tom Sharp a powerful heap of good to see how the boss of the Indians appreciated his culinary accomplishments. Ouray disproved the old adage of the poet Dante who said that "the bread of the stranger is bitter and his staircase hard to climb."

Whenever the repast was finished, Ouray arose with great dignity, and invariably laid a half dollar silver piece on the table. Just as frequently Tom Sharp politely pushed it back at him. While the coin remained there untouched, Ouray went on to explain in English that he had taught his people, in accepting favors of this kind from the palefaces, always to pay for what they got, besides thanking the donors for their hospitality.—*Dawson's Scrapbooks*, Volume 8, page 497.

Tom Sharp Could Shoot

Ouray and Chipeta had become good friends of Tom Sharp as they often camped beneath the large cottonwoods where buzzards roosted on the Upper Huerfano. Sharp called his ranch Buzzard Roost.

On one particular day while the Utes were lounging around

in front of the *tienda* (store), they called Sharp's attention to three coyotes sitting on a hill about two hundred yards distant.

Now the Utes had a deep reverence for the coyote, and spoke of it as "My Grandfather's Dog." They also had high regard for the yampa, or bear.

When Tom Sharp saw those pesky beasts of prey sitting out there he stepped inside and got his Winchester. The Indians never thought for a minute that their white friend could hit a lobo at such a distance, or they might have protested against his taking a shot. But when he asked which of them he should get, the chief said the middle one looked good to him as an impossibility. Crack went the trusty rifle and the middle coyote spun around three or four times and fell dead, while the other two scampered off to the shelter of the rocks. The Utes were so pleased at the marksmanship that they danced with glee and let out a *ki yi* as a token of their appreciation, although they inwardly mourned the untimely end of their grandfather's dog.



One end of Tom Sharp's Post

Numa James

A day or so later, one of the tribe strayed in and pointed to a hawk that had alighted in the big cottonwood six hundred feet to the north. "Bet you no shooum," said the brave. Tom took an offhand aim, pulled the trigger, and the bird fell out of the tree. Mr. Ute grunted approvingly.

On the following day, six of the boys from the Indian camp came over, and Tom noticed that each carried a deerskin under his arm. The Indian who had been there the day before was the spokesman and announced that he and his two friends had come to bet their pelts with the other three braves that their good *amigo*, Sharpy, could shoot a bird out of the big

tree at one pooh, as they described it. Sharp was no gambler at such games, and did not care to take the chance when a wager was up, but finally said he would try it if a bird showed up.

They waited patiently for half an hour, when an unlucky hawk flew into the big hoodoo tree. The boys called Sharp, and he came out with his gun. He located the game, took a quick squint along the barrel, and down came the bird. The winners went around and gathered up the deer hides with much noise. After that the bucks were always teasing Sharp to go hunting with them, and sometimes he did so, going halvers with them on the game they saw first, and at this trick they were keener than he was.

He got in Dutch, however, when he refused to go down to the Rattlesnake Buttes with them to fight a war party of Apaches, who had come up from the south to get their scalps, for that was not Tom's kind of sport.—*Dawson's Scrapbooks*, Vol. 8, p. 473.

Tom Sharp's Dog—The Chained Menace

The dog tied in front of Tom Sharp's little store on the upper Huerfano always let out an ungodly howl every time the Utes with their drag poles (travois) came down the Mosca Trail. There was no mistaking the announcement. Sharp had the contented mind that is a continual feast, and paid but little attention to the canine's ordinary whimperings. But on this particular occasion the yowling was so pronounced that he went to the door to investigate. Half a dozen young bucks were unslinging their bows to fill the dog full of arrows, whereupon Sharp stepped back and picked up his Winchester. He drew a quick bead on the party, and commanded them not to shoot or he would let them have it. They knew what the white man's big pooh gun meant if it spoke, and eased off a bit.

Just then Ouray rode up and begged Sharp not to shoot.

"Get out and fight them with your fists," he said logically, "or pound them with a club, but do not shoot them."

Sharp set aside his weapon while the chief got down and entered the store. This closed the incident, but that evening four of the band came up from camp and, half circling the dog as they sat on their ponies, they began teasing the chained animal, at the same time taking care to keep just beyond its reach. Tom came out, caught the dog by the collar and held it back, at the same time warning the Indian boys to go easy and leave the dog alone.

The Indians wanted to fight the man, the dog, and the whole neighborhood, and were becoming a bit nasty, when Sharp suddenly let the dog out the full length of its chain. The brute was pretty ugly by this time and made such a

ferocious leap at the nearest pony that its shoulder was ripped pretty frightfully by the dog's claws.

Tom got ready for battle as he thought they were dead sure to have a fight. It was, however, only a bluff. The Indians scampered back to camp, glad to escape with their lives. Nor did they ever come around again to pick another quarrel with the man who was not afraid of them.—*Dawson's Scrapbooks*, Vol. 8, p. 487.

A Horse Race

Nothing pleased an Indian better than to skunk a white man in a horse race, and they were usually at the game every time they came together on friendly terms. It was along in the Indian summer of 1869. The Utes had come over the mountains for their annual buffalo hunt on the plains. A few days in advance of the expedition, Ouray, or Ulay as he was called by his people, sent out one of his lieutenants with the best race horse in the whole Ute country. This underchief appeared at the ranch of Francisco Manzanares on the Upper Huerfano, above Tom Sharp's place, and went into camp for the purpose of training his *cavallo verde* (green horse), as he called it.

Every day he was seen out on the trail breezing his steed, but no one paid any attention to the performance. One day old Francisco came down to Tom Sharp's store and asked if he would come up and judge a little horse race that they were to have the next morning, between his old baldface and the Indians' "Ute," as the boys had come to call the long-legged animal from over the hills.

The next morning Sharp went up onto the mesa where they had a half-mile straightway, and was met by Manzanares with the offer of a bribe if Sharp would declare the race in his favor.

"Never," replied the judge firmly, and turned to go away, when the Mexican more anxiously than before, offered him first one cow and then two. But Tom Sharp stood pat and was going to lick his neighbor for his dishonest persistence. Francisco gave up and invited Tom to judge the dash anyway, no matter how the race might come out.

The Indian pony simply ran away from the baldface, as anybody with half an eye could see he was capable of doing. He was in reality a thoroughbred.

The following morning there arrived a party of white sports from the Clifton ranch at the Red River crossing down in New Mexico, with a pretty good looking racer. They, too, went into training on the bottoms, and announced they had come up to make a race with Ouray, who would show up in a day or so. This party was made up of such fellows as Thike Stockton, George W. Thompson, Al G. Thornhill, and Tom Boggs. A day or so later, a bunch of sports got in from Pueblo,

as well as from the ranches down on the plains, for they had heard about the races and had come with all kinds of money to skin the Indians.

That afternoon in came the whole tribe of Uncompahgres in Ouray's band. They had just been whipped in a fight with the Arapahoes and were not feeling very good over it, but were friendly enough with the whites. They had a good deal to say about the race which was set for the next afternoon. When the time came, the whole countryside arrived. Everybody was betting his cash. The judges were chosen from the crowd, as was the custom. Chief Ouray, sitting on his horse, spoke up promptly and said: "I want Sharpy."

This declaration was a surprise, as they all thought he would, of course, choose an Indian. The selection rather pleased the whites, who in turn, named Baldy Scott as their judge.

After a lot of swaggering around, and the usual flashing of long green, with the laying of bets on the ground in the good, old Indian style, they cleared away for the start. It certainly looked like a horse race from the scratch.

A little mite of an Indian kid, stripped to the breech clout, was strapped onto the Ute's horse. Little old Betts had the other mount, and after some fussing around at the start Baldy finally sent them off in a fair getaway.

It was the prettiest race they had ever seen. The contestants were so closely matched that they ran cheek to jowl under heavy flogging to the finish. It was evident that the Indian had the edge. The whites came cluttering around Tom Sharp crying, "Tied race. Tied race," as was the habit when the losers thought they were beaten. Ouray sitting on his horse just behind Sharp at the finish merely gave two little grunts, and said nothing.

The clamor for the tie became a tumult, but Tom Sharp standing out like a Trojan, and towering above all of them kept his nerve. When a lull came, he cried out in a loud, clear voice, "It is the Indian's race." And the verdict went. Ouray gave two more grunts.

The winners gathered in their plunder from the ground, divided it among themselves, while the whites pulled out right away, and got home as best they could after contributing more than twenty thousand simoleons in the Ute exchequer.

It developed that Francisco Manzanares' attempt to give Sharp the two cows was only a ruse to test his honesty, and this is why Ouray picked him to judge the Indians' horse.—*Dawson's Scrapbooks*, Vol. 8, p. 505.

The Mule Drive

The sheep were coming in on the Badito range like the seven plagues of Egypt, and the cattlemen began to imagine the day of judgment had come. It was along in the first week

of April, 1875, and Tom Sharp had gone back to his home town, Palmyra, Missouri, to get a carload of brood mares. While there it occurred to him that he could use half a dozen big mules for ranch work, and as they were cheap enough at \$75.00 a head, he began looking around. On one place the boss discouraged him from buying a pair of husky rascals that he admired because, as he said, they were too ornery for any use, and had the mean habit of running everything off the premises.

"They are dead sore on sheep," he explained apologetically, "and just naturally chase them all over the pasture so we can't keep sheep any more."

He couldn't have put up a stronger talk to sell those mean mules.

"If I can just get those mules out to Colorado," Sharp thought, "I'll give those sheepmen a run for their money."

The more the glib Missourian exposed the bad habits of his hybrids, the more Tom Sharp wanted that particular span of bad actors. As a result of it all those four-legged Missourians got on the excursion train for Colorado and came through with the other stock.

After the mules limbered out for a day or two they were then branded with the Lazy S bar. They were placed at the head of the seventy-five horses on the ranch, and led by hand out over the ridge a mile to the eastward where 1500 Merinos belonging to Antonio Archuleta, had crossed the dead line and were grazing dangerously close in upon the preserves of Tom Sharp.

Just as soon as the mules got their bearings they espied the sheep and the outdoor sport began. They made a desperate dash at the flock followed by the whole cavvy, and ran down the frightened *carneros* like a house afire. They were knocked and trampled to death in merciless fashion. The herder was glad to get out with his life.

In an hour the range was completely cleaned off. Then the horse herd was moved out to the south to repeat the punishment on another flock browsing in among chico and rabbit-brush.

The next morning Tom Sharp got a call from the owners of the *ovejás* that had been run down. He listened to their tale of woe and replied, "Well, you remember a month ago you told me, when I complained about the sheep, that it was a free country, and I guess it is as free for my pet mules as for your wicked sheep." This ended the interview.

The wild beasts from Missouri soon discovered the presence of mountain lions rummaging around the mesa at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo range where they had created great havoc for years, but they did not last long after the mules got onto the game. Every puma was driven out as the sheep had been.—*Dawson's Scrapbooks*, Vol. 8, p. 453.

The Waite-Diaz Correspondence and the Mexican Dollar Plan

BY JOHN R. MORRIS*

The plan of Governor Davis H. Waite of Colorado to defy the currency policies of the national administration in Washington by sending Colorado silver bullion to Mexico to be minted into silver dollars, is one of the more interesting aspects of the silver crisis in Colorado, during the stormy days of Populist rule in the early 1890's.

Silver mining at this time was the leading industry in Colorado. Business, including the railroads, owed much of its continuing prosperity to this industry. Silver came into its own with the important Leadville strike in 1878, and production rose steadily in several areas thereafter, especially with the advent of the railroads to the mining areas, many of which were well tucked away in the mountains.

The silver dollar had been demonetized in 1873. With increasing production in the late 1880's and a problem for market outlets, the silverites complained of a gradual but steady decline in the price of silver. Government attempts at subsidization of the industry had occurred with the passage of the Bland-Allison Act in 1878, and the Sherman Silver Purchase Act in 1890. Through these acts the government agreed to buy so much silver at stated intervals. These efforts were analogous to later attempts by government to aid agriculture by purchasing surpluses, and in the process attempting to sustain the price for the commodity. Silver men regarded these acts as half-way measures at best and later even as betrayal of the silver industry.

In 1893, occurred the worst depression the country had experienced up to that time. Especially hard hit were the silver mines in Colorado. International events such as the closing of mints in India to silver did not help matters. The Cleveland Administration in Washington asked for, and finally obtained later in the year, the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act. The price of silver plummeted downward to 62¢ an ounce in four days during mid-summer. Many silver mines and smelters closed, adversely affecting other segments of the Colorado economy. Many banks closed. Labor experienced serious cuts in wages or loss of a job altogether.

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The unemployed poured into Denver seeking relief. Many left Colorado as the railroads offered low fares to the Missouri River. While the Cleveland Administration might cling to laissez-faire notions, along with some others, in less adversely affected areas and simply ride out the storm, the demand for some kind of action in Colorado was too great to be ignored.

Governor Waite was a man of action who could be easily aroused under such conditions. He came from the silver mining boom town of Aspen in the heart of a sturdy silver mining area. A number of friends and acquaintances owned silver mines. His son-in-law had considerable money invested in silver. A member of the Knights of Labor, Waite championed the cause of labor and the poorer classes, the ones usually hardest hit during a period of economic distress. Waite was also an "easy-money" advocate. Economic ills could be cured or alleviated, he firmly believed, by monetary panaceas such as issuance of paper money and the free and unlimited coinage of silver.

Several schemes were advanced to aid silver locally in the face of an unsympathetic government in Washington. Making silver coin in Colorado was one such idea; however, it was quickly discarded on constitutional grounds. Another plan which appeared constitutionally defensible to Waite involved sending Colorado silver to Mexico to be coined. In this way, the mines would again hum with activity, business would receive the needed shot-in-the-arm, miners and other unemployed laborers would return to work, and the people would have an abundant currency which they had sadly lacked for years.

An exchange of letters occurred between Waite and Diaz in the fall of 1893. The following appeal of Governor Waite to President Diaz of the Mexican Republic was written on September 19, 1893.¹

Your Excellency:

It is not impossible that the silver producing states of our union may avail themselves of that clause in our Constitution which provides that a state may make gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts. In as much as when the U. S. Constitution was adopted and went into operation (1789) the only gold and silver coins in existence, so far as the United States were concerned, were foreign coins, it seems clear that the states have a right to make the Mexican dollar a legal tender in Colorado for the payment of all state dues and all debts collected in our state. It is quite probable that other states will follow Colorado if we lead off in this matter. I am anxious to know upon what terms the mints of Mexico would receive and coin for us our bullion silver.

Will you please answer at your earliest convenience?

With sentiments of the highest respect for yourself, personally,

¹ Davis H. Waite to President Diaz of Mexico, September 19, 1893, Waite MSS., State Archives, Denver, Colorado.

and for a more intimate and extensive interchange of commerce between Mexico and our nation, I am

Very respectfully yours,

Davis H. Waite
Gov. Colorado

The initial probe made by Waite was successful in enlisting the sympathetic desire of Diaz to cooperate as is attested by the letter in reply.²

City of Mexico
Oct. 11, 1893

Davis H. Waite, Governor of Colorado, U. S.A.

Esteemed Sir—From Governor General Don Pedro Rincon Gelardo, your esteemed letter of the nineteenth of last month is received. I have not answered until now owing to absence from the city.

The subject to which you refer is really of the very first importance to the commercial relations of both nations, and I hope you will inform me of the results reached in your country in an effort to get legal status to the Mexican dollar in the territories of the various states of the American Union.

In obedience to your wish, I leave the pleasure to manifest or make known the tribunal of the laws of Mexico. The amounts of silver imported from the United States are subject to the same formalities and to pay the same fees and duties for coinage as the silver produced in the republic. These fees and duties are: 4.41 per cent for coinage, ½ per cent for coats of arms, and besides this there would be the expense of assaying.

I take this occasion to offer you my infinite services and intentions.

Porfirio Diaz

Even though Diaz might be sympathetic to Waite's proposal, many others were not. Called into special session by Governor Waite to deal with the economic crisis, a non-Populist state legislature gave his Mexican dollar scheme a cool reception. Many newspapers bitterly assailed it. However, this was not unusual for the Waite program in general. What was unusual is that leading advocates of free silver and staunch supporters and members of his own official family refused to go along.

Governor Waite asked Charles S. Thomas, a Denver lawyer and a leader in the free silver movement, to state his opinion on the Mexican dollar plan. Thomas replied that "federal authority on financial matters is not only supreme but seems to be exclusive."³ Various schemes for state economic relief in general he felt would not work.

Besides the question of constitutionality, there were doubts raised on economic grounds. Thomas B. Buchanan, a member of the Department of Public Works in Denver and an old-time Greenbacker who believed fervently in the Populist cause, forecast dire economic results for Colorado if the plan should

² *Denver Republican*, October 11, 1893, p. 1.

³ Charles S. Thomas to Governor Waite, October 9, 1893, Waite Papers, State Archives, Denver, Colorado.

be put into effect.⁴ Gold coins and also United States silver dollars would go out of use. The plan would "produce a total dislocation in the monetary relations of Colorado."⁵ Colorado would be isolated from other states unless other states followed Colorado's lead. Colorado would have a silver standard placing it on the same par of exchange and general money standard as Mexico, Japan, and China. Great confusion and complications in trade and business relations with people of other states would be the result. People would simply not accept such dislocation, Buchanan argued, unless a greater emergency existed.

How do we account then for Waite's actions? Was he being exceedingly naïvé? Or was he just bluffing in order to force action in Washington? Fuller doubts if Waite "ever anticipated favorable action on his fantastic project."⁶ The Governor expected state relief in more immediate ways, Fuller contends. The implication may be drawn from this that Waite was bluffing. I cannot agree. Quite the contrary, he felt it was utterly impossible on the basis of past experience to influence either the Republicans or Democrats to act favorably in the cause of silver. Hence the need for desperate action on the state level. Perusal of the Waite letters reveals no hint whatsoever of bluff to even his most intimate associates.

Where Waite erred, as did many Populist leaders nationally, was on the "doctrine of immediacy." He underestimated the ability of the nation and Colorado to recover from the economic crisis without the occurrence of far-reaching political changes. He felt the crisis to be so deep that drastic monetary reform through a new Congress and a new Administration was inevitable by the election of 1896. Therefore, Colorado would not long be isolated by a plan such as envisioned in the Mexican Dollar idea. Waite was not naïvé enough to believe Colorado could hold out independently against the rest of the country. Indeed, as evidenced by his letter to Diaz of September 19, 1893, he wanted Colorado to act as the vanguard and believed other states would soon follow.⁷ This action of the West, in turn, would be a key to national change in 1896.

⁴ Thomas B. Buchanan to Governor Waite, November 20, 1893, Waite Papers, State Archives, Denver, Colorado.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Leon Fuller, *History of the Peoples' Party in Colorado*, unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Wisconsin, 1932.

⁷ Waite-Diaz Letter, September 19, 1893, *op. cit.*

John Lawrence, "Father of Saguache"

John Lawrence, an outstanding pioneer of Colorado, was born in St. Louis, Mo., November 15, 1835. His parents died when he was quite young and he was placed in an orphanage, where he remained until he was 15. From that time on he made his own way in the world. After working for Iowa farmers for nine years, in the neighborhood of Dubuque, young Lawrence crossed the western plains with an ox team.

Arriving in Colorado in 1859, he began freighting, then mined, or did whatever he could get to do around Denver, Georgetown, and Central City.

In 1861, John Lawrence located at Conejos, in the San Luis Valley, where he formed a partnership with J. B. Woodson. Six years later, Lawrence and Woodson went north, and took up land along Saguache Creek, where they began ranching. The country, at that time, was a part of Conejos County. There were only a few white settlers above the Rio Grande, among whom were Nathan Russell and George Neidhardt.

According to the *Saguache Crescent*, February 20, 1908:

As a boy John Lawrence's educational advantages were very limited; but he was the possessor of a wonderful memory and accumulated a rich store of valuable information by reading, observing and actual experience which made him intellectually the superior of many who had had far greater opportunities in youth.

He was a natural linguist, and after locating in the valley it was but a short time until he had learned the language of the Utes and mastered the Mexican language. He soon became an expert. He was the official interpreter for the Mexican people in the first territorial legislature and played an important part in making treaties between the United States government and the Ute Indians.

Mr. Lawrence's name is prominently associated with important events of the San Luis Valley history. It was he who framed the bill that organized and established the county of Saguache. It was he who established the first public school in the county. It was his influence upon the Ute Chief Ouray who was a personal friend of his, that made removal of the Indians from the San Luis Valley a comparatively easy task.

In politics Mr. Lawrence was a Democrat. He was the first county supt. of schools, was at different times county judge, assessor and commissioner. He served two terms in the state legislature, being a member of the 12th and the 16th general assembly. Some years ago Mr. Lawrence disposed of his interest in ranch land and went into the sheep business, at which he was very successful and acquired quite a fortune. After disposing of his ranch he moved to the town of Saguache.¹ His wife died in the year 1901 and since that time he has lived with his nephew, Daniel Vigil. He was several times elected mayor of Saguache and held that office at the time of his death [February 13, 1908].

He was engaged in the mercantile business, being the senior partner of the hardware firm of Lawrence and Williams of Saguache. He was a kind hearted man and had many good traits of character which made friends of all who knew him. He was a great friend of the poor and will be greatly missed.

Mr. Lawrence was buried in Hillside cemetery, Saguache,¹ with services by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of which he was a member.

Through the generosity of Mrs. Celia Vigil Rusk of Saguache, nine "journals" kept by John Lawrence were recently presented to the State Historical Society of Colorado. We are pleased to publish material from these journals. The following article is an exact reproduction of the beginning of Book I. Although there is a sameness to many entries, all have been included, in order to show the daily routine of those early settlers along Saguache Creek.—*Editor.*

Memorandum

In accordance with a command of God, which says: "in the sweat of the brow, shalt thou eat bread all the days of thy life," I, John Lawrence having passed thirty-one years of my life eating bread, and: rather *poor breads*, in this way, was anxious to change it for better, and, as: to make said change, it was necessary to change from my old, to a new home, I therefore changed, from Conejos to Saguache, and that I may the better appreciate said change, I was prompted to keep this memorandum, dating from the 28th day of February A.D. 1867, being the day on which I started from Conejos.

Feb. 28, 1867. Started from Conejos for Saguache with two ox teams, & one horse team, loaded with wheat, oats, provisions, & implements for farming. Was accompanied by Sylvestre Larux, who had his cart loaded with work bench & lumber, Was also accompanied by Longino Veite, who came with me to farm on shears, also had along with me Andres Woodson who is a Navejo Indian boy belonging to J. B. Woodson. We arrived Safe at el Rio de la Jara said night without any accident, with the exception that one of the wheels of Berals cart broke down, & we had to leave it with all its load on the road. the road this day was very heavy, snowy, & muddy. James B. Woodson & Santeago Manchego came to our camp this night.

March 1, " Juan de Jesus Manchez & Jose Ant. Moran arrived at our camp for breakfast. they also are two men who are going with me to farm on shears, the first named being the boss herder. this day we stayed in camp as we had to get the heard of cattle together, nothing of importance happen.

March 2, 1867. Started with the heard of cattle belonging to J. B. Woodson, & Santeago Manchego, accompanied by Longino Veite, Juan de Jesus Manchego & Jose Ant. Moran as renters, also Andres & Gabriel Woodson, the two Navajos boys of Woodson's.—also Jose Andres Chaves or Manchego as herder boy for Santeago Manchego. We had a fine day, and

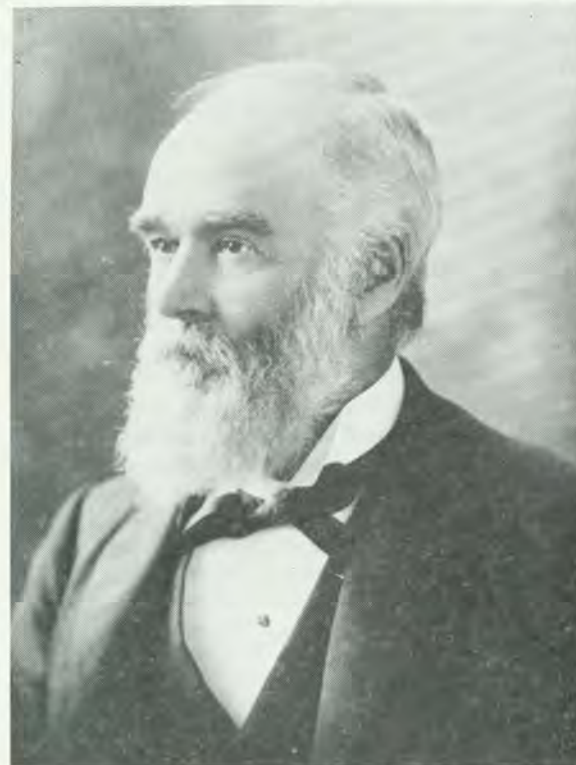
¹ Saguache, Saguache County. The name is derived from an Indian word meaning "blue earth," or "water at the blue earth," and refers to springs some twenty miles above the town on the Saguache River. The first settlement on the river, near the present town was made by Nathan Russell and others in 1866. The next year Otto Mears, John Lawrence and associates started the settlement that became Saguache.—LeRoy R. Hafen. "Colorado Cities—The Founding and the Origin of Their Names," *The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. IX, No. 5 (September, 1932), 181.

arrived & camped that night at the *Piedra Pintada*. [Painted Rock]. Woodson & Manchego turned back to Conejos at el Rio de la Jara.

March 3, " Started with the whole outfit and crossed el Rio Grande del Norte & camped below la Loma. everything all right.

March 4 " Stayed in camp all day as it snowed all day and was very cold. We there killed a *collote* (coyote).

March 5, " In the morning it was snowing, but cleared up about ten o'clock. we cut the logs out of the road from where



JOHN LAWRENCE
Pioneer

we were camped to the crossing of the River and I then started with everything all right and arrived early & camped on *el Rio de la Garita*

March 6 " We passed a disagreeable night, but got up early & hitched up the cattle and started, but as we were about to start, we found that the horses of Juan de Jesus Manchego and Jose Ant. Moran were lost the cattle teams started, when Antonio Mascareño came to camp with my sorrel horse. when Juan took him & Antonio Moran my big bay horse and went

to look for their horses. I then started & at *el Rio del Carnero* I delivered a bull of Woodson's to Ant. Mascareño, and got one Muly Bull from him I also delivered a bull for Juan to one of the Chacon's, said bulls were all yearlings. I then started on and passed the teams, and came into the mouth of this Valley, where I pitched camp for the night unhitched my horses, tied two calves that I had been hawling to the wheels and went over to [Nathan] Russells. I came back early & met the wagons, & went with them into camp. the boys found their horses so everything was all right. & Juan killed a *Liebre* [hare].

March 7, " Started with the boys & measured off seven clames where we are now located. Went back to camp hitched up and moved the whole outfit in and pitched our permanent camp where those log houses on Woodson's clame now stands" every one appears well contented, and all is well.

March 8, " Got up early unloaded one ox wagon & went with it and the horse wagon after polls. Got back all wright.

March 9, 1867. Started early with three wagons for polls got back early, without axident.

March 10, " Hitched up the horses to the wagon and went down to Russells & the other Ranches. seen Fred Walsen,² John Greilig, E. R. Harris & Otto Mears,³ who was in from Conejos. was told to come down for my potatoes on the morrow. I was accompanied by Beral.

March 11, " Hitched up early, & went down after potatoes, on my arrival at Jose Prudencio Garcia, who was living on his clame in camp style with a large family I found that an old man by the name of Jose Antonio Borrego, who they had brought from Conejos, with them, was dead, he having died the same morning. I also found that there was a lack of action on the part of both Americans & Mexicans in proceeding to burry him in anything like the style that anyone claiming the name of a Christian should have, I therefore talked to the different parties, when myself & Mears gave the nails & lumber & Mr. Harris made the coffin. As soon as the coffin was made, I had the body put into it and started with Prudencio & son and Ricardo—to hunt a place for a burrying ground. I found

² Since Lawrence wrote "now stands," it is apparent that this entry was written after the log houses of Woodson were erected. See entry on April 2, in which Lawrence says, "the above Memorandum was all writing on this and the preceding day." Evidently he kept some day by day notes then wrote up his Memorandum.

³ Fred Walsen was a pioneer German merchant, who in 1873 platted the town which bears his name. Previously it was a small village, La Plaza de los Leones, named for Don Miguel Antonio Leon, an early settler.—LeRoy R. Hafen, "Colorado Cities—Their Founding, Origin, and Names," *The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. IX, No. 5 (September, 1932), 183.

⁴ Otto Mears, pathfinder and railway builder, came to this country from Russia when he was ten years old. After serving three years in the Union Army, Mears reached Colorado in 1865. Through his friendship with Chief Ouray he assisted in negotiating treaties. He lived at Conejos, Saguache, and Ouray. Because of his transportation activities, he was known as "the Pathfinder of the San Juan." He led pack trains, built toll rolls, maintained freighting outfits, and was a builder of railways.—*Editor*.

a nice nole at the point of the mountain on the south side near the mouth of the valley where we burried him. So that in giving this, the first man claiming the name of a white man a deacent burrial or at least as deacent one as I wish for, we established the Saguache *burrying ground*. This said Jose Prudencio Garcia accompanied me also from Conejos with his family, after the burrial I went back and got from Mears six *fanegas* [bushels] of Potatoes & three for Beral, and then went home. while I was gone the boys went & got two loads of polls.

March 12, " Started boys with two Wagons for polls, & with the two small boys commenced and layed the foundation for the three west rooms.

March 13 & 14th was spent in covering and chinking house.

March 15 " On the night of the 14th not knowing of anything for the boys to do, I told Longino, Moran and Gabriel to go to the mountains after polls, the next day, and to put one load of them on Longino's claim & the other on Gabriel's. they appeared to be well pleased, but when they hitched up in the morning, a dispute arose between me and Longino about who should help him, when one word brought on another, when I told him that if he did not like my way he might go to the Devil as I wanted no dallying of words about what I wanted done. he got mad and left. I then started Juan in his place, they went but had bad luck leaving one wagon in the mountains.

March 16, 1867 was spent in hauling stone for chimnies & in cutting out *aseque* [acequia] at river to get the water into the *arolla* [arroya] that runs by the house. had bad luck as the ground was so badly frozen that we could not get it deep enough to get the water in.

March 17, " Hitched up the horses & went down to the lower Ranchos, accompanied by Beral Juan & Moran went down on horseback I there heard that Longino had been telling different stories about why he left, went & seen him and gave him a H--l of a talking too, and left him. got some sasafress, sugar, & nails from Isaah Young, and I went home and wrote a letter to Woodson, I then started down to Russell's with the letter and his wagon sheet, as his fatherinlaw was ging to Conejos on the morrow. on the road I met Longino coming back, we had a talk when he told me that he wanted to come back and work as formerly with me. we as I believe understood each other, when I turned back and wrote a letter for him to his wife. I then went down to Russell's with the letters and got back all wright.

March 18, " Comenced & daubed the large room of the west three rooms & raised the chimney. Woodson arived at

noon with three yoke of cattle of Head's,⁵ & Manuel Lucero's, one yoke of the cattle was for E. R. Harris. the other two were to work on our places, the day passed without anything of importance, though Pedro Manchego came in the afternoon.

March 19, " Started Pedro Manchego to Fort Garland with four yoke of cattle with yokes & bows that Woodson had sold to Gen. Cit. Carson⁶ and passed the ballance of the day in fixing up the large room. a lot of San Juans, Utah Indians arived and stayed all day & got dinner. Woodson saddled up and went down to the lower Ranches, when he come back he found the indians waiting for him as they (as they say) were informed by Capt. Charles Kerber⁷ that he was *Tata* [Father]. he gave them an order on Russell for one *fanega* of wheat. they then started but shortly after one of them came back and informed us that a cow was drowned in the river. we went down and found that it had been dead several days, and that it was a two year old hieffer with calf, belonging to Jose Prudencio Garcia. Juan & Jesus Manchego got one of the indian's horses, and went down and told Prudencio. came back tuck the hide & Tallow, but gave the meat to the indians. they camped there for the night and had a feast on the *Carne* [meat].

March 20, " Woodson started home, (to Conejos) Juan, Moran & Gabriel went after polls with one wagon & with the intention of bringing the one that was left. had bad luck, as they had not went over quarter of a mile with the wagon that was left, when one of the tires broak, and they had to leave it the second time. Longino & I commenced the fierplace in southwest room, *Moved into room*.

March 21, 1867 Sent Juan & Gabriel after the polls that was on the wagon that was left, with instructions to bring the wheel & tier that was broak, also the rood that went through the tong & hounds. they got back all wright the ballance of us passed the day in firing up.

March 22, " As I had nothing to do particularly I sent Longino to do some washing. sent Gabriel & Andres after wood, and commenced to lay the foundation for the three east rooms with the intentions of using one of the rooms for a calf pen as I needed the polls that was in the calf pen to cover a room with, when a dispute arose between me and

⁵ Lafayette Head was born in Missouri on April 19, 1825. He served with the Army of Occupation under Colonel Price at Santa Fe, N. M. Later he had a small store at Abiquiu. He came into the San Luis Valley with colonists who settled at Guadalupe or Conejos in 1854. He was appointed Indian Agent, and served in the New Mexico and Colorado Territorial Legislatures. He married a Mexican woman.

⁶ Christopher (Kit) Carson, famous scout and frontiersman, was Colonel and Brevet Brigadier General of Volunteers. He was Commander of Fort Garland from May 20, 1866 until November 22, 1867.—*Editor*.

⁷ Some of the discharged officers and men of the famous First Colorado Volunteers established "squatter's rights" in the San Luis Valley. Captain (Charles) Kerber, of Company D, with some friends, was located a few miles above the present Villa Grove.—Frank C. Spencer, "Early Days in Alamosa." *The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. VIII, No. 2 (March, 1931), 42.

Juan de Jesus Manchego, in which one word brought on another, when I also told him to go to the Devil. he also saddedle up after dinner and started to Conejos with Longino who I had let have the *bufo* (ass) to go in with, as he had to take a cow in that he had used for milk the year before, belonging to Manuel Vigil. I sent a letter of explanation along with Longino to Woodson, with instructions to send me flour and other things.

March 23, " Raised the three east rooms three or four logs high & done other work.

March 24, " Went down to Russell's with broking wheel and had them fixed was accompanied by Beral. got home all right. brought straw.

March 25, " Went with Moran, Gabriel & Andres Woodson after polls. got back with two loads all wright, having brought the wagon that weel of was broke.

March 26, ", 27th, 28th, 29th, & 30th. was spent in raising the three east rooms and in other fixing up, during which time Moran & Gabriel covered the large room. we also brought one load of pools, two loads of stone, and daubed and raised the fireplace in the east room of the three west rooms I an Beral went down to the lower ranches with horse team on the 28th inst where we found that Godfroy⁸ & family had arived on the Sunday night before. he had just killed a beef I got one fore quarter from him which I am to pay back when I kill one.

March 31, " Went down with horse team to Godfroy's and Russell's accompanied by Beral. learned that Harris had started on with Godfroy to see a splendid ford that he had just found, and was invagled into the notion (as usual by Godfroy) of crossing it. hitched up, was accompanied by Beral & Godfroy and pitched in when on arriving at the opposite bank I found a deep hole with a sheet of ice a few feet wide projecting out. got over all wright, though with a heap of trouble and great risk so that I can say that I climed one perpindicular without axident with the exception that Godfroy cut his finger which I was D-m-n glad of,

April 1, 1867 Sent Moran & Andres Woodson with team after stone, & Gabriel & Jose Andres with the other team after wood. they each brought two loads. in the afternoon I commenced with one team to plow. in this I was not as most April fools, fooled: for I believed when I started that the ground was frozen, and was not mistaken for I found it so went three rounds and stoped, as there was dainger of breaking the plow. Prudencio & Francisco Margues, came in the afternoon. Francisco got a hub box for Russell.

April 2, " Was spent in washing, cleaning up, and in making a hot bead to plant cabbage and other cereals. Prudencio

⁸ Godfroy was a former secretary to Lafayette Head. His wife, half Ute and half Mexican, acted in an emergency in 1869, as interpreter for the Utes.—*Editor*.

came & got three large milk pans full of unsifted flour. the above memorandum was all writing on this and the proceeding day. and I may say that I have no trouble whatever with the stock, as the boys bring them up every night. at present we have twenty young calves. on Wednesday last Pedro Manchego & Ant. Mascariño tuck two yoke of cattle to Conejos for Santeago Manchego on Sunday last Donaciano Martin tuck one two year old steer away. We are all very comfortable and the boys keep everything and themselves clean & well combed. there is only at present with me Beral, Gabriel & Andres Woodson, Jose Andres & Jose Antonio Moran the last named I will do the justice to say, is one of the best hands I ever had to work for me, during my recollection. We had the coldest, & windiest, & most disagreeable weather during the past month, I ever experienced, having continual flurries of snow, which made it more uncumfetable as we were most of the time in camp.

(April) 3, " The forenoon was spent in making hot beads, and in planting or sowing Stone Mason Cabbage, Long Blood Beets, Early Blood Turnip Beets, Extra Early Bassano Beets, Feejii Tomatos, Large smoth Red Tomato's, & Large Sugar Parsnip's, after Dinner we hitched up two yoke of cattle to one plow & went to plowing. the ground was in reasonable good order though there were some frozen spots it snowed quite a flurry in the morning, and there was a hard wind all day.

(April) 4, Got up early, found the ground frozen, the night before having been very cold. Commenced mending cloths, when about ten o'clock Godfroy came accompanied by Mears & Fread. Shortly after Juan & Longino came, being the fourteenth day from the time they had started to Conejos. Shortly after Juan delivered to Fred Walsen one cow & calf he also delivered another on account of his father. then my visitors left accompanied by Beral, who tuck all his outfit, for which I was sorry as I have never met a more sociable & obliging an old man before afternoon we went to plowing with two plows, ground in good order, though there were some frozen spots yet,

April 5, 1867 Hitched up the horses to the little wagon & went down to Godfroys & Russell's got two small bolts made for one of the little plows was accompanied by Juan. came home and brought Juan's wife with us. the boys went to plowing about ten o'clock. we also plowed all the afternoon with three plows, the cattle were a little unruly, for a while, but they soon went to work allwright. the ground was a little frozen yet. we came into the first large *chico* brush today the plow turns them verry well.

" 6, " Commenced plowing about ten oclock, with three plows, and plowed all day went down a horseback to the Lower

Ranches, & gave two letters to Fred. Walsen one to Woodson & the other to *Christy* killed two ducks.

" 7, " Went down to Russell's with horse team got three plows sharpened, also got little plow sharpened & brought it home, also got of E. R. Harris one fore quarter of beef, being off a two year old steer. I am to pay it back when I kill. Let Russell have two cows, which Moran & Longino tuck down, along With Beral's two oxen, & two cows,

" 8, " Commenced plowing early in the morning & plowed untill a little after the middle of the afternoon with three plows. It commenced snowing a little about noon, and snowed very hard about night so that the ground was covered. Made first bread with Russell's yeast, in afternoon.

" 9, " Got up rather late, as the ground was covered about four inches deep, with snow, went to plowing, and plowed all day with three plows, ground in good order

" 10, " Comenced plowing, about nine oclock, with three plows, and plowed untill noon. I then commenced and sowed about two and one half *fanegas* of wheat, and put one team to harrowing it in. I left two plows runing in the afternoon.

" 11, " Started one team to harrowing in wheat. Sent two teams for two loads of wood, plowed all the afternoon with two plows, finished sowing Ant. Moran's wheat, being four *fanegas*,

" 12, " Plowed all day with three plows, hitched up Juans oxen, for the first time to plow, also had the harrow runing all day. Shoemaker tuck Harrise's, and Beral's cattle away in the eavening.

" 13, " Plowed all day with two plows, also had the harrow going all day, and also draged a log over four *fanegas* that was sowed, also sowed about three *fanegas* of wheat. It snowed very hard a little after the middle of the afternoon, being a very wet snow, thawing as fast as it fell.

" 14, " Tuck three plows down to Russell's to get sharpened, it being sunday, he would not work. I left them & went duck hunting. We had bad luck, as we only killed five, but skeared a thousand. Harris came and tuck his cattle away.

April 15, 1867 Went down in the morning to Russell's after the three plows, brought two *fanegas* of potatoes from Prodenccio's, Longino & Juan went to try to get the water into the *arolla*, had to open it in a new place, the struck frozen ground and had to quit, so they did not get the water in, went to plowing in the afternoon with two plows, the harrow was runing all day, sowed in the afternoon two & one half *fanegas* of wheat, the day was clear and warm

April 16, " Plowed all day with two plows, sowed four *fanegas* of wheat & harrowed it in, also draged nine *fanegas* over with Mexican drag. was very cloudy & windy all day

" 17, " Plowed untill noon with two plows, also sowed by

noon four & one half *fanegas* of wheat, being all the wheat that is to be planted on our land this year on shears, also finished dragging in all the wheat, a little after dinner Prudencio & family came accompanied by Beral. I & Beral then agreed to go to Conejos tomorrow for the reason that none of the boys wished to work during the ballance of those days of the *Samana Santa*, for by so doing I would loos less time. I then regulated my business accordng. I then layed out the lines on Woodsons place on the South side of the road & comenced plowing. I also showed the boys what they should do while I was gone. In the morning it rained also in the afternoon it hailed & thundered and lightninged the hardest I ever seen.

" 18, " 19th 20th 21st 22nd & 23rd. I was gone to Conejos with horse team after flour. I was accompanied by Beral. brought back three buckskin sacks of flour for myself, one for Juan, one for Longino, one for Prudencio, and one for Moran. I was also accompanied by the last named who went in on horseback. I got back the evening of the 23rd. the boys plowed with two plows while I was gone.

" 24, " In the morning I killed a steer for beef. I then hitched up horse teem, and tuck down the two four quarters and payed one to Godfroy & the other to Harris. I also tuck down the four plows and got them sharpened. while I was gone the boys got the water into the *arolla*. Juan also put stricknine into the offallings of the steer and scatered it around for the *collotes*, in the afternoon two teems went to plowing, and with the other we run out the *aseques* [acequias] on the wheat ground, the day was verry windy.

" 25, " Plowed all day with three plows, also harrowed the ground for the potatoes, and marked some of it out, also tuck the potatoes out of the ground.

" 26, " Plowed all day with three plows, also finished marking out ground & planted four or four & one half *fanegas* of potatoes. Juan broak his plow.

" 27, " Put three plows to work, and went down to Russell's to get the broken plow fixed but owing to the arival of Mascareño with his cattle & some that belonging to Godfroy the boys passed the day away without doing as much as they done yesterday by noon.

" 28, " Tuck a *pasear* [walk or trip] on horse back down to Godfroys.

" 29, " Had three plows to work all day, and also sowed & harrowed in about five *fanegas* of oats also run the *aseque* line from Woodson's claim down to Berals, and comenced to plow up piece on Juans claim for his wheat. the day was extremely windy & very cold in the eavening.

" 30, " Had three plows to work, also sowed & harrowed in five *fanegas* of oats. The day was windy, but moreso in the afternoon.

May 1, 1867 Went with the three plows & all hands (except Moran, who was making *aseques* in his wheat,) and worked until noon in geting the water into the *arolla*. in the afternoon the three plows were a plowing. the day also windy.

" 2, " Started three plows to work in the Morning when there being but five hands, leaving no one to help Gabriel, I sent Jose Andres to help him, as I was in a hurry to get done so as to take the plows to get them sharpened they were a plowing in Moran & Berl's land but when the boy got there Juan sent him back saying that he did not want him to work for me. I then sent him back word to turn out his cattle as I did not want him to work for me. he done so and came back & went to work on the *aseques* in the wheat of his. since that I have had nothing to say to him, thus by him geting his back up & showing his I--n mean *Indian* blood. he caused me to loos one days work, with one plow. I also sowed & harrowed in eleven & one half *fanegas* of oats, the day was also windy

" 3, " Tuck the four plows down to Russell's and got them sharpened, and also gave Harris two letters for Woodson. the boys worked all day making *aseques* in the wheat. The day was warm but windy.

" 4, " Plowed untill the Middle of the day with three plows. I also sowed and harrowed in one *fanega* of wheat of mine for Moran, one for him & one for Beral. I also planted about nine *almores* of potatoes for Beral. the day was the worst & windiest I ever seen, being so bad that I told the boys they need not work in the afternoon.

" 5, " I, Longino, Moran & Juan went down to the lower Ranches on horseback Juan tuck down two cows of his fathers to Prudencio's, the water got down here in the *arolla* this evening. the day was fine.

" 6, " Plowed all day with three plows. also sowed & harrowed in one *fanega* of wheat for Juan, on his place, also sowed and harrowed in four *almores* of peas.

May 7, 1867 Had three plows runing all day. sowed & harrowed in two *fanegas* of wheat on Longinos place. also planted two *fanegas* of potatoes. the two past days were the finest that we have had this spring.

" 8, " Plowed untill noon with three plows also sowed in same time seven *fanegas* of oats, which Moran harrowed in. during the day, I finished by noon sowing all the small grain or potatoes that will be planted on the place this year, including peas, leaving nothing but the corn to be planted. In the afternoon we all went to making a dam & *aseque* to get the water onto the wheat. The day was one of the windiest of the season.

" 9, " Worked all day making *aseques* and fixing the dam. Juan also comenced irigating his wheat. Longino & Moran were also irigating their wheat below. in the afternoon I

went down to Russell's and got three plows sharpened. Mears came in from Conejos with the mail while I was there. he gave me a letter from Woodson. The day was windy but warm.

" 10, " All hands went to work cutting *sesperis* [cipres, cypress(?)] to fix dams. We also made the dam & fixed the *aseque* Madre on the south side of the road. In the afternoon Juan went below after the cattle, and to bring them up above, but as usual he left half of them. day *bueno* [good].

" 11, " I sent the boys in the morning after two loads of wood. Longino was irigating. his wheat here, Moran was also irigating his below. Juan was gone down below after some cattle that had left. he got back about noon. in the afternoon we marked of the oats ground. & made *aseques* The fore part of the day was fine, but the after part was windy as h--l, and be d--m-nd to it.

" 12, " I, Juan, Gabriel, Moran & Jose went down below on horseback. Gabriel tuck down a green buckskin & made a trade with some Utah squaws to dress it for some flour he afterward came back & brought Jose. and then went down with some flour & peas accompanied by Longino *a nacas* [la noche, the night(?)] when he & Moran traded for five buckskins he geting two. when we were about to come up Isaah Young & others came to Godfroy's when he made some arangements with them about his stock, We then all came up Juan & Moran geting here about the time we got them together. We then parted all of Godfroys stock out of the herd and I went & helped them to get across the river. While we were down below Juan told me that the big bull was down below, & why the d--l he did not go after him in place of laying around all day is more than I can tell. In the night Juan came into my room and asked me if I had told Godfroy that I was boss of the stock here. I told him yes, he then sayed he did not know that, that he thought he was. I then told him how I was boss, & my reasons for acting as I did and what I had wrote to Woodson. I then tuck Woodson's letter out of my pockit and read it to him. he then sayed that he only bossed the boy Andreas and that he did not care what is *Padrino* [God-father] sayed. I told him that was nothing to me that he could do as he pleased. he then sayed that tomorrow he would go and get the bull & then deliver the heard horse & *buro* to me. I sayed all wright. we quit for the night at that. the day was fine & warm.

May 13, 1867 Put two plows to plowing for corn. they plowed untill noon & one all the afternoon at noon I put the two Andreeses to take care of the herd. Juan went down early on horseback and got Godfroy's team and came for his family. he also got the heard together & delivered them with horse & *buro* to me. he sayed that all the cattle were here.

[To Be Continued]