

COLORADO NEWSPAPERS: A HISTORY & INVENTORY, 1859 – 2000

by

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Thesis directed by Professor Thomas J. Noel

ABSTRACT

This study attempts to document every newspaper published in the history of the state of Colorado. It addresses its subject on a county-by-county basis, giving brief histories of the early days of each county, thereby placing the newspaper histories within a social, economic and political context. Special attention is paid to the early frontier newspapers, which rose and fell on meteoric trajectories along with the boom-and-bust towns they served. Where possible, the owners and editors of newspapers are profiles, and special events in the history of each paper are recorded. This work is the completion of an unfinished manuscript begun by Jane Harper, a Colorado journalist and employee of the Colorado Press Association.

The form and content of this abstract are approved. I recommend its publication.

Approved: Thomas J. Noel

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER

| | | |
|--------|--------------------|-----|
| I. | INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| II. | ADAMS COUNTY | 4 |
| III. | ALAMOSA COUNTY | 44 |
| IV. | ARAPAHOE COUNTY | 61 |
| V. | ARCHULETA COUNTY | 92 |
| VI. | BACA COUNTY | 101 |
| VII. | BENT COUNTY | 114 |
| VIII. | BOULDER COUNTY | 123 |
| IX. | BROOMFIELD COUNTY | 183 |
| X. | CHAFFEE COUNTY | 186 |
| XI. | CHEYENNE COUNTY | 216 |
| XII. | CLEAR CREEK COUNTY | 224 |
| XIII. | CONEJOS COUNTY | 257 |
| XIV. | COSTILLA COUNTY | 269 |
| XV. | CROWLEY COUNTY | 278 |
| XVI. | CUSTER COUNTY | 285 |
| XVII. | DELTA COUNTY | 296 |
| XVIII. | DENVER COUNTY | 320 |

| | | |
|---------|-------------------|-----|
| XIX. | DOLORES COUNTY | 386 |
| XX. | DOUGLAS COUNTY | 397 |
| XXI. | EAGLE COUNTY | 418 |
| XXII. | ELBERT COUNTY | 433 |
| XXIII. | EL PASO COUNTY | 447 |
| XXIV. | FREMONT COUNTY | 492 |
| XXV. | GARFIELD COUNTY | 511 |
| XXVI. | GILPIN COUNTY | 541 |
| XXVII. | GRAND COUNTY | 564 |
| XXVIII. | GUNNISON COUNTY | 580 |
| XXIX. | HINSDALE COUNTY | 644 |
| XXX. | HUERFANO COUNTY | 658 |
| XXXI. | JACKSON COUNTY | 679 |
| XXXII. | JEFFERSON COUNTY | 685 |
| XXXIII. | KIOWA COUNTY | 723 |
| XXXIV. | KIT CARSON COUNTY | 735 |
| XXXV. | LA PLATA COUNTY | 754 |
| XXXVI. | LAKE COUNTY | 787 |
| XXXVII. | LARIMER COUNTY | 805 |

| | | |
|----------|-------------------|------|
| XXXVIII. | LAS ANIMAS COUNTY | 824 |
| XXXIX. | LINCOLN COUNTY | 850 |
| XL. | LOGAN COUNTY | 863 |
| XLI. | MESA COUNTY | 881 |
| XLII. | MINERAL COUNTY | 896 |
| XLIII. | MOFFAT COUNTY | 918 |
| XLIV. | MONTEZUMA COUNTY | 921 |
| XLV. | MONTROSE COUNTY | 928 |
| XLVI. | MORGAN COUNTY | 933 |
| XLVII. | OTERO COUNTY | 962 |
| XLVIII. | OURAY COUNTY | 991 |
| XLIX. | PARK COUNTY | 996 |
| L. | PHILLIPS COUNTY | 1008 |
| LI. | PITKIN COUNTY | 1016 |
| LII. | PROWERS COUNTY | 1038 |
| LIII. | PUEBLO COUNTY | 1046 |
| LIV. | RIO BLANCO COUNTY | 1066 |
| LV. | RIO GRANDE COUNTY | 1074 |
| LVI. | ROUTT COUNTY | 1095 |
| LVII. | SAGUACHE COUNTY | 1101 |
| LVIII. | SAN JUAN COUNTY | 1122 |
| LIX. | SAN MIGUEL COUNTY | 1128 |

| | | |
|--------|-------------------|------|
| LX. | SEDGWICK COUNTY | 1136 |
| LXI. | SUMMIT COUNTY | 1153 |
| LXII. | TELLER COUNTY | 1174 |
| LXIII. | WASHINGTON COUNTY | 1190 |
| LXIV. | WELD COUNTY | 1205 |
| LXV. | YUMA COUNTY | 1237 |
| | BIBLIOGRAPHY | 1246 |

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This work is the final culmination of the vision and years of hard work of Jane C. Harper, a Colorado journalist and historian. Her sweeping work, to be entitled “The Press Gang : A 138-Year History of Colorado Newspapers,” intended to catalogue and chronicle the lifespan of each and every newspaper printed in the history of the Centennial State. Harper organized her manuscript by county, giving historical context for each city, town and hamlet, no matter how small. She meticulously queried newspapers around the state for their versions of their own stories, while exhausting every possible archival resource to give a complete and nuanced rendering of the lifecycles of Colorado newspapers and the communities with which they grew.

Harper began researching and writing her compendium in 1988. Her notes and manuscript materials indicate the bulk of the work was done in the 1990s and continued into the twenty-first century. After Harper’s death in 2009, the Colorado Press Association (CPA) recovered Harper’s incomplete manuscript. She left 55 chapters in various states of completion, each covering the development of journalism in a single Colorado county, as well as folders of notes and clippings for several of the remaining counties. The manuscript contained more than 2,000 single-spaced pages-- over a million words –but still didn’t cover all of Colorado’s 64 counties. At the request of the CPA, the Center for Colorado and the West at Auraria Library engaged me to edit and complete this large study. I was tasked with editing down Harper’s finished chapters as

well as completing the unfinished ones and researching and writing the remaining county newspaper histories on my own.

Jane Campbell Chamberlain, born December 18, 1925, in Albert Lea, Minnesota, studied journalism there in high school. After attending the University of Colorado as a freshman, she graduated from the University of Minnesota with majors in journalism and political science. In Colorado she worked for the Walsenburg World-Independent, the Gunnison News-Champion, and the Aurora Star. Jane C. Harper became editor of the Colorado Republican Party's weekly Colorado Trumpet in 1960, a post she held for 12 years while garnering numerous press awards. As president of Colorado Press Women in 1960, she worked with then Colorado Press Association manager Bill Long on journalism education issues. She joined the staff of the Colorado Press Association in 1978, where she produced six biennial legislative directories and worked in all departments before becoming assistant to the manager. She died in 2009, leaving behind the basis of an amazingly detailed and comprehensive history of Colorado newspapers, which has been my honor to refine and complete.

With guidance from my advisor, Dr. Tom Noel, and input from the CPA, Bob Sweeney of the King Foundation, and Mary Somerville, co-director of the Center for Colorado and the West at Auraria Library, I was tasked with editing down Harper's sprawling chapters, some as many as 120 single-spaced pages long, and completing those chapters she had not. I edited, shaped and rewrote Harper's elaborate histories of Colorado's communities and the newspapers told their stories, achieving word count

reductions of 50% to 80% per chapter. I then researched and wrote the remaining chapters. I followed Harper's format in which several general sources are used throughout, and special sources particular to a given county are listed at the end of that county's chapter. Harper did not use endnotes or footnotes. Her sources included both published materials and correspondence with publishers, almost none of which were available to me. The general sources used throughout are listed in the bibliography at the end of the manuscript.

The resulting sprawling manuscript illuminates the struggles and failures of early Colorado journalists, along with their triumphs and lasting legacies. It reveals frontier journalists as uniquely heroic figures: path-breakers, community-builders, entrepreneurs, and boosters who made it their business to broadcast the message of Colorado's vast potential far and wide. I attempted to sustain Harper's tone. She approached her topic with obvious affection, and her eye for the humorous and the picturesque make her pages fun reading. Few histories could improve on the sense of hazard and opportunity in the Wild West conveyed by her carefully chosen anecdotes. The resulting manuscript is a social, political and economic history of Colorado's communities, from the biggest cities to the smallest mining camps that flashed in and out of existence in a matter of months. It shows how newspapers, and the dedicated women and men who ran them, helped turn Colorado from an isolated frontier outpost into a vibrant twenty-first century powerhouse. Harper left manuscripts in various states of completion for the following counties: Boulder, Crowley, Custer, Delta, Dolores, Douglas, Eagle, Huerfano, Mineral, Adams, Alamosa, Arapahoe, Archuleta,

Aurora, Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Cheyenne, Conejos, Costilla, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Otero, Sedgwick, Washington, Jackson, Jefferson, La Plata, Lincoln, Morgan, Phillips, Rio Grande, Saguache, Clear Creek, Elbert, Garfield, Gilpin, Pitkin, Lake, Las Animas, Park, Grand, El Paso, Rio Blanco, Costilla. Harper also left a chapter on the city of Aurora, the contents of which have been split up between Arapahoe and Adams Counties for this manuscript.

I was left to research and write chapters for the following counties: Denver, Broomfield, Fremont, Logan, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Prowers, Pueblo, San Juan, San Miguel, Summit, Teller, Weld, and Yuma (although I did have Harper's clippings files for Teller, San Juan, and San Miguel counties) . To complete these chapters, I relied upon many of the same sources which Harper used, especially Donald Oehlert's, *Guide to Colorado Newspapers, 1859-1963*¹, Rex Hayden's *Colorado Newspapers Bibliography, 1859-1939*², and Walter Stewart's *Colorado Newspapers, Editors, Owners, 1935-1977*.³ Stewart's book in particular was crucial because it traces newspaper owners, publishers and editors, an important feature of Harper's original chapters. The passage of time and the growth of the internet have given me new sources which were not available to Harper. In addition to the discovery of several online histories of some individual newspapers and histories of newspapers in given counties, I especially benefitted from the Library of Congress' online database, which

¹ Oehlerts, Donald E. *Guide to Colorado Newspapers, 1859-1963*. Denver: Bibliographical Center for Research, Rocky Mountain Region, 1964.

² Rex, Wallace Hayden. *Colorado Newspapers Bibliography, 1859-1939*. Denver: Denver Public Library and the State Department of Education, 1939.

³ Stewart, Walter. *Colorado Newspapers, Editors, Owners, 1935-1977*. Greeley, Colorado: Elmarry Publications, 1978.

not only aided in the creation of new county chapters but helped resolve discrepancies and contradictions in Harper's chapters.⁴

Like David Dary's *Red Blood and Black Ink: Journalism in the Old West*, this manuscript balances sensational, colorful and amusing anecdotes with an assertion – sometimes implied, sometimes explicit – that frontier newspapers played a crucial role in the development of Colorado, by tying communities together, promoting and facilitating economic growth, developing pride of place, and creating collective memory.⁵ This study expands the historiography of newspapers in Colorado primarily by its focus on small towns. While much has been written about the growth the of the newspaper business in Denver, Harper's interest and sympathy clearly lay primarily with journalists who "staked their claims" in the transient mining boomtowns, tenuous farming communities, railroad stops and frontier outposts. Tracing the rise and fall of newspapers in these settings tells us much about the economic and social development of the state.

⁴ Library of Congress – Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers, US Newspaper Directory, 1690-present. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>.

⁵ Dary, David. *Black Ink and Red Blood: Journalism in the Old West*. New York: Knopf, 1998.

CHAPTER II
ADAMS COUNTY

Adams county, politically speaking, has had a strenuous time of it. Born into the world amid the clash of counsel in a battle of briefs with a liberal chunk of litigation, it got well baptized in fire and has fallen heir to the fight of factions for control.

Brighton Blade 3/4/1904

From Kansas Territory to Colorado statehood to a new century, the area that is now Adams County was part of Arapahoe County, a huge area that stretched from Jefferson County to the eastern border of Colorado. The legislature proposed in 1901 that Arapahoe be split into three counties: Arapahoe, Denver and Adams. Littleton became the county seat of the new, reduced Arapahoe County while Brighton won that honor in the newly formed Adams County.

Although Adams County officially came into existence on November 15, 1902, the county labored for a long time under doubt that it was really a legal government. This nagging question was the result of court battles over the legality of Article XX of the State Constitution that created the new City and County of Denver that provoked the politically "strenuous time" referred to above.

The issue was largely resolved on March 2, 1903 when the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of Article XX, although disagreements between Denver and the surrounding counties have persisted.

As the *Brighton Blade* put it, the new Adams County was "extraordinary and grotesque...[a] combination between a shoestring and a panhandle." The county was named after Governor Alva Adams, a Democrat. In 1903, however, the legislature was Republican-led, and bills were introduced to rename both Adams and Arapahoe counties after Territorial Governor John Evans. The *Blade* held out for Adams because it was the name of a governor and two presidents.

Almost 100 newspapers are recorded in Adams County since the first one, founded in 1886. Two of the most prominent editors have also authored county histories. Brighton born, Harvard educated Albin Wagner has produced a half dozen books on the county as well as editing the *Brighton Blade* and the *Fort Lupton Press*. W. Carr Dorr, a longtime editor of the *Brighton Blade*, was active in Colorado Press Association and published two books on Adams County.

Aurora

The city of Aurora is divided into two counties by Colfax Avenue. The part north of Colfax is in Adams County; the part south, in Arapahoe County. In this work all of Aurora will be covered under Adams County. Aurora originated with Denver's 1885 to 1893 building boom.

A young Canadian who had moved to Colorado for his health, Donald Fletcher, saw great potential in the property east of Denver. He opened a real estate office to sell land. In 1891 the young community yawned, stretched and named itself Fletcher. It had a population of 36 stalwart citizens.

Peggy Pleasants King, *Aurora Advocate* 11/26/1964

After the 1859 gold rush, a flood of immigrants had passed by or stopped at one of several stage stations on the Smoky Hill Trail. For 10 cents (and 25 cents per horse) passengers could travel from the stations all the way into Denver. In 1870, the Kansas Pacific Railroad followed the stage routes through what is now Aurora. By 1875 most of the surrounding land had been homesteaded or purchased.

The ambitious new town, named Fletcher for its founder, encompassed four square miles--from what is now Yosemite to Peoria streets, from 6th to 26th avenues. The town was advertised as "The Most Popular Subdivision Ever Placed on the Market." Fletcher also touted rapid transit, electric lights and pure water that it didn't yet have. Fletcher, who had promised to deliver many of these services, fled town leaving unfinished projects and unpaid debts. Seeking a "classier" moniker, according to one newspaper, the town board changed the name to Aurora (Latin for dawn) in 1907. As the town lay on the east or morning side of Denver, the name seemed appropriate.

When Adams County was formed in 1902, Colfax Avenue was essentially the town of Aurora, spreading a few blocks on either side. Residents on the north side of Colfax went to Brighton for county business, those on the south to Littleton, a long trip either way. Not until recent years did Arapahoe County open some branch offices in Aurora. Attempts to make Aurora a city/county such as Denver have been unsuccessful, but the discussion goes on.

Aurora's second boom began in 1918 with the opening of Fitzsimons General Hospital (later Fitzsimons Army Medical Center and since 2007 the Anschutz Medical

Campus of the University of Colorado). This huge army hospital was named for Coloradan Lt. William T. Fitzsimons, the first American officer to lose his life in World War I. President Dwight D. Eisenhower brought the eyes of the world to Fitzsimons when he was hospitalized there following a heart attack in 1955. Aurora grew again when Lowry Air Base opened in 1938. It was named for Lt. Francis Lowry, Colorado's only airman killed in World War I. President Eisenhower used Lowry as a summer White House. Still more installations followed: Buckley Field, used by air and ground National Guard and Marine reservists, went into operation in 1942, and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal in 1943.

Aurora's development accelerated with the Post World War II housing boom. Suddenly residential subdivisions sprouted everywhere and agricultural lands were gobbled up by developers. Aurora became a bedroom community for people wanting small town or country life and cheaper housing with access to Denver. Next came the malls, the condos, the town homes, and more people.

Between 1985 and 1988 alone Aurora doubled in size. By 2010 it had become the third most populous city in the state with a U.S. census count of 325,078. Since 2000 the city, which once expanded mostly southward into Arapahoe County, has been growing rapidly to the north with the emergence of Denver International Airport and the Anschutz Medical Campus. The slogans "We Look to the Future" and "Gateway to the Rockies" have been replaced by "Aurora--The 21st Century City."

The first newspaper was the:

Aurora News c. 1907?

Aurora Gazette 1909-1910, W. Allen Heller, founder.

Aurora Democrat October 1909-September 15, 1955, Raphael Gwynn, founder.

His brother, H. M. Gwynn, was general manager, and C.L. Gwynn was assistant editor in 1913. Mabel Foster Vincent McFadden was co-editor. Two months later the paper proudly noted: "Fourteen new subscribers last week. Watch us grow!"

The *Democrat* expanded in an unusual way--through a companion paper. The *Democrat* was aimed at Arapahoe County readers, the new paper at Adams County ones.

Adams County News October 11, 1911-September 1, 1955, Lewis Grove, founder. The News was intended as "a weekly companion to the *Aurora Democrat*." Both were weeklies published in the same plant on different days. Grove, who had earlier founded the *Brighton Blade*, bought Gwynn's share of the *Democrat* in 1911, selling it back to him a year later. Gwynn bought out Grove in 1919 but continued to issue two papers until 1935 when they merged into one Thursday paper under the name:

Aurora Democrat (& Adams County News) September 1955-May 1956. The *Democrat/News* was located on the south (Arapahoe) side of Colfax, according to long-time Aurora publisher Olen Bell. To be a legal newspaper in Adams County required at least a partial printing of the paper in that county. So, Bell explained, "a small news

article [was printed] on a hand press" located in the back of a barber shop across the street in Adams County, then taken back to the Democrat office. E.P. DeuPree, who was associated with a number of papers around the state, had one of his first jobs as an editor at the Democrat about 1914.

In December 1936 Gwynn started the tabloid:

Aurora Democrat Trade Edition. It lasted until September 1955.

After Gwynn's death in 1955 a group of Aurora businessmen bought the paper from his heirs. Ken Bundy became owner in May 1956. Bundy also bought the *Aurora Free Press*. The two papers merged and the name was changed to:

Aurora Star 1956-1969. The *Star* was printed half a block north of Colfax in Adams County, a fact snidely noted by a competitor who referred to Bundy as that "Adams County Printer." Bundy sold the *Star* in October 1969 to Harry Green, Jr. After selling the *Star* in 1969, Bundy was the lobbyist for CPA and was very proud to be named the first Life Member of CPA. He retired to Grand Junction. Green changed the newspaper name to:

Aurora Star-Sentinel October 1969-February 1972. Green's son Dan, now editor of the *Record-Stockman*, was editor until 1973. George Sandford was listed as publisher in the 1972 Rate and Data book which went to press before February when the *Minneapolis Star and Tribune* bought the *Star-Sentinel*, and merged it with the *Advocate*, which it had purchased a month earlier. (See *Advocate*.)

Aurora Upstart November 21, 1947-November 1948. Mary E. (Betsy) Dalrymple, founder. The motto was "Aurora--Where the West Begins." The tabloid paper was published from Betsy Dalrymple's home, a couple of blocks north of Colfax on the Adams County side. The eight-page tabloid had the distinction of being the first newspaper in the region to publish ads for the new detergent ALL. Mayor Bert Howard welcomed the new paper on the front page of the first issue:

It will not be heard of by the U.N. at Lake Success nor in Washington, D.C., and perhaps not even in Denver but a new newspaper, no matter how humble or small the beginning is big news to us in Aurora....I feel sure the venerable contemporary paper would welcome the added interest a new paper would give.

The following spring Golden Press took over the paper for a printing debt. The editor was Jim King who had gone to work for the paper with its second issue and was there until 1954. Ray Mohler, another former publisher of the *Brighton Blade*, bought the paper in Dec. 1948, located it in a corner of an auto shop, and changed the name to:

Aurora Advocate December 1, 1948-February 9, 1972. In January 1949 there was another owner--Olen Bell, owner of a grocery, and his wife Mary. In 1984 Olen Bell recalled: "I'd be typing one minute and selling sausage the next. Mary might be running the register and taking down society news at the same time. But it was great."

The paper was printed by the new offset method, and said to be the second paper in the state and the seventeenth in the nation to use the process. Headlines were set by foto-type, small cardboard letters, Scotch taped on the back and cut to size. The

Advocate's first real office was opened on Colfax (Adams County side) in 1951, the sixth "home" since 1947. The give-away paper was supported entirely by advertising until later that year when a team of newsboys was hired to deliver to paid customers.

The *Advocate* moved permanently to the Arapahoe County side of Colfax in 1956 when a building "especially designed for the paper" was finished. At the time, Bell was secretary of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce which had its headquarters, and inquiring tourists, in the paper's front office. The Junior Chamber of Commerce was organized there.

Bell wasted no time using the paper as an advocate, fulfilling the promise of its moniker. The first campaign led to what is now a nationally recognized police department. The second one was not as successful. It dealt with Denver and the way rates were set for selling water outside the city. Bell wrote:

Any group who can be so politically powerful that the Supreme Court of Colorado is afraid to hand down what we consider a just decision against them, has become too powerful for the good of the citizens of the state. [The Court] declared the Denver Water Board not subject to the public utilities commission because their original intent was not to serve water to anyone outside the corporate limits of the city of Denver.

The Supreme Court reacted quickly, furious at what it perceived as intent to make the Court the object of "contempt and ridicule." Publisher Bell and editor King were cited for contempt, the citation adding that the editorial "was motivated by a desire to influence this court to render decisions not according to law and fact." Bell denied any attempt to influence the court but admitted the newspaper statement was "made carelessly and with complete disregard for the truth." He pointed out that the

quotation the Court objected to had been "lifted from the editorial so as to not reveal its true object, which was arousing the citizenry of Aurora to take positive steps in eliminating and correcting a local nuisance." Bell made an editorial public apology, and the *Advocate* rebounded with a successful drive for a city manager form of government.

Ole and Mary Bell founded or owned more than a dozen newspapers over a 45-year period in Colorado. Besides the *Advocate*, there was the *Brighton Blade*, *Brighton Market Place*, *Broomfield Star*, *Derby Atlas Advocate*, *Evergreen Canyon Courier*, *Ft Collins Northern Colorado Star* (a combination of their two Loveland papers, the *Larimer County Times-News* and *Loveland Round-up*), *Loveland Star*, *Lafayette Leader*, *Rangely Times*, *Wheat Ridge Advocate*, *Sheridan-Littleton Advocate* and *Colorado Springs Northeast Mail*, Ole Bell died December 24, 1994 at the age of 81.

Jim King left the *Advocate* in 1954 to join the advertising staff of *The Denver Post*. Succeeding editors included Leonard Venen, Jay Baccus, Ed Armes, Roy Van Dyke and Neil Ross. Bell sold the *Advocate* in August 1960 to the Advocate Printing and Publishing Company, headed by Neil Ross. After Ross resigned in October, W.L. (Bill) Armstrong was president of the company until 1964, and John Saviers, publisher. Shortly thereafter, Tom Holmes became publisher. Martin Abrahamson bought controlling interest in 1964, and brought in J.R. Haney, a former ad manager of the paper, as general manager. Holmes stayed on as editor until April 1965.

The Bells repossessed the paper in 1965. James Woodbury acquired controlling interest late in 1970, and the paper was sold in July 1971 to Harry Green Jr.'s Sentinel

newspapers chain, which sold it to Community Publications (*Minneapolis Star & Tribune*) in January 1972. They changed the name to:

Aurora Advocate-Sentinel 1972-1980. Green was president of the company with Richard Hilker as executive editor and Dan Green as editor. Hilker continued in the Sentinel chain, primarily in Jefferson County. Editors of the *Advocate-Sentinel* from 1972-1980 included Bill Slevin, Dave Millon, John Fellows and Tamara Tate. Jack Bacon, the 1993 Colorado Press Association Newspaper Person of the Year, was named managing editor in 1978, editor in 1989 and again in 1991. Ole Bell joined the Sentinel organization in 1974 and was publisher until he retired in the mid-1980s. He remained with the *Aurora Sentinel* as publisher emeritus until his death.

The newspaper name was shortened in 1980 to:

Aurora Sentinel 1980 to present, still under the Sentinel company. Donna Shear was co-publisher 1983-1987, followed by current publisher Karen Sowell in 1988. Editors included Doug Bradley and Tim McGovern.

In July 1991 the 12-newspaper Sentinel chain was dismantled. *Westminster Window* publisher Wilbur E. Flachman purchased the Westminster and Northglenn-Thornton Sentinels, and formed a corporation with Roy Robinson, former publisher of the *Eagle Valley Enterprise*, and Robert E. Cox of WestEdit, Inc. (to buy the *Aurora Sentinel* until financing could be put together by former Aurora employees and other parties.

Aurora Sentinel Publisher Karen Sowell is head of Aurora Publishing which also issues the *Mile-High Guardian*, the *Aurora Sun Shopping Guide*, the original *Aurora Advocate*, a monthly *Aurora Sun Home Shopping Guide*, and the *Daily Fax*, a five-day-a-week news summary provided free to *Aurora Sentinel* subscribers." *The Mile-High Guardian* is a successor to the *Lowry Airman* which closed just ahead of the Lowry base closure. *The Airman* had been published for Lowry for years by Aurora predecessors in the Sentinel chain. The Guardian appeared a week after *The Airman's* last issue, with the cooperation of military officials from Buckley Air National Guard Base and the Air Reserve Personnel Center. Fitzsimons is also included in distribution.

The Original *Aurora Advocate*, a special center section of the *Sentinel*, for residents in the original areas off Colfax Ave., debuted in May 1993, with an office in the rear of The Daily Perk coffee house on East Colfax (Adams County side.)

Adams County Record 1924-1926. R.H. Kennedy, founder.

Aurora Independent 1926-1928. The *Independent* is listed in the 1926 Colorado Business Directory; the *Record* is not.

Aurora-Fitzsimons Sun January 20, 1928-1929.

Buckley Armorer Probably issued during World War II for airmen at Buckley Field. A reproduction of the June 14, 1944, issue features an "Open House" and a story about Buckley's "astounding growth from prairie."

Hoffman Heights Mirror 1954-1955. Anthony Ferraro, founder. Hoffman Heights was one of the first large residential developments. Several other residential development newspapers have, or are, being published, but many do not last long and names are not easily found.

Aurora Times 1961 (only about six months) Milton Davidson, former ad manager for the Aurora Star, founder. His wife, Dorothy, was editor. She later became regional director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Aurora Sun 1972-1981. Lois Martin and Betty Ann Peterson, founders. Martin was previously a reporter on the Star, and Peterson had written a community column for the Advocate. The newspaper slogan was "It Belongs to You" to underline local ownership and operation. Martin sold the Sun to Titsch Publications in August 1981. Titsch promptly killed it. Martin, almost as promptly, began the:

Gateway Gazette December 1983-c. 1991. Primarily a northwest (original Aurora) neighborhood paper, it became a strong and valuable voice for the revitalization of the area. Martin was named 1977 Business Person of the Year by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Bob Sweeney bought the Gazette in 1990, merging it with his Villagers chain for the Aurora market, although he issued a monthly Gazette. Martin became editor emeritus.

Creekside Landing November 1989-(?). Mike and Cyndie Thomas, founders. A free circulation monthly--with plans for more frequent publication--the paper served primarily the area of the Aurora Public School district.

Community Accent January 1990-October 1991. P.J. Dinner and Stan Scherban, a husband-and-wife team, founders. The paper's slogan was "Aurora's Community and Business Newspaper." Originally a monthly "focused mainly on Aurora, the paper was devoted to neighborhood issues, the workings of the municipal government, local businesses and business issues, and features of general interest. The paper went weekly and the name was changed in 1991 to:

Accent Aurora October 1991-January 1993. In addition to the weekly Accent which emphasized "breaking news as well as features," P.J. Dinner Communications began a second paper:

Accent II, 1991-1993. which ran magazine-style features and cover stories on personalities. The success of the two papers led to an expanded area of operation and the two papers were combined in 1993 to:

Metropolitan Accent January 1993-December 1993. The paper was sold in July 30, 1993, to Jeff Greenberg of Sierra Verde Communications, and folded in December.

Walter Stewart also lists:

Arapahoe Sun August 30, 1970-?. Genni Wyant, founder; merged into *Advocate*.

Aurora Village Star -mid 1970s, Jerry Brock and James Adkins, publishers.

Arapahoe Gadabout c. 1969, sold to Community Publications.

Colorado Weekly April 25, 1978-1995. John Gibbs, publisher. The paper was printed in Bennett. *Colorado Weekly* merged with the Strasburg *Eastern Colorado News* in the early part of 1995.

Lucille Hastings lists an *Aurora Free Press* c. 1955 which was absorbed by the *Aurora Star*.

Barr City

Barr Lake was enlarged in 1908. Donkey engines were used to haul sand. The original Barr Lake was built by "mule skimmers" shortly after the Burlington Railroad came through in 1882.

Founded in 1884, Barr City was first known as Platte Summit, then renamed for an engineer on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. In 1886 a deep buffalo wallow was converted into a reservoir and water from the South Platte River flowed into it. Barr Lake, one of the biggest water bodies in Metro Denver, became a state park in 1976. Various schemes to develop a major city and resort there all failed.

The town's only newspaper was the:

Barr City Gazette March 17, 1889-1890. B.A. Boyd, founder. The editors of the *Barr City Gazette*, John and Otto Bruderlin, were nephews of Emil Bruderlin, the Swiss bookbinder who built the Old Stone House now a restored National Register landmark housing the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory at Barr Lake State Park, which is noted for

its bird life, especially bald eagles. The Bruderlins moved the newspaper to Brighton in 1890 but *Brighton Journal* lasted only five months before the editors moved to Denver.

Bennett

Bennett, on the Adams-Arapahoe border, was established in 1870 with construction of the Kansas Pacific Railroad and named for an early-day Colorado notable, Hiram P. Bennett, a pioneer lawyer, a territorial delegate to Congress, a postmaster, and a law-and-order judge. Historian Jerome Smiley described him as having the "Dangerous duty to be prosecutor of desperados, murderers and thieves in the Peoples Court...[the miscreants] were foes of the community and Bennett a leader for their destruction." The town boasted four newspapers:

Byers Blade 1916-1918. published by the *Brighton Blade*, Alfred and Mary Isham, owners.

Bennett News, 1929-1932. Frank L. Hunter, founder. Hunter merged the *Bennett News* with his *Strasburg News*.

Adams-Arapahoe Farmer 1932-1942. H.M. Woolman, founder. Woolman had published several papers in the San Luis Valley and in Keenesburg. Mrs. B. Sutherland (Bonniebel) leased the paper in 1933. Barney Stoffel published the *Farmer* from 1934 until it was discontinued in 1942.

Colorado Weekly News c. 1977-1995. Duncan Reed, founder. John and Alison Gibbs were publishers. It merged into the *Strasburg Eastern Colorado News* in February 1995.

Brighton

Brighton was on the Cherokee Trail from Bent's Fort to Fort Laramie long before people poured into the Pikes Peak country on immigrant trails. The Central Overland, California and Pikes Peak Express Co. opened a stage line through the area in 1859. This struggling line, derided as the "Clean Out of Cash and Poor Pay" stagecoach company, did not last. Wells Fargo took over part of the line and later sold it to John Hughes and Company, who operated the stage station at the Pierson Ranch, known as the Hughes Station, 3.7 miles south of present downtown Brighton and 20 miles northeast of Denver.

The 1870 completion of the Denver Pacific Railroad from Denver to Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory led to the establishment of Brighton at the junction of the Denver Pacific Railroad and the Denver and Boulder Valley Railroad, a spur line to the coal fields around Erie. The Brighton railroad station was also called Hughes, after Bela M. Hughes, an early president of the Denver Pacific Railroad.

Daniel F. Carmichael, a civil engineer with railroad and real estate development experience, bought a sizeable amount of railroad land to develop and platted Brighton between 1879 and 1882. He changed the name from Hughes to Brighton. Supposedly his wife, Alice, who was born in Brighton Beach, New York, persuaded him to change the

name, which originated with the ocean-side royal resort of the Prince of Wales (later King George IV).

When the town was laid out in 1881 it consisted of a railroad depot, two small houses and a saloon. The first of several creameries opened in 1884, a school house by 1885, two churches in 1888, and the Kuner Cannery in 1889. The town incorporated in 1887.

Brighton won a 1904 election to determine the county seat in 1904. easily defeating the other candidate towns, Fletcher (Aurora), Harris (Westminster), Hazeletine, and Adams City. The new county seat boasted a volunteer fire department with a hook and ladder apparatus waiting for a fire. Nevertheless, the first county court house burned to the ground in 1904 with all the county records. *Blade* editor Lewis Grove proclaimed that "*Adams County will arise from the ashes of its ruin to take on new luster. Our light is low but not extinguished.*"

Fulfilling the *Blade's* optimistic prophecy, Brighton grew into an agricultural center with a thriving sugar beet industry, dairies and canning factories. As both Denver and Brighton grew it became a suburban community as well. Since 1990 it has become one of Colorado's fastest growing cities with a 2010 population of 33,252.

Brighton Register 1886-April 1932. One source says town father Daniel F. Carmichael founded Brighton's first newspaper but another source says the founder was Arthur Coykendall, who owned the *Platteville Register*. Like many town founders, Carmichael probably at least had a financial interest in the paper. Coykendall was

publisher until 1889, when he went on to the *Loveland Register*. William S. Beattie bought the paper in December 1889, selling it two months later to the Register Publishing Company, under who appointed as editor and manager H.E. Garman, a state senator and editor of the *Denver Labor Bulletin*.

Carmichael managed the *Register* for a few months in 1892, with E. McChesney as editor. McChesney owned the *Register* for a few months later in 1892. George B. Lee and A.R. Logan purchased the paper in September. Logan sold his interest to Lee early in 1893 and bought papers in Deer Trail and Hugo. Lee served in the Civil War and worked on several newspapers in Iowa before moving to Colorado due to his asthma. He settled on a ranch in Henderson and published the *Register* until 1911. He used his paper to create community consensus on such important topics as the scheduling of baseball games:

The Register last week very politely asked the boys not to play Sunday ball. Now, this week we will kindly ask the employers to kindly let the ball players off Saturday afternoon, and we will certainly stop Sunday ball.... Employers expect work assigned to be done during the week and employees to use Sunday to rest and get in shape for Monday. The genuine American boy won't stand for any such deal as that. ...It was said that if Brighton would start Saturday ball playing that other towns would follow its lead. It would take years before such a thing would happen unless it became a state law....If people can't believe us, try me, but unless you let us have a half holiday on Saturday we will play on Sunday for without a successful ball team Brighton would be a back number this coming summer.

Stephen C. Merrill purchased the paper from Lee in December 1911 and published it until 1918. Merrill was the brother of the *Lamar Register's* esteemed editor

George B. Merrill, and the father of the equally esteemed Floyd Merrill of the *Greeley Tribune*.

William E. Lucas, formerly "Alf Isham's right-hand man" on the *Brighton Blade*, bought the *Register* in February 1918. Lucas retired and sold the paper to Fitzjames W. Work in 1920. In late summer 1922, Work's mother, who had been helping with the paper, sold it to C.E. and M.P. McKimson. C.E. McKimson previously owned papers in Merino, Eckley, Wray and Vernon. Frank S. Pavitt, formerly of Kersey, bought the paper in 1925 and sold it in 1926 to Albert Hulen of Alamosa. Hulen's daughter Virginia Lee Hulen was associate editor, and took over the paper when her father was appointed postmaster.

Colorado Editor reported In January 1932 that F.B. Miller and F.M. Dearmin, of the Loma Linda, California *Argus*, traded the *Argus* for the *Brighton Register*. Before he had gone to California, Miller owned the *Arriba Record* and *Granada Journal* in Colorado. He would edit the *Register* while his partner Dearmin, a printer, ran the mechanical end. It was a short stay. The *Brighton Register* was closed April 21, 1932, by a receiver for one of the Brighton banks, which had crashed with the Depression. The plant was sold at a mortgage sale. According to *Colorado Editor*, May 1932:

[The Register] was being operated by R.L. Howell and he was all ready to go to press with his last run when the order came to close. This paper has gone through a series of difficulties during the past year. Albert Hulen operated it until he was appointed postmaster. He later turned it over to F.S. Pavitt who traded it [to Miller and Dearmin] who operated it for a short time...Forrest Patch bought Dearmin's interests. Later Mr. Howell took it over. It is understood that the mortgage on the plant is much in excess of the sale value.

Galen Gaunt bought the paper in April 1932 and merged it into the *Adams County Republican*.

Brighton Endeavor 1891-1892. Founded by Arthur Coykendall, formerly of the *Register*. The paper lasted only for a year.

Brighton Blade January 16, 1903 to present.

Lewis C. Grove founded the *Blade* in Denver on July 1 1902 as the *G.A.R. Guardian*, a name commemorating of the venerable Civil War veterans group, the Grand Army of the Republic. After publishing 29 issues in Denver, the paper moved to Brighton January 16, 1903 and became the *Brighton Blade*. Grove later founded the *Aurora Adams County News*. Adams County surveyor James C. Counter was 25 years old when he bought the paper in January 1909. During his ownership, Counter bought the *Adams County Record* and merged it into the *Blade*. Counter came to Brighton in 1903 and stayed until his death in 1923. He served in the State Legislature and owned other businesses in Brighton as well as the *Blade*. He sold the *Blade* in 1910 to William Maxwell, who published it until December 1913, with John Robert Maxwell as editor. Maxwell left when he was appointed receiver of the Denver Land Office.

Alfred and Mary Isham became owners in 1913, and the *Brighton Blade* prospered, going semi-weekly in 1918. Mrs. Isham began as her husband's assistant, working up to society reporting and war news. In 1921 she took over full control of both the business and editorial sides of the newspaper. Lucille Hastings, a *Blade* editor in the 1940s, wrote of Mary Isham: "*Through her forceful personality, her interest in civic*

affairs and her initiative, she has been a leader and a force in the community throughout the county." Mary Isham was an active Democrat and her politics were reflected in the *Blade*. Under her guidance, the *Blade* prospered, publishing twice a week in 1918. The Ishams also published the *Bennett Blade*, *Byers Blade* and *Strasburg Blade* from 1916-1918. She was appointed to head a Works Progress Administration (WPA) division in 1936. That job covering 11 western states took her to Salt Lake City, and her daughter Joan took over as editor of the *Blade*. During World War II Mary Isham served as regional director of nursery schools for the western states for children whose mothers were working in aircraft plants. She also was a member of the Board of Regents of the Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Colorado State University) and President of the Colorado Press Association. She died in Seattle at the age of 72 in 1950.

For the first two years of World War II the *Blade* was mailed to servicemen all over the world. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Mohler bought the paper in June 1945 from Isham. Ray Mohler had spent the last 20 years with the *Colorado Springs Gazette and Telegraph* as circulation director. W. Carl and Laurene Dorr bought the *Blade* December 1, 1947. Born in Bedford, Iowa, in 1906, Dorr graduated from Iowa State College at Ames. After reporting for several farm publications he taught English, and other subjects in high schools in Missouri and Nebraska. In 1933 he bought his first newspaper - in Iowa - but gave it up a year later to take a job as an economist with the Department of Agriculture. "By July 1, 1940, he figured the government and agriculture were saved so he resigned and returned to the paper," *Colorado Editor* said in a June 1959 article. Dorr came to Colorado late in 1947. The *Editor* said:

It may be detected [in the Blade] that Dorr's editorial position is polite but firm. He believes in straight and wide coverage of all the local news, and certain elective officials whose doors blew shut have found that the Blade is no wooden sword. [He speaks] the language of an educator as well as of a newspaper publisher. He's equally hard to stump with farm lingo, and is amazingly fluent in that other recent and confusing invention, Governmentese.

Dorr was named chairman of the Colorado Press Association Journalism Education Advisory Committee (JEAC) in 1959. Convinced every "communication media owner...should be interested in the caliber of journalists to follow," Dorr led the committee to the various journalism schools and met with students and faculty. The JEAC concluded that student internships should be expanded, wages should be studied, and that high school journalism classes needed improvement and much more encouragement.

The Colorado Press Association named the *Brighton Blade* the state's best weekly or semi-weekly three times while Dorr ran it. Dorr bought the first *Adams County Sentinel* in 1955. The *Sentinel* began as the *Adams County Republican* in 1924, changing names in 1953. Dorr, a prominent Republican often struggled to retain publication of lucrative official public notices during predominantly Democratic administrations in a Democratic county. Dorr died in Brighton at age 94 in 2001. His wife Laureen died 13 years earlier. In 1964 Dorr added the:

Brighton Shopper, which had the same contents, but a different name plate from the *Blade*. It circulated outside Brighton.

Olen and Mary Bell bought the *Brighton Blade* in May 1968, changing the *Shopper* name to:

Market Place May 1968-October 1976. It was a free circulation Tuesday companion to the paid circulation *Brighton Blade*. Over the years it was variously called *The Adam-South Weld Market Place* and the *Brighton Market Place*. The Bells owned the paper until 1971 when ownership reverted to the Dorr.

The Wick Newspaper Group (Milton I. Wick, Walter M. Wick and Robert L. "Bob" Edwards) bought the *Blade* in March, 1974. Edwards, who came from Wyoming, was a former director of Wick Publications and had been in the newspaper business for 18 years. He was named editor/publisher of the *Blade*. Carl Dorr was editor/publisher emeritus.

Albin Wagner was named News editor of the *Brighton Blade* and the *Market Place* and served as editor until 1976, with the exception of two short periods as editor and general manager of the *Fort Lupton Press*. Edwards told *Colorado Editor* he "chose Brighton because of its unique community aspects - it is close to Denver and the mountains - yet it is somewhat isolated and can develop a personality of its own."

Edwards resigned as publisher and part owner of the *Brighton Blade* in 1975 after buying the *Golden Daily Transcript*. Barney Bennett replaced Edwards who published *The Express* in Westminster, Northglenn and Thornton. The *Blade* was sold in 1978 to Community Publications, the Minneapolis-owned chain of suburban Denver newspapers. The *Blade* was the only paper the company bought that retained its

original name. Vi June was named publisher of the *Blade* and seven other papers in the *Sentinel* chain (five in Adams county) in 1981. June was a community leader who served on the Westminster City Council for 10 years before becoming Mayor from 1975 to 1981, and served on a number of county and community boards. She was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1990. Among the editors who worked on the *Blade* during the later years were Neil Ross, Roy Van Dyke, Richard Elliott, Albin Wagner, and Anthony (Tony) Seese-Bieda. Ross, a former child actor in the "Our Gang" short comedies, died in December 1986. Terry Gogerty of Metro West Newspapers bought the *Blade* in 1990, and merged it into his *Brighton Standard*, changing the name to:

Brighton Standard-Blade October 1990 to present. It was sold to Landmark Community Newspapers, Inc., in 1997 but Gogerty and Annette Winkler-Reisel remained as co-publishers.

Adams County Standard #1 October 1961-1974. William H. (Bill) McMurray, founder. He was editor/publisher until 1971 when Community Publications bought the paper. The Community Publications group was owned principally by the Cowles family who owned the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*. Community Publications also owned the *Adams County Almanac*, the *Adams County Dispatch*, the *Jefferson Herald* and the *Thompson Valley Sun*. McMurray stayed on as general manager until 1973. The name of the paper was changed to:

Brighton Standard (#1) in 1974. Among the editors were Harrison (Harry) Hill, Linda Thayer, Gail Paulsen, Alan Felyk, Roy Van Dyke, Neil Ross and Dick Sides. In July 1976 the name was changed to:

Brighton Sentinel 1976 - February 1, 1978. Community Publications merged the *Sentinel* into its newly acquired *Brighton Blade*.

Brighton Standard #2 June 1983-1990., Paul Massey and Bill McMurray, founders. Massey and his wife, Liz bought out McMurray in June 1986 and sold the paper to Terry Gogerty in June 1987. Gogerty, an Iowa State journalism graduate, joined with Annette Winkler-Riesel and formed MetroWest Publishing for their several papers, including the *Brighton Market Place*, *Commerce City Express*, and papers in Fort Lupton, Frederick, Platteville and La Salle. In the fall of 1990 he bought the *Brighton Standard* and *Commerce City Sentinel*. MetroWest, based in Brighton, added the *Fort Collins Triangle Review* to its stable in the spring of 1994. The *Triangle Review* folded in October 1995. Gogerty bought the *Brighton Blade* in 1990 and merged the two Brighton papers into the:

Brighton Standard-Blade October 1990 to present.

Brighton Banner July 30, 2009-present Allison Lockwood, publisher, with her husband, Mark Humbert, editor and co-publisher of this weekly. They also publish the *Local Color* monthly magazine and the *Daily Post* digital internet news. Humbert spent 11 years with the *Rocky Mountain News* before he and his wife, Allison moved to Brighton to start *Local Color* in 2001 and the *Daily Post* in 2004.

Adams County Republican May 1924-January 1, 1953. Galen Gaunt and Paul B. Watrous, founders. Gaunt guided the *Republican* until 1950. B. Galen Gaunt, a native Coloradan, was born in 1896 to a pioneer Delta family and attended Longmont public schools and the University of Colorado. In 1922 he opened a commercial printing plant in Longmont. Two years later he founded the *Adams County Republican* which he published for 26 years. Gaunt took "a keen interest in [Brighton's] civic progress and is a member of many important civic, business and fraternal association," one biography noted. He sold the paper in 1950, and took a position at the Federal Center in Lakewood. Galen Gaunt died in 1955. James R. Dowler and A. Richard Gibbs bought the paper from Gaunt but were owners for less than a year. Robert Wardell, editor of the *Adams County Republican* from 1950-1951, came to Brighton from Colorado Springs. Arnold and Phoebe Kretzmann took over 1951-1955, with Robert Carrington as editor. Kretzmann previously published the *Norwood Star* and another weekly in Toole, Utah. Jack H. Wellenkotter became a partner in 1953. The name was changed to:

Adams County Sentinel January 8, 1953-1955.

In 1955 the *Brighton Blade* bought the *Sentinel* and merged it into the *Blade*.

Primrose and Cattlemen's Gazette 1974 to present, Rick Elliott founder. It was begun Fort Lupton but had offices in Brighton.

Adams County Record, Gershom Jones, publisher. The founding date is not known, but it merged into the *Blade* in February 5, 1909, according to Walter Stewart. Jones was later with the *Aurora Adams County News* and *Aurora Democrat*.

Brighton Reporter August 1991 to 1994. Patricia Dietz and Emelyn Morris-Sayre were co-founders. Morris-Sayre, who was co-publisher and ad director, left late in 1993. Dietz continued as editor/publisher. She was with the *Sterling Journal-Advocate* for eight years, and Duncan was ad director for the *Brighton Blade* and *Commerce City Sentinel*. It apparently went out of business sometime in 1994.

Brighton Explorer 1959.

Brighton Gazette 1978 (?) Sources list Juliette Ann Kroekel as editor.

Brighton Journal 1890. John and Otto Bruderlin, editors had formerly published the *Barr City Gazette*. The *Journal* lasted only five months before the young editors moved to Denver. See details in Albin Wagner's book, "*Adams County: Crossroads of the West.*" Wagner, now an author and archivist, is a former editor of the *Brighton Blade* and *Fort Lupton Press*.

Commerce City

In 1903 the Adams Land and Improvement Company established Adams City and made a bid to become the seat of the new Adams County. It came in second--a distant second--to Brighton. Adams City never became incorporated and was vacated by 1922. The area, however, was destined for bigger things. Continental Oil Company build an oil refinery on the site in 1930 and other industrialization followed. In 1937 Oscar Mills built large grain elevators here as did the Hungarian Flour Company in 1938. In 1942 the U.S Army began construction of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal during and after World

War II, spurring further development. In response to an annexation threat from Denver, residents of the area incorporated as Commerce Town in 1952. Commerce Town was renamed Commerce City in 1962 after annexing the unincorporated town of Derby. Subsequent annexations of Dupont, Irondale and much land around Denver International Airport greatly expanded the size of Commerce City. Newcomers hoping for a more glamorous name and to shed the smelly, smoky industrial image fostered an election on April 3, 2007 to change the name of Commerce City. Voters rejected this scheme. The city's grimy image brightened in 2007 with the opening of Dick's Sporting Good Park as one of the world's largest soccer complexes. Besides housing the National Soccer League's Colorado Avalanche with an 8,000 seat stadium, the Park boasts 24 fully lighted soccer fields. Residential growth also soared during the 1990s and early 2000s giving Commerce City a 2010 population of 45,913.

Adams County Almanac 1947-1971. Clifford F. Bautsch founder/publisher. The *Almanac* was started in Westminster, but "at the time there were not enough people for a newspaper to succeed," so it was moved to Derby as a free paper. Derby was later annexed by Commerce City. In 1946 Bautsch and Bill Taylor published the *North Denver Courier*. A year later Bautsch started the *Almanac*. In an interview with Walter Stewart, Bautsch said:

I installed the first perfection offset press in Colorado, really the first this side of Kansas City. It darn near broke me because of the cost of the plates, the plates wouldn't stay on the press, the limited number of typefaces available, and because businesses and most publications rejected the idea of offset. But advantages of offset won out: the cleanliness, less physical work, no heavy page forms of type to drop, the simplicity of making up pages, the comfort of not having the heat that surrounded Linotypes and

metal-casters, quicker learning of typesetting by those who set it, and cold-type setting by computer that offered 16 fonts of type from 5 to 72 points.

In 1961 Bautsch and Bill Taylor founded Tabba Press based in North Denver. It later became Colorado Publications, which published seven papers in the Denver area, and Loveland. It was sold in 1972 to Community Publications. Bautsch remained with the new company as publisher of the north group of papers. The *Almanac* became one of the Community Publications chain in Nov. 1971 and the name changed to:

Adams County Almanac Sentinel 1971-1978. It merged with the *Commerce City News* in 1978.

Commerce City News December 31, 1974 - February 1978. Roy Hansen was general manager and Katherine Allen served as editor. Wick Newspapers bought the paper in 1976. Frank Newell was named publisher of the paper in 1976, replacing Barry Bennett. Newell had moved to Brighton from California where he was general manager of the *Contra Costa Times*. He also published the *Brighton Blade*, *The Tri-City Journal*, *the Fort Lupton Press* and *The Express* in Westminster. Community Publications purchased the *News* in 1978 when the *News* and *Almanac* merged into the:

Commerce City News-Almanac 1977-2000 (?)The *News/Almanac* was sold, along with the *Brighton Blade*, to Terry Gogerty's MetroWest in June 1990. Gogerty merged the *News* into his:

Commerce City Express October 1989 to present. Terry Gogerty and Annette Winkler Riesel founders.

Commerce City Beacon c. 1989 to present. founded by Norm Union.

Derby

Derby, an unincorporated town laid out in 1889, had grown to earn its own post office in 1910. Named for Derby, England, it had become a station on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad In 1887. Annexed by Commerce City in the 1960s, Derby had two newspapers:

The Neighbor - February 1938-?. R.A. Sanders, founder.

Atlas Advocate - January to November 1957. Olen and Mary Bell and James King, founders. The paper was printed at the *Aurora Advocate* plant. The name of the paper came from the telephone exchange name. ElRoy FitzSenry, owner of the *Thornton Tribune*, bought the *Atlas Advocate* in May 1957 and merged the two papers.

Northglenn

Northglenn was established in 1959 by Perl-Mack Homes, one of the largest developers In the Denver area. Perl-Mack chose the name Northglenn as "a generic, soothing type name without specific meaning," and incorporated in 1969. Northglenn was unusual in not levying a city property tax but relying instead on the sales tax generated by the Northglenn Mall to pay for city government and services. Then the largest shopping center in Adams County and the second largest in Metro Denver, it fell into disrepair during the 1990s. Jordan Perlmutter of Perl-Mack, who build the original

Mall, leveled it and rebuilt it as the Market Place at Northglenn. Northglenn has continued to grow reaching a 2010 population of 35,789.

Northglenn Tribune 1960-1963, ElRoy FitzSenry founded it as a companion paper to the *Thornton Tribune*, also owned by FitzSenry. The paper didn't last after FitzSenry went into military service in 1962.

Northglenn Impressions 1968-1971. Wilbur E. Flachman, James R. Stitt, Lawrence Z. Wright and Roger W. Smith, founders. Flachman was publisher and then managing editor until 1972. Harry E. Green, Jr., bought the paper in 1970 and began printing it at his *Record Stockman* plant. Community Publications acquired it in Nov. 1971, changing the name to:

Northglenn Impressions-Sentinel November 1971 briefly, then to:

Dispatch Sentinel 1972-1982. It merged with the Thornton *Sentinel* to:

Northglenn-Thornton Sentinel 1982 to present. When the *Sentinel* chain broke up, Flachman, publisher of the *Westminster Window*, bought back the paper he had helped found.

Northglenn News 1958-1961.

Strasburg

In 1970 the Union Pacific and Comanche Crossing Historical Society erected a marker which says:

A continuous chain of rails from Atlantic to Pacific--long a vision of pioneer railroaders, and frontier-tamers--became a reality at 3 p.m. on August 15, 1870 at a point 3,812 ft. east of the depot in what is now Strasburg, Colorado. Near Comanche Crossing, named for a usually dry, sometimes rampaging creek, the last rails were spiked by Kansas Pacific Railroad crews driving west from Kansas and east from Denver to give the nation its first truly continuous coast-to-coast railroad. On the final day the crews laid a record-breaking 10 1/4 miles of track in 9 hours to win a barrel of whiskey which canny foremen had placed midway in the final gap.

The Kansas Pacific and the Denver Pacific were absorbed in 1880 by the Union Pacific. Strasburg had two great celebrations. It wasn't easy building a rail line. In 1869 the *Rocky Mountain News* reported that a train of Kansas Pacific cars "ran into a herd of buffaloes, killing one." Just five days prior to the historic event at Comanche Crossing, a Kansas Pacific construction train ran into another train, killing six and injuring many more. The *Rocky Mountain News* reported on August 11, 1870:

There was much excitement at the train at the time of the accident, and foolish threats were made of hanging the engineer and conductor of the iron train. There were many remarkable escapes...the accident may be said to have been unavoidable. No blame can possibly be attached to the officers of the iron train, and after most thorough investigation we are compelled to free him from all blame, and to render them full credit for having done their full duty.

A homestead was laid out as a town in 1890 and named for John Strasburg, the section foreman of the Kansas Pacific Railroad who laid track at Comanche Crossing. Although the railroad served the area farmers, the town didn't really develop until about 1907 when a general store was opened and a post office established in 1908. A serious town needs a newspaper and two publishers obliged:

Strasburg Blade 1916-1918. published by the *Brighton Blade*, owned by Alfred and Mary Isham.

Strasburg News April 29, 1916 to present. C.F. Deitsch, founder. He laid out his philosophy in a Salutatory:

In presenting this first number of the Strasburg News we have few promises to make and no apologies to offer. The undersigned has for some time been convinced that there is a field here for a wide-awake local newspaper and the starting of this enterprise is based on confidence in the people and resources of this favored community.

How long Deitsch had the *News* is uncertain but later that same year, Edward L. Bundy was editor. Bundy, who had been in Kit Carson and Englewood before Strasburg, left in 1917 to join the Morrison paper. M.E. Dodd, formerly of Fairplay, bought the paper in February 1917. In 1923 he sold the *News*. Steen M. Johnson bought the paper in October 1924 and sold it in 1929 to Frank L. Hunter who stayed awhile: 38 years. Hunter expanded his operations to include the *Bennett News* and revived the *Byers News* in 1929. The *Byers News* merged into the *Strasburg News* in 1937; the *Bennett News* had done so some time earlier.

Hunter, born at Barr Lake, was a printer's apprentice for the *Brighton Blade* and *Register* from 1917-1920, and owned his own printing shop in Brighton for a time. He was working for a Denver printing company when he bought the *Strasburg News*. Hunter broadened his horizons again in 1937 and changed the newspaper name to:

Eastern Colorado News 1932 to present.

Lewis Klein bought the paper in 1967 and published it until 1982. Klein sold to Jerry Brock and James Adkins in 1982. Jerry and Becky White published the paper from January 1989, until 1993 when Michael Galarneau purchased it. Galarneau, a California

rancher, "blew in with the big storm of '92" to become managing editor of the Simla paper. Hearing the *News* was for sale, he took a look and "saw a publication with a lot of potential. When I see a paper down, I feel for it, and I feel for the community." He decided to buy. "I look at the *ECN* as the community's paper. I just happen to hold the mortgage. It's our intention to give the paper back to the community as the product they deserve," he said. In February 1995, Galarneau absorbed the Bennett *Colorado Weekly News*. Late in 1995, Galarneau left the *News*. John Thomas, publisher of the *Limon Leader*, took it over.

Thornton

Thornton, the "Miracle City," grew up on a barren prairie almost overnight. Real estate tycoon Sam Hoffman planned and developed an instant city with hundreds of houses ready for occupancy by 1953. Hoffman built as many as ten houses a day in one of the fastest growing towns in the state's history. Many World War II and Korean War veterans used GI loans to buy brand new brick homes for \$10,000 in the community named for then Colorado Governor Dan Thornton. Incorporation came in 1956 and in 1963 Thornton purchased its own water system, the key step in enabling it to grow even more rapidly. In 1990, Thornton annexed the 1890s unincorporated town of Eastlake. By 2010, it had become Colorado's sixth largest city with a population of 118,772.

Thornton Tribune, early 1954-May 1957, Kenneth Armstrong, founder. He sold it in November 1955 to W. Keith Tennial, who was there until the following March when he sold the paper to the man who had been editor for a month: ElRoy FitzSenry.

FitzSenry got his start at age 14, publishing a little TV magazine for distribution to motels. It was successful and after two summers, FitzSenry branched out and opened a letter and duplication shop in his home. He did well enough to rent an office and gross more than \$2,000 the first year, giving him the capital to buy the *Tribune*. FitzSenry was "five feet seven in his stocking feet, weighed 135 pounds, and was exactly 17 years and two months old." FitzSenry was one of the youngest publishers ever in Colorado and recognized as the youngest in the nation at the time. (He lost the title in 1959 to an 18-year-old in Minnesota.) In May 1957 FitzSenry bought his second paper, the five-month old Derby *Atlas Advocate*, which he merged with the *Tribune*, renaming it:

South Adams Tribune May 1957-April 1963. Not content with one paper, FitzSenry started the **Perl Mack Tribune**, a free circulation weekly in October 1959, and the *Northglenn Tribune* in 1960. When he went into military service in 1963 the papers were suspended. After service, FitzSenry was editor of the Loveland *Larimer County Times-News* and *Sunday Roundup*, and later operated E.L.F. Publications. He died in 1994.

Adams Record 1958 - 1961. Gordon L. Davis, publisher; Harrison F. Hill, editor.

Adams County Dispatch 1965-1978. Clifford Bautsch, founder; free circulation. It was purchased by the *Sentinel* chain in 1972, and merged with *Northglenn Impressions* to *Dispatch Sentinel* in Northglenn.

Northside Star July 1964-1966. Dr. Dalrie Berg, founder; Marie Engleman, editor. It was circulated in Thornton and Northglenn. The name was changed to:

North Valley World February 1966-1970. Dr. Berg sold two-thirds interest to Wilbur Flachman and Marshall Howe in Oct. 1966. Don Lawler was editor and Norma J. Lawler, news editor 1966-1968. Don Goreham was editor-publisher 1968 to 1970 when Harry Green Jr. bought the paper for his Community Publications/*Sentinel* chain. The name was changed to:

North Valley World Sentinel January 1970-1971. The name was changed again to:

Thornton-North Valley Sentinel July 1971 - January 1972. Community Publications purchased the paper in November 1971 and within a short time merged it with *Northglenn Impressions*.

Prime Time, dates unknown. Ray Pollom and his wife, Joyce, founders.

Westminster

A family named DeSpain arrived from Illinois in 1863 and homesteaded, building a sod house and planted fruit trees. Their name was given to the depot when the railroads came through. In 1870 C.J. Harris laid out attractive tracts for "a leisurely town of homes with spacious grounds." By 1891 his goal was achieved and DeSpain Junction was renamed Harrisburg. A Presbyterian college named Westminster was built in the new town. Sixty students enrolled in the first class in 1907. The college had rough going but survived and expanded to a successful law school that eventually merged with the University of Denver law school. But its name lasted; when the town incorporated in

1909 it took the name Westminster. Westminster mushroomed into the ninth largest city in Colorado by 2010 with a population of 106,114.

In April 1934 *Colorado Editor* carried the news that a new paper had been started in Westminster in March. The editor was Francis M. Day and "he has been promised liberal support by the residents of the town. They have wanted a paper there for some time."

Westminster Journal 1947-1972. The *Journal* was founded by A.B. Withers, who was with the paper until February 1954. Withers simultaneously published the *Wheat Ridge Journal* and *Edgewater Tribune*. In October 1950, Withers and his wife purchased the *Erie Herald*. They put a new Creighton University graduate in charge of the Erie paper. His name was Jack Bacon and he went on to be a stalwart member of the Colorado press, most recently as editor of the *Aurora Sentinel*. He was named Colorado Press Association Newspaper Person of the Year in 1994.

In October 1954 Pershing B. Brady bought the *Journal*. Brady sold the paper in May 1956 to Marshall Howe, who remained as publisher until October 1, 1966. Wilbur Flachman was hired as editor in January 1962. Flachman also was manager from June 1962 until he became publisher in October 1966. Flachman bought part interest in the paper at that time. Harry Green, Jr., bought the *Journal* from Howe and Flachman on January 8, 1970, and made it part of his *Sentinel* chain. Flachman stayed on as managing editor until May 1972. Community Publications assumed management of the paper in 1972 and the name was changed to:

Journal-Sentinel April 27, 1972-1991. Flachman again became owner of the *Journal*, buying the paper when the *Sentinel* chain was broken up. He merged the *Journal* into his *Westminster Window*.

Westminster Free Express Fall 1972-December 22, 1976. Wick Newspapers of Arizona, founder. Wick remained owner the entire life of the paper. B.G. (Barney) Bennett was general manager in 1975.

Westminster Window January 12, 1978 to present, Wilbur E. Flachman, founder. When the *Window* purchased the *Westminster Journal* in 1991, the MetroNorth Newspapers company was formed with Flachman as president and Roy Robinson, who had been Flachman's *Eagle Enterprise* partner, as publisher of the papers. Robinson was succeeded in May 1994 by Bruce G. Harper, a Wisconsin newspaperman.

Sources: "*History of Adams County*," by W. Carl Dorr, in "Colorado."

"*Adams County, Crossroads of the West*," by Albin Wagner, 1977

"Community Journalism On the Line" by Walter H. Stewart, 1985

Colorado Prospector October, 1984

The *Strasburg News* "history issue" 8/12/1993

Aurora Star, Advocate, and Sentinel (various issues, including Advocate 3/29/1962, 17th anniversary (11/26/1964) and Sentinel 75th 11/1/1984).

"Adams County Papers," Lucille Hastings, Colorado Editor, December 1944.

Special thanks to Ken Bundy, Ole Bell, Jack Bacon, Wilbur Flachman, Mike Galarneau, Tom Noel, Joan Isham Schram and Albin Wagner.

CHAPTER III

ALAMOSA COUNTY

It is no small matter to build a railroad from the great plains over the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, scaling the awful heights of [La] Veta Pass, and descending into the vast basin called San Luis Park. But the Denver & Rio Grande Railway [has] done that....

No railroad could have a more beautiful goal. Around it are hundreds of square miles of plain, as level as a floor, and sparsely covered with sage brush and greasewood, with here and there a winding thread of dark green verdure that marks the course of the Rio Grande or some of its affluents....

The range of vision can best be understood by the statement that the extent of the park is almost equal to the area of the state of Massachusetts.

J.G. Dillenback, *Denver Daily Times*

Centuries before the railroad arrived, Indians were living in the San Luis Valley. The Tabeguache Utes considered the entire area their particular territory, and left trails for other people, and wagon and stage roads, to follow.

Spanish and Mexican settlers drifted in to farm and form small settlements. Large portions of land were granted by the Mexican government to several men of influence in hopes of starting colonies. The first United States base was Fort Garland, established in 1852 in Costilla County. The military presence provided a sense of security for settlers who began flowing into the valley to create farms, ranches and towns.

Alamosa

Former Colorado Territorial Governor Alexander Cameron Hunt oversaw construction of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad to the banks of the Rio Grande where he created the railroad town of Alamosa. Hunt platted the town for the Alamosa

Town Company in May 1878, a scant two months before the railroad steamed in. Many buildings, including two hotels and a newspaper, were transported to the new town on flat cars. The D&RG made Alamosa a major rail hub with roundhouses, shops and impressive facilities. As the rail nucleus Alamosa also became the commercial hub and outgrew older Hispanic towns. Alamosa County was carved out of Costilla County in 1913. Locating Adams State College in the new county there in 1921 confirmed Alamosa's role as the hub of the San Luis Valley. The nearby Great Sand Dunes National Park and Colorado Gator Reptile Park have helped make Alamosa a target. It is once again a rail hub with the revival of the Rio Grande Scenic Railroad as a summer excursion from Alamosa to La Veta, Antonito and Creede. With a 2010 population of 8,780 Alamosa is the largest town in the San Luis Valley.

The Independent came to Alamosa with the coming of the railroad in 1876, and is the sole institution that has survived the test of time...Editors come and go but policies seldom change. The newspaper continues its mission in and out the rapidly passing years and will probably never go out of business.

Alamosa Courier October 1923

Colorado Independent 1878-1883 John W. and H.W. Hamm, proprietors. The *Independent* followed the railroad. It came track-mile by track-mile through Walsenburg and Garland City to Alamosa. The paper was founded in Walsenburg as the *Huerfano Independent* on December 11, 1875 by T.O. Bigny, formerly of the *Georgetown Miner* and *Pueblo Chieftain*, and a poet of some note. Herman Duhme Jr. was proprietor. One page of the newspaper was printed in Spanish. Bigny was not a businessman, and in September 1876 he left the paper because of "peculiarly distressing financial

difficulties." Victor Jackson and Hayward (first name unknown) took over as editors and publishers.

A year later the paper surfaced in Fort Garland as the:

Colorado Independent. Jackson evidently left the paper fairly soon because the Rowell directory lists Hamm and Couch as Garland publishers in 1878 (paper est. 1875.) The first D&RG train reached Alamosa July 4, 1878. The *Independent* was either on it or only a day or so behind in the first available boxcar. It undoubtedly had priority because of the importance of newspapers in building new towns, counties and vast sections. In Alamosa the *Independent* stayed and flourished.

Hamm and Finley were publishers in 1880. Walter Stewart lists several publishers in the early days: Hana, Cane and W.L. Stevens who was both an investor and an editor. He later founded the *Silver Cliff Miner*. He reportedly had an interest in a La Veta paper, though there is not a newspaper listed for La Veta at that time.

Thomas M. Finley, who was postmaster in the early 1880s, was with the *Independent* until 1885. T.M. Finley & Co. changed the name to:

Alamosa Independent 1883-1885. Finley & Heckman were owners in 1884 when the paper merged with the *Journal*.

Alamosa Journal (#1) February 7, 1884-January 29, 1885, George W. Rogers, founder. Rogers may well have been one of the early businessmen who began papers for the benefit of the community. It certainly provided a medium for *his* advertising

which was plentiful. Rogers was a dealer in "Lumber, Lath and Shingles" and other building materials, but also a dealer in "Real Estate and Mines, Loan and Insurance Agent," "Wagons, Carriages, Buggies, Etc. Etc.," and had "arrangements" with the Studebaker Bros. Manufacturing Co., all of which he advertised in the *Journal*. He was vice president of the Alamosa Board of Trade. Rogers boasted of "having a larger circulation than any other paper published in Conejos County." The *Journal* merged with the *Independent*- in 1885.

Alamosa Independent-Journal February 5, 1885-April 17, 1914. Malcolm D. Mix was editor of the *Independent-Journal*, a position he held off and on - along with that of general manager - until at least 1896. The Johnson brothers - Charles A. and Samuel N. - bought the paper in the spring of 1885. Both were Ohio-born lawyers. Charles, who attended Illinois State University, came to Colorado in 1868 to prospect and mine. Samuel Johnson followed in 1875. In 1878 Samuel was a surveyor for the Denver & Rio Grande Royal Gorge route. A year later he operated the freight route from Cañon City to Leadville, hauling lumber for 12 cents per pound. The Johnsons went into the newspaper business in 1880, buying the *Rosita Sierra Journal*. They sold the *Independent-Journal* in 1896 and moved to Durango to practice law, but they couldn't stay away from newspapers. They founded the *Carbondale Item* in 1898.

W. H. Hirst was publisher from 1896 to 1904, with John Heller as editor. Hirst introduced his successor, I.J. Bradford, in a farewell column March 3, 1904. Bradford was a Kansan who had been a school teacher for 30 years when he came to Colorado.

He ran the paper with Alexander Oliver as business manager. Oliver was "becoming an active stockholder in the company [and] will assume business management of the *Journal*." Oliver was a businessman, not a journalist.

Born in Scotland in 1860, Oliver arrived in Gunnison in 1880 to try his hand at mining and followed mining booms to Leadville, Creede and Cripple Creek. After coming to Alamosa he helped build many prominent buildings, including the Oliver Opera House. He was head of a theatre company, and president/manager of the Alamosa Realty & Investment Co. Sometime before December 30, 1910, Oliver became the newspaper publisher. The paper was officially the *Independent-Journal* but the public shortened the name to what it would be called officially only a few years later:

Alamosa Journal (#2) April 23, 1914-July 29, 1932. D.H. Sullivan was publisher in 1914. John M. Stuart was editor and manager, according to *Colorado Press*, which reported that "when Jack puts on the gloves in a newspaper combat they are always the very light weight variety." Stuart was publisher of the *Alamosa Courier* in 1908, and had just spent several months on the Denver *Colorado Progressive*. Stuart owned and edited the *Journal* until 1917.

Orah Elliott Meyer purchased the paper in 1918. Meyer was born in Illinois in 1873 and came to Colorado in 1905. His first job was with the legendary Judge L.W. Cunningham on the *Colorado Springs Democrat*. From there Meyer went to Fort Collins, and to the *Montrose Daily Press* He returned to Illinois but the call of the West brought him back to Colorado in 1918. He settled in Alamosa with the *Journal* but also bought

the *Monte Vista Tribune* in 1922 and hired Roy A. Williams to manage the Alamosa paper while he devoted himself to the Monte Vista one. This didn't work out, so Meyer sold the *Alamosa Journal* in 1923 to Ansel W. Quin. However, Meyer couldn't stay away from Alamosa. He sold the *Monte Vista Tribune* and returned in September 1928 to buy his old paper's competition, the *Alamosa Courier*.

Ansel W. Quin, born in Mississippi in 1888, became a school teacher, newspaper publisher and postmaster in his hometown until poor health necessitated a move to Colorado. He spent two years recuperating in Colorado Springs. The family moved to Alamosa in 1922 when he bought the *Journal*. Quin's health deteriorated again so he sold the semi-weekly *Journal* in September 1929 to John L. Dier and Edward H. Walthers. Said *Colorado Editor* of the new owners:

Both young men are quite experienced in the newspaper game, particularly with the advertising end. Mr. Dier is a graduate of the department of Journalism at Columbia, Mo. He was recently connected with the Emporium [a San Francisco department store.] Mr. Walthers was editor of the San Francisco Shopping News...

Quin moved to Phoenix where he published a tourist magazine, but, like Meyer, he couldn't stay away from Alamosa. Homesick for Colorado, and in improved health, he returned in 1931 to buy back Walthers' interest in the paper. Said the *Colorado Editor*: "Under [Quin's] ownership the *Journal* became one of the best-known smaller papers in Colorado." The partnership of A.W. Quin and John L. Dier proved a happy one, and the newspaper flourished. Quin was president of the Colorado Press Association in 1928. (John Dier was president in 1938.) In 1932 Quin and Dier bought the *Courier* and merged the two papers.

San Luis Valley Courier February 20, 1889 - present, John M. Howery, founder. It has been issued under various names:

Alamosa Courier 1900-1918

Alamosa Courier & Leader January 15, 1918-November 29, 1928

Daily Courier 1928-May 18, 1952

San Luis Valley Courier to 1952, also daily-October 1, 1955

Valley Courier October 3, 1955 to present

The *Courier* was weekly until April 1928. It was a seven-day daily from 1928 until the early 1960s when it switched to a five-day daily. In 1889-1900 it had one or more pages printed in Spanish, with a second masthead identifying Jose M. Vigil as the "Redactor."

Over the years the *Courier* absorbed four competitors: the *Leader* in 1918, the *Empire* in 1926 the *Journal* in 1932 and the *Sun* in 1954. Founder John M. Howery sold the *Courier*, eight months after launching it, to the Bowman Brothers. The new owners declared their progressive philosophy in an October 16, 1889 editorial:

An effort will be made to give the public a progressive newspaper containing the National, State, Valley, County and City news - devoted to the interest of the Valley....The democratic party [small d] will find the Courier strong in the faith, fervent in spirit and fearless in battle. The farmers and laboring men will find in the Courier a champion and defender of their rights....Rings and cliques must consider The Courier an enemy who will hesitate not to expose all fraud and corruption. The people are asked to read the Courier candidly, judge it fairly and patronize it according to its merits.

The Bowman Brothers sold the paper on January 1, 1890 to E.A. Newton who identified himself as "Ed and Bus Manager." Newton took a different tack in his salutatory:

It is not necessary to make promises. We shall attempt to show our good faith and what stability we may happen to possess in work for the town, the country and The Courier.

Alamosa Publishing and Printing bought the paper in 1908 and installed J.M. Stuart as editor. In January 1910, Clifton H. Wilder became owner and stayed until 1923. He launched a daily edition which, said *Colorado Press* in February 1915:

is proving a credit to the enterprise of its editor....It covers the local field remarkably well and uses A.P. [Associated Press] pony service for its state and national news. Will M. Thomas [editor of the Manassa Free Press] says of the venture, "Mr. Wilder is the most progressive newspaperman in the valley and we hope the patronage will be sufficient to make it a flattering success."

Bert L. Price "assumed editorial management" of the *Courier* in March 1923. Albert Hulen became Price's partner and editor of the *Courier* at some point. *Colorado Editor* noted in October 1926 that Bert Price had accepted a position on the *Pueblo Star-Journal*, that O.E. Meyer had bought the *Courier* from Hulen, and that Hulen had bought the *Brighton Register*. O.E. Meyer returned to Alamosa from Monte Vista in September 1926. In April 1928 Meyer changed the paper to a daily. Meyer died in November 1929.

F.A. Heath seems to have bought the paper from the Meyer estate. Paul Schlesselman was publisher the first months of 1932. Ansel W. Quin and John L. Dier, publishers of the *Alamosa Journal*, bought the *Courier* later in 1932. Schlesselman moved to Denver to go into the insurance business, "backed by the Heath interests

which formerly owned the *Courier*," *Colorado Editor* reported. Tragedy struck in the fall of 1934. The Quin family was returning from a visit to Mississippi, when their car was sideswiped. Mrs. Quin and the youngest son were killed. It was a tragedy that haunted the editor. A year and three days after the accident, September 22, 1935, Ansel Quin, died after a stroke, at age 47.

John Dier bought Quin's interest and the *Courier* became a Dier family operation. John Q. Dier and his wife, Caroline, the parents, lived in Denver. Their elder son, John L. Dier, and the younger, William, lived in Alamosa. William Dier, John's brother, who had been working on the *Sterling Advocate*, became advertising manager of the *Courier*. After John went into service, William took over as editor/manager and his wife, Marjorie, was assistant editor and factotum.

Marjorie Dier was a graduate of the University of Missouri, with a major in physical education. She was a qualified water safety and first aid instructor, and active in the county's defense program. Pressed into newspaper service, Dier swam right along with the wartime *Courier*. In her first year she "held the various titles of circulation manager, national advertising manager and editor," according to a 1943 *Colorado Editor* article by Lucille Hastings. Caroline Dier faithfully sent in her weekly contributions from Denver.

John L. Dier experimented with a fifteen-minute news broadcast over the local radio station in 1936. Dier decided on the radio-newspaper hookup after attending the annual CPA convention in Denver and hearing talks about the subject. He found it

"stimulated newspaper sales and that the relationship with the merchants through the plan has been most excellent."

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Crabb bought the *Courier* in March 1945. Their son, Kenneth W. Crabb, was editor. The senior Crabb had owned several newspapers in Iowa and was a former president of the Iowa Press Association. The son was a University of Missouri School of Journalism graduate, recently discharged from the Navy. Mrs. Crabb also had newspaper experience. A year later, in July 1946, Ray F. Barnes and Ray F. Fletcher bought the *Courier*. Fletcher bought out Barnes in January 1952; Barnes, in turn, bought the entire paper from Fletcher in the summer of 1954.

Fletcher had been business manager of several Ohio newspapers, including one owned by President Warren G. Harding. During World War II, Fletcher was a "dollar-a-year man," contributing to the war effort by working for the U.S. Treasury for a \$1-a-year salary.

Ray Barnes, a native of Salem, W.Va., started teaching school when he was 18, but after serving in the Army in World War I he returned to try the newspaper business - as a door-to-door subscription salesman. Moving up to ad salesman, he worked for the R.C. Hoiles papers in Ohio for 20 years, but decided to go on his own. He bought the Elwood (Ind.) *Call-Leader*, always the home base of his newspaper chain. He added his tenth newspaper, in Ohio, in 1973, but Alamosa was one of his early papers. Ray Barnes died in May 1988 at the age of 92. Sylvia Lobato, a *Courier* columnist wrote:

I'm positive Mr. Barnes is in heaven because he was never too successful to be human; his pride in his country never faltered; and he didn't drink rotgut whiskey.

Barnes also knew a good training ground when he saw one. He sent his two sons to Alamosa to work on the *Courier*. Charles (Chuck) Barnes, almost fresh out of college, became manager in 1954 and eventually publisher until 1967; he returned as publisher 1990-1992. His brother, Jack managed the Alamosa paper for about a year starting in 1961, but was transferred to the sister paper in Elwood, Ind.

The *Courier* bought "the name and good will" of the weekly *Alamosa Valley Sun* late in 1954. Among the *Courier* editors and/or general managers were Clifford H. Edwards Jr. 1954-1958; F.G. (Doc) Kirby 1962-1978; William H. James (ad manager and then publisher) 1964-1966; and Miles F. Porter IV 1978. *Colorado Editor* reported in November 1954 that Jack Wellenkotter, whose wife was an Alamosa native, "is the new editor." J. Kenneth Green succeeded Bill James as editor/general manager from 1966-1974; in June 1967 he bought "a small interest" in the *Courier*. Green sold his interest back to Barnes in 1974, and moved on to start a paper in Canada.

John M. Sheldon became general manager of the *Courier* and two years later was named publisher. John Michael Sheldon was born in Pueblo in 1940, grew up in Walsenburg, and attended Colorado State University. He began his journalism career with the *Colorado Springs Gazette*, later returning to his hometown to join the *Huerfano World*. He joined the *Alamosa Courier* in 1967 as an advertising representative, and was subsequently promoted to advertising manager in 1969, general manager in 1974 and became publisher in 1975. Sheldon's avocation was the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic

Railroad, a summer passenger train reviving in 1970 the Antonito, Colorado to Chama, New Mexico line of the D&RG. He personally assisted in the design of the reconstructed passenger cars. He is credited with much of the success of the railroad.

This 64 mile long summer excursion claims to be America's highest and longest narrow gauge, coal fired, steam train. Sheldon died in June 1981, at age 40, he was the immediate past president and chairman of the Board of Colorado Press Association.

Jim Barnes, son of Chuck, managed the paper from late 1981 until 1990. During his tenure he added more modern equipment for efficiency and saw circulation grow to more than 6,500. He also founded the daily *Conejos County Courier* in La Jara.

News Media Corp, an Illinois-based newspaper group, bought the *Alamosa Valley Courier* and *Conejos County Courier*, a sister paper to the Alamosa paper, in November 1992 and made Keith Cerny, a former Wyoming publisher, publisher of the two Colorado papers. New Media later bought the San Luis Valley Publishing newspaper group, headquartered in Monte Vista, which owned the *Alamosa News.*, the *Courier's* competition.

The *Alamosa News* reported Cerny was "'thrilled' to be re-directing the *Courier*," and added that, "According to an account in the *Courier*, employees are happy with the sale of the paper, which had been behind in its payroll."

Virginia McConnell Simmons, longtime columnist for the *Alamosa Valley Courier*, covers much local history in her "Rabbit Brush Rambler" column. Virginia has also

written the best regional history to date, *The San Luis Valley: Land of the Six Armed Cross*.

Alamosa News (#1) May 1878-September 1879, Mathias Custer, founder.

According to historian Wilbur Stone, Custer had an associated named Matthews.

Conejos County Times 1881-1883.

Expositor September 27, 1883-1884, C.E. Broyles founder.

Alamosa Sentinel January 1886-1888, Rev. J.J. Gilchrist 1886, founder. Lewis Guilmette was publisher and J. H. Lewis, editor, in 1888.

Chico 1886-1887.

Anciano 1886-1887, the Reverend J.J. Gilchrist, founder; semimonthly; Spanish language. Papers with the same name also were published in La Jara, Akron and Del Norte about the same time, according to Lucille Hastings.

Alamosa Weekly Lance July 1894-1897.

Alamosa Empire April 5, 1909-July 28, 1926, Empire Publishing Co. Frank Hartman, a pioneer southwestern Colorado newspaperman, became editor/publisher in 1919. In 1926, the Steamboat *Pilot* had kind words for the well-liked Hartman:

[Hartman's] trenchant pen has commented intelligently and lucidly on all the public events since Colorado's adolescent days. If a squarer man ever lived it has been kept quiet. Frank Hartman is the salt of the earth...he has the best wishes of the Pilot for peace, prosperity and happiness.

A.W. Quin purchased the *Empire* from Hartman and merged it into the *Alamosa Journal*.

Alamosa Leader 1911-January 8, 1918, Ben P. Middleton; merged into *Courier*.

Alamosa Aerial 1927-1928.

Valley Farmer December 1930-? H.M. Woolman, publisher; Frank Farley, ed. The *Valley Farmer* was Woolman's fifth newspaper. He had been at Keenesburg, Roggen, Manassa, and Blanca before Alamosa, and would be at Antonito and Bennett afterwards. The *Valley Farmer* was intended to cover the entire San Luis Valley.

Alamosa News (#2)1933-September 10, 1953 R.R. Hartman, founder. Begun as a daily free circulation paper, it switched to a weekly March 31, 1939. Hartman was editor/publisher until he disappeared in September 1936. His wife requested a police search. *Colorado Editor* commented that he hadn't been very "successful in interesting merchants in the paper," but never mentioned him or the results of police efforts again. Riley Emmons and Fettes bought the paper within a few months.

Ted Hoefler bought the Fettes' share in 1940 and the Emmons share in August 1941. In late 1940 a court awarded the paper to previous owner Emmons, but Hoefler got it back in November 1942 according to *Colorado Editor*.

Several people had part interest with Hoefler from 1942-1947: James G. Evans 1942, and Clyde Goodman and Paul Miller 1947. Ted Hoefler, Jr., went into partnership with his father prior to June 1951 when the son went into military service.

Alamosa Valley Shopper December 28, 1950-1954, begun by the Chamber of Commerce with free circulation. The *Shopper* was managed by Bob Lloyd who died after eight issues. He was succeeded by Arthur Cox and Charles Cordova, who bought the paper late in 1953 or early 1954. The name was changed to:

Valley Sun January 1954-November 1954, Leona Freeman, editor. The Sun was put on a paid subscription basis. The *Courier* bought and absorbed the *Sun*.

Alamosa News (#3) January 1991-April 1993, San Luis Valley (SLV) Publishing (Steve and Cynthia Haynes, Monte Vista), founders. Ray James, who had worked on the *Salida Mountain Mail*, was named editor in August 1991. "A lot of my heroes are small-town newspaper editors. I like the way small-town newspapers really participate in the community," he wrote when he joined the *News*. In November 1992 the *News* went to daily publication (Tuesday-Saturday.) The *News* folded shortly after News Media Corporation bought SLV Publishing in the spring of 1993.

Coryell and Garnett

These small towns, located in the part of Costilla County that became Alamosa County in 1913, blossomed during the late 1880s but faded in the 1890s. They did support newspapers, if briefly. Coryell had the:

Costilla County Democrat 1888-1889.

Garnett, previously Goudy, got its name when the post office opened in 1888. The post office lasted until the 1920s.

Garnett's newspaper was the:

Costilla News 1888-1894, which was moved and continued in Mosca.

Garrison/Hooper

The small town of Garrison began in 1890, built around a railroad depot that served as shipping outlet for the wheat farmers settled near the town. Garrison boasted a mercantile store, bank, school, church and newspaper; no saloons were allowed. The financial panic of 1893, however, hit the town hard. The bank closed and farmers left. In 1896 the town began a comeback, changed its name to Hooper for Major Shadrack K. Hooper, a major rail promoter, publicist and D&RG passenger agent.

The newspapers were:

Garrison Tribune April 1891-1896 C.M. Danford & Hitchcock, founders. Hitchcock is probably the F.C. Hitchcock of the *Mosca Herald*. Danford, who was connected with many papers in southwestern Colorado and is better known for his newspapers in Jefferson county after 1913. P.B. Gates was publisher in 1896. The town weathered the 1893 depression, and, adjusting to the town's new name, changed the paper's name, too.

Hooper Tribune October 1896 - January 30, 1914. It changed its name again in February 1914 to:

Hooper-Mosca Tribune February 7, 1914-1922. C.F. Chapman became publisher in 1898 and was there at least until 1909. Rowell lists P.S. Chapman in 1899; Ayer lists

C.F. Chapman in 1909. W.P. Pyke was publisher 1914-1920, followed by Clifton Wilder who folded the paper in 1922.

Hooper Press October 1896-1905, E.D. Bloom, founder, with P.S.. Chapman as editor. E.D. Lane was publisher 1900-1905. Both papers claimed a longer life in the 1900 Rowell directory. The *Tribune* said it was started in 1890 and the *Press* in 1894. Many newspapers did this, usually because volume numbers were changed on a whim.

Mosca

Mosca was first named Streator In 1888 after an Illinois town from which many of the first settlers came. The name Mosca was adopted in 1890 in an effort to develop the area as the railroad approached. That name came from nearby Mosca Pass named for 16th century explorer Luis Di Moscasco. With the arrival of the D&RG the town boomed and was doing well in 1891 when the first newspaper was founded. Mosca had two newspapers:

Mosca Herald 1891-1907, Ralph Field, founder. F.C. Hitchcock was editor in 1896 and 1904. Charles Reed was publisher/editor 1894-1908. This is probably the same Hitchcock who co-founded the *Garrison Tribune*.

The **Costilla News** was founded in 1888 in Garnett and moved to Mosca in 1894-3/1903. W.H. Terry was publisher in 1900.

Special sources: *Alamosa Valley Courier*, various issues

Special thanks to Edi Sheldon and Chuck Barnes

CHAPTER IV

ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Be it Enacted by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Kansas, as follows:

All that part of the Territory of Kansas....Beginning at the northeast corner of New Mexico, running thence north to the south line of Nebraska and north line of Kansas; thence along said line to the east line of Utah territory; thence along said line between Utah and Kansas territories, to where said line strikes New Mexico, thence along said line between said New Mexico and the territory of Kansas, to the place of beginning, shall be, and is hereby declared to constitute a county, to be known as Arapahoe county.

Chap. 37, "Laws of 1855," Kansas Territory

Thirteen men voted on October 6, 1856 in the first election held by American settlers in the Pikes Peak region. It would be awhile before any official business would be transacted but gold seekers, promoters, assorted businessmen, and two printing presses had already arrived as fast as their horses and wagons could carry them.

Sent in to organize the new county was Kansas Territory Commissioner Albert D. Richardson, a Boston journalist. Richardson arrived by stage in June with Horace Greeley of the *New York Tribune*. Organization of the county was delayed while Richardson and Greeley rode into the mountains to verify the claims of gold. Their signed report, printed on brown wrapping paper, was the first extra issued by the *Rocky Mountain News*. Sent back east, the report was reprinted and encouraged another rush of gold seekers.

Richardson was so highly regarded by Denver City citizens that they offered to finance a newspaper for him to publish. Richardson declined, but, a journalist to the

core, he became a roving reporter of the new territory, sending back enticing tales to the *Rocky Mountain News* and eastern papers. Founding editor William Newton Byers first published in Auraria in the upper hall of Uncle Dick Wooton's Western Saloon, much to the chagrin of cross creek rival Denver City. Shortly thereafter Byers moved his paper to the bed of Cherry Creek the boundary between Auraria and Denver, hoping to appeal to both communities. Richardson worked with Byers and was also one of the "press gang" on George West's *Western Mountaineer* in Golden before returning east to become a celebrated Civil War correspondent, and a member of Greeley's *New York Tribune* staff. He was shot and killed at his *Tribune* desk by an irate ex-husband.

The Arapahoe County area was a jumble of Indians, Mexicans, French, explorers, trappers and fortune seekers. The ingress of Yankees began after President Jefferson made the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. The Arapahoe name came from one of the largest Indian tribes living in the area although the namers neglected to check the spelling. The Arapaho dispute the spelling to this day.

"Eldorado!!!" hollered a headline in an August 1858 issue of the *St. Louis Republican*. **"Gold in Kansas!! The Pike's Peak Mines!"**

Gold actually had been discovered many years earlier, including an 1857 discovery called Mexican Diggings on the South Platte in what is now south central Denver. But the William Green Russell Party's discovery in June 1858--at Placer Camp on Dry Creek near where it flows into the Platte--triggered the gold rush. The find, and the publicity, pinpointed a location, promised riches, and provided both a rallying cry and a

slogan--Pike's Peak or Bust. "The Pikes Peak region" was a general term covering what became Colorado Territory in 1861. Arapahoe County, stretching west from the Kansas Border to the Shining Mountains and well south of the famous landmark became the main area of settlement.

Newspapers back in the states sailed into the story and proved how good newspapers can be. And how bad. The excitement generated by the press, and by the reporters and editors sent to the scene, was a publicity bonanza for the region. But the lack of facts and caution produced the next slogan--Pike's Peak Busted.

Jefferson Territory legislators established a new, smaller sized Arapahoe County, using the central (Denver) and southern portions of the original county, to including what today are Douglas and part of Elbert counties. Jefferson Territory was never recognized by the federal government but its successor, Colorado Territory, became official in 1861. Denver, the primary city, served as Arapahoe County Seat until 1902. Arapahoe County was divided into three in 1902 when the counties of Denver and Adams were authorized. When the final boundaries for Arapahoe County were set in 1902, Littleton was elected county seat over Englewood in a hotly contested vote with papers in each town aiding the lively contest.

Byers

Byers was founded in 1868 by a scout named Oliver P. Wiggins. First called Bijou, it was renamed for William Byers, father of Colorado newspapers and founder of the *Rocky Mountain News*. In 1889 lots were laid out for the town along the Kansas Pacific

Railroad. The town did not incorporate. Byers was much slower than its namesake getting into the newspaper game, but when it did it held on.

Bijou Valley Granger August 30, 1912-1919. There is a question as to whether A.L. Maxwell or E.A. King was the founder. No information on Maxwell has been found, but King had an Englewood newspaper. G.M. Buel bought the paper and ran it 1914-1919, when the name was changed to:

Byers News 1920-1922; 1929-1937. Leo J. Lucas bought the paper in 1920 but sold it in 1921 to William B. Miles.

On June 3, 1921, the *Deer Trail Tribune* ran a short note:

The Byers News appeared last week as a two-column eight page make-up. From the support given it by the Byers merchants it was plenty large enough to accommodate all the advertising and local news and some plate matter besides. No doubt Byers is a dead town.

Not quite. Miles published the *News* for about a year. Again, the *Deer Trail Tribune* noted that:

Parties by the name of Smith and Bailies are now in charge. May they have better success than the past different owners have been having. Byers needs a paper badly and should support the News more liberally than it has been doing or there will be no paper there at all in a short time.

The *Tribune* was right. In 1922 the Calhan News Publishing Company had taken over, with J.W. Sherman, editor. It was suspended that year. Frank L. Hunter revived

the *Byers News* in 1929 in conjunction with his Strasburg *Eastern Colorado News*. It was merged into the *Elbert County News* in 1937.

Byers Hustler 1928-1929, W.V. Crikfield; it was suspended in April 1929. (*Colorado Editor* gives the name as Crihfield.)

Byers Blade 1916-1918. The *Blade* was a *Brighton Blade* offshoot. Alfred and Mary Isham were the *Blade* publishers.

Deer Trail

Deer Trail was the second of three towns founded by Oliver Wiggins. (The third town took his name.) It began as a trading post and campsite to serve wagon trains heading for the gold fields, particularly the Leavenworth & Pikes Peak stage to Denver 1858-1860. It was also on the cattle drive route to Wyoming. Frontiersman Wiggins named it in 1870 after the place where deer drank from Bijou Creek. The Kansas Pacific Railroad platted the town and built a station in 1875. Deer Trail claims the distinction of holding the first U.S. organized rodeo in 1869.

For a small community, Deer Trail has an unusually long newspaper history, beginning in 1888 and still going. Early editors went on to long careers elsewhere, but the later ones stuck around.

Compass 1888-1889.

Rocky Mountain Reveille 1899-1900, W.R., Hill, founder. The *Reveille* began in 1899 in Critchell, Jefferson County. Either a Deer Trail edition was also published or the

paper moved to Deer Trail within a short time. In 1900 it relocated to Littleton and in 1905 settled in Englewood for its final year.

Deer Trail News 1909-1918.

Arapahoe Republican 1910-1913, Fred J. Perry, founder. Perry was publisher of the Littleton *Arapahoe Republican* in 1909, so quite possibly he simply moved locations. He also had the *Englewood Tribune* during this period. Both papers ended in 1913.

Deer Trail Tribune 1913-1955. W.B. Miles, founder. He owned the paper from 1913-1915. The *Tribune*, a 25" x 36" broadsheet, was "probably printed in Englewood," as were issues during A.R. Logan's ownership, according to current publisher Harry (Dutch) Venter.

Miles was followed as owner by S.J. Hanks, 1915-1916 and A.R. Logan, 1917-1919. Logan had just sold his Hugo *Lincoln County Democrat*. A local merchant, F.J. Schindler, bought the paper in the spring of 1919. According to *Colorado Press*, Logan "retired to his Denver home and will take a well-earned rest."

Colorado Press in May 1919 reported that A.Z. Stirling, publisher of the Englewood *Arapahoe County Democrat*, was temporarily retiring from newspaper work in an effort to improve his health, and was placing the paper in the charge of C.E. Ellison. "During the past last several years, Stirling has been publisher of a large number of weekly and daily newspapers throughout the West," the *Press* said. Newspaper historian Walter Stewart says that A.Z. Stirling of the Englewood *Arapahoe Democrat*

merged the *Democrat* into the *Tribune* in 1920. Stirling died December 9, 1922 at the Union Printers Home in Colorado Springs. He was 50 years of age.

Charles G. Pierce, a New Yorker born in 1869, bought the *Tribune* in November 1920, and guided the paper until 1948, when ill health forced him into retirement at the age of 79. Pierce was in newspaper work in Colorado, New York and Kansas for 60 years.

During Pierce's tenure, the paper shared a building with a store operated by his wife Anna, and a barber shop and hot baths run by their son-in-law Claude Fox. In addition to the newspaper Pierce operated a print shop with a Cranston 24" x 36" flatbed press and a Chandler-Price 10" x 15" Gordon Jobber Press. The Venters used the Cranston until 1972, and are still using the smaller press to number and perforate. Pierce had brought the hand-set type from Kansas where he had edited a newspaper for 34 years before coming to Colorado for his health. Charles G. Pierce died March 23, 1951 at the age of 82.

John E. Arness was the next owner, 1948-1966. He changed the name in 1955 to:

Tri-County Tribune, 1955 to present. Arness had printing experience as a young man in South Dakota, but had been operating a grocery store in Deer Trail when he and his wife, Mabel, decided to buy the *Tribune*. They added a Linotype and changed the format to tabloid size when the name was changed. Otto Venter and his son Harry L. (Dutch) Venter bought the paper in 1966. Another son, Chester L. Venter replaced his father, Otto, as co-publisher in 1972. Harry Venter has been editor/publisher since 1966.

"We had no experience in the printing or newspaper businesses whatsoever," Venter said. Arness told the Venters he would be around to help them learn the trade but he moved away before the month was out. When Chester and Raymond Van Dexter joined the company they bought some land near Bennett and set up an office for producing a supplement to the *Tribune* called:

The Ledger 1971-1979. The Venters went to offset printing at that time, later adding a new press and, in 1990, a desk top computer system.

Englewood

Small settlements replaced the transient prospectors of the 1860s on the site of what would become Englewood. An apple orchard, said to stretch from what is now Dartmouth Avenue to Girard Avenue and from Bannock Street to Santa Fe Drive, was called Orchard Place. On its edge was a family picnic area called Fiske's Gardens, which was a weekend excursion site. The Gardens went under in the 1893 panic, but the facility was replaced by another beer garden, attracting a rowdy crowd eager to separate the newly arrived Fort Logan soldiers from their pay. The *Denver Times* considered it a "black spot on the city"--worse than Denver's Market Street, the center for gambling and girls, and rivaling "the famed Bowery in New York City." As Englewood grew, so did the "moral" element intent on proving it was not another Bowery. They were successful. Englewood grew respectable and thrived as a major Denver suburb.

Great West 1904-1905. (There was also a *Great West* in Denver 1903-1904.)

Englewood Tribune April 1905-1910, 1915-1916. E.A. Tuttle was publisher in 1906, followed by Harry Kraft and Fred Vowell, 1908; Joseph Homer Richart, 1909; and W.R. Miles, 1910. Fred. J. Perry was the 1910 publisher who changed the name to:

Arapahoe Republican 1910-1915, Perry continued as publisher until 1913. R.J. Fling succeeded Perry in 1914, and E.A. King succeeded Fling in 1915. King changed the name back to:

Englewood Tribune 1915-1916. *Colorado Press* reported in November 1915 that King sold the *Tribune* in November 1915 to D.D. Shirley" and others, taking in trade the [Denver] *Rocky Mountain Sentinel* which has been published by Mr. Shirley for some time." A.Z. Stirling bought the *Tribune* in 1917 and changed the name to:

Arapahoe Democrat 1917-1920. Stirling merged The *Democrat* with the *Deer Trail Tribune* in 1920, and issued the combined paper from Deer Trail.

Englewood Enterprise 1910-January 5, 1956. Nobody, not even William B. Miles or his wife Janet, who bought the paper soon after it was started, could remember the founder's name. Janet Miles was associate editor. The *Enterprise* was printed in Denver for most of the time when it was owned by William Miles, who ran each copy through a job press located in Englewood to imprint the name there, thus preserving the legal status as an Englewood paper. Janet Miles handwrote the name of each subscriber on the paper for the carrier boys to deliver. The *Enterprise* was "known for the editorial

personalities of the couple," Lucille Hastings said in a *Colorado Editor* article on the paper.

J.S. Eagleton, an Arapahoe county school superintendent, bought the paper in the early 1920s. He sold it in July 1922 to W.A. Maxwell of the *Herald*.

Englewood Herald 1920-1979, William Mirise, founder. The first four-page issue had a political cartoon and picture of a Cleveland Indian Baseball Hall of Famer on the front page. Mirise's salutatory began "We have no enemies and we want none." Englewood's first Linotype was brought in by the *Herald*. Mirise went on to become secretary of the Denver Typographical Union.

A.J. Kimmerling bought part interest in June 1922, but a month later W. A. Maxwell bought the paper. Maxwell published the paper in the same plant as the *Enterprise*, pooling equipment with his rival. Maxwell had the better equipment, so he bought and merged in the *Enterprise* almost immediately, and the name became:

Englewood Herald-Enterprise 1922-1956.

W.A. Maxwell, former publisher of the *Brighton Blade*, announced that the new paper would be "non-partisan by its declaration of principles, but undoubtedly will reflect some of the Democratic convictions of the new owner". His salutatory said:

The Herald-Enterprise will strive to be a good LOCAL newspaper. I realize that a country weekly cannot compete with the metropolitan dailies in the dissemination of general world news. Neither can it compete with the numerous splendid magazines and periodicals in literary merit. But it can be the best newspaper in the world for Englewood and Arapahoe county, because it will cover its field as no other periodical can cover it. To attain this end the paper will need the moral and financial support of all the people, and

it will expect that support only on the basis of giving service in full measure. The old foggy slogans like "patronize the home paper" and "pay the poor printer" were thrown into the scrap heap along with the idea of party infallibility.

In the spring of 1924, Maxwell sold the *Herald* to the Englewood Herald Publishing Co., of which John Cecil of South Denver was president and Fred M. Moore of Littleton, secretary. Maxwell regained ownership in time to sell the paper to Stuart Lovelace, who a few years earlier had said he hoped he never saw Englewood again. Stuart Lovelace, night editor of the *Greeley Tribune*, his wife Eva, and Clark Page, a Greeley printer, bought the paper January 1, 1925. Page soon sold his share, but the Lovelaces stuck around for 31 years.

Lovelace bought, and merged in, the *Monitor* in 1938.

Englewood Monitor March 1, 1927-January 21, 1938, brothers Raymond and Lester Johnson, founders. Frank J. Wolf was owner briefly in 1928, followed by Charles A. Stephenson, who died in 1930. Mrs. Stephenson sold the *Monitor* February 5, 1930 to Bonney A. Nevels, formerly with the *Mountain States Banker*.

The Johnson brothers--Monitor Publishing Co.--bought the paper again in 1932. Jesse O. Goodwin bought the paper from the Johnsons in February 1934. Goodwin had been head of the Denver National Recovery Act (NRA) in charge of the Colorado newspapers and publications campaign to put over the program. NRA was the U.S. government program to blunt the 1930s depression. He was looking for a paper to buy after leaving his position as manager of the Denver branch of the Western Newspaper

Union. He decided on the *Englewood Monitor* because, "It had the greatest promise for business in the future," said *Colorado Editor*:

The Monitor Publishing Company also published the *South Denver Monitor*. Goodwin sold the *Monitor* in December 1936 to Lee F. Johnson (no relation to the founding Johnsons). Johnson, a 1928 graduate of the University of Colorado School of Journalism, cut his teeth on the *Colorado Alumnus*, which he edited while a journalism instructor. He was a *Boulder Camera* reporter and manager of *Colorado Municipalities* for the Colorado Municipal League before buying the *Delta Independent* in 1929. Senator Edward P. Costigan chose him for his press secretary in 1931. Costigan did not run for re-election in 1936, so Johnson returned to Colorado to buy the *Englewood Monitor*. While in Washington, however, he had caught someone's eye, and in 1938 he became "one of President Roosevelt's bright young men" as special assistant to the administrator of the U.S. Housing Authority. Johnson sold the *Monitor* and returned to Washington, where he remained for 23 years before returning again to Colorado to run the Denver Housing Authority. He died of cancer April 11, 1978.

In January 1938 the *Herald*, owned by Stuart Lovelace, bought and merged in the *Monitor*. A paper shortage during World War II made it necessary for the *Herald-Enterprise* to change from a broadsheet to tabloid, to ration advertising space, and sometimes print the news in six-point type. By 1948 Lovelace had completely modernized and renovated the plant, and had a combined circulation of 7,200 for the

two papers. John Jameson purchased the paper in 1956 and published it until 1968. He shortened the name to:

Englewood Herald 1956-1957. Then he bought the *Englewood Press* and the name expanded to the unwieldy:

Englewood Herald and Enterprise and the Press for a short period.

Jameson said he had a "phobia about errors and fact." He spent extra time going over copy to make sure he "put out a clean, grammatically correct newspaper. The greatest loss in journalism was the news editor, the man who sat in the corner...read everything that went into the newspaper...usually worked 6 or 7 days a week, 12 to 14 hours a day, and was never paid enough...."

Harry Green Jr. and Cliff Weiss bought the *Herald* in November 1968, shortening the title to:

Englewood Herald 1968-1971. Green, whose family had owned and operated the *Record Stockman* for more than 30 years, also owned a number of other suburban Denver newspapers. Green published the *Herald* until 1971 when Community Publications purchased it and changed the name to:

Englewood Herald-Sentinel 1971-1978; the name was shortened again--to conform with other *Sentinel* papers--to: **Englewood Sentinel**, 1979-1991. The Sentinel chain ended in 1991. Macari-Healey Publishing Co.--Gerard and Ann Healey, editors and publishers--bought the paper August 1, 1991 from the *Sentinels*. They also bought the

Littleton Sentinel Independent and *Highlands Ranch Sentinel*. The Englewood paper again became the:

Englewood Herald August 1991 to present.

Rocky Mountain Reveille 1905-1906, Mrs. Ethel Harrington. The *Reveille* came from Littleton. It was founded in Critchell (Jefferson County) at the turn of the century by W.R. Hill.

Arapahoe News 1907-1909, C. Cuvier Dury. Dury is the name given in the Ayer directory. Wallace Rex gives the name C. Currier. It apparently merged into the *Englewood Tribune*.

Englewood Advertiser 1917-1920, W.B. Miles. William Miles was publisher of four Englewood papers: the *Tribune* in 1910, the *Enterprise* 1912-1915, *Advertiser* 1917-1922, and the *Messenger* 1925.

Englewood Messenger March 24, 1924-February 1927; William B. Miles. It merged with the *Monitor*. William Miles died August 31, 1944 in Westwood, near Denver. *Colorado Editor* said he had been as closely identified with Arapahoe County Republican activities as with his newspapers.

Englewood Tribune (#2) 1926. According to *Colorado Editor*, W.R. Mirise, founder of the *Herald*, tried to start another paper (the *Tribune*) but it did not last long.

Englewood Press 1933-1957, L.P. Kennedy, founder. Kennedy also had owned papers in Arvada, Parker and Keenesburg. Lyle Lindesmith and Dudley Pitchford bought

the paper from Kennedy in 1947. Lindesmith, well known statewide as "Lindy," also had a large office supply and furniture store, and was Governor John Love's special assistant for 11 years. John Jameson acquired the *Press* in 1956 and merged it into the *Herald* the following year.

Colorado Citizen 1938-1942, free circulation.

Englewood Daily Times 1938-1943, Wallace Rex, Ed Hill and Harry Gentsch, founders. Rex was one of the first to compile a list of Colorado newspaper holdings.

Western Voice 1937-1968. *Western Voice* was a religious newspaper founded by Western Voice of Englewood. Harvey Springer was editor in 1963, Victor E. Sears in 1967.

Englewood News (#2) 1/26/1951-12/1964, Kenneth Brown was publisher in 1964.

Southland News November 2, 1966-November 1971, George Sandford, founder. It may be a continuation of the **Englewood Shopping News**, which was founded in May 1966 and appears to end in October just before the *Southland News* debuted. Community Publications bought the *News* in November 1971.

Arapahoe Sun-Sentinel 1972, a merger of the Littleton *Arapahoe Sentinel* 1971 and the Aurora *Arapahoe Sun*, 1970-1971, with editorial offices in Aurora and Englewood, and circulation in Cherry Hills, Greenwood Village and unincorporated parts of the county.

Englewood News #2 1974-1975, Marlowe McIntosh, publisher to 1975. Mike Snipes was editor in 1974, publisher in 1975.

Walter Stewart says the "name was changed to **Englewood Newspaper** because of confusion with the earlier *Englewood News* (the non-registered name of Kenneth Brown's paper) and with another *Englewood News* " (a name Harry Green Jr. registered but did not use.)

Englewood Independent March 1978-July 1979, Garrett Ray and Vern Bangert of the *Littleton Independent*, founders. It was a free circulation paper. The nameplate included a design of the famed old Cherrelyn horsecar which was pulled up the hill along Broadway by a plodding horse, who rode in the back on the way down. The *Independent* was suspended due to a paper shortage.

Garden Home

Garden Home News August 1938-1939, Harry C. Sebern founder.

Greenwood Village

Greenwood Village and Cherry Hills are affluent residential communities on the southeastern outskirts of Denver In northwest Arapahoe County.

Greenwood Cherry Hills Village Squire December 1, 1974-1982, Jerry Brock and Jim Adkins, founders. They also owned several papers in Douglas County. Bob and Gerri Sweeney and David Hardy bought the paper in 1983, and changed the name to:

Greenwood/Cherry Hills Villager December 2, 1982 to present. Gretchen Peacock, a former *Littleton Independent* editor, was named *Villager* editor. Bob and Gerri's daughter Sandra Sweeney was named advertising manager. By 1986, Hardy had sold his interest to Sweeney, and the *Villager* became a Sweeney family affair. Peacock also left and Sandra Sweeney was named editor.

The *Villager* has always had sister newspapers. The *Parker Trail* was started by Bob Sweeney and Dora and Don D'Amico in March 1985. Two years later Sweeney bought out the D'Amicos. Sweeney sold the *Parker Trail* at the end of 1993 to Bob Lombardi, former publisher of the *Castle Rock News-Press* and Breckenridge newspapers. Other sister newspapers include *Sports Extra* and the monthly *Villager Office Park News*, both edited by Cheryl Ghrist, and *The Colorado Gambler*, Patrick Sweeney, publisher. Patrick is also publisher of *Sports Extra*, which was issued every other week, alternating with the *Gambler*. Bob Sweeney at one time owned *The Statesman*, a political newspaper based in Denver. In October 1985 he started *The County Line* for southeast Littleton (qv).

Greenwood Honker 1979-? Barbara Thelen, who had been editor, was elected to the Greenwood Village city council in 1985.

Littleton

One of Littleton's famous, or infamous, residents was accused man-eater Alfred Packer, who retired to a little house with a garden in Littleton after his release from prison. Packer allegedly ate some prospecting comrades when all were lost in a fierce

snowstorm in Hinsdale County. Because there was no law under which he could be charged specifically with cannibalism, he was tried and convicted for murder. Efforts by his sister Polly Pry and the *Denver Post* got Packer released. Packer died in 1907 of "liver and stomach trouble" and is buried in the Littleton cemetery. Littleton has thrived as the Arapahoe

County Seat and home of Arapahoe Community College. A superb museum, Main Street Historic District, energetic newspapermen, and active citizenry have made Littleton the model suburb promised by Richard Little, who founded the town in 1872.

Littleton Gazette July 21, 1888-1891, H.V. Bullock, founder. The first issue was produced in the basement of the Harwood House. The type was hand-set, and the paper printed on a hand-operated press. Work was done by kerosene lamp, and although there was excellent rail service to the county courthouse, then located in Denver, the reporter went back and forth by horseback. The newspaper slogan was "We are here to give the people news of the Platte River Valley and the everyday happenings of the world."

The first subscriber was town father Richard S. Little, who had encouraged Bullock to start the *Gazette*. Halsey M. Rhoads, one of Colorado's rambling editors, worked on the *Gazette* for a few months in the spring of 1889. Bullock did not last the year. "No matter where we roam we shall never forget Littleton and her many kind people," he wrote in farewell. Will H. and Myrtle B. Hodges bought the paper in June, 1889, but before the year was out the Hodges had leased the paper to L.E. Tobias who,

in turn, lasted only six months. C.W. Stewart was editor from March to December 1891. In December 1891, a group headed by J.G. Lilley bought the paper and installed D. Ashton as publisher. The name of the paper was changed to:

Littleton Independent 1891 to present, with a brief name change. The *Rocky Mountain News* amiably called it "a neat, creditable, newsy paper." In December 1892 the *Independent* gained some stability. Joseph A. Hamer bought the paper. He and his wife, Anna, who was associate editor, were there for eight years.

Clarence O. Finch, jokingly called "the Hearst of Colorado" by *Colorado Press* for the number--close to a dozen--of newspapers he published, became owner in September 1900. His brother, Frank L. Finch, who managed the paper, later started the *Littleton Herald*. Lewis C. Grove, better known for his Adams County newspapers, bought the paper in April 1903, but sold it in May 1904 to William E. Shea, who lasted until November 1905.

Henry Kraft and Fred Vowell were the next owners. Vowell sold his share in 1907. Kraft remained full owner until 1919. Kraft briefly leased, or tried to sell, the paper to Charles E. Ellison and Cornelius H. Randall, son of Georgetown's foremost newspaperman, Jesse Randall. Instead, Kraft bought the *Arapahoe Herald* and merged it into the *Independent* in August 1918, but retained the *Herald* name in small type.

January 1, 1919 a new era began for the *Independent*, under one of the most remarkable publishers in Colorado newspaper history. Edwin A. Bemis, a former creamery manager and stationer, was talked into filling in for Kraft, who wanted to sell

the paper--but hadn't been able to--and desperately wanted to take a vacation. Bemis was available. He had just lost a race for county treasurer. Kraft could not have left the paper in better hands. He returned two months later to find Bemis had doubled the advertising revenue. Kraft promptly raised the price he was asking for a newspaper buyer. Although Bemis had turned down the opportunity to buy the paper in November, two months on the job convinced him he wanted to be a newspaperman.

Despite being broke from his November political campaign, Bemis was undaunted by Kraft's new selling price and found a local banker "who was willing to bet on character, initiative, and ideas." The banker loaned him the \$500 down payment needed to buy the paper. It was the beginning of a love affair that lasted for more than 59 years between Bemis and the *Independent*, Bemis and Littleton, and Bemis and the Colorado Press Association.

Bemis wasn't a total stranger to the *Independent* plant. In the early 1890s he had hung around it with his brother, a printer's devil at the newspaper. Later he was put to work running a foot-powered job press and, still later, the Washington hand press that printed the *Independent*. His first job was printing 500 postal cards.

Buying the *Independent* gave Bemis his first contact with the Colorado Editorial Association (as the Colorado Press Association was then known). Within three years he was nominated from the floor for state CEA president by J.F. Coss of Walsenburg, because, "He seems to like to do a lot of work." Bemis won by one vote. Although from

1922 to 1951 the story of Ed Bemis and the press association are intertwined, the story of how he motivated the organization to its influential position is discussed elsewhere.

In 1926 found Bemis gave one-week reporter tryouts to University of Colorado journalism students. He chose "the best" and Houstoun Waring began an *Independent* career that lasted almost 70 years. He bought an interest in the paper in 1928. With Bemis committing significant time to civic and press association activity, much of the *Independent* operation was left to Waring, whose approach followed the axiom: "Everyone knows what's going on, but they take the paper to see if the editor got it right." Waring evidently got it right because the circulation grew from 788 in 1925 (population around 1,800) to 1,708 in 1940 (population 2,244) despite almost constant competition--"26 other newspapers in Littleton, one lasting 14 months," Waring said. For his first 21 years on the paper, Waring was the only editorial staff member other than Mrs, Bemis. "I washed the windows, built the fire in the stove, wrote all the news, sold all the ads and checked all the proofs," Waring recalled. Bemis' popularity helped him during one delicate period for newspapers.

The *Independent* was often fodder for Bemis' experiments and innovations. In 1929 the March 1 issue was printed entirely on cornstalk paper. Commented *Colorado Editor* (Ed Bemis, editor):

This is a new product which will eventually replace much of the wood pulp newsprint and will be a great factor in the preservation of the forests of the nation. The paper prints up well although it is still in somewhat of an experimental stage.

Two years later, the *Independent* was selected to promote Cashmere Bouquet soap. Its fragrance permeated the newspaper. The most intriguing experiment might have been in the August 11, 1939 issue. The news content was the same as any edition, but Editor Waring headed every news item and news story with book titles. He used 188 book titles, and was flooded with calls about the issue. He was thoughtful enough to print the name of the author underneath each book title.

One of Waring's specialties was obituaries--"I try to write something that is meaningful to the family--more than just a name and who the survivors are." He's written more than 13,000 of them, always one of the best-read features in the paper.

Waring used to brag that "96 percent of the items in the *Independent* were printed first in our paper." He had Harriet Hixenbaugh, one of the longtime editors, check it out in a typical issue. She found not "a single item" had appeared elsewhere first. The society items were what the readers liked. The front page averaged 23 news stories. The rest of the paper was filled with editorials, high school sports, farm tips and obituaries, which left room for the "stunts that I liked to dream up." Waring said. Among the stunts were a poetry edition, editions with letters from former residents living all over the country, a Friday the 13th Cuckoo Edition, a Veterans Edition in May, and dozens of contests.

In 1945 Waring set up the Colorado Editorial Advisory Board, composed of eight experts in special fields who met with the *Independent* editors to "guide us in our editorials." The first group included a sociologist from Colorado College; Dr. Ben M.

Cherrington from the University of Denver on international relations; Helen Peterson, Hispanic community; a pollster; and specialists on the economy, psychology, political science and science. The Council was not limited to the *Independent*. Among the other participants were the *Rocky Mountain News*, *Colorado Labor Advocate*, *Cervi's Journal* and the *Denver Post*. It ran for six years before it proved to be "too time-consuming" but Waring retained a small group to meet occasionally for the *Independent*.

The Littleton newspapers received national recognition for their service to the community--the primary aim of the Bemis-Waring management. One morning in 1951, the State Department called Waring to tell him that the *Independent* had been selected as the outstanding and best community newspaper to represent the nation for a film--"Small Town Editor"--to be shown around the world in 20 languages. The *Independent* won the University of Colorado Newspaper Week Community Service Award eight times--seven years in a row. Anyone who won the traveling trophy three times in a row could keep it--but then had to replace it for the next winner. The *Independent* had to replace two trophies. It received the 1970 National Newspaper Association community service award. The *Independent* held the record for awards received in the initial years of the University of Colorado Journalism Week/CPA contests.

In February 1956, the *Independent* became a semi-weekly, or to be precise, a "twin weekly." The *Arapahoe Herald* was issued on Tuesdays and the *Independent* on Fridays. Although Bemis and Waring had turned down other cash offers for the paper, they sold a controlling interest late in June 1966, to Ray and Bangert. Ray had been

managing editor of the newspaper for five years, and Bangert was in the production side for six. Waring remained as a staff writer and editor emeritus, and Bemis as publisher emeritus, and both retained stock interest in the new Independent Printing Company. In the late 1960s or early 1970s new owners Garrett Ray and Vern Bangert combined the twin papers in a semi-weekly. It remained so until 1988.

Ray and Waring started the Littleton Press Council. It was inspired by local advisory councils Waring had learned about at a meeting of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors, according to Ray. It was not a gathering of experts like the earlier Editorial Advisory Board, but a cross-section of local readers. The group, with rotating membership, met three times a year to suggest improvements in the paper. The Council was highly successful and continued until the early 1980s. It was disbanded when the paper changed ownership, and the Littleton Press Council "found themselves in sharp disagreement with the new owner over the role of the paper in the community," said Ray.

Robert Titsch, a magazine publisher with snazz-it-up ideas, bought the *Independent* in 1981. Ann Feeney was named editor/publisher. Feeney, an Antioch College graduate, died in December 1988 at the age of 58. Five years after Titsch had bought the *Independent*, it nearly died in bankruptcy. It was rescued by the Sentinel Publishing Co. in October 1986 for \$300,000 and a new beginning as:

The Sentinel Independent 1986-1991. The new owners changed it from a broadsheet to a tabloid, incorporating "new typesetting and printing technologies."

Gerard Healey, owner of the *Littleton Times*, bought the paper at the dissolution of the Sentinel Publishing Company in 1991. The *Times* was absorbed into the *Sentinel Independent* and restored the name honorable and treasured name:

Littleton Independent 1991 to present. Wrote Healey in announcing the acquisition:

We are taking the Independent back to local family ownership. The first thing we plan to do is drop the word Sentinel from the name and run it as an independent and autonomous voice in the community...[which] will reflect the community coverage they have grown accustomed to reading in the Times.

Littleton Republican 1892-1893, D. Ashton, founder. This was the only Littleton newspaper listed in the 1893 *Colorado Business Directory*.

Rocky Mountain Reveille October 1900-1905. The *Reveille* was founded in Critchell by W.R. Hill, who moved it to Littleton. William Stewart was editor in 1904. The paper was based in Englewood its final year.

Arapahoe Herald May 9, 1903-July 24, 1918, Frank Finch and Wesley C. Nelson, co-founders. Begun in Petersburg in 1902, the *Herald* was moved to Littleton in 1903. Frank Finch seems to have bought out Nelson, and was publisher to 1913. The *Herald* was a proponent of Littleton for county seat, and used the newspaper nameplate to plug it, according to Stewart, who also says that the *Herald* had a syndicated color magazine and front-page editorial cartoons in 1906, and went politically from Republican to Progressive to Independent to Democratic.

A corporation bought the paper in 1913, and retained Finch as city editor. Finch walked out of the office one day and disappeared. Daniel Prescott was editor/manager for the summer months of 1914. H. Leland Wadsworth was editor/manager from fall 1914 to 1916. In February 1916, *Colorado Press* reported that H.L.B. Wadsworth, editor/manager, had sold his interest in the *Herald* to other members of his corporation, and W.B. Priddy was now in charge. Wadsworth was the son of former newsman Charles Wadsworth of the Western Newspaper Union and CPA president in 1919.

J. Marion Price, formerly co-owner of the *Loveland Register*, bought the *Herald* in 1917, but Henry Kraft bought the paper in August 1918 and merged it into his *Independent*, keeping the *Herald* name in small type in the nameplate.

Arapahoe Herald February 8, 1956-January 7, 1975. Ed Bemis and Houstoun Waring revived the old *Herald* to serve as a companion weekly to the Thursday-issued *Independent*. The name was changed in January 1975 to:

Arapahoe Herald Independent January 7, 1975-1981. Walter Stewart points out that the *Herald* survived the longest "death" of any Colorado newspaper--almost 38 years. The *Herald* had four political alignments in its life: Republican, Democratic, Progressive and Independent.

Columbine Independent 1975-? This was a companion paper to the Arapahoe and Littleton *Independents*. After the *Independents* were sold to Bob Titsch, the *Arapahoe Herald Independent* ceased, but the Columbine one continued, with Ann Feeney as editor/publisher. It ended about 1984.

Arapahoe Republican 1906-1909.

Littleton Arapahoe Volunteer 1910-1911, David E. Traner, founder.

Littleton Booster 1935-June 1936, Henry Kraft and Sydney R. Smith, founders; bought and merged by *Independent*.

New News 1948-1949.

Littleton Coloradoan October 17, 1957-1958.

Arapahoe Tribune January 1962-1967, Clifford Bautsch, who published a number of newspapers in the Denver metro area, founder.

Arapahoe Sun August 30, 1970-1971, Ruth Genevieve (Genni) Wyant, founder. It was merged into the *Sentinel*.

The Sentinels:

Arapahoe Sentinel 1971, Harry Green Jr., founder. He bought the *Arapahoe Sun* and merged it into the:

Arapahoe Sun Sentinel November 3, 1971-? The paper was purchased by Community Publications in November 1971. It had editorial offices in Aurora and Englewood, and was circulated in Cherry Hills, Greenwood Village and unincorporated areas of Arapahoe County. The name apparently was changed by Community Publications to conform with their other papers to:

Littleton Sentinel June 15, 1977-1986. When the Titsch empire crumbled, Community Publications bought the *Independent* at a bankruptcy sale, changed it to a tabloid size and renamed it:

Littleton Sentinel Independent 1986-1991. Gerard Healey bought the paper, merged it with his *Littleton Times* and restored the original name :

Littleton Independent (qv).

Littleton Times January 1985-1992, Gretchen Peacock, founder. She sold it February 1990 to Jerry and Ann Healey who later acquired the *Littleton Sentinel*. The *Times* was continued as a weekly free circulation paper for about five months before merging into the *Independent*.

Littleton Pulse 1985, Dick and Marge Easton, founders. Both were veterans of the *Littleton Independent*; Marge went to work for the *Independent* when Dick was drafted into military service. Back from service, he worked at the *Independent* and the *Englewood Herald*. Together they owned several small papers in Colorado before Dick became public relations director for the Colorado Rural Electric Association, then the executive director. Both Dick and Marge worked at CPA. Dick was advertising director. Marge is editor of the *Colorado Editor* and CPA lobbyist.

Bob Sweeney of the Villager chain, purchased the *Pulse* and turned it into:

Littleton Villager for a brief time.

The County Line fall 1885-?, Bob Sweeney, founder. Sweeney said that the 12,000 circulation paper in southeast Littleton would be:

An extension of the Greenwood Villager...[and] an ally for at least stating an objective opinion either by you or by us...Every citizen owes it to his or her children and past generations to remain independent in thought and action and to remember that we gained our freedom through a revolution, not a Christmas present from King George.

Petersburg

Petersburg, an old wagon train stop, was laid out in 1873 by Peter Magnes, who owned several tracts of irrigated land and was one of the earliest and most successful sugar beet growers. He became known as "the father of the sugar beet industry." He wrote to the *Rocky Mountain News* in 1876 asserting that the development of sugar beets would add more wealth annually to the state than would the mines. The town, named for Magnes, was later merged into Sheridan. The one newspaper was the:

South Arapahoe Herald September 1902-May 1903, Frank Finch and Wesley Nelson, founders. The paper was moved to Littleton as the *Littleton Arapahoe Herald*.

Sheridan

Once Colorado was established and the Indians were no longer a menace, the U.S. government abandoned many of the forts that had been used for protection of settlers and trade. The Denver Chamber of Commerce decided the city needed a fort anyway, and they got it.

In 1887 Civil War hero General Philip Sheridan handpicked the site for a Colorado fort, which was to be named for him. The post office, however, would not allow the name because there already was a Fort Sheridan (in Illinois), so the name was changed to that of another Civil War General, John A. "Black Jack" Logan. The town, adjacent to the Fort, became Sheridan. Incorporated in 1890, Sheridan included the Fort Logan and Petersburg. Fort Logan was a military post until 1946, when much of it was transferred to the Veterans' Administration. Fort Logan, like most military bases, had a newspaper.

News and Views, dates unknown. *Colorado Editor* took note of it in April 1943:

News and Views was picked as best for local camp news coverage in the entire Seventh service command's nine-state area, which includes 150 camp newspapers...Yank, the American soldiers' weekly, recently picked the Fort Logan paper as one of the first twenty in the entire country.

Arapahoe Suburban October 1955 - October 1957, Patricia M. Bennett, founder. Although Oehlerts ends the paper in 1957, Lucille Hastings says the paper lasted until the publisher's death in May 1961.

Sheridan Breeze April 1955-?, began as a four-page mimeographed paper by the Fort Logan Loganette Home Demonstration Club.

Sources: *Colorado Prospector*, November 1982

Littleton Independent

Houston Waring columns

Special thanks to Harry L. (Dutch) Venter, *Deer Trail Tribune*, Garrett Ray, Marge Easton, Jerry Healey, and Bob and Gerri Sweeney.

CHAPTER V
ARCHULETA COUNTY

There was a plague taking its toll on the Indians of southwestern Colorado. All of the traditional remedies were tried without success. Finally a great council of Indian chiefs of many different tribes was called. They gathered together, built a huge fire and prayed to their gods. During the night, in the very spot where the fire had burned, appeared a huge pool of bubbling water. They bathed in the water and were cured of their disease. The Indians gave the area the name of "Pagosa" which translates to "Healing Waters."

Shari Pierce, *Pagosa Springs Sun* 3/21/96

The Utes, Apaches and Navajo quarreled over ownership of the great hot springs. The last battle over ownership was between the Utes and the Navajo. Colonel Albert Pfeiffer, the Indian Agent who had been adopted into the Ute tribe, fought a duel on their behalf and vanquished his Navajo opponent with a bowie knife. The Utes later lost the hot springs through a treaty with the U.S. government.

The U.S. Topographical Engineers were the first Anglos to see the pagosa. In 1859, one of them wrote:

The waters, heavily charged with carbonic acid gas, boil and bubble like the witches' cauldron in Macbeth, emitting clouds of vapor which produces the smell of the infernal regions.

Archuleta County was organized out of the western part of Conejos County in 1885. It was named for one of two brothers. Antonio D. Archuleta was the state senator who sponsored the legislation establishing the county. Jose M. Archuleta, an original homesteader, businessman, county judge and one of the county's largest stock dealers,

allegedly sent legislators \$5,000. No one seems to suggest the county might have been named for both.

A small part of the county, bordering New Mexico on the western slope, is on a land grant made to Manuel Martinez and his eight sons by the Territorial Deputation of New Mexico in July 1832. More than half the county is covered by national forests and the Ute Indian Reservation.

In May 1890 The *Pagosa Springs News* ran an ad boasting of the waters' healing powers:

The Pagosa Springs "Largest Mineral Hot Springs in the WORLD! A Cure for many ills and never fails in the worst cases of rheumatism. A commodious bath house and plunge bath grace the grounds in which 200 persons can be accommodated daily."

Pagosa Springs News 5/29/1890

Pagosa Springs

Pagosa Springs, Colorado, is nestled in a beautiful valley on the banks of the prettiest trout stream in the world, surrounded by mountains whose eternal snow-capped summits tower four or five thousand feet above the city....

E.E. Vail, 1896

An Executive Order of the President of the United States in 1877 established Fort Lewis in what would become Archuleta County to protect the incoming settlers. The Fort was named for Lt. Colonel William H. Lewis who was killed in an 1878 engagement against the Cheyenne in Kansas. Congress approved a wagon road to give better access

to Pagosa Springs and the Fort in 1878 when a one mile square area was declared a town site, using the hot spring as the center of the mile.

Fort Lewis was moved to its present site in La Plata County in 1881, and Pagosa was platted for a town in 1883. Despite the primitive wagon road, the cure-all hot springs and picturesque scenery Pagosa Springs grew slowly. Incorporation did not come until 1891. Army doctors brought patients to the springs, particularly from the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Leavenworth.

The *Pagosa Springs News* took on the cause of travel to and from town. In May 1890, it "confidently believed that Pagosa Springs will have railroad connections next summer." A month later it was calling the attention of the county commissioners to:

...the great necessity of opening the road north to the Rio Grande county line. We believe that next to patronizing the local paper liberally, the county can make no better investment than an appropriation sufficient to put this road into a fair condition for travel.

Pagosa Springs welcomed in 1895 a branch of the Denver & Rio Grande line built to serve the extensive Archuleta logging operations. The Pagosa & Northern Railroad arrived October 13, 1900. Today's Wolf Creek Pass road was not opened for general travel until 1916. Logging became a major industry early on but hunting, tourism and second home building have fueled growth in recent decades.

Pagosa Springs Herald May 1889-1896 Frank A. Deatherage, founder.

Elwood Weekly Mining Herald, May 29-July 3, 1896, E.E. Vail, founder. The *Mining Herald* was inserted in the *Pagosa Springs Herald*. Elwood Pass connected Pagosa with the mining regions.

Pagosa Springs News April 10, 1890-1904, D.L. Egger, founder. Shari Pierce, who wrote a series of articles about the early newspapers in Pagosa Springs for the *Sun*, summed up Egger's *News*:

Only the first page of this newspaper was devoted totally to news of Archuleta County. The rest covered state, congressional, world and church news, and occasionally stories....Mr. Egger printed the important news of the county and sometimes the not so important, but comical. Very seldom was there a news article as we know it, but more often short one or two-line items about local people.

Among the items in the June 5, 1890 issue:

This is the time of year when the Archuleta County farmer plants his potatoes....

E.W. Kingsley purchased a thorough-bred two-year-old Debon bull from H.R. Bowling. Mr. Kingsley knows that it pays better to raise good stock than to raise scrubs.

Archuleta County wants, and should have, several thousand immigrants to take up the desirable vacant government land. Thousands of acres are awaiting the husbandman. Come to Archuleta County if you are seeking a home and health.

The gold excitement on the line of Archuleta and La Plata counties has not abated any. That there is considerable gold in that region seems to have been established, yet it is claimed by some that it does not exist in paying quantities.

The paper sold for 5 cents a copy or \$2 a year for subscriptions, "invariably in advance."

Daniel L. Egger was born in 1861 in Ohio, learned the printing trade as a youth in West Virginia and entered newspaper work in Ohio on the Woodsfield *Monroe Journal*,

a German paper. The *Monroe Journal* was edited and published by Fritz Reef, whose daughter became Egger's wife. Egger came west in 1887, first to Kansas, where he published two papers for a year, and then to Colorado, where he founded the *Mulvane News* in Prowers County. A year later he discontinued the paper and moved to Denver to work in job-printing plants. In 1890 he went to Pagosa Springs where he established the *News*, publishing it until 1903. His brother-in-law, Arnold Reef, joined him as co-publisher in 1899.

Business evidently was good because Egger founded a second paper:

Pagosa Springs Observer August 1903-1905 D.L. Egger, founder; merged with *Times*. Although the *Observer* consolidated with the *Times*, Egger re-established the *Observer* in 1906 but discontinued it after a few months. He moved to Bayfield, where he founded the *Blade* in 1909, which he owned and edited until his death on February 24, 1922. In 1910 he also founded the *Ignacio Chieftain*, selling it a year later.

Daniel Egger dropped dead while unloading hay at his home, "dying instantly and without any indication of pain or appreciation of impending death," on February 24, 1922. He was survived by his widow and five children, two of which--Reef and Raymond--were publishers of the *Pagosa Sun*.

Pagosa Springs Times 1900-1905, L.W. Smith; merged with *Observer*.

Pagosa Springs Times-Observer 1905-1910; Fred G. Rockfellow 1907-at least 1909.

Pagosa Springs New Era February 1905-1915, Charles Day, founder. Day closed it down to start the *Journal*.

Pagosa Journal 1916-1937, Charles Day, founder. Day was "editor, owner, typesetter, writer and everything else" of his two newspapers, according to Shari Pierce. A Republican who served in the state legislature, Day spoke from experience when he explained in July 1929, "I used to be in favor of an overhauling of Colorado's laws, but when I got to thinking of the kind of nuts that would probably do the overhauling I voted to stay with the old mess."

Born in Iowa in 1865, Day arrived in Silverton when he was 21 to seek his fortune mining. But in order to eat he found a job on the *Silverton Standard* as a printer, where he learned the "ins and outs" of the newspaper business. With a comparatively good grasp on the business, he decided to "step out" for himself. About 1892 he moved to Cortez and purchased the *Cortez Journal*. Day published the paper until 1899 when he returned to Silverton to take over the *Standard*. The next stop was Pagosa Springs, first with the *New Era* and then with the *Journal*. After retiring from the newspaper, Day continued to live in Pagosa Springs. Charles Day died at the age of 82 on May 1, 1948 and is buried in Cortez.

Pagosa Springs Sun December 3, 1909 to present, W.J. Wright, founder. In May 1910 he announced he would no longer be responsible for the *Sun* or its "political or moral complexion" under the Pagosa Publishing Company, which would henceforth

assume editorial and business control. Wright continued, however, to typeset and print the paper.

On May 26 1911 the *Sun* announced that Will A. Borland would be the new editor and manager. In making the announcement, G.S. Hatcher of the Pagosa Publishing Company, may have given a hint of Wright's problem:

We are sure that [Borland] will give us good satisfaction and get us out a good paper. He is an outside man, knows nothing and cares nothing of our factionalisms and will give us an unbiased paper.

Will Borland's son, "young novelist" Harold G. "Hal" Borland visited Pagosa Springs in 1923 for several weeks gathering material for a novel. Hal Borland's book about Pagosa, *"Where the Legends Die"* was well received and was used in some schools. Hal Borland became a nationally noted author, poet and early conservation writer for the *New York Times*.

William Furrow was publisher of the *Sun* 1914-1917, followed by Bud Furrow 1918-1919. Bud Furrow, who served in the Colorado House 1916-1920, sold the paper to J.A. Wiseman in the fall of 1919. Wiseman had been publisher of the *Pitkin Miner* for a long time. Reef Egger, son of D.L. Egger, was the next publisher, 1920-1935, assisted by his brother Raymond.

Theodore Raymond Egger, who went by Raymond, inherited two newspapers at the age of seventeen when his father, D.L. Egger, died. Despite his youth he took over the *Bayfield Blade* and the *Ignacio Chieftain*. Raymond soon merged the two papers under the name *Ignacio Chieftain and Bayfield Blade*, and in 1932 he sold the papers

and joined his brother Reef on the *Pagosa Sun*. The *Sun* was temporarily dormant following Reef Egger's death until Fred L. Bradshaw bought the paper in 1935. Bradshaw was the former editor and publisher of the *Dolores Star*.

Omar Henderson bought the paper from Bradshaw in 1938. Henderson was publisher of the Brush *Morgan County Republican* in the early 1920s. In 1929 he and another eastern Colorado publisher, Raleigh M. Wilson launched Ramo Sales Service. Henderson owned the paper until 1946. Jerry Sheridan, formerly editor of the *La Junta Democrat*, was publisher from 1946-1948. His successor, one of Colorado's eminent journalists, was with the paper the longest time: Glen Edmonds, who was publisher from August 1948 to 1980.

Glen Edmonds was born on a ranch in Larimer County, but grew up in Lyons. Edmonds entered the newspaper profession as a boy, selling papers on the streets of Longmont. He gave that up the day no one would buy the *Rocky Mountain News* extra about Lindbergh crossing the Atlantic. Edmonds figured the "extra" era was over because radio was in. Still, he'd been bitten by the newspaper bug. He worked as an editor and/or photographer on papers in Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas. He worked in commercial printing plants in Boston, San Francisco and San Diego, and joined the Navy in time to be at Pearl Harbor. He edited a paper in the Central Pacific, where he went through the Battle of Midway. The well-traveled Edmonds traveled around Colorado, too. He published the *Sedgwick Independent*,

Collbran *Plateau Valley Voice*, *Ovid Record*, *Pagosa Springs Sun*. and *NORA News*, a Chama, New Mexico paper.

He wore multiple hats: reporter, ad seller, columnist, editorial writer, photographer, camera and lab worker, office supplies and job printing salesman, and bookkeeper. Somehow, that wasn't enough. Edmonds was a volunteer fireman, active in almost all service, civic or fraternal clubs in town, and a faithful attendee at CPA meetings. Edmonds was an active Democrat. Glen Edmonds sold the paper late in 1980, and died in December 1981. He was inducted into the University of North Colorado Community Journalism Hall of Fame in 1983.

Herman Riggs, a banker, and Don Winter, a realtor, bought the paper from Edmonds in 1980. The current publisher, David C. Mitchell, leased the paper in July 1981 and bought it in March 1982.

Pagosa Junction

Pagosa Junction, a railroad crossing about 30 miles southwest of Pagosa Springs grew from a saw mill and extensive lumber operations in the area. It was founded in 1899, and had one newspaper:

Pagosa Junction News 1910-1911.

Special sources: *Pagosa Springs Sun*, David C. Mitchell, publisher; Shari Pierce, whose "Legacies" columns provided many of the early newspaper quotes.

CHAPTER VI

BACA COUNTY

No single high plains county saw towns mushroom faster than did Baca County between 1885-1888. Americans were moving across the plains to cast their lot with the soil. They settled on land under the homestead, preemption and tree claim acts. A "tree claim" required a certain number of trees be planted each year.

Unlike the gold rush, when only the men scurried to the hills hoping to gather nuggets and quickly return home, this prairie movement was one of families intending to establish homes on virgin land and grow with the country.

The land settlement reached its peak in 1888. In three years more than 6,000 persons moved into county named for pioneer Trinidad settler Felipe Baca. Drought struck the region in 1889 and successive years of crop failures started an exodus. By 1893 only 700 persons remained. All the towns except Springfield, Stonington and Vilas disappeared.

Ralph C. Taylor, "Colorado South of the Border"

The first European settlers to this area came from New Mexico. The first permanent American citizen was a sheep rancher who located on Freezeout Canyon, so called because a small group of United States soldiers froze to death there in the late 1870s. Other ranchers followed, many financed by British capital. By 1888 thirteen towns had been founded. There was enough activity for the people of this eastern part of Las Animas County began agitating for their own county so they wouldn't have to go all the way to Trinidad on county business. Baca County was split off from the eastern portion of Las Animas County in 1890, with Springfield designated for the county seat. The 1930s dust bowl and subsequent droughts hit Baca County particularly hard, reducing the population and leaving the county with more ghost towns than live towns.

Artesia, Blaine, Atlanta, Boston, Brookfield, Carrizo Springs, Minneapolis and Plymouth are long gone and many of the surviving towns are struggling to survive.

Artesia

Artesia was founded in 1914 but lasted only a year. The name of the town was changed to Blaine. That was long enough for a newspaper to be born:

Artesia Call spring 1914-1915, R.O. Casady and C. Lyle Knox, founders. Knox was formerly with the *Springfield Herald*. The *Artesia Call* name was kept when the name of the town was changed in 1915 to Blaine. N.G. Jones of the *Two Buttes Sentinel* bought the *Call* in 1916 and merged the two.

Blaine

The town of Blaine was named for an early settler, and may have been built on, or next to, the site of the vanished Minneapolis. Oehlerts' directory says that Minneapolis changed its name to Artesia and then to Blaine.

Artesia Call 1915-1916.

Atlanta

Atlanta, settled on Freezeout Creek in May 1887, had the reputation of being the most orderly town on the frontier. It had one short-lived newspaper:

Atlanta Democrat 1887-1888. S. M. Konkel remembered the name 40 years later as *Atlanta Constitution*, not as *Democrat*.

Boston

Boston blossomed in 1886, and by July 1887 claimed a population of 500. Many of the original town leaders were from Massachusetts, but the name may have come from the Boston, Trinidad & Western Railroad, one of the two lines that were boosting settlement. When Boston failed in its attempt to get the county seat designation, the town began to decline.

Boston had three newspapers:

Western World 1887-1889, S.M. Konkell, founder. Konkell states that the *Western World* was the first paper in the county, followed by the *Minneapolis Chico*. The *World* name was changed in 1889 to:

Boston Banner 1887-1889, George Daniel & Co., publishers. The name was changed to:

Baca County Journal 1889-1891, L.D. Gall, publisher.

Brookfield

The Brookfield Town Company built the town in May 1887.

Brookfield Maverick 1887-1889, J.L. Young, publisher.

Campo

Campo, whose name is Spanish for field, was established in 1912, although F.M. Wheeler had installed a post office in 1909. The Santa Fe railroad passed through Campo.

Campo Enterprise 1916-1924, C.C. Swen, founder. In 1919, O.L. Badgeley bought the *Enterprise* from Mrs. C.H., Wheeler. Herman D. Smith was publisher 1923-1924,

Colorado Comet, April 1931-July 1932, Royal Young, founder. It was a five-column, eight-page paper "with plenty of advertising and much news. It is well printed and will be successful no doubt. A new building was erected to house the plant," *Colorado Editor* reported.

Carrizo Springs

Carrizo Springs officially became a town on December 17, 1887. It was the nearest of the new towns to the county seat, which was then in Trinidad.

Carrizo Springs Current 1887-1889, W.C. Powell, publisher.

Carrizo Springs Optic 1887-1888, Mark M. Davis, publisher.

Carrizo Miner December 1899-June 7, 1907, C. Frost Liggett; merged into *Springfield Herald*. Liggett owned at least eight papers around the state around the turn of the century, mostly in southeastern Colorado. Among them were papers in Alma, Chivington, Eads and Lamar.

Minneapolis

Minneapolis was platted in February 1887 and soon absorbed Butte City, which in 1886 became the first town in the future Baca County. Minneapolis was named by a group of Minnesota colonists. In the vote for county seat Minneapolis appeared to have won, but the ballots from the town were ruled illegal on a technicality. Springfield was declared county seat, striking the death knell for Minneapolis and the other losing hopefuls.

Chico 1887-1890. L.A. Wikoff (or Wycoff), founder. Wikoff would publish the *Springfield Herald* in 1892.

Minneapolis Republican 1888-1889, Geo. W. Benedict and Robert W. Brown, founders. Benedict would later found the *Trinidad Chronicle*.

Plymouth

Plymouth lay four miles southeast of Stonington, and was originally larger. It apparently began about the same time, 1887, and was one of the towns that totally disappeared in the early 1890s. It did have a newspaper, suitably, if over-confidently, named:

Plymouth Rock 1888-1889, W.L. Holcomb, founder.

Pritchett

The town of Pritchett came with the railroad in 1926. It was named for Dr. Henry S. Pritchett, a director of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway, which established the Pritchett branch line to ship cattle, sheep and wheat, and heavily promoted the town. Pritchett was the western terminus of the railroad branch.

Pritchett News #1 1930-1931, W.E. Clark, founder. Clark, born in Kentucky, published several papers in Kansas before coming to Pritchett to found the *News*. Later that year he moved to Walsh and purchased the *Walsh Tab*, consolidating the two papers. He left the newspaper business in 1935 to accept a job as foreman of a CCC camp near Glenwood Springs. He had been publisher of the *Sharon Valley Times* for two months when he died in October 1937 at the age of 48. *Colorado Editor* described him as a "newspaperman, minister and politician."

Pritchett News #2 1935-1937. The *News* was revived by Robert and Mignon Swenson. Arthur Willis, who was on the staff, took over in late summer 1935 from John O. Keenan, and discontinued the *News* in 1937.

Springfield

Springfield was built by the Windsor Town Company in April 1887. The townsite promoters named the town after Springfield, Missouri, whence many of them had migrated. The town had an early location advantage, being closest to Trinidad, which was then the county seat. When Baca County was arved out of Las Animas County,

Springfield won the battle to become seat. This victory was tempered with some bad luck: the first three courthouses burned down with most of the early records.

Springfield Advertiser 1887-1888 (about six months); John B. Garvin founder. It was bought by the Springfield *Herald*.

Springfield Beacon 1887-1888.

Springfield Herald August 1887-1919, George Hosmer, founder. Almost immediately after starting the *Herald*, Hosmer bought out the *Advertiser*, which had been published for six months.

George E. Hosmer had worked on papers in New Mexico and Trinidad, and was later with the Fort Morgan *Morgan County Herald*, from 1906-1912. He was active in the Colorado press association of which he was president in 1909. He was an officer and president of the National Editorial Association from 1911-1914. He left Colorado in 1919 and bought a newspaper in Florida; in 1926 he was elected president of the Florida Press Association. Hosmer died in Florida in 1944.

Hosmer sold the *Herald* in 1888 to Charles F. Mechler, who sold it the same year to Arthur J. Henbest, later with the *Calhan Divide Farmer*. Patrick Byrnes and J.A. Love, both later with the *Pueblo Indicator*, were publishers 1890-1891, followed by L.A. Wikoff, 1892-April 1898, and Frank Hays Jr 1898-1901. Hays went to Manzanola and started a paper. Silas.E. Speckman owned the paper December 6, 1901-June 7, 1907. E.M. Whittaker was listed as editor and manager in 1908, but in September 1909 it was

announced that E. (Doc) Emerson "assumes the paper as editor and manager." He was editor until S.M. Konkel took charge. The *Colorado Editor* in 1917 said:

[Konkel] publishes a remarkably lively paper, full to the brim with advertising. There is also a splendid news representation. Judging from a map and some boosting articles, Springfield and Baca county do not lack for good live publicity of the effective sort, due to Mr. Konkel's energetic endeavors.

Baca County Democrat January 1912-July 1919, Raymond K. Knight, founder. He sold the paper to Enoch F. Koontz. R.O. Casady, who founded the *Artesia Call* in 1914, bought the Democrat in May 1916 from the Democrat Publishing Company, which consisted of C.M. Gordon, Ward Brothers, John M. Johnson and others. The *Herald* bought the *Democrat* from Casady in June 1919 and merged it to:

Springfield Democrat-Herald 1919-1939. The *Herald* bought the *Democrat* in July 1919 and the paper was known as the *Democrat-Herald*, still under Konkel's management. F.J. Graves was on the staff. Konkel and Graves would start a broad and successful newspaper partnership.

Colorado Press noted in March 1919 that Editor Graves "needs a typesetting machine evidently, but has not the time to sit down and write out the order." Konkel began branching out in May 1918 by buying the Kenton (Okla.) *Record* plant, moving it to Kim (Colo.) and starting the *Dry-Land Record*.

I.C. Rosa and L.L. Brown bought the *Democrat-Herald* in June 1930 and ran it for almost a year. Brown had been with a Calhan newspaper. They sold the paper in May 1931 to Ralph and Juanita Williams, and returned to Dodge City. Williams left the

Herald in 1936 to become editor of the *Lamar Sparks*. Mrs. Williams stayed on as editor in Springfield until 1939, when Bruce Thompson bought the *Herald* and merged it with his *Plainsman*.

Springfield Republican 1889-1890, F.M. Tipton, founder.

Baca County Republican March 1920-1937, Charles E. Howell, founder. F.J. Graves was editor. The Republican Publishing Company was owner from 1921 to January 1927, when Bruce Thompson bought the paper. One biographer says Thompson "edited his paper with such ability and wisdom that he exercised great editorial influence throughout Baca County and even beyond its borders....[under him] the paper has grown in circulation, income and influence." Thompson changed the *Republican's* name to:

Plainsman March 1937-1939. In September 1939 Thompson bought and merged the *Democrat-Herald* into his *Plainsman*, which then became the:

Plainsman Herald 1939 to present. Bruce Thompson sold the paper in 1955 to Melvin and Ruth Stults, who owned the *Walsh Topic*. They would become long-time publishers and effective Baca County citizens. The Stults sold the paper 38 years later to Penny and Joe Self, who assumed management January 1, 1993. Melvin Stults died December 28, 1994 after a lengthy illness.

After 1957 the *Plainsman Herald* was Baca County's only newspaper.

Western Empire 1930-1931, Baca County Chamber of Commerce, publisher. J. Ralph Jett was editor.

Baca County Banner January 2, 1941-1954, Cecil E. Day and R.O. Richardson, founders. The Banner was the last new paper established in the county. Day was mechanical superintendent, and Richardson was editor. Richardson had been ad manager for the *Rocky Ford Tribune*. In addition to his newspaper and civic activities, Day was a member of the National Academy of Science. Day founded the *Walsh Enterprise* in 1946, and he founded the Canon City *Fremont County Sun* in March 1951.

The *Banner* bought and merged in the *Walsh Enterprise* in 1948. Andrew Phillips was publisher from June 1948 to July 1950. Billy Frank (Pat) Patterson and R.E. Delaney had an interest in the paper. Warren Schmidt, Alfred Arraj and Joe Northcutt were joint owners from 1950-1951. J. Ross and Anne Thompson bought the paper January 1, 1951. It was discontinued in 1954.

Baca Weekly c.1992-? Terry Evans, founder.

Stonington

Stonington came into existence in 1887. As Boston declined, Stonington grew, but then it, too, waned with the other small towns in the county. Stonington sprang to life again in 1909, six miles from the original town, but by 1926 most of the town moved to the new community of Walsh.

Stonington Sentinel 1889-1890, W.C. Calhoun, founder.

Stonington Journal 1911-1912, C.N. Woodard, founder.

Stonington News summer 1917-1924, George Kerr, founder. Robert Kerr was publisher from 1917-1922, but sold the paper to Ed B. Ellinson in 1922. Ellinson (or Alison) sold the *News* in March 1924 to Alfred Kerr, a nephew of the founder. In June 1924, IMP reported that the:

Baca County News, "which died a few weeks ago, has been revived by Royal Ransom." It was a short new life. The *News* folded the following September, and Ransom "crated the plant" and went looking for a new position.

This may be the same paper, listed by Oehlerts, as the Stonington **Artesian News** 1923-Fall 1924. Oehlerts does not list a *Baca County News*.

Stonington Times 1924-1926, Ernest W. Kerr and F.J. graves..

Two Buttes

The Two Buttes Town Company platted the town about the same time it completed a nearby large irrigation dam in 1909. The first incorporated town in Baca County, Two Buttes Reservoir is now a recreational/hunting area. Two Buttes had one newspaper:

Two Buttes Sentinel March 9, 1910-1933, N.G. Jones, founder. Two Buttes didn't have even a finished building when the first *Sentinel* of 4,500 copies was run off. The *Sentinel* used a Washington hand press, of which IMP said:

[It] gives the old timers in the printing business an idea of the tremendous amount of strong-arm labor involved. According to Mr. Jones, the paper had only two paid subscribers when the first issue appeared, the remainder of the 4,500 edition going to people who might be subscribers in the future or who he thought should know more about the possibilities of Two Buttes and Baca county.

Jones was publisher until 1921, when he sold the paper on April 25 to E.L. Nowels. Jones bought the *Sentinel* back in 1924 when Nowels decided he wanted to live in a larger community. Jones J.R. Moore, who apprenticed on the *Sentinel* before World War I, returned to run the paper. He purchased it in 1925, but sold to Clyde H. Oliver in 1926. Ardel Smales was editor in 1927. Jones seems to have returned as publisher again briefly in 1929. R.L. and C.B. Henry were publishers in 1932. It was issued from the office of the *Walsh Tab* early in 1933 before it folded.

Vilas

Started July 7, 1887, this town was named for William F. Vilas, U.S. Secretary of the Interior at the time, and a former Postmaster General.

Vilas Democrat 1887-1891.

Victor 1887-1888, A.G. Durham, founder.

Baca County Republican 1891-1899.

Walsh

Walsh grew with a new branch of the Santa Fe in 1926, although there were some settlers there earlier. It was named for a retired baggage agent for the railroad.

Walsh Herald, 1927, Ardel Smales, editor of the *Two Buttes Sentinel*, founder.

Walsh Tab June 21, 1928-1939, Ernest Kerr, founder ran the *Tab* until June 1, 1930, and again November 1, 1933 to January 1, 1935. Royal A. Young, publisher, 1930-1931, sold the *Tab* to W.E. Clark. Young repossessed the paper in the fall of 1932, but Clark had it again from December 1932 to November 1933. It is likely that Kerr either retained an interest in the *Tab* or leased it to Young and Clark. In November 1930 the *Tab* bought and merged in the *Pritchett News*. Roy L. Henry leased the *Tab* early in 1933 and issued his *Two Buttes Sentinel* from the Walsh plant. The CPA newspaper directory in 1936 listed Royal Young as publisher.

Walsh Enterprise 1946-1948, Cecil E. Day, the founder, sold it to Andrew Phillips in June 1948. Phillips discontinued the *Enterprise* a month later and bought the Springfield *Baca County Banner*.

Walsh Topic June 1948-1957, Eugene E. Gibson, founder. Melvin Stults bought the paper in November 1949 from Mr. and Mrs. F.K. Baldrige. Stults, who was also publisher of the Springfield *Plainsman-Herald*, published the *Topic* in his Springfield plant. The *Topic* was discontinued in July 1957.

Sources: *Springfield Plainsman Herald* which printed Konkel memories in the fall of 1989 and January 1989.

Special thanks to Ross and Anne Thompson.

CHAPTER VII

BENT COUNTY

As beaver hats faded from fashion and buffalo robes became the rage, the Santa Fe Trail linked trapper and traders to the world's markets. Ceran St. Vrain, and Charles and William Bent brothers, two trading tycoons from St. Louis, established a profitable trade along the Santa Fe Trail running from Westport (today's Kansas City Missouri) to Santa Fe. As a western headquarters they built in 1833 Bent's Fort on the Arkansas River. For 16 years this adobe castle on the High Plains served as the principal stop on the Santa Fe Trail and also maintained good relations with the Indians. Business began declining in 1848. Deadly cholera--brought by the '49ers on the way to and from California--was sweeping through the nearby Indian camps; survivors were taking to the warpath. Charles Bent, who was now governor of Santa Fe, was murdered. Robert Bent was killed by Comanches, and George Bent was dead, possibly of consumption. St. Vrain and William Bent ended the partnership. William Bent offered to sell the fort to the Army, but it declined, hoping to acquire it without cost. The Army lost its gamble. In August 1849 William Bent evacuated the Fort, rolled kegs of powder into the main rooms and blew it up.

William Bent went on trading with the Indians, particularly with the Kiowa, Arapaho, Comanches and Cheyenne. Business was so good that in 1852 he began building a new stone fort, east of the old one. This time the changes were not in goods, but in people. Trappers and traders were replaced by gold seekers and soldiers. William

Green Russell and his Georgia party stopped at the new Bent's Fort. So did the Lawrence party on their way to start the Cherry Creek gold rush in June 1858.

In 1860 Bent leased the new fort to the government for the military units dealing with Indians. The Army built several temporary barracks around the outside walls of the stone fort. It was called Fort Lyon. The Fort Lyon Veterans Administration Hospital would be built on the site of Bent's historic Fort Lyon in the next century.

The government paid little rent on the fort. When Bent went to Washington to collect, he was told he was a "trespasser" on Indian land, with no title to it. By then he was living at another of his stockades and the Army was building a new Fort Lyon because a raging flood had rendered the old one useless. Remains of both Bent's Forts were later used as stage stations. A National Park Service re-creation of Bent's Old Fort can be seen today between Las Animas and La Junta.

The original Colorado Territory authorized 17 counties, and an Indian reservation. What would become Bent County was, in 1861, partly in the Indian Reserve and partly in Las Animas County. In 1870 the Reserve was divided into Greenwood and Bent counties, Bent being about half the size of Greenwood. W.H. Greenwood was a Kansas Pacific railroad official. By 1876 Greenwood had been merged into Bent County, running 108 miles from the Kansas border to slightly west of what is now Fowler, and 84 miles north to south. In 1889, Bent was broken into six counties, more or less equal in size: Bent, Cheyenne, Kiowa, Lincoln, Otero and Prowers.

The first Bent County seat was Boggsville, near the Bent ranch on the Purgatoire River. "Boggsville was the center of civilization in Southeastern Colorado during the 1860s and early 1870s. It boasted the first irrigation canal used in this valley. Agriculture has thrived ever since because of a vast network of canals," according to a February 4, 1990 *Pueblo Chieftain* article. The initial Boggsville settlement has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and restored.

Caddoa

Caddoa, an unincorporated town, was probably named for the Caddoan linguistic group of which the Pawnee was one tribe. Its one newspaper was the:

Caddoa Times 1887, F.R. Walker, founder. It lasted about a year.

Hasty

Hasty, another unincorporated town, was homesteaded in 1886 by W.A. Hasty. The nearby Caddoa Dam project (John Martin Dam) in 1939 spawned the town's three newspapers.

Caddoa Dam New Era 1939-1942, Duke Rupp, publisher. *Colorado Editor* reported in August 1940 that the *New Era* had merged with the *Wiley Booster* and was being published in Hasty.

Hasty Herald July 14, 1930-1942, R.B. McDermott and Tom McDermott, founders. R.B. McDermott also owned the *Las Animas Leader*.

Hasty Record 1940-1942, Mrs. F.S. Rupe, publisher.

Las Animas

In 1899--compared with the Las Animas of today--it was a bum looking town. Board walks in front of a few business houses, a plank or two on the ground at other places, a few oil lamps at the principal corners casting a yellow, sickly light for a few feet around, a telegraph office at the Santa Fe station were the luxuries and improvements. But we were happy and contented. Our boys were the champion baseball players of the valley, and our girls were noted for their beauty and charm, even as they are today. Surrounding farmers harvested big crops and on the thousands of acres of grazing land, fat cattle roamed. Business houses were open from six in the morning until ten at night seven days in the week, and the saloons never closed night or day the year around.

George Wick, *Bent County Democrat* 1/1930

A second settlement--the first to grow into a town--was started across the river from Fort Lyon. Las Animas City was platted, surveyed and on its way to development in 1869. A toll bridge spanned the river to connect the town and fort. The town, with saloons, restaurants, a hotel, livery stable, and general store, was to be the center for the stock-raising and agricultural environs. In 1875 West Las Animas became county seat. The "west" was dropped from the name in 1886 and the town became what the earlier town was supposed to be.

Las Animas Leader May 23, 1873-August 1964, Charles W. Bowman, founder. Bowman was a newspaperman from Pleasant Hill, Missouri, who put out the last edition of his *Pleasant Hill Leader* in March 1873. He packed up his printing plant and moved to Las Animas where, the first issue of his *Las Animas Leader* appeared on May 23, 1873. The town's population was 250.

The *Leader* issued an invitation to immigrants, urging them to join the striving new community, assuring them of reasonable prices for titles, incomparable land fertility and high prices for the agricultural products they would grow. Bowman pointed out that the county had a significant increase in taxable wealth from 1873 to 1874, and there were schools and good trading possibilities. He assured readers in a May 19, 1876 article, that "the plague is confined to Pueblo and Denver." Bowman supported women's suffrage, and also was cognizant of the Mexican-American population and the role it played in the community.

Bowman moved to Canon City in 1899 to edit the *Canon City Clipper*. In 1900 he went into government service, and until 1930 was with the census bureau in Washington D.C. He retired to Pueblo in the fall of 1930, and died there February 2, 1931 at the age of 81.

T.S. Westcott succeeded Bowman briefly on the *Leader*. John A. Murphy bought the *Leader* in 1883 and was publisher until May, 1920. John Murphy's son, Will Murphy, became editor of the *Leader* in 1914. He was appointed to the State Land Board about 1918 and served on it for 20 years, eventually moving to Denver. Will Murphy was a member of the board of directors of Colorado Press.

The *Leader* passed from Murphy hands in May 1920. S.V. Bates was succeeded as editor by Ralph E. Littler in October 1920. The following spring the rear part of the adobe *Leader* building, built in the 1890s, collapsed. Bates and Marlman may have given up at that point, because the next mention in *Inter-Mountain Press* is that R.B.

McDermott, who had been a partner in the *Fort Lupton Booster*, bought the *Leader* from the Murphys in December 1921. (It was not uncommon for former owners to repossess papers.) The greatly admired McDermott put out his last issue January 31, 1964. McDermott received the CPA Golden Makeup Rule Award in 1964. When he sold the *Leader*, his colleague Al Burtis, editor of the *La Junta Tribune-Democrat* said:

Mac was read--and quoted--because he differed from most newspaper editors in how he commanded attention. Mac patted the reader into action. He used kindly pats that never bruised, that never scraped skin raw. Few in the writing craft can do it. Most of us must rely on a prod or a knife. If we do not make the wound bleed, in the least we leave a bruise. Never McDermott. That's what made him unique.

R.B. McDermott died in June 1968.

Bent County Democrat August 1883 to date, C.E. Comstock, founder. G.M. Magill was publisher 1889-1892, followed by George R. McCauley 1892-1894 and Marion B. McCauley, who was there until July 1896, but is associated more with La Junta newspapers.

George Harris bought the *Democrat* from George McCauley but six months later George Byron Wick purchased the paper. The son of a doctor, Wick learned the printer's trade and had no trouble finding a job. He bought an interest in the *Walsenburg Cactus* in 1888, then in the *Trinidad Daily Advertiser*. In July 1916 he was appointed postmaster and sold a half interest in the *Democrat* to H. Harbin Clark. Wick's term as postmaster ended in 1921 at which time he resumed the editorship of the *Democrat*. He sold his interest to Clark on January 29, 1930 and retired, but continued

to write his "Little Stories" column. Wick died October 26, 1942 at the age of 88 after a long illness.

Arthur Wimmell joined the *Democrat* staff as editor in October 1934, and bought a half-interest the following January. Wimmell, a long-time newspaperman, became an influential voice in southeastern Colorado. After working in newspapers in the Midwest, Wimmell accepted Harbin Clark's offer to come to Las Animas in 1934.

For the 40 years that Wick, Clark and Wimmell ran the paper it "was solid Democrat." Wimmell was surprised [when] the "zealous Republican vice chairman" said to him after he sold the paper:

You always made us so mad we would swear we would never buy another copy, but we did....You gave us hell on page two (editorial page) but you were fair on the front page.

Wimmell's wife, Joan Abston Wimmell, became an award-winning writer for the award-winning paper. She wrote in the December 1943 *Colorado Editor*:

I am not a product of a journalism school, but rather the product of the school of hard knocks, learning journalistic type of writing under the direction of my husband. Did you ever try to learn to drive a car with hubby as teacher?

Mrs. Wimmell began a regular column "Around the World" in 1936, adding society page duty in 1938, "Boys in the Service" during World War II (the latter "one of the most gratifying experiences of my 'journalistic career") and whatever else was needed.

Ayshford Tyler bought the remaining interest held by Harbin Clark in 1938, and sold it to Wimmell in 1942. In 1944, Lonnie Pippin bought a half interest from Wimmell, who bought it back a year later. Abe Van Tyle & Paul Smith bought part interest from Wimmell in 1945, and Harry Hayes bought part in 1948. Earl E. Asbury bought Wimmell out in June 1953. In January 1964 Asbury bought and consolidated the *Las Animas Leader*. The *Leader* was published on Monday, the *Democrat* on Thursday. Asbury's *Democrat* continued as an award-winning paper, and he was named Colorado's Outstanding Editor by the University of Colorado in 1961.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Clark purchased the *Bent County Democrat* effective April 1, 1968, and published it for 19 years. The Clarks sold the *Democrat* in January 1987, to the La Junta Democrat Publishing Company. Charles Clark was honored with the Golden Makeup Rule at the CPA convention a month after selling the paper. The Golden Makeup Rule is given for 50 years in the newspaper business. In 1985 he had been named Colorado News Person of the Year.

Mack Burtis of the *La Junta Tribune-Democrat* became publisher of the *Bent County Democrat*, until he retired in 1995. Jack Lowe took over as general manager of the Bent County Democrat for the Democrat Publishing Co.

Journal of Irrigation 1888-1889.

Populist (daily) 1894-1895.

West Las Animas Tribune 1881-1882, Guss A. Hoffman, founder.

Robinson

Robinson existed from about 1880 to 1906. It is not only a ghost town, but was a forgotten town. Lucille Hastings mentioned it in one of her *Colorado Editor* articles, and research in the Colorado Historical Society confirmed its existence. The town had one newspaper:

Robinson Tribune 1880-1884, Hennessy and McCollum, founders.

Fort Lyon

Named after Civil War hero Gen. Nathaniel Lyon who died in battle, Fort Lyon was a community in itself. As such, it had its own newspapers.

Fort Lyons News. The *Lamar Sparks* noted in March 1923:

The Fort Lyons News issued an excellent special edition last week giving a history of the Fort Lyon Naval Hospital under navy management and telling of the broader field it will occupy in the future.

Fort Lyon Scout 1925-1928.

Sources: *Colorado Editor* July 1982 reprint of an article by M.F. Hockmeyer in the *Arkansas Valley Journal*.

Colorado Editor July 1960, R.B. McDermott

Bent County Democrat September 8, 1983, A.M. Wimmell

CHAPTER VIII
BOULDER COUNTY

This little county embraces all the attractions of sunny climate, clear and exhilarating air, pure waters, magnificent waterfalls and majestic scenery. Its foothills are high and graceful in outline, its peaks lofty, near and accessible. Between are mountain lakes, glades and parks, with numberless streams and springs of cold and crystal waters. The mineral springs near Jamestown are, as shown by analysis, almost identical with the celebrated Seltzer Springs in Germany.

Amos Bixby, "*Baskin History of Clear Creek and Boulder Valleys*"

The first claim was made in 1858 at Gold Run on the slope rising to Gold Hill, "a mountain of commanding view 2,000 feet higher than the city of Boulder." The excitement at Gold Run lasted for two years, ending when the miners realized they didn't have the expertise to extract the anticipated prize. Earlier beaver trappers and Indian game hunters had better luck in what would become Boulder County, where the first white settlers arrived at Boulder Creek in October 1858 and built 11 cabins. The rest of the winter was unusually mild, allowing for hunting and prospecting. By July 1859, the first organized mining district in Colorado, "Mountain District No. 1, Nebraska Territory," had been initiated.

The 1860s began as difficult years for Boulder County. Mining declined, farmers barely held on, and the cost of living was high. Many of the erstwhile miners turned in their picks for ploughs and became leading citizens. At one time almost half the county was covered by productive farm lands. The county supplied butter and cheese to Denver from a water-powered churn on Boulder Creek.

Boulder was designated one of the territory's original 17 counties with boundaries that have never changed. Boulder City was named county seat. The county's first newspaper was established in Valmont in 1866. Since then there have been more than 100 papers coming, going and surviving.

Boulder

On February 10, 1859 the Boulder City Town Company was organized, with 56 shareholders. Horace Greeley, who went through Boulder on his June 1859 trip, described the town as a "log hamlet of some thirty habitations." Traveling for her health, Isabella Bird, author of *"A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains,"* visited Colorado in 1873. Boulder impressed her as a "a hideous collection of frame houses on the burning plain, but it aspires to be a 'city' in virtue of being a distributing point for the settlements up the Boulder Canyon." Boulder was incorporated in November 1871, and re-incorporated in February 1878 with expanded boundaries and a Mayor-Aldermen form of government.

On November 7, 1861, the Territorial Legislature enacted, and Gov. William Gilpin signed, a bill establishing a university and designating Boulder as the location. No funds were authorized because the Civil War was underway, and other matters of state got priority. It wasn't until 1870 that the first University Board of Trustees met. Real progress began in 1874, when two Boulderites were elected to the legislature and managed to get a \$10,000 appropriation--to be matched by the town within 24 hours.

One of the legislators, accepting the challenge, immediately saddled his horse and, in a drenching rain, rode 60 miles around the county to alert the citizens of the urgent need to raise the necessary money. The cornerstone for the University of Colorado was laid September 20, 1875. Trees were planted in April 1876. The first Regents, authorized under the new Colorado Constitution, were elected in October 1876. The University opened September 5, 1877 in a four-story brick building (Old Main), with two teachers and 44 students. Since then its contributions to Boulder, the state and the world have been immeasurable.

They had picturesque backgrounds, those Colorado editors and publishers of the sixties and seventies of the past century. Take Boulder County, for instance. We find the first newspaper man there had experienced mobbing due to his anti-slavery stand, had narrowly escaped assassination in "the states," and now found his first job on a Colorado newspaper a fight against gangsters, with a double-barreled shotgun always at his elbow....

There are incidents portraying the struggles these scribes faced and conquered in the lean days of the infant territory...[admiration grows for the] extent of their service to the building of the commonwealth....their names and deeds should be resurrected from the obscurity into which they have fallen through the forgetful years and they should have their place in Colorado's Hall of Fame.

Gov. Teller Ammons, *Colorado Editor* 8/1937

Boulder Valley News April 3, 1867-September 1868. D.G. Scouten and W.C. Chamberlain. The first issue carried "an appropriate obituary over the untimely demise of the *Valmont Bulletin*," which the *News'* founders had stolen away.

The county's first newspaper, the *Valmont Bulletin*, was founded January 1, 1866, by Dr. H. William Henley, and an itinerant printer named Daniel G. Scouten, who is one of the livelier characters in Colorado journalism history. The press used for the Bulletin was the wandering "Mormon Press" that Jack Merrick brought to Denver in 1859.

According to journalist Joseph Wolff, Scouten was involved in a feud with Valmont. Boulder wanted Valmont's paper. So, one dark night, in the most daring raid in Colorado journalistic history, the Bulletin was kidnapped, lock, stock and press by Scouten and his confederates. A delegation of Boulder citizens visited Valmont and physically removed the small amount of equipment needed to print the paper. The best account indicates that a handcart was used, and that the operation took place in the dark. Most reports indicate that the major equipment involved included the small press, two stands of type cases--cabinets containing several drawers full of type of varying sizes and "faces" or designs and styles; and an imposing stone "made of wood." Most sources indicate that Scouten must still have owned the equipment, but that has not prevented the tale of the "theft" of the *Valmont Bulletin* from becoming a legend of Colorado newspaper history.

A photographic copy of the *News* for July 31, 1867, mentions the infamous Sand Creek battle with a Message from the Spirit of White Antelope in response to the debacle. Editor Paddock thinks inclusion of these stories might indicate Scouten was in charge of the paper, and was at Sand Creek as a sergeant in the volunteers.

Scouten took the worthy little Mormon Press to New Mexico where he began another newspaper. Boulder must have remained congenial after Scouten's first newspaper effort there--and it apparently had the cheap whiskey--because he was back in town on October 1869 by April 1870 co-owned the *Boulder County News*.

Boulder County Pioneer February 10-September 14, 1869, Dr. J.E. Wharton, publisher. The *Pioneer* arrived on the scene more conventionally than the *News* had.

Andrew J. Macky, Frederick Squires and J.V. Pomeroy were the major figures in a joint stock company which leant James E. Wharton \$2,000 for a press, type and other necessities to begin his "more ambitious paper." In return, he was to reside in Boulder City and not remove his building "lately erected for a Printing Office" for one year, "and further to edit and publish a weekly newspaper in said Boulder City for the space of one year, printing every week at least three hundred and fifty copies thereof, to personally devote his time and efforts in and about the same." The partners, perhaps skittish of Wharton, took no chances. They included a contract proviso that Wharton was not to print a paper in Valmont, and the columns in the paper must not agitate for the removal of the county seat from Boulder City.

On Wednesday, February 10, 1869, the 16x24 inch, four-page, seven-column *Pioneer* hit the streets. The first issue had some tantalizing stories: it was revealed that Mark Twain was Samuel Clemens, and that Lady MacBeth "escaped to America and last was heard of in Kansas stumping under an assumed name in favor of female suffrage."

Wharton had strong feelings that the "barbarians in Denver should be educated to the fact that Boulder is at the foot of the mountains, not in them."

Wharton soon found himself at cross-purposes with his investors. In May he complained:

[The backers are] decidedly angry because we are not made of putty--because we dare to have opinions and preferences, the same as other men, and dare to maintain them....Very free and not altogether truthful remarks were being made about my character...to discourage subscriptions.

Our censors seem to think that an editor should be perfectly plastic, receiving and reflecting the opinions of others, without regard to his own idea of what may be right or wrong....

A self-described "radical Republican," Wharton began referring to the "Ring" which was stealing from the citizens, and indulging in other political shenanigans. The "Ring" included his financial backers. In the fall election he supported an Anti-Clique faction that won all but one of the races. Said Wharton: "The 'Ring' is bursted, sure; glory, hallelujah!"

Those were Wharton's last words in the *Pioneer*. The Sheriff took possession of the printing equipment for the "bursted" legal owners. It was said that he had to pursue Wharton out of town to retrieve books and furniture from the reading room.

Boulder County News October 12, 1869-November 8, 1878, Robert Tilney, editor and proprietor. The printing equipment came from the defunct *Pioneer*, and the support from the *Pioneer's* backers. Tilney, 27, was from Iowa, where he had been owner and

publisher of a paper. He came to Colorado in 1865 and "worked at the case" (setting type) on the Black Hawk *Mining Journal* and *Miner's Register*. Tilney disposed of the *Boulder County News* in April 1870. In 1872 he went to work for the *Denver News* where "by his efficiency and faithfulness [he] gained great credit as a practical printer."

D.G. Scouten, who had returned to Boulder, and D.A. Robinson succeeded Tilney. Scouten became sole owner in October 1870. Henry A. Cort took over the *News* in May 1871. William C. Wynkoop and Scouten were publishers in August. Scouten sold his interest in October 1871 to Joseph P. McIntosh. Wynkoop became the sole owner in 1872.

In 1874, Amos Bixby and Eugene Wilder "succeeded to the management" of the paper. Bixby had been editor of the *Caribou Post*, and later would write the Boulder County section of the "*History of Clear Creek and Boulder Valleys, Colorado*" published by O.L Baskin and Co. in 1880. The new owners enlarged the paper to eight-columns and built up "extensive" circulation. Bixby was appointed postmaster so he sold his interest in the paper November 1878 to William G. Shedd, who had recently moved his *Sunshine Courier* (see Sunshine) to Boulder. The two papers merged under the name:

Boulder County News and Courier November 15, 1878-October 26, 1883, Shedd & Wilder, proprietors, Dr. Thomas H. Everts, editor. In 1879, P.A. Leonard, founder of the *Chaffee County Times*, was a staff member. The *News & Courier* merged with the *Banner* to:

Boulder News & Banner Nov. 1883-June 5, 1888, Robert H. Tilney, founder of the *News*, was back as editor. In 1888 Crockett Ricketts, and others, bought an interest in the paper and the name was shortened to:

Boulder News June 12, 1888-November 1914. Ricketts soon bought Tilney's interest and was sole editor and proprietor until 1898, when he sold an interest to U.G. Kerr and a Mr. Robinson. Watson W. Avery and Ira DeLong bought the paper Sept. 15, 1912. Arthur E. Parkhurst purchased the paper June 1, 1914 and turned it into a morning daily:

Boulder Morning News November 10, 1914-February 17, 1916, when it merged with the *Herald*. (See *News-Herald* below.) Parkhurst believed that: "Our country's greatest newspapers are morning dailies..." but, as others before him, he found there "was a limited field for a morning paper in Boulder at that time." Parkhurst had been editor of the student *Silver and Gold* newspaper at the University of Colorado, and also wrote for the *Herald* while attending the university. In 1914 he bought the *Boulder News*, and added the *Herald* on February 16, 1916. The two papers became the *News-Herald*.

Boulder County Bee April to November 1875. It is believed that the *Bee* was the result of a merger of the *Boulder Eagle* and *Longmont Inter-Ocean*, both of which ceased publication in April 1875.

Colorado Banner September 30, 1875-September 1883, Otto Wangelin and Robert Tilney, founders. The *Banner* printing equipment came from the *Bee*, *Eagle* and

another paper. A daily paper was begun in 1880 (see below). When Guy Hardy, editor of *Colorado Press* in 1914, offered a good cigar to the man who had been working on Colorado newspapers the longest, Wangelin responded:

I first started in the newspaper business in Denver working as typesetter and assistant editor of the [Rocky Mountain] Leader. Proof reader, pressman, etc. in Dec. 1872. The Leader went under and I went to Evans in 1873 and worked on the Courier. In May 1874 [I returned to Illinois and bought a newspaper but] sold that and came back to Boulder in September 1875 and started the Banner. Sold that and immediately started The Herald in 1880. Started the Weekly edition in Feb. and the Daily in April when Boulder had a population of 1800.

Tilney stayed with the *Banner* until it merged with the *Boulder News*.

Boulder Herald February 18, 1880-1916, Otto Wangelin, founder. It was followed shortly by a sister daily:

Boulder Daily Herald April 17, 1880-February 14, 1916. Frank Hall wrote:

[The Daily Herald is] a daring and rather dangerous departure, in view of the limited field, and the additional labor and expense required. The impression prevailed that it could not be sustained, but it was sustained without break or pause, and continued [until 1916]. Wangelin's well edited journal has become one of the potent factors of the county, due to his indomitable energy and good management.

Hall said nothing about the *Daily Colorado Banner* or that the limited field had been expanded by two dailies in one day in the same town: *Daily Herald* and *Daily Banner*. "There is no factual record of whether the *Banner* or the *Herald* was available first in Boulder. Each paper made that claim," says Laurie Paddock. "Generally, Wangelin's *Herald* is considered to have been the first daily in Boulder. That may be

because it continued on that schedule while the *Banner* reverted to weekly publication and later disappeared."

The *Daily Herald*, 12x18 inches in size, four columns, carried more than two full columns of front page advertising, varying from attorney-at-law business cards to ads for books, paper, pianos and mining equipment. One of the ads was for the fourth Grand Drawing of the Colorado State Lottery: tickets \$1 each, grand prize, \$15,000.

H. Russell Thompson was manager of the *Herald* from 1905 to 1916. Joseph C. Mahony was editor 1908-1916, but moved to Washington, D.C., when he was appointed first assistant postmaster general. A.A. and Mary Parkhurst, publishers of the *Boulder News*, acquired The *Daily Herald* and the *Weekly Herald* in 1916 and the papers merged as:

Boulder News-Herald February 18, 1916-February 29, 1932, daily. A weekly *News-Herald* was also issued. Arthur Parkhurst, known as a crusading editor, brought new life to the *News-Herald*. Among his most successful efforts, according to Laurie Paddock, were:

[Campaigns] to encourage buying in Boulder, for lower heating gas rates, for lower gasoline prices and to make Boulder a common passenger point for railroad fares and freight shipment charges. He was very opposed to the Ku Klux Klan, even separating from the GOP when that party endorsed Klan candidates.

On February 29, 1932 he sold his paper to the *Camera*, saying, "For some years it has been apparent that Boulder eventually would have only one newspaper....Boulder is the only city of its class in the state with two dailies."

The *Camera* emphasized that it bought not only the *News-Herald* but the "good will" of its owner and editor, without which it would not have purchased it. Not quite two months later, Parkhurst took a shotgun to the basement of his home in the early morning hours and committed suicide. He was 49 years old.

Boulder Sentinel #1 July-September 1871, E.S. Lowe and H.J. Hall, founders. A *Longmont Sentinel* was published in the same period.

Three generations of the Paddock family dominated the Boulder newspaper world for more than a century. L.C. (Lucius Carver) Paddock, the founder, was called "Colonel" because two Colorado governors, in a not uncommon practice at the turn of the century, had bestowed the title on him. Paddock said in 1894 he couldn't "help the title...[but] military titles are proper only when applied to military men." He preferred to be called "Editor Paddock," but the honorary title stuck. His son, A.A. (Alva Adams) Paddock was named for the two-term and 66-days Governor Alva Adams, and, not surprisingly, was called "Gov." The third in the line, grandson and son, was L.T. (Laurence Turner) Paddock who is known as Laurie. It all began with the:

Boulder Sentinel #2 June 1884-November 29, 1890, George Newland and L.C. Paddock, founders. Paddock bought Newland's interest the same year. Paddock was already well known in Boulder as a correspondent and reporter for the *Boulder News* when he started his first Boulder paper. He later remembered "bamboozl[ing] a type foundry out of a second-hand font of type and a rickety Washington hand press," with which he got into the publishing business. Early editions proclaimed, on page 2, that the

Sentinel was the only Democratic newspaper in the county, and "It delights our old eyes grown weak in the service of the tenants of Jefferson, to see the followers of that grand old citizen occupying places of state in our county buildings."

Paddock sold the paper in 1888 to Clarence H. Pease, who had bought an interest in it. C. Edgar Smith became editor. Smith owned the *Sentinel* when it was absorbed into the *Camera* in 1890. Paddock headed for the mountains, where he worked for the *Leadville Dispatch* and *Aspen Chronicle*. He returned to Boulder a year or so later to buy the:

Boulder Miner 1888-1889, L.L. Gray, founder. It was absorbed by:

Boulder Tribune October 18, 1889-September 21, 1921. Lucius Paddock, with Frederick W. Kohler, and others, bought the *Boulder Miner* for its printing equipment and started the *Tribune*. Paddock's father-in-law, Valentine Butsch, was general manager of the *Tribune* from 1889 until he retired in 1902. Paddock was working on the *Aspen Chronicle*, and mailing the editorials he wrote for the *Tribune* back to Boulder.

The *Tribune* lasted for 32 years, but was discontinued Sept. 21, 1921 "to put its publishers out of their misery," according to Laurie Paddock. Long before that L.C. Paddock had bought into a daily newspaper.

For 100 years, the Daily Camera has been operating at the corner of 11th and Pearl--and at the center of the Boulder community.

We are proud, and humbled, by both those facts....

Humbled, because the Camera's long history and its role in this city have deeded a special responsibility to those who are working here today....

From its founder, Lucius Paddock, to its editor of the past 31 years, Laurence Paddock, the Camera has been associated with a family that went beyond reporting the news and printing the advertising of a growing city. The family members have played an active and conscientious role in much that has gone on here.

The history of Boulder and that of its daily paper are inseparable.

Boulder Camera 3/17/1991

Boulder Camera September 27, 1890-1891, weekly, Frederick P. Johnson and Bert Ball, founders.

Daily Camera March 17, 1891 to present. Frederick Patterson Johnson was the nephew of Thomas Patterson, owner of the *Rocky Mountain News*, and Bert Ball was believed to be a cousin. After leaving the *Camera*, he and his brother, Arthur, founded the *Denver Daily Record-Stockman*, November 8, 1922.

The first press came from the *Rocky Mountain News*. The two partners planned to have a well-illustrated paper, using engravings to reproduce pictures and drawings. Thus the name *Camera*, "unique among newspaper titles in the United States, if not the world." The *Camera* bought and absorbed the *Sentinel* in November 1890, "perhaps to reduce the competition and/or acquire more equipment." Early copies of the *Camera* and the *Sentinel* were lost in an 1895 fire.

Bert Ball sold his interest in April 1892 to L.C. Paddock and Valentine Butsch, and The Boulder Publishing Company was incorporated by Butsch, Paddock and Johnson; it was one of the first incorporations of a newspaper company in Colorado, according to

Laurie Paddock. The weekly *Camera* was eliminated, but Paddock's weekly *Tribune* was continued, and the two newspaper plants combined. The office was at 11th and Pearl.

When the *Daily Camera* was changed to a Monday through Saturday evening paper in 1893, it asked:

How do you like it? Does it take the place of the morning Camera and satisfy the longing of the soul? Is the sheet that comes to your door at eventide as pleasant a message from the print shop as the one that made you happy at breakfast time?

Editor Paddock had considerable influence not only in Boulder, but in the state, and certainly in the newspaper business. He once said he fought "not always for what was right, but always, at least, for what I thought was right." A reporter, covering a speech Paddock gave to a CU journalism class in 1929, quoted the editor's view of responsibility in a *Colorado Editor* article:

We have the power to hurt and the power of kindness. For that reason I have made it a hard and fast rule that the name of an offender shall be omitted from a story when it is his first offense, [thus preventing] undue punishment for those who have committed a single misstep in their lives, a misstep which might mean much sorrow and trouble....

When I first started writing editorials "We" meant "I" in my opinion. Now when I say 'we' I think of the whole community for which my paper is published," thus showing a change of outlook which came after years of service informing the people of his community, sometimes warning them, often interpreting for them, the events of life as mirrored by his Camera.

Paddock did some things a little differently. Under a headline "Coolidge On Camera Staff" he once offered the President \$100,000 a year to take over the sports page. When the *News-Herald* ran a subscription campaign, offering automobiles and

diamond rings as prizes, the *Camera* countered with a program to take 10 percent of revenue from subscription renewals, 20 percent from new ones, and put the money in a scholarship fund for the high school and university students. He refused to accept Denver advertising that competed with Boulder advertisers. And he had strong opinions on advertisers who withdrew ads from papers because of editorial policies:

The man or the firm which would boycott a newspaper because it differs with that man's policy or that firm's ideas is guilty of a practice which carried to its logical conclusion would defeat the American ambition for a free and untrammelled press.

A half-interest in the *Camera* was sold July 1, 1931 to a group headed by Oscar Stauffer, a Kansas publisher. Alfred Hill, publisher of the *Fort Collins Express-Courier*, was another member of the group. In the *Camera* announcement of the event, mostly reprinted from the *Rocky Mountain News* which broke the story, Paddock said "relief of the former owners from business details and forming of desirable connections with experienced newspapermen was the moving cause for the sale."

By late fall the new ownership arrangement was causing major headaches for the old team, and in December the partnership was terminated. With the Paddocks back in control, the *News-Herald* was merged into the *Camera* on February 29, 1932. Under the *Boulder Daily Camera* nameplate was a small line reading "With Which Was Combined The *Boulder News-Herald* On March 1, 1932."

Lucius Carver Paddock died July 10, 1940, ten days short of his 81st birthday. For 56 years he had been one of the most influential, respected and popular members of

the Colorado press. His son, Alva Adams Paddock, succeeded him as publisher, and had a 52-year career with the *Camera*.

World War II brought hard times to newspapers, and the *Camera* was no exception. Many members of the staff went into the various military services. Newsprint was rationed and even rationed allowances sometimes were hard to get. Laurie Paddock wrote:

...[The little-known Sunday edition was made possible through saving] newsprint by running tighter editions during the week, so that this Sunday special could be printed. It was all news--and all news about important events in Boulder and about the men and women from the area in service. The only copies were mailed to those men and women.

In the years following the war, there were newsprint shortages. The Camera sometimes had to use yellow colored paper for some pages because it could not acquire white newsprint. During one particularly difficult time, the paper placed limits on new advertising accounts because of space problems. Advertisers could not buy all the space they might have desired.

In 1947 the March 13 edition won one of the most prestigious awards in journalism, the F.W. Ayer award for best typography and press work among newspapers of less than 10,000 circulation in the U.S.

Alva Adams Paddock died November 7, 1961. His wife, Annie Laurie, succeeded him as president of the parent Boulder Publishing Co. "As a result of growing diversity of interests among members of the [*Camera*] owning Paddock and Monroe families," the paper was sold to Ridder Publications (now Knight-Ridder) in April 1969. Lu Monroe and Norm Christiansen were named co-publishers. Laurie Paddock, who had joined the staff

in March 1945 and been editor since January 1960, continued in that position for 32 years. Monroe retired in March 1970, and Christiansen in 1976. Succeeding publishers were: J. Edward Murray 1976-1982, Janet Chusmir 1982-1987, John L. Dotson, Jr., 1987-1992, and Harold Higgins 1992 to present.

Laurie Paddock retired in June 1992, ending the family's remarkable stewardship of a remarkable newspaper. The position was not filled until the summer of 1995 when Barrie Hartman was named editor. Hartman had been executive editor and vice president for 12 years. As the 1996 president of the Colorado Press Association, Hartman is the third *Camera* executive to head CPA. Lu Monroe was president in 1952, the year he dropped a tray of dishes at the annual convention as a "protest" against a satirical speaker. Laurie Paddock was president in 1965. A.A. Paddock was vice president in 1951 but declined election as president.

The *Camera* began a weekly shopper in the early 1970s. It is now known as the **Daily Camera Extra.**

Boulder County Miner #2 July 8, 1901-December 30, 1920, M.W. Tomblin, founder. Amos Wright was owner by April 1902. Fred Coan was editor/publisher in August 1902, followed by Fred C. Semmek, September 1902 to June 1903. Frank J. Emerson was manager in 1907.

Newspaper historian Walter Stewart gives M.B. Tomlin as owner/editor/publisher from June 1905 to May 1912. Will Burns may have had an

interest from 1909 to 1912, when Victor Noxon purchased it from Tomblin May 1, 1912.

Noxon later changed the name to:

Boulder County Miner & Farmer 1920-June 1949. (In 1940 the *Miner & Farmer* and the *Journal* combined their plants but issued separate papers.) Victor L. Noxon was publisher from 1912 until his death in 1939.

Boulder Sentinel #3, April 4-18, 1946, only two issues.

Rocky Mountain Eagle September 17, 1873-April 18, 1875, Webster Morris, founder.

Home Mirror 1880, a literary monthly.

Colorado Representative June 10, 1897-December 12, 1903, Leo Vincent, founder. The name was changed Oct. 17 to:

Boulder Representative (The name was changed back to the original name in 1898.) The *Representative* espoused Free Coinage. Donald Oehlerts says it was continued as the *Semi-Weekly Times*. Laurie Paddock's history, however, does not connect the *Representative* and *Times*.

Boulder Times, 1897-1907 Hamby & Maupin, founders. The name was changed to:

Semi-Weekly Times February 17-September 29, 1903. It continued as:

Weekly Times or **Times** or **Boulder County Times** October 8, 1903-February 14, 1907. A.S. Rudd is listed as publisher in 1906.

Friday Social & Industrial Review 1899, short lived.

Labor Leader 1900-1902, A.J. Roberts.

Oil News 1901-1902, absorbed into the *Camera*.

Boulder Advertiser 1903-1904.

Saturday Truth 1903-1904.

Free American September-October 1904.

W.C.T.U.Messenger 1905-?, Lena A. Dwight, editor.

Boulder Citizen May 27--April 4, 1909, Wet vs. Dry publication, ending after the city election upheld Boulder's "dry" status.

Coloradoan 1915-1918, "a weekly magazine of comments with an occasional dash of condemnation." It may have been published by the *Boulder News*. (The CU year book, founded in 1893 as the *Columbine*, was later renamed the *Coloradan*. There is no connection between the newspaper and the year book.)

Progressive Citizen March 23-April 17, 1917, daily.

Rocky Mountain American January 31-July 31, 1925; William Francis, ed. The paper was a voice for the Ku Klux Klan.

Boulder Free Press 1931, briefly.

Boulder Advertiser #2, April 15, 1932-November 1932.

The Remainder 1932.

Boulder County Journal September 22, 1932-September 29, 1933. Earl Le Veque & H. Russell Thompson, Jr. Thompson was the son of H. Russell Thompson, who had been with the *Boulder Herald*. La Veque, who had been manager of the *CU Silver and Gold* while in college, left in 1933 and Thompson in 1938, when the paper was sold to William B. Johnson and Edward R. Richards. The name was shortened to:

Journal October 3, 1933-April 20, 1944. In 1940 it merged its plant with the *Miner & Farmer*, but the two papers were issued separately. It was revived as:

Boulder County Journal May 8, 1947-1952.

Wall Paper November 1932-1933.

Boulder Star November 24, 1932-January 19, 1934, Charles I. Taylor and others, semi-weekly.

Broadcaster 1938-1939.

Boulder Mirror October 7, 1942-1944. It was begun as a theatre advertiser, known as the *Skipper*. Jack Blackmarr and Don Klock ran the paper.

Trailerite 1948.

Boulder Forum June 23-October 15, 1950, Frank Swerer.

Boulder Reporter July 10-November 30, 1952.

Lens-Leader May 1954-?, D.H. Loving, founder. Merged into *Lafayette Leader*.

Downtown Shopper 1963-1979, begun as a monthly in 1963 by James G. Johnson but changed to a weekly about two years later, then to every other week. In 1966 the name was changed to:

Town & Country, a weekly. Johnson sold the paper in May 1978 but the new owner couldn't keep it going; discontinued spring 1979.

Boulder County Commercial Ledger Bill Stark. The June 11, 1970, issue is listed as Vol. 90 in Colorado Historical Society Records. It hasn't been found in other newspaper lists.

Express, 1970, Community Free School; underground press.

Boulder County Business Report January 1980 to present. It is a monthly. Jerry Lewis became owner in 1993. In October 1994, the *Report* started a sister publication, *Northern Colorado Business Report*, for Larimer and Weld counties.

Boulder County Courant September 24, 1983-?, Percy Conarro, publisher, Doug Conarro and Mike Campbell, co-editors. "There hasn't been a full-blown weekly newspaper published in Boulder since Jim Johnson's *Town and Country Review*," said

Percy Conarro. "We still think there is room for a community type newspaper in the Boulder market."

Boulder Courier #2, May 21, 1987-?, Front Range Publishing.

Boulder Weekly August 1993-to present, "an alternative-style newspaper." Stewart Sallo, founder. A free weekly, with an initial press run of 25,000, the paper is "a mix of news and entertainment feature stories geared to Boulder's young, upscale population," according to the *Denver Business Journal*. The new paper had 14 full-time staffers, 28 pages and 40 ads. The paper has been described as "Boulder's answer to Westword." Sallo told the *Boulder County Business Report* in December 1995, that:

The Weekly fills the big gap between the readerships of the traditional, standard, wire service-dominated daily and the student-directed newspaper. In the gap are progressive thinkers, motivated people who have high expectations, who are concerned about their community and who desire to participate in it.

University of Colorado Newspapers

Portfolio 1882-1892. The first University of Colorado publication was a four-page, magazine-sized paper issued quarterly. It took a stand for women's suffrage but otherwise stuck to campus news and creative writing and poetry. When it was replaced in 1892 by the *Silver & Gold*, *Portfolio* became a monthly literary publication.

Silver and Gold September 13, 1892-May 2, 1952. Charles A. Potter was the first editor in 1892. The only *Silver and Gold* editor to later win a Pulitzer Prize was Hal Borland 1920 of Flagler, In 1920. But he was expelled from the University for a "joke issue of the paper." "Sports and social activities constituted 95 percent of the contents," a 100th anniversary article in the *Colorado Daily* said. The *Silver and Gold* name was changed to:

Colorado Daily February 5, 1952 to present, though not an official university publication after 1971. After considerable controversy and outrage over contents during the campus upheavals of the 1960s, the university "was only too happy to set the *Daily* free" as a not-for-profit corporation, Colorado Daily, Inc. in 1971, according to a *Daily Camera* article. The office, however, remained in the University Memorial Center until 1985 when it moved to an off-campus location and became part of Front Range Publishing, a for-profit corporation.

Timothy Lange was the last university-selected editor in 1970 and the first publisher of the independent paper. He later became managing editor of the *Los Angeles Times* syndicate. Dennis Dube, later editor of the Denver *Straight Creek Journal* spent several years on the *Daily*. *Colorado Daily* is now a member of Colorado Press Association. Clint Talbott was editor of the *Daily* in 1995, and Cynthia Dziekan, publisher.

Working Press, later **Campus Press**, 1978-present. When the Press foundered in 1993, the Journalism and Mass Communications School suggested a joint venture with

the *Colorado Daily*, with the *Campus Press* becoming an insert in the *Daily*. The *Campus Press* was not receptive, but set about making changes in the paper. Switching to a newsmagazine format, the *Campus Press* honed in student issues, and gave up salaries. It survived by going on-line.

Colorado Daily Sun dates unknown. *Inter-Mountain Press* said in 1922:

The Sun is the journalistic baby in the Colorado cradle...reporters will be trained to write their copy intelligently and in interesting fashion and will be taught news values....The reporters will be required to compete with the reporters on the regular city papers in Boulder....Ralph L. Crosman, who led the CU journalism department to prominence, set the Sun's policy after that of New York Sun's Charles A. Dana, who said "Don't put anything in my newspaper tonight that my daughters cannot read at the breakfast table in the morning."

In 1945, CU fine arts students painted murals on the *Sun's* office walls in Old Main 8. One mural depicted the *Rocky Mountain News* office in 1859 with a pressman at work, an editor and a frontiersman in buckskins and rifle reading the paper. Another showed Dave Day writing editorials in his jail cell and handing them out through the bars. In the cell with him were several Ouray citizens showing "approval of his journalistic talents." Two of them were laughing heartily.

Colorado Reporter, a second CU newspaper 1949-??

(Old) Burlington

Boulder County's Burlington (not to be confused with Kit Carson County's Burlington) began in 1860 when the first claim was made and the first cabin built, even though legal difficulties caused it to be moved to another site. Among the first arrivals

was the Beckwith family, who played a substantial role in the short history of Burlington and its one newspaper.

Fred Beckwith was getting ready to "shortly open out a complete stock of clothing and dry goods," in 1869, the *Rocky Mountain News* reported. Elmer Beckwith was appointed Postmaster in 1870, and in April he and brother Fred provided the town with an overdue necessity: a newspaper. Neither the paper nor the town were going to survive long.

Burlington Gazeteer (sic) 1867. Muriel Sibell Wolle's "*Stampede to Timberline*" mentions the *Gazeteer*.

Burlington Free Press April 26-May 5, 1871, Fred and Elmer Beckwith, founders. It was a four-page paper, produced and printed in a small frame building near the river. Every business in Burlington ran an ad in the first issue, along with the usual professional business cards. Forty-five pieces of property were advertised for sale. The Beckwiths only published two issues. Within a few weeks they and many of their neighbors had moved up the hill to the new town of Longmont.

Caribou

Silver was seen in 1860, but ignored by an elk-hunting prospector climbing the side of Caribou mountain. A number of years later the prospector, Sam Conger, saw ore from Comstock, Nevada, and realized what he passed by in Boulder County. Rushing back to the mountain he rediscovered what turned out to be "the greatest silver vein of

the region" in the fall of 1869. Word of the find leaked out, of course, and in June, 1870, "the development of the mine was so remarkable that a great rush of prospectors, adventurers and speculators was made to the spot," according to Amos Bixby.

Caribou was a typical mining town, complete with continued ups and downs. The silver mines were once thought to be "exhaustless." Exhibits of Caribou silver at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition attracted the attention of the world, and more men crowded into town. Mail arrived daily from Boulder, and thrice-weekly from Central City. Scarlet fever and diphtheria epidemics devastated families, but the town had only one violent death in its 35-year history. The silver crash of 1893 and two fires were shattering. The town was rebuilt after the first fire, but not after the second in 1900 that coincided with the two epidemics. Even before there was a post office or a city government or much else, there was a newspaper:

Caribou Post May 27, 1871-August 17, 1872, David Collier and Frank Hall, founders. Collier and Hall were publishers of the *Central City Register*, and probably printed the *Caribou Post* at the Central City plant. Amos Bixby, who lived in Ward and had written for the *Register*, was the editor and manager. He supported community improvement projects, and took umbrage with people who questioned the town's amenities. Bixby became publisher of the *Boulder County News*.

Copper Rock

Today the small gold camp of Copper Rock, northwest of the city of Boulder, is nothing more than a green copper stain on the side of a cliff, but in 1891 it was a thriving camp with a railroad station and its own newspaper.

Copper Rock Champion 1892-1893.

Eldora

A large mining district, organized in March 1861, lay almost dormant until 1869 when the Caribou mine was located. It wasn't until the early 1890s, however, that Eldora appeared, and then it was dragged through a legal fight between two groups of miners that had each set up town companies. By 1896 Eldora was a hustling gold camp and a year later was booming with seven grocery stores, nine saloons, dance halls and gambling houses--definitely a mining town. The ore was mostly surface deep. Shady speculators salted mines. The town was declining as early as 1904 and mining was over by 1917. Eldora was also famous for its winds. The town changed focus and became a popular resort.

Eldora Miner 1897-1903. Job P. Lyn and A.C. Thompson were publishers in 1900. S.H. Calhoun Jr., was publisher 1901-1902, with Henry W. Warner as editor. The El Dora Publishing Co. owned and folded it in 1903.

Eldora Record 1902-1909. H.B. Schwartz, founder. He was followed in 1904 and 1905 by Henry W. Warner. John Manning was the next publisher, 1906-1908, but stayed on as editor for C.W. Brown, who bought the paper in 1909.

Hygiene

Hygiene, established in 1861, was named after an early sanatorium. Originally there were two settlements called Pella and North Pella because they were settled by a group from Pella, Iowa. Settling between the two towns was the Reverend Jacob S. Flory, who built a town he called Hygiene. The two Pellas later were absorbed into Hygiene. Rev. Flory was the first postmaster of the town, and the first publisher. There were two newspapers.

Home Miner 1884-1885, J.S. and W.H. (Howard) Flory, founders. It was a monthly. The *Home Miner* was founded in Longmont in 1878, but moved to Hygiene late in 1883.

Hygiene Herald, 1913-November 1933, founder unknown. A later publisher was C.R. Spencer, owner of the *Lyons Recorder*. The *Herald* was printed and mailed at Lyons, and is listed in some directories as *Lyons Hygiene Herald*. It was probably absorbed into the *Lyons Recorder*.

Jamestown

The first settler brought a herd of cattle to the area in 1860, but as Amos Bixby tells it, "While his stock prospected for grass, he prospected for gold." The area was quiet until two later arrivals discovered gold, creating "a mining excitement which culminated the next year, 1866," with 600 people struggling to get rich. By 1867 there were enough people to petition for a Jamestown post office. They were successful,

though miners insisted the correct name was Jimtown, a name still used by residents. The area was first called Elysian Park because of the striking scenic attractions, but it was changed to Jamestown to honor James Smith, one of those who discovered the gold that spawned the town. Jim Creek was nearby. Jamestown had two newspapers in the midst of its second mining boom, and a third one, of sorts, a century later:

Jamestown Miner 1882-1883.

Jamestown Whim 1882-1883, Mary Lee, founder. The *Red Mountain Pilot* reported in June 1883, that "Mary Lee's paper has suspended, leaving the [Denver] *Queen Bee* as the only representative of women in the Colorado profession."

The Jimtowner A newsletter founded by Rick Sutherland. The beginning isn't known but it was suspended March 1994. According to a Boulder *Daily Camera* story, Sutherland, a councilman, started the newsletter, "because I thought that it's good that in small towns people be accountable for their actions. The original complaint was that people did not know what the town council was doing."

Lafayette

Lafayette began when coal was discovered in the area in 1884. The town was a crossroads stage stop on the well-traveled Overland Trail. It wasn't until 1870, however, that Lafayette Miller filed for some land on which a town would later rise and be given his name. It was on Laf Miller's claim that coal was discovered in 1884, but Miller did not

live to see the coal or the town; he died in his butcher shop in 1878, leaving his wife and six children.

By 1893 the town had 1,200 residents, a library, an opera house and a newspaper. The town grew, but the bottom fell out with a miners' strike in 1910, which lasted for "five long and bitter years," according to columnist Carolyn Conarroe. The strike "divided the community and many of the residents had to move away in order to feed their families. Many lost their homes and were plunged into debt," wrote Conarroe in the *Lafayette News* on February 22, 1992.

The coal wars culminated with the "Ludlow Massacre" in a mining camp between Walsenburg and Trinidad. There was shooting between miners and the state militia, and women and children died horribly in a dugout beneath a burning tent. The *Lafayette Leader* reprinted an incisive, heartrending account of the incident written by William Cheney, *Rocky Mountain News* editorial writer.

The coal reserves and demand for coal gradually diminished, but in recent years Lafayette has prospered from the suburban sprawl. Lafayette did not have a newspaper in the earliest years, but it has had ten newspapers since the first one in 1890.

Lafayette Inquirer 1890-1891, J.W. Jones, founder.

Boulder County Record 1892-1893.

Lafayette-Louisville Miner 1892-1894; W.H. Rice, founder; O.B. Kail, editor. (The Rowell directory gives Rice; newspaper historian Wallace Rex gives Price and has him editor in 1894.)

Birla 1894-1895.

Lafayette News June 1898-April 7, 1906, C.L. Bowman, founder. Bowman sold the paper in 1905 to Clyde Leslie Stanley, who changed the name to:

Lafayette News-Free Press April 14, 1906-November 4, 1910. Its motto was "Champion the Miners." Stanley also owned the *Erie News* and merged the *News* into his Lafayette paper in 1906. H.C. Kephart was the editor 1906-1907, and Charles Payne Smith March 1907 to 1910.

The *News-Free Press* was listed in the 1911 *Colorado Business Directory*, but not in 1912. The next mention of a "News" is in 1913 when the business directory lists the *Leader-News*. Ira Gwinnup, publisher of the *Lafayette Leader*, bought the *News Free Press*, or the rights, late in 1910, or later, and changed the name to *Lafayette Leader-News*.

Lafayette Leader February 2, 1905-1974, O.H. and H.C. Knight, founders. Their slogan was "Not absolutely moral nor strictly truthful, just a newspaper." The brothers Knight had been with the *Lake City Times* and *Lyons Recorder*. O.H. Knight sold his share in the *Leader* to Herbert C. Knight a year and a half later; Knight dealt the paper in June 1907 to Anson Rudd, who in turn sold in July to Jack DeMotte. Alonzo Wiley and Ira G.

Gwinnup bought the *Leader* in August 1908; Wiley left a year later, but Gwinnup was publisher until 1917. Gwinnup partly summed up his newspaper philosophy when he commented on a speech given by Denver Mayor Robert Speer to the Colorado Press Association convention in 1908:

Mayor Speer took occasion to say the country press had more truth than circulation, and the city papers had more circulation than truth--which was an adroit way of flattering us country editors who did not stand in the way of his ambition, and to get in a left-handed swipe at those Denver editors who are jabbing at him with their pens....One enthusiastic reformer made the suggestion that each country paper should blazon this motto across their pages: "Know ye the truth, for the truth shall make men free."

Aside from the flattery, there was something worthy of thought in Speer's remark. Country editors stand closer to the community than do city editors. The truth or falsity of a statement bears more scrutiny. The country paper should be, and often is, a faithful guardian of the moral well-being of his locality, while the city paper is too often the organ of a party or some special interests.

But the suggestion that we tell the truth at all times and in all places is safer in theory than in actual practice. There are some doings and people about whom the truth is best not made public. In fact, the office of the country editor is to distinguish between the printable and the unprintable happenings in his locality....

Exactly when Gwinnup bought the *Lafayette News-Free Press* is cloudy. At one point the name *Lafayette News-Free Press* appeared in small type under *Lafayette Leader*, so it may have been published with the double identity until it took the combined name:

Lafayette Leader-News by 1913- May 22, 1974. "The Peoples Paper" was Gwinnup's slogan. W.N. McPhail, a Michigander who owned a Denver printing

company, bought the *Leader-News* in May 1917, but sold it in October to brothers Charles T. and Benjamin J. Radford. They shortened the name to:

Lafayette Leader, the name it carried until it ended in 1974. Benjamin Radford bought out his brother's interest in February 1919 and was publisher until his death. Benjamin Radford died October 7, 1926. His widow, Edith, owned the *Leader* until March 1929 when she sold it to Emil Sands and Charles J. Smith; apparently Smith was not an active partner for long. Emil Sands died in the summer of 1937, and his widow, Louise J. Sands, was publisher until June 1946, when she sold the paper to P.L. Corbin. Corbin's wife was the daughter of Victor Noxon, publisher of the *Boulder County Farmer and Miner*.

A succession of publishers followed, beginning with Clarence V. Dinsmore 1947-August 1950. Dinsmore was followed Donald D. Loving, 1950-1954, had a partner, John Mackie of Longmont, later an impressive state legislator. For the summer of 1954 only, the *Leader* was called the:

Boulder Valley Lens-Leader. Fred A. Pruett and William Long were publishers 1954-1965, with Don W. Lindberg, editor. William Kostka and Merle Swank had part interest with Pruett and Long 1957-1959. Jack Sink was listed as publisher in 1960; Merle Swank 1961-1963; and Herchal Helm in 1964.

Richard Easton, who had started as editor in February 1964, and his wife Marge, bought the *Leader* from Pruett, Long, Kostka and Swank in 1965 and were co-publishers to 1969. The Eastons sold the paper to Olen and Mary Bell, longtime Aurora publishers,

in 1969. Robert Beard, managing editor for Bell, bought the paper in 1972, but died in May 1974 (see Broomfield). Ownership reverted to Olen Bell, who suspended the *Leader* in 1974.

Lafayette Enterprise 1910-1917.

Lafayette Times February 28, 1974-August 5, 1975, William Schrum, Wilbur Flachman and Percy Conarro, founders. The partnership was dissolved in 1975 and the paper suspended, but Conarro wasted no time in starting another paper:

Lafayette News #2 August 14, 1975 to date, Percy and Carolyn Conarro, owners of the *Louisville Times*, founders. The successful Conarro team kept the *News* on an interesting, newsy keel until January 1993 when they turned the paper over to their three children. Doug Conarro is publisher of the two papers, Cynthia Conarro Campbell is writer/editor, and David Conarro, an Aspen teacher, is an officer on the board of the corporation.

Longmont

When members of the Chicago-Colorado Colony founded Longmont in 1871, they brought west not only their belongings, but also the firmly held values that guided their lives. The Colony motto, "Industry, Morality and Temperance," declared in no uncertain terms their commitment to righteousness and hard work; and the plat of their new town...dotted with lots reserved for churches, schools, a library and a university, reflected the importance they attached to both religion and education....

Dale Bernard, *Longmont Daily Times-Call* 10/26/1993

On February 22, 1871, a group of people meeting in Chicago organized the Chicago Colorado Colony. Representatives were sent to Denver to meet with *Rocky Mountain News* publisher and territorial promoter William N. Byers, who guided them to lands and a townsite and convinced the men their money would be well spent there.

The Colony immediately surveyed and staked out five-acre lots for a drawing "which will afford a good roomy breathing place for occupants." Tree-planting and fruit-growing were underway, and a community center was built for the reception of colonists who could live there until their homes were ready. By May some 400 people had arrived, a local correspondent told the *Rocky Mountain News*. "The aim of our little town," according to the *News* reporter, "is to rank among the first, if not the first in educational merits in the Territory."

As the new town grew, the inhabitants of old Burlington moved across St. Vrain Creek to join the newcomers. Longmont was incorporated in 1873 and became a center for the rich agricultural region around it. A cannery built by Ohioan John H. Empson boosted the economy; in 1903 the *Longmont Ledger* reported that the Empson & Daughter cannery had pumped more than \$125,000 into the community.

Longmont had its first paper almost with its first breath.

Longmont Sentinel June-August 1871, E.S. Lowe and H.J. Hall, of the Chicago Colorado Colony, founders. One history book says it was run off on an old press from the *Boulder News*, and it may have been a companion paper. The *Sentinel* sent H.J. Hall as representative to the press association meeting in Denver that summer, but the

paper didn't last past the end of the season. Its press, however, went on to serve the next Longmont paper.

Colorado Press August 23, 1871-August 21, 1872. Founder Elmer Beckwith took over the *Longmont Sentinel* plant. Beckwith had published the *Burlington Free Press*, which was suspended May 5, 1871. The name *Colorado Press* was changed to:

Longmont Press August 28, 1872-1888. D.G. Scouten, formerly of the *Boulder News*, bought the *Longmont Press* in October 1872. McMurtrie and Allen in their "*Early Printing in Colorado*" are of the opinion that Beckwith was publisher until 1885. The brothers L.H. Smith and Lowell S. Smith were owners by 1887. Both were listed as publishers, and L.H. Smith was editor. They changed the name of the paper to:

Longmont Times March 1888-March 1931, weekly. Beckwith repurchased the paper in 1892, with his sons, E. Francis Beckwith and Fenton S. Beckwith. Francis Beckwith later became Boulder County Clerk and Recorder. The Rowell directory lists R.F. Armand as editor/publisher in 1892 (Walter Stewart has A.F. Armand) and Daniel Webster Working in 1893 when the newspaper became a daily.

Longmont Daily Times 1893-March 1931. The Smith brothers were back as editors/publishers in 1894, but the following year Elmer Beckwith bought the paper for the last time and was owner/editor/publisher until 1919. The *Times* installed a Model 3 Linotype in 1906. It reportedly was the first paper in the area to install such a machine, which could set as much type in one hour as had previously taken a good compositor five hours. In 1912 the steam engine drive was replaced with an electric motor.

A young boy, Ray Lanyon, found a job as a *Daily Times* carrier, delivering papers by foot to business houses, and some residential areas. It was the beginning of a strong newspaper career. He became a printer's apprentice and advanced to shop foreman in five years. When the opportunity to buy the *Times* from the Beckwiths arose, Lanyon mortgaged his home to make a dream come true. He "broke up housekeeping, took my wife down to the office and she worked with me for three years while we were trying to pay the interest and meet the notes...." From then on he dedicated his life to the paper and to the town.

Lanyon spent 55 constructive years with the *Times* and another four as editor emeritus. Lanyon served six terms as Longmont mayor, and was active in early-day promotion of what is now the Colorado-Big Thompson project, and other water development. "Where there is water and power, there will be healthy growth," he said. Longmont and the *Daily Times* proved his premise.

Otis Moore bought an interest in the *Daily Times* about 1927. Lanyon was editor/publisher from 1919 to 1931; Moore was co-publisher/publisher from 1927 to 1943. The *Times* merged May 19, 1931, with the *Call*.

Saturday Evening Call 1897-1898. William Forgy, founder. Forgy, a former schoolteacher, came to Colorado in 1886. He also founded the *Berthoud Bulletin*, selling both to George Johnson in 1898. The name *Saturday Evening Call* was changed to:

Longmont Call September 1898-March 1931. Johnson moved into bigger quarters after securing additional printing equipment from a defunct newspaper in Ward. A daily was added six years later:

Daily Call March 6, 1905-March 1931. Johnson's two sons, Loren H. and Jean W., who had grown up in their father's newspaper, were his co-owners by 1927. George W. Johnson died Sept. 20, 1929, after a brief illness, at the age of 71. In March 1930 Dr. J.A. Matlack bought the *Call* from Mrs. Johnson and sons. Jean Johnson stayed on as city editor and business manager; he died after a heart attack in 1965. The daily and weekly *Longmont Times* of Lanyon and Moore, and Matlack's daily and weekly *Call* were consolidated May 19, 1931.

Longmont Times-Call May 1, 1931-July 1957. Ray Lanyon became managing editor, as well as co-owner. Otis Moore was named publisher of the merged newspaper. Dr. Matlack was associate editor until 1938. Even after selling his share of the paper in 1957, Lanyon continued to sit almost daily at the desk reserved for him at the newspaper. The *Call* and *Times* weeklies were dropped shortly after the merger, when the daily *Times-Call* began full service from the Associated Press.

Dr. Matlack died at 8 o'clock in the evening, May 22, 1938, from a heart ailment; he was 63. His two children, James and Anne, inherited their father's interest in the *Times-Call*. Bernard A. Faller bought Otis Moore's one-third share in the newspaper early in 1943 and became editor. Lanyon was managing editor. The partnership of

Lanyon, Faller and Matlack lasted until February 1, 1957, when a corporation bought the *Times-Call*, and the name was changed to:

Longmont Daily Times-Call July 1, 1957 to present. The new Times-Call Publishing Co., was headed by Ed Lehman, president and editor; Faller, vice president and managing editor; Jim Matlack (son of Dr. Matlack), associate editor and treasurer, and Ruth Lehman, secretary. Anne Matlack also was a stockholder. Ray Lanyon, who had sold his interest to the Lehmans, was named Editor Emeritus in honor "of his many years of service to the newspaper and community."

Colorado Press Association president in 1931, Ray Lanyon told a past CPA presidents meeting after the *Times-Call* sale that "Lehman wants me to stick around in an advisory capacity...he hasn't mentioned anything about a salary...." He was interrupted by a voice from the rear saying, "Don't give him much advice then, Ray."

A tribute in the *Times-Call*, on his death in October 1961, brought up a difficult moment:

Ray Lanyon never opposed people--he battled for or against issues...[he] opposed the Ku Klux Klan which was in its heyday. He was threatened at the office and at home. A campaign was launched to have subscriptions cancelled. He never relented, however, and weathered the storm....Ray Lanyon was a newspaperman's newspaperman. He was a star reporter, and no greater tribute can be paid to anyone of his profession.

The Lehmans represent the middle generation of newspaper journalists, between individual and corporate journalism, where people and accounts are well balanced. The Lehman style of "an informal business operation...[is] shirt-sleeve journalism that has resulted in a solid increase in circulation and the receipt of many

awards," *Colorado Editor* said in 1970 when Ed was elected CPA president. (Ruth Lehman was CPA president in 1982.) The motto of the *Times-Call* and the *Loveland Reporter-Herald*, also owned by the Lehmans, is "To Build a Better World, Start in Your Own Community." A colleague once said of Ed:

He's interested in news. He recognizes the value of news to the paper. He feels that if the news content is where it should be the advertising and circulation will take care of themselves--with a little work, of course. But first, get the news content in good shape.

It's a productive philosophy. Almost immediately the Lehmans and the *Times-Call* were garnering notices and awards. Ed Lehman was named the first Colorado Press Association Outstanding Publisher of the Year, received the University of Colorado Outstanding Colorado Journalist Award, the Community Service trophy from the University of Missouri School of Journalism, and the Colorado Sigma Delta Chi Distinguished Service to Journalism, to name a few. The papers won--and continue to win--a variety of awards yearly from Colorado Press Association, Inland Daily Press Association, and other professional organizations, for both editorial and advertising work.

Ruth Lehman said, in accepting the CPA presidency in 1982:

We are faced with an economic downturn, and our communications industry as a whole is burgeoning and fractionalizing beyond the wildest dreams of even science-fiction writers.

As we tighten our belts and learn to sell our products against new and different competition, we continue to face the eternal problem of protecting our right to publish news without government interference. We continue to have the challenge of not only protecting the people's right to know but, increasingly, needing to make people want to know so they can and will participate in our government process.

The second Lehman generation already has entered the family business. Lauren (nee Ruthann) Lehman joined the staff in 1975, covering the legislature for the Lehman papers. She served as campaign press secretary for U.S. Senator Bill Armstrong and was a member of his Washington staff. She returned to Colorado to work on the Lehman papers, and later formed her own press service in Denver. Dean G. Lehman, another University of Denver law school graduate, entered the family business after graduating in 1981. He has worked as editor or manager of both the Longmont and Loveland papers.

The Times-Call Publishing Company has bought up a number of area publications, including the *Loveland Daily Reporter-Herald* in 1967, and the *Canon City Daily Times*, the *Berthoud Bulletin*, *Frederick Farmer and Miner*, and *Erie Echo*, all in 1978.

On October 2, 1995, Lehman Publications started a monthly newspaper:

Today's Business Former *Loveland Reporter-Herald* Craig Young is editor, and Sally Lee, manager. The paper is printed at the Longmont plant.

Longmont Post 1877, Longmont Printing Co., William L. Condit, editor. Within the year it became:

Valley Home and Farm 1877-September 12, 1879, with the "beloved W.E. Pabor, excellent journalist and gifted poet," as editor, Pabor and Julian, publishers. An officer of the Greeley Colony, Pabor later was chief spokesman for the Colorado Springs organizers until he supposedly offended General Palmer. One of his biggest achievements was taking the first fruit trees to the Western Slope and establishing the town of Fruita and the *Fruita Star*. He was one of the founders of Colorado Press Association and its president in 1890. The *Valley Home & Farm* lasted until it was destroyed in a fire. It rose again as the:

Longmont Ledger September 12 1879-April 1971. Charles W. Boynton was publisher until June 1926. *Inter-Mountain Press* saw in Boynton and his work

...an illustration of the liberal education one may receive from the newspaper business....It explains why newspaper people who have been long in the business are likely to be calm, kindly sort of folk who see results in a different light from the hurrying throng and who know that this life is largely made up of starts and slips and are not, therefore, greatly worried by such incidents.

Boynton, who was born in Buffalo, New York in 1853, located on a farm near Longmont in March 1877. While in Longmont Boynton served on the volunteer fire department, was "an earnest community worker," served several terms on the city council and was responsible for the founding of Longmont's Carnegie library. Editor until the summer of 1926 when his health failed, Boynton died the same year following a paralyzing stroke at the age of 72. *Colorado Editor* said he "was highly esteemed in his community, many of the business men publishing tributes to his life." His widow, Mina,

took over the publisher reins, and their daughter, Louise Boynton Clark, was editor-manager until the paper was sold in October 1926 to Irvin G. Stafford.

Before coming to Longmont, Stafford was owner of the *Loveland Reporter* 1913-1915 and *Idaho Springs Sifting-News* 1915-1921. Stafford sold the *Ledger* in 1931 and moved to Montrose. W.H. Parsons purchased the paper from Stafford in September 1931, but a year later an illness forced him to lease the paper to M.W. McIntyre and Newton Holcomb, both of Kansas. By December Parsons had reclaimed the paper, but he passed away February 26, 1933. Lowell Smith was editor from Dec. 1932 to June 1933.

The *Ledger* was sold to A.U. Mayfield, who dealt it in August 1935 to Texan Sam Braswell. Mrs. Braswell did not adjust to the high altitude and was bedridden almost the entire time the Braswells were in Colorado. Braswell felt it "advisable" to sell the paper, so Mayfield resumed management. Fred C. Ferguson, of Attica, Kansas bought the paper from Mayfield in December 1935. Under Ferguson, who was publisher until November 1946, the *Ledger* sponsored weekly radio newscasts.

George and Marjorie Bickel were owners from 1946 to 1954. Marjorie Bickel gave her impression of the *Ledger* in a *Colorado Editor* article in February 1951:

Someone has said that the best criterion for judging the excellence of a newspaper is the extent to which it provides a history of the times in which it is published. Judged by such a standard, the Ledger has cause for pride and satisfaction, for it has captured within its columns a clear picture of the customs, attitudes, desires and achievements of the people whose activities it has recorded continuously for 71 years.

Never primarily concerned with the happenings of New York, London and Paris, the Ledger has fulfilled the real purpose of a weekly newspaper--that of placing significance and importance in the happenings of the area which it serves and in the activities of the people who read its columns. The Ledger is extremely proud of the fact it still has several subscribers who have read every issue of the paper from Volume 1, Number 1, through the current week.

The Bickels sold the paper in January 1954 to James G. Archuleta and Robert Keeler, who, in turn, sold it in 1963 to James L. Adams, who lasted for two months. The paper went back to Archuleta and Keeler who sold the *Ledger* again in December 1963 to Kenneth Brown, who intended to print the paper at his South Denver shopper plant. Archuleta and Keeler got it back once again, but in April 1966 they finally sold it to George Baskos and Lorena E. Darby, who had been an editor and reporter for the *Ledger*.

George F. Kinzie bought Baskos' interest in December 1967 and was co-publisher with Darby. Darby, a Longmont native, and later the first Boulder County woman elected to the state senate, wrote for other newspapers in the county over her long and substantial newspaper career. Darby and Kinzie sold the *Ledger* in May 1968 to Glenda J. Roberts. She and her husband were co-publishers. He was also mechanical superintendent, while Mrs. Roberts was editor and advertising manager. The newspaper name was changed in 1969 to:

Commercial Ledger November 6, 1969-June 11-1970, with emphasis on business and building. In 1970 it was briefly known as: **Boulder County Commercial Ledger** June

11, 1970-April 1971. Roger C. Berquist bought the paper in 1970 and sold it to the *Longmont Scene*, which absorbed the *Ledger*.

Longmont Scene July or August 1970-June 30, 1978, Agnes Roberts, founder. Co-publisher was William B. Roberts, who had been general manager of the Times-Call in the mid-1960s. In 1971 Mrs. Roberts bought the venerable *Ledger* and merged it into the *Scene*. William H. and Beryl James bought the paper in November 1975. James sold the *Scene* in January 1977 to Gary Burford, who changed the name to:

Longmont Citizen January 1-September 1977, when the name was changed to:

Longmont Citizen Shopper September 1977-February 1978, free circulation. In 1978 the paper took the name of its illustrious forbearer:

Longmont Ledger February 1978-June 30, 1978, Glen McKee, publisher, G. Allen, editor. McKee published the paper on Sundays, and added another issue on Thursdays, but the paper closed up shop at the end of June in its 99th year.

Inter-Ocean September 1873-April 1875, Halsey M. Rhoads, founder. Rhoads worked on a dozen Colorado newspapers in his renowned career. He came to Longmont after a stint with the *Idaho Springs Reporter*. The paper consolidated in April 1875 with the *Boulder Bee* and *Rocky Mountain Eagle*. Rhoads eventually went to the Denver *Rocky Mountain Herald* and the *Rocky Mountain Mirror*.

Colorado Grange 1876, a monthly, William E. Pabor, founder. Whether it ended or continued is uncertain. In 1877 Pabor was publishing the *Valley Home and Farm*.

Home Mirror 1878-1883, J.S. and W. Howard Flory, monthly. It moved to Hygiene.

Longmont Progress 1888-1894; Progress Publishing, A.N. Elliott, editor/manager 1892. C.S. Page is also listed in 1892. The 1894 Rowell directory lists [H.C.] Branch and Coover, publishers. Branch was the brother-in-law of Roy Ray, long-time editor of the *Windsor Beacon*.

Longmont Daily Tribune 1912-1913.

Longmonter 1932, free circulation. *Colorado Editor* reported in October 1932 that the *Longmonter* "turns up its toes."

Boulder County Courier 1939-1940.

Sunrise Sentinel 1962-1963.

Louisville

In 1870 the Lewis Wilson family settled on Coal Creek (the town name listed on early Colorado Central Railroad schedules; by 1879 it was Louisville.) The town was named by Louis Nawatny, who is believed to have bored the first mine.

Coal had been discovered in 1859, but mining did not develop until the railroad was completed across Coal Creek and through the area that became Louisville. The first coal was mined in 1877. New York financier Jay Gould bought the major mine in 1879.

In her book, "*The Louisville Story*," Carolyn Conarro described the pervasive influence of the mines on life in the town:

The mine whistle was a daily reminder of the influence the mines had on the lives of the people. The whistles told the time of day, the state of the local economy, and called out the volunteers to fight fires....If there would be work the following day the miners were so informed by two additional blasts--a joyful sound for everyone....One long continuous blast meant a fire.

Louisville was subject to the same labor problems as other coal mining towns. The United Mine Workers, and others, attempted to organize the local miners but it wasn't until 1933 that mine owners in Boulder County gave miners the right to join a union. There were, however, costly strikes, strike breakers, fights, and a few tragic deaths. The last coal mine closed in 1952. Booming development along the front range boosted Louisville during the 1970s with a rush of newcomers including many commuting to work in Boulder and the Denver metro area.

Louisville Miner 1887-1888

Louisville-Lafayette Advance 1892-1897, George Fruth, founder, editor and publisher; published in Louisville. J.M. Boyd was editor in 1896.

Brooks Vindicator 1896-1897.

Colorado Sun 1896-1901, O.C. Kail, editor 1898; Mrs. M.E. Kall, publisher; W.J. Carnsew, 1899-1900. (Rowell lists Mr. Kail and Mrs. Kall but no other source confirms the names.)

Louisville Journal 1900-1902.

Black Diamond World 1901-1909, S.A. Heckethorn, founder. C.W. Brown was publisher 1903-1907. In 1907 the paper was sold to Anson Rudd, who hired Ed P. McClanahan as editor. Brown went to Chicago to study the Linotype, returning to Louisville in 1908 with a Linotype to publish the *News*. Rudd also owned the *Boulder County Times* and *Lafayette Leader*.

Louisville News 1908-1915, Anson Rudd, founder. When Brown got back from Chicago, he evidently bought the paper from Rudd, and was publisher from 1910-1911. A.S. and D.L. Hollingsworth bought the paper in 1912. Will A. Hollingsworth was editor in 1915, when the paper ceased publication.

Louisville Times 1913 to present. Fred Burman sold the paper to Pearl B. Conley, former publisher of the *Sherman County Record* at Goodland, Kansas, in August 1917. She "doubled the size of the *Times* and made other improvements." Conley was publisher until 1931, when she sold the paper to W.S. Withers. Wesley Scott Withers worked on papers in his native Wisconsin until coming to Colorado in 1910; he bought the *Louisville Times* in 1931. Harry Naeter of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, bought the paper from Withers on July 23, 1940. Arthur and Della Hobson purchased the paper in 1942 and published it for 23 years.

The *Louisville Times* was incorporated in 1960. Harry E. Bodine acquired a minority interest, and Harry Bodine Jr. was managing editor from 1960 to 1963. The Hobsons sold the paper in May 1965 to Percy and Carolyn Conarro. The Conarros had been publishing the *Simla Pike View Farmer*; they would later found, or co-found, the

Lafayette Times and *Broomfield Courier Weekender*. The Conarroes turned the management of the *Times*--and the *Lafayette News*--over to their children in 1993. Douglas Conarroe is publisher, Cynthia Campbell is editor, and David Conarroe, a teacher in Aspen, is an officer on the board of directors.

Louisville Enterprise 1914-1915, W.S. Berwick, founder. The company name was Louisville Paper Concern.

Louisville Pride June 28, 1995 to present, Pasco Scarpella, founder.

Lyons

Miners were the first to arrive at future Lyons in 1858, closely followed by homesteaders in the 1860s. The camp had a land office in 1866, but it wasn't until 1880, when Edward S. Lyon of Connecticut bought a ranch near present day Lyons, that a town was born. Lyon discovered that 40 acres of the ranch were covered with tawny sandstone. He and his partners soon shoveled and shipped a load of the high-quality sandstone to Longmont, and an industry was underway. Lyon incorporated and sold shares in his "sand castle" and the area was soon overrun with settlers.

The town of Lyons was platted by the Lyons Town Site and Quarrying Company in 1882, but the town was not named for E.S. Lyon, but for Carrie Lyons, publisher of the first newspaper and the only Colorado newspaperwoman known to have a town named for her.

Lyons News 1890-1891, Carrie Lyons, founder.

Long's Peak Rustler 1891-1894, Benjamin Durr. Two printed items suggests the Rustler was a continuation of the *News*. The *Rustler* was sold to E.B. Lollar in 1894 and the name changed to:

Lyons Topics 1894-1897, E.B. Lollar.

Lyons Recorder late May 1900-1943, H.C. and O.H. Knight, founders. H.C. Knight became sole owner in the fall of 1902, with O.C. as co-editor/publisher. In 1907, O.C. bought out his brother, and in 1909 sold the paper to John C. Marshall. Apparently Marshall defaulted because Knight had the paper back in 1910. The Knight brothers later founded the *Lafayette Leader*.

C.N. (Breezy) Brust, bought the *Recorder* in 1916, selling it a year later to Walter Spencer. C.R. Spencer--no relation--bought the paper from Walter Spencer in 1935.

Flint Holmes bought the *Recorder* in 1937. His arrival was greeted in a most unusual fashion, according to *Colorado Editor*. The merchants of Cambridge, Nebraska, from which Holmes came, ran a paid ad saying:

Lyons--your gain-our loss.

The businessmen from Cambridge, Nebraska, listed below, wish to thank Mr. Holmes for all of his efforts and endeavors in the interest of our community while he was editor of the Cambridge Clarion--and we wish to say that Lyons is fortunate indeed to have Mr. Holmes as editor of your newspaper. Again, we state it is your gain and our loss.

Colorado Editor thought it was a "tribute to be proud of." Holmes left in 1938 to buy the *Park County Republican and Fairplay Flume*.

L.T. Hartcorn bought the *Lyons Recorder* from Holmes in August 1938 and sold it to M.W. Downie in December 1939. There is confusion in the historical records over ownership in this period. The 1940 Ayer directory lists Holmes as editor and publisher. Frank Pulver leased the paper from Downie in July 1941, according to *Colorado Editor*, but in October C.R. Spencer repossessed the *Recorder* from Downie. Spencer was publisher again until March 6, 1943, when Royal A. Young purchased the paper and suspended publication. The subscription list and name went to the *Longmont Ledger*. The *Ledger* filled the void by running a page of Lyons news under the title "New Lyons Recorder."

Ada Lou Hammons went to work for the *Longmont Ledger* in the early 1960s. When the *Ledger* folded in 1968, Hammons decided it was time to bring back the *Lyons Recorder*. The decision was reached because of a common cause. The school board had decided to close the Lyons High School and bus students to Longmont. The town needed a newspaper to fight the school board, and it got one:

New Lyons Recorder fall 1967 to present. Ada Lou and Max Hammons bought the name from the *Ledger* in September 1969 and revived the paper as the *New Lyons Recorder*. Mrs. Hammons made a deal with *Ledger* publisher Robert Keeler: She would work for him for six months setting type if he would teach her how to operate the press. It wasn't easy, she recalled later in a 1993 story by Nina Merriott in the *Old Lyons Recorder*:

Type was still being set by hand and if the paper jammed while the press was running, the dryer flame would set the newsprint on fire....

[Her husband] Max thought there should be an easier way. Offset printing was just coming on the scene. He purchased a Vari-Typer. It worked but it was a terrible machine to work with. It needed repairs every few days.

Setting type and printing was hard work, but cutting and pasting up the paper before printing took its toll on the Recorder staff.

Friend Beryl Cottrell, her husband and three children all worked on the first edition. [They] finally finished about 3:00 a.m. Everyone was tired, frustrated and ready to kill each other. The first two editions of the New Lyons Recorder were free, hand delivered to everyone in town.

The Hammons ran the *New Lyons Recorder* until 1981, when they sold it to Walt Kinderman. Kinderman sold the *Recorder* in November 1985 to James Hansen. By August 1987 Kinderman and his wife, Patty, were back as publishers, and are still there.

Lyons-St. Vrain News 1898-1899, L.A. Holdrege.

Lyons Herald 1899-1900.

Midland Miner 1901-1904, monthly.

Lyons News #3 June 7, 1946-? Donald Sisler, founder.

Nederland

A dismal little mining town, only a handful of small houses and smelting mills.

Boulder Creek comes dashing through it, foaming white to the very edge of town....

Helen Hunt Jackson, 1877

Not far from Caribou there was a small mountain town called Brownville in 1870. Three years later, after several name changes--Dayton, East Caribou, Middle Boulder--it was referred to as "a struggling village," but the owner of the Caribou mine, four miles

northwest, thought it would be an ideal place to build a mill for Caribou silver. When the mine and mill were purchased by a Dutch company, the town name was changed to Nederland, meaning "low land." It was incorporated at the end of 1875. Once a stage stop on the Boulder-Caribou tollroad, Nederland developed into a supply center and a regional trade center. Stages overflowed with 100 passengers daily. Beds were rented in eight-hour shifts, and extra doors were added to saloons and restaurants to facilitate rapid turnover. A person was expected to be through eating in 20 minutes.

The 1893 silver crash had its effect on Nederland. But a new century and a new boom came hand-in-hand. Sam Conger, the man who had discovered the great silver producing Caribou mine, took some unfamiliar ore to Denver for analysis in 1900. It was tungsten, a rare metal. Tungsten had been a heavy black metallic nuisance to early miners, but it came into its own at the turn of the century when its potential for use in incandescent lamps, and to strengthen steel, was recognized. Nederland bounced into a new era, and again people streamed in.

Among the newcomers, and new businesses, was the Caribou Ranch, a recording studio that brought such stars as the Beach Boys, Crosby, Stills and Nash, Elton John and many others to the area in the 1970s. David Crosby, Stephen Stills and Dan Fogelberg owned homes locally. There is nothing dismal about Nederland today. It is in a growing resort area. The first Nederland newspaper was the:

Nederland Record 1906-1909, Mrs. Elizabeth Walden.

Nederland Bugle, published irregularly, 1960-?

Tungsten Light December 1915-?, A.V. Echternach, founder; published during the tungsten boom.

Nederland Mountain-Ear October 25, 1977 to present, Kay Turnbaugh, founder. The paper was established with a \$600 loan, a typewriter and a purpose. The paper began as a monthly announcement of schedules for the Friday and Saturday night movies shown at the Nederland Center for Arts and Humanities. First, ads were sold in the movie schedule, then a little news was added, and controversy--such as town budget items--until people began urging Turnbaugh to start a newspaper. The hand-typed paper began coming out every other week, free circulation. Headlines and ads were done with press type, and photographs taken with a Polaroid camera and produced with a photo enlarger Turnbaugh's mother found in a trash can and fixed up. In 1980 the paper became a weekly with paid circulation and was on its way to becoming a profit-making venture. A year later the *Mountain-Ear* became a member of Colorado Press Association and Turnbaugh was CPA president in 1992. Turnbaugh started a Central City newspaper, the *Gilpin County Advocate*, in July 1989. It was absorbed into the *Mountain-Ear* late in 1991.

Niwot

Settlers claimed lands as early as 1859, but the town was not established until 1872. The first name was Modoc but it was changed in 1879 to Ni Wot, the Indian name for Left Hand Creek, named after the Arapahoe Chief Left Hand. The two words were

hyphenated at some point, but the hyphen and the two-word name gradually melded into one.

Niwot News April 1912-February 1913, Glenn S. Conklin, founder. Conklin was from Lyons, Kansas. Fire destroyed the *News* building and all its contents a few months after it began. Merle C. Taylor of the *Boulder County Miner* tried to keep the *Niwot News* going, printing it at the *Miner* shop in Boulder, but became discouraged and sold the paper to Rudolph Johnson.

Johnson, a University of Colorado student, was concurrently serving as editor of the University newspaper, the *Silver and Gold*, and commuted between Boulder and Niwot by motorcycle. He contracted with the *Boulder Miner* to print the *News*, but Johnson, too, became discouraged by distance, lack of support and profits, and on February 23, 1913 he discontinued the paper. Niwot went without its own paper for another eight years.

Niwot Tribune August 19, 1921-September 26, 1958, E.S. Hays, founder. Hays, with his wife Florence Newby Hays, ran the paper from its founding until his death in 1935. Mrs. Hays continued as publisher with the help of sons Henry P. and Newman Hays. Doyle Hornbaker, who had learned the printing trade as an apprentice at the *Tribune* from 1939 to 1942, returned from army service and began leasing the paper in April 1946. He bought it the following August from the Hayses. Hornbaker was the only owner other than the Hays family. Niwot went without a paper again for 25 years after Hornbaker suspended the *Tribune* in 1958.

Niwot Recorder May 1984-July 26, 1990, Walt Kinderman, founder. The *Recorder* was sold at the end of 1985 to James Hansen. Kinderman had the paper back in August 1987. In July 1990 it was incorporated into Kinderman's *Lyons Recorder*. Prior to his Boulder County newspapers, Kinderman was publisher of the Denver *Colorado Statesman*.

Sunshine

West of Boulder on the "easterly mountain slope that greets the rising sun," rose the hopeful town of Sunshine. The first prospectors in 1859 "kicked the rotten rock around as if of no value," unaware it was tellurium. It wasn't until the discoveries at Gold Hill in 1872 that the swarming prospectors rediscovered it. The first mine opened in 1873, the second--the Sunshine--in 1874, shortly before the first family to settle had the first baby. She was named Sunshine.

The town incorporated in 1874, opened a school, a telegraph and post office, and got its only newspaper in 1875. Sunshine's peak year was 1876, with a population of 1,200 and all mines producing. The mines survived long enough for one of them to win first prize in the St. Louis World's Fair Mineral Exhibit in 1904, but most of the mines and people were dwindling away.

Sunshine Courier May 1, 1875 to August 2, 1878, John W. Cairns & J.B. Bruner, founders. In June 1877 Cairns was replaced by E.M. Hawkins, who left the following November. William G. Shedd acquired Cairns' interest in November 1877 and Bruner's interest in 1878 to become sole owner. Bruner went to Fairplay and co-founded the

Fairplay Flume. The glory days behind, William Shedd moved the *Sunshine Courier* to Boulder in August 1878 where, as the *Boulder County Courier*, it merged with the *Boulder County News*.

Valmont

Valmont was laid out in 1865 and, it was said, was once larger than Boulder. It was probably named for a nearby butte, whose height made it a landmark at the confluence of North and South Boulder Creeks. Judge Alexander P. Allen and his sons, the Rev. G.S. Allen and Dr. H.W. Allen laid out the town with Holden Eldred. The town did well for a couple of years but when voters turned down Valmont's bid for county seat the town gradually faded. At its height, Valmont had five stores, three saloons, two drug stores and Boulder County's first newspaper.

Valmont Bulletin January 1, 1866-April 3, 1867, Dr. Henley W. Allen and D.G. Scouten, founders. Dr. Allen was the son of the Judge Allen who laid out the town, and Daniel G. Scouten was an itinerant printer and one of the livelier characters in Colorado journalism history. The *Bulletin* was one of the exclusive fellowship printed on the "Mormon Press" which had given gallant service to the *Cherry Creek Pioneer*, and to short-lived papers in Golden, Cañon City and Buckskin Joe.

The *Valmont Bulletin* was small, anywhere from 7x9 inches to 8 x12 in size--no one knows for certain-- and cost \$6 per year. Ads sold for \$2.50 "per square" (one column by 10 lines) for first insertion and \$2 for subsequent insertions. Scouten soon became sole owner of the paper and turned over operation of the paper to W.C.

Chamberlain, who renamed it the *Boulder Valley News*. The *News* was a four-page, four-column, 9x12 inch sheet. Then came the glorious raid by the men in Boulder. (See city of Boulder newspapers.) Valmont did not let the paper go quietly. A local poet wrote:

*Our press is gone and we are lost
While some have got the blues;
We want it back at any cost,
The Boulder Valley News.
Come back to us, now don't be rash,
Think well before you refuse.
We'll pay you in hash, but no cash,
For the Boulder Valley News.*

Delphi/Wall Street

Called Delphi as early as 1893, the name was changed to Wall Street in 1902. The Gold Extraction Company mill, built by "New England capitalists," reportedly cost \$175,000 and was specially designed for the district. Built in 1902 to serve a number of mines, the mill generated a boom and the town's new name: Wall Street. The town supported a newspaper with a streak of spelling independence:

Wallstreet Gold Miner July 1897-September 2, 1904, E.R. Geffe. The paper originated in Delphi and lasted through the town name change--until 1904. In March 1902 it absorbed the *Ward Miner*.

Ward

Did it ever strike you very forcibly that Dickens would derive definite satisfaction from a tour through the mining district of Colorado? Why? Because it would enable him [to realize he had] NOT made a caricature of a human family by giving us a portrait of Wm. Micawber, Esq.

W.M. lives and breathes hopefully, waits for something to turn up "and falls back for a spring of gigantic magnitude" in every mining locality in Colorado. Even up in Ward I saw him just as I left him six years ago.

He took comfort then in eating his slap-jacks and sow-belly, garnished with a dessert of dried apples, hopefully awaiting the day when a fortune would jump into his lap from between the walls of rock; and I have seen him now, the same cheery, hopeful Wilkins, scant of stamps but flush with "great expectations."

Sniktau, Rocky Mountain News 10/30/1867

E.H.N. Patterson (Sniktau) resided in Ward in the fall of 1867 and reported 200 people living in "good class frame houses in a thickly settled portion known as the Columbian district," surrounded by a "mat of raspberry bushes bearing fruit enough to supply the whole population." Patterson was then writing his distinctive accounts of the emerging mines for the *Rocky Mountain News*, but was a correspondent for several other papers as well, and would later be the greatly praised publisher of the *Georgetown Miner* in the 1870s.

Ward was a camp, a town and a district. It was named for Calvin W. Ward, who discovered gold there in 1860. Ward attracted eastern and London investors, and H.A.W. Tabor threw the "glamor of his name" over the major mine. The town was established in 1865, but did not incorporate until 1896. The Ward mines were among the most productive in the county, but heartbreaking for those speculators who bought high, sold low, and lost thousands of dollars when the new buyer easily struck it rich.

The story is told of one man who traded a deed of conveyance for a wool hat--and "damned glad to get the hat." During the best years, Ward had three newspapers:

Free Coinage 1892-1893, O.A. Pease and H.V. Ball, founders, editors and managers.

Ward Miner 1893-1902, L.D. Beckwith 1893; H.T. Haines 1898-1900; Lowell S. Smith, 1901. Continued in Wallstreet as *Wallstreet Miner* 1902-1904.

Ward Gazette 1898-1899, William Forgy, founder. Godard & Stephens, publishers in 1899, the year it merged with the *Miner* to:

Ward Miner and Gazette. The "Gazette" name was gone by 1902.

Sources: "*Old Burlington, First Town on the St. Vrain*," Dorothy Large, 1985.

"*The Louisville Story*", Carolyn Conarroe, 1978, and "mining town history" columns

Boulder Daily Camera 100th Anniversary edition and special articles by L.T. Paddock.

"*Colorado's Newspaper Person of the Year*," Monty Gaddy, *Simla Ranchland News*.

Special thanks to Laurence T. Paddock, Percy and Carolyn Conarroe, and Ed Lehman.

CHAPTER IX
BROOMFIELD COUNTY

Broomfield, named for the broom corn grown in the area, became a post office town in 1884. By 1900 it had feed mills, general store, blacksmith, and cheese factory. A multi-use building served as a post office, depot, pool hall, barber shop, dance hall and local meeting place, according to a 1992 story in the *Broomfield Enterprise Sentinel*. The Boulder Turnpike, built in the 1950s, spawned Broomfield Heights, a fast-growing residential development, and a planned city. By 1961, when the town was incorporated, it was on its way to becoming a suburban community for both Boulder and metro Denver. A newspaper was said to have existed in the early years of the 20th century, but it is probable that it was a section in another, unspecified, newspaper.

Rapid growth led to the creation of the City and County of Broomfield on November 15, 2001. Colorado's 64th county was carved out of Adams, Boulder, Jefferson and Weld counties. By 2010 Broomfield had morphed into an urban area of 55,889.

Broomfield Star July 1, 1955-1957, Fred A. Pruett and William Long, founders. Pruett, a Boulder commercial printing publisher, was publisher of the Star until July 1957, and Don Lindberg, editor, to February 1957. Long was secretary/manager of Colorado Press Association. The Star merged with the Builder.

Broomfield Builder, September 8, 1955-February 1, 1957, Turnpike Land Co., founders. It was merged into the Star as the:

Broomfield Star-Builder February 1957 to March 3, 1968. It was first published in Lafayette, and moved into a new plant in 1958. Merrill D. Grohman purchased the paper in July 1957, but Pruett, Long and advertising executive William Kostka, who had bought an interest in 1957, were back in March 1958. They owned the *Lafayette Leader* at the same time. Merle Swank bought an interest from the trio in April 1959. The four owners sold it April 1, 1964 to Dick and Marge Easton. Dick Easton had been editor for several years. The name was changed back to:

Broomfield Star March 28, 1968. The Eastons sold the paper in August 1969 to Olen and Mary Bell, who owned a number of metro Denver weeklies. In 1972 Robert and Bettie Beard became owners with a company named Star Leader Publications Corp. James Woodbury had a small interest. The paper went to a five-day daily in July 1973 and the name was changed briefly to:

Broomfield Daily Star, then to:

Front Range Daily Star August 1973-1974. In announcing the daily, the Beards revealed plans for a new building to house modern equipment, United Press International wire service, a larger staff--both in editorial and production--and a special heavy white news stock "to improve appearance."

Bettie Larue Beard died suddenly in August 1973. She was a graduate of the University of Colorado, magna cum laude in journalism, and had a master's degree in education from University of Northern Colorado. Robert M. Beard died not quite a year later after an extended illness. He, too, was a CU graduate, and a former Greeley

Tribune reporter. With Beard's death, the ownership reverted to the stockholders, who suspended the paper and later started the:

Broomfield Tri-City Journal April 1975-January 4, 1977, Marlowe McIntosh, founder. It was a 5-column weekly tabloid distributed in Broomfield, Lafayette and Louisville. Wick Newspapers purchased the Journal about May 1976, and established Brighton Publishing Co., but sold the paper in January 1977 to Albert Martin and Rosann Doran, who merged it into the Enterprise, with a nameplate notation "continuing Tri-City Journal."

Broomfield Enterprise October 8, 1975-April 7, 1978, Albert F. Martin and Rosann Doran, founders. The original name was *Free Enterprise*. Harrison Cochran replaced Doran as editor in 1976. The Enterprise bought and merged out the *Tri-City Star Journal* in 1977.

Broomfield Enterprise-Sentinel. When the Sentinel chain was broken up in 1991, the Broomfield paper was purchased by the *Boulder Daily Camera*. Mikkel Kelly was named editor in September 1995. *Broomfield Star Courier* January 12, 1977-April 7, 1978, Hal Schafer, founder. The *Star Courier* was discontinued in 1978 when it merged with the Enterprise.

Courier Weekender April 7, 1978-?. Albert Martin of the *Enterprise*, joined with Hal Schafer of the *Star-Courier* and Percy Conarro of the Louisville Times and Lafayette Leader to found the Weekender. It was circulated in Adams and Boulder counties, including Erie, Lafayette, Louisville and Niwot.

CHAPTER X

CHAFFEE COUNTY

The mountains seem to crowd the [Arkansas] river...and the tributary streams, Clear, Pine, Chalk, Cottonwood, which come out of the Range at intervals of seven or eight miles, continue down to the river. On these tributaries, the valley becomes wider and below the mouth of the South Arkansas, farms line the banks of the stream....

GOLD is found in the stream and on its southwestern tributaries from the Cottonwood to its extreme sources.

Ovando J. Hollister, "The Mines of Colorado" 1867

Long before gold, there were explorers, trappers and Indians. De Anza and his small army of Spaniards viewed the valley of Chaffee County in the late 1770s. Zebulon Pike spent Christmas 1808 near what would become Salida. Fremont passed through in 1845, the same year the Utes and Cheyenne fought each other there. In 1856 soldiers from Fort Garland skirmished with the Utes. Placer miners made camp near Granite in 1860. A French doctor settled in the upper end of the county, planting and harvesting his first crop in 1863. Also in 1863 an Italian immigrant settled on the Little Arkansas River and constructed the first irrigation ditch. It wasn't long until there were many settlers, two post offices and several small towns, including Granite, Monarch and St. Elmo.

Originally part of Lake County, Chaffee County was broken off in 1879 and named for Jerome B. Chaffee, a delegate to Congress from the Territory of Colorado and one of the first two senators elected after statehood. Chaffee, a mine operator and

banker, was a key player in achieving statehood for Colorado. He retired from the Senate the year Chaffee became a county.

Metal mining, farming, irrigation and town development were important to the county's economic growth. Later they were replaced by other mineral and agricultural industries, such as limestone quarrying and feldspar mining, livestock and poultry, and lumber.

Alpine

Alpine was founded about 1877 and incorporated by a company which had more plans than savvy. It boomed in 1879 and 1880, but by 1882 had disappeared. Businesses and residents--which had numbered 503 in the 1880 census--had moved to St. Elmo.

True Fissure 1879-January 1880, J.E. Curran and Fred Tompkins, founders. W.C. Tompkins--Fred's brother--also worked on the *True Fissure*. The *Rocky Mountain News* reported May 4, 1880 that the two publishers had just started:

Alpine Echo, which didn't last long enough to get listed anywhere else. In August that year Curren co-founded the *St. Elmo Rustler*, and Tompkins was in Nathrop founding the *Chaffee County Times*.

Fred Tompkins was eight when he began learning the printer's craft. At the age of sixteen he was an editor of the Larned, Kansas, *Chronoscope*, but was soon on his way to Leadville, where he found a job as printer on the *Leadville Democrat*. He couldn't have been there long, because in 1879 he founded the *True Fissure*. Although that was

short-lived, he quickly founded another paper, the Nathrop *Chaffee County Press* and, later, the Poncha Springs *Herald*.

Grizzly Gulch, near Alpine

Chrysolite Mountain Bugle, July 1, 1879-1880, William M. Anderson, founder.

The paper was published in the Chrysolite Mining Company's cabin. Anderson was the company cook.

Buena Vista

Much has been said and written of Buena Vista and its beautiful surroundings, and as to its desirability as a place of residence for those seeking health, pleasure and business, but not half has been told in the past and they who attempt it at present, or in the future, will find the language is poverty stricken.

Buena Vista Herald 1/2/1891

Buena Vista was created by the Denver, South Park & Pacific division of the Union Pacific in 1879. First known as Cottonwood, the name was soon changed to Buena Vista (pronounced locally as Bew-na), Spanish for "good view." The town grew so rapidly, it had no trouble challenging Granite, which was on a decline, for the county seat designation. Buena Vista held the county seat from 1880 to 1928, when it, too, lost to a larger town: Salida.

The fledgling town was not always peaceful. The *Chaffee County Times* ran a headline unlikely to attract any solid citizens: "MOB LAW! A Wild Week in Buena Vista: Riot, Arson, Robbery, Murder, Lynching and General Cussedness Rampant!" The

gamblers, con men and desperados eventually followed the railroad to greener pastures. The legislature chose Buena Vista as the site of the state reformatory in 1889.

Buena Vista's first newspaper and the current one carry the same name,

Chaffee County Times February 6, 1880-1886, Percy A. Leonard and George Newland, founders. Leonard became sole owner in September. W.R. Logan ventured into the newspaper business when he bought an interest in January 1881, but he retired from it two months later. Leonard had an advantage: his sister, Agnes L. Hill, who, according to E.R. Emerson in the Baskin *"History of the Arkansas Valley"* was a *"lady who wields a sharp and trenchant pen, that at once brought the paper more into public notice."* Mrs. Hill, who worked for the *Chicago Times* before moving to Colorado, continued working for it as an "editorial correspondent [contributing] lively sketches of her impressions of Colorado." She also wrote extensively on scientific subjects for international publications.

Percy Allan Leonard, the only son of a college president, was born in Louisville, Ken., in 1845. His family moved to Chicago at the outbreak of the Civil War. When Chicago was devastated by the great fire, Leonard accepted a railroad construction offer in Golden and moved west in 1871, with his own young family. While still living in Chicago, Leonard had been a Chicago correspondent for several large papers outside the city, and after moving to Colorado he contributed to several front range newspapers. When the Colorado railroad job ended and attempts at mining failed, Leonard found an

editorial job on the *Boulder News and Courier*. A year later he founded the *Chaffee County Times*.

Having achieved his goals, as well as recognition as a very good newspaperman, publishing "a reliable mining journal," Leonard folded the *Times* in 1886 and took his plant to Leadville, and then to Grand Junction. He started the Leadville weekly *Dispatch* in 1886 and later bought the *Daily Journal* and merged the two. He founded the *Grand Junction Star*, the *Denver Conquest*--later *Western World*--and *Ores and Metal*--which was awarded "the premium as the greatest mining publication in the world" at the 1900 Paris Exposition. He also published at various times the *Durango Southwest* and *Alma Park County Bulletin*. In 1894 he was appointed secretary to Governor McIntyre.

Buena Vista Clipper 1880-1881, J.S. Painter was editor. The *Clipper* was a daily. Painter was welcomed to Buena Vista, but shortly thereafter moved to Maysville to start the *South Arkansas Miner*.

Buena Vista Democrat #1 1881-1891, John Cheeley, founder. This *Democrat* went through eight name changes, the absorption of two competing papers, and three political affiliations.

In 1891 the name was changed to:

Colorado Democrat 1891-1895, then to:

Chaffee County Republican 1895-1897 to:

Chaffee County Republic 1897-1900 to:

Colorado Republican 1900-1910 to:

Chaffee County Independent 1910-1912 to:

Chaffee County Republican 1912-1976 to:

Chaffee County Times #2 1976 to present.

The 1880 *Democrat-to-1995-Times* was a survivor. *Democrat* founder Cheeley (sometimes spelled Cheely) was admitted to membership in the Colorado State Press Association in 1881 when he was with the *Evans Journal*. The Rowell directory lists him at Evans in 1883. He was also connected with papers in Denver, including *Cheeley's Democrat*.

Evidently Cheeley and the *Buena Vista Democrat* needed a cash infusion, because in February 1882 the *Chaffee County Times* reported that the *Democrat* had been purchased by a group that included J.H. Johnson, E.B. Jones (manager), Joseph Hutchinson, Dr. J.W. O'Connor, Dr. McDuff and others. Logan may have been one of the "others"; he was owner in 1883, and his brother, Charlie, was a prominent member of the staff. A group of professionals and businessmen owning a newspaper was not unusual. In this case it was a satisfactory investment.

Although *Democrat #1/Republican* was owned by W.R. Logan from 1884 until 1900, he leased it twice. The first time was to H.E. Corsce, who ran it from 1895 to 1897 with James Bryan as editor. The second lease was to Heber Turner, 1897-1900.

The name was changed to:

Chaffee County Republican 1895-897, and to:

Chaffee County Republic June 1895-1900.

Gilbert Walker bought the *Republic* in 1900 and renewed the name:

Colorado Republican 1900-1910. Walker sold the paper in 1910 to Charles Kuenzel who changed the name and politics to:

Chaffee County Independent 1910-1912. Kuenzel sold the paper before the year was out. The new owner(s), name(s) unknown, changed the name to:

Buena Vista Republican. The paper was sold in December 1911 to Edward Gregg and his wife, Estella. The name changed back to: **Chaffee County Republican** 1911-1976. It was the third name change in a year, but the next to the last name of the paper.

The Greggs began the new year 1912 with two "babies": a son born on Christmas Eve 1911, and a newspaper they bought three days later. The newspaper and the son, Gib, would be inseparable for more than half a century.

Ed Gregg, born in Missouri in 1872, came to Buena Vista as a very young boy and learned the printing trade. While editing the *Republican*, Gregg wrote feature stories for the *New York Times*, his by-line appearing regularly each month over a story of 1000 words or so. He also reported for Associated Press. The popular Greggs stabilized the newspaper, which entered a new era of responsibility and respect. They branched out in 1925 to start the *Fairplay Park County News*, operating it in conjunction with the Buena Vista paper. Ed Gregg died in 1927. His 15-year-old son, Gilbert (Gibby) Gregg took over

the editorial duties. Mrs. Gregg, who was publisher when her husband was editor, remained publisher but added the title of associate editor. Mrs. Gregg died in 1934.

One of the youngest editors in the state when he took over the paper, Gib Gregg, who started as a printer's devil when he was 12, spent 51 years shepherding the *Republican*. At the same time, he was an active citizen, serving with the fire department for 25 years, and managing to find time to serve as a town councilman, mayor, police commissioner and chamber of commerce president.

Gregg sold the paper in 1973 to a group headed by Bruce Bye, president and publisher, William H. James, editor, and Fred Budy. George Ledermann purchased the paper in January 1974, and sold it in June 1975 to Sams Communications, Inc., which brought back the name of Buena Vista's first newspaper:

Chaffee County Times, the name by which it is still known. Johnson Newspapers (William Potter Johnson, who owned several papers in the Colorado mountains) was the next owner in 1978. Merle Baranczyk, publisher of the *Salida Mountain Mail*, bought the paper in November 1985.

Buena Vista Herald March 19, 1881-July 4, 1900, W.R. Logan and George Hickey, founders. Hickey sold his interest to Logan almost immediately, and was replaced by A.R. Kennedy, 1881-1883, and again 1887-1890. During Kennedy's hiatus, A.L. Crossen was co-owner and editor. Kennedy was followed by D.M. Jones, 1891-7/4/1900, the year Logan absorbed the *Herald's* circulation list into his *Chaffee County Republic*. Jones maintained a financial interest in the Logan papers after the *Herald* merged, until about

1907 when he moved to Texas. H.E. Corsce, who was leasing *Democrat #2* in 1896, was listed as publisher of the *Herald* in 1896 in the Rowell directory.

In May 1891 there was more competition for the Logans:

Buena Vista Record May 1891-June 1893, J.C. Stuart and J.P. McDade, founders, editors and proprietors. The *Record* was a Populist newspaper. James McDade died at age twenty-five on February 23, 1893, after a short illness, "the result of having been poisoned by holding type in his mouth," reported the *Denver Times*. Stuart, who had worked on the *Buena Vista Herald*, the *Chaffee County Call* and the *Colorado Mineral Belt* moved to Colorado Springs.

Chaffee County Democrat #2, 1900-1923, Charles Logan, founder. The years of working for his brother had paid off. Charlie had saved enough money to buy the *Granite Courier*, which he promptly moved to Buena Vista. John Ophus, in a Summer 1966 *Colorado Magazine* article, says that Charlie Logan combined the *Buena Vista Herald* plant and the Granite presses, for his *Democrat*.

Other short-lived Buena Vista Newspapers were:

Colorado Mining Bulletin 1882-1883.

Mine Stack & Rail 1882-1887, D. Bauman, founder. There were also papers of this name in Pueblo and Denver.

Wasp August 21, 1883-1886, Sadie Bay, publisher.

Rocky Mountain Fairy 1886; monthly.

Chaffee County News 11/1894-1896.

Chaffee County Chronicle 1965-1967.

Chronicle Chieftain 1968.

Alpine Gazette 1975.

Centerville

Centerville was a railroad and post office town between Buena Vista and Salida.

"A History of Chaffee County" lists a Centerville newspaper:

Centerville Reporter 1886. No additional information on this paper has been found.

Cleora

Cleora was born on a dream and died in a nightmare. The Kansas-based Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, expecting to expand to the Royal Gorge, sent surveyors in 1878 to buy land and start building a town preparatory to the arrival of its railroad. The town was named Cleora after the daughter of early resident William Bales, owner of Bales' Tavern and Stage Station. Soon there were about 600 people waiting for the train, and making a living by supplying miners along the Arkansas River. Track-laying began and Cleora residents "ran out to cheer" the men, only to discover that the

railroad was waving goodbye. The railroad was by-passing Cleora. Cleora had only one newspaper:

Cleora Journal June 1879-July 1880, Dr. L.C. McKenney, founder. The *Journal* was founded in anticipation of the boom. By the time the *Journal* folded in 1880, Henry C. Olney and M.R. Moore had taken over the plant and joined the rest of Cleora in moving lock, stock and type case to South Arkansas in June, where they produced the *Mountain Mail*. That they did not use the South Arkansas name was undoubtedly a hedge in case South Arkansas didn't last either. This was good thinking on their part; a month later, in July 1880, South Arkansas became Salida and the newspaper became the *Salida Mountain Mail*.

Garfield/Junction City

Located near the junction of the South and Middle Forks of the South Arkansas River, the town was named Junction City, but people called it Garfield in honor of President James Garfield, soon to be the late president. Garfield had one newspaper, the:

Garfield Banner 1881. Who started it, and when, is unknown, but in September 1881 it apparently had moved to Tin Cup, where another *Garfield Banner* came out. The front page was resplendent with American Flags surrounding a picture of President James Garfield, and mourning bands for the President who had been shot in July. The Rex bibliography lists the *Garfield Banner* 1881 in Crested Butte, with A.E. Saxey and Halsey Rhoads, editors/publishers, in 1882.

Granite

The first settlement in central Colorado was an early 1860s mining camp near the mouth of Cache Creek. Within three years it had attracted more than 300 men, who were busy trying to fish a fortune from the creek bed. The town was established about 1860 and by 1868 had grown enough to pre-empt the Lake County seat from Dayton. In 1891 the *Buena Vista Herald* said: "the town...is steadily growing. It is the center of a rich mining territory and the supply point for the Clear Creek district." The town began growing again, and it got a newspaper:

Granite Pay-Streak April 1894-1900, founded by the peripatetic Delavan W. Gee, one of the most widely known and respected newspaperman of his day. Gee moved the paper to Leadville in 1895 and back to Granite in 1896. Gee was editor/publisher until 1899, when he sold it to Ben H. Pelton, who had been the Vicksburgh postmaster in the early part of the decade. The name was changed to:

Granite Mining Journal 1900-1913. Pelton was still publisher, but he sold the paper to O.A. Brown in 1905. Brown folded the paper in 1913.

Granite Courier 1898-1900. Charles Logan bought and moved it to Buena Vista in 1900, renaming it the *Chaffee County Democrat #3*

Maysville

Ranchers brought stock into the county in the 1870s, settling on what would be the site of Maysville. Then gold was found, miners arrived and a second industry was

born. In late July 1879 the land was platted and named after the Kentucky home of Gen. William Marshall, the discoverer of Marshall Pass. The town was a mining center, a travel center, and at times the permanent residents were outnumbered by transients moving along the toll roads to Monarch Pass, Hancock, Shavano and other points. A capable bucket brigade saved most of the town from an 1880 fire. The financial crash of 1893 and the railroad's bypassing killed some towns, but Maysville was temporarily saved from extinction by people who were loathe to leave a place of "beauty and serenity." The town boasted five newspaper titles in its short life span.

South Arkansas Miner April 1880-June 1882, E.D. Lunt and J.S. Painter, founders. The paper was sold in 1882 to A.R. Pelton and Henry C. (Harry) Brown, who changed the name to:

Maysville Miner 1882-1883. It was moved to Salida and became the *Sentinel*.

Chaffee County Democrat August 1881-1882, J.P. Dunn, founder.

Maysville Chronicle December 1880-1882, H.B. Neal and C.N. Daley, founders. The *Chronicle* boasted a circulation of 1,000 and carried "items of home interest and the more important state and foreign news." Daley left in February and Neal the following July. Dr. J.H. Nonamaker bought the paper in December 1881, but it ceased publication early in 1882, when it was destroyed by fire. Undaunted, Nonamaker then started:

Colorado Mining Ledger 1882-1883. Fire also destroyed the *Ledger* plant in January 1883. The Salida *Sentinel* and *Mail* both offered Dr. Nonamaker use of their

presses, but he declined, "preferring to devote all his time to procuring new presses and material. In March, it was said that Nonamaker would "locate" a paper at White Pine, but he didn't.

Monarch

A prospector named Nicholas C. Creede searching for a likely spot in 1878 was grubstaked and directed to the promising mines in the Monarch vicinity. He was lucky and within a year hundreds more joined him when an eastern company invested in the area. First known as Chaffee City, Camp Monarch was established in May 1879 and in no time the extended population was 3,000. The town grew and prospered until the 1893 market crash, when the government stopped buying silver. Today, part of the old town lies beneath the highway over Monarch Pass. It is suggested that the name was changed from Chaffee City to Monarch as a tribute to the vicinity's most valuable mine-- and to avoid being confused with the county.

Monarch Eagle 1888-1889.

Monarch Miner August 1, 1888-1889.

Nathrop

Zebulon Pike spent December 23, 1806 without provisions on Chalk Creek. The Indians had been soaking in the mineral springs for decades, and would continue to do so for another half-century. Charles Nachtrieb, a pioneer merchant and freighter, crossed the plains and settled on the spot in 1868. He gave an anglicized version of his

name to the town of Nathrop. Nachtrieb built a flour mill in 1879 on Chalk Creek; it is believed to be the first such mill west of the Mississippi up to that time. The town had two newspapers:

Chaffee County Press, October 9, 1880-1881, W.C. & Fred Tompkins, founders.

(See *Poncha Springs Herald* below.)

Nathrop Record 1908-1909.

Newitt

A lumber, railroad and ranching community, Newitt--sometimes spelled Newett--was named for Robert "Chubb" Newitt, who had a large ranch there. It was located near Trout Creek Pass on the border of Chaffee and Park counties. Its one newspaper had the most intriguing newspaper name in Chaffee County:

The Wild Bill Published about 1899. Unfortunately, no copy of it exists.

Poncha Springs

Poncha Springs, on the banks of the South Arkansas River, is a resort area with mineral springs. The name is believed to come from an Indian word for tobacco. The Indians smoked a plant growing in abundance by the springs. At one time Poncha Springs was the largest town in the southern end of the county.

The first cabin was built in 1863. The settlement got a post office in 1868, when it was known as South Arkansas. (Not to be confused with the 1880 South Arkansas

which became Salida.) The name was changed to Poncha Springs, and the town laid out before 1877, but not actually founded until 1879. Dreadful fires swept the town in 1882, 1885 and 1887, but enough people stayed on to keep the community going, if only as a "sleepy little town." Poncha Springs had only one newspaper:

Poncha Herald April 1881-August 28, 1882, W.C. and Fred Tompkins, founders.

The newspaper equipment may have been brought to Poncha Springs from the Tompkins' Nathrop *Chaffee County Press*, which succumbed to the lack of support in a vanishing town.

St. Elmo

St. Elmo was founded in 1880 and originally called Forest City because of the dense tree growth; it was renamed at the post office's request. A member of the town company, Griffith Evans, had just finished reading a novel entitled "*Saint Elmo*" and proposed the name. His son, Richard, platted the town and briefly owned the *Mountaineer*. During the 1880s it was a thriving supply town. Eventually the railroad reached St. Elmo. At one point the town had five hotels, sporadic church services by Father John L. Dyer or Bishop Joseph P. Machebeuf, the two indefatigable missionaries who blessed Colorado, and a population of almost 2,000. The Alpine Tunnel was built in 1881 under Altman Pass, but the last train went through it in 1910, by which time St. Elmo was fading. It now shines as one of Colorado's best preserved and most scenic ghost towns.

St. Elmo Rustler August 21, 1880. Howard Russell and J.E. Curran, founders. The name was changed after one issue--supposedly at the suggestion of stockmen--to:

St. Elmo Mountaineer August 28, 1880-1895. Curran, late of Alpine, sold his interest in the paper to R.W. Evans in February 1881. Evans, in turn, sold it three weeks later to W.C. Shinn, who earlier had founded the *Dodge City [Kan.] Times*. New equipment was purchased and the paper enlarged to six columns. According to E.R. Emerson:

The paper is devoted particularly to the interests of the rich mineral district in which it is published. St. Elmo having an altitude of about 10,400 feet, the paper may fairly be claimed to be edited in the clouds, at the highest point of any paper in the county, and with perhaps one exception, the highest altitude in the United States.

(This was true when Emerson wrote, but in 1883 newspapers in Summitville and Red Mountain were published at altitudes more than 11,000. The official Colorado map gives St. Elmo's altitude as 10,000, so unless the mountain shrank, papers in Alma and Leadville in 1880 were published at higher altitudes. However, the *Pikes Peak Daily News* surpassed them all. It was published May to September on the summit of the famous 14,110 peak.)

Colorado Mineral Belt 1887-1890, W.R. Logan, founder. Logan was the Buena Vista newspaper owner.

St. Elmo Democrat 1887-1888, founder unknown.

Salida

The Denver and Rio Grande began expediting the railroad to Salida as soon as it won the right-of-way court battle over use of the Royal Gorge with the Santa Fe in February 1880. The rail line was finished to South Arkansas May 1, and on May 20 a makeshift station opened to serve passengers on the two trains running daily between Salida and Denver. Already there were 50 buildings, although the town would not be officially platted by developer Alexander C. Hunt until the last days of summer. It was former Territorial Governor Hunt, recently returned from Mexico, who proposed the name. As the *Mail* explained:

Salida is a Spanish word and means outlet. This point is the outlet for numerous mining camps over the range and in the South Arkansas River Valley and our town is hereafter to be known as Salida. It is an appropriate name; is a very pretty name, and is much shorter and therefore more convenient than the old name of South Arkansas.

Almost as soon as the town was more than a gleam in Hunt's eye, there was a newspaper, the *Mountain Mail*, lured by Hunt with the promise of choice land and support.

The Mountain Mail June 5, 1880-present; M.R. Moore and Henry Olney, founders. The *Mountain Mail* had a building underway in South Arkansas within weeks of the first lot sales. A.C. Hunt was well aware of the importance of the press in promoting new ventures. He offered M.R. Moore and Henry Olney a choice mid-town lot if they would bring the Mears printing plant from Cleora to South Arkansas/Salida.

They were happy to accept, and wasted little time getting out the first issue June 5, 1880.

The *Mail* wasn't sure the world knew what an up and coming town Salida was, so it began a series of articles trumpeting the wonders of the area, culminating in 1886 with a pamphlet published by the town council which would "meet inquiries regarding Salida, and set its wonderful natural and material advantages before the traveling public. The publishers have spared no pains to make it trustworthy in every particular."

M.R. Moore and Henry Olney were "highly educated" Civil War veterans. Under them, the *Mail* was "conservative in style, lapsing once in awhile to call a critic a 'dirty dog.' [The paper] was described as 'leaning toward virtue's side and the Republican party.'" Moore, born in Indiana in 1845, came to Colorado in 1875 from Kansas. He did editorial work for the *Silverton Miner* in 1876, the *Lake City Silver World* 1877-1878, and was publisher of the *Del Norte Prospector* before starting the *Mail*. Henry Olney was Moore's colleague at the *Silver World*.

In 1883 Moore bought out Olney and started a daily tabloid-sized publication, changing the name to *Salida Mail*, and expanding. Two months after expanding the *Mail*, Moore sold the paper to W.W. Wallace, who had been at Coal Creek. Wallace sold 18 months later to H.C. Crawford & J.F. Erdlen.

John Erdlen, born in Ohio in 1855, left home at an early age for Chicago where he learned the printing trade. Heeding the call to the west, he arrived in Denver and became a printer for the *Rocky Mountain News*. He was in the Buena Vista Chaffee

County Times printing department before buying the *Salida Mail*. Erdlen found the daily a little too much and cut publication to twice weekly. He bought the *St. Elmo Mountaineer* in 1885 and merged it into the *Mail*. In 1885 Erdlen hired an editor, D.J. Truesdell of Minnesota, who bought a part interest in 1887. About the same time, new equipment, included a stereotyping outfit and a steam-powered press, was acquired.

In 1892 Howard Russell, an experienced newspaperman from Indiana, bought the paper. Russell had owned the *St. Elmo Mountaineer*, and at one time worked for the *Pueblo Opinion* and the *Salida Chaffee County Call*. In 1890 he and M.H. Smith started the *Salida Apex*, which was consolidated into the *Mail* a year later. Russell's newspaper career included editing and/or owning the *Saguache Advance*, *Vilas Baca County Republican*, *Delta Independent*, *Fort Collins Express*, and, like Fred Tompkins, the *Larned, Kan., Chronoscope*. He was president of the Colorado Press Association in 1900. He left Colorado to work for California newspapers, and died in Santa Monica in 1936.

Russell had trouble paying off his note to Erdlen, so in 1897 Erdlen was back issuing a weekly, and espousing Populist politics--the party of free and unlimited coinage of silver dollars to bolster Colorado's sagging economy. The *Mail* went from twice-weekly to a Friday weekly. Erdlen stayed with the *Mail* until August 1903, when he sold the paper to Judge Lewis A. Hollenbeck and T. "Ed" Jarrett. The new owners took an "Independent" stance. Jarrett was said to have health problems, so less than a year later the paper was sold to M.M. Smith and W.E. Perry. Either for financial reasons or for a bad case of printers ink, Erdlen was back again briefly in 1905 before trying

another sale to Jarrett's stepmother, Sarah, and her brother, S.J. England. Jarrett's stepsister, Frances Fuller, bought her mother's--Mrs. Jarrett's--interest and became the paper's second woman publisher. Again, the partnership was short lived.

In 1906 Ernest Newton, formerly of the *Alamosa Courier*, bought the paper and gave it a decade of ownership stability before selling the paper in 1915 to John M. O'Connell, who gave it three decades plus three years of stability. O'Connell had worked on Pueblo and Denver papers in the company of such luminaries as Damon Runyan, Gene Fowler, Arthur Chapman, and Walter Juan Davis.

Leigh and Maxine Abbey, with their son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Elizabeth, bought the *Mail* June 1, 1948. Two months earlier they had purchased the *Record*. The two papers were merged into the daily *Record-Mail*. The *Record* (see below) served as a weekly companion paper. The *Mail* now had absorbed four papers: the *Sentinel* in 1884, the *Apex*, 1891, the *Mail Bulletin*, 1939 and the *Record*, 1948. Mr. and Mrs. George Oyler (Ethel) purchased the paper November 1, 1951 and the name reverted to *Salida Mountain Mail*.

Born in Oklahoma, Oyler grew up in Kansas and received his A.B. degree from the University of Kansas at Lawrence with a journalism major and German minor. His newspaper career began in the classified and circulation departments, but he was soon an assistant sports editor before moving to advertising departments on Kansas and Nebraska papers. After World War II air corps service he worked on a number of papers in other states before buying the *Mail* in 1951.

Oyler, president of the Colorado Press Association in 1963, changed the name of his paper back to the original *Mountain Mail* for the 75th anniversary issue. He continued publishing the *Weekly Record* because a clause inserted in the contract required it when William Marquardt sold the *Record* to the Abbeys. Eventually the contract expired and the *Record*, with little advertising, contents reprinted from the *Mail*, and mostly out-of-state subscribers, was folded November 20, 1968.

Not quite 20 years after buying the *Mail*, Oyler sold it May 1, 1971 to a group of *Grand Junction Sentinel* executives: Kenneth Johnson, Chan D. Edmonds, Barclay Jameson and Fred Martin, who also bought the Delta and Hotchkiss papers. The manager hired by this group, George Ledermann, wound up buying the *Mail*. He also bought the only other newspaper in the county, the Buena Vista *Chaffee County Republican*. In "100 Years..." Ed Quillen describes what happened next:

Ledermann is famed in Colorado journalism circles for making the only backward conversion in the state's history after he failed to make payments on the Salida Mountain Mail and the [Grand Junction] Sentinel took it back. That left Ledermann in Buena Vista, and he proceeded to take what had been an offset newspaper and convert it back to letterpress.

He also left the Mail in a shambles by 1974. Circulation had fallen to 1400, advertising was virtually non-existent, and pay had actually been cut for many employees some of whom quickly left.

Into this disastrous situation came a young man who had been editing a Colorado Springs weekly that folded. Merle Baranczyk was hired by publisher Ken Johnson in 1977. With a new format, new aim, renewed circulation, and a shopper to give advertisers saturation coverage, Baranczyk and his wife Mary bought the *Mountain*

Mail a year later and launched the second century of Salida's newspaper. The *Mail* is now the flagship for a string of Baranczyk-owned Colorado papers: the *Mail*, *Buena Vista Chaffee County Times*, *Fairplay Flume & Park County Democrat* and *Leadville Herald-Democrat*.

The first strong--and only successful--competitor to the *Mail* appeared in June 1882 as both a daily and a weekly:

Salida Sentinel June 1882-September 1883, A.R. Pelton and Henry C. (Harry) Brown, founders. They purchased and brought the plant of the Maysville *South Arkansas Miner* to Salida. It was a weekly and daily publication which lasted, under several name changes, from June 1882 to November 20, 1968.

There is conflicting information about the founding. Both M.R. Moore, former *Mail* publisher, and Frank Hall state that W.B. McKinney started the *News* in 1883. McKinney had been editor of the *Silver Cliff Prospect* (a daily with a weekly *Prospector*) and *Bonanza Daily Enterprise*, and would later work on Pueblo papers. Hall goes on to say that McKinney sold the *News* to A.R. Pelton who sold it to Howard Lee, who was later with the *Grand Junction Sentinel*.

In September 1883 the name was changed to:

Salida News 1883-1890, issued semi-weekly. W.B. McKinney was editor as early as 1883; in 1887 he was editor and H.J. Hakins was publisher. Apparently the *Sentinel* was continued as a weekly companion paper.

Pelton moved to Lake City in 1885 and leased the *Silver World*. H.J. Hakins was listed as publisher of the *News* in 1887 with W.B. McKinney, editor. Pelton returned to Salida in 1888. From 1888-1893 a weekly edition was issued as a companion to the daily *News*. The daily *News* operation was resumed in 1889. In 1891 the daily *News* ended. Pelton changed the name of the weekly back to:

Salida Sentinel 1891-1893. The Colorado Newspaper Project says the *Sentinel* is "a combination of the *Semi-Weekly News* and *Salida Call*."

In May 1893, there was a new owner, H.L. Bevan. M.R. Moore said that he purchased the *Sentinel* in March 1893 and consolidated it with his *Mail*. Judge W.F. Stone's "History of Colorado" also states an early merger of the *Mail* and *Sentinel*. Walter Stewart and Quillen say that H.L. Bevan purchased the *Sentinel* and changed the name to:

Chaffee County Record May 1893-December 23, 1898. The *Chaffee County Record* name was localized in 1898 to:

Salida Record December 20, 1898 (weekly and semi-weekly). It kept the name until the merger with the *Mountain Mail* in May 1948.

H.L. Bevan, owner of the *Record* in 1893, was born in 1857 in Ohio, and gained his early newspaper experience by working for his brother-in-law, Julius Wayland, who published the *Pueblo Public Opinion* in the early 1890s. After Bevan, there were John C. Hollenbeck 1895-1901, Oren R. Meacham 1896-1898, Paul B. Smith 1901-1904, H.J.

Foulk 1905-1916, and Marsh A. Corbin 1905. Corbin was gone by the end of the year, but Foulk was publisher until 1916.

Meacham returned to the *Record* in 1906, bought an interest, and became sole owner in 1916. F.G. Hedges bought the *Record* in 1924 and turned it into a daily newspaper on December 20, in conjunction with a Midwinter Trade and Prosperity Exposition in Salida. The daily was dropped the following May because Hedges felt he would have to raise ad rates to a "prohibitive point" to make it pay.

William J. Marquardt and C.L. Preusch, both of Calhan, bought the paper in January 1929. Marquardt was publisher of the *Calhan News*, which he expected to sell. Preusch was superintendent of the Calhan schools, but had newspaper experience and planned to move to Salida at the end of the school year. H.R. Moore bought half of the Preusch interest in 1937. Preusch also worked on newspapers in Leadville and Loveland.

The last owners of the *Record* as such were Leigh and Maxine Abbey and their son and daughter-in-law Robert and Elizabeth Abbey, who purchased the paper in April 1948. In June 1948 the Abbeyes bought the *Salida Mail*, merging the two papers. From 1948 through December 1955, Salida's daily paper was:

Mail-Record. A companion weekly, the **Salida Record**, continued until December 20, 1968. Both papers were produced in the *Record* plant.

Salida Daily Times 1883-1884.

Frog 1888-1889, semi-monthly.

Chaffee County Call October 4, 1889-1891, James B. Simpson, founder, who sold it to M.H. Smith, who sold it to Mark Scott, November 10, 1890. Scott issued it tri-weekly starting February 3, 1891. Apparently his optimism was misdirected. Sometime in 1890 Howard Russell left the *St. Elmo Mountaineer* and returned to Salida to join the staff of the *Chaffee County Call*, then owned by M.H. Smith.

In November 1890, Russell and Smith started:

Salida Apex November 5, 1890-1891. It was merged into the *Mail* shortly before Russell bought the *Mail*. The only known surviving copy of the *Apex* was found in a schoolhouse cornerstone.

People's Press 1891-1892, J.C. Stuart and James McDade, who also owned the *Buena Vista Record*, founders. In June 1892 the *Salida Mail* reported:

It has struggled to stay in existence since last fall. It was well supported by that class of people who take all they can get for nothing, and kick because they can't get more. This class of people is very numerous in every locality and the People's Press was a great favorite of theirs and it was these same people who took much of the People's Party that sunk the newspaper.

Salida Fountain 1895-1896.

Colorado Chronicle 1904-1905, name changed to:

Salida Chronicle 1905-1907, Hulanski and Dixon, founders, listed in the Rowell directory for 1905 and 1907. F.J. Hulanski once owned papers in Ouray. W.A.H McDaniels was listed with the paper in 1906.

Salida Republican 1907-1908.

Salida Times 1907-1910, a weekly, F.L. Tomlin.

Salida Daily Reminder 1929-1935, a mimeographed newspaper, mentioned by Stewart.

Salida Mail-Bulletin 1933-1939, a daily. Little seems to be known of this late entry into the town's journalistic annals. Ed Quillen indicates it was not connected to the *Salida Mail*. The older *Mail* began daily publication shortly after the new arrival. The *Mail-Bulletin* "collapsed" and was merged into the *Salida Daily Mail*.

Ah May 1994-August 3, 1995, Peter Simonsen, publisher. Ray James, editor. "Ah" is short for Arkansas headwaters. Recreation and entertainment oriented, the 16-page first issue ran 10,000 copies. It cost a nickel "for those who want to pay" but was free for those who didn't. In 1995 it was free, and thanking the Arkansas Valley Publishing Co. (*Mountain Mail*) for its assistance and services. James previously was editor of Alamosa and SLV Publishing Co. papers.

Colorado Central January 1994 to date, Ed and Martha Quillen, publishers; "The magazine for those who see a Douglas Fir every month of the year." It's a magazine with a newspaper background and a focus on issues and personalities. The Quillens told Ron Slaughter of the *Leadville Herald-Democrat* why it was started:

We can sit back and allow the national media to define ourselves and our landscape, with predictable consequences....Or we can use the same tools to define ourselves and our region, to refine and cultivate our own visions of life in central Colorado, to preserve and enhance those qualities that make this a unique and special place.

Both Quillens have long newspaper backgrounds, as owners, publishers, editors and contributors. They are also book authors.

There is one more Salida paper worth mentioning for of its longevity and its close connection with the *Mountain Mail*:

Tenderfoot, 1909 to present, founded as **Tenderfoot Times**. It is the high school student newspaper, which is certainly one of the earliest, if not the earliest, continuously published student newspaper in the state, and has won many honors and contests. Much of the success is due to some very dedicated teachers and the interest and cooperation of the *Mountain Mail*. In recent years the journalism teacher has been Dick Dixon, who has inspired a number of students to continue in the journalism field. Dixon's by-line often appears in the *Mountain Mail*.

Turret

Turret was a lively town between 1896-1898, with a population of about 500. There was never a city election because the only official was the marshal. There was a stage between Turret and Salida, and the town boasted a post office, butcher shop and saloon among its buildings. At the turn of the century the leading producing mine was the Turret-Independence, owned by two women. Turret had a newspaper:

Turret Gold Belt 1899-December 29, 1909. It lasted almost longer than the town. Alba H. Robinson was the founder and proprietor.

The mines never produced enough to survive, and by 1901 people were leaving. The *Gold Belt* hung on, cheerfully predicting a new rush of production and people. If Robinson was optimistic, others thought he was full of "hot air, blue sky and wishful thinking."

Whitehorn

Snow was deep that winter and the men fought both ground cover and distance from supplies as they attempted to prospect. They jokingly told one another that they were suckers for trying to stay to work, thus, they returned nightly to "Suckerville" where they dried wet boots and clothing in tents.

In polite society of Salida where the men went for supplies, they called their camp "Carbonate City" but the Suckerville nickname proved deeply imbedded in local imaginations and died hard.

Dick Dixon, "*History of Chaffee County*"

The first tents were set up in March 1897 and when the town was formed, it was named after one of the boys whose tent had been a social center. Arthur L. Whitehorn was the U.S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor in Pitkin. He was an assayer and civil engineer who "was always ready to grubstake a prospector, to assay his float, or to survey his claim, and take a chance to get pay." Before the year 1897 was out, the camp's two newspapers were euphorically reporting the activity of the mines and the growing camp. In December 1898, the *Denver Times* set the population figure at 2,000 to 3,000 miners in the district, 800 living in Whitehorn. By 1900, however, the population had dropped to 200. What was left of the town was purchased for delinquent taxes in 1946 and became private property.

The town's two newspapers were started while Whitehorn was in Chaffee County and are included in this chapter. Oehlerts lists them in Fremont County.

Whitehorn Whim June 15, 1897-1898, Oscar Lynch, founder.

Whitehorn News, September 10, 1897-1910, U.H. Smith, brother of Paul Smith of Salida, founder. The Salida Publishing Company owned the paper in 1906, with Oren Meacham as editor. The *News* was the local newspaper for most of the small camps in the county. Happily, copies of the *Whitehorn News* have survived and are on microfilm at the Colorado Historical Society.

Whitehorn Banner was published "in the waning years of the camp...[it] tried for three weeks to compete but died," according to Dick Dixon.

Special Sources: *"A History of Chaffee County"*, Compiled and Edited by June Shaputos & Suzanne Kelly, Walsworth Publishing Company 1982.

"100 Years in the Heart of the Rockies", by Cynthia Pasquale, Ed Quillen, Ron Slaughter, and others; *published in honor of the Centennial Year of Salida, Poncha Springs and the Mountain Mail*, by *The Mountain Mail, Salida*.

"Chaffee County Editors," by John Ophus, *"Colorado Magazine,"* Vol XLIII, No. 3 (Summer 1966:225+)

Colorado Prospector, 2/1980, Gwen Goldsberry, publisher; 6/1984, Roger and Barbara Walton, publishers

Special thanks to Merle Baranczyk and Ed Quillen.

CHAPTER XI

CHEYENNE COUNTY

What is now Cheyenne County was once a principal rendezvous of the Cheyenne Indians. Between them and their part-time friends, part-time-foe, the Arapaho, they claimed or owned the land from the mountains east to Kansas. Between them, the two tribes made the north Smoky Hill journey an unpredictable and hazardous route. They were not, however, the first to claim the land. In 1706, Juan Uribarri formally took possession of a place called El Quarelejo, in what would be Cheyenne County, in the name of the King of Spain. In the next century, ignoring Spain, the French and the United States claimed parts of the same area. The Colorado '59ers were late comers.

As the newcomers increased, the buffalo decreased and the Indians put up a fight for their land. In an attempt to impose control, the first Colorado territorial legislature set up seventeen counties and an Indian Reserve that included most of present-day Cheyenne County. In 1871 the boundaries of the Reserve were changed and Greenwood County was created. The town of Kit Carson, a busy station for freight on the new Kansas Pacific Railroad, was designated county seat. Greenwood County was absorbed by Bent and Elbert counties in 1874. Changes were made again in 1889, when Elbert and Bent were relieved of part of their land to make Cheyenne County. Greenwood County disappeared, making it the only Colorado county to be abolished rather than just sliced into pieces.

Cheyenne Wells

A beautiful tract of government land...is now open for settlement under the Homestead Pre-emption and timber culture laws. The flowing tide of immigration has just entered eastern Colorado, and Cheyenne Wells is destined to become the great shipping point of a large productive and popular district....

Cheyenne Wells Gazette 7/2/1887

Cheyenne Wells, the county seat, originally was a well-known stage station called Indians Wells on the Smoky Hill Trail. It was moved six miles south in 1870 to serve the Kansas Pacific as a station and was renamed for the resident Indians and their shallow water wells. The first lots were sold in Cheyenne Wells in May 1887, and a reward was offered for the first completed building costing more than \$600. (A livery barn won.) The town company did business in a frame building, but prospective buyers stayed in a tent hotel.

The founders were led by Louis N. McLane, who was active on the Kansas Pacific branch of the Union Pacific. McLane's group had novel promotion ideas. To assure that Cheyenne Wells would soon "be on the map," the town company went after the best available journalist that could be found quickly. They discovered Lucius Henry (Lute) Johnson, formerly of the *Fort Morgan Times*, and one of the most proficient newspapermen of the day. He was offered a building and start up cash. It was an offer he couldn't refuse.

Cheyenne Wells Gazette June 4, 1887-March 16, 1889, Lute Johnson, founder. During his two years with the *Gazette*, Johnson was secretary of the town company, a trustee, a school director, political party committeeman and county treasurer. The busy

Johnson turned over the paper to T.W. Vanderveer in March 1889, and the name of the *Gazette* was changed to:

Cheyenne Republican March 16, 1889-August 22, 1913. T.W. Vanderveer. The firm of Miles and Vanderveer dealt in "lands, loans, and notary work." Vanderveer was editor for one issue. Lute Johnson was back on March 23. He stayed until 1892.

The Cheyenne Wells Publishing Company took over in 1893 and ran through a succession of short-term editors. W.E. Cain purchased the paper in 1908 and brought some stability to it for five years. T.E. Hickman leased the paper from Cain in August 1913. Cain, who had been president of the Colorado Press Association in 1913, moved to Kansas. Hickman was a Democrat so to better suit him, he changed the name to:

Cheyenne County News, August 29, 1913 to about 1953. Hickman apparently bought the paper before August 1914, when he sold it to G.W. Gwathney. The new owner didn't change the newspaper name, but the politics reverted to Republican. H.M. Schultz owned the paper from January 1923 to February 1925. Schultz may have died, because Brakeman bought the paper from Mrs. Schultz in February 1925, and remained publisher until his death in 1938 at the age of 73.

The next two newspapers in Cheyenne Wells didn't last long:

Raisor's Pointer June 1888-1889, B.T. Raisor, founder. It was a monthly.

Colorado Herald 1888-February 1889, A.S. Booten, founder. He fared no better by changing the name to:

Weekly Herald 1889-1891. It claimed to be "independent with Democratic tendencies."

Eastern Colorado Times March 29, 1912-September 4, 1913, H.Y. Tarwater and Walter L. Bales, founders. The paper was actually founded in 1906 in Calhan as the *Divide Farmer* by Miles N. Johnson. Tarwater and Bales bought the *Divide Farmer* plant and subscription list and moved them to Cheyenne Wells as the *Times*. Tarwater bought out Bales within a few months, and in August 1913 he leased the paper to C.T. Bogert, who bought the *Times* a year later. Bogert changed the name to:

Cheyenne Record September 18, 1913-December 14, 1944. Bogert sold the *Record* in March 1921 to R.J. Goldsworthy, who had sold the *Cheraw Herald* in January 1920. Goldsworthy changed the name to:

Cheyenne Wells Record Goldsworthy published the *Record* until 1939. That year he bought the *Oak Creek Times* and his wife became publisher of the *Record*. She remarried and was known as E.B. Dowd. In December 1944 she suspended publication.

Neil and Rose Larmon purchased the rights to the *Record* and revived it April 1, 1945. Larmon had been with the *Craig Moffat County Mirror*. Larmon died in 1952. Mrs. Larmon is listed as editor/publisher from 1952 to 1964. Her son bought the paper in 1964 and sold it in 1969 to Rodney J. Dent, a former *Detroit Free Press* Pulitzer recipient. Dent also bought the *Kit Carson Press* and merged it with the *Cheyenne Wells Record*. The name was changed again to:

Cheyenne Wells Range-Ledger November 1969 to present.

The ambitious Dent ran into problems and in November 1969 he filed for bankruptcy. Betz Publishing Company was high bidder at the bankruptcy sale: \$10,000. In December 1974 Joyce M. Escudero and Stephen Eastin bought the paper from Betz Publishing. Stephen D. Eastin left in 1976, to found the *Greeley Journal*. Escudero is still publishing the *Range-Ledger*.

Kit Carson

Kit Carson sprang to life in 1869. Named for the legendary western scout and guide, the town was established on Sand Creek, about three miles from its present location. By 1869, the town boomed in anticipation of the railroad at the present townsite, three miles east of the original. It was the southernmost point on the rail line between Denver and Kansas City. A trading post for the southwest, it entertained a U.S. Cavalry detachment under General George Custer during the Indian uprisings.

The Kansas Pacific arrived March 28, 1870; the same month, an Indian raid reportedly killed 30 railroad men. Soldiers ran the Indians off and stayed quartered at Kit Carson for some time. Part of the railroad line was dropped and by 1880 there were only about 30 people living in the town. Homesteading would bring new blood. Kit Carson's first newspaper was proudly named the:

Kit Carson Scout 1887-1888, Ed Riley, founder. The main thing remembered about it is the day editor Joe Welsh was shot to death by Morris Murphy "as a climax to an alleged drinking brawl." Walsh was buried not far from the newspaper office.

Children playing around the newspaper office occasionally found old discarded type. One editor noted nostalgically that the type was "not playthings, but treasures that played a paramount role in the drama of the early west." Riley assumed Welsh's duties at the newspaper, but it failed.

Kit Carson Bee 1887-1888, H. E. Mooers, founder.

Kit Carson Herald 1911-December 1, 1943, R.H. Collins, founder. He sold the paper to Frank Davis in 1915. Ed Bundy was owner in 1916 and Vincent T. Bruce in 1917. Later that year, C.R. (Rattlesnake Pete) Townsend bought the paper and published it until the early 1920s. Townsend was the "chief slip-horn [trombone] player in the cowboy band organized in Kit Carson." The band, organized in 1914, played at Cheyenne, Wyoming Frontier Days and in cities across the country.

Inter-Mountain Press reported in June 1924 that Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Forrest had sold the paper the *Herald* to H.C. Dunn and his son Duncan; they were publishers of the *Herald* until 1934. Duncan Dunn ran for the legislature in 1932, prompting the *Hugo Plainsman* to say: *We're for you, Dunc, but wear the derby when you campaign. Those ten gallon hats are out of style for newspaper men.* Dunn was elected, and *Colorado Editor* said he "was one of the most valuable members the newspaper fraternity has ever had in the sessions."

Raymond K. Welch was the next owner of the *Herald*, from May 1934-December 1943. He owned newspapers in Minnesota from 1903 to 1929. Welch discontinued the *Kit Carson Herald* on December 1, 1943.

Kit Carson Press 1946-1969, Neil and Rose Larmon, founders. After Larmon's death in 1952, Mrs. Larmon ran the paper, as she had the *Cheyenne Wells Record*. Her son Edwin was publisher 1964-1969 when he sold the paper to Rodney Dent who merged the *Press* with the *Cheyenne Wells Record* into:

Cheyenne Wells Range-Ledger (see under Cheyenne Wells.)

Wild Horse

Wild Horse was founded about 1860 and is named for a creek which was once the watering place for immense bands of wild horses. The town didn't really grow until about 1907, when both government homestead and railroad land became available. The town had one newspaper:

Wild Horse Times 1909 to 1919, T.J., McNevin, founder. Glen Reed was the type setter and catcher for the Wild Horse baseball team.

"Mac was the best booster a town could have, and he kept things going big until he sold out and departed for greener fields," an early resident said. *Colorado Press* reported in March 1914 that T.J. McNevin had taken the paper back from M.E. Woodworth. In May 1916, *Colorado Press* said that Sid Whitehead was leasing the

Times. Woodworth was back at the paper as manager in November 1917 when he was appointed postmaster.

Sources: "*Homesteaders and Other Early Settlers 1900-1930*," a history of Western Cheyenne County, Colorado; Kit Carson Historical Society, Volume II, 1985.

Special thanks to Penny McPherson

CHAPTER XII
CLEAR CREEK COUNTY

George Jackson kept a diary of his January 1859 search through the creeks and canyons west of Denver. On January 5, 1859, he wrote:

Clear day. Removed fire embers and dug into rim on bedrock. Panned out eight treaty cups and found nothing but fine colors. Ninth cup I got one nugget of coarse gold. Feel good tonight.

Jackson estimated he had "a half ounce of gold, worth about nine dollars, so he decided to "quit and try and get back in spring." Jackson returned to this site at the junction of Clear Creek and what would be named Chicago Creek in March, leading a party of 22 Chicagoans. After spending half a year "in the most laborious and persistent prospecting," he sold his claim to the Chicago group, whose presence is reflected in the name Chicago Creek.

Jackson's discovery, along with the one by John Gregory at the junction of North Clear Creek and Gregory Gulch on May 6, 1859, revived the Pike's Peak gold rush, which almost collapsed earlier that year after Horace Greeley called it "an exploded bubble." Greeley ate his words in June when he first visited the Colorado gold fields. Then he a confirming--if cautionary--reports back east. Within weeks 30,000 people were scattered around Clear Creek. Mining camps sprouted, new gold discoveries were made, and metal mining was established as the primary industry.

Clear Creek, first called Vasquez after trapper Louis Vasquez, got its current name in 1859. The counties of Clear Creek and Gilpin became two of the seventeen original territorial counties in 1861--and they are two of only three which still have their original boundaries.

A stamp mill was built in 1861 near Georgetown, but the gold that went through it tapered off and the mill closed without anyone knowing the secret underneath. It wasn't until 1865 that someone discovered that the valued mineral going through the stamp mill was not gold, but silver. Silver was found from Georgetown to the front range, and in just a few days the hills were again alive with prospectors.

Though not the first to find silver, prospector-journalist E.H.N. Patterson was one of the first to make the discovery public. Patterson, said Hall, "labored [at Upper Fall River] and in his intervals of leisure, wrote spicy letters to the '*Rocky Mountain News*,' and the '*Western Mountaineer*,' all laden of course with the glories of this particular district."

The Anglo-Saxon lode, discovered near Georgetown, inspired a crush of overcrowded coaches and supply-laden freight wagons wheeling into Georgetown, the "Silver Queen of the Rockies." The value of the various ores extracted was about \$1,000,000 per year by 1870, and \$200,000,000 in the years between 1861 and 1893. The price of silver plummeted in 1893, and the entire state reeled from the blow. Jesse Randall called it "evil times" and wrote, "President Cleveland had a conniption fit in his hurry to sign" the bill repealing the silver act.

The Colorado Central Rail Road reached Idaho Springs in June 1877 and Georgetown in August. The last silver spike was driven in by officials--and a *Colorado Miner* contingent: Commodore Decatur, Prof. Weiser, the Rev. John Cree, and E.H.N. Patterson. The line was extended to Silver Plume in 1883, and the remarkable Georgetown Loop was created. The Loop, a miracle of engineering, was a 300-foot trestle over the bed of Clear Creek, rising a thousand feet. The Georgetown Loop line between Georgetown and Silver Plume ran four miles, took five years to build and was opened in 1884. It was built to haul ore but it ended up hauling thousands of tourists each year. The first major wreck occurred in 1884 when a "Herculean gust of wind lifted the whole train from the track." The Colorado & Southern suspended the Loop in 1927, much to the dismay of the residents and mining companies of Clear Creek and Gilpin counties. The historic Loop was dismantled in 1939. The *Mining Gazette* wasn't around in 1984 to crow about reconstruction of the Loop under the auspices of the Colorado Historical Society, but the *Clear Creek Courant* was:

Transportation took a giant step backward Friday...two little steam-powered narrow-gauge engines chugged bravely out onto the newly reconstructed High Bridge on the Georgetown Loop, to test it and make sure it was safe for passenger travel.

It was.

Blasts from the whistles of the two engines--Nos. 44 and 8--sent the news echoing up and down the Rocky Mountain Valley between Georgetown and Silver Plume. The bridge had passed its test...[it] is ready for its first paying customers this weekend.

All 'board!

The Loop is a now favorite tourist attraction drawing some 100,000 riders a year.

Empire

Empire, Col. July 26, 1877 - This place began as a mining camp in 1860....The mines yielded gold, and for several years they produced large amounts, gathered in rude ways from the surface material of the quartz views, and from place deposits....

Rocky Mountain News

Empire was first settled in the spring of 1860 and was organized in late summer, when mining district officers were elected. It was first called Valley City, then, when the Civil War began, Union City. Many of the earliest settlers migrated from New York, known as the Empire State, thus the name for the new camp. The scenery held up but the gold did not. Mining lasted only a few years. The boom was over by 1865. Lack of gold and isolation worked against the town, but it managed to stay one step ahead of becoming a ghost town. In recent years the popularity of year-round outdoor recreation has resulted in year-round residents, increased business, and heavy ski traffic. Empire's only newspaper was a late arrival with a bold name and a brief life:

Empire True Fissure July 3-October 4, 1901. Dean Burgess, founder. Burgess was "an old-time mining reporter," and the *True Fissure* was "chock full of news concerning the operations now going on in this promising district." according to the *Denver Times*. Like the *Georgetown Courier*, the *True Fissure* had in its office "quite a handsome collection of ores from this district," and invited all miners to leave specimens so visitors might "judge of its values and characteristic formations." The *True Fissure* expired due to lack of patronage, and, possibly, a surfeit of "republicans" who did not support the paper's strongly Democratic political orientation.

Georgetown

Two brothers left their Kentucky farm in 1858 to join the gold rush to Pikes Peak country. After wintering in Denver, George and David Griffith heard of Jackson's find and headed for Clear Creek. All the good claims were taken and it was the same story at other diggings they tried. Finally, "at the head of a narrow, swampy valley near the confluence of two small, meandering streams," fringed with willows and pine trees, populated by beaver and other wild animals, the brothers found their lode. Within a year enough miners had arrived to draw up laws for the Griffith Mining District, and two distinct settlements developed. The one named George's Town was at the lower end, and Elizabethtown, named for the Griffiths' sister-in-law, was at the upper end. The Griffiths surveyed and platted both towns, which were merged in 1867, when the voters chose the name Georgetown. That same year voters also voted to move the county seat from Idaho Springs to Georgetown.

Enjoying the freedom to establish its own laws, the early Upper Union District of Georgetown passed a couple of unusual laws that provided rights for women, but not for lawyers:

Resolved, that all laws or parts of laws discriminating or making any distinction or difference whatever in the rights, privileges and immunities of the two sexes, are hereby repealed and abolished.

No lawyer shall be permitted to practice in any court in the district under penalty of not more than fifty nor less than twenty lashes, and to be forever banished from the District. [as were any men convicted of theft.]

Later Territorial laws were more indulgent and superseded district laws, and soon there were more lawyers than women.

With the discovery of silver, Georgetown boomed. The town itself blossomed with tents, and the hills with the first rude homes. When Lorenzo M. Bowman, "a gentleman of color," produced the first bullion out of the smelter, the future looked promising. Historian Frank Hall compared the future seen in 1863--and as late as 1879--with what he saw in 1889, and composed an epitaph for so many mining camps:

We find in the interval whole cemeteries of crushed, ruined and buried hopes, millions of capital squandered in sinking, drifting, tunneling; millions more in the launching of ill-digested inventions for extracting the previous metals; still other millions in legal contests, with here and there crimson stains, the records of fortunes made and dissipated. Georgetown was a mighty camp in its day, but of the many who assisted in the revelation of its marvels, only a small remnant remains.

Georgetown had some of the state's best newspapers for more than a century.

Colorado Miner May 30, 1867-November 10, 1888, Dr. Junius E. Wharton and F.R. Waggoner, founders. It took three days to freight the few cases of second-hand type and a Washington hand press, purchased from Collier & Hall of the *Central City Register*, over the mountains to Georgetown. The first issue was run off in a tiny 12 x 14 shed. The first paper was a half-sheet, but the next issue was a six-column quarto with eight columns of advertising.

News in the second issue included a lengthy story on the "infamous red devils...holding high carnival on the plains" near Julesburg, and military help was on the way. Territorial Governor Alexander C. Hunt put out a proclamation calling for twelve

companies of volunteers to "stop the ravage of the foe" and keep telegraph, mail, and freight lines open. On a more cheerful note, the *Miner* announced a grand ball for the benefit of the Fenian brotherhood, which had about 40 members, saying "Let every lover of liberty contribute his mite to aid of the liberation of oppressed Ireland."

On June 27, Dr. Wharton announced that he had purchased Dr. Waggoner's interest, and would now partner with A.W. Barnard. Barnard was born in 1832 in New York state, but was a pioneer in western Iowa and Omaha before being lured by gold to Colorado in 1860. A printer by trade, he soon found a job on the *Rocky Mountain News*, where he was employed for a number of years. In his obituary the *News* said that when Barnard bought the *Miner* he took "it from the very lowest of newspaper existence and [built] it up to a very respectable position among the publications of Colorado." He was one of the forward-looking few who gathered in the *Rocky Mountain News* office in 1871 to form a Colorado publisher's association. Both the *News* and the *Miner*, in 1874, credited Barnard with being instrumental in bringing the Clear Creek resources to the attention of the world, and being a major force in the development of Georgetown and the mining interests. The *Miner* was also influential in getting the legislature to relocate the county seat from Idaho Springs to Georgetown.

On August 1, 1868, the *Miner* was "sold at sheriff's sale, at the instance of Collier & Hall of the Central [City] *Register*," which was still owed for the press and type. A few days later Dr. Wharton left the paper, and A.W. Barnard & Co. appeared in the masthead. The "Co." was William Spruance, the county's first clerk and recorder, who

had a financial interest in the paper. Spruance's nephew, Alexander Spruance, a local grocer, joined the staff.

Morris E. Ward also became a partner in the paper. Ward had traveled through the western territories when they were young, and an eastern journal eagerly printed his accounts of Indian warfare, life in the mines, and Brigham Young's Mormon hierarchy and "destroying angels." He had been city editor of the *Omaha Republican* before coming to Colorado.

On June 30, 1869 the *Miner* launched a daily. The weekly subscription rate was reduced to \$5 a year (from \$7); the daily rate was \$15. The daily paper lasted only until September, because, said Barnard, "There is not enough Republicans in the county to support a paper." While it lasted, the daily ran almost \$400 per month in the hole.

Ward, who enjoyed miserable health, felt it necessary to sell his interest in June 1870 to his partner, much to Barnard's regret. B.F. Napheys was added to the staff when Ward left, and Decatur, who had been wandering around investing in mines and sending correspondence back to the paper, was rehired as associate editor. Decatur explained why he came back:

Want of means to develop our mines has compelled us to lay down the pick and shovel for a season and [get a paying job]. The business of mining for the precious and base metals requires cash, skill, economy, and pluck. We lack the first of these essentials at present; a large experience leads us to believe that we possess some measure of the second; a long siege of privations has made us master of the third; and our friends give us credit for the last. We must wait and hope. In the meantime we shall labor faithfully at our post, and shall strive to add to the interest and value of the MINER...

In October 1871, Barnard executed a bill of sale for the paper to Decatur and Napheys, although "nominally remaining its owner," and left for England to organize some mining companies. Alexander Cree, a local bookseller, bought the *Miner* on March 7, 1872, and Decatur resigned March 21. The Rev. D.H. Mitchell was named editor. His tenure is distinguished mostly for the popular 19th century verse "When the Cows Come Home," written by his wife, and first published in the *Miner*. He was replaced in May by Prof. R. Weiser, also a reverend and Cree's father-in-law. The Professor almost immediately began sermonizing against the "enormous evil" of reading fiction, which "debauched" the mind:

The mind becomes drunk and unfit for anything good. The heart becomes hardened, the conscience cauterized under the blighting influence of novel-reading....

This abominable novel-reading stands in the way of the progress of literature, morals and religion. It fills our rum-shops with customers, our prisons with inmates. It destroys the hopes and prospects of millions.

Professor Weiser soon concluded he could not edit a secular newspaper and "remain a good Christian," and retired from the paper.

In September 1872 another effort was made to issue a daily morning paper, with Major T.O. Bigny as local editor. This time the daily was more successful, lasting until March 1874. In March 1873, Thomas S. Campbell, who preceded Bigny as owner of the *Central City Herald*, replaced Bigny on the *Georgetown Miner*. Campbell, who also co-founded the *Georgetown Mining Review*, had talent and a drinking problem, and came to a sad end. He left the *Miner* after two months, and died in Red Cliff May 24, 1888.

The *Miner's* next editor, Edward O. Wolcott, also had a drinking problem, but a glorious end. Wolcott was Cree's partner from April 14 to July 28, 1873 and replaced Weiser as editor. His friends became so alarmed by health problems brought on by Wolcott's drinking that they sent him on a long voyage to Japan to sober him up. Randall thought Wolcott "was a brilliant talker but as a writer he wasn't worth a darn. It was inevitable that upon his return to Georgetown [from Japan] he should seek public office." Wolcott was elected to several positions in Colorado and was one of Colorado's U.S. Senators from 1889-1901.

Wolcott sold his interest to Cree and went back to practicing law. E.H.N. Patterson succeeded Wolcott as *Miner* editor, and part-owner. The acclaimed Patterson had begun his Colorado journalism career writing for the Denver *Rocky Mountain News* and George West's Golden *Western Mountaineer* in 1859 under the name "Sniktau," a pseudonym that stuck.

Patterson's editorial genius and popularity helped expand the *Miner's* circulation throughout the United States, making the paper one of the most important of the period. Patterson gave the paper a "literary flavor that raised it above the level of provincialism and widened its circulation" to the East Coast according to the *Denver Tribune*.

In March 1877 Patterson bought the *Miner* from Cree, who was appointed postmaster. Charles T. Bellamy was proprietor beginning in November 1878 and, after Patterson's death in 1880, bought the interest inherited by Patterson's son, Norman,

and became sole owner. Among the editors for Bellamy were Thomas A. Jobs, Aaron Frost and Charles P. Nicholson.

Charles Steele leased the *Miner* plant in December 1885. He later went to Cripple Creek and was associated with Winfield Scott Stratton. Steele was killed accidentally in 1894. Although there was a revolving door at the *Miner*, Georgetown residents were nonetheless surprised when John Shiel Dormer and the Noyes brothers suddenly succeeded Steele as publishers on May 7, 1886.

Editor Dormer had gained fame as a politician and stump speaker. A Canadian by birth, Dormer went to work in a printing office in his early teens, but left to go to college in 1860, later studying law in Wisconsin. He worked as a printer on newspapers in several southern states before becoming editor of the *Pueblo Republican* in 1876. When Dormer "took the stump in the [Rutherford B.] Hayes campaign, his eloquence attracted attention," his political career took off, and he acquired the title of "Colonel." Two years later Dormer was in Central City as editor of the *Evening Call* and, after the two papers merged, with the *Register-Call*. In 1882 he was elected vice president of the Colorado State Press Association, of which he was a charter member.

Dormer left the management of the *Miner* in the hands of the Noyes brothers. Stephen Noyes had been co-owner of the *Silver Plume Coloradoan*. The given name of the brother is not known. In January 1887 the plant was turned over to Alex Cree, as manager for Mrs. Bellamy. Five months later Cree was replaced by Charles B. Culver, a nephew of Mrs. Bellamy's. Culver, who had worked at the *New York Sun*, lasted until

November, when O.W. Klinger of Denver was appointed manager, and Frank Hood, editor. Klinger left the *Miner* to take over the *Silverton Standard*.

In January 1888 J.M. Seright and J.A. Van Auken were named managers. Seright, a onetime Gilpin County Judge, took full control in July, when Van Auken was appointed United States Land Office Register. Thomas E. Irwin soon succeeded Seright. In September the printers struck for higher pay, causing the suspension of the paper in November 1888. It officially died in April 1890, when the plant was sold and moved to Boise City, Idaho. Another *Miner* was soon established.

Georgetown Miner October 11, 1890-June 13, 1891, Messrs Wirt and Davis, founders. The new *Miner* lacked for local news in its early editions. The front page, undoubtedly pre-printed, was all national features, liberally illustrated. Within a year, however, local news was on the front page and cramming the small inside columns-- along with pre-printed material, often a life-saver for early editors who often, of necessity, spent more time producing a paper than writing it. A Young Folks page, with stories, poems and games was added to the inside content in January, 1891.

When Mr. Davis severed his connection with the *Miner* is not known, but in June 1891, ownership passed to John T. Estelle. Estelle changed the name to:

Colorado Miner June 20, 1891-November 10, 1894, John Estelle & Co. was publisher, Frank J. Hood, editor. Hood, who left the *Miner* in December 1892, later became the mining reporter for the *Courier*. Estelle shrunk the size of the headlines, and ran individual columns of state and national news on the front page with the local news.

Front page pictures were eliminated and the price dropped to \$2 per year. The paper kept the motto "Free and Unlimited coinage of silver."

Estelle had his problems. In June 1892 the old material belonging to Wirt and Davis was taken up by the sheriff for a chattel mortgage. The June 11 *Miner* appeared as a small-sized flyer with five legal notices, three small ads, and "An Apology":

Owing to an unforeseen circumstance which often happens to a newspaper in its make up and which as a rule generally comes so unexpectedly, we are unable to come out usual size this week.

The paper was back to normal size, four pages, 15 x 22, the following week. But on November 10 the paper published its final issue.

Georgetown's second major paper was the:

Georgetown Courier May 24, 1877-October 3, 1957. The paper thrived through two centuries under the guidance of founder Jesse Summers Randall, a man who was inducted into the Colorado Newspaper Hall of Fame. Randall first came to Colorado in 1869 to take care of his ailing father, Abram J. Randall. A.J. Randall was connected to the *Courier* in various ways, and, more directly, to the *Silver Plume Coloradoan*. Jesse Randall worked in the old *Colorado Miner* print shop, and owned his own printing establishment--using some equipment from The *Miner* that was being discarded. He called on his brother, Charles, who had been a compositor on the *Miner*, for help. He borrowed start-up money from the influential William Hamill, who would be both benefactor and bane to him. Samuel Cushman was editor and assistant business manager.

The Washington press that printed the first issue sat for years in a place of honor in the *Courier* office, along with A.J. Randall's famous mineral cabinet that had graced the *Miner's* office. The press was powered originally by the waters of rushing Clear Creek, which still was providing the power as late as 1948. A water wheel in the basement was belted to power the various presses. In the dead of winter the water mains would sometimes have to be thawed before the paper could be run.

Cushman was replaced in January 1878 by J.A. Comerford. Succeeding editors included Ansel Watrous and Elmer M. Pelton, 1878; George B. Hite and Frank H. Allison, 1880-1883; and R.B. Teachnor, 1883-1889. Watrous and Pelton left to found the *Fort Collins Courier*. Hite was later with the *Denver Tribune*.

The parting of the ways for Randall and his friend William A. Hamill was unexpected, unrestrained, and almost unbelievable. Hamill, who had come to Georgetown in 1867, quickly found the fortune he sought. To protect his investments he went into politics, and just as quickly became "boss" of Clear Creek County, riding roughshod over all opposition. He claimed to carry the county in his vest pocket, and he dominated the local Republican party until he went too far in trying to swing an election.

The 1882 GOP county convention was held in Georgetown. The delegation from Idaho Springs "came up to get [Hamill's] scalp." Hamill physically locked the Idaho Springs group out of the GOP meeting in the court house. They held their convention elsewhere. Hamill further ordered that no Democratic ticket be filed, thus eliminating

an opponent. The county clerk obliged, but the one Democrat elected to a county office in 1880 was the Sheriff who, with a good supply of witnesses, went to the court house, broke a window, and filed the Democratic ticket.

Jesse Randall reported all the details, denounced the closing of the court house and the attempt to prevent a Democratic ticket, and "waged warfare on [Hamill] and all his works...and pleaded for his downfall." The result at the polls was the first Democratic landslide in the formerly Republican county. GOP leaders, momentarily still in office, vented their wrath at Randall by vowing to run him out of the county. Republicans tried a financially disastrous boycott, calling for help from friends in high places. Much of the *Courier's* revenue came from the legal publication of mining applications.

The *Central City Register-Call* broke the story that the local land office registrar had been ordered not to send the *Courier* any more legals. The *Register-Call* noted sympathetically that the Washington-based action was in retaliation for the election. Neither Hamill nor Randall were to be deterred. The *Colorado Miner* ran its rollers with glee. Nothing made a Democratic newspaper happier than to have the Republicans self-destruct. Then the Democratic *Miner* did the unthinkable: it endorsed Republican Hamill as the county's "most prominent citizen, and the State of Colorado's chosen political favorite," and said of the *Courier*:

Not content treating [Hamill] with disdain, it openly slurs him. Failing in its attempt to discover one flaw in any public or private act, it manufactures charges, and flaunting its little rag of boasted virtue, stands upon the street corners to instruct the

voters in public morals. Its ingratitude is only equaled by its malice; its sense of honor by its small circulation.

The *Courier* replied:

General Hamill is warring with the laws of society, and we are members of that society. It is time that officials, journalists, and men of character, decency and independence cease to allow simple gratitude to extinguish oaths, bonds, duty to society, their families, and make a slight reform for common decency.

As the 1884 election approached, Republican Henry M. Teller decided to regain his old U.S. senate seat and mounted a challenge against incumbent U.S. Senator Nathaniel Hill, also a Republican. Hamill supported Teller, while Randall supported Hill, owner of the *Denver Republican*. The *Miner* continued its support of Hamill and suggested that when it came down to the nomination, "Mr. Hill's friends will not be allowed a seat in the sanctuary of the County Convention much less allowed to dictate nominees."

This played into Randall's campaign against political bosses. Randall accused Hamill of "purchasing the support" of the *Miner*. The *Miner* shot back:

The Miner has never received one cent from General W.A. Hamill for political purposes, and he has no interest in any way in this paper. That we have seen fit to defend him against the attacks of mangy human curs, is for the reason that we believe him to have been unjustly abused....

Under a stinging barrage of accusations against his political loyalty and "chain of vicious and unmanly conduct," Hamill sued the *Courier* and had all the charges printed in a *Miner* "legal notice." Hamill asked for \$1,976.35 for "debts" and was awarded \$237.35. Teller was elected to the Senate. Hamill spent more time on his mining

investments, faded as a GOP luminary, and moved to Denver where he was a major investor in Hill's *Denver Republican*.

As silver, Georgetown, and the county weathered economic ups and downs, so did the *Courier*. When things were good, the *Courier* had much to report. When things were bad, it stolidly promoted whatever it could, and adjusted. During the Panic of 1893 when the silver market crashed, the *Courier* reported each mine closing, each business resorting to discounts, and each house up for sale.

Randall's eyesight began to fail, and in 1926 his only son, Cornelius Hendricks (Neil) Randall, assumed editorial duties. His father continued to come to the office until the fall of 1938, when his wife of 65 years died. Cornelius Randall succeeded his father as publisher/editor.

In September 1945, however, the Randalls sold the paper to Kenneth A. Bundy. Bundy, formerly with the *Rocky Mountain News*, sold a half-interest to James Smidl in 1946, and in 1948 Jerome E.F. Dingerson bought the paper. Bundy and Smidl bought the *Gunnison Courier*. Keith M. Ohlander bought the *Georgetown Courier* in July 1950, selling it to Mary Morgan in October 1957. The *Courier* published its final edition on October 3, 1957. The worthy soldier had lasted 80 years and 23 weeks.

Because of the *Colorado Miner's* quality and prestige, other Georgetown newspapers "did not compete with the *Colorado Miner* as a news organ," Douglas McMurtrie says in "Early Printing in Colorado." But specialty newspapers or journals sprouted.

Mining Review September 1872-1875. Charles A. Hoyt and Thomas J. Campbell, founders. The *Review* was a 16-page monthly. Theodore F. Van Wagenen, who started the *Denver Western Miner* earlier in 1872, merged his paper with the *Mining Review* in Georgetown at the end of the year. He became sole owner and editor in 1873. Campbell moved to the *Colorado Miner*. Elmer Faunce joined Van Wagenen in 1874 and the paper was enlarged to 20 9 x 12 pages, and billed as "The only paper in the United States devoted solely to the precious metal mining interests." It went biweekly in October 1875, but was moved to Denver early in 1876.

Centennial January 1876-1877, Jesse Randall, founder; monthly.

Randall issued "1,000 copies occasionally [in] Printer's Alley." The *Centennial* lasted a year.

Mountain Echo December 1876-1877. Jesse S. Randall was the printer, assisted by F.J. Wood, who was Alexander Cree's partner in the town's bookstore, which boasted of a "full stock of papers" of all kinds.

Georgetown Agitator 1880, a campaign paper issued by the "greenbackers." It was printed by electricity, according to the *Rocky Mountain News*. This was a rarity. Journalism histories say presses run by electricity did not come into use until late in the 1890s, mostly in the largest cities.

Arbitrator April 1886-1887. L.E. Cassatt, founder. The *Arbitrator* billed itself as "the only Strictly Labor Paper published in the Rocky Mountains."

Georgetown Sun 1891-1892.

Georgetown Herald January 20, 1899-January 17, 1902, Fred J. Perry, founder. Perry came from the Hot Sulphur Springs *Grand County Messenger*. The *Herald* was an eight-page, 15 x 22 inch paper. There was no salutatory, and not always a masthead, so it isn't certain when Robert D. Blair and Fred Miner bought the paper. They were there early on, and changed the name of the paper to:

Clear Creek Topics January 25, 1902-October 1, 1903, Blair and Miner, editors and publishers. *Clear Creek Topics* was 11 x 16 in size, eight pages. It supported the Democrats. On August 9, 1902, the two publishers announced the sale of the paper to S. Edgar Wirt. Mr. Wirt did not carry the paper onward. Instead, on October 1, 1903, he told readers he intended to transform the publication into "The *Mine Owner and Investor*," an "official and reliable" news magazine focusing on mining. If, when, and for how long the monthly was issued is unknown.

Clear Creek Democrat May 11 and 18, 1904, Dean Burgess, founder. Burgess was formerly publisher of the *Empire True Fissure*. The paper was full of local news, but only two issues of the *Democrat* were printed. Col. Burgess was later mining editor of the *Pueblo Star-Journal*, and the *Westcliffe Custer County Advocate*.

Georgetown Clear Creek Courant August 24, 1973-1978, Cary Stiff and Carol Wilcox Stiff, founders. The *Courant* was moved to Idaho Springs in 1978 (see below).

Georgetown Crucible August to October 1970; Al Shepard, founder.

Idaho Springs

Idaho Springs, at an elevation of 7.800 feet, is situated in a valley of Clear Creek, six miles from Central City, twelve from Georgetown, and thirty-five west from Denver. The chief attractions of the place are its charming scenery. The town has all the conveniences to make tourists and invalids comfortable. There are four large hotels, several private boarding houses as well as livery stables, churches and billiard saloons. It has lately become quite a rendezvous for excursion parties....

The large hot springs and bath houses...give this locality an interest, attraction and importance as a watering place second to none in the United States. It is a healthy resort for the invalid and a charming resort for the overworked and all others needing rest and recreation....

An attraction of Idaho Springs not to be underestimated is found in the fact that it is free from the vices, follies and extravagancies of fashionable watering places. The manners and customs of our mountain people are plain and unaffected, though they resent injuries and deal the most summary punishment to thieves, villains and murderers....

Idaho Springs Reporter 8/31/1872

In May 1859 George A. Jackson, who discovered the history-making lode in January, gave the camp he shared with his Chicago friends a name: Sacramento after the California diggings. Eleven months later the Idaho Town Company was organized. Some say the name is a corruption of the Shoshone word "Edahnho" meaning "light on the mountain, shining mountain or gem of the mountain." Other versions translate the name as "rocks," or "Idahi," the Kiowa-Apache name for the Comanches, or as "gem of the mountains."

Among the first arrivals to the camp were Horace and Augusta Tabor, who traveled from Golden, via Black Hawk, to Payne's Bar near Idaho Springs. It wasn't until 1873 that a townsite was pre-empted according to territorial law and a patent

application made. The narrow gauge reached Idaho Springs in the 1877, bringing the first wave of tourists. Idaho Springs, like Georgetown, was a silver mine of newspapers. Unlike Georgetown, it still has them. The first was the:

Idaho Springs Reporter May 6-November 7, 1872, Halsey M. Rhoads, founder. Although an Idaho Springs newspaper, the *Reporter* was produced in Central City where Rhoads was editing another newspaper at the same time. The *Reporter* was intended to serve tourists. Certainly it was a good advertisement for the town, and, as it declared, "The scenery of Idaho Springs is swiss-like in every particular, save that of glaciers...." The *Reporter* faded away after six months. Rhoads blossomed on Denver papers. He was the oldest active newspaperman in Colorado when he died at the age of 84 in 1931.

Iris January 24, 1879-1880, E.A. Benedict, founder. Born in Iowa in 1852, Edwin Albert Benedict grew up in Ohio, Iowa and Nebraska. After learning the printer's trade, he came to Colorado in 1878 with \$2.35 in his pocket. Two years later he was "worth about \$3,000, and his success was both remarkable and "characteristic of the vim of Young America," said colleague Aaron Frost. Not enough financial vigor, however, to maintain the first *Iris*. Benedict returned in 1892 to found:

Idaho Springs Iris #2 January 27-March 16, 1892, E.A. and M.J. Benedict, founders. The *Iris*, a semiweekly published Wednesdays and Saturdays, featured whimsical columns written in the persona of the paper's mascot, an office cat. The name of the *Iris* was changed to:

Clear Creek Reporter #2 March 19, 1892-1903. There was new management; the Colorado Historical Society lists the names Griswold and Collon. Newspaper bibliographer Wallace Rex records the *Reporter* from 1892-1903 with the following publishers: Thomas Kelley 1892-1897 and 1900-1903; Fritz Beck, 1894 and 1898-1899. The editor was L.R. Scott 1892-1903.

Idaho Springs Advance 1881-1883, Geo. W. Newland & A.L. Crossen. The *Advance* plant was sold at the end of 1882, or early in 1883 to the *Colorado Mining Gazette*.

Colorado Mining Gazette September 16, 1882-November 9, 1901, E.M. Newland and Harry Dalrymple, founders. It lasted almost 106 years, through three name changes and drastically changing times. The Colorado Historical Society newspaper project lists the 1882 publishers as Anderson, Dalrymple and Gow. G.S. Anderson, a civil and mining engineer, and a W.R.S. Gow, deputy U.S. Surveyor, were residents of Idaho Springs in 1892. Newspaper historian Walter Stewart gives Newland and Dalrymple as founders, and the Gazette Publishing Co. taking over as owner in 1883. Newland was publisher until 1884, and co-editor until 1888. Dalrymple was editor until 1884 and was replaced by Charles Bryan, who stayed until 1886.

The Rowell directory lists George Newland as editor in 1887. R.D. Blair, the well-known mining editor, joined the staff as editor in 1887, and bought the *Gazette* in 1889 (see *Clear Creek Miner*, below). Clear Creek County Printing and Publishing, a local

group, purchased the paper from Blair in October 1901 and installed W.H. Cunningham as editor-manager. The newspaper name was changed to:

Idaho Springs Mining Gazette November 14, 1901-September 23, 1927, under the same management. Cunningham was replaced by Victor I. Noxon, who was editor from 1905 to 1912, when he moved to Boulder to edit the *Boulder Miner*. The next editor was A.G. Dobbins, who was both a newspaper and county fixture from 1912 until he died June 30, 1927. Local businessmen tried to keep the *Gazette* afloat after Dobbins' death, but couldn't. They sold it in September to C.E. Dedrick of Superior, Neb., who also bought the *Mining Journal*, merging them to:

Clear Creek Mining Journal-Gazette (see below).

Clear Creek Mining Journal April 4, 1924-September 16, 1927, E.C. Erickson and C.L. Nelson, founders. *Mining Gazette* owner Dobbins "took minimal notice" of the new paper, but did report that "Two Swedes came to town this week and are going to try to run a newspaper." The two Swedes responded:

The egotistical cur would not dare call his soul his own without first consulting the leader of his clique. In the near future you will hear more about this gentleman (?) and his whiskey peddling pals.

Success was elusive for the *Mining Journal*. N.A. Wimer was listed as publisher in late April. *Inter-Mountain Press* reported in October 1924 that Walter Morgan had severed his connection with the *Routt County Sentinel* and purchased the *Mining Journal*, assuring *Journal* readers that he was "a capable and energetic newspaper man and a community builder of parts." The first issues of the *Journal* devoted most of the

space to promoting mining shares, but Morgan turned the *Journal* "into a newspaper." Morgan was a master printer, but less a businessman. A *Mining Journal* story in the January 1951 *Colorado Editor* states that Morgan did not do well financially and the *Journal* "at length became an incorporated company" with a local bank acquiring controlling interest.

On September 23, 1927 the *Journal* and the *Gazette* merged. Reported *Colorado Editor*:

For several years it had been apparent that the two papers could not make a financial success in Idaho springs and it was conceded that consolidation was the only ultimate solution. The Gazette, owned by the late A.G. Dobbins, was sold to a number of business men and they in turn sold to the Journal organization....

The papers are being run by C.E. Dedrick....

Dedrick merged the two papers to:

Mining Journal-Gazette September 3, 1927-1933 when the name reverted to:

Clear Creek Mining Journal 1933-December 19, 1968. Dedrick called upon Harold Ashmun, who had worked on the *Gazette* as a youngster, to serve as editor. The two men gave stability and longevity to the newspaper. Ashmun would be there for 40 years. The *Mining Journal* didn't have a regular editorial page, but it did have the "Village Streetwalker," an unsigned column, "in which the editor [Ashmun] cast a sometimes jaundiced eye at community life, recording things of major or minor significance, like the great ice cream cone price war waged by two local drugstores."

The *Mining Journal* merged with the Central City *Tommy-Knawker*, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Claude Powe, in 1968, when the name was changed to:

Front Range Journal December 19, 1968-April 1985. The Powes, with a group of civic and business leaders in Idaho Springs, formed the Front Range Publishing Company. Eleven of the stockholders bought out the Powes, and M.A. Durham became president of the company.

Darrell Knuffke was co-publisher and editor from August 1969 to May 1972, although Mr. and Mrs. John Lackey bought the paper in October 1971. The Lackeys sold the paper in the spring of 1973 to Bill King, who in turn sold it to William Potter Johnson in June 1975. Johnson put the paper up for sale almost immediately. Mr. and Mrs. William F. Murray (Bill and Pinki) bought the *Front Range Journal* in June 1976. The day they took over, the *Courant* opened an Idaho Springs branch office next door to the *Journal*. The newspaper war had begun. It was one of the more interesting of the new-fashioned newspaper wars. As Stiff described it:

We slugged it out with the Murrays for three years or so. Bill kept taking potshots at The Courant, using ammo like the classified page fillers which used to brag, "Our paper is delivered from the printers by a truck. Compare that with other media...."

We got embroiled in a bloody knockdown, drag-out fight with the county commissioners over the design and construction of the new courthouse. The Journal pretended the controversy didn't exist. Bill kept emphasizing in print that The Journal was "the positive paper" which printed the positive news.

Gloom and controversy found no home in the Murrays' pages. Neither did serious looks at any of the county's problems. Instead, the Murrays founded the "Community Improvement Association" (abbreviated to "CIA" in Journal headlines) and helped put up the Christmas decorations on Miner Street.

Early in 1979 the *Journal* was listed for sale and William Potter Johnson was owner again in September. Stiff was startled when a publisher at the 1984 CPA convention told him he'd heard the *Courant* had driven the competition "out of business." Stiff's reaction:

I had to smile. Drive Bill Johnson, owner of the Johnson Newspaper, Inc. chain out of business? A man who owns five or six (or is it seven or eight?) newspapers around the state. Not too likely.

On the other hand, the *Courant's* circulation had pulled ahead of the *Journal's*, which was now being given away and losing paid subscribers. Other rumors involved financial ill health and major staff changes, often an indicator of trouble. Stiff had begun to notice that in each October's annual post office statement the *Journal's* circulation--despite its publicity claims--was "slipping" while the *Courant's* grew. When Stiff finally challenged the figures, the post office did an audit, and Johnson published the story on page one--a move that stirred Stiff's respect. The *Journal* went to free circulation and moved down the street. Neighbor *Courant* moved into the rival's vacated offices and Stiff savored the moment, happily headlining the story "Journal Retrenches," a verb "calculated to turn the competition purple."

The Stiffs started a sister paper, *Evergreen Today*, on Johnson's "home turf," but after two years of spreading themselves thin between two towns and two newspapers, they absorbed it into the *Courant*. The *Journal*, in turn, "gleefully noted that [the *Courant*] had 'retrenched.'" Johnson tried to buy the *Courant*. The Stiffs tried to buy the *Journal*. Both efforts failed.

Joe and Debbie Schmitz bought the *Journal* in March 1985. Debbie, who had been with Johnson Newspapers for two years, most recently as ad manager of the *Journal*, became manager, and her husband, a Public Service Company employee, publisher. "Russ" Russell, a Navy retiree who had worked for the *Stars and Stripes* and *Tundra Times*, was named editor, replacing Bob True.

By then it was too late to save the venerable old newspaper. The *Journal* unplugged its press in late February 1986. With it went the nude Indian maiden who had been stepping into a mineral bath on page one of the *Journal* for 60 years. The *Colorado Editor* reported in April 1984 that an advertiser had "some criticism" of the lady. She soon donned a black robe; only her "face and one trim ankle" remained the same.

Idaho Springs News March 1883-May 2, 1905. P.I. Mixsel, founder. John Douglass was editor/publisher in 1888. Douglass wrote:

The papers of Colorado do more to advertise their state than any of the other states' papers, but the editors, as a class, are poorly paid for their work and find it hard rustling to make both ends meet.

The mines owe their very discovery to newspaper work, but it is the exception, not the rule, where a successful mine operator goes down in his jeans and passes over a \$10 bill to the man who has advertised his mine year in and year out without price.

The business between the mine owner and local editor is without exception a one-sided affair, the mine owner getting something for nothing, and the editor getting s-o-u-p.

Idaho Springs News 2/3/1883

M.J. Bowen was publisher in 1894 and held the position until the *News* merged with the *Siftings* in 1905. The *News* was then owned by R.W. Hollis & Co. (Wallace Rex states that Robert D. Blair and J.G. Roberts were co-publishers 1904-1905.)

Idaho Springs Siftings December 22, 1900-May 27, 1905, M.J. Bowen, founder. E.A. Eaton was editor by 1904. Wallace Rex says Fred Shaffer was editor 1900-1905, when the paper merged with the *News* to:

Idaho Springs Siftings-News June 3, 1905-December 4, 1921. E.A. Eaton was publisher 1905-1911. John T. Mallalieu was named editor in 1906, and was publisher 1912-1915. Under Mallalieu the *Siftings-News* sometimes ran as many as 16 pages, 15 x 22 in size, and was Republican. Irwin G. Stafford bought the paper in the fall of 1915. Irwin Stafford sold the *Siftings-News* in 1920 to Lee Hoffman, with whom he had worked in Loveland. Hoffman and his wife, Bertha, were experienced newspaper people. After Hoffman's death in July, his widow tried to continue the paper, but the *Siftings-News* ended before Christmas 1921.

Clear Creek Courant 1978 to present, Cary and Carol Wilcox Stiff. Founded in Georgetown in 1973, it was moved to Idaho Springs in 1978. Celebrating the *Courant's* twentieth birthday, Carol Wilcox remembered how the paper has been called, "irreverent...not a warm blanket." Carol Wilcox Stiff was from Nebraska, a graduate of Stephens College and the University of Nebraska. She also had extensive newspaper experience and worked for the *Denver Post*. In 1979 she resumed using her maiden name, Wilcox.

Both Stiff and Wilcox have distinguished themselves in journalism beyond Clear Creek County. In 1983, Stiff was elected president of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors (ISWNE), and was named one of the Golden Dozen honored for editorial writing excellence. Wilcox, the third generation of a newspaper family, was elected ISWNE president in 1991 and presided at the annual conference held in Colorado Springs in 1992. Together and separately they have won a remarkable number of newspaper awards. In 1978-1979 they took a sabbatical to study at Stanford University, leaving the *Courant* in the hands of Rick Schwab, who still finds the paper an inspiration for weekly editors.

Rocky Mountain Eagle Call 1908-1910, L.E. Cassatt, publisher; J.P. Wilcox, editor. A 7 x 14-size monthly publication for the fraternal order of Eagles.

Clear Creek Miner July 7, 1910-June 7, 1913, R.D. Blair. An Independent paper, the *Miner* had smaller pages--11 x 16--than the other papers in town, but more pages--eight. Blair's Georgetown *Clear Creek Topics* was also eight 11 x 16 pages. The *Miner* was Blair's last paper. "Bob" Blair came to Colorado in 1877 and became a typesetter on the *Denver Tribune* and then the *Denver Republican*. He moved to Idaho Springs, where he established the *Mining Gazette* in 1882. Later he went to Georgetown, where he started the *Georgetown Miner* in 1890 and the *Clear Creek Topics* in 1902. He returned to Idaho Springs to begin the *Clear Creek Miner* in 1910. Ill health forced him to close the *Miner* in 1913. *Colorado Editor* said Blair "was known as an expert on mining and

acted as a correspondent for several noted mining magazines of this country and Europe."

Mountain Messenger 1984 to present, Jack and Sandy Russalesi, founders. Sandy was formerly with the *Front Range Journal*. The nameplate carries the slogan "For High Altitude Thinkers" and notes that the paper serves Idaho Springs, Georgetown, Empire, Dumont, Silver Plume, and Clear Creek County.

Reno Liggett, who bought the *Mountain Messenger* in July 1995, did not start out in journalism. He was a farmer and rancher until 1987, when he lost his hand in a farming accident. He began writing a newsletter for farmers and ranchers about buying and selling commodities. Moving to Idaho Springs from Montrose, he started a shopper, *Gold Rush Messenger*, to advertise his computer business. It was so successful that there are now editions in other mountain and suburban Denver areas.

Wallace Rex lists another newspaper in Idaho Springs:

Sentinel-Times 1887-1889, W.C. Perry, founder. W.O. Perry was connected with the paper in 1889. (This may be a misreading of W.C., but Rex includes both names.)

Silver Plume

The town was established in 1870, 9,118 feet above sea level, its tents and cabins perched on the mountain slope. By 1875 the town claimed a population of 2,000 and all the amenities of a bustling community. It also had a suburb that one day disappeared down the mountain in a mudslide. Until the Georgetown Loop arrived in

1883, the silver, lead, zinc, copper, and gold were hauled from the mines by jack trains to the express wagons to Georgetown. With the Loop, Silver Plume turned into a tourist spot, and was a thriving town until November 1884. A merciless fire, started in a saloon, destroyed the business district and burned 50 buildings to the ground. Between the devastating fire, the Panic of 1893, and a general decline in mining, Silver Plume began to fade. But it did not die.

Silver Plume Mining News May 27, 1881-1882, Edwin A. Benedict, founder.

Silver Plume Coloradoan October 9, 1881-November 29, 1884, A.J. Randall founder. Randall was the father of Jesse Randall of the Georgetown *Courier*. By the end of February 1882, the *Coloradoan*, without explanation, had gone to a small 8 x 10 inch format with the entire front page devoted to advertising. The explanation came on March 25, when A.J. Randall published a valedictory confessing his fatigue and announcing the transfer of the *Coloradoan* to "the younger, and as we hope will be proved, more able hands of Randall & Noyes, whom we recommend to the citizens of Silver Plume." The new Randall was A. J.'s son Charles, who had worked on the *Georgetown Courier* and *Miner*. Stephen A. Noyes had been connected with the *Georgetown Miner*. The *Coloradoan* remained in the small format until June 9 when it went back to the large size. On November 25, Noyes assumed full management and proprietorship, but the November 29 edition was the last.

Colorado Jack Rabbit August 22-September 12, 1885, Eugene M. Lamont, founder. It lasted only four issues.

Silver Standard September 19, 1885-December 28, 1907, W.B. Blanton and Charles Browne, founders. This weekly newspaper's motto was: "Trying to Do Business Without Advertising is Like Winking at a Girl in the Dark. YOU May Know What You Are Doing, But Nobody Else Does." The *Standard* cost \$2 a year: "Take it; it will do you good."

Blanton is listed as the sole proprietor in 1887. Ambrose B. Clark, a schoolteacher, was editor in 1892 and 1900, and Charles Snowden in 1894. Fred L. Miner wrote multi-column, scholarly mining reports for the *Silver Standard*. Miner was co-founder of the Georgetown *Clear Creek Topics* in 1902. Rex also states that the paper was published at Silver Cliff in 1888, 1894 and 1906; the Rowell newspaper directory lists it in Silver Cliff in 1887.

The *Silver Standard* was 26 x 40 inches in size and had eight pages when it was established. By 1892 the size had decreased to 18 x 24, four pages, and in 1906 it was down to 13 x 20, eight pages. The last mention of the *Silver Standard* was in October 1911, when R.D. Blair purchased the plant's machinery and type and moved it to Idaho Springs. The machinery had been standing in the vacant building for a year.

Sources: "The Saga of Upper Clear Creek," Earl H. Ellis and Carrie Scott Ellis, 1983. Jende-Hagan Book Corporation, Frederick Colorado.

"Story of Silver Plume," Hazel Howe, 1960.

"Silver Town," John Willard Horner, 1950; Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho.

"An Eventful Newspaper History." A copy of this article of unidentified origin is in the Georgetown file in the Denver Public Library's Western History collections.

"Georgetown Donnybrook: The Editor vs The Boss," Christine Bradley, *Clear Creek Courant* 11/26/1976.

Colorado Miner, Georgetown Courier and Clear Creek Courant, various issues.

Special thanks to Cary Stiff, Carol Wilcox, and Jesse Randall.

CHAPTER XIII
CONEJOS COUNTY

5th February, Thursday...we ascended a high hill, which lay south of our camp, from whence we had a view of all the prairie and rivers to the north of us; it was at the same time one of the most sublime and beautiful inland prospects ever presented to the eyes of man...the great and lofty mountains covered with eternal snows seemed to surround the luxuriant vale, crowned with perennial flowers, like a terrestrial paradise, shut out from the view of man.

Zebulon Pike, 1807 Journal

Was Zebulon Pike an explorer or a spy? For years there was a debate over exactly what he was doing--and why--when he built a stockade on the Conejos River and raised the first American Flag in what would become Colorado. He raised it on soil claimed by the King of Spain. Confronted by Spanish military, Pike "immediately ordered my flag to be taken down and rolled up, feeling how sensibly I had committed myself, in entering their territory, and was conscious that they must have positive orders to take me in."

Pike was preceded and followed into the Valley by various Indian tribes, Spanish, Mexican, French, and enterprising men "from the States." Conejos County may have the oldest working turquoise mines in North America. The King Mine is located not far from Manassa. Turquoise was treasured by the Indians, admired by the Spaniards who arrived in the late 1500s, and is still regarded as a decorative mineral emblematic of the American Southwest.

The San Luis Valley, originally part of New Spain, became Mexico after that country gained its independence in 1821. *El Valle* came into U.S. hands under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, which ended the war with Mexico. The territory of New Mexico, including much of what is now Southern Colorado, was established. The treaty also "pledged" the U.S. to honor land grants given by the Mexican government, an unfulfilled pledge that is still causing friction. Land for a colony in the San Luis Valley was granted by Mexico in 1833 to encourage settlement in its northern areas. Fifty families settled along the Conejos River but were driven off by Indians in the early 1840s. Four much larger grants were made in 1842. The Conejos Grant covered what is now Conejos County.

A centuries old custom, by which new owners took possession of the land by plucking grass, casting stones and exclaiming "Long live the sovereignty of our Mexican nation!" marked the second land grant of 1842. Again, Indians ran off the settlers. It was more than 10 years before a permanent settlement was made. Many of the Spanish names predominant in early writings and on maps of the area were in place before 1800, remnants of several hundred years of expeditions, gold seeking and Indian confrontations. Farmers and shepherders sometimes moved in during the summer but did not stay the winter. It wasn't until the fall of 1854 that several small, permanent settlements were established in Conejos County.

The first successful settlement was Servilleta in 1854, but within a few months marauding bands of Apaches and Utes drove the settlers to a safer spot. They called it

Guadalupe. Major Head, later Otto Mears' partner, spearheaded the settlement and was its "leader, counselor and guide." Indians weren't the only problem Guadalupe faced. Built on the Conejos River, Guadalupe was flooded in 1857 and rebuilt on higher ground across the Conejos River at what is now Conejos, the county seat. One of Colorado's seventeen original counties in 1861, it was first named Guadalupe but the name was changed seven days later to Conejos (Spanish for rabbit) after the river that runs through the county.

Antonito

Antonito was created when the town of Conejos refused to give land to the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad in 1881 when it was laying track across southern Colorado. As a result, the D&RG bypassed Conejos, and built Antonito a mile away. Antonito became a major shipping point, was a juncture for the New Mexico and San Juan lines and replaced Conejos as the largest community in the county. Antonito was the newspaper center of the county with eight titles over the years.

Antonito Sentinel 1888-1890, Jesse H. Lewis, founder. The *Sentinel* merged with the *La Jara Echo* and became:

Antonito Sentinel-Echo 1890-1892, William Stiegmund, publisher, J.H. Lewis, editor, 1892.

Antonito Ledger June 11, 1892-1928, J.D. Frazey, founder. It began as the *Moffat Ledger* in Saguache County in 1891 and was moved to Antonito. A 1938 article indicates Frazey bought the *Sentinel* and merged it into his *Ledger*.

Major stories in the first issue of the *Ledger* were the shooting death in Creede of Bob Ford, the man who killed Jesse James, and the nomination of Benjamin Harrison for re-election as president on the Republican ticket. Other national news included a Wyoming range war lynching, a Pennsylvania flood and the downturn of the People's Party in Kansas just at the moment of its upturn in Colorado.

Frazey owned the paper until August 1928, although others ran it from 1923 until he sold it. In November 1917 he merged the *Manassa Free Press* into the *Ledger*. Riley H. Emmons was editor from September 1923 to July 1927. The paper was printed at La Jara until a new plant was obtained. F.S. Pavitt bought the salvaged equipment and newspaper name, along with the *Conejos County News*, merging the two into:

Antonito Ledger-News December 29, 1927-1981. *Colorado Editor* reported in June 1927 that Pavitt and J.D. Frazey bought the paper from Emmons. Pavitt also had owned the *Kersey News*. H.M. Woolman leased the paper in 1931 when Pavitt moved to Brighton to take over his recently purchased *Brighton Register*. Woolman's long career in Colorado included newspapers in Keenesburg, Roggen, Manassa, Blanca, Alamosa, and Bennett. George F. Williams was publisher from 1933 until his death in 1954. He traded an 80-acre farm, a home, and a newspaper in Alabama for the sight-unseen *Ledger*, its building and a home. He never regretted the swap.

Three men--Joe Fleming, Earl S. Dapp and J.R. Foster--bought or leased the paper from 1948 until 1954, but control always reverted to Williams, who ended up running the paper single-handedly. After Williams' death in 1954, his widow, Effie, ran the paper until selling it to James and Helen Dement in December 1954. The Dements sold it in December 1957 to Melvin Akre, a transplanted Minnesotan. William Rice and his wife, Margie, bought the *Ledger-News* in 1963. Rice, a former Oklahoma A & M graduate in graphic arts, served in the army in Africa and Europe from March 1936 to February 1944. The Rices sold the paper to Bob and Lucy Freeman in 1981. The Freemans, who merged the paper with the *La Jara Citizen*, published in La Jara under the name:

Conejos County Citizen. (See La Jara.)

Antonito no longer has an on-site newspaper, but it has a reporter there for the La Jara *Conejos County Citizen*.

With a large number of Spanish-speaking residents, five newspapers were published in the Spanish language:

La Voz del Valle August 1898-January 31, 1901, Otis and M.P. (or M.F.) Smith.
(The Colorado Historical Society newspaper project has it lasting to 1919.)

El Triumpfo 1907-1908.

El Popular 1909-1910.

La Aurora 1911-1924, J.O. Jeanlet. 1916.

La Pro-Federacion 1916-1918. J.O. Jeanlet, publisher; J.R.C. Ruybal, editor.

Conejos County News 1927-1928, Will M. Thomas, founder. It merged with *Ledger*. (A local source believes the *News* was started in Conejos town; Oehlerts and Stewart list it under Antonito.)

Conejos

The town of Conejos sprouted when floods forced the colonists and the church at Guadalupe to relocate on higher ground. It has been the county seat since the county was organized. Conejos has had only one paper, the

Conejos Times-Tribune 1889-1891.

La Jara

Immigrants were in the La Jara area before the rest of the county had any real settlements. A hamlet was developed along the La Jara river about 1867, but the village itself wasn't formally established until 1880, a year after its first church was organized. The Denver & Rio Grande railroad, however, bypassed the town and laid out a new one called La Jara Station in 1884. Rail service meant the new La Jara would grow into a marketing and supply center. Old La Jara soon disappeared. New La Jara was incorporated in 1895, the same year one of its citizens became Colorado Governor. Albert W. McIntire, a stockman and a judge, was elected on the Republican ticket, defeating the incumbent, Davis Waite, the Populist governor.

La Jara Tribune 1888-1889.

San Luis Valley Echo 1889-1890, merged with *Antonito Sentinel*.

La Jara Tribune #2 1896-1899, Clifton H. Wilder, founder.

La Jara Chronicle 1900-1914, C.H. Wilder, founder. Although Wilder owned both papers, newspaper directories give 1900 as the founding date of the *Chronicle*, so apparently it is not a continuation of *Tribune #2*. "Colonel" Wilder was head of the old state constabulary, a Prohibition enforcement officer, and state legislator. He moved to the *Alamosa Courier* in 1910. H.D. Hopkins was listed with the *Chronicle* in 1901 and M.J. Collins in 1903; both were probably editors or general managers. L. Earl Bigelow was publisher in the spring of 1914.

La Jara Enterprise 1910-1917, W.A. Braiden and James McDaniel, founders. Braiden, a rancher, was born in Ohio in 1865, and helped survey La Jara in 1887. *Colorado Press* reported in May 1915 that J.W. Sarjent was the new manager of the *Enterprise*, which merged into the *Gazette* in 1917. *Colorado Editor* says Edward McVey was publisher of the *Enterprise* for a short time prior to the merger.

La Jara Gazette April 20, 1916-June 1917, J.W. Sarjent, founder. He bought and merged in the *Enterprise*, and the name changed to:

La Jara Gazette & La Jara Enterprise 1917-1951, when the name was shortened to *La Jara Gazette* again. Joseph Webster Sarjent was "a printer and publisher of the old school. All of his writings were of a clean, high character," said *Colorado Press*. After leaving La Jara he published the *Olathe Criterion* and *Merino Breeze*.

The C.N. Coker family owned the paper from August 22, 1919 to 1926. Eva Coker was editor and publisher. Delavan W. Gee, a Colorado newspaperman of some renown, bought the paper in May 1926 and owned it until his death in June 1944. The *Alamosa Courier* said in April 1935:

As dean of valley publishers, [Gee] is held in great esteem and affection. His editorials, written in the same vigorous strain and with often a touch of rare humor, are widely copied over the state.

At press associations in Denver, his presence is the signal for the gathering of many old-time newspapermen of the state, who again settle the affairs of state as they formerly did when our state was in its swaddling clothes.

George F. Williams, Antonito publisher, bought the paper in February 1944, but relinquished it to Gee six weeks later. He was said to have written a critical editorial that cost him community support.

Mary Viola Sanders Cooper Mudd was considered Gee's "right arm and sometimes his left." She started on the *Gazette* in 1916, when the entire newspaper was handset in 6 and 8 point type. By the time she retired, Mrs. Mudd, who outlived two husbands, had one of the longest one-paper careers of any Colorado newspaperwomen or newspapermen. She was "editor, pressman, printer, Linotype operator and Publisher" for sixty-five years, she recalled when given the Colorado Press Association Golden Makeup Rule Award for 50 years in the newspaper business in 1979. She was interviewed by newspapers all over the country and by magazines and television, and was listed in *Who's Who in American Women*.

Gee made Mudd manager of the paper in May 1944. A month later, June 9, 1944, Gee died and Mudd was able to buy the paper from his widow. Mrs. Mudd almost equaled her mentor's record in the business when she retired in 1980 after 65 years with the *Gazette*. She died in Denver March 5, 1987, at the age of 90. The *Gazette* ceased publication in December 1980, although Mrs. Mudd and her son, William Cooper, continued to operate the commercial printing business that was connected to the paper.

Bob and Lucy Freeman bought the rights to the *Gazette* in 1981, along with the *Antonito Ledger-News*. The two papers merged and were published in La Jara as the:

La Jara Conejos County Citizen 1981 to present. The Freemans sold the paper to Terry Hanna in 1983. Hanna, a graduate of Bethany Nazarene College, with experience on several Oklahoma newspapers, went bankrupt in 1986, leaving behind an angry unpaid staff and unpaid bills. Steve and Cynthia Haynes of the San Luis Valley Publishing Co., picked up the publication. News Media Corporation of Rochelle, Ill., purchased the San Luis Valley Publishing Co.'s seven newspapers May 1, 1993. Douglas Knight became publisher.

Conejos County Courier, mid-1980s-1993 founded by Jim Barnes of *Alamosa Courier* as a daily. The *Courier* was absorbed by the *Gazette* when both came under the same ownership.

Manassa

Manassa, one of the handful of Mormon settlements in Colorado, was founded 1879. The town was named for the eldest son of the biblical Joseph. The first settlers arrived from Pueblo and the "Southern States." They purchased land and soon numbered nearly four hundred. Mostly farmers, it took them awhile to learn the local conditions conducive to a good yield, but perseverance paid off for those who endured reverses and hardships. In 1882 the town boundaries expanded and it was incorporated in April 1889 by the presiding elder.

Among the early settlers was a family named Dempsey whose ninth child, born in Manassa in 1895, was called William Harrison Dempsey, nicknamed Harry by his family. The world got to know him as Jack Dempsey, the "Manassa Mauler" who was heavyweight boxing champion from 1919-1926.

Manassa Free Press 1911-fall 1918, Thomas (or Harry) Carroll, founder. He sold the paper to Hyrum and Lena Harris, who sold it to J.D. Frazey in the fall of 1917. Frazey merged the *Free Press* into his *Antonito Ledger* a year later. (See Antonito.)

Manassa Star January 16, 1926-1929. Walter W. Roberts, founder. Roberts, formerly editor of the *New Castle Republican*, moved his plant to Manassa to start the *Star* in 1926. S.W. McClure bought the paper in April 1927, but sold it in April 1928 to Thomas O. Huffacker who apparently suspended it. Earl Cranston restarted the *Star* in December 1928 and changed the name to:

Conejos County Farmer or **San Luis Valley Farmer** 1929-1932. H.M. Woolman leased the paper in November 1929 and six months later purchased it. The *Farmer* was suspended July 21, 1932, by Earl Cranston, who had taken over the paper several months earlier. Oehlerts does not list either a *Manassa Farmer* or *Valley Farmer*, but says the *San Luis Valley Farmer* ended in 1932.

Platoro

Platoro was a mining camp, extracting both gold and silver: hence, the name Platoro which is a combination of the Spanish words *plata* (silver) and *oro* (gold). During the 1880s it reached a population of 300, but when the ore gave out, so did the town. There were brief revivals of mining in 1902, 1903 and 1913, when its only newspaper was published. It is now a ghost town. The one newspaper was:

Platoro Miner June 19, 1913 to 1914, Saunders & McVey, founders. (McVey is possibly the Edward McVey from Romeo.)

Romeo

Romeo was established in 1899 as a siding for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. A post office was opened for a town named Sunflower, and the town plat was drawn up by the Romero Town Co., named for an early settler. There was another town with that name so Romero became Romeo in Conejos County. There were two newspapers.

Conejos County Record 1909-1914, Edward McVey.

McVey may also have published the *Platoro Miner*, although his *Colorado Editor* obituary does not mention

Romeo Journal 1920-1922, Orah E. Meyer, publisher.

Sources: *Conejos County Citizen*, various issues

CHAPTER XIV
COSTILLA COUNTY

Costilla County was explored in the late 1500s by the Spanish. Juan De Oñate, whose wife was a granddaughter of Cortez and a great-granddaughter of Montezuma, was among the first. Oñate established several settlements that didn't last, and found gold and silver near Fort Garland. In 1704 Don Diego de Vargas and a small band of soldiers camped along the river while trying to reconquer the area from the Indians. The skirmishes between the Spaniards and Mexicans and Indians would continue for more than two centuries.

Native Americans found the hunting in the area good enough for them to resist intruders for a long, long time. The nomadic Utes considered it a home when the Sangre de Cristo land grant--containing what is now Costilla County--was made to Stephen Luis Lee and 13-year-old Narciso Beaubien in 1843. The two men were slain in the Indian Massacre at Taos in 1847. Narciso's father, Don Carlos Beaubien, who could not accept the grant earlier because he had another one, took title.

Charles Hipolyte Trotier Sieur de Beaubien, a French Canadian, had migrated to New Mexico, shortened his 10-syllable name and become a very wealthy and prominent citizen. Ceran St. Vrain, also French and equally prominent, was a former partner of the Bent Brothers. St. Vrain built a flour mill near San Luis.

Colorado Territorial Governor William Gilpin purchased parts of several land grants, and became a leading developer and promoter of the region. Gilpin, who was given the contract to survey the southern border of Colorado, was convinced that the Sangre de Cristo mountains held great mineral wealth. The Hayden Survey report confirmed that the grants contained "immensely valuable" minerals and the land was "the finest agricultural district...seen west of the Missouri River."

At the end of the Mexican war in 1848, the United States acquired much of land that had been Mexico, including Costilla County. Shortly thereafter, Spanish-speaking Americans, primarily herders and farmers, settled the town of San Luis in 1851, making it the oldest still existing town in the state. Even after the area became part of the Territory of Colorado in 1861, most of the settlers continued to come from New Mexico. The Spanish and Mexican land grants were challenged by new settlers, but most challenges were unsuccessful.

Indians threatened the settlers, so to protect them and the growing number of travelers, the U.S. sent troops to locate a site for a fort. Winter came swiftly as the soldiers built the aptly named Fort Necessity. In the spring Fort Massachusetts was built on the forks of Ute Creek, 30 miles from the nearest settlement and more than 100 miles from the nearest supplies. The Fort was in a pivotal position as a key route east to west, and to oversee the various people coming and going. Fort Massachusetts was replaced in 1858 for strategic purposes by Fort Garland, about five miles away.

The original Conejos County, which included the present Alamosa, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache counties, had the shape of ribs of beef--*Costilla* is Spanish for rib. There were several well-traveled trails, soon busier with stage coach and freight wagon traffic. The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad came over La Veta Pass in 1877 opening up El Vallee to Gringos. In 1909 the San Luis Southern Railroad was built to serve the smaller towns.

Blanca

Born of the land lottery drawing in August 1908, Blanca is located near Mount Blanca, just south of the Great Sand Dunes. Blanca was incorporated in 1910. A second surge in population occurred during World War II when Japanese, relocating from the West Coast, moved in.

San Luis Valley News August 1908-January 2, 1954, George and Catherine Wood, founders. The Woods came from Kansas City in April 1908 at the behest of a land company interested in colonizing the eastern part of the San Luis Valley. Promoters bought 150,000 acres at \$1 an acre from the Trinchera Grant and subdivided it into lots. Each purchaser of a \$150 town lot got a chance to draw for larger rural tracts. The Woods had a slight detour before getting to Blanca:

Our first issue was published November 2, 1907. [In Fort Garland; it moved the following year to Blanca.] By May 1908 we were sending our papers to 47 states and eight foreign countries. By that August the valley we had colonized was opened with tents everywhere.

George Wood died in 1922. Mrs. Wood carried on with the help of her daughter Bette and, later, her granddaughter Lucinda (Cindy) Parmenter, who went on to become a *Denver Post* reporter and press secretary to several Colorado governors. H.M. Woolman was editor in 1929. W. Otho Mills, who had been in the *Alamosa Courier* composing room for 15 years, bought the paper in March 1937 but Catherine and Bette Wood bought it back a year later. It was finally sold in February 1954 to the Ashcraft Printing Company of Alamosa which sold it to the *San Luis Costilla Free Press*, which suspended it forever.

Blanca Record 1909-1910.

Blanca Advocate 1914-1915, John B. Milford, founder. It was discontinued in May 1915.

Fort Garland

Fort Garland troops were sent to Glorieta Pass to turn back the Confederates in 1862, but by the time they got there the shooting was over. The Fort's most famous commander was Kit Carson. The fort was named for Brevet Brigadier General John Garland, commander of the military district, when it was built.

The town of Fort Garland developed in 1858 around the fort. The town didn't amount to much, just a few service establishments for the soldiers. The Fort's land reverted to the Trinchera estates. In 1928 a number of public-minded citizens bought

the land on which the Fort was built and the Colorado Historical Society recreated Fort Garland's adobe buildings as a living museum. The town had two newspapers:

San Luis Valley News November 1907-1908, George and Catherine Wood, founders. It was moved to Blanca.

Fort Garland Republican 1888-1890, J D. Frazey, founder. It was continued in Alamosa.

Garland City

Six miles northeast of the Fort, a way station was erected during the railroad building and called Garland City. The rails began extending from La Veta west in June 1876. Crews inched their way down the mountain, building stations as they went until they reached Garland City in June 1877. The town was made up of about a hundred hastily pitched buildings. There was a post office, corrals filled with teams and wagons bringing in supplies, and a dancing bear chained near a saloon. The rails extended to Alamosa within a year, and Garland City became no more than a trash dump with forlorn graves from a small pox epidemic. The buildings were dismantled, loaded on wheels and moved to Alamosa. But Garland City had a newspaper while it lasted.

Colorado Independent September 5, 1877 to 1878, Victor Jackson and J.W. Hamm, founders. The *Independent* had started in Walsenburg in 1875, perhaps earlier in another town, and it followed the railroad tracks as they were built. In 1878 the publishers were Jackson and Couch. Couch's name or initials are not known. When

Garland City moved on to Alamosa a few months later, the newspaper, too, was loaded on boxcars and moved with it, becoming the *Alamosa Journal*.

Jarosa and Mesita

Jarosa and Mesita were laid out in 1909 by the Costilla Development Company, using names of earlier settlements. The Seventh-Day Adventist Church established a colony, operating a cooperative farm at Jarosa. Jarosa was hit hard by the 1930s Depression but is still listed on the state map. There was one newspaper:

Jarosa Record 1925-1927, A.E. Farrand, founder, also published the *Mesita Herald*. Farrand owned the *Penrose Press* in 1920. First called Hamburg, Mesita, ("flat table land") was established in 1909. It had a longer-running paper than Jarosa:

Mesita Herald 1910-1926. E.T. Child was publisher of the paper in 1914, and *Colorado Press* was impressed by his efforts:

The Herald uses the cost system, gets cash in advance, guarantees to stop the paper when time is out, gives no paper or adv. space away and is making money.

Can you beat it in a town of 75--or even 750?

C.J. Nash was editor in 1921, but Child and Tafft returned before 1925. A.E. Farrand was publisher from 1925-1927, when the *Herald* folded. Late in 1925 Farrand bought a Linotype from the *Monte Vista Journal* and moved the Mesita plant to Jarosa, where he also had a paper.

Russell

Russell, in the northeastern corner of the county, had a post office by 1876. It was named for William. Green Russell, who 1858 gold discovery gave birth to Denver and the gold rush, also found gold in Gray Back Gulch in the late 1860s. A town named Placer grew up nearby, or the name Russell was changed to Placer. But a year later, the Trinchera estate owners ordered squatters out. The town managed to survive a little longer as a D&RG station. Russell had one paper:

Russell Review 1897-1899, W.C. Caldwell.

San Acacio

The original San Acacio was founded in 1853. The first settlers fought the Indians in the name of San Acacio, a Spanish soldier. The second San Acacio was laid out by the Costilla Estate Development Company in 1909. In the 1920s, the development company urged Japanese farmers to move to Costilla County. They came and were vital to the growth of truck farming. The town's only newspaper was:

Mountain States Farmer July 1, 1926-?, J.R. Carpenter, founder. As the name indicates, it was a farm publication for the San Luis Valley region, with four pages and six columns.

San Luis

San Luis was settled in the fall of 1851 by Spanish-speaking American citizens. It was a permanent settlement, unlike earlier attempts, and thus lays claim to being the

oldest town in Colorado. The county seat, San Luis is named for Stephen Luis Lee. With Narciso Beaubien he received the original land grant), called Culebra or San Luis de Culebra for many years. The first four San Luis newspapers were printed in Spanish.

La Avepa del Valle, begun about 1905-1907. J.R. Valdez was editor. It was succeeded by:

Heraldo del Valle 1907-1909, printed in both Spanish and English. J.R. Valdez founded and published the *Heraldo* until his retirement in December, 1945. Valdez was a teacher in Huerfano and Costilla counties before becoming editor of the *La Avepa del Valle* when it began. He was also editor of the *Hooper Tribune* from the early 1900s until 1913. When Valdez retired in 1945, *Colorado Editor* said:

Almost 40 years of meeting the exacting demands of country newspaper work will be concluded December 1, 1945 when J.R. Valdez, founder of the Valley Herald retires....the Herald has been continued thru many trying times and Mr. Valdez has courageously and steadfastly refused to let the paper die in spite of declining health and advanced age. In semi-retirement several times, the aged founder has returned to the task time and again to keep up publication when changing circumstances required his presence.

...Keeping up such a task had taken a terrific toll, however, and a man pushing 80 can hardly be expected to produce work equal to the demands of present day journalism....J.R. Valdez takes leave, reluctantly we know, of the paper he brought into being, faithfully nourished, and brought to maturity.

His son, Ruben C. Valdez, with Earl Gault of Walsenburg, published the paper from December 1945 until April 1949 when Catherine Wood of Blanca bought the paper and consolidated it with the *Blanca San Luis Valley News*. The younger Valdez and Gault Anglicized the name to:

Valley Herald 1946-1954. It was also printed in Spanish and English.

El Defensor del Pueblo 1909-1914, A.J. Martinez.

El Democrata 1923-1942, Frank LaCombe, founder. It was printed in Spanish. The full name of the paper was sometimes listed as *El Democrata del Condado de Costilla*. LaCombe either anglicized the name or issued a second paper in English:

Costilla County Democrat 1928-1942, Frank LaCombe, founder of both. The dates of the two papers overlap. Colorado newspaper lists give the name as *El Democrata*; the national Ayer directory uses the *Costilla County Democrat*. LaCombe was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives, and suspended the paper.

Costilla County Free Press 1948 to present, Alphonso LaCombe, founder. In the 1986 Colorado Newspaper Directory, Abel Valdez was listed as publisher, Iva L. Gallegos, editor. In 1991, Gallegos was publisher and Renee H. Gallegos, editor. By 1993 Renee Gallegos was general manager.

Sources: "*Colorado South of the Border*," Ralph C. Taylor, 1963.

Special thanks to Cindy Parmenter.

CHAPTER XV
CROWLEY COUNTY

I live on the prairie where the wind blows and nothing stops the light of the sun.

Ten Bears, Comanche Chief

Once a rendezvous for the Comanche, Cheyenne, Kiowa and Arapaho Indians, the Crowley County area was their dominion until they were forcibly moved to reservations by the U.S. government in 1876. Their land became open range.

Crowley County was originally in the part of Bent County broken off in 1889 to form Otero County. In 1911 Otero was divided in two, and Crowley County became the third-to-last county created in Colorado.

The name honors State Senator John H. Crowley, who was influential in legislative maneuvers for the new county. Ordway became the county seat.

Cattlemen were the first immigrants to arrive and take advantage of the open-grazing government land for thousands of cattle and sheep. The railroad, crucial to all communities, arrived in 1887.

Town of Crowley

The Colorado Farm and Livestock Company platted the town of Bradbury in 1880. Lots were sold to individuals who renamed the town Dayton after their Ohio origin, but the post office turned the name down (it was the fourth time the name

Dayton was proposed for a Colorado post office). The Missouri Pacific Railroad, whose siding in the community was the heart of the town, tried the name Shiloh, but in 1913, after the county was formed, the town proudly took the county name and began building a real town.

The first newspaper was the **Crowley County Courier** 1915-1916, H.L. Howard, founder. Oehlerts lists the *Courier* in the town of Crowley. However, *Colorado Press* reported in August 1915 that the *Courier* was "established at Olney Springs by H.H. Howard, formerly associated with H.E. Farr on the *Sugar City Gazette*."

The **Crowley County Republican**, 1932-1934, founded as the *Olney Springs Journal* (see below) in 1916, was moved to Crowley in 1932. Roy Hays was publisher and his brother Thomas was editor.

Olney Springs

Olney Springs was a railroad town. It was established as the last supply point for the track builders before the rails reached Pueblo....

The last depot in Olney Springs was an imposing two-story yellow building with living quarters upstairs for the agent's family.

Ordway New Era 8/31/1993

Olney Springs News 1915-1916 Walt Pyles, founder. W.H. Kreider succeeded Pyles as publisher early in 1916. He changed the name to:

Olney Springs Journal 1916-1925. F. Montgomery took over the *Journal* from W.H. Kreider in the spring of 1916. The November 1918 issue of *Colorado Press* said:

Harvey W. Hill from Oklahoma has purchased the Olney Springs Journal from Dr. F. Montgomery. The doctor has had a deuce of a time with hay fever the past summer and had to seek a high location. For several months Mrs. Montgomery has been running the paper.

Wanting to make a strong bid for county-wide circulation and business, Hill changed the name of the paper in 1925 to:

Crowley County Republican 1925-1932. Hill sold it August 12, 1932 to Thomas F. Hays, who moved the paper to Crowley.

Ordway

The Missouri Pacific Railroad, expanding westward under eastern entrepreneur Jay Gould, pushed from Kansas to Pueblo, going through Ordway and Olney Springs en route. Although the railroad went through in December 1887, Ordway was not established until 1890. Aspiring to respectability, the station posted a warning on the wall: "Gentlemen will not, others must not, expectorate on the floor."

Ordway News February 14, 1896-?, B.M. Palmer, founder. Information on the *News* was compiled by the Colorado Historical Society Newspaper Project. It is not known how long it lasted. Oehlerts does not list the *News*.

Ordway New Era March 14, 1902 to present, C.B. Stewart, founder. Stewart was born in 1842 in Iowa City and came to Colorado in 1898 to found the *Granada Times*, which folded a year later. Using a small printing press and hand-set type, he published the *New Era* until 1907. In 1910 he founded and was publisher of the *Cheraw Clarion*,

1910-1916. Jay F. Johnson was publisher from 1907 to 1914, followed by Mr. and Mrs. L.I. Giffin who would spend 38 years with the *New Era*.

A Nebraskan by birth, Lester Isaac Giffin edited papers in Kansas and Oklahoma before coming to Colorado about 1910. He worked for the *Grand Junction News* and *Pueblo Chieftain* before buying the *Ordway New Era*. He was mayor of Ordway for two terms, and active in several southern Colorado organizations. Giffin was president of then Colorado Editorial Association in 1921 and a vice president of the National Editorial Association 1923-1924. It was Giffin who corralled a young man from the city into devoting a lifetime to CPA. The young man was Ed Bemis, the Littleton publisher who would make the press association a prospering organization.

William and Beje Schweitzer, owners of the *Hugo Plainsman* and *Stratton Press*., bought the *New Era* in early in 1981. They had a number of business problems almost immediately, and in the fall of 1982 they leased the *Plainsman*, turned the *Press* back to the previous owner, and tried to continue with the *New Era*. Things did not get better for the Schweitzers. In late September 1982, Dan Hyatt and Dwight Sechrist Jr. became owners. Hyatt and Sechrist were also publishers of the *La Junta Arkansas Valley Journal*. Hyatt published the *New Era* until January 3, 1996 when he announced the paper had been sold to the Rocky Ford Publishing Co.

Ordway Call 1910-1915, Perry Behymer and Richard D. Dare, founders. J.H. King bought the paper in 1913 but Behymer, an attorney, repossessed it the following year. He sold it in 1915 to I.D. Devine, who came from Oklahoma. Behymer, who also worked

on a Greeley paper at one time, was state printing commissioner when he died in April 1937, four months before he was due to retire. The *Call* name was changed to:

Crowley County Leader June 18, 1915-November 18, 1927.

By 1920 the Leader Printing Company was the publisher. Harry B. Sherman of Rocky Ford took charge of the paper in the spring of 1921. W.H. Crisman was editor 1922-1924. M.E. Lewis was owner 1925-1926, when Crisman bought the paper. In 1927 the *Leader* was absorbed into the *New Era*. Crisman was mayor of Ordway in 1918. After leaving Ordway he moved to Wyoming, but returned to Colorado in 1929 and bought the *Pueblo Times*.

Sugar City

Sugar City was founded in 1891 by the National Sugar Company, which built a sugar beet plant for what would be the main industry. Located between Lake Henry and Lake Meredith, the town was platted in December 1899 with no inhabitants for miles around except surveyors, and incorporated in June 1900. By October 1900 it was said there were more than 2,000 people, 1,200 to 1,500 of them company employees. In slightly more than a year three newspapers had been founded. The first newspaper was the

Sugar City Herald June 14, 1900-1905, G.P. Devenport, founder. Devenport had been previously with the *Fowler Tribune* and *Rocky Ford Tribune*.

Sugar City Republican 1900-1901. On January 11, 1901 the unidentified publisher of the *Republican* commented on a main street which "is not exactly a river but no one will deny that it is a mud hole. The whole town is irrigated every night by the gentle brook that flows down our main street." The next issue of the paper was its last.

Saccharine Gazette February 16-1901-June 5, 1915, Harry and Sherman Farr, founders. The masthead stated that it was "A live, local newspaper run in the interest of Sugar City, and incidentally to make money for the proprietors." In 1915 the name was changed to:

Sugar City Gazette June 11, 1915-September 3, 1942. The Farr family owned the paper all 41 years of its existence. Harry E. Farr, born in 1873 in Missouri, came to Denver in 1899 to work for *Field and Farm*, the *Denver Republican* and other Denver publications. He and his brother soon moved to Sugar City to establish the *Gazette*. Harry Farr was mayor of Sugar City for two terms, a city councilman, postmaster, and state representative from Otero and Crowley counties. He was serving in the legislature when he died in December 1939.

Farr's son Ray Farr tried a unique experiment in 1941. Farr took the sweet clover, which grew prolifically in his area, and extracted fiber from the straw "by a simple cooking and washing process, easily adaptable to quantity production...it makes a very tough paper with a 'crackle' that sounds like 'money in the bank.' We believe that a real paper mill could make a paper that would excel 100% rag in every way..."

Apparently he never found the real mill.

After Harry Farr's death in 1939, his widow and son continued the paper. In 1941 they sold the paper but repossessed it the following year and kept in going until the end of 1943. The equipment was sold to the *Alamosa News* and the subscription list went to the *Ordway New Era*.

Sources: *Ordway New Era* August, 3/1993

"*History of Crowley County*", Crowley County Heritage Society 1980.

Special thanks to Dan Hyatt.

CHAPTER XVI

CUSTER COUNTY

Good hunting for game brought the first inhabitants to the Wet Mountain Valley. The Utes also liked the "pleasant climate," according to historian William Vickers. Lieutenant Zebulon Pike and his handful of soldiers were the first American citizens to cross the Wet Mountain Valley, in 1806. Not for another two decades would palefaced hunters and trappers discovered its bounty, and it would be another four decades before the first permanent settlement.

A German colony from Chicago led by Civil War veteran Gen. Carl Wulsten arrived in March 1870. The *Chicago Tribune*, February 9, 1870, described the colonists preparing to embark:

They were a splendid looking set of people...[including] muscular athletic young fellows with rifles strapped to their backs, [and] 20 fair haired, clear skinned German girls, all young, good looking, and seemingly capable of taking good care of themselves and making excellent wives for those same gallant rifle bearers....

The new town was named after Vice President Schuyler Colfax who had expedited government assistance and transportation to the Wet Mountain Valley. The group arrived at their destination, fifteen miles west of today's Westcliffe, on March 17, 1870. Wulsten wrote of the venture in the 1879 county history:

In 1869 [Wulsten], propelled by a desire to ameliorate the physical condition of the poorer class of Germans, who were condemned by a cruel fate to work in greasy, ill-ventilated and nerve-destroyed factories of the great city of Chicago, formed a band of

about a hundred into a colony, took them and their families out of the nauseous back alleys and cellars of the over-crowded Garden City and brought them to "El Mojada." But short-sighted is man, and his ways do "gang aft alee." This was in the spring of 1870. The organization of this colony stood until fall, when it collapsed, every pater familias from thence shifting for himself....

The colonists were industrious farmers and Colfax Colony might have succeeded if a promised amendment to the Homestead Act had passed (allowing groups as well as individuals to file). When it didn't, the Colonization Company folded. Failure can also be attributed to an early frost ruining crops, mismanagement of funds, and the drastic switch from Chicago sweat shops to Custer County farming. The colonists went their own ways, many of them staying in the county and becoming successful and respected citizens.

At that time, Custer County was the southern part of Fremont County, from which it was separated on March 9, 1877 by the state legislature. It was named after General George A. Custer who had died at the Little Big Horn in June 1876.

Querida

An accidental discovery of an incredibly lucrative mine in 1877 was the beginning of Bassickville, named for the man who discovered the mine, which also bore his name. When Edmund C. Bassick sold the mine, the name of the town which had grown up around it was changed to Querida, Spanish for "beloved." Extensive and contentious litigation drove the mine out of business. By 1895 only a dozen families remained. There were a couple of periods of activity in the late 1890s and early 1900s, but for all practical purposes, the town was dying. Oddly, the one newspaper came after the

town's best years. The **Custer Guidon** was published from 1902-1905 during a new flutter of activity.

Rosita

Rosita was the first of the Custer County towns to be built around the mines. The town had no mining laws, so claim jumpers and an unwelcome element ruled until wiped out by a Vigilance Committee. The Vigilance Committee once distributed printed invitations to a hanging. One person they didn't catch was the town banker, a reputed con-artist, who took off one day with all the money in the bank.

The center of the Hardscrabble mining district, Rosita became the county seat in 1873, when the 100 or so citizens of Ula (settled shortly after Colfax as a mining camp, and the first county seat) moved en masse to the larger town of Rosita. Rosita seemed to be a hard-luck town, with brazen bankers, claim jumpers, and gun fighters. The business district burned down in 1881 because water was seven miles away, as was the railroad. Then it lost the county seat, but the post office was active until 1966. Rosita had two newspapers:

Rosita Index, September 1875-1887, Charles Baker, founder. Baker had been with the *Colorado Springs Mountaineer*. Ben Lane Posey of Mobile, Alabama, was the editor, but left in 1876 to practice law in Denver. The only known surviving copy of the *Index* is June 29, 1876.

W.L. Stevens, who had followed the railroad from La Veta and Garland to Alamosa, owning papers along the way, bought an interest in the *Index* in September 1878, and, in November established the *Silver Cliff Miner* (see below). Charles F. Johnson bought the *Index* in the spring of 1879 and changed the name to

Sierra Journal 1880-December 31, 1885. Johnson's brother, Samuel N., was a co-owner and publisher. When Charles Johnson bought the paper, it had a circulation of 200. He increased that within a year to 2,000 in 1881, making it the second-largest paper in southern Colorado according to the Baskin history. On January 7, 1886, the paper's name was changed back to:

Rosita Index January 7, 1886-March 18, 1887. Frank Earle, publisher.

Silver Nugget 1886-1887, W.E. Remington, founder.

Wallace Rex, in his compilation of Colorado newspapers, lists:

Custer County Currant 1888-1889, Will S. Shafer, editor. Oehlerts lists the paper under Silver Cliff.

Silver Cliff

Several mines were opened in 1878 and Silver Cliff, named for the black-stained cliffs full of the rich silver that made the town, grew rapidly of necessity. Prospectors swarmed in by 1880 it was the third-largest city in Colorado with 5,040 residents, behind only Denver and Leadville. Silver Cliff, said the *Denver Tribune*, was full of "frequent public drunkenness, public disturbances, murder and unchecked ruffianism."

The town hired four policemen and vowed to remove the lawless element. The town started a decline exacerbated by the silver panic of 1893 when many prospectors and mines failed.

Silver Cliff was chosen county seat in 1886 over the protest of Rosita, which was county seat at the time. When the county seat was moved to Silver Cliff, Rosita residents bitterly and futilely took up arms. Silver Cliff lost the county seat status to Westcliffe in 1928 without violence. Not content with the county seat, one committed editor warned Denver that the Governor would open the legislature in Silver Cliff in 1882, adding:

Silver Cliff is a bustling, energetic, progressive little municipality. If its past is a criterion of its future it is destined to take a permanent rank among the magic cities of the Centennial state, among whom it's even now making itself felt, and pushing its claim to recognition to the front.

Two of the thirteen newspapers in Silver Cliff were published within a year of settlement, and seven more debuted by the end of 1881. Like the *Prospector*, they tried to be good salesmen.

Silver Cliff Miner November 28, 1878-1881, a daily and weekly; W.L. Stevens, founder. Born in Ohio in 1845, Stevens joined the Union army when war broke out and "fought bravely" for three years. Coming to Colorado on a pleasure trip in 1875, Stevens decided to stay. He bought an interest in the *Colorado Independent*, which was wending its way along the Denver & Rio Grande tracks from Walsenburg to Alamosa. Three years later he moved to Silver Cliff, bought an interest in the *Rosita Index*, and established the

Silver Cliff Miner. Lacking journalistic experience, Stevens then did a wise thing: he married Flora Bishop, a *Rocky Mountain News* art and society editor, and the third honorary member of the Colorado Press Association. As Stevens rather indelicately put it, "It was cheaper to marry an editor than to hire one." The *Miner* published its last issue in 1881.

Silver Cliff Prospector May 5, 1879-1880, W.H.F. Wonderly and W.L. Stevens, founders (an interesting twist since, if accurate, since Stevens already had a competing newspaper). After five weeks as a weekly, the *Prospector* switched to daily on June 5. The *Prospector* didn't shy away from sensationalism or purple prose; describing a suicide, it said the deceased "Snaps the Subtle Thread with the Six-Shooter." The paper was also said to be liberal Democratic in politics and the columns well filled with local, business, social and mining items. Alexander Lacy and W.S. Montgomery bought the paper and changed the name to:

Daily Prospector February 11, 1880-1881. A companion:

Weekly Prospector was issued May 1880-1881. Montgomery was editor in 1881 with W.B. McKinney as city editor and J.L. Lytle business manager. "A committee of citizens" purchased the *Prospect* August 9, 1881, and installed J.H. McDevitt as editor. At least for a season, the politics were to be Republican. If the political switch was made to attract or reflect the community, it didn't help. The *Prospect* did not survive the year.

Silver Cliff Mining Gazette November 13, 1880-1881, C.E. Hunter & Col. H.W. Comstock, founders. The *Mining Gazette* had a considerable advantage in Colonel Henry

W. Comstock, one of the most respected mining writers in the United States. Within eight months after the *Mining Gazette* came off the press, it was reportedly one of the leading mining journals in the entire country, with a solid reputation for "reliable and trustworthy mining news"; Comstock and his paper were untainted by any "connection or complicity with stock jobbing schemes," according to the Baskin history.

Silver Cliff Republican April 1, 1880-1882, Custer County Publishing Company, Dr. G.W.B. Lewis, manager. It was an evening daily, joined by a weekly edition on April 2. In January 1881, the Company hired Alexander Lacy, who had returned to Silver Cliff, as manager. Lacy left after a disagreement with the company, and claimed to have been "cheated out of his stock," according to his grandson, Jack Lacy. Undaunted, Lacy started the:

Silver Cliff Call 1881-1882, A.H. Lacy, founder. It was a financial failure. Lacy became foreman of the *Democrat*.

Silver Cliff Sunday Democrat 1881-1882. The Lacy family believes Alexander Lacy bought the *Democrat* while he was mechanical department foreman of the paper, "taking it with an indebtedness of \$1,500," and changed the name to:

Wet Mountain Tribune 1883-1886, Alexander Lacy, founder. The Rowell directory lists the name in 1883 as the *Wet Mountain Tribune & Democrat*. It was moved to Westcliffe in 1886.

Daily Herald December 1881-December 1882 with a companion: **Weekly**

Herald December 1881-December 9, 1882. Will Ferril, Charles.W. Bony and S.B. Coates, founders. Ferril did much better when he bought the Denver *Rocky Mountain Herald* in 1912.

Silver Cliff Rustler 1885-December 1908. William J. Orange was publisher from 1887 to November 30, 1898 when he sold the *Rustler* to Phillip Doyle. The *Silverton Miner* mentions a Frank Tuttle with the *Rustler* in 1890, and the Rowell directory lists Doyle and Wolf in 1900. Doyle bought the Westcliffe *Wet Mountain Tribune* after Alexander Lacy's death in 1908 and merged the two papers, using the *Tribune* name. It was based in Westcliffe.

Custer County Courant 1888-1889, Will S. Shafer, editor.

Silver Cliff Herald 1882; listed in the Ayer 1882 directory.

Silver Cliff Republican #2 1890-1891. Wallace Rex gives Alexander Lacy as the publisher.

Westcliffe

Dr. William A. Bell came to the Wet Mountain Valley with General William Palmer in 1870, searching for a southern railroad route. Bell, the son of a wealthy London Society physician invested in the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, was so entranced by the beauty of the area that he bought a large tract of land. The town was called Clifton until Dr. Bell rechristened it for his birthplace in England. Westcliffe was

the last of the major towns to be settled in Custer County. It owed its existence to the Denver & Rio Grande, for which it was a terminus. Bypassing Silver Cliff, the railroad station was built on Bell's land. The first passenger train arrived in Westcliffe May 11, 1881, but the town was not established until 1885. As the other towns in the county faded, Westcliffe became a trading center, resort area, and county seat in 1928. The town's first newspaper is said to be:

Wet Mountain Review 1881-1886, according to Oehlerts.

Wet Mountain Tribune 1886 to present, Alexander Lacy and George West, co-publishers. The paper was founded in Silver Cliff and moved to Westcliffe in 1886 by Lacy. George West was co-publisher 1900-1903. Alexander Lacy's son, John Brooks Lacy, worked with his father before 1910.

In 1895 it was reported that:

Alex Lacy, of the Wet Mountain Tribune, has been arrested on a charge of criminal libel preferred by George Phillips, a defeated candidate for county commissioner, and a damage suit for \$10,000 instituted. Even wealth has its drawbacks, if it had been an ordinary journal that libeled the gentleman, there would have been no damage suit and the editor would have hid out in the sage brush until the affair blew over.

Phillip Doyle, owner of the *Silver Creek Rustler*, bought the *Tribune* shortly after Alexander Lacy's death in 1908 and merged the two papers under the name *Wet Mountain Tribune*. Doyle sold the *Tribune* in 1935. Myron R. Alexander, a native Coloradan, bought the *Tribune* from Doyle, and owned it from 1935 until January, 1943. Alexander got his start on the *Dove Creek Empire* and *Hot Sulphur Springs Middle Park*

Times, both owned by his father, Morton Alexander. Ray W. DeWall was the next owner, 1943-November 1956, followed by Joe and Pauline Payton, November 2, 1956-February 1, 1973. Robert and Nelda Cruzen, owners of the *Florence Citizen*, bought the *Wet Mountain Tribune* from the Paytons in 1973, and published it until June 1981. They sold the *Tribune* to Jim Little, who had been managing editor of it since 1975.

Little, a fifth-generation Coloradan, was born into a newspaper family. His father was W.T. "Doc" Little, a well-known newspaperman in southern Colorado. Jim Little expanded his newspaper holdings in late fall 1986 by buying the Colorado City *Greenhorn Valley News*. He later sold the *News*. The *Tribune* "finally junked its ancient Compugraphic typesetting system, and has a new state-of-the-art typesetting & pagination system installed. The famous author, editor and Denver Post columnist Ed Quillen of Salida helped design and install the system," Little wrote to *Colorado Editor* in August 1993. "Despite initial worries, even I, who still have fond dreams of old Linotypes, am adjusting to this new computer stuff quite well, thank you."

There was another paper, according to *Colorado Press*:

Custer County Advocate February 1917 -? Said *Colorado Press*:

The Custer County Advocate has been recently established at Westcliffe by Col. D.A. Burgess, former mining editor of the Pueblo Star-Journal. The first few issues are bright and lively and are filled with a great deal of news concerning the Wet Mountain Valley. The size is three columns (16 ems), six pages.

Sources: *Wet Mountain Tribune*, January 16, 1986

"Fremont & Custer Counties..." 1879, Binckley & Hartwell, Canon City, publishers

Special thanks to the Lacy family: Jack, Eleanor, and Jeanne Brady, a great granddaughter of Alexander Lacy.

CHAPTER XVII

DELTA COUNTY

At times a venturesome trapper or prospector had entered this, the "Garden Spot" of Colorado, but was not permitted to remain, as the Ute Indian had possession of the lands, and forbidden intrusion.

But enough had been seen by those who had been so fortunate as to enter, to convince them that it had vast resources and were not slow in communicating it to friends.

These little ripples of communications became waves of such magnitude and pressure that the government in 1881 caused the removal of the Indians to a reservation....The pioneers who had been waiting to enter this forbidden territory became a little too eager, and some of them entered before the allotted time [and] were arrested by government authority, taken to the post and there held.

On the 3rd day of September 1881 the reservation was thrown open for settlement, claims were rapidly taken by the hardy pioneers who had waited patiently for this opportunity. These men were hardy, progressive and enterprising....

Delta County Laborer, 1891

Don Juan Maria de Rivera, believed to be the first white man to cross the county, carved a cross, his name and the date on a cottonwood in 1765, near what is now the city of Delta. Father Escalante saw the cross when he surveyed the area in 1776. Antoine Robidoux opened his Fort Uncompahgre fur trading post--sometimes called Fort Robidoux or Fort Uinta--about 1826. The Utes burned it to the ground in 1846. By then the fur trade had faded and, the irrigated gardens that had been started around the Fort did too. A re-creation of the fort is a popular attraction in Delta today. Captain John Gunnison crossed the area on his 1853 survey and his rendezvous with death.

After the Meeker Massacre, an 1880 treaty demanded the Utes turn over to the U.S. any Indian who was implicated in the massacre. Many Utes were moved to reservations in Utah. They were given specific land allotments, along with supplies and money. More pressure was put on them and they ran out of options. One September Sunday in 1881, 1,458 Indian men, women and children slowly and sadly headed to their new lands. Before the Indian fires were cold, the American settlers moved in.

George A. Crawford, the founder of Grand Junction, purchased "squatters rights" at the confluence of the Uncompahgre and Gunnison Rivers and then organized the Uncompahgre Town Company, which selected a site for the town of Delta in October 1881. Samuel Wade surveyed it late in December 1881, and in January 1882 the not-quite-yet-a-town was awarded a post office. Three officials of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad associated with Crawford realized the importance of Delta's location. The D&RG itself arrived soon after. Within two years, the county of Delta had been broken off from the western part of Gunnison County, and the town of Delta was named county seat in 1883. The county name came from the town, which was named for its location on the delta of the two rivers.

The *Delta County Laborer* almost ran out of superlatives when it printed a booklet championing Delta County's virtues in 1891:

Nearly 10 years have elapsed, and the rapid strides the county has made must fill the hearts of those early pioneers with pride and joy as they look over the 1,200 square miles that Delta County contains and see it teeming with excellent farms, highly cultivated and covered luxuriantly with wheat, alfalfa, fruits, etc., as well as to see the entire face of the land dotted here and there with fine residences, schools, churches,

excellent highways, bridges, in fact all the needed improvements that go to build up and make a county great....

Notice the healthy, vigorous people, the enterprise and prosperity, consider the healthfulness of the climate, the nature and character of its soil which is rich and productive--and it will be no surprise that within the limits of Delta County there are now 5,000 energetic, enterprising, cultured and refined people as can be found in any section of the country.

Austin

Austin, established 1900, was named for a rancher and land-owner who gave the Denver & Rio Grande land for its right-of-way and town site. The post office was established in 1905.

Austin Journal. 1910-1914. The *Paonia Progressive* announced on November 22, 1910 that "The *Austin Journal* was a new Delta County Newspaper. George C. Redder was editor." According to Oehlerts, the founder was George O. Blake, who had been with De Beque and Gunnison newspapers. Blake changed the name to:

West Slope 1914-1916. The *West Slope* moved to Cedaredge and changed its name to *Western Slope* (see below).

Cedaredge

Sometime in the late 1870s, homesteader Henry Kohler moved onto Indian land on the south side of the Grand Mesa and built a crude cabin on the banks of Surface Creek with a heavy belt of cedar trees. He departed when the Utes sternly challenged his plans. The day after the Indians left, Kohler was back as ranch manager for a

company staking out a spread at the edge of the cedars. The town was established in 1882 on land that once belonged to Kohler and was incorporated in 1907.

Western Slope 1916-November 23, 1917, George O. Blake. After bringing his *West Slope* from Austin, Blake changed the "West" to "Western." The paper consolidated with the *Champion*, which purchased the *Western Slope's* plant and subscription list. Blake also owned the *Crawford Chronicle*.

Surface Creek Champion July 16, 1904-1943, C.T. Rawalt, founder (see *Paonia Newspaper*). Rawalt brought along a young employee, C.W. Brewer, to assist in establishing the *Champion*. Brewer moved to Cedaredge to make his home, and on January 2, In 1905 Brewer purchased the *Surface Creek Champion* and was publisher for almost 40 years.

Rawalt and Brewer had only minimal start-up equipment: a Washington hand press, a small job press, a few boxes of type to set by hand, and a tent to print it in. Most of the equipment was left over from other Rawalt papers, but within a few weeks the printing plant was moved into a new building and the shop was ready for business. In 1917 Brewer bought and merged in the *Western Slope*. He sold the paper to Leo R. Brewington, owner of the *Delta County Independent*, in July 1943. Brewington merged out the *Champion*.

Tatler 1945-1948, founded by the Cedaredge schools. Newspaper historian Walter Stewart suggests that the Cedaredge Lions Club may have taken it over from the

schools. George E. Jones bought *Tatler* rights May 8, 1948, along with the equipment of the *Crawford Chronicle*, and changed the name to:

Surface Creek News May 8, 1948-1956. Jones was publisher until July 1953, when he sold the paper to Carl Nossaman, who had been working for the paper. Jones stayed on as foreman of the mechanical department. He bought the paper back in the fall of 1954, discontinuing it two years later.

Cedaredge Sentry 1968-1974, Thomas and Mary Lou Huerkamp, founders. The Huerkamps sold the paper in 1972 to Damon Hubbard, who sold it to Oscar Gramlick in July 1973. Gramlick discontinued it a year later for lack of sufficient revenues.

Crawford

Crawford is unique and ranks among the most individualistic villages of Colorado. It is one of those few remaining cow-towns which today are seldom seen outside of Hollywood studies. Genuine cow-punchers lounge around its boardwalks. Excited herds of cattle en route to their winter ranches, spring ranges, and the fall markets stampede through its steep, cow-tracked main street. Drowsy cow-ponies stand tied to old western hitching rails, and horsemen are as commonly seen on its streets as automobiles.

Wilson Rockwell, *New Frontier/Saga of the North Fork* (1945).

Crawford, established in 1882, was named for George A. Crawford, a frontier capitalist, land speculator and former governor of Kansas. Capt. Crawford started several towns on the western slope in the 1880s. Crawford gained a rustic post office, located in a tent, in 1893. Plentiful game in the area provided not only food for the townspeople but also surplus to sell to mining camps and railroad crews. Crawford had only one newspaper:

Crawford Chronicle 1907-1969, William A. Hopkins, founder. George Blake of Cedaredge bought the paper in 1913 and was publisher until 1916, followed by Will J. Wood 1917-1923. Wood was appointed postmaster and "found it impossible to give sufficient attention to editorial work," so he sold the paper to J. Milam, "an experienced country newspaperman" from Arkansas, in May 1923.

T.J. Holmes bought the newspaper toward the end of 1924, but died of cancer the following year. Lee J. Little was the next owner, 1925-1929. Donald J. McCarthy purchased the paper in February 1929, according to *Colorado Editor*. The 1935 Ayer newspaper directory lists the publisher as the Chronicle Publishing Co., Charles Hillman, editor. Hillman was elected mayor of Crawford in 1931. A.R. Knight, "a seasoned newspaperman" with 28 years of experience in North Dakota and Colorado, acquired the *Chronicle* in December 1934, and published it until 1948.

Mrs. Jack Little was listed as editor of the *Chronicle* in the press association membership roster of October 1948. Her husband Fred was publisher of the *Hotchkiss Herald*. The *Hotchkiss Herald* evidently bought the *Crawford Chronicle*. Both papers were published at the Hotchkiss plant, but remained separate publications. In 1952 H.G. Tyson was listed as publisher of both. Gene Wells bought the Crawford and Hotchkiss papers in April 1969 and merged them into the *Hotchkiss North Fork Herald-Chronicle*. (see below).

Delta

The city of Delta, originally called Uncompahgre, was platted in December 1881. By spring, the Denver & Rio Grande had steamed in, and the first log and adobe structures were being replaced by standard houses. The town was incorporated in 1882 and became the trade center for the county. In 1883 there were 250 permanent residents. Mail initially came by horseback every Friday, but service was increased to twice a week by using a spring wagon and a railroad tent for a post office. The advent of the train brought daily mail service.

Two excellent papers are published [in Delta]. Capable journalists are at their head, who are broad and liberal and fearless in their actions.

Delta County Laborer 1899

Delta Chief March 7, 1883-December 1885, Robert D. Blair, founder. Blair, "gruff, but with a friendly and understanding heart," sold the paper in 1885, but returned to re-purchase it in 1907 when it was known as the *Independent*. In the interim he was foreman of the *Leadville Herald-Democrat*. To start the paper, Blair brought in presses and equipment by pack mules and published the first issue in a tent.

Frank E. Howard became co-owner with Blair in September 1885. The *Chief* discontinued publication in December 1885, but within a short time the *Independent* was born, carrying on the volume numbers of the *Chief*. Blair was gone, but Howard evidently stayed on for a few months.

Delta County Advertiser October 13, 1885-1886, Charles W. Russell, founder.

The *Chief* and the *Advertiser* were absorbed by the Delta Publishing Company and named:

Delta Independent 1886-March 10, 1929. The *Chief* discontinued publication in December 1885, "and soon thereafter the *Delta Independent* succeeded, carrying on the volume and serial numbers of the Old Chief." Charles G. Downing was the first editor and business manager of the *Independent* for the Delta Publishing Company. Harry Wilson and J.H. Woodgate purchased the paper November 22, 1887. Wilson later worked for the *Silverton Standard* and other San Juan region papers. Blair returned as editor/publisher 1891-1893, followed by Frederic Drake 1894-1895.

Drake chided the town for the unfriendly reception given new settlers and urged the townspeople to "bid them welcome." He listed several newcomers who had contributed to the town's future, including one who "paid his bills, asked no one to cash checks, and so far as we could see, conducted himself in a gentlemanly manner." Drake sold the *Independent* in 1895.

Howard Russell, formerly of newspapers in St. Elmo and Salida, was publisher 1896-1898. He moved on to the *Fort Collins Express* and the Colorado Press Association presidency in 1900. Blair returned in March 1898 and owned the *Independent* until 1904, although he leased the paper to C.H. Martin in April 1901. Martin lasted until January 1902. Blair leased it again in April 1903 to W.A. Cloud, and in December 1904 he sold the paper to Cloud and Mabel B. Smith. Luther Rood bought the paper in January

1906. He sold the paper in August of the same year to Findley Duffield, who had an exciting story to tell in February 1907:

BIG ELK TAKEN ALIVE

Particulars of the capture between Paonia and Hotchkiss of a large eight-prong bull elk, weighing 750 lbs. was sent to the Independent by J.C. Roberts of Eckert [who was on the scene when the first news of the elk was reported.] There was a general hurrah boys, everybody get ready for the fray, and within a few moments every horse in both towns was engaged and a plan of campaign outlined for the capture of his Elkship...This proud monarch of the forest [soon] found himself within a high enclosure completely surrounded by a joyful crowd of men on horseback. His Elkship must have viewed the situation with some misgiving as to his future safety, but although he was destined to captivity there was no plot against his life, as the law forbids and is gladly respected....[The elk] was hog-tied, tenderly placed in a wagon and driven to the home of Mr. Andy Hice [who] has a cow elk [and is] now prepared to branch out into the elk business and make Delta county the home of a fine herd.

Alvin Anderson, formerly at Alma and Guffy, bought the *Independent* in September 1907 and was editor/publisher until his death in July 1917. His son, William Anderson, sold it in September 1917 to Frank B. Stearns, who was editor/publisher until December 31, 1928. H.D. Garritson and Herbert Hillman bought the *Independent* from Stearns. The *Independent* was sold in May 1929 to Charles E. Adams of Montrose, who installed Emson Wood as manager and editor. Adams started issuing the paper on a daily basis:

Delta Daily Independent May 17, 1929-February 3, 1940. Ayshford Tyler became editor of the *Independent* in April 1930. Tyler came to Delta with his bride, both of them students of the University of Colorado's Department of Journalism, Class of 1929. In the fall of 1935, Norris Ryder, who had been editor of the *Delta Tribune*, and

was a former Chamber of Commerce president, was hired as business manager of the *Independent*, and became editor and business manager as well in August 1937.

C.W. Hamilton, a successful Kansas publisher and former private secretary to a Kansas congressman, purchased both the *Independent* and *Tribune* on March 18, 1938, bringing together two pioneer papers. The *Tribune* was absorbed into the *Independent*. Hamilton's son, Cloyce M. Hamilton, was named editor/manager. The *Independent* was sold February 18, 1939 to L. (Larry) L. Thompson, former publisher of the *Chula Vista (Calif.) Star*. Said *Colorado Editor*: Under Thompson the *Independent* went back to weekly publication, merged in the weekly *Tribune* and the name was changed to:

Delta County Independent (DCI) February 3, 1940 to present. Thompson, who had worked on papers in Montana and California, "brings to these two newspapers, a record of long and distinctive service in the field of journalism from both a publisher's experience and that of development in the mechanical field," said *Colorado Editor*. Leo R. Brewington, formerly owner of the *Jefferson County Republican*, bought the *Independent* in July 1941 and sold it in September 1945 to G. F. (Bob) and Grace Roberts and Doris Ebersole.

In November 1948 James A. Cinnamon and H.R. (Red) Holliday bought the paper, and the following fall they issued it semi-weekly on Wednesday and Sundays. Holliday began his newspaper career on a high note: he was selling newspapers on a Manhattan, Kansas, street on Armistice Day 1918, a very good day for newspaper sales. Holliday sold his interest to Cinnamon in 1954.

During Cinnamon's tenure the *Independent* building burned down, forcing the paper to rebuild and completely re-equip the mechanical plant. Cinnamon remembered how "the neighboring newspaper publishers were so eager to help out that it was almost embarrassing." The newspaper went to Wednesday and Sunday publication in 1949, and to a triweekly in 1956.

In August 1957 Cinnamon bought and merged in the *Delta Free Press*. Clifford H. Edwards was editor from about 1958 to August 1961. Max and Helen Hardy bought the *Independent* in June 1961. Although Cinnamon retired in 1962, he remained as head of the printing department and a Linotype operator. In 1972 both Cinnamon and Holliday were presented with the Colorado Press Association Golden Make-Up Rule for 50 years with newspapers.

The Hardys sold the *Independent* in December 1962 to Gene Wells. Gene Wells, CPA president in 1971, was a Nebraskan, born in 1933, who earned a master's in journalism from UCLA. He served as an information specialist with the U.S. Army, was news editor of four suburban Minneapolis weeklies and advertising co-manager for an Iowa paper before buying the *Independent* in 1962.

Wells sold the *Independent* to the Gunnison Valley Publishing Co. (*Grand Junction Sentinel*) in August 1971. Virginia-based Cox Newspapers purchased the Gunnison Valley Publishing Co. newspapers in May 1979-1982. David Millon, formerly of the *Aurora Advocate*, was publisher from April 1982 until Norman and Gladys Sunderland, owners of the *Paonia North Fork Times* and *Limon Leader*, bought the *Delta*

County Independent in November 1987. On the *Independent's* 100th birthday in 1983 the Colorado General Assembly paid tribute to the paper with a resolution. The *Paonia North Fork Times* was incorporated into the *DCI* as a regular section in 1989.

Delta County Laborer 1890-January 24, 1908, C.M. Snider and a Mr. Hinkle, founders. Snider was publisher, and R.J. Coffey, editor. Austin A. Cassil bought the paper in 1894, but Snider repossessed it in 1896. W.A. Cloud, later with the *Independent*, bought the paper in July 1902, but in August H.D. Hopkins was owner. Hopkins later founded the Nucla paper. In 1905 E.E. (Elbert) Watts bought the *Laborer* and in January 1908 the name was changed to

Delta County Tribune & Delta County Laborer January 31, 1908-June 10, 1910 when it was shortened to:

Delta Tribune 1910-1939. John Uglow bought an interest in the *Tribune* in 1908 from Watts. Uglow, who published the *Lake City Phonograph* before Delta, and the *Olathe Criterion* afterward, sold his interest to R.A. McNally in 1912. Watts was sole owner early in 1914, and his son, M. Emory Watts, began working on the *Tribune* with his father in 1917. Elbert E. Watts died in 1921. His son continued as publisher until February 1, 1929 when he sold the *Tribune* to Lee F. Johnson.

Johnson, who graduated from the University of Colorado's Department of Journalism, was a CU instructor, *Colorado Alumnus* editor, *Boulder Daily Camera* reporter, and advertising manager for *Colorado Municipalities*. The *Tribune* was his first experience as owner of a paper. Johnson immediately started a campaign for Delta to

move to a city manager form of government. Impressed, *Colorado Editor* called him "one of the most progressive editors of this state" and said "his crusade will mean much to that city." Johnson was appointed secretary to U.S. Senator Edward Costigan in 1931, leaving the *Tribune* in the capable hands of Robert Baughman, a Kansan, "recently of the *Lamar Sparks*."

Colorado Editor states in 1931, and again in 1937, that the paper was sold to Robert Baughman when Johnson left for Washington. The Ayer directory lists Baughman as editor/publisher in 1935. Walter Stewart, however, says Johnson owned the paper until 1937, when he sold the *Tribune* to Robert's father, John W. Baughman.

John W. Baughman, who bought the *Tribune* early in 1937, sold it in August 30 of the same year to brothers Ben H. and J.R. Lyle. Ben Lyle also owned the *Hotchkiss Herald*. The Lyles, in turn, sold to the *Tribune* to C.M. Hamilton of the *Delta Independent* in March 1938. Hamilton, although owning both papers, apparently continued the *Tribune* as a separate paper for a short time and named Norris Ryder as editor. According to *Colorado Editor*, Ryder was recommended by:

[A]n editorial board named by Chairman George S. Roller of the Delta County Democratic central committee, at the suggestion of Mr. Hamilton, who has agreed to allow the new board complete control of the editorial policy of the Tribune.

The *Tribune* and *Independent* consolidation into one paper—The *Independent*--occurred a few months later.

Delta Fruit Grower 1894-1895.

Delta County Progress 1901-1903.

Delta Organizer 1906-1908, W.M. Ash, editor.

Delta County Democrat 1908-1910, Andrew Larson, publisher.

Davis' Auction Bulletin October 1, 1921-April 1, 1922, Col. W.A. Davis, founder.

Boomerang September 2-November 15, 1930, Frank and Olive M. Stearn, founders. It was a semi-monthly, four-column, 10x14 inch, free-distribution paper. The name was changed to:

Free Press November 12, 1930-1956. It became a weekly in 1935 and, in 1943, a five-column tabloid. George Jones bought the paper in June 1956, and changed the name to:

Delta Press 1956-August 29, 1957. Jones sold the Press to the *Independent* August 29, 1957.

Hotchkiss

Enos Hotchkiss and Samuel Wade came from Lake City to the North Fork of the Gunnison River in August of 1881. They liked what they saw and were back in September with the beginnings of fine fruit orchards. A town was established in June 1882, more fruit trees planted, irrigation ditches constructed, and a post office located temporarily within the boundaries of the land belonging to Enos Hotchkiss, for whom the town was named.

The town of Hotchkiss, once the largest in the county, was the first commercial center of the area, boasting a significant business establishment in the early days. The fruit trees in the North Fork flourished, and by 1893 the fruit was taking blue ribbons and gold medals at world fairs and vying with cattle as the leading industry. One horticulturist told the *North Fork Times*:

I can only express myself with wonder at the North Fork country. I have never seen anything like it in my life, and believe that it will become the wonderland of the fruit industry. As much as I have traveled, and as familiar as I am with horticultural sections of our country and results attained by them in quantity and quality, no section that I am acquainted with can make such a showing.

In the early days, sales were hampered by transportation difficulties. In 1902 the first train pulled into Hotchkiss and Paonia. The orchards spawned a companion lumber industry that made fruit crates for shipping.

North Fork Times May 21, 1897-1926, Randolph (Wilson Rockwell says "Rudolph") Lossius and Charles E. Woods, founders. Clinton H. Martin bought the paper about 1902; he was later founder of several other papers on the western slope, including the *Pagosa Tribune*. Thomas L. Blackwell bought the paper in 1904 and spent 22 years boasting and baring Hotchkiss.

There is some confusion about the *Times* ownership in this period. The Rowell directory lists Luther N. Rood as publisher in 1906; Rood owned the *Delta County Independent* from January to August 1906. The Colorado Historical Society Newspaper Project lists Rood & Zimmerman for roughly the same date. According to the *Independent*, Messrs. Hoods and Zimmerman owned Fruitland Realty. Many realty

companies did work very closely with newspapers for mutual benefit. References to Blackwell, however, indicated he was with the paper from 1904.

Blackwell sold the *North Fork Times* in April 1926 to A.L. Perry, who merged it with his *Hotchkiss Herald*. An old friend, Charles E. Adams paid tribute in his *Montrose Press*:

It pulls at the heartstrings to part with Tom Blackwell....

Tom has fought valiantly the battles of the country newspaper man--has fought them steadily, bravely, unflinchingly, always with an eye single to the good of his community and the uplift of citizenship.

...A million dollars would not pay him for the toil and sacrifice and advertising he has given to build up the North Fork valley....

Hotchkiss Herald September 1, 1905-1978 (except wartime 1943-1945), Arthur L. Perry, founder. Perry, one of Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders in the Philippine expedition, had been foreman of the *Paonia Newspaper* before founding the *Herald*. He was a member of the Colorado Press Association executive committee from 1922-1926. Perry sold the paper to James A. Monahan in 1929, although *Colorado Editor* reported that D.J. McCarthy bought the *Herald* in June 1929. McCarthy evidently defaulted in March 1930, leaving Perry back in charge. Perry, according to *Colorado Editor*, then sold the *Herald* to James A. Monahan, who owned it until 1932, when Perry repurchased it. C.W. (Fat) Perry took charge of the paper in 1933.

In frail health since his days as a Rough Rider, Perry died in Tucson at the age of 59. His estate managed the paper after his death, with his widow as publisher and Ben H. Lyle as editor. Lyle was listed as publisher--perhaps leasing the paper--from 1937 to

1942. Arthur Craig became editor in 1942, and later that year, or early in 1943, Mrs. Perry suspended the paper.

Don Keenan revived the *Herald* November 23, 1945, using the paper's old equipment. Jack Little and Enoch Crumpton, a Methodist minister, bought the *Hotchkiss Herald* and *Crawford Chronicle* in 1946. They published them in Hotchkiss but as two separate papers. Rev. Crumpton was editor for about a year, while Little was manager. Wesley DeMoss was publisher in 1948, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rose from May 1949 to August 1950. H.G. "Monk" and Parma Tyson bought the paper in September 1950.

Monk Tyson was an uncommon character, treasured by other newspaper men with a motley sense of humor. Born in Louisiana and reared in Texas and Pagosa, Tyson arrived in Hotchkiss in 1950. He and his wife, Parma, became the new owners of the *Crawford Chronicle* and *Hotchkiss Herald*. Parma later described those salad days for the *Colorado Editor*:

"Those were the happy days of the five-day week," Parma says dreamily, looking back over more recent experiences such as 16 hours a day at an unfamiliar monster called a Linotype and wee morning hours of making up pages by putting type and dinguses in frames that absurdly had no bottoms in them, but nevertheless were expected to lift....Those days also meant that on their two days off they could do some writing and photographing on their own.

Among the *Herald's* features, said *Colorado Editor*, were:

[B]iographical articles about leading citizens...the editor happens to know which side his bread is buttered on, and the title of the series is "Meet Our Advertiser."....[These were] whimsical, Thurber-like short stories with the most unbelievable incidents befalling the outlandish characters. Besides the style, those stories have one thing in common: The invariable outcome and moral is, "Everybody reads the display ads in the Hotchkiss Herald." And every week...the editor's column right there on the front page has them

standing out by the mail box waiting for the paper to come...one thing is sure--[Monk's column] won't be dull.

The Tysons sold the papers in March 1956 and moved to the Denver area. Roy and Virginia Wallace, and Roy's brother James Wallace, bought the paper in March 1956. James was editor/publisher to 1962, and Roy Wallace Jr. to 1969. Roy and Virginia bought out James in 1962 and Virginia also became publisher. The Wallaces sold in April 1969 to Gene Wells, owner of the *Delta Independent*. Wells also bought the *Crawford Chronicle*, combined it with the *Hotchkiss Herald* and renamed it:

North Fork Herald-Chronicle 1969-September 1978. Gunnison Valley Publishing (*Grand Junction Sentinel*) purchased the paper in August 1971 and installed LaVerne Carruthers as editor. She was appointed editor/publisher in 1976. John and Linda Ponce, publishers of the Paonia *Paonian*, bought the *Herald-Chronicle* in September 1978, and merged it to:

North Fork's Paonian and Herald-Chronicle (see Paonia)

Delta County Press 1902-1904, listed by Oehlerts.

(See Paonia for another *North Fork Times*.)

Paonia

In 1882 Samuel Wade planted his fruit trees up the road from the Enos Hotchkiss orchards. He also brought peonies which, through an apparent misreading of his handwriting, gave their name to Paonia. Wade was an Indian fighter, Civil War veteran

and surveyor of the Grand Junction and Delta town sites. By 1885 his fruit trees were producing abundant crops throughout the area.

Paonia was not as accessible from the outside world as Hotchkiss or Delta when it was established in 1881, so it did not grow as fast as its rivals. After the railroad reached Paonia in 1902 the town boomed.

The *Paonia Newspaper*, hired by the real estate men, printed 480,000 six-page pamphlets in red and blue ink to publicize the valley, according to Rockwell. An "optimistic write-up of the region" was part of the pamphlet, which was sent out not only by the real estate men but by the valley citizens. The enthusiastic editors of the other three weekly newspapers in Paonia did their part, too.

Paonia Gazette November 1900-1906. C.A. Frederick was publisher in 1906. Frederick's career also included papers in Tin Cup, Spencer, and the Cortez *Montezuma Journal* from 1906 to 1921.

Paonia Booster June 1904-June 1912, Charles Adams and Clinton Oliver, founders; semiweekly/weekly. Adams is better known as publisher of the *Montrose Press*. John A. Verback was listed as publisher of the *Booster* in Rowell 1906, with Oliver as editor. The *Booster* was "solidly" Republican. Verback and Oliver also established the:

Western Slope Fruit Grower 1905-1906.

E.A. Thompson bought the *Booster* early in May 1911 and changed the name to:

Paonia Progressive, a name which lasted until May 26 of the same year when it was bought and merged into the *Paonia Newspaper*.

Paonia Newspaper August 12, 1904-May 19, 1911, C.T. Rawalt, founder. Rawalt was publisher of the Cedaredge *Surface Creek Champion* at the time, and over the years owned a number of papers, including ones in Montrose, Crested Butte, Ramah, Matheson, Limon and Laramie, but he is primarily associated with Gunnison. When Rawalt died in Denver in 1945, *Colorado Editor* said he was "long conspicuous in journalism and politics in Colorado."

The six-column, four-page *Newspaper* was Democratic and "liberal in politics." LeRoy Kennedy was editor of the *Newspaper* in 1909 for the Paonia Newspaper Publishing Co. An "Illustrated Homeseekers Edition," extolling the wonderful North Fork Valley attractions, was published as a 1909 *Newspaper* special.

Arthur Craig purchased the *Newspaper* and the *Progressive* in May 1911 and merged them into:

Paonia Progressive Weekly & Newspaper May 26, 1911-June 1912, when the name was changed to:

Paonia Paonian June 1912-1990. Arthur Craig, born in Iowa in 1882, was in the fruit shipping business in Paonia when he first bought the paper. He moved to the Greeley *Weld County News* in 1923, and in 1926 was CPA president. From 1930 to 1933 Craig was a representative of the American Type Founders. He published the *Paonian*

the second time from 1938 to 1949. Craig was a bear for accuracy, and boasted that in more than thirty years he had only had two errors. Thomas O. Garritson and his son Hilliard D. Garritson bought the *Paonian* from Craig in September 1923.

One copy of the *Paonian* had a fantastic journey in 1924. It was addressed to a man in Pendleton, Indiana, but the *Paonian* addressograph left out a letter. The address came out to a man in "India a," and the post office sent it to Bombay. There was no Pendleton in India, so the letter went to the British dead letter office where "some Sherlock Holmes solved the puzzle" and the man in Indiana finally got his copy. He returned the wrapper to the *Paonian* as a souvenir.

Booster founder Clint Oliver returned to Paonia permanently in 1933 to operate some of his coal mines at Somerset. He leased the *Paonian* and ran it for a year before passing away in 1934. The previous owner, Arthur Craig, bought the paper from Oliver on April 1, 1933. Craig's second tour at the *Paonian* gave him almost 30 years of service to that newspaper alone. He died in 1954.

J.A. Chamblin, who had managed the paper since 1943, bought the *Paonian* from Craig in July 1949. He sold an interest in the paper to V. Hutchinson in 1949, and the two sold it in July 1951 to Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Symmonds. The Symmonds ran it until January 1969, when they sold to Damon Hubbard. Hubbard dealt the *Paonian* in August 1976 to the Gunnison Valley Publishing Company of Grand Junction. Many of the same GVP people who were at Delta did double duty at Paonia. Karl Hanosky was publisher from August 1976 until April 1977. LaVerne Carruthers was editor in 1976, Rick Jussel in

1977 and Pamela Bliss in 1978. William Moquin was publisher and vice president January 1975-October 1977. John and Linda Ponce bought the paper September 24, 1978, along with the *Hotchkiss Herald-Chronicle*, and the name became:

North Fork's Paonian and Herald-Chronicle, later shortened to **Paonian-Herald**, 1978-1982. The Ponces went on vacation for Christmas 1979 and missed publishing the January 3, 1980 issue. The brouhaha that followed involved the entire Colorado Press membership. Ponce had failed to publish 52 consecutive issues as required by the post office, state law and the CPA by-laws for a legal publication. The CPA membership discussed the issue at the annual meeting and voted to send a letter of reprimand to the *Paonian-Herald*, but did not revoke the paper's CPA membership. Ponce said he didn't mean to "defraud--The publishing laws are more complex than I at first realized"--and insisted he was being "singled out because of a personal beef." The *Paonian-Herald* lost out on legal publishing because of the missing issue. The *Paonia North Fork Times* won the Delta County legal advertising, and the *Delta County Independent* won the Cedaredge legals. After 41 months of publishing, the Ponces left, and the *Paonian-Herald* went "belly-up," according to *Colorado Editor* in April 1982.

Paonia was not without a newspaper. It still had the:

North Fork Times January 11, 1975-1990, Ed and Betsy Marston, founders. The Marstons, both New Yorkers, met while attending City College of New York. Their upstart paper did better than expected, though their outspoken editorials alienated some people. In two years it began expanding and took on a shorter name in 1977:

The Times, because it served both the North Fork community and Surface Creek Valley. An office was opened in Surface Creek, staffed by full-time reporter Mary Snyder. The Marstons sold the paper in 1980 to Dave and Marty Cook. Doran (Dusty) and Phyllis Rhoads of Wichita, Kansas purchased the paper in mid-March 1984. Marty Cook, a former journalism teacher, skipped over the mountains to the *Louisville Times* staff.

Dusty Rhoads was an insurance man and had invested in the paper for his journalist daughter, Paula, who backed out of a Kansas City job because she found the city "big, dirty, confusing and [she] kept getting lost." A small town was just what she wanted and she found she was "breathing better" in Paonia. Unfortunately, she developed other health problems and the Rhoadses had to sell the paper in June.

Norm Sunderland of the *Limon Leader* got a phone call late in June 1984 asking if he was interested in the *Times*. The Sunderlands kept the *North Fork Times* going until April 26, 1990, when it was announced that Paonia paper would merge with the *Delta Independent*.

The Marstons still had ideas. Two years after selling the *Times*, they were attempting to get another paper off the ground:

Western Colorado Report 1982-1983.

As reported in the April 1982 *Colorado Editor*, the *Western Colorado Report* was issued every two weeks and was mailed free to 12,000 Western Slopers. The plan was to focus on the economic foundation of the area as well as on water, agriculture, minerals,

skiing and small business issues. But an unexpected opportunity popped up, and in 1983 they moved another already established newspaper to Paonia:

High Country News, Paonia 1983 to present. The *News* was started in Lander, Wyo., in 1971 by Tom Bell who founded it to inform people concerned about the environment. When the paper faced bankruptcy, contributions from readers saved the paper. The Marstons were selected to take over the paper because "of their philosophical attunement to the issues stressed in the *News* and their business acumen," according to the September 1983 *Colorado Editor*. The paper was relocated from Lander to Paonia.

The Marstons' *Western Colorado Report* was similar in content to the *High Country News*. The new paper had two "Welcome to Colorado" parties. The one in Denver was a beer and wine reception while the Aspen one was a "chili and wine" affair. The Marstons spent a year trying to keep the 3,000-circulation paper afloat. They persisted and prevailed. Ten years later, the circulation was close to 14,000, and the regional biweekly paper has become must reading for "people who care about the West."

Special Sources: "*New Frontier, Saga of the North Fork*" by Wilson Rockwell, 1945, World Press, Inc., Denver

Delta County newspapers, various issues.

CHAPTER XVIII

DENVER COUNTY

In 1858, rumors of gold in the Rocky Mountains lured prospectors from Auraria, Georgia to the present site of Denver. Led by William Green Russell, a veteran of the Georgia and California gold rushes, these fortune seekers panned traces of gold that sparked the 1859 Colorado Gold Rush. On November 1, 1858, the party organized the town of Auraria, named for their hometown in the gold hills of Georgia. On November 16, 1858, a party led by William H. Larimer Jr. jumped a claim on the other side of Cherry Creek. On November 22, they organized the Denver City Town Company, named for John W. Denver, whom they mistakenly believed to still be governor of the Kansas Territory in which the new settlements were located. Across the South Platte, Larimer staked out another settlement, Highlands.

Newspapers soon became basic to the new community. William N. Byers, a surveyor who had contributed to the founding of Omaha, Nebraska, and written guidebooks to the Kansas Territory goldfields, established the *Rocky Mountain News* in the second floor of Uncle Dick Wootton's Auraria saloon. Byers laid additional flooring to protect his printers from stray bullets fired by rowdy drinkers below. Encouraged by booster articles from Byers and other newspapermen, thousands of gold seekers streamed into Denver in 1859; by 1860 the census registered 4,749 inhabitants. A year

later, U.S. President James Buchanan signed an Act of Congress creating the Territory of Colorado.

The 1860s saw slow growth due to the Civil War and conflict with Native American tribes. By 1864, tensions rose as natives, driven out of their traditional hunting grounds, raided wagon trains and farms for sustenance. The June 1864, Cheyenne raiders brutally killed the Hungate family, sending anxiety in nearby Denver to new heights. In August, territorial Governor John Evans put Colonel John Chivington in command of the Third Colorado Regiment. On November 29, Chivington launched a surprise attack on a peaceful Indian camp at Sand Creek, killing an estimated 163 women, children and old men. While the massacre became notorious around the United States, Denver largely approved, with the *Rocky Mountain News* claiming Chivington's soldiers had "covered themselves with glory."

With the plains cleared of Indians, Denver resumed its growth as a hub for supplies and transport to the bustling mountain mining camps. That growth was threatened, however, when the Union Pacific Railroad bypassed Denver to build its transcontinental line through Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory instead of Denver. Editor Byers of the *News* blasted UP surveyors for being intimidated by a "few hills" west of Denver. Subsequently Byers joined Evans and other civic leaders to form the Denver Pacific Railway and Telegraph Company, to create a link between Denver and the Union Pacific's line at Cheyenne. The first train arrived from Cheyenne on June 24, 1870, opening Denver to the easy shipment of goods and people. Denver became the capital

and population and commercial center of the State of Colorado, admitted to the Union in 1876. By 1880, the city's population had grown to over 35,629. By 1890, Denver had mushroomed into the second largest city in the West, second only to San Francisco with a population of 106,713. Not only people, but newspapers proliferated.

The Denver Post, ultimately the most lucrative, sensational and long lived Rocky Mountain newspaper, began publication in 1895 taking on the *Rocky Mountain News* and several other Denver dailies. A slew of newspapers reflected Colorado's mining boom, particularly in silver, which fueled Denver's rapid growth until the Silver Crash of 1893 brought Denver's first great boom to a sudden end. Unemployment soared and real estate values plummeted. Many tycoons of the boom years became paupers. Newspapers shrank and sometimes disappeared completely. New political and social movements responded to the economic depression. Populist governor Davis H. Waite attempted to purge Denver of institutionalized corruption in the short-lived 1894 "City Wall War." Nativist groups including the American Protective Association played on prejudice, scape-goating Catholics, Jews and immigrants, while progressive preachers like Myron W. Reed and Thomas Uzzell championed the cause of the jobless down and out.

As the twentieth century dawned, Denver slowly recovered and broadened its economic base, embracing agriculture, manufacturing and tourism. The city drew tuberculosis sufferers from across the country, seeking cures in the dry, cool, sunny Rocky Mountain air. As the state's commercial, manufacturing and railroad hub, Denver

became the de facto economic capital of not only of Colorado but the entire Rocky Mountain region. Reformers like *Rocky Mountain News* publisher Thomas M. Patterson championed the rights of common people and of labor unions, while corporate interests traded favors with political bosses such as Robert Speer, mayor of Denver from 1904 to 1912 and again from 1916-1918. Backed by underworld crime elements, Speer nevertheless transformed Denver with a sweeping program of improvements inspired by the “City Beautiful” movement. Building parks, viaducts, a museum, an auditorium, beautifying Cherry Creek and giving residents more than 100,000 trees to plant, Speer changed Denver’s image from a dust, drab frontier town into an aesthetically pleasing city with modern amenities. Ironically the leading newspapers, *The Denver Post* and the venerable *Rocky Mountain News* both rightly criticized Speer as corrupt. They did not deny that, one way or another, he got things done in his passion to remake Denver into a “Paris on the Platte.”

Denver, like the rest of the country, became more diverse as blacks left the South and immigrants from southern and eastern Europe arrived, searching for work and a better life. A resurgent Ku Klux Klan stoked the fears of white Protestants, and made inroads in many Colorado communities. The Klan backed Benjamin Stapleton, a veteran of Speer’s political machine, for mayor of Denver in 1923. At first denouncing the Klan in public while accepting its help privately, Stapleton was forced by a hotly contested 1924 recall election to openly proclaim his allegiance to the hooded “Invisible Empire.” He rewarded Klan support with government jobs, including the coveted office of chief of police. The KKK also successfully elected clansman Clarence Morley governor

and Rice Means to the U.S. Senate. *The Denver Post* decried Klan power until a threatening visit to its Champa Street office from Colorado's "Grand Dragon" John Galen Locke persuaded publisher Frederick Bonfils to reverse course. Klan infighting and overreach brought a decline in its influence by 1927. Stapleton adroitly maneuvered himself out of the Klan orbit, and won reelection several more times, holding office as mayor from 1923 to 1931 and again from 1935 to 1947.

The Great Depression that followed the 1929 Wall Street crash hit Denver hard. Falling prices for metals and agricultural products undermined Colorado's economy. By 1933 one of every four Coloradans was unemployed. Conservative legislators and strained city government offered little help to those affected. Self-help groups like the barter-based Unemployed Citizens League and religious institutions like Reverend M. Wahlberg's Grace Methodist church tried to fill the gap. Hungry citizens briefly occupied the state capitol building on January 3, 1934 to demand legislative action to authorize federal relief money. New Deal work programs provided work for some. The Civilian Conservation Corps built roads and trails in Denver's mountain park system, and fulfilled Denver manager of parks George Cranmer's vision of transforming Red Rocks Park into a publicly accessible marvelously acoustic amphitheatre. The Works Progress Administration employed historians, artists, actors and other professionals, who in turn entertained and enlightened Denver with research projects, murals, plays and other public works. Depression politics played out in Denver's fierce newspaper rivalry; the pro-business *Denver Post* roundly condemned New Deal relief projects, while the *Rocky Mountain News* endorsed them.

America's entry into World War II marked a decisive turning point for Colorado and for Denver. Lowry Air Force base brought construction and jobs to the city beginning with the earliest preparedness efforts in 1938. Fitzsimons Army Hospital underwent a major expansion to become the largest building in Colorado. Military training facilities as well as and equipment, arms, and munitions manufacturing facilities sprung up throughout the metro Denver area. Transit boomed, as an estimated four millions service men and women passed through Union Station during the war. The growing concentration of federal agencies in and around Denver boded well for the city's economy both during and after the war.

The war's conclusion in 1945 found Denver transformed. Federal dollars, an influx of new residents, and pent-up consumer demand made the Mile High City a formidable metropolis in the post-war years. A diverse economy that included tourism, health care, government and service jobs, and manufacturing complimented Colorado's traditional bases in mining and agriculture. Though metropolitan Denver was growing rapidly, most of the growth was in the suburbs. The rise of the automobile had encouraged a commuter culture that left downtown Denver behind and spelled doom for the city's streetcars and trolleys.

A gradual revitalization of central Denver commenced, in fits and starts, beginning in the 1970s. Skyscrapers went up in Denver's downtown, and seedy districts were gradually eliminated, but at the cost of much fine historic architecture that fell to the wrecking ball. Developer Dana Crawford's 1966 rescue of the 1400 block of Larimer

Street, rebranded as a whimsical Old West destination called “Larimer Square,” set the pattern for downtown’s revival. Larimer Square’s quaint boutiques and upscale restaurants, housed in preserved 1800s historic buildings, brought shoppers and tourists to a district that had long been the province of sleazy flop houses, pool halls and skid-row bars. Historic preservationists expanded on this successful strategy with the creation of the Lower Downtown Historic District in 1989. Combined with the advent of professional baseball at the new Coors Field and the transformation of old warehouses into elegant loft residences, Denver’s downtown historic districts brought crowds and sent real estate prices soaring.

The *Rocky Mountain News* issued its last paper on February 27, 2009, just short of its 150th birthday. The *News* like other major newspapers, the *Times*, the *Republican* and the *Tribune* are all gone. Of a thousand papers published in Denver over the past 156 years only *The Denver Post* and a handful of others survive. Many ethnic groups, neighborhoods and occupation groups had their own newspapers to create solidarity and comfort not only for Denver but statewide groups. Most have vanished but many Colorado communities still cling to their longest and strongest voice -- their newspaper.

Denver newspapers are presented here in several special categories, sub arranged alphabetically, followed by a list of general news publications.

Agriculture

Agriculture & Livestock Herald (1897-1898) P.E. Crabtree, editor.

Agriculturist & Stock Journal (Colorado) (c. 6/1873-1875?) Butler and Robert C. Strahorn, publishers. Official organ of Colorado Stock-Growers, Colorado Farmers' Union, Colorado Wool Growers, and Rocky Mountain Poultry Association.

Arid America (1895-1897)

Dry Farming Bulletin (1908-1909)

Farm Life (Western) (1900?) H.S. Groves, editor.

Farmer (Colorado) (1873-1876) J.C. Febles and Phillips, editors and publishers. In 1875, James F. Wilbur, business manager, absorbed the *Agriculturist and Stock Journal*. The name of the new combined newspaper became: **Farmer and Live Stock Journal** (1876-11/1896) J.S. Stanger, proprietor. In 1882, it became the official organ of the Cattlegrowers Association.

Colorado Farmer and Rocky Mountain Fruit Grower (1872) William Pabor, founder.

Farmer (Colorado Union) (1920-1923)

Farmer (Intermountain) (1890-1909)

Farmers & Merchants (1894-1895)

Farmer & Miner (Rocky Mountain) (1899-1900) Charles Colman, publisher.

Western Farmer and Stockman (1922)

Field & Farm (1886-1900) L.W. Cutler and Lute Wilcox, founders.

Grange (Colorado) (1876-1878) William E. Pabor, founder. Monthly.

Horseman (Capital) (1966-1984) Ron and Shirley McGuire, founders.

Irrigation Era (1898-1902)

Irrigation Review (1897-1900)

Livestock Journal (1884-1885); sold to *Price-Current* (below)

Livestock Record (Colorado) #1 (1884-1885) Weekly.

Livestock Record #2 (1886-1900) Weekly, daily after 1891. Howard Calhoun & Otis Morton, publishers. Dr. William Sharpley, a future mayor of Denver (1915-1916), was editor. The *Record* merged with the *Stockman* in 1900.

Price-Current (Denver) (1887-1890) Dr. W.J.H. Sharpley, founder. The name changed to **Price-Current (Daily Colorado)** (1890-12/1897) **Colorado and Commercial Price-Current** (weekly, 1890-12/1897). In 1898 it bought the *Livestock Journal* and the name changed to **Colorado Price-Current & Live Stock Journal** (1898-?). It may also have published as the **Colorado Price-Current and Produce Record**.

Ranch & Range (1900-c.1909) H.S. Groves, publisher.

Rancher & Farmer (Colorado) (1947-?)

Range Journal (1884-1887) Olney Newell, editor.

Stockman (Daily) (1897-1900) Fred Patterson Johnson, founder (nephew of Sen. Thomas Patterson, *Rocky Mountain News* owner). In 1898 it was named official publication of the National Live Stock Association. In December 1900, it merged in the *Record*, creating the:

Denver Daily Record-Stockman (1/1 /1901 -10/4/1939)

Rural Life (Colorado) (1879-80)

Rural (Rocky Mountain) (1883-1884) Monthly.

Rural Tribune (1917-1918)

Ruralist & Miner (1896-1897)

Western Farm Life (1898) Semi-monthly.

Western Livestock Journal (1922-present). It may have published originally as *Farm and Ranch Market Journal*. In 1952, it absorbed *Livestock Magazine*.

Business

Building & Real Estate Bulletin (1898-1899)

Business Journal (10/1986 to date). American City Business Journals Inc., based in North Carolina, was the original publisher. Later publishers and editors included Thomas Pecht, Charles M. Heschmeyer, Douglas MacDonald, Maureen Regan Smith, and Edward Byrd.

Colorado Colonist & Denver Manufactuer (1887-?) Bi-weekly. Published by the Western Immigration Bureau; J.D. Davis, editor.

Colorado Tourist & Hotel Reporter (1895) Toy & Hawkins, publishers.

Commercial (1909-?) Denver Civic and Commercial Association, publishers; Arthur C. Johnson, editor.

Commercial Advertiser (6-9/1873) Commercial Printing Co., publishers. Absorbed by:

Commercial (Denver) (1873-1874) J. Bliman, publisher.

Commercial Bulletin (Daily) (1888-89)

Commercial Journal (1901-1903)

Commercial Reporter (1878-1879) Wise and Van Brunt, publishers.

Commercial Review (1890-1891) Monthly; "For Trade and Commerce Interests."

Commercial Tribune & Pueblo Progress (1897-1900); shortened to:

Commercial Tribune (1900-c.1906)

Curb Trader (1921-1927) Monthly.

Daily Journal (5/22/1897 to date) Warren Wilson, founder.

Exchange Journal (Denver) (1887-1888) It continued as: **Exchange Journal (Colorado)**
(1888-1891)

Financial Era (1879-1889) F.C. Messenger & Co., publishers.

Financial News (1890-1891)

J.A. Stevens Financial World (1908-1909)

Grocer and Manufactory (1890)

Homestead (Colorado) (1873-1875) William Byers, owner of the *Rocky Mountain News*, had an interest in this real estate advertising publication.

Industrial Review (Colorado) 1913

Journal of Commerce #1 (2/1874-1/1875) Allston C. Ladd, editor, publisher.

Journal of Commerce #2 (1878-1879) Saxby, Owers & Co., publishers; F.W. Owers, editor.

Journal of Commerce #3 (7/16/1881-1889)

Market Review (1917-1919) Daily.

Mercantile Gazette (1891-1892)

Merchants Index (1905-1935) Leon M. Hattenback, editor

Mining & Financial Record (1913-1939) Daily.

Real Estate Bulletin (1891) Daily.

Real Estate & Mining Review (1873-1874) Weekly. T.E. Picotte, publisher.

Real Estate News (Colorado) (1904)

Real Estate Record (1890)

Real Estate Register (1871-1973) Monthly. Mathews, Roser & Co., publishers.

Real Estate Review (1939) Weekly.

Rocky Mountain Record (1882-1883) A trade and mining paper.

Trade Review (Western) (1883) "Traces Debtors."

Trade Review (1891-1894)

Western Architecture and Building News (1890)

Western Building News (1893)

Western Construction (1900)

Labor

Advocate (Colorado Labor) (1922 to date) Advocate Publishing Co. (37 labor groups), founder.

Advocate (Industrial) (1897-1900)

Advocate (Trade) (1897-98)

Advocate (Illustrated) (1899) Willis Hall, editor.

Clarion-Advocate (1892-?) T.M. Hyden, publisher.

American Worker (1935)

A.O.U.W. Record (1897-?) (Ancient Order of United Workman) A.E. Pierce, founder.

Arbitrator (1886-1889)

Bulletin (Labor) (1915-1937) Harry Garman, founder.

Industrial Review (Colorado) (1911-14)

Labor Enquirer (1882-1888) W.J.R. Buchanan & Laverty, founders.

Labor Exchange Guide 1897-1900.

Mine, Mill and Smelter (1940) Sub-edition of CIO News, Washington D.C.

Press (Industrial) (1878-1879, weekly; 1879-1880, daily).

Trade & Labor (1890-1892)

Union Farmer (Colorado) (1920-1936)

Union Labor Press (1908-1909)

United Labor Bulletin (1906-1915) United Labor Printing & Publishing Co., publishers.

Harvey E. Garman, editor.

United Labor (1890-1891)

Work & Wages (1932-1933)

Mining

Gold Miner (1894-1896) Monthly; J.S. Temple, publisher.

Gold Nugget (1893-1894) A.S. Hazen, publisher.

Great Western (1917-1920) Calhoun Publishing; B.A. Ohlander, editor.

Hanson's Mining Gazette (1881-1882)

Journal (Rocky Mountain Coal) (1908-?)

Lands & Mines (1899-1907) George T. Blakely, founder.

Metal Mining Journal (1916) Fred Marvin, founder.

Mine, Stack & Rail (1887-1889) D. Bauman, editor/publisher.

Miner (Colorado) (1900-1901) Merged with *Rocky Mountain Globe* to form: **Miner**

(Rocky Mountain) (3/16/1901 -1908) From merger of *Rocky Mountain Globe* (1896-3/9/1901) and *Colorado Miner*. S.R. Hopkins, editor.

Miner & Mechanic (Rocky Mountain) (2-9/1874) Miner & Mechanic Publishing Co. S.R. Hopkins, editor. Continued as *Mining Journal*.

Miners Magazine (1900-1904) A publication of the Western Federation of Miners, a Socialist group. John M. O'Neill, publisher.

Mineral Age (1897-1898)

Mines & Mining (1907-1908)

Mines & Minerals (1910)

Mining & Scientific Review (1887-1893) A.L Wadsworth, publisher.

Mining American (1917-1919) Charles Downey & E.G. Rhinehart, publishers.

Mining Gazette (1908)

Mining Index (1888-1889)

Mining Industry (1886-1889) Daily; LA. Kent, editor. The name changed to: **Mining**

Industry & Tradesman (1890-1896) W.C. Wynkoop, publisher. The name changed again to: **Mining Industry & Review** (1896-1898) W.C. Wynkoop, publisher.

Mining Industries (1910)

Mining Investor (1894-1902) T.R. Dewing, publisher.

Mining Journal (Denver) (1874-1875) American & European Mining Association, publishers; S. R. Hopkins, editor.

Mining Exchange Journal (1889-1892) Its name changed to:

State Mining Journal #2 (1892-1893) Daily.

Mining Record (Daily) (1893-1913) Reinert Publishing (William and E.G. Reinert);

Charles J. Downey editor in 1905. The name changed again, to: **Mining & Financial**

Record (1914-1929) Another change of name occurred in 1929: **Denver Mining Record**

(1929-1963) Clarence E. Newmeyer served as editor from 1914-1959. In 1963 the name was shortened to: **Mining Record** (1963-to date)

Mining & Financial Review (1889-1917)

Mining & Metallurgical Review (1899) A.J. Hosken, editor.

Mining Reporter (1873- 1900) James F. Galbreath Jr., publisher.

Mining Reporter #1 (1872-1876)

Mining Reporter #2 (1895-1908) William F. Mills, editor/publisher

Mining Review (Colorado) (11/1875-1881) (formerly *Western Miner*) T.F. Van Wagenen, publisher. In 1880, the name changed to:

Mining Review (Rocky Mountain) (1881-1887), Blake & Elliot, publishers. From 1887-1893, the paper called itself:

Mining & Scientific Review (1887-1893) The name then reverted to:

Mining Review (1893-1895) R.S. Baker, publisher.

Mining Science (1873-1915?) George J. Bancroft, publisher.

Mining Truth (1906-1908)

Mining World (1896-1906) E.M. Hawkins founder.

Oil (1902)

Oil Reporter (1944-1950) Henry Hough, publisher; fortnightly.

Oil Shale Outlook (date unknown) George P. Wallihan, editor/manager.

Ores and Metals (1892-1904?) Illustrated; awarded the premium as greatest mining publication in the world at the Paris Exposition in 1889. D.W. Osgood and Lacy, publishers.

Railway & Mining Gazette (1881-1882)

Real Estate & Mining Review (Colorado) (1873-1874)

Rocky Mountain Coal Journal (1908) A.J. Casey, editor.

Rocky Mountain Miner and Mechanic (2/1874-9/1874)

State Mining Journal (1892-1894)

State Mining Journal #2 (1896-?) H.J. Hendricks, publisher.

Western Miner (1872) Theodore F. Wagenen, publisher. He changed the name to:

Western Miner and Engineer (1872-1875) It merged with the *Georgetown Mining Review* and became the *Mining Review Colorado*, see above.

Western Miner and Financier (1894-1900) W.R.S. Baker, editor.

African-American

Denver Blade (8/1/1960 to date) J. Brown, founder.

Denver Chronicle (1968-1970) Rick Darnell/Denver Chronicle Publishing.

Denver Drum (7/22/1971-5/1973) Drum Publishing; Jessica Grant, editor.

Denver Independent (1902-1913) Thomas Campbell, founder.

Denver Inquirer (8/7/1952-10/17/1954) Gilvert Cruter and Milton C. Branch, founders.

The *Inquirer* described itself as "non-racial, non-political, non-sectarian - Denver's Picture Weekly."

Denver Star (1879-1882?) Lewis Price, a successful African-American real estate investor, published the *Star*. It was among the first African-American newspapers published west of the Mississippi River (the *Los Angeles Owl* may have been first).

Denver Statesman (1889-1961) Joseph D.D. Rivers, editor/publisher. When Edwin H. Hackley served as editor in 1892, the *Statesman* billed itself as the "Organ of the Colored Race in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and the West." After absorbing the

Denver Exponent (1892-1895), it briefly published as the **Statesman Exponent** (1895-1896) before returning to the name *Statesman*.

Denver Star #2 (11/1912-1963) The 1916 *Star* flag says "The papers formerly known as *The Statesman* and *The Independent* have been merged into *The Star*," raising the question of a relationship between these papers. The *Star* billed itself as the "West's Greatest Negro Journal" in 1941. It is likely that the *Independent* indeed merged into the *Star*, but multiple sources confirm that the *Statesman* continued under its own name through this period.

Denver Weekly News (1971-2004, restarted 2007) Freeman Cosmo Harris, founding editor and publisher.

Urban Spectrum (1987-to date) Rosalind J. Harris, founder.

Chinese

Denver Chinese News (1988-?)

American Chinese Times (1990)

German

Bote (1897-1899)

Courier (Colorado) (5/26/1873-6/8/1875) August Gueck, founder. It became the:

Sontagsblatt der Volkszeitung-Tribune (1875-?)

Courier (Colorado) #2 (1882-1884) Sunday edition of *Staats-Zeitung*

Diskuwerur (Denver) (1896-1898)

Fidibus (Denver) (1889-9/1897) It merged with the **Denver Herold** (see below) and the name changed to **Fidibus-Herold (Denver)** (1897-12/28/1901). The name changed again, this time to **Colorado Herold** (1901-1947).

Figaro (Denver) (1887-1888)

Freie Presse (Colorado) (1891-1892) It may have been a continuation of:

Freie Presse (Denver) (1887-1888) Klotz & Haggenjos, publishers.

Herold (Colorado) (1/1870-1946) S.A. Harburg served as publisher until 1907. From 8/30/1884 to 9/1897 the name was **Denver Herold**. The paper published as **Fidibus-**

Herold (Denver) from 1897 through 1901, when the name reverted to **Colorado Herold**.

By 1920, under editor Victor Neuhaus, the *Herold* published five days a week in English with a weekly edition in German.

Journal (Colorado) (5/11/1872-12/1901) William Witteborg was founder and publisher with William Whist, editor.

Journal (Rocky Mountain) (1924-1925) Published in German and English.

Neue Welt (1892-1894)

Ordensblatt Der Harugari (1896-1899) L.P. Bischoff, publisher. It continued as

Ordensblatt Und Vereins Zeitung (1899-1903) with L.P. Bischoff remaining at the helm.

Post (Colorado) (7/16/1879-7/10/1880) Published by the Rocky Mountain News Printing Co. It continued as **Die Sonntags-Post** (1881-1883) German Printing & Publishing Company.

Posten (Denver) 1898-1901 G.R. Ohlin and Bud Norellius, publishers.

Silber-Glocken (date unknown)

Staats-Zeitung (Colorado) (1884-1885) Hugo Preyer publisher; the *Colorado Courier* was its Sunday edition.

Volksblatt (Denver) (1887-1888) A daily.

Vorwärts (Colorado) (1893-1914?) P. Bischoff, publisher.

Irish

Rocky Mountain Celt 1881-1892 Christopher E. McSheehy editor/publisher. By 1892, under manager John Barkhausen, it published as the **Rocky Mountain Celt and Globeville Chronicle**. It called itself the "Only Irish-American paper in the Great West."

Celtic Cross & Irishman (1893)

Scottish Chieftain (1906-1908)

Western Irishman (1892-1902-? P.J. Cullen, editor.

Italian

Capitale (1907-1925)

Giustizia (1896-1897) Nicola Gighiotti, publisher.

Grido Del Popolo (1907-1910)

Il Risveglio (1/1905-2/1956) Italian and English; Vincenzo Gregorius, founder. It was the "Italian organ for United Mine Workers." The name changed to **Awakening** (3/1956-1957) then later merged into **Colorado** (see alphabetical).

Italian Daily News (1917-1918)

La Stella (10/3-11/21/1885)

Nazione (1896-1920) Marino Lepore and Felice Laoore, publishers.

Patria (1892-1894) A. Roncaglia, publisher.

Roma (1892-7/20/1920) Pietro Albi, publisher; Guiseppe Adamo, editor.

Trumpet (3/15/1935-12/27/1942) English and Italian.

Japanese

Journal (Rocky Mountain) (4/5-6/13/1962) Continued as:

Rocky Mountain Jiho (6/20/1962 to date)

News (Colorado)

Shinbum (Colorado) (1911 -1918) Junichi Muraoka founder, editor and publisher. N.

Nakagawa and T. Ichikawa bought the paper in 1918 and changed the name to:

Times (Colorado) 3/6/1918-c1960s.

Rocky Nippon (1934-1942)

Rocky Shimpo (1942-6/6/1961) Japanese and English; Roy Takeno, managing editor.

Shimpo (1901 -1917) T. Hamatami, editor.

Korean

Denver Korean News (1984) Ki Sun Cho, publisher.

USA Korean Times (1982) Ki Bong Wee, publisher.

Serb

Srbin (1901-1911)

Slovenian

Colorado Science (1908-1909)

Spanish

Antena (1947) Virgillo Aquirre, founder.

Challenge (Denver) (1940-1947) One-page newspaper.

Defensor Popular (1924-1925)

El Imparcial (1/24/1932-1933) A.J. Manzanares and Luis Espinoza, founders.

El Reporter (1990s-?) Dr. Tony Flores, publisher.

El Sol de Colorado (1938?) Daniel T. Valdes and Ruben C. Valdez, publishers. Some Spanish, mostly English.

El Sol Periodic (1990s) Judith Ovando, publisher.

El Tiempo (4/12/1962-1/2/1964) Daniel Valdes and Ruben Valdez, publishers.

Heraldo (West Denver) (1900-1906)

La Voz (de Colorado) (1972 to date) Ernesto Barrios, founder.

La Voz Hispana de Colorado (5/1976)

La Voz de la Raza (1956-1958) Paco Sanchez, founder.

Neuvo Era (1934-1935)

Latin American News (1938-1939)

Republicans (1895-1896)

Sister Republics (1899-1935-?) Frank Brady, publisher.

The Weekly Issue (1990s?) Christopher M. Fresquez, publisher.

Verdad (Denver) (1937-1941)

Viva (1964) Rudolph "Corky" Gonzales, publisher.

Swedish

Columbia (5/1901-5/7/1904) E.R. Kihlmark, publisher.

Denver Veckoblad (10/1888-11/2/1889) M. Lundin, founder. The name changed under new owners Peterson & Co to **Svenska-Korrespondenten** (11/9/1899-3/21/1901). The changed again two years later: **Svenska Amerikanska Western** (3/28/1901-11/15/1928). In 1928 the paper was bought by *Western Nyheter*.

Western Nyheter (4/24/1924-9/11/1941) Gustaf Nywall and Axle M. Sundberg, founders, editors and publishers. After merging in *Swedish Amerikanska* in 1928, the name became **Western News** (9/18/1941 -1971?) The paper transitioned to printing entirely in English.

Colorado Posten (1/1883-1885)

Husbesokaren (1889-1895)

Lyan (1899-1900)

Vietnamese

Saigon News (Vietnamese) (1990) Bich Ngoc Nguyen, editor.

Religious

Other denominational newspapers existed, but are not listed in general sources.

Christian Advocate (Rocky Mountain) (1899)

Christian Messenger (1920) Flora E. & Charles Fisbee, editors and publishers.

Rocky Mountain Methodist (1891)

Rocky Mountain Presbyterian (3/1872-1887) Rev. Sheldon Jackson, publisher.

Protestant Nation (1927)

Protestant Herald (1937)

Rocky Mountain Baptist (1883-1902)

Rocky Mountain Baptist #2 (1956) O.L. Bayless.

Colorado Catholic (1884-1892?) Rev. P.F. Carr, publisher.

Denver Catholic (3/17/1900) F.J. Kramer, J.J. Burke & J.F. Roth, founders. In 1905 the

name changed to: **Catholic Register (for Diocese of Denver)** (1908-to date) John B.

McGauran & George Muser, publishers. Monsignor Matthew J.W. Smith served as

editor for forty-seven years, from 1913 to 1960. In 1939, a companion paper is listed:

Catholic Telegraph Register (1939-?). In 1955, a regional edition was begun:

Intermountain Catholic Edition (1955-present).

Graphic (1969) By Bannock Publications, owned by Catholic Press Society.

Jewish

Jewish Outlook (1903-1905) Rabbi William S. Friedman, publisher.

Jewish News (1913-1925) Central Jewish Council of Denver, publisher. Prof. A.D.H.

Kaplan, Dr. Charles Spivak, R. Charles, and E.H. Kauvar founders. In 1925 the name

changed to: **Intermountain Jewish News**

Denver Western Home (1909?)

College

Advocate (University of Colorado Denver, 1960s to date)

Banner (St. John's) (1883-).

Brown and Gold (Regis) (1920-).

Cadet (St. John's) (1889-).

Clarion (University of Denver) (1897 to date).

Hookah (Loretto Heights) (1968).

The Metropolitan (Metropolitan State College of Denver, now Metropolitan State University of Denver) (1979-present)

Western Graphic (Colorado Womens College) (1911, fortnightly).

General

Advertiser (1913-1921) Thad S. Sutton, editor and publisher.

Advertiser (Alameda) (1938-1941)

Advertiser (Barnum) (1934-1937)

Advertiser (Colorado) (1895-1902) Charles Colman, publisher.

Advertiser (Colorado) (1900-1905) E.H. Clover, publisher.

Advertiser (Commercial) (6-9/1873)

Advertiser (North Denver) (1913-1916) Thad Sutton, publisher.

Advertiser (Rocky Mountain) (5/1/1860) See *Herald (Daily)*

Advertiser (University Park) (1932-1933)

Advertiser (West Denver) (1906-1907)

Advocate (Denver) (1879-1880) H.D. Calvin, founder.

Advocate (Illustrated) and **Clarion-Advocate** - see Labor

Advocate (Liberal) (1903-04)

Advocate (Capital Hill) (1911-1913)

Advocate (East Denver) (1911 -1912)

Advocate (North Denver) (1910-1911,1915)

Advocate (Rocky Mountain) (1888)

African Advocate (3/1890-1991)

Afro-American (1889-1890)

Afternoon (Denver) (1887) H. P. Jeffries, founder. The name changed to:

Afternoon Reporter (1887-1889) John C. Kennedy publisher; P.M. Clarke, editor.

Alliance of the Rockies (1895-1904)

Altrurian (1895-1901?)

America (1921-1934)

American (Rocky Mountain) (1892-1899) Weekly; T.F. Lyons, founder; anti-Catholic.

American Issue (1905-1909) Published by the Anti-Saloon League.

American (New) (1921-1922)

American (Rocky Mountain) (1892-1894)

American Commentator (1947-1948)

Antelope (Colorado) (1879-1882) A pro-Suffrage organ published by Mrs. C.M. Churchill;
"Devoted to women's political equality and individuality." Continued as *Queen Bee*.

Argonaut (1892-1893)

Argus #1 (1880-1881)

Argus #2 (1886-1887) I.M. Mitchell, publisher.

Argus & Times (Colorado) (4-8/1891)

Athmar Observer (1957-1961) Ivan Rosenberg, publisher.

Awakening (1923) Frank Mancini, publisher. (See Leader #3)

Balance (1904-aft 1909) J. Howard Cashmere; may have become **Balance** Magazine in
1910

Banner (North Denver) (1911-1912)

Banner (Berkeley) (1911-1912)

Barnum Booster (1928-?)

Barnum News (1942?) Joseph H. Rosenberg, publisher.

Bee (Queen) (1891-1892) (Continuation of the *Antelope*) Mrs. C.M. Churchill, publisher.

Blue Bird Messenger (1922-1925)

Booster (Barnum) (1928-1929) Warren C. Waters, publisher.

Booster (Colorado) (1944-1945)

Booster (North Denver) (1905-1906)

Brentwood Herald (1938) Joseph Rosenberg, founder. It merged into the *Herald-Democrat*.

Brightside Champion (1901-?)

British American & Canadian in the West (1886-1887) James Smeeton, editor, publisher.

British American #2 (1904-1908)

Budget (Saturday) (1888-1889)

Budget (West Side) (1889-1890)

Budget (South Denver) (1912-1913)

Bugle Call-Plaindealer (1892-1901) Jay Lind, published. (see *Plaindealer*)

Bulletin (Colorado) (1878-1881) Fish, Ghost & Co., publishers.

Bulletin (Daily) (1860) *Rocky Mountain News* supplement for "new arrivals."

Bulletin (Evening) (1880-1881) Jeffries & Wynn, publishers.

Hotel Bulletin (Denver) (1893-1926) George D. Edwards & Co., publishers. By 1920 it published as **Rocky Mountain Hotel Bulletin** (1920-1955?) V.S. Warriner editor and

publisher. Warriner also published **American Greeter** (1909-1955?) for hotel clerks. By 1955 it published as **Hotel Greeter Magazine**.

Bulletin #2 (1941 -1943)

Bulletin Free Press (1943-?)

Bulletin (South Denver) (1901-1904) It merged into the *Eye*.

Call (Saturday) (1879-1880) W.H. Fisher, publisher.

Call #2 (1913-?) S.A. Coston, publisher.

Call #3 (1938-1956)

Capital (Colorado State) (9/1890-1891)

Centennial State (12/1883-1884)

Cervi's News Service (1945-1947) Eugene Cervi, founder, editor and publisher. The name changed to **Cervi's News Letter** (1947-1949), then **Cervi's Rocky Mountain Journal** (9/1949-9/22/1986).

Challenge (1884-1890) A Prohibition advocate published by Mary Jewett Telford and Jacob Telford. In 1887, it published a monthly children's edition.

Challenge #2 (1946-1947) Graham Dolan, publisher.

Champion (Colorado) (1881-1882)

Cherry Creek Pioneer (4/23/1859) Only issue; John (Jack) Merrick, publisher.

Chief (North Side) (5/4/1889-1891) H.S. Olmsted, founder; name changed to **Chief (Highland)** (9/10/1891 -1948)

Chinook (7/1971-2/1972) Joy Publications, publisher. It merged with *Boulder Magazine*, and continued as **Straight Creek Journal**

Christian Radical See *Daily (Denver)*.

Chronicle (Globeville) (1891-1892) C.E. McSheely, publisher.

Chronicle (Colorado) #2 (1901-1903) Thorn & Coates editors and publishers. A labor-oriented paper.

Citizen (Denver) (1900-1901) Del Gee, founder.

Citizen (Barnum) (1889-1904)

Citizen (South Side) (1899-1900)

Citizen (West Side) (1890-1899)

City Item (Daily) (1871-1872) Clarence E. Hager and S.T. Sopris, publishers. Continued as *Times*.

Clarion-Advocate (1904-1906)

Clay's Review (1901-1913) Perry A. Clay, publisher.

Colonist (Colorado) (1880-1886)

Coloradian (1872-1873)

Colorado (1923-10/30/1971) Frank Mancini, founder and publisher. In 1957 it merged in the *Awakening*. In 1971, James Eitzen bought the paper and merged in into the *Leader*.

Coloradoan (1907-1908)

Commoner (Colorado) (1911-1914)

Commonwealth and Republican (see *Rocky Mountain Herald*).

Commonwealth #2 (1889-1891) (See *Republican/Herald*).

Co-Operator (1911-1912)

Courier (East Denver) (1892-1894)

Courier (North Denver) (1944-1945)

Cow-boy Round-Up (1889-1890) C.S. Peters, editor.

Cricket (Rocky Mountain) (3/23/1891-1892) A "Sporting and Theatrical Journal"; Hall & O'Grady, publishers/editors.

Critic (Denver) (1892-1893)

Critique (1894-1909) J.W. Mostin, editor.

Cycling West (1895-1899) J.A. McGuire, editor.

Daily (Denver) (2/5-5/15/1867) L.M. Koons, founder; S.H. Hastings, city editor. Name changed to *Colorado Tribune*.

Daily (South Denver) (1932-1933)

Daily Doings (Denver) (1927-1941)

Dawn (1932-1933)

Democrat (Cheeley's) (1890-1891)

Democrat (Colorado) (1868-1869) Weekly; Julius Silversmith, editor and publisher.

Democrat #2 (Colorado) (9/11/1874-5/1875) E.W. Baker & Charles R. Whitehead, founders.

Democrat #3 (Daily) (9/1876-1879) Joseph P. Farmer, Thomas G. Anderson, and Benjamin D. Spencer, publishers.

Democrat (Weekly) (9/11/1876-5/1879) Sister publication of *Daily Democrat* above.

Democrat #4 (Pomeroy's) (6/1880-1883) M. Pomeroy and Glafcke, publishers.

Democrat #5 (Daily) (1887-1888) Democrat Publishing; probably to support Gov. Alva Adams. R.F. Stapleton editor and manager.

Democrat #6 (Cheeley's) (1890-1891) John Cheeley, editor and publisher.

Denver Democrat #7 (1892-1894) Weekly, H.P. Kean, editor.

Democratic Record #8 (10/26/1893-1899?) Published by the Democratic State Central Committee; claimed to have started in 1892.

Democrat #9 (Jeffersonian) (1898-1899?)

Denver Democrat #10 (1899-1955) John J. Barkhausen and Robert W. Speer, founders.

In November 1955, the Democratic State Central Committee took control and changed the name to:

Colorado Democrat (1955-1977) William O'Rourke, editor. The Colorado Political Press bought the paper in February 1975, and eventually changed the name to:

Colorado Statesman (1977 to present)

Denver (1927) Denver Pictorial Review Co., publishers.

Denver Detective (1881 -1882)

Denver Post:

Post (Evening) (8/8/1892-1893) Daily, published by Post Publishing: Hugh Butler and George D. Herbert, editor. They were Democratic Party supporters of Grover Cleveland. However, Cleveland did not support government purchase of silver, a crucial issue to Colorado. When the Silver market went bust in 1893, the *Evening Post* was suspended on August 29 of that year. The *Post* was revived in June 1894 for the new election season.

Frederick Gilmer Bonfils and Henry Heye Tammen purchased the *Post* on October 28, 1895, and changed the name to **Denver Evening Post** (1895 to 1901). The owners shortened the name to **Denver Post** in 1901 (1901-present). Bonfils and Tammen were novices to journalism, but they had a keen instinct for promotion. The *Post* rose above other competitors including the established king of Denver newspapers, the *Rocky*

Mountain News, with a sensationalistic, red ink style. Contests and publicity stunts drew readers, while Bonfils and Tammen boosted profits by threatening merchants with exposes unless they advertised in the *Post's* pages. In the 1920's, the U.S. Congress investigated the *Post* for accepting cash to hush up investigations of the Tea Pot Dome Scandal.

The *Post* briefly added a **Denver Morning Post** (1/3/1927-11/5/1928) but swapped with *The Rocky Mountain News* for its **Evening News Post (Denver Weekly)** (1901-14), which it continued as **The Great Divide**, a weekly (1914-28).

Tammen died in 1924 and Bonfils passed away in 1933. Tammen left millions to provide care for the poor at Denver's Children's Hospital. Frederick Bonfils' daughter Helen Bonfils eventually gained control of the *Post*. She used her wealth and influence to support philanthropy and the arts, making amends for the ill-will her father had reaped in the city. Palmer Hoyt served as editor from 1946 to 1970. The *Post* launched the **Rocky Mountain Empire** magazine by 1949; it ran until 1998. In 1970, the *Post* adopted the "The Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire" as its slogan.

Publisher and magnate Samuel Newhouse bought 15% of the *Post's* stock from Helen Bonfils' sister May Bonfils Stanton in the early 1960s, and attempted to gain control of the paper. Helen Bonfils ensured continuing local control of the *Post* until her death in 1973. The Times-Mirror Company of Los Angeles bought the *Post* in 1981. Under publisher Lee Guittar, the *Post* ceased evening publication and became a morning paper as of June 4, 1982. MediaNews Group Inc. bought the *Post* in 1987. After trailing arch-

rival *Rocky Mountain News* in circulation for many years, the *Post* regained its traditional place atop the Denver market in 1996, The *Post*'s victory became complete when the Rocky shut its doors in February 2009.

Dispatch (1889-1896) George Needham, founder.

Dispatch #2 (1958-1961) It merged with the *Denver Herald*.

Dispatch (East Denver) (1890-1896)

Eagle (Rocky Mountain) (1889-1890)

Eagle (Colorado) (1897)

East Denver (see *Journal and News*)

Echo (East End) (1896-1927) Winfield S. Wager, publisher.

Echo #2 (1923) A fortnightly society news and literary paper; David Raffelock, editor

Echo (West Denver) (1907-1911)

Elite (1880-1886)

Equality (1900-1901) Monthly.

Examiner (1890-1916) James M. Lomery, founder, called his paper "the live weekly of the West."

Exponent (Colorado) (1894-1895) A.R. Wilson, editor. Bought out by the *Star*.

Exposition Gazette (1882-1883)

Express (Denver) (1906-1926) Denver Express Publishing Corp; Sidney Whipple, editor.

It continued as **Denver Evening News** (1926-1928).

Eye (Denver) (1886-1890) Arthur Pierce, founder. It continued as **South Denver Eye**

(1890-1904) J.G. Garrison, editor. The name changed again to **South Denver Eye &**

Bulletin (1904-1928). Harry Risley owned the *Eye* from 1907-1927.

Facts (1895-1905) H.J. Reed, publisher.

Facts (North Side) (1909-1910)

Fair Record (Daily) (1873-1876)

Family Visitor (1887) T.F. Ruset & Co., publishers.

Fanciers' Herald (1890-1891) Monthly. Jackson & Stidger, publishers; D.M. Working,

editor. It continued as **Fancier & Farm Herald** (under agriculture).

Fireside Ledger (1901-1902)

Five Points (East Denver) (1936-1937)

Forsyth's Chips (1902)

Forum (1890-?) Nathan Baker, publisher.

Forum #2 (Rocky Mountain) 1900-1901

Forum #3 (1904-1905)

Frog (1889-1890)

Frontiersman (1881-1882) R.D. Livingstone and J.C. Summers, editors and publishers.

Gazette (Daily) (5/1865-1869) Frederick J. Stanton, founder. In 1869 the name changed to **Daily Gazette and Commercial Advertiser**, and then to **Daily Denver Times**.

Gazette (Rocky Mountain) (1901-1902)

Gazette (Five Points) (1905-1907)

Gazette-Advocate (1879-1880) W.E. Pabor, editor and publisher. A pro-Temperance paper.

George's Weekly (10/1/1898-3/21/1907) (from *New Road*) Herbert George, publisher.

Glen Eyrie (1920-1921)

Globe (Prohibition) (1893-1896) Ogden Whitlock, publisher. Continued as **Globe (Rocky Mountain)** (1896-1900) The name changed again to **Illustrated Rocky Mountain Globe** (1900-1901) W.E. Pabor, editor. It continued as **Rocky Mountain Miner** (1901-1908).

Globeville Chronicle (1891 -1892) C.E. McSheely, publisher.

Globeville News (1892-1895) Ed Miller, publisher.

Golden Age (1895-1900)

Golden Perhaps (10/5/1889) Dr. C.W. McCormick editor and publisher. He described his paper as an "Independent Liberal Weekly Without Any Strings Attached and Is Devoted To The Welfare and Happiness of the Human Race."

Graphic (Colorado) (9/4/1886-12/3/1954) Nichols, Francis & Louis M. Babcock, publishers. "For family, farmers and miners."

Graphic (Western) #2 (1916-1917) Lewis R. Gray, publisher.

Graphic (Barnum) #3 (1936-?) Editha L. Watson and G.E. Carnahan, founders.

Graphic #4 (1969-1973) Bannock Publishers (see Catholic papers).

Great Divide (1914-1928) a *Denver Post* publication.

Great West (1880-1884) M.M. "Brick" Pomeroy, founder. "Devoted More to Humanity Than Mannon." John Keller, editor; staff appears same as *Pomeroy's Democrat*.

Great West #2 (1903-1904)

Great Western (1917-1921)

Greenbacker (Colorado) (1878-1879?) A. Macready, publisher.

Harman (Southeast Denver) see *Ledger and Progress*

Hello (Denver) (1882) Will L. Vischer, publisher.

Herald (Rocky Mountain) (see under *Rocky Mountain Herald*)

Herald (Brentwood) (1936-?) Ivan Rosenberg, publisher.

Herald (Community) (1889-1891)

Herald (Community) #2 (1921-1926) Herald Pub, Frederick Harburg, editor.

Herald (University Park) (1933-1935) Begun as *Barnum News* in 1926.

Herald (Southwest Denver) (1962 to date) Ivan Rosenberg, editor and publisher. In 1962, *Athmar Observer*, *Southwest Denver Herald*, *Denver Dispatch*, *West Side Hustler*, *Westwood Independent*--all Rosenberg papers--consolidated into **Herald-Dispatch**.

Highland Chief (1891-1952) Founded as *North Side Chief* in 1889 by S.H. & J.E. Olmstead. In 1891, the name changed to *Highland Chief*. In 1952, it was purchased by Golden Bell Press and the name became **Daily Chief** (1952-1957).

Highlands Lance (1890-1891)

Highlands Radio (1922-1923)

Hill's Monthly (1921-1922)

Homestead (Colorado) (1873-1875)

Hustler (South Side) (1901 -1902)

Hustler (West Side) (1900-1943) C.W. Bond, editor and publisher

Illustrated Weekly (Rocky Mountain) (1/2/1895-12/30/1896) W.C. Calhoun, publisher. The name changed to **Illustrated Sentinel** (1897-1899) but reverted back to *Illustrated Weekly* (1899-1908).

Ladies Illustrated Weekly (1900)

Independent (5-9/1876) Henry C. Brown, founder. He sold it to Farmer, Anderson & Spencer who changed it to *Daily Democrat*.

Independent (1902-1913) See under African-American newspapers.

Independent (South Denver) #3 (1928-1929)

Independent (Westwood) #4 (1956-1959)

Individualist (1889-1890)

Industrial Press (1878-1879) Weekly.

Inquirer - See under African-American newspapers

Inter Ocean (1880-1884) John Brisben Walker, founder; W.E. Pabor and Henry M. Feldwisch, editors.

Joslin's Illustrated Mirror (1880-1881)

Journal (Colorado) see German newspapers.

Journal (Colorado) (1948-1949) George E. Brock, publisher.

Journal (Daily) see under Business newspapers.

Journal (East Denver) (1949-1956) George Hillyer, publisher.

Journal (East Side) (1938-1939) Shirley Stephens, editor.

Journal (Elyria) 1891-1899 E.J. Miller, Mattie Wright, publishers.

Journal (International) (1932)

Journal (Republican) 1882-1883 see Republican (Journal).

Colorado Medical Journal (1904-)

Colorado School Journal (1879) Aaron Gove, editor; R.D. Hatch, publisher.

Women's Journal (3/1876); a medical monthly; Mrs. Z.J. Spalding M.D. and Miss M.E. McMurtry, editors/publishers.

Leader (Colorado) (7/6/1867) Only a few issues; Nathan A. Baker, founder.

Leader (Colorado) #2

Leader #2 (Rocky Mountain) (late 1872 -8/1873) G.F. Kimball editor and publisher, O.H. Wangelin, assistant editor.

Leader #3 (Denver Daily) (1904-1905)

Leader #4 (Denver) (9/1918 to 1963) George F. Mangini, founder. In 1923, the *Leader* absorbed *Awakening*. For a time in the 1920's, the *Leader* served as organ for the Non-Partisan League. In 1963, James L. Eitzen bought the paper and changed the name to **Colorado Leader** (1963-present).

Ledger (Harman) (1891-1892)

Ledger #2 (Fireside) (1902)

Ledger #4 (Public) (1939-1960?)

Legal Adviser (1897-1904)

Legal Intelligencer (1889-1890)

Legal News (1888-1892)

Liberal Advocate (1896-1897)

Liberty Bell (1896-1897)

Liberty Press (1912-1937) C.J. Hyland, publisher.

Life on Capitol Hill (3/15/1975-present) Stuart MacPhail, founder.

Lorgnette (1870-1871) Clarence Hager, founder. See *Denver Times*.

Lyran see Swedish papers.

Lands & Mines (1899-1907)

Magazine (Denver) (1904-1905) Weekly.

Mail (1882-1885)

Mail (Western) (1888-1889)

Mercury (7-10 1882)

Mercury (Sunday) #2 (1892-1896) Nathan L. Baker, publisher.

Messenger (Denver) (1992-1933)

Messenger (Blue Bird) (1922-1925)

Mirror (Denver) (6-1873 -1879) Stanley G. Fowler, founder.

Mirror (Denver Mountain) (4/1888-1889) J.F. Ryan & Co., publishers. A booster publication to be “judiciously distributed” in the east in order to “set forth resources and advantages of Colorado.”

Mirror (Montclair) #3 (1888-1904) W.T. Michel and R.A. Plunkett, publishers.

Mirror (Rocky Mountain) #4 (1906) A “fraternal” paper.

Mirror (Rocky Mountain) #5 (1920-1929) Halsey Rhoads, publisher.

Mirror #6 (5/1932-1933) Steve Brodie, publisher.

Mirror #7 (1935-1936)

Modern World (1903-1909)

Monitor (South Side) (1926-1935) Frank Wolf, publisher.

Monitor (1906-1930) A.U. Mayfield, founder.

Moore’s Once-A-Week (1899-1900)

Montclair Mirror (188?-189?) the paper for the suburban town of Montclair.

Motor Field (1892-?) G.A. Wahlgreen, founder.

Mountaineer (Daily Denver) (8/35/1860-5/16/1861) The new town of Denver gave the *Mountaineer* 10 lots as a subsidy. James T. Coleman and James C. Moore, founders. The *Mountaineer* had a secessionist editorial policy as the Civil War crisis approached.

Mystic Bell (1896-1908)

Nail (Colorado) (10-11/1944) Published by the Democrat Central Committee; Gene Cervi, editor.

National Populist (1891-1894) see under Populist

Nazione (1896-1920) see Italian newspapers.

Neue Welt (1892-1924) see German newspapers.

New Era (1896-1898) E.H. Saltiel, publisher.

New Era #2 (1913-1914)

New Road (1896) Continued as *George's Weekly*.

News (Adams County Suburban)

News Barnum (1926-1959) Joseph Rosenberg, founder.

News (Capitol Hill) (1935-1945)

News (Cherry Creek) (1865) George Sandford, founder.

News (Colorado) (1910-1911) – See Japanese newspapers.

News (Denver Clinic) (1935-1948)

News (Denver Evening) (1926-1928)

News (Denver Weekly) (1971-present) See African-American newspapers.

News (East Denver) (1965-?) George Sandford, editor and publisher.

News (Globeville) (1891-1892) Ed Miller, publisher.

News (Italian Daily) (1917-1918) See Italian newspapers.

News (Latin American) (1938-1939) See Spanish newspapers.

News (Neighborhood) (1934-1938). It became the **News (South Denver)** (1938-1939) and then the **Neighborhood News-Digest** (1938-1951).

News (North Denver) (1916-1919)

News (Rocky Mountain) See *Rocky Mountain News*.

News (South Pearl) (1934-1935)

News (University Park) (1958 to date)

News-Week Inc. (1939)

News (Weekly) (1971 to date) See African-American newspapers.

News (Western) See German newspapers (Westerns Nyheter).

News (Westwood) (1944-1947)

News of the Times (1936-1937)

News Letter and Colorado Advertiser (1884)

News-Letter (1889-1892) Walker Whiteside, publisher. A society and drama paper.

Next (1892-1893) W.H. Clark, editor; a gossip paper.

North American Weekly (1897)

North Denver & Highlands Home Journal (1883-1887)

North Denver & Villa Park Telephone (1883-1884)

Nuevo Era (1934-1935) See Spanish newspapers

Observer (Athmar) (1957-1961) Rosenberg into Herald-Dispatch

Observer (South Side) (1944-1945)

Opinion (1884-1886)

Ordensblatt Der Harugari (1896-1899) and **Ordensblatt Und Vereins Zeitung** (1899-1903) See German newspapers.

Our Nation's Crisis (1895-1896)

Our Opinion (1881-1882)

Out Front (4/2/1976-1995) In 1995 the name changed to **Out Front Colorado** (1995-present). A lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender newspaper founded by Phil Price.

According to current owner Greg Montoya, it is the second oldest independent LGBT publication in the United States.

Outlook (Western) (1901-1902)

Owl (1884-1885)

Paragraph (Sunday Morning) (1881-1882)

Paramount News (1926-1927)

Patria (1892-1894) See Italian newspapers.

Patriot (1889-1896) E.P. Gaston, publisher.

Patriot (Colorado) (1891 -1892)

People (1880-1881)

People #2 (1891-1892) H.H. Beach and E.H. Paddock, publishers. "Municipal Government is Business, Not Politics"

Picayune (1884-1885) A weekly sports paper.

Pillar (1900-1901)

Pioneer (Cherry Creek) (4/22/1859) John L. (Jack) Merrick, founder. A single issue was published 20 minutes after the first edition of the *Rocky Mountain News*, on April 22, 1859. Thus the *Pioneer* barely missed becoming the first newspaper published in Denver.

Plaindealer (1896-1898) Jay M. Lind, publisher. The *Plaindealer* was a Temperance paper.

Play (Denver) (1887-1896)

Polly Pry (1904) Weekly.

Populist (National) (1893-1894) An organ of the Populist Party. Its slogan: "Who Lets His Country Die, Lets All Things Die, and All Things Dead Do Curse Him." It continued as

Populist (Daily) (1894-1895) H.E. Harris, publisher.

Post (Colorado) (1879-1880) See German newspapers.

Post (Denver) see *Denver Post* under D.

Post (Denver Morning) (1927-1928) (*Denver Post*).

Post (Elyria) (1898-1899) C.H. Pierce, publisher.

Post (Globeville) (date?) C.H. Pierce, publisher.

Post (Highlands) (1871-1898) J.A. Stimson, publisher.

Post (Rocky Mountain) (1895-96)

Press (4/1888-1899) Halsey Rhoads and Walton W. Coe, founders.

Press (Colorado) (1939-1942)

Press (Evening) (1881-1898) Elliott Stern, founder; W.S. Partridge, editor.

Press (Rolling Stone) (1930-1931)

Press (Washington Park) (1930-1933)

Price-Current (Denver) (1887-1890) See under Business.

Programme (Daily) (1873-1875) T.E. Picotte, publisher.

Progress (1892-1910) Hansen & Barrett, publishers.

Progress (Harman) (1892-1893)

Progress (Valverde) (1892-1893)

Progress (Western) (1893-1903)

Progress and Dispatch (1895)

Progressive (Colorado) (1914-1920)

Prohibition Globe (1894-1896) see *Globe (Rocky Mountain)*

Public Forum (1916-1922) John K. Malloner, publisher.

Public Ledger (1939-1960) See *Ledger (Public)*

Queen Bee (1882-1898?) (from *Colorado Antelope*) Mrs. C.M. Churchill published this women's suffrage advocate.

Railway & Hotel Gazette (Colorado) (1891)

Railway & Mining Gazette (1881-1882)

Railway Journal (1887-1888) Scott Chenoweth, publisher.

Ranger (1916-?) A.U. Mayfield, publisher. The *Ranger* represented the National Order of Cowboy Rangers.

Record (Rocky Mountain) (1882-1883)

Record #2 (1903-1905)

Record #3 (1911 -1915) J.H. Mooney, editor.

Record (Silver State) (1963-?)

Record Stockman (1889 to date) See agriculture newspapers.

Reflector (7-8/1873) C.H.Mclaughlin, publisher.

Reporter (1879-?) McDill & Kennedy, publishers.

Reporter (Afternoon) (1887-1889) McDill & Kennedy, founders. John C. Kennedy, publisher; P.M. Clarke, editor.

Reporter (Hotel) (1879-1906) W.H. Farnham, editor and publisher. It became **Colorado Tourist & Hotel Reporter**.

Reporter (Industrial) (1895)

Reporter (Park Hill) (1961-1962) Donald Brokaw, publisher; Bea Branscombe, editor.

Republican (Colorado) (1861 -1862) see *Rocky Mountain Herald #1* below.

Republican (Denver Daily) #2 (6/4/1879-11/1879) Founded as *Denver Weekly Democrat*; name changed to Denver Daily Republican in June 1879. Charles B. Wilkinson, editor and publisher, sold to Joseph C. Wilson in November 1879 and the name changed to **Denver Republican** (11/1879-1884). Nathaniel Hill bought a majority interest in August 1884 and merged the *Republican* with the *Tribune*. The combined papers continued as the **Tribune-Republican** (1884-1886). In 1887, the name reverted back to **Republican** (1/1/1887-10/26/1913). In 1913, John C. Shaffer of the *Rocky Mountain News* bought the *Republican* and suspended it.

Republican (Colorado State) (1918-1919)

Republican (Colorado) (1920-present) Published by the Republican State Central Committee.

Republican (1938-1939)

Republican Journal (1882-1883)

Republican Journal #2 (fall 1892)

Republicas (1895-1896) see Spanish newspapers

Review (Saturday) (1900-1911?)

Review (West Denver) (1897-1902)

Risveglio (1905-56) See Italian newspapers.

Road (1887-1896) Continued as **New Road** (1896-1898). Subsequently the name changed to **George's Weekly**.

Rocket (1908-1909)

Herald (Daily) and Rocky Mountain Advertiser (5/1/1860-5/1861) Thomas Gibson, founder. It was the first daily in Colorado. Territorial Governor William Gilpin was a silent partner. The name changed to **Colorado Republican & Rocky Mountain Herald** (5/25/1861-1862), then again to **Commonwealth and Republican** (7/10/1862-8/1863). The name was shortened to **Commonwealth** (8/27/1863-6/24/1864), a weekly. In 1864 it merged in to the *Rocky Mountain News*.

Thomas Gibson's *Herald* had a sister weekly: the **Herald (Rocky Mountain)** (5/5/1860-6/25/1861). The name changed to **Colorado Republican and Rocky Mountain Herald** (5/25/1861 -7/3/1861), then again to **Colorado Republican and Rocky Mountain Herald** (7/10/1861 -1862). Its last incarnation was as **Commonwealth and Republican** (7/10/1862-6/23/1864).

Rocky Mountain Herald #2 (1/1/1868-2/1978). Owen J. Goldrick, founder and publisher; he considered it a "reincarnation" of the earlier *Herald*. Notable later publishers included Denver poet Thomas Hornsby Ferril and his wife Helen Ferril, from 4/6/1939-8/1972. Regular correspondents included Bernard DeVoto, Robert Frost and Carl Sandburg.

Rocky Mountain News (4/23/1859-2/27/2009) Founded by William N. Byers in Denver's earliest days, the *Rocky* brought the city into the twenty-first century before succumbing to competition from its bitter rival, *The Denver Post*.

Born in Ohio, Byers played a leading role in the founding of Omaha, Nebraska, before moving to the new settlements along Cherry Creek in present-day Colorado to take advantage of the gold rush. Working from the attic of trader "Uncle Dick" Wootton's saloon at 1413-15 11th Street, editor/publisher Byers issued the first edition of the *Rocky Mountain News* on April 23, 1859, beating his nearest rival to press by twenty minutes. Thomas Gibson was co-owner for 4 months and Dr. George C. Monell for 3 months. In August 1860, the *Rocky* went from weekly to daily publication. The *Rocky* made its first acquisition in 1861, when it absorbed the *Denver Mountaineer*.

To avoid antagonizing either side in the rivalry between the young cities of Denver and Auraria, Byers moved his headquarters to a site between the two settlements: a building elevated on stilts in the bed of Cherry Creek, near 13th and Market streets. Predictably, the plant was destroyed by flood on May 20, 1864. The *Rocky* used the plant of the *Commonwealth Republic* to continue publishing, and soon absorbed that paper as well.

From 1863 to 1871, John L. Dailey served as co-owner and editor. After several moves, in 1866 the *Rocky* settled into a brick building in the so-called "News Block" near 16th and Larimer Streets, where it stayed until 1887. In July 1870, the *Rocky* shifted from evening to morning publication. W.A.H. Loveland, a railroad magnate and strong

supporter of the Democratic Party, bought the paper from Byers in 1878. Loveland modernized with telephones, typesetting machines and wire services.

In 1880, John Arkins bought an interest in the paper, and took over management. Arkins, his brother Maurice Arkins, and James Burnell would eventually buy out Loveland altogether. In 1890, influential Democratic senator Thomas McDonald Patterson bought an interest and became full owner in 1894. When Patterson bolted the Democrats to lead the Populist Party, his paper also supported the latter. In December 1907, the bitter rivalry between the *Rocky* and the *Denver Post* escalated when *Rocky* publisher Patterson accused *Post* co-owner Frederick G. Bonfils of blackmail. The resulting fistfight between the two men left Patterson with a bloody nose.

In 1901, the Rocky Mountain News bought the *Denver Times* from industrialist David Moffat, continuing it as an evening companion paper. John C. Schaffer of Chicago bought the *Rocky* in 1913. Scripps Howard Co. bought the *Rocky Mountain News* in November 1926. Scripps merged the *Times* with the *Denver Express*, creating the *Evening News*. Scripps discontinued the *Evening News* in 1928 but continued the *Rocky*.

In April 1942, the *News* switched from a broadsheet format to a tabloid layout. 1952 saw the paper move into new headquarters at 400 W. Colfax Ave. The *Rocky* won its first Pulitzer prize in 2000 for its coverage of the Columbine High School massacre of 1999. Also in 2000, business challenges compelled the *Rocky* and the *Post* to enter into a Joint Operating Agreement in which they shared advertising, circulation, and

production departments but maintained separate newsrooms issuing two distinct newspapers. The *Rocky* won more Pulitzers in 2003 and 2006, but continuing financial pressures forced Scripps to seek a buyer for the paper in 2008. Denver and Colorado's first newspaper published its final edition on February 27, 2009.

Rocky Mountain Canary (1926-1927)

Rocky Mountain Celt (1881-1892) See Irish newspapers.

Rocky Mountain Cricket (1891-1892)

Rocky Mountain Eagle (1889-1900)

Rocky Mountain Illustrated Weekly (1895-1896) The name changed to **Illustrated Sentinel** (1896-1899) and again to **Illustrated Weekly** (1889-1900).

Rocky Mountain Rocket (1908-1909)

Rocky Mountain Screech Owl (1906-1907) The *Screech Owl* was published to support the unsuccessful gubernatorial campaign of Judge Ben Lindsey. W.C. Van Zandt, publisher; A.W. Sowers, editor.

Rocky Mountain Tourist News (6-8/1939)

Rocky Mountain Traveler (1904-1911)

Rocky Nippon (1934-1942) See Japanese newspapers.

Rocky Shimpo (1942-1961) see Japanese newspapers.

Roma (1892-1920) see Italian newspapers.

Santo Times (1917-1918)

Saturday Afternoon (1894-1897)

Saturday Night (1934-1937)

Saturday Review (1909-1911)

Scenic (1895-1896)

School Journal (Colorado) (1888-?)

Scintillator (1906-1910)

Scottish Chieftain (1906-1908)

Searchlight (1903-1909) Chapin Guard, publisher.

Senior Edition (1973 to date)

Sentinel (Civic) (1935-1948)

Sentinel (Colorado Daily) (8-10/1875) Smith & McDonald, publishers.

Sentinel (Rocky Mountain) 1887-1930) W.C. Calhoun, publisher. Merged into *Daily Journal*.

Sentinel (North Denver) (1934-1935)

Sentinel (Illustrated) see *Rocky Mountain Sentinel*.

Shinbun (Colorado) (1911 -1918) See Japanese newspapers.

Silber-Glocken (1895-1896) see German newspapers.

Silver Age (1890-1893) Shirley and Emerson, publishers.

Silver State (1882-1883)

Silver State #2 (1891-1892)

Silver West (1892-1896) George J. Blakely and Mary Hotz, publishers.

Sixteen-To-One (1895-1896) H.H. Moore, publisher.

Socialist (Colorado) (1903-1904)

Society (1900-1905)

Solid Muldoon (1967-1968) Underground newspaper.

Sonntags Post (1881-1883) See German newspapers.

Staats-Zeitung (Colorado) (1884-1885) See German newspapers.

South Denver Bulletin (1901-1904)

South Denver Daily (1932-1933)

South Denver Eye see **Eye (Denver)**.

South Denver Sun (1906-1907)

South Denver Standard (1913-1947) J.I. and A.E. Ellsworth, editors and publishers.

South Denver Tribune (1908-1929)

South Pearl News (1934-1935)

South Side Citizen (8/5/1899-1900) Del Gee and Eugene Button, editors and publishers.

South Side Hustler (1901-1902)

Sports Afield (1888-1893)

Standard (1892-1908) Charles W. Monaghan, publisher.

Standard (National) (1897-1903) S.W. Grove, founder. The *Standard* was associated with the Grand Army of the Republic, the Women's Relief Corps, and the Sons of Veterans.

Standard (Western) (1888-1889)

Star (1881-1883)

Star #2 (1887-1892) Weekly.

Star (Evening) (1889-1890) Daily companion of weekly Star.

Star #3 (1912-?) See African-American newspapers.

Star (Barnum) (1923-1925) M.D. Nelson, publisher.

Star (Chaffee Park) (1963-?)

Star (Five Points) (1906-1907)

Star (North) (1931-1932)

State Capitol (Colorado) (1890-1891) Charles W. Stidger, publisher.

Statesman #1 (Denver) (1889) See African-American newspapers.

Statesman (Colorado) #2 (1895-1961)

Statesman (Colorado) (1977 to date)

Statesman-Exponent (1895-1896) See African-American newspapers.

Stella (10-11/1885) See Italian newspapers.

Straight Creek Journal (2/10/1972-1980) Published by Community Free School Inc.

Suburban Home Journal (1884-1885)

Suburbanite (1912-1914)

Sun (1884-1889) W.N. Braxton, editor and publisher.

Sun (Colorado) (3/8/1891-1894) W.H. Griffith and Richard Linthicum, editors.

Svenska Amerikanska Western (1901-1928) See Swedish newspapers.

Svenska Korrespondenten (1889-1901) see Swedish newspapers.

Swastika (1907-1909) Dr. A.J. McIvor-Tyndall, publisher.

Taxpayers Review (1937)

Taxpayers Weekly (1908)

Telegram (Evening) (1886-1887)

Tenshun, 21! (1919) Published by and for the personnel of United States Army General Hospital No. 21.

Tidings (1888-1894) J.C. Kennedy and Son, publishers.

Tiempo (1962-1963) see Spanish newspapers.

Times (Denver Daily) (1869-1870) Times Publishing Co.

Times #2 (4/1/1872-11/22/1926) Simpson T. Sopris and Clarence E. Hager, editors and publishers. On 6/16/1872 the name changed to **Denver Daily Times**. For a brief time in 1891 it published as **Colorado Argus & Denver Weekly Times** before becoming the **Denver Weekly Times**. In 1894 it merged with the *Colorado Weekly Sun* to create the **Denver Times-Sun** (daily) and the **Colorado Weekly Sun**. By the end of the year, it published simply as the **Denver Times**. From 1895-1901 the paper was known as the **Denver Weekly Times-Sun**. Leading Colorado industrialist David H. Moffat bought an interest in 1898, which he sold to the *Rocky Mountain News* in 1901. The *Times* subsequently ran as a morning companion to the *News*. In 1926, the *News* bought the *Denver Express* and merged it with the *Times*, creating the *Denver Evening News*.

Times (Colorado) (1918) see Japanese newspapers.

Times (1944-1947)

Times (Santo) (1917-1918) Daily.

Tomahawk (9/4/1890-1894) A.R. Arbuckle, editor. The *Tomahawk* featured news, literature, poems, and a wire service.

Topics (Park Hill) (1933-1945)

Tourist (Colorado) (1881-1882)

Tourist (Colorado) #2 (1904-1917)

Tourist & Hotel Reporter (1895-1909)

Transcript (Colorado) (3-12/1875) Daily edition of *Golden Transcript*, published in Denver. George West founded both papers.

Traveler (Rocky Mountain) (1904-1909) W.S. Keller, publisher.

Tribune (Colorado) (5/15/1867-1871) L.M. Koons, founder; Roger W. Woodbury, editor. It became the **Denver Tribune** (1/20/1871-1884). The staff included well-known journalists Eugene Field, Frank Hall, and Patience Thornton. In 1884, Republican Publishing bought and consolidated the *Tribune* into the **Tribune-Republican** (1884-1887). Later that year it became simply the *Republican* (see *Republican*).

Tribune (People's) (1894-1895)

Tribune (South Denver) (1908-1929) George H. Beyer and Will H. Byrne, publishers.

Tribune (Westwood-Barnum) (1947-1950)

Trumpet (1935-1941) See Italian newspapers.

Trumpet (Colorado) (1955-1968) In May 1960 it merged with the *Public Ledger* and was briefly known as the **Colorado Trumpet and Public Ledger** before reverting to the *Trumpet*. It was an organ of the Republican State Central Committee. Jane Harper, the main researcher and author of this volume, served as editor and publisher from May 1960 to May 1965.

Tusker (1940-1941)

Two Capitols (1889-1890)

United Americans (1920-1921)

University Park Cooperation (1894-1895) Monthly.

University Park Advertiser (1932-1933)

University Park Herald (1933-1935)

University Park News (1958-?)

Up The Creek (1974 to date)

Veckoblad (1888-1889) See Swedish newspapers.

Verdad (1937-1941) See Spanish newspapers.

Vidette (1883-1884) Halsey Rhoads, publisher.

Vidette (Valverde) (1891-1892) L.T. King, publisher.

Volksblatt (1887-1888) Daily; see German newspapers.

Volkszeitung-Tribune (1955) See German newspapers.

Vorwärts (1903-1914) See German newspapers.

Washington Park Press (1930-1933)

Washington Park Press #2 (1941?)

Washington Park Profile (10/1978 to date) Monthly; Debi Brown, founder.

Way (1899-1900)

West Sider (1895-1896) Weekly.

Western Ideal (1931-1932) Weekly.

Western World (1889-1891) Weekly.

Western World #2 (1909-1912)

Westword (1977-present) Patricia Calhoun, editor. An “alternative weekly” free circulation newspaper. Westword reports on arts and entertainment as well as local and state politics. Westword has won several awards for investigative journalism. It’s in depth stories are now the most thorough journalistic probes of the last few decades.

Woman’s Crier (3/1899-1900)

World (Denver) (12/1873-12/1874) (Daily and Weekly)

CHAPTER XIX

DOLORES COUNTY

Each and every member of the society is expected to act decorously under all circumstances.

Political and religious discussions will be strictly prohibited.

No member shall use profane or obnoxious language during any one of the meetings of this society.

Applications for admission shall send their names through some member of the society, to be adjudged an eligible member...

Any member absenting himself without a valid excuse from two consecutive meetings shall be expelled for one month.

Any member found guilty of "salting" a mine or mines, erasing dates to gain priority or any other more than ordinary misdemeanor shall be expelled from the society and shall not be accepted as a member thereafter.

Pioneer Mining District by-laws, 7/17/1879

In the spring of 1831, sixty men departed on a trapping expedition for the St. Louis Fur Company. The party, led by William G. Walton, spent the fur season of 1832 at the headwaters of the San Juan River, and in the summer of 1833 they were in the valley of the Rio Dolores. "Commodore" Walton became a resident of Ophir in 1878 and could point out axe marks he had made during that 1833 expedition.

The Escalante expedition had been in the valley some fifty-five years earlier. After Walton it would be forty-five years before another group would leave its mark on the area. Then the men would prospect, explore and dot the landscape with their

names. It wasn't until 1869, however, that a couple of experienced prospectors recognized a promising spot and settled in what is now Dolores County. They called their claim the Pioneer. The following year they were joined by half a dozen other adventurous spirits and a permanent camp began to emerge. A mining district was organized in 1878, and by 1879 the word was out.

Dolores County's name comes from the Dolores River, the Rio de Nuestra de los Dolores, reported by Father Escalante in 1776. Rico, the only town in the county in 1881 was named county seat. It lost the designation to Dove Creek in 1941 because of the latter's increased population and business activity, and the former's mining decline.

The town of Dolores, however, is in Montezuma County.

Dove Creek

Dove Creek, on the western side of the county, was an agricultural and stock raising area, and the center of the state's largest dry bean growing area, thus earning the nickname "Pinto Bean Capitol of the World." In the 1880s the Indians leased their rich grass land to the white cattlemen. The town wasn't founded until after the area was opened to homesteading in 1914. Novelist Zane Gray is said to have lived in a Dove Creek cabin while he was writing "Riders of the Purple Sage." Dove Creek had three newspapers and one of the most descriptive writers in Colorado.

Dove Creek Inland Empire September 1921-December 1932, Morton Alexander, founder. Alexander, who owned the Hot Sulphur Springs *Middle Park Times* from 1899 to 1907, departed Dove Creek in 1922. *Inter-Mountain Press* (IMP) reported that

Alexander "comes with a hatfull of good words from other editors in that part of the state, who are familiar with him and his work." The *Inland Empire* absorbed the Ackmen/Dove Creek *Pioneer-Chieftain* in 1922, and ten years later merged with the *Rico Item* and was published in Rico as the *Rico-Dove Creek News*, until 1942.

Dove Creek Press May 8, 1940 to present, Daniel Brown Hunter, founder. The newspaper equipment was bought from the *Cortez Sentinel*. Hunter reportedly "never used one word when ten would do," and was once called the champion word-slinger of the century. Ralph T. Williams was his partner from May to December 1940. Hunter was the entire staff from publisher to delivery boy, except for paper folder, a position held by Mrs. Hunter. Mr. Hunter was a town booster with a real affection for its people.

Two sentences he wrote underline that:

The Dove Creek country was settled by homesteaders who, instead of creating beauty on canvas, created a living beauty upon the earth.

Here live a friendly people who are kind and hospitable to strangers who enter their gates.

Hunter's fame spread beyond Dove Creek. He was called the "greatest descriptive writer in America." He became more famous for his obituaries, which Al Look, who wrote an article on Hunter for the 1962 "*Brand Book*", described:

His obituaries were a sermon to comfort the living, they gave importance to an ordinary life, they sent the soul on its way in a halo of language as though its flight into the great unknown was marked alongside the sparrow's fall.

If Hunter had a hole to fill in the paper, and no obituary to fill it, he would expand a simple "local" from a succinct one sentence to several paragraphs--or use large headline type to stretch a sentence to two inches. Or he would take to creative writing.

Lee Olson, former *Denver Post* reporter, remembers Hunter saying: "I think the press freedom means that when they come through the door with something for me to print I don't have to print it." Hunter was an active citizen, promoter and crusader. He was a member of almost two dozen boards, commissions and committees, working to bring better electricity and more water to town. In 1945, feeling he had done all he could do in the paper for his community, Hunter sold the *Press*. Moving to another sphere, he was elected mayor, continued his crusades, and traveled and talked about Dove Creek.

Fred L. Bradshaw of the *Dolores Star* and James E. Winner bought the newspaper, selling it a few months later to Dale E. Schultz (Hunter was briefly an interim editor). Birl J. and Leo Brewington bought the paper in 1948 and published it until 1955 when it was sold to Frank L. Megnin. Birl Brewington was back in September 1958, remaining until July 1959 when he sold the paper to Jack and Marilyn Kisling. Jack Kisling moved on to Denver where he became one of the most prolific, popular and long lived columnists for *The Denver Post*. The Kislings sold to Lawrence and Marilyn Pleasant in 1961, who in turn sold or leased it to Richard and Wendy Spurr. The Spurrs ran it from January 1968 to January 1973. Miles and Jane Turnbull were the next owners, until 1976. Jim and Gertrude Shannon were owners in 1976, Ronald and Sandra Thompson and Robert and Barbara James in 1977. Mike and Maxine Bonan bought the *Press* in October 1978, selling it to Doug and Linda Funk in April 1983.

Funk, who writes a column titled "Phunque's Desk," reflected on his vocation in a 1994 piece:

The Wife and I knew when we signed the bank note that ours wouldn't be a job for the faint-hearted. We had a community to serve, and we had to do it with honesty and as much understanding as we could muster.

Since then we've had our ups and downs. We've been broke more often than not, and we've been disheartened when community spirit occasionally takes a break of some board or other takes leave of its senses....

...I have a standard to keep and another meeting to cover. Today it will be easy. Today I feel like a publisher.

The Funks are still publishing the *Dove Creek Press*.

Rico

The Silverton *La Plata Miner* disclosed in July 1879 that 200 people had left Silverton for the Dolores Camp of Rico, carefully noting that "The difference between the Dolores and Tin Cup areas is that on the Dolores they are locating mines while in the Tin Cup area they are prospecting for town sites." In November 1879, the *Ouray Times* reported with sly humor on the town's rapid development:

This place impresses one as having gotten there before it was sent for. And yet everything is there, wine and women, cards and caterers, houses and horses, men and burros, money and mines, storms and stores, sawmills and gospel mills, busy boys and blowing bummers, working men and working women, pack trains and bull trains, carpenters and sign painters, assay offices and bunco steerers, Sunday schools and kino chambers.

Rico, the original county seat, was established in 1879 with the Spanish word for rich. The publisher of the *La Plata Miner* was John Curry. He founded and operated the most newspapers of any Coloradan in the 1800s. His third paper, the *Dolores News*, was

first issued August 21, 1879. The *News* cheered, encouraged, and saw to it that the budding town was recognized. Curry also carried on a running feud with one of Colorado's fabled editors, Dave Day.

The not-so-friendly fire between Curry and Day began as soon as Day's Ouray *Solid Muldoon* was published a month after the *Dolores News*. Day, if he didn't start it, kept up the friction between the two Ouray County towns, and he mocked Curry for his alleged mining transactions, for the *News* slogans, and for being a "veteran liar and unscrupulous scoundrel." Curry, having had enough, retorted that Day had "taken the boat this time without oars." The feud between the two went on for years, culminating in a cane fight in Denver.

In 1886 the University of Colorado advertised in the *Dolores News*. Then in its sixth year, the "college" advertised: "Three full courses, four years each, Scientific, Latin Scientific and Classical." A Preparatory School fitted pupils for any one of the College courses. A Normal School had a three-year course with "thorough training for the teaching business." Special Courses were said to have "Excellent facilities for giving instruction in chemistry, assaying, etc. The laboratory is as complete as any in the country." Tuition was free.

A boom and bust town, Rico has continued with spurts of new activity, one in the late 1930s and another in the 1950s, when uranium caused a stir.

Dolores News August 21, 1879-December 26, 1885, John Curry, founder. The first seven issues of the *News* were printed at Curry's Silverton *La Plata Miner*. Col.

Charles A. Mantz of St. Louis was editor, and Frank Hartman, "compositor, foreman, printer's devil and general roustabout." Hartman and Charles A. Jones of Kansas City bought the paper from Curry on May 1, 1880. Hartman stayed until September 1882, Jones stayed until February 13, 1886. Lillian Hartman was also an editor of the *News* with her brother and Jones. She was 18 years old and just starting on her remarkable journalistic career.

Colonel Jones sold the Washington hand press and plant to two Rico lawyers, the Wyman brothers, in February 1886. Charles K. Holmburg, later with the Grand Junction Mesa County *Democrat*, had bought an interest in the *News* in 1884. Lafe Pence was an interim editor before he was elected to the state legislature that same year. Whether the Wymans were sole owners or primarily investors is uncertain. Holmburg was still on the staff, sometimes listed as publisher, sometimes as editor.

The newspaper switched from the county name to the town one:

Rico News, January to July 1886. The *News* merged with the *Record*.

Rico Record September 6, 1883-July 3, 1886, Lillian Hartman, founder. It merged into the *Rico News* and the merged name was:

Rico News-Record July 10, 1886-1890. S.C. James was listed as editor/publisher at the time of the merger. James and Holmburg, possibly co-owners, were on the paper until 1887. F.R. Lewis and T.F. Rust were owners in 1888; Lewis until 1889, and Rust until 1891. By 1889 William C. Morish was publisher, taking on a Mr. Coughlin as partner

in 1892. The paper's circulation was 1,000 that year. By the time George H. Hutt bought the paper in 1894 the name had reverted to:

Rico News 1890-1895. George H. Hutt, formerly of the *Democrat* and the *Sun*, and A. Casey bought the *News* in 1894 "to balance the ticket"--one Republican (the *News*) and one Democrat paper. (See *Democrat/Sun* below.) The *News* and *Sun* merged in 1895:

Rico News-Sun 1895-June 29, 1901. A. Casey was editor and publisher from the merger until November 27, 1899, when partner Hutt bought him out. Hutt remained as publisher until 1906, when he went to the *Cortez Herald*, and, later to the *Norwood Post*. Hutt shortened the name in 1901 to the earlier:

Rico News July 6, 1901-December 12, 1908. The Rico News Publishing Company owned the paper when it ceased publication in December 1908.

Newspaper historians Walter Stewart and Lucille Hastings both say that the *News* name was changed to *Rico Item* in 1909. Oehlerts and the Ayer directory list them as separate papers and give the starting date of the *Item* as 1907. The *News* may have been merged in to the *Item*.

Rico Item 1907-December 31, 1932. Stewart lists Richard Linthicum as editor in 1909; Ayer lists the Item Publishing Company, no editor, in 1915. Linthicum had been with the *Como Headlight* and a couple of Denver newspapers. In 1914 he was an editor with the *New York World*.

Clifford J. Laube, whom Hastings describes as "one of the most talented and colorful editors in Colorado," was editor and publisher in 1919. He served in the Colorado legislature the same year. Laube began his newspaper work on the *Denver Times* and *Rocky Mountain News* in 1903. After leaving Rico, he was a *New York Times* editor from 1940 until his retirement in 1953.

Louis W. Hicks was editor and publisher from November 1919 to 1931. Hicks, who was crippled by polio and walked only with the aid of crutches, "always exhibited courage and worked diligently around the plant," said Hastings. After leaving Rico, Hicks owned a lumber company in California. He died in a mill accident in 1945.

H.E. Kendree bought the paper in November 1930. L.C. Kendree was owner in 1931. The former was editor until at least 1933, and the latter until 1937. L.C. Kendree bought and merged the Dove Creek *Inland Empire* in January 1933 and changed the name to:

Rico-Dove Creek News January 5, 1933-December 25, 1942. L.C. Kendree was publisher and H.E. Kendree was editor and owner of the combined papers according to *Colorado Editor*, February 1933. Harry A. Wood bought the paper in February 1937, and suspended it at Christmas 1942.

Electric Light 1881-1882, Eber C. Smith, founder.

Rico Clipper November 9, 1882-1883, W.L. Stevens, founder. Stevens had several other papers, including in Alamosa and Silver Cliff, and was married to Flora Bishop, who

was a special editor of the *Rocky Mountain News* in 1879, and an honorary member of the press association. The *Red Mountain Pilot* had unusually harsh words about the new paper: "The *Clipper* is without question the worst printed and least edited papers in the state...[We] wonder what long felt want the paper fills."

Rico Democrat January 16-November 6, 1891, T.J. Tarsney, founder. Tarsney hoped to issue the paper in time for New Year's greetings, but the supplies ordered from Denver were mistakenly sent to Rockwood and there was no way to get them to Rico on time. The proposed paper's resourceful foreman, was on his way to the Chinese laundry when:

[He] stumbled onto an old keg in the alley which he at once identified as an original package for printer's ink. The lucky find was taken to the crematory and thawed out, the inside of the package scraped, then taken to the coal yard and screened....Our thanks to F.L. Thompson for twenty quires of wrapping paper, a sample of which we send you. [with apologies for] a class of paper not at all adapted to this use.

In the fall of 1891, Tarsney was endorsed for the office of district attorney and gave up the paper for political office. New editors/publishers T.F. Rust & George Hutt changed the name to:

Rico Sun November 13, 1891-1895. Charles H. Berry bought the *Sun* from Rust & Hutt in 1895, but Hutt--with A. Casey--bought the paper back later that year and merged it into the *Rico News*, which they owned. The Sun shined until June 1901 in the combined name:

Rico News-Sun 1895-1901. (See Rico News.)

Sources: *Dolores News, Rico Democrat, Dove Creek Press* . "Dan Hunter: Sage of the Sagebrush," by Al Look; "Brand Book" 1962. Look, a neighbor of Hunter, was a columnist, and long-time advertising manager of the *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*

"Milestones in Rico's History" by Louis Hicks,"Pioneers of San Juan Country, Volume 3, Out West Printing and Stationery Company, Colorado Springs; 1961

"Rico, And The Creation of Dolores County" by D.H. Cummins and Marguerite Beard. "Colorado Magazine," 4/1953.

"Dolores County Newspapers" by Lucille Hastings, *Colorado Editor* 12/1969.

Special thanks to Melinda Green and Lee Olson.

CHAPTER XX

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Castle Rock, the Douglas County seat, was first thought to be named by the Long expedition in 1820, but some historians believe the "Castle rock" mentioned then is actually the Elephant Rock between Palmer Lake and Monument. Lt. John Fremont had the right rock in 1843 but called it "Pound Cake Rock." Whatever it was called, it was a landmark for those passing along the Trappers Trail. Passerby Rufus Sage, wrote one of the earliest descriptions of the county in 1846:

Cherry Creek, an affluent of the Platte [originates] in a broad ridge of pine hills and rocks known as the "Divide." It pursues its course for nearly sixty miles through a broad valley of rich soil tolerably well-timbered and shut in for the most part by high plats and tablelands--at intervals thickly studded with lateral pines, cedars, oaks and shrubs....

Those ponderosa pines mentioned by Sage would be invaluable to later settlers. The timber also was mentioned three years later by a group of Cherokee Indians on their way to the California gold fields. Trappers Trail was renamed Cherokee Trail, and rumors of gold in the South Platte bobbed up again, more than forty years after the first rumor when James Pursley [aka Purcell] told Zebulon Pike he had found gold on the upper South Platte. Sage told of the Arapaho Indians using gold bullets.

On June 22, 1858, a party headed by the Russell brothers of Georgia--Dr. Levi J., J.O. and William Green Russell--staked off claims, and called the site Russellville In future Douglas County. Two weeks later they found pay dirt on Little Dry Creek. In

August some of the gold dust was exhibited back in the Missouri River towns igniting the Pike's Peak gold rush. Russellville (often spelled Russelville on early maps) filled up with prospectors, but the Russells moved on to found Auraria, the first permanent settlement in Denver.

Douglas County--then part of Arapahoe County in Kansas Territory--suddenly had two major routes running through it to the future: the Cherokee Trail and the Smoky Hill Trail. Though a shorter route than the Cherokee Trail, the Smoky Hill was also short on water and grass, and long on dead livestock, abandoned wagons and grave sites on what became notorious as the "Starvation Route." Most immigrants, taking the shortest trail to settlement in Colorado, followed the newer Smoky Hill Trail. The first stagecoach company into the area, the Leavenworth and Pikes Peak Express, also followed the Smoky Hill route, 687 miles from Kansas to Denver City. The trip took nineteen days, although the time was shortened within a few months. The only passenger in the first uncomfortable, bouncing, exhausting coach was journalist Henry Villard, who would join forces with Horace Greeley to verify the gold strikes. He arrived in Denver May 7, 1859. Villard saw Pikes Peak as he rode through future Douglas County, and, seeing the "little blue cloud" Zebulon Pike had seen, wrote:

It looked like a cloud, but as one comes nearer, assumes clearer and greater dimensions, and when arriving at the last ridge running down Cherry Creek Valley its eastern front is completely revealed to the eye, together with a long chain of peaks, partly covered with snow and partly with pine....I have seen the Alps of Switzerland and Tyrol, the Pyrenees, yet their attractions appear to dwindle into nothing when compared with the at once grotesque and sublime beauty of the mountain scenery upon which my eyes feasted....

After golden beginnings, Douglas County flourished with ranching, cattle, timber and a lumber industry and, in more recent years, housing developments. One of the 17 original Colorado counties established in 1861 when it had a population of "at least 60"-grew slowly due to the Civil War in the east and the Indian war on the plains. Many citizens fled to Denver or Colorado Springs.

Douglas County was named for Illinois Senator Stephen A. Douglas, a Democratic political leader, who died the year the county was organized. Douglas County initially stretched to the Kansas border, but in 1874 a major chunk of that land became Elbert County, leaving Douglas with its present borders. Frankstown was the county seat until 1874, when Castle Rock wrested it away. The first railroad through Douglas County was the Kansas Pacific from Kansas City to Denver in 1870, followed by the Denver & Rio Grande, Denver and New Orleans, and Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe.

Douglas County experienced slow but steady growth until the 1990s when it became the fastest growing county in the nation. Between 1990 and 2010, its population jumped from 8,710 to 48,231. It is Denver's fastest growing and richest suburban county.

Castle Rock

If not one of the seven wonders of Colorado, Castle Rock is a real wonder. It is a tremendous rock, standing up to bold relief several hundred feet in height, rising up abruptly out of the plains, being visible...for many miles...up or down the valley....Many a family wanting to avoid the wickedness of large cities like Denver, would gather in there where they could live pleasantly...a town will grow up there of no ordinary beauty.

Rocky Mountain News 3/18/1874

Settlers came in 1871 with the arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. The D&RG helped develop one of the first industries, stone quarrying the local rhyolite as well as some coal. The quarries began declining after the turn of the century and finally closed in the early 1940s.

The first newspaper in Douglas County was the **Newsletter**, August 16, 1893-May 1874, Edward Sturdy, editor, publisher and, probably, founder. The paper moved with the county seat to Castle Rock. A more authoritative name was chosen:

Douglas County News #1 June 1874-1879, Edward Sturdy. Walter Spencer bought the *News* in December 1876 and is listed as publisher in 1877. The 21-year-old Spencer had come to Colorado to visit a sister at "Bear Creek" and took work at the *Rocky Mountain News*. Spencer was preparing to go back to Missouri when a saloon keeper sold him the *Douglas County News* for \$500. Spencer later moved on to Denver newspapers and to the *Lyons Recorder*, which he published from 1917 to 1928.

There is conflicting information on what happened to the *News*. Oehlerts said it was continued as the *Castle Rock Independent*. Frank Hall says the *News* "succumbed to fate, and the material was taken to Buena Vista." Historian Wilbur Stone concurs, adding the plant was shipped to Buena Vista, by C.A. Parkinson.

Castle Rock Independent 1879-1881, D.A. Jennings, editor and publisher.

Castle Rock Journal March 1880-January 31, 1908, sources vary on whether George B. Armstrong or W.F. Waller was the actual founder. Stone and Hall say it was

Armstrong who moved a newspaper plant from Monument to start the *Castle Rock Journal*. Stewart states that W.F. Waller founded the paper in March 1880, as the *Monument Journal*, but moved it to Castle Rock in November and rechristened it.

The paper changed hands seven times in twelve years. After the new stone courthouse was built, the *Journal* was housed in the old frame courthouse building, which had been moved to Castle Rock from Frankstown. Wallace F. Waller left in 1881 but returned in 1883. In the interim, C.C. Holbrook apparently bought the paper in July 1881 but sold it to A.B. Johnson in October.

W.F. Waller and Keith Pierce bought the paper in February 1883. Pierce left the following month. The Waller Brothers owned the paper from January 20, 1885, to September 15, 1886, when Will Hodges and Robert Hancock purchased it. Hodges had already left to publish papers in Fountain and Littleton when Hancock sold the paper to George W. Smith and Amos L. Bixby, who issued their first paper on January 4, 1888. Bixby, formerly of Boulder newspapers, seems to have sold his share to his partner almost immediately. Smith sold it to Willis A. Brainard in April 1888 and moved to Hayden.

Washington Irving Whittier bought the *Journal* August 1, 1888, enlarged it to an 8-column full page, and gave the paper some stability. Whittier published the paper until the end of 1899. W.I. Whittier was also co-publisher of the *Monte Vista Graphic* with his son for a time. He is said to have been a founder of the *Castle Rock Mascot*, which eventually became the *Douglas County Record*, another paper he owned from

1900 to 1902. Whittier owned the *Journal* when the *Mascot* was started in 1895. One person publishing two weeklies concurrently in such a small market was unusual.

Under Whittier, the *Journal* encouraged agriculture, and used a show-and-tell approach. The best of the bounty was displayed at the newspaper office, which once offered a one-year subscription to the person who brought to the office the best sample of Douglas County corn raised "this season *without irrigation, said sample to be not less than six ears and fastened together so that it can be hung up.*"

Clarence O. Finch bought at least an interest in April 1896 and is listed as publisher by Rowell in 1898. Harry Wood bought an interest in the *Journal* in January 1900, and then bought out Finch in March 1903. His brother, L.C. Wood, was editor. Harry Wood went on to a 24-year newspaper career in Routt County.

A new era began with the next owners, the Case family. S.S. Case bought the paper from Harry Wood in April 1904. Case was editor and publisher until January 1908. His wife, May Case, was an editor, and his nephew, Virgil A. Case, was named manager in September 1907. In 1908 they bought the *Douglas County Record* and merged it as:

Castle Rock Record-Journal February 7, 1908-November 1952. C.A. Bent was editor of the combined papers in 1909, and may have had a financial interest. Historian Stone describes the *Record-Journal*, owned by Bent and Case, as "the successor of a host of newspaper wrecks." The *Record*, founded in 1899 was first known as:

Castle Rock Mascot 1896-1899, founder unknown, although W.I. Whittier has been suggested. Mrs. Harriet E. Wilson was editor from 1896-1898. She was publisher of the *Westcreek Times* later. H.C. Wood of the Castle Rock Publishing Co. bought the paper in 1898 and changed the name to:

Douglas County Record 1899-February 1, 1908. W.I. Whittier, formerly of the *Journal*, was editor/publisher from 1900-1902, Will J. Mathews, 1903-1904 and again in 1907, and Miss Klo Hamilton in 1905. It is not certain whether they were owners, partners or employees of the publishing company. It is certain that S.S. and Virgil Case bought the paper January 25, 1908, and merged it with the *Journal*. The name became *Castle Rock Record-Journal*.

Virgil Alva Case was born in Kansas in 1883 and came to Colorado with his parents at age seventeen. He moved to Castle Rock in 1907 to work for his uncle's *Douglas County Journal*. The younger Case moved from head of the mechanical department, a position he had held since the *Journal* and *Record* merged in 1908, to manager of the combined papers. Active in the Colorado Press Association, Case was a director in the late 1920s, and treasurer from 1933 to 1936. Case "devoted his entire life to the betterment of the community and the county in which he lived," said *Colorado Editor* when he died in March 1944. Evidently many agreed, because his funeral was held in the district court room and:

The attendance was one of the largest ever witnessed in Castle Rock. Citizens came from all over the county, and publishers and friends came from other towns to pay their last tribute to a man who had endeared himself to people in all walks of life.

After Case's death, his widow, who had helped her husband operate the *Record-Journal*, continued to assist Marjorie even after her daughter took over as editor. Marjorie had been associate editor since 1937. She married Leslie D. Oman in December 1946 and he was named associate editor. The Omans suspended the *Journal* in November 1952.

Douglas County News #2 February 1890-1895, founded by John A. Cheeley, who sold it the following July to the Douglas County Publishing Company, H.L. Barter editor. James F. O'Brien was publisher in 1894, according to the *News-Press*. Cheeley came from Buena Vista where he published the *Buena Vista Democrat*. After Castle Rock, he founded *Cheeley's Democrat* in Denver. Barter founded and edited several newspapers in Teller County during the early 1900s. Edwin A. Benedict had been connected with papers in Idaho Springs, Silver Plume and Monument. Political wars invariably provided good newspaper wars. The *Journal*, professing to give the "NEWS STRAIGHT and uncolored by party prejudice or party preference," said October 20, 1890:

Those who have read both the Journal and the News during the past five months [will note] the difference in the manner in which the two papers give the news, and especially the political news. The Journal treats its opponents with fairness and respect, while the News deals in blackguard, and misrepresentation. The Journal gives the news straight, while the News perverts the facts, and mixes them up with misstatements and comments intended to be detrimental to its opponents. Compare the two newspapers carefully and then you will know to which to refer when you want the facts whether about friends or foe.

Editor Barter's response is not available.

Mining News 1904-1906. The Wood brothers were back in business again with the *Mining News*.

Douglas County Republican 1910-1912, founded in the interests of the Republican Party, became:

Douglas County Times 1912-1917, Alfred Stewart, publisher. *Colorado Press* reported in February 1914 that the *Times* had been suspended, but Ayer lists it in 1915, so evidently the *Times* restarted. It was, like its predecessor indicated, Republican.

Douglas County Democrat April 13, 1912-December 16, 1912 or later, Cole Briscoe, founder. Richard Bangs, editor of the *News-Press*, discovered copies of the *Democrat* while rummaging through the N-P attic. The first issue gave front page space to articles on precinct meetings, but it also reported a shooting, a banking law and "a whole list of locals under the head of "Castle Rock Briefs":

Miss Berger spent Sunday with her parents.

Mr. Stewart from Jackson Creek was in town to trade with local merchants.

The Engles rejoiced over a new ten pound son.

Phones were installed on several ranches.

In the last issue of the *Democrat* found by Bangs, Cole Briscoe, in a final blast at the *Times*, accused the editor of "being two-faced for advocating voting a party line while the editor of the *Democrat* said vote for the best candidate."

Douglas County News #3 1950-1979, Clyde and Bernis Farris, founders. Farris sold the *News* to Ray Mohler in 1953. Mohler brought considerable newspaper

experience to the *News*, and he used it well. Among his successful editorial ventures were campaigns from 1953 to 1958 that helped bring the Air Force Academy to the area and kept tourist traps out of the stretch of Interstate 25 from Castle Rock to Colorado Springs.

Ray Mohler sold the *News* to George Kobalt in 1958. In 1976 the *News* was owned briefly by Eugene Thomas, although Kobalt kept ownership of the building and printing plant. Jerry Brock and James Adkins, Jr., who owned the *Parker Press*, purchased the *News* in September 1977. Adkins and Brock also owned the *Kiowa Elbert County News*, *Town & Country Squire*, and *Elbert County Squire*, which they consolidated into the *News*. They also acquired the printing facilities.

Town & Country Squire August 15, 1973-1978, Jim Adkins and Jerry Brock, founders. It was merged into the *News-Press*. In 1979 the *Parker Press* was merged with the *News* to become:

Douglas County News-Press 1979 to present. It was published three times a week and had increased to a six-days-a-week paper by 1986 when it was sold to Westward Communications, a Dallas, Texas-based firm whose principal owners were Will D. Jarrett, former editor of the *Denver Post* and the *Dallas Times-Herald*, and Ken Johnson, a former editor of the *Washington Post* and *Dallas Times-Herald*.

Robert Lombardi was publisher from Fall 1987 until November 1993. Bill Woodall, who had been chief operating officer of the Westward papers in East Texas, was named publisher to replace Lombardi. Richard Bangs, who had been editor since 1989,

continued in that position. The original six-day daily went to a five-day daily in 1988, and dropped to twice a week in 1992, and to an enlarged weekly in 1996.

Castle Rock Chronicle March 1995 to present. Jim Myles founder. Myles is also publisher of the *Parker Weekly News Chronicle*.

Franktown

James Frank Gardner came to Colorado as a prospector in the summer of 1859. He later made his fortune by opening a sawmill and taking up a squatter's claim to "Frank's Town." Others settled around him. Also in the summer of 1859, an enterprising Californian named Charles Parkhurst built the California Ranch, a hotel/stage station/refreshment oasis, a few miles to the south. Late in 1860, Gardner and Parkhurst organized a claim district so settlers could record their property. This first legal entity in what would become Douglas County was legitimized by the first Territorial Legislature in 1861.

Gardner's cabin also housed the former Russellville post office which had been moved to Frank's Town. Gardner was postmaster in 1862. He sold his cabin in 1863 and moved the county records to California Ranch. The traveling post office went with him. Frankstown had a new location and a new spelling after postal authorities eliminated the "s" in Frankstown after 1890.

The *Rocky Mountain News*, in 1867, unkindly said that "Frankstown is not a town at all, not even a respectable rancho, having only one house." The people of Frankstown

immediately added more buildings, business and residential. Frankstown was the county seat until 1874 it was replaced by Castle Rock. Douglas County's first newspaper was founded in Frankstown.

Newsletter August 16, 1873-June 1874, Edward H. Sturdy, founder. The Rowell 1874 newspaper directory lists it as "the official and only paper in the county, pop. 5,000." The *Newsletter* had done all it could to keep the county seat in Frankstown, pointing out its long stability and other virtues, as well as Castle Rock's "infancy." Frankstown's *Newsletter* became Castle Rock's *Independent*.

Highlands Ranch

Originally an elegant 12,000-acre horse ranch started by John Springer in 1891, it later became the home of the Phipps family, headed by U.S. Senator Lawrence C. Phipps. Widely described as a castle the huge mansion was headquarters for an English style fox hunt, which substituted coyotes for foxes. The Phipps Family sold what had grown into a 22,000 acre ranch to entrepreneurs who transformed it into Colorado's largest subdivision, with some 75,000 residents by 2014. When it is fully developed, Highlands Ranch expects a population of 100,000, making it one of the largest cities in Colorado.

The builder, Mission Viejo, started the first newspaper. Later Highlands Ranch has two papers in lively competition.

Highlands Ranch Herald January 1986 to present. The name in the beginning was simply **Highlands Ranch** with "Association Newsletter" underneath the Highlands Ranch falcon symbol in the banner. The March 1986 issue brought a new name:

Your Hometown Herald, (Or meanwhile back at the Ranch) The paper was produced bi-monthly by four volunteers, according to the ninth birthday edition. It cost about \$80 to print each issue, and was designed by Dave Long on his Macintosh computer. The name changed in January 1987 to:

Highlands Ranch Herald, and was "increased in size from eight inches by 10 inches to 10 inches by 14 inches...printed on glossy white paper." Later that year the paper switched to newsprint. Sentinel Newspapers took over production late in 1988. When the Sentinel chain broke up in August 1991, Jerry and Ann Healey, owners of the *Littleton Times*, bought the *Littleton Independent*, *Englewood Herald* and *Highlands Ranch Herald* from the Sentinel. In May 1994 the *Herald* began publishing weekly, and having local carriers deliver the paper. Community coverage was expanded. Success invites competition, and the *Herald* got it twice:

Highlands Ranch Register 1988-1993, started and ended by Westward Communications, which owned the Castle Rock *Douglas County News-Press*. Westward didn't give up, though, and produced a new publication:

The Highlander September 1994 to present, Douglas County Publishing Co., publishers. A sister publication of the Castle Rock *Douglas County News-Press*, the

Highlander is a broadsheet (the *Herald* is tabloid) and is edited by Jim Duffy, a retired veteran Denver newspaperman.

Parker

[Parker] started as a simple stage stop and post office near the confluence of two streams, about a day's ride from Denver. Economic growth was first spurred by the need for wood in Denver and nearby Auraria--wood provided by the pine groves in the "Black Forest," and saw mills around the town....

Parker Daily News-Press 6/6/1984

Parker originated in 1859 as the Twenty-Mile House--the approximate distance from there to Denver along Cherry Creek. The house became a post office and a popular stop for travelers, including "bull whackers and occasionally a bushwhacker."

James Semple Parker bought Twenty-Mile House in 1874, adding a general store and the settlement's first blacksmith shop. The new owner had five daughters helping out in an enlarged hotel who inspired dances and other festivities. Twenty-Mile House was a busy stage line station on the road from Denver to Colorado Springs. In addition to running Twenty-Mile House, Parker ranched, sold feed and coal, served as the first official postmaster for thirty-three years, as a Douglas County Commissioner and an active Democrat.

The Denver and New Orleans Railroad brought new life to the town and was a boon to farmers needing to move produce and other products to market. The *Rocky Mountain News* praised Parker in May 1882:

On our ride on the Denver and New Orleans the first place to attract our attention was Parker, twenty-three miles up Cherry Creek, where ground is being broken by Denver capitalists for working the immense bed of clay found at this place. This interest alone insures the building of a prosperous village at Parker.

But, as the railroad gave, so it took away. The Denver and New Orleans failed. Parker languished for decades, until metro Denver suburbs began spreading southward. In 1981, Parker incorporated and elected a mayor and town council. Local newspapers got started in 1912.

By 2010 it has mushroomed into a community of 5,450.

Parker Post April 1912-1923, E.B. DeuPree, founder. DeuPree was more businessman than newspaperman, although he owned the *Aurora Democrat* and *Elizabeth Banner* before establishing the *Parker Post*. In November 1916 *Colorado Press* reported that R.M. Griffin sold the *Post* to T.J. Holmes, "formerly of the *Swink Advocate* and *Simla Herald*." In May 1919 R. Jeff Taylor, "an old South Dakota newspaperman," purchased the *Post* from Holmes. L.P. Kennedy is listed with the paper in 1920, but *Colorado Press's* successor, the *Inter-Mountain Press* (IMP) reported in August 1921 that Kennedy sold the *Post* in July and purchased the *Arvada Enterprise*; he later returned to Parker at the helm of the *Parker News*.

Parker News 1923-August 1937. Founder Kennedy sold the paper in 1926 to Harold H. Davis. There were two editor/publishers after Davis left in 1928: Charles O'Brien, 1929, and Rev. M.M. Kober 1930-1931. Parker resident C. Lewis Herzog, who had been associated with Kober for some time, bought the *News* in September 1930.

Herzog was editor/publisher until 1936, when Rev. A.H. McGhee of Coffeyville, Kansas purchased the paper. The Castle Rock *Record-Journal* bought and suspended the *News* in August 1937.

In the 1960s developers began offering home sites in the Parker area. A shrewd master plan was designed to manage the town's expansion. After a quarter-century newspaper drought, Parker again had a local paper:

Parker Press June 18, 1962-1979, Don Stover, founder. The *Press* started as a 5x8 letterpress page, gradually increasing to a 5-column tabloid in 1966. Stover, a Parker native, sold the paper to Jerry L. Brock in September 1972. The following May, James Adkins, Jr., bought a 20 percent interest from Brock and the two became co-publishers, with Brock as editor. Their *ParkerPress* merged with the Castle Rock *Douglas County News* in 1979 under the name *Douglas County News-Press* (see above).

Douglas County Express 1980-1981, Sharon Turner, founder. Turner had formerly worked on the *Press*.

Parker Trail March 1985 to date, Bob Sweeney and Dora and Don D'Amico, founders. There was also a **Douglas County Trail**. The D'Amicos severed connections with the *Trail* in 1987. Sweeney, who owns the *Greenwood Villager*, sold to Bob Lombardi, formerly with the *News-Press*. The sale to Lombardi put both Parker papers entirely under local, Douglas County ownership.

Brooklyn-born Lombardi graduated from the University of Illinois with an advertising major. He ended up in Colorado when he and some friends, while leisurely heading for Arizona, detoured to Keystone, got jobs, and became Coloradans. Lombardi's first job was in the ad department at the *Dillon Summit Sentinel* in 1976. Eight months later, he was ad manager. He became general manager of the *Sentinel* in 1979 and, two years later, he was part owner. "It was miraculous," he told *Colorado Editor*: "I suddenly owned a part of a valuable property with a lot of blue sky ahead."

By the spring of 1987, the *Sentinel Company* also owned the Breckenridge *Summit County Journal* and published several neighboring papers, two direct-mail shoppers and two tourist publications, all printed in the *Sentinel's* up-to-date printing plant. Lombardi was elected Colorado Press Association president in 1987. That same year, Lombardi sold his interest in the Summit County papers in the early fall and moved to Castle Rock as vice president/marketing director/publisher for Douglas County Publishing.

Weekly News Chronicle late summer 1933 to present, Myles Communications, James M. Myles, publisher, Mark Myles, general manager and Smokey Spencer, editor-in chief. Publisher Myles had a unique method of getting attention for what he considered the town's "chaotic politics" in 1995. He printed the page one stories upside down, asking: "If we are upside-down, will we find a reference point and get back on an even keel?" A mix of free and paid subscriptions, the often 20-page *Chronicle* distributes about 12,500 copies a week.

Pemberton/Westcreek/Nighthawk/Bethesda

The West Creek Mining District, which included the above four towns, stretched from Douglas County into El Paso, Teller and Jefferson counties. The South Platte River is the dividing line between counties, but the river towns often switched counties for a reasonable rationale: saloons moved from one side of the river to the other depending on the liquor laws of the county.

Gold Brick 1895-1897, W.I. Whittier of Castle Rock, founder.

Westcreek Times, 1896-1897. Oehlerts lists it under West Creek to 1897 and under Nighthawk from 1898-1903. The 1899 business directory lists Wilson Bros., publishers of the *Times*, and Mrs. Harriet E. Wilson as publisher of the *West Creek Mining News*, which Oehlerts lists in Nighthawk.

Mountain Echo 1897-1899, and H.C. Wood, publisher, and T.C. Knowles, editor. Wood also published the *Castle Rock Journal*. The *Mountain Echo* did its part to bring health-seekers, nature-lovers, and sportsmen to Nighthawk:

COME TO NIGHTHAWK

Where Nature Has Lavishly Bestowed Her Gifts

Amid the Most Beauteous Mountains of Colorado Nestles

This Pretty Mountain Resort....In the mountains close at Denver's door there is no location so beautiful, as the glorious 'south fork' of the Platte. Although scarcely more than an hour's ride from the busy metropolis it has been only lately that the residents of this capitol city have discovered what a magnificent playground Nature has here provided....the purity of the atmosphere, the wonderful health-giving springs of mineral water and the picturesque surroundings of the valley, river and mountain, serve to make

this spot an ideal resort.

8/21/1897

Westcreek Mining News 1898-1903. (See Pemberton.) The Rowell directory lists it under Symes (dated at Westcreek) in 1900, as the:

Mining News & Nighthawk Mountain Echo, L.C. Wood. A founding date of 1897 is given, indicating a merger, or a name change for the *Mountain Echo*.

In 1913 the name of the town was changed from Nighthawk to Bethesda. The name comes from the biblical pool believed to have healing properties. The narrow gauge train was abandoned in 1916 and so was the town. Bethesda had one newspaper:

Bethesda Outlook 1902-1903.

Sedalia

Ranchers first settled in the area where the Denver & Rio Grande erected its "Plum Station" in 1871. The Town of Plum was platted in 1873, but the name was changed to Sedalia nine years later in honor of the Missouri home town of an early businessman who provisioned construction crews and their tent cities.

Sedalia Record, c 1888, published by the Sedalia Publishing Company, Albert Manhart, editor and Henry Lowell, assistant editor. The more bookish citizens of Sedalia, "with their interest and enthusiasm published their literary 'gems'" in it, according to local historian Josephine Lowell Marr.

Strontia Springs

Strontia Springs, northwest of Castle Rock near the Platte River, was on the Colorado and Southern Railroad route in 1877. A train station opened and a hotel opened next door puffing itself as a "Rest Seeker's Paradise." The famous Strontia Springs--touted as the "most valuable purely medicinal spring known on the continent"--were piped to the hotel, and mineral salt and "vapor bathes were available, free of charge." There were two newspapers, both published by businessman W.G. Thompson:

Platte Canon Fly, 1912-1916., W.G. Thompson, founder. The paper was printed in Denver, and apparently Thompson did not have smooth sailing. It may have been published under another name; *Colorado Press* reported in May 1915 that Thompson had "resumed the publication of the Strontia Springs **Colorado Register**."

In July 1933, *Colorado Editor* announced: *W.G. Thompson of Denver has started the publication of the **Western Grit** at Strontia Springs, a summer resort town located in Jefferson County on the South Platte River.*

Sources: *Douglas County News-Press*, Castle Rock Centennial issue, June 1981, and various other issues and articles.

"Douglas County, A Historical Journal," Josephine Lowell Marr, 1984, B&B Printers, Gunnison.

The Parker Press : Souvenir Edition 6/1964; 6/5/1984.

Colorado Prospector, May 1983.

"Papers of the Divide," Lucille Hastings, *Colorado Editor*, January, 1964.

Special thanks to Richard Bangs, Dianna Gordon and Castle Rock Librarian Johanna Harden.

CHAPTER XXI

EAGLE COUNTY

A map attached to John C. Fremont's book documenting his 1854 western expedition shows the "Piney" River (the present Eagle River). In 1858, Army Captain Randolph Marcy made a trip up the Eagle River in 1858 but the valley remained unexplored and undeveloped until the early 1870's when Leadville became a booming mining town.

The success of the Leadville mines spilled over into three main camp districts-- Red Cliff, Holy Cross and Taylor Hill--where prospectors scrambled for gold, silver, coal, and other minerals. A toll road was built over Tennessee Pass, reaching Red Cliff in 1879 and inching on to other camps. The Denver & Rio Grande laid rail tracks from Leadville into Eagle County in 1881, providing access to markets. Mineral production continued to be a prime economic factor, but ranching, cattle, sheep and field crops were also significant. Eagle County shined in zinc production, but also in lead, silver, copper and gold. A uranium rush in the 1950s caused much excitement but little ore, but the same decade saw the ski industry erupt. Vail, North America's largest ski area, has been joined by Beaver Creek, Arrowhead and Cordillera winter sports resorts. Hunting and fishing unlocked new and more profitable doors. Originally part of Summit County, Eagle County--named for the river--was created in 1883 with Red Cliff as the county seat. The

county seat was moved to the more accessible town of Eagle in 1921. More than half of the county is part of the White River National Forest.

Avon

Avon was established in 1884, and is thought to have been named for Shakespeare's Avon in England. A quiet small town along the Eagle River, it boomed with the burgeoning ski industry. Its only newspaper was founded in 1982.

Avon/Beaver Creek Times March 17, 1982-1993, Cliff Thompson and Jake Gaffigan, founders. Gaffigan left Thompson in charge after three months. The paper was also known as the **ABCTimes** because Thompson thought the original name was too long. Early in 1993 the name was changed to:

Vail/Beaver Creek Times. It became a statutory newspaper, and joined the Colorado Press Association. It is published twice a week. The name of the paper changed again in 1993, reflecting the paper's success, and broadening scope:

Vail Valley Times March 1993 to present. Cliff Thompson, founder. The VVT was established as a free circulation paper to serve Eagle County along the 1-70 corridor from Vail Pass to Glenwood Canyon. It began with a circulation of more than 10,000.

Basalt

Men from the Aspen mining district overflowed to the junction of the Frying Pan and Roaring Fork rivers, and set up tents for an instantly busy camp called Frying Pan Junction. Frying Pan Junction was renamed Aspen Junction when the post office was

established in February 1890, but changed to Basalt in June 1895, at the request of the railroads, which thought there was too much confusion with the names Aspen and Grand Junction. Nearby Basalt Peak, a nearby basaltic lava formation inspired the new name.

Squatters settled in the area as early as 1880, but the town was not founded until 1882 when the opening of the charcoal kilns produced a need for houses and places to entertain the workers. A few years later the rude tents were replaced by a railroad camp with a "boarding-house, a little store, a restaurant or two, and fifteen saloons," making the hotel keeper and his land-owning brother rich. They were among the squatters who obtained some of the land and sold the right-of-way to the Colorado Midland Railroad. The number of saloons was of concern to at least one woman in the early Prohibition days. Her letter in the *Kansas Agriculturist* in April 1887, was reprinted in "*Basalt: Colorado Midland Town*" by Clarence L. and Ralph W. Danielson:

In Aspen [Junction] you will see almost as many of the white-aproned gentry about the streets as anywhere else, at least they are much more conspicuous than any others. Always bareheaded, their hair shiny with oil, and combed as slick as if they were just going out to be hung; their step as brisk as if all the officers in the city were after them, and their air is tremendously business-like. But what of the hereafter? I wonder if any of them think of that. Perhaps not, but if they did, no doubt Satan is ever ready with the salve for their conscience, "Never mind! If you did not sell rum someone else would."

The district evolved into a rich agricultural area, but the Colorado Midland proved a fickle friend. The railroad closed down in Basalt in 1918. Business declined until the skiing boom at nearby Aspen. But with the initial boom, Basalt boasted seven newspapers between 1891 and 1894.

[Aspen Junction] **Pusher** 1891-1894. The Pusher Publishing People were listed as publishers in 1892 by Rowell, under Aspen (Pitkin County). George E. and David Fownes were publishers in 1894. Oehlerts includes it in Eagle County. In 1894, the *Pusher* got a new name:

Eagle County Examiner 1894-1896, W. H. Hildreth, publisher. William Henry Hildreth, editor and publisher of the *Basalt Journal* and *Eagle County Examiner* was born in California in 1865. In 1887, he went to work for the *Pueblo Chieftain*, where he learned the newspaper business. He switched to the *Pueblo Star-Journal* before moving to Basalt. The *Examiner* moved to Eagle in 1896, and to Gypsum in 1902, where it died in 1905.

Basalt Tribune 1896-1897, B.L. Smith, founder, Tribune Publishing Co. Basil Smith was a schoolteacher, owner of a general merchandise store, and postmaster.

Basalt Journal January 7, 1897-1910. It was published as an Independent newspaper by the Journal Publishing Co. Manager/editors were R.H. Zimmerman 1899-1900; H.F. Kane 1900-1901; J.R. Newman 1/1901-3/1902; M.V. Crockett 1902; Grant Ruland 3/1902-8/1903; J.S. Warner, publisher 1903-1904, and W. H. Hildreth 8/1904--12/1910.

Bramblet Willits, later a "successful farmer," was working as a "monkey" in the print shop during the long snow blockade of 1899. When newsprint supplies ran out he suggested using wrapping paper from the grocery store. The *Journal* reported February 4, 1899:

This is one of the snowbound editions of the Journal printed on wrapping paper procured by Bramblet Willits for R.S. Zimmerman, the Manager. Again we are compelled to print the Journal on wrapping paper. We propose to keep our files complete and to furnish our readers a paper of some kind, each and every Saturday, blockade or no blockade.

Editor William Hildreth wrote in April 1905:

Every man in every town during the course of a lifetime, has to ask a favor of an editor--not an exception to this rule. A man may escape a doctor, keep clear of the courts, but once in a life-time, at least, every man has to go to the newspaper to have a certain piece put in--a death notice, a marriage notice, etc., to have a certain piece kept out or to have his name printed in, or omitted from, some item. It is, therefore, to your interest to treat the editor fairly. He desires to be fair; he would rather do the right than the wrong thing, but if you give him a kick, the dent of it may be found in the top of your own hat some day and you will never know how it got there. Don't think that you are immune; don't think that providence has especially favored you. Your time will come. It will be a fine investment if you have a friend in the editor's office.

In April 1908 it was announced that Hildreth of the *Basalt Journal* had purchased the *Eagle County Blade* at Red Cliff but had not yet found a successor for the *Journal*. Evidently he found no buyers and the paper was discontinued in 1910.

Basalt Eagle 1909-1912. Fred Stiffler, founder. He was succeeded by Daniel Barber, who folded it a year later.

Frying Pan March 24, 1922-1924, Roy S. Shadle, founder. In February 1924, IMP announced that the *Frying Pan*, *Carbondale Item* and *Marble Column* had all been taken over by Frank E. and Mary A. Pierce, and consolidated into the *Crystal River Empire* in Carbondale.

Basalt Sun 1980-March 7, 1985, Hammell Newspapers (*Snowmass Sun*).

Roaring Fork Sunday November 12, 1995-?, John Duffy, publisher and advertising sales manager. The only paper published on Sunday in the valley, it was distributed free at 300 locations throughout the valley.

Eagle

The Eagle River is so called because its many tributaries supposedly resemble an eagle's tail. It was first called Castle because of nearby rock formations resembling a castle, but changed to McDonald for the man who owned the townsite. The citizens apparently disliked the name--or the man--so the name was changed to Eagle when the town was established in 1887. Eagle has had three newspapers:

Eagle County Examiner 1896-1902, was founded in Basalt in 1894 by W.H. Hildreth, who moved it to Eagle. Publisher W. H. Hildreth immediately declared the *Examiner* a Populist newspaper; the Populist party was still a force to be reckoned with, but not for much longer. H.F. Kane was publisher in 1899 and 1900. The *Examiner* moved to Gypsum in 1902.

Eagle Valley Enterprise May 24, 1901 to present, H.F. Kane, founder. Kane sold the *Enterprise* in 1905 to George T. Haubrich, later editor of several Weld County newspapers and co-founder of *Inter-Mountain Press and Printer*. Haubrich sold the *Enterprise* in 1913 to James E. Dancy. *Colorado Press* reported in May 1916 that W.A. Schliff had bought the *Western Slope Enterprise* from Dancy. Walter Stewart says Schliff changed the name to *Western Slope Enterprise*, and the state historical society's Colorado Newspaper Project lists it as *Western Slope Enterprise & Eagle Valley*

Enterprise. In any case, in October 1918 Adrian Reynolds Jr. bought the paper and used the name *Eagle Valley Enterprise*.

There was a small newspaper war in late 1933 between the *Enterprise* and the Red Cliff *Holy Cross Trail*. The county had awarded the annual publication contract to the Red Cliff paper. *Enterprise* readers began calling Reynolds to ask if the *Enterprise* would still carry news of the county. The editorial reply was a resounding, and testy, "yes." Reynolds wrote that the *Enterprise* would publish tax lists and county accounts in abbreviated form, and:

As to the other news of the courthouse and the whole county, the Enterprise carries more of such in one issue than any other paper in the county does in fifty-two issues.

Marilla Reynolds succeeded her father as publisher after his death in 1949. She and her husband Howard McCain bought her mother's half-interest and assumed full ownership.

Wilbur Flachman of Westminster bought the *Enterprise* in 1972, in conjunction with attorney James R. Stitt. Roy Robinson, formerly of the *Woodland Park Ute Pass Courier*, became a partner in 1983. The *Enterprise* was sold to Gojan Nikolich in April 1990. Flachman and Robinson are both past presidents of Colorado Press Association, 1977 and 1972, respectively.

Eagle Eye June 1973-1975, George W. Knox, of the *Vail Trail*, founder. Knox also founded the *Vail Trail*. The *Eye* was discontinued when Knox died.

Eagle News spring 1981-December 1982, Calvin Thomas, founder. The *News* was founded in Vail in 1981, but was moved to Eagle shortly thereafter. The *News* folded following publisher-filed bankruptcy proceedings.

Eagle Eagle October 1981-November 1981, Jacques Gaffigan, founder. She was a former *Enterprise* employee, according to *Colorado Editor*, which said she was "a recent journalism school graduate...who got some financial backing from an Eagle plumber." The 15 paying subscribers were reimbursed when it folded.

Fulford

Fulford began growing about 1890. It had an Upper Town and Lower Town. Upper Town was smaller but it had the hotel, boarding houses, saloons, livery, store, and assay office. The hotel was noted for its wallpaper: rotogravure pages from the *Denver Post*. Fulford had one short-lived newspaper:

Fulford Signal April 4, 1893-1894, L.H. Adams, founder.

Gilman

A fierce battle between Ute and Arapaho Indians in 1849 gave Battle Mountain a name. Three decades passed before prospectors dotted the mountain with claims. The first silver camp, in 1879, had several names--Battle Mountain, Clinton, and Rock Creek--before the town was named after Henry M. Gilman, a "popular and enterprising citizen." North of Red Cliff, Gilman was founded by an overflow of Leadville prospectors who settled there in 1886, perching their homes precariously on the shoulders of Battle

Mountain. Mining ended in the late 1970s, and the Gilman post office closed in June 1985. Both historian Robert L. Brown and Muriel Sibel Wolle mention a newspaper:

The Gilman Enterprise, published "during the best years," presumably just before the turn of the century.

Gypsum

Gypsum is located at the mouth of the Gypsum valley, which fairly rivals Brush Creek. The town is not so large as Eagle, nor can it boast the beautiful location of that place. The Gypsumites are an enterprising people, having two stores, a neat schoolhouse, a newspaper and a church, the latter open to all denominations. A fine public hall is at the present time almost completed. It was erected by a stock company of the people of Gypsum.

Eagle Valley Enterprise 5/24/1901

Gypsum grew up on cattle herds, agriculture and the railroad. Established in 1887, it was named for the large deposits of gypsum found in the area. The town has weathered ups and downs--loss of the railroad and the closing of several major mines--to become a bedroom community for Vail. Gypsum managed to support three newspapers:

Eagle County Examiner, 1902-1905, moved from the town of Eagle. E.M. Kniphausen was publisher in 1904 and folded the paper within a year.

Gypsum Record 1912-1915, J.S. Heath, founder. Frank W. Speer was editor and publisher in 1915. A "Progressive" paper, it had a circulation as high as 250.

Gypsum Democrat 1914-1916, Ira L. Bean, founder. Bean had better luck with the *New Castle Democrat*, which he bought after leaving Gypsum.

Minturn

Minturn, established in 1885, was a railroad town, originally called Booco's Station. The name was later changed to honor Thomas Minturn, a Denver & Rio Grande road master. Today it is a blue-collar suburb for Vail.

Minturn Messenger 1891-1892, F.H. Davis and T.D. Peirce. Davis had founded the *Berthoud Beacon* and was later with the *Fruita Times*.

Eagle Eye 1892-1893, George and David Fownes, publishers.

Minturn Booster 1938-1942, Roy H. Simpson, founder.

Red Cliff

Red Cliff was another of the towns created by the Leadville spillover in 1879. After prospectors found silver ore, a cabin rose on the site of Red Cliff to provide provisions and liquor for the tent-dwelling miners. After the Meeker massacre in September 1879, people along the river built a fort at Red Cliff and were ready to welcome the Utes but none showed up. Not until March 1880 did tents and a few log cabins give way to more substantial housing. When the railroad reached Red Cliff in the fall of 1881, it offered three business houses, five hotels, a brass band, and an opera house. Like many early communities, Red Cliff hummed along for a few years and then became quiet. Current Colorado maps, and some earlier references, spell the town Redcliff.

The first newspaper was already in business when the railroad came to town in 1881. The town was bolstered by six newspapers from 1881 to 1941.

Eagle River Shaft 1881-1886, Henry L.J. Warren, founder. Warren was later with the Glenwood Springs *Ute Chief*. Red Cliff was snowbound in the winter of 1883-1884, and the newsprint supply was exhausted. The *Shaft* managed to find some wall paper on which to print the April 5 issue--a pattern of ivy sprays on a dotted background. A headline read:

Still More Snow....A More Perfect and Complete April Fool Could Not Be Imagined.

In 1886 the newspaper name was changed to:

Eagle River Comet 1886-1889, Phipps and Adams were the proprietors in 1887, and William B. Thom in 1888. The paper's name was shortened to:

Comet 1889-1893.

Eagle County Times 1886-1910; G.C. Ash was publisher in 1887. William McCabe was publisher in 1894, and in 1898 it was McCabe & McCabe. William McCabe had been with the Leadville *Cloud City*, and appears to have stayed with the *Times* until it folded.

Eagle County Blade, 1894-November 17, 1911. John Nims, founder. He was publisher until he sold the paper to John D. Fillmore in 1909. In 1910, Fillmore appealed for help from the paper's readership:

If we do not have a weekly letter from your neighborhood, write us yourself. Never mind about poor spelling or incorrect grammar--we will remedy that. Just get us the facts and send them to us. We will do the rest.

O.W. Randall was publisher 1911-1913.

Eagle County News 1911-December 1922. Newspaper historian Wallace Rex does not list a founder, but George C. Ruder was publisher 1913-1915. Rowell lists the *News*, published by the News Publishing Co., in 1910. Adrian Reynolds biographies say he was publisher from 1912 to 1918. The Ayer directory lists Charles W. Courson as editor/publisher in 1915 and as editor in 1920, with H.L. Blanchard, publisher. Courson was Red Cliff mayor in the 1920s. J.B. Clendenning was editor 1921-1922. In 1920 O.W. Daggett bought the paper and later changed the name to:

Holy Cross Trail January 12, 1923-September 12, 1941. Daggett was a good newspaperman, but he had ideas that turned into crusades. As a result he was active in organizations not only in Red Cliff, but all over the Western Slope. While Daggett crusaded, his four daughters worked on getting the paper out with a foot-powered press. A feature of the paper was a single line of print above the masthead "reflecting some pet project, dream, bit of philosophy, or prejudice of the editor and publisher." Daggett sold the *Holy Cross Trail* in 1940, a few months after his wife died, to Dean Holmes. Dean Holmes was the son of Flint E. Holmes, longtime publisher of the *Fairplay Park County Republican*. The younger Holmes discontinued the *Holy Cross Trail* in 1941.

Vail

Vail rose from the valley floor in 1959, the vision of a local uranium prospector and a former skier with the famed 10th Mountain Division--a "ski bum with a purpose"--who had trained at nearby Camp Hale. The Alpine-style village opened in 1962 and was an overnight success. The land of the Ute and the Hayden Survey of 1868 had come a long way. Vail claims to be the largest ski area in North America and has developed year round recreational opportunities and emerged into an affluent year around town as well as a major tourist target.

The Vail Trail October 15, 1965 to present, George Knox, Sr., founder.

George Knox, Sr. was a one-time newspaper man and long-time advertising agency guy from the mid-west, bitten by the Vail bug [who] decided that here was an opportunity a-begging not only to create a little business for himself but a chance to render a muchly needed service.

Vail Trail 10/1965

For the first few years, the *Vail Trail* was a one-man operation. Knox--known as "The Skipper"--sold the ads, did all the writing, page layouts and bookkeeping. The *Trail* hired its first reporter and a secretary in 1969. Knox's younger son, Allen, joined the staff as business and advertising manager that year. By 1970 the *Trail* was averaging 48 pages every week. George Knox's wife, Ella, was the circulation manager of the paper from the beginning until 1987. Mrs. Knox also wrote "Green Thumb Ella," a gardening column. After George Knox Sr. died in April 1975, The Skipper's son, Allen Knox, took over the *Trail*. He had six years to learn how to run a paper from a pro. He has been a board member of the Colorado Press Association and host to summer conventions. His

daughter, Carolyn, has been working on the *Trail* for several years, and his son, Bob, also works for the paper. In the early 1990s the *Vail Trail* office was moved to Minturn, and in 1994 it moved again, along the highway to Eagle.

Vail Villager & Eagle County Review 1972-?, Tom LeRoi, founder. Stanton Hawes was publisher 1972-1974, followed by Cal Thomas.

Vail Daily June 1, 1980 to date. James Pavelich and Jon Van Housen, co-founders. Van Housen sold his interest to his partner in 1984. In the fall of 1989 Pavelich started another daily, the *Summit County News*, in Breckenridge. Pavelich sold the newspapers in October 1993 to Swift Newspapers Inc. of Reno, Nev., making it the first Vail newspaper to be owned by outside interests.

Vail/Beaver Creek Times. (See Avon.)

Camp Hale, between Red Cliff and Leadville in the Eagle River valley, maintained military camp tradition of a post newspaper. Originally titled:

What's My Name? 1942, the name was changed to:

Camp Hale Ski-zette 1942-1944. Lt. William W. Garner was editor in 1942.

Sources: "*Basalt: Colorado Midland Town*" by Clarence L. Danielson and Ralph W. Danielson, 1965, Pruett Publishing Company, Boulder.

"*Vail: Story of a Colorado Mountain Valley*" by June Simonton, 1987, Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas TX.

"Roaring Fork Valley" by Len Shoemaker, 1958, Sage Books, Denver.

"Holy Cross, The Mountain and the City" by Robert L. Brown, 1970, Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, ID.

Vail Trail, 25th Anniversary edition 10/26/1990; Mark Huffman's story on The Skipper, Scott N. Miller's stories on Allen and Ella Knox, et al.

Special thanks to Allen Knox.

CHAPTER XXII

ELBERT COUNTY

Early prospectors in Elbert County did not have much luck. Too broke to return East, they took up farming or found work at the sawmills. They were joined by "go-backs" coming from the mountains, or newcomers coming along the Smoky Hill Trail, which split into three paths through Elbert County. The north branch shot up through Arapahoe County. Colorado Highway 86 would later be built over the south branch, through Elizabeth and Kiowa. The middle trail, bisecting the county, was the merciless Starvation Trail. Billed by some boosters as the best route from Kansas City to the Pikes Peak gold fields, Smoky Hill proved to be one of the most difficult trails. Although migrants were assured there was plenty of water, there was not. But there were plenty of Indians taking a very dim view of the stream of trespassers.

Lt. John Charles Frémont led one of the first U.S. Government expeditions into the county in 1842. Besieged by Indians, he and his men sought shelter in a rocky promontory accessible only by a narrow pass. Now called Frémont's Fort, the site is near the southern border of Elbert County. Arapaho, Kiowa, Comanche, and Southern Cheyenne freely roamed the land before the onslaught of settlers. The friendliness between Indians and settlers evaporated with the heinous Hungate slayings just north of Elizabeth in June 1864. Nathan Hungate, a ranch manager, and his family "were brutally murdered by Indians, the ranch burned to the ground, and about 30 head of

horses and mules driven off."The bodies of the Hungates were taken to Denver, where, according to the *Rocky Mountain News*:

[The corpses were] placed in a box, side by side, the two children between their parents [were] shown to the people from a shed....Everybody who viewed the family showed signs of anger and revenge....This display sent off a panic in the city and the people cried out for protection from the savages.

Ranchers and farmers fled to Denver for protection. The phrase "The Indians are coming" emptied the streets as people scurried for cover, barred the doors, and loaded their guns. The terror ended in November, 1864, with the infamous Sand Creek Massacre.

Originally part of Arapahoe County, Kansas Territory, and then Douglas and short-lived Greenwood counties, Elbert County was split from Douglas County in 1874. Elbert County is named for Samuel H. Elbert, former Territorial Secretary (1862-1866) and Territorial Governor (1873-1874). During the 1864 Indian scare he had been in charge of Denver's military preparations. A lawyer by profession, he was a member of the 1869 Territorial Legislature, the son-in-law of Territorial Governor John Evans, and an ardent supporter of Colorado statehood.

In recent years, although the county roads are dotted with horse trailers and cattle still ignore still traffic, much agricultural land has been turned into suburban housing for the mushrooming Denver metro area.

Agate

The smallest of the Elbert County towns, Agate was established in 1876 and was located in short-lived Greenwood County, formerly an Indian Reserve. The town's name either came from the scattering of agate stones and arrowheads found in the vicinity, or from a cattle gate through which cattle were driven for loading purposes.

Agate is in a ranching area which sprouted when the Kansas Pacific Railroad came through. The 1881 post office was known as Gebhard, the name of a local rancher. The town plat was filed in 1919 without a specific name, so the Union Pacific Railroad is said to have selected the name.

Agate Post 1921-1922, Joseph Harman, founder. The *Post* seems to have changed its name to

Agate Express In 1922, the year the newspaper folded, Harry Koons was editor for the owner, Elbert Publishing Co.

Elbert

In 1860, ignoring warnings from Indians that Kiowa Creek was known to rise and flood, P.P. Gomer started a sawmill in what would be named Gomer's Gulch. When the incipient town moved down the creek to be on the railroad, the name was changed to Elbert after former Gov. Elbert. The town of Elbert was officially established in 1882. The school was built in 1882, and the first church in 1885.

On Memorial Day 1935, about four inches of rain fell in the early morning, and, after a late morning lull, the skies opened. Many people had no doubt that a total of 24 inches of rain fell. Although the town hadn't had the heaviest rain in the county, the excess water elsewhere rolled into town, wiping out the railroad and washing away 55 of 110 buildings. Many buildings were never rebuilt, and many people moved away.

Elbert County Record 1884-1885, Oscar McAllister, founder. The *Record* was also published in Hugo.

Elbert County Tribune 1885-April 30, 1920, J.B. King, founder. King had been publishing a newspaper in La Veta. He also owned a dry goods store, and he made good use of his paper as an advertising medium. "The Old Reliable Merchant," as he advertised himself, had a unique message about subscriptions:

AGAIN IT HAS ROLLED AROUND TO THE TIME OF YEAR I must have money. Many of my customers have been carried for months, without statements or any hurry up business, but I now have bills maturing that require me to call on them for prompt payment, and I hope you will respond cheerfully. Come to the front and help me out now and when you need credit or an accommodation you will know where you can always get it.

Don't wait, but come in and settle.

J.W. Summerset apparently bought the paper in 1901, but sold it the same year, or in 1902, to John R. Pope and a Mr. Imus. King went on to publish the *Eastonville World* and the *Calhan Enterprise*. Pope was still publisher in 1909, but he sold the *Tribune* the following year to Alfred Neuman who, in 1920, continued the paper in Elizabeth (see below).

Western Recorder November 1897-1899, J. Ford Crissinger and M. Scott Chenoweth, founders. The *Recorder* did some stern editorializing in March 1898:

It has been the custom of some of the young men of this vicinity to attend church of late and make themselves very obnoxious by loud talking and spitting tobacco over the floor which is very ungentlemanly to say the least. It would be wise for them to take a tumble and to stay away or go to church and behave themselves.

Elbert County News September 22, 1922-September 26, 1924, merged with *Elbert County Tribune* in Elizabeth.

Elbert County Squire 1973-?, Jerry Brock and Jim Adkins, founders.

Elizabeth

The oldest town in Elbert County, Elizabeth got its start in 1855 when Alden Bassett built a sawmill. The Weber Brothers bought the mill from Bassett and called the little community growing around it Webers' Mill. The first post office, a sign of establishment, was the Running Creek Post Office, north of the present town. The same building also housed a stage stop, a refuge against Indian attacks, and a barracks for the Cavalry.

Slowly the town grew and was finally platted in 1880. It was named Elizabeth by former Territorial Governor John Evans, who was promoting the Denver & New Orleans railroad. He is said to have complained at breakfast about the lack of a town name to his sister-in-law, Elizabeth Hubbard. She jokingly suggested her own name. Elizabeth has expanded in recent years, along with the rest of the county. From a small town with

strict boundaries, surrounded by farms and ranches, it has blossomed with housing subdivisions for Denver commuters.

Elbert County Banner August 15, 1888-1920, Francis P. Murray, founder. Half the paper was patent "national and world news and was shipped half-blank to Murray who added local news. Names of the early publishers are elusive, but E.B. DeuPree was associated with the paper around 1910. J.A. Locke was publisher, possibly on a lease, 1910-1916. Clarence V. Konkell bought the paper in 1913 and sold it in 1918 to L.E. Fry, who was associated with Albert Neuman. In 1920 the *Banner* merged with the *Elbert County Tribune*, which Neuman had moved from Elbert to Elizabeth on May 7, 1920. The name was changed to:

Elbert County Tribune & Banner April 30, 1920-October 1924. The "*Banner*" part of the name was evidently dropped within a short time. Edward J. Phillips was editor/manager. L.E. Fry bought the *Tribune & Banner* in 1924 and merged it with his *Kiowa County Seat News*, and the name changed to:

Elbert County News-Tribune October 1924-June 20, 1941, Neuman & Fry, publishers; Al Neuman, editor. The 1925 Ayer newspaper directory lists the paper individually in all three towns--Elbert, Elizabeth and Kiowa--as does the *Colorado Business Directory* in 1926 and 1927. In 1928 The *County Seat News Tribune* is listed at Elbert and the *County Seat News-Tribune-Divide Review* at Kiowa. From 1929 only the Kiowa location is listed, although the *News-Tribune* did continue with an Elizabeth

dateline until June 20, 1941. It was officially consolidated with the Kiowa *Divide-Review* July 1, 1941, under F.H. Lemon.

Elizabeth Eye May 1899-1900, W.L. Holland, editor. R.I. Clow was co-publisher.

Clow was in real estate. Holland was responsible for the first fatal shooting in Elizabeth.

The *Eye* editorialized on August 5, 1899:

When the time comes that a firm or individual cannot run its own business, then it is about time to quit business. During the past week a few individuals have attempted to run our business for us, but we will try to do it for a while longer at least.

Those individuals were George Blazer, principal of our public school, and Wm Herman, a member of the town board, both members of the Odd Fellows lodge, and the former also of Woodman, of which lodge both publishers are members.

These two called upon us as a committee from the Odd Fellow's lodge, and attempted by threats and very abusive language, to force us into telling them who "Handy Andy", our Cameron correspondent, was; and if they didn't get it, or an apology was not forthcoming immediately, they would take it out of our hides and also wreck our office. [An undersheriff described as a gentleman said he could not prevent any harm when we were roughly handled.] A nice thing for a peace officer to acknowledge. Better call out the state militia.

On August 9, 1899, Blazer threatened Holland's life and followed the editor home. Holland drew a pistol and fired. Blazer was killed instantly. Holland disappeared. Two days later, when he was found, he pleaded self-defense. The *Denver Times* reported on June 10, 1900, that a District Court jury "after forty-five minutes returned a verdict of not guilty" at Holland's trial. Ratcliffe & Horne were publishers until 1900, probably from just after the shooting.

Rainbelt Echo 1950-September 1960, Edward J. and Bernice V. Phillips, founders.

In 1960 George Kobolt, who owned several Elbert County newspapers, bought the *Rainbelt Echo* and merged it with the *Kiowa Divide Review* into the:

Elbert County News (see Kiowa.)

Elbert County Squire August 15, 1973, James Adkins Sr. and Jerry Brook, founders. Editors of the *Squire* included Laurajeane Ritchie, Eugene Thomas, Jeanne Adkins, Dianna Gordon, Sharon Turner and Kris Cappa. Adkins and Brock--Douglas County Publishing Co.--bought the Kobolt Press of Castle Rock to publish all the Adkins-Brock papers. The *Elbert County Squire* became a part of the *Elbert County News*.

Kiowa

Kiowa began its life as a stage station in 1859 on the line to Denver. Henry Wendling ran the stage station and the handful of settlers first named the town for him. Later the name was changed to Middle Kiowa, then Kiowa, after the Indian tribe. The Pony Express is said to have ridden through the town.

Kiowa was designated county seat when the county was established in 1874, surviving all challenges by upstart neighbors. When the government put an end to the open range in 1880, the community was divided. The farmers lived on one side of town, the ranchers on another, each faction with their own general store, allied businesses, and bitterness.

Kiowa Record 1899-1909, Francis P. Murray, founder. Murray also owned the Elizabeth *Elbert County Banner*. C.L. Dickerson bought the paper from Murray in 1907. The name was changed to:

Divide Review 1907-September 30, 1960. Roy Dickerson was publisher from 1908 to 1913. L.E. Fry purchased the paper in 1914 and was publisher until 1918, the year he merged the *Democrat* into the *Divide Review*.

Elbert County Democrat March 1917-1918. The paper was established at Matheson in 1911 and moved to Kiowa by publisher W.L. Stewart. *Colorado Press* said he had "a partner or two." H.T. Irwin was publisher just before The *Democrat* was merged into the *Divide Review*.

L.E. Fry bought the paper in 1918, merging it into the *Divide Review*. H.T. Irwin bought the *Divide Review* in 1919 and sold it to Floyd Lemon in June 1920. A.M. Rex and W.S. Ezell were editors during this period. In September 1960, George Kobolt bought the *Divide Review* and the Elizabeth *Rainbelt Echo* and merged them into:

Elbert County News October 6, 1960 to present. Kobolt owned the paper until October 1, 1976, when he sold it to Eugene and Patricia Thomas. Mrs. Thomas died the following March and her husband sold the paper to James Adkins and Jerry Brock of Douglas County. Westward Communications bought all the Adkins-Brock papers, including the *Elbert County News* in 1986. Dianna Gordon, an Elbert County native, was editor of the ECN for a number of years. Richard Bangs of the Castle Rock *Douglas County News-Press* is currently editor/manager.

County Seat News 1923-October 1924; merged with *Elizabeth Tribune* to:

County Seat News-Tribune October 1924-September 1941, Fry & Neuman. This is the sister paper of the *Elbert County News* in Elbert and the *Elbert County News* and *News-Tribune* in Elizabeth, also published by Fry-Neuman papers.

Matheson

Matheson was established in 1886 and named for Duncan Matheson, who had homesteaded in the early 1880s and built a sheep ranch. The town was built on this land.

Matheson News 1910-1924, C.L. Dickerson, founder. Charles J. Shrader was editor for the Herald Publishing Co. 1918-1924.

Elbert County Democrat 1911-1917. Miss I. D. Frederick, founder. C.T. Rawalt, a multi-newspaper publisher, leased the *Democrat* late in 1914, according to *Colorado Press*. Another multi-newspaper publisher, J.J. Missemer, leased the paper, along with papers in Limon and Ramah in June 1915. Newspaper historian Wallace Rex says that Miss Frederick and H.C. Kohl published the paper 1915-1916, followed by F.J. Graves in 1917. Graves was another multi-newspaper publisher of the plains. W.L. Stewart bought the *Democrat* in March 1917 and moved the paper and plant to Kiowa, where it was continued.

Matheson Herald 1923-1928, L.E. Fry, founder. Ed J. Phillips and O.M. White were evidently the reporters/mailers.

Matheson Enterprise late 1929-1931, G.E. Grow, founder. By October 1930 W.J. Graham, publisher of the *Manitou Springs Journal*, owned the paper. Mrs. W.J. Parks edited the paper for several months, but in October she "relinquished her position to J.R. Graham," son of W.J. Graham. The *Enterprise* is not listed after 1931 in the *Colorado Business Directory*.

Simla

Railroad people had a busy time naming towns on the Colorado plains, and it was the daughter of a Rock Island official who is said to have chosen the name for Simla. She had been reading a book on India. The book is thought to have also produced the name Ramah. Simla, India, was capital of a province said to be "the summer capital of India." Originally the name was applied to a railroad siding, but when the nearby community began growing, the name went to the village, which had been there since 1888. Simla was incorporated in 1912. Potatoes were the chief cash crop.

Simla Reporter June 23, 1911-1914, W.T. Kemp, founder. Kemp also published the Elizabeth *Divide Review*. Miss I. Fredericks was editor.

Simla Herald June 1912-1915, Robert Boston and John Leeson, publishers. In May 1916, *Colorado Press* announced that W.C. Hawkins, owner of the *Simla Sun*, had purchased the *Simla Herald* and consolidated it with the *Sun*. Dale Winterbourne was the editor of the *Herald* at the time. The *Sun*, said *Colorado Press*, "is the one weekly paper in the state which gives its readers a comic section and the 'funnies' are creditable ones too."

Simla Sun 1915-September 1949; published by a succession of editors, including Dale Winterbourne 1915-1916; W.C. Hawkins 1915-1918; and Jay Mathews 1919. Mathews sold the paper to C.L. Bowman and moved to Pueblo. Bowman had been with the *Lafayette News*. Rex Clemmons owned the paper from 1920 to 1932. James D. Stewart bought the *Sun* from Clemmons on March 1, 1932, but died March 15, 1934, after a mastoid operation. Stewart's sister, Mrs. Helen Strong, who had been working with him on the Simla paper, took over as editor and manager. A brother, Gerald A. Stewart, assumed editor/publisher duties later in October. He published the paper until 1943.

Victor Jackson, who also published the *Calhan News*, bought the *Simla Sun* in October 1943. While Jackson was publisher, the nameplate carried a bit of poetry by Tennyson:

*We are a people yet,
Though all men else their
noble dreams forget,
Confused by brainless mobs
and lawless Powers.*

Jackson sold the *Simla Sun* and *Calhan News* to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Borgen in August 1946. Borgen had been employed by the *Hugo Eastern Colorado Plainsman* for several years, and had experience in both the editorial and mechanical phases of the newspaper business. The Borgens were gone within a year, and both papers were sold to George S. Heaton in April 1947. Heaton, who started a printing apprenticeship at the

age of 14, had operated papers in Nebraska and Colorado, including the *Kremmling Middle Park Times* and *Kremmling Record*. In October 1949, Heaton consolidated the *Simla Sun* and the *Calhan News*, into:

Pike View Farmer October 6, 1949-March 1966, published in Simla. The paper also changed size, from a large broadsheet page to "tab" size. The *Pike View Farmer's* banner listed the following towns in its circulation area: Kutch, Holtwood, Edison, Ellicott, Rush, Yoder, Elbert, Agate, Elizabeth, Kiowa, Limon, Matheson, Simla, Ramah, Calhan, Peyton, Falcon, and Colorado Springs.

Heaton put the paper up for sale in 1952. Percy Conarro, who had worked for Heaton's *Calhan News* before the *News* and *Simla Sun* merged, expressed interest. The two worked out a lease-purchase deal. Conarro, and his bride, Carolyn, published the paper until 1965. George Kobolt bought the *Pike View Farmer* from the Conarros on February 1, 1965. Kobolt also owned the *Kiowa Elbert County News*, *Castle Rock Douglas County News*, and the *Monument Tribune*. The *Pike View Farmer* name was changed to:

Ranchland Farm News March 10, 1966-1983. Most of the business and production work for the paper was done in Simla, but the paper was printed in Castle Rock, Kobolt's head-quarters for his papers. John Hines, Kobolt's nephew, was editor from October 1974 to October 1975. Monty Gaddy, the son of Dolores Gaddy, and his wife Becky became publishers in January 1983, through "a management contract" with Kobolt. The Gaddys shortened the name to:

Ranchland News 1983 to present. The paper has offices in Simla and in Calhan. In 1993, the *Ranchland News*, with a press run of more than 4,000, was the largest paid circulation community weekly in eastern Colorado, according to Gaddy, who upgraded production methods to computerized desktop publishing, and accumulated many press awards. He was named the Colorado Press Association Publisher of the Year in 1995.

The Gaddys sold the *Ranchland News* in March 1996 to Fred Lister, formerly a publisher with Worrell Enterprises, Inc., a large newspaper chain that sold all its newspaper properties in 1995.

Sources: "History of Elbert County, Colorado," Margee Gabehart, Project Director; Curtis Media Corporation, 1989.

"Elbert County Guide" 1991, Elbert Council Economic Development Council.

Elbert County News, Elizabeth Centennial 8/2/1990.

"Newspapers," Monty Gaddy in "The History of Calhan and Vicinity 1888-1988."

Ranchland News, various issues.

Special thanks to Monty Gaddy and Dianna Gordon.

CHAPTER XXIII

EL PASO COUNTY

When our small party arrived on the hill they with one accord gave three cheers to the Mexican mountains...their sides were white, as if covered with snow, or a white stone...[A] spur of the grand western chain of mountains, which divide the waters of the Pacific from those of the Atlantic...they appear to present a natural boundary between the province of Louisiana and New Mexico and would be a defined and natural boundary.

Journal of Lt. Zebulon M. Pike, November 15th, 1806.

That journal entry would give Lt. Pike everlasting fame and turn a mountain into a byword and a destination.

Ute Pass Trail is said to have been used by Indians since before Columbus sailed to American shores. The Utes used the two mineral springs on the trail for medicinal purposes. Legends relate that the bubbling of the springs was caused by the breathing of the great spirit. The Spanish came on a punitive expedition against the Utes, and French explorers passed through as well.

Reports from Pike's expedition were the first documented American descriptions of southern Colorado, and opened the door for new expeditions west. Major Stephen H. Long led such an expedition in June 1820. His party accomplished something Pike's did not: they successfully ascended the peak named for Pike. Long renamed the peak for his expedition's physician, Dr. Edwin James, but the change was rejected by American trappers and traders, who stuck with Pikes Peak (the U.S. geographic board

later eliminated apostrophes). The 1835 Fremont expedition was apparently the first to put the Pikes Peak name on a widely circulated map.

Once the cry of “gold” was heard in 1858, the promising slogan was “Pikes Peak or Bust,” which soon gave way to “Pikes Peak & Busted.” El Paso County was loaded with minerals, but not much gold on the eastern side. A town called El Paso was platted on paper. The camp consisted of one log cabin, a few tents and some wagons, and was located where Colorado City sprang up and prospered. The St. Louis News of March 17, 1859 commented:

A short time since, we hardly knew, and didn't care, whether the earthly elevation called Pike's Peak was in Kansas or Kamchatka. Indeed, ninety-nine out of every one hundred persons in the country did not know that there was such a topographical feature as Pike's Peak. Now they hear of nothing, dream of nothing, but Pike's Peak. It is the magnet to the mountains, toward which every body and everything is tending. It seems that every man, woman and child, who is going anywhere at all, is moving Pike's Peakward.

The El Paso Claim Club was established in August 1859 to provide “peace, law and order.” Claim Clubs were protective associations helping settlers secure and protect claims, and were the forerunners of local government. Their quasi-legal status allowed them to claim land. The claim for Colorado City was filed December 20, 1859, but it was made on Indian land. El Paso County was one of the original counties when the Territory of Colorado was organized in 1861. It bordered Douglas, Park, Fremont, and Pueblo Counties, the Indian Reserve and a corner of Jefferson County. Colorado City was designated county seat.

Colorado City was also chosen territorial capital at the first Territorial meeting in 1861. Colorado City lobbied hard for the designation, but failed to provide comfortable accommodations for the representatives. They convened in a primitive log building, where they were said to have met in one room, slept in another, and used a third for a bar. After five uncomfortable days they rode back to Denver to finish the session and select Golden for the capital.

Colorado Springs had barely been founded when it brazenly challenged Colorado City for county seat status. Many of the new voters in the county were employed at the saw mills providing lumber for the upstart Colorado Springs, and they tended to vote with the “New Town.” In September 1873, voters approved the change to Colorado Springs by a comfortable majority.

Calhan

Calhan was founded as a railroad water-tank station in 1888. The name was shortened from Calahan, a Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad contractor who first built the section.

Calhan Enterprise August 16, 1898-1899, J.W. King, founder. Early issues included advertisements from neighboring Falcon merchants and professionals. King, who also owned newspapers in Eastonville and Elbert, found that editing three papers wasn't easy or practical, so he moved his plant, leaving Calhan without a paper until January of 1901.

Calhan News January 1901-September 29, 1949, A.W. Sparkman, founder. Sparkman was an El Paso County commissioner. The paper was sold in 1915 to "J.W. Sherman and a dozen others," a corporation that was dissolved at the end of 1919. Sherman and N.O. Conger, who had been acting as publishers, continued in that capacity under a new partnership agreement.

The *Calhan News* published its first issue by machine-set Linotype composition in April 1923. The *News* absorbed the *Ramah Record* in September 1924. William J. Marquardt was publisher at the time but sold the paper in 1929 to Kenneth P. Augustus and his sister Mildred Augustus (later Sonnenberg). Hard times caused the *News* to be suspended in February 1933, but it resumed in July with Earl G. Hackett, formerly of *Penrose Press*, in charge. Allen G. Risley was editor. Conger retained an ownership interest.

W.J. Graham, publisher of the Manitou Springs *Pikes Peak Journal* purchased the *Calhan News* from Conger and Risley on August 20, 1936. Experienced newspaperman Victor Jackson was named managing editor. Jackson bought the *News* in 1937. He also bought the *Simla Sun* in October 1943, then sold both papers to Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Borgen in August 1946. The Borgens sold the pair of papers in April 1947 to Mr. and Mrs. George S. Heaton of Greeley. On October 6, 1949, the *News* consolidated with the *Simla Sun* into the *Pike View Farmer*, published in Simla (See Elbert County).

Divide Farmer 1906-March 1912, A.J. Henbest, founder. The *Divide Farmer* was a lively paper, earning Henbest the nickname "the great divider." An article in a 1937

Calhan News commented on the *Divide Farmer*: "It was frankly admitted to be a spite paper, and while spite papers are notoriously short lived, they are usually well worth reading, and the *Divide Farmer* was no exception to this rule on either count." *Enterprise* editor Sparkman was the "antithesis" of Editor Henbest who "knocked the chips off every shoulder he could find. Sparkman gathered up said chips...[and] made them into neat piles of financial kindling with which he started warming fires of friendship which kept him in comfort and finally landed him a position as El Paso county assessor."

Miles N. Johnson, who was publisher of the *Divide Farmer* in 1909, was later publisher of the *Divide Tidings*.

Divide Tidings 1916-1919. The paper was founded in Ramah in 1914 by T.J. Holmes. He sold it in 1916 to Miles N. Johnson, who moved the paper to Calhan. The *Divide Tidings* called on people to "Read The Tidings And Get All Of The News Of The Best Dry Farming Country On Earth." In May 1917, T.C. Garrity purchased the interests of several other stockholders to become sole owner. A year later, L.L. Brown of Walsenburg took a two-year lease on the *Divide Tidings*, with Garrity staying on as associate editor. J.L. Frazier, who had managed the paper under Garrity's ownership, bought the *Tidings* plant in the fall of 1918 and moved it to Ramah to start the *Record*.

Colorado City

Historian Jerome Smiley states that the name "appears to have been the first application of the name 'Colorado' in this region." **Colorado City Journal** August 1,

1861-January 1, 1862, Colorado Printing Company. Benjamin F. Crowell, editor. The *Journal* was printed in Denver on the *Colorado Republican and Rocky Mountain Herald* press. The *Journal* was partly made up of material carried in the Denver newspapers. A Republican paper, it carried an impressive nameplate depicting a patriotic eagle holding a banner with the words "Union and Constitution." The *Journal* covered early Civil War battles with a fervent pro-Union tone. It was suspended after only five months because "the returns failed to justify the expenditures."

Colorado City Iris 1889-August 14, 1914, weekly and semi-weekly. W.P. Epperson, a pioneer settler of the Pikes Peak area, was publisher 1890-1904. L.W. Cunningham joined him as co-publisher from 1892-1903. Cunningham was later with the Colorado Springs *Democrat*, and a *Gazette* columnist. Epperson was sole owner when W.I. Merwin purchased the paper about 1904. J.C. McCreary was editor in 1906, and started the:

Daily Iris May 4,-September 5, 1908. By the fall of 1914, R.T. Hampshire was the publisher. He changed the name of the *Iris* to:

Colorado Independent August 21, 1914-June 1, 1917, weekly. It too had a sister paper:

Colorado Independent April 3, 1916-1917, daily.

Bert and C.M. Howard were publishers in 1915. Bert Howard was editor, most likely until January 5, 1917, when Schuyler C. Landes bought the paper. Colorado City

was annexed to Colorado Springs in 1917, so in June, Landes changed the newspaper name to *Colorado Springs Independent* (see Colorado Springs entry).

Colorado City Chronicle 1896-1903. V.S. Wilson was publisher in 1898, followed by A.L. Runyan and E.B. Wilson in 1899. The name was shortened in 1903:

Colorado Chronicle 1903-1904.

El Paso County Argus June 1, 1900-May 1909 Chase & Snider, founders. J.O. Chase was editor/publisher at least through 1907. The name was changed to:

Colorado City Argus June 4, 1909-May 1917, Argus Printing Co., 1909. J.C. McCreary, formerly of the *Iris*, was editor in 1915. Frank A. Day, formerly of the *Sterling Logan County Advocate*, purchased the paper about 1916, and sold it in the fall of 1917 to J.F. and Paul M. Cross. The *Argus* also changed its name when Colorado Springs absorbed Colorado City in 1917, becoming:

Colorado Springs Argus It folded in 1918.

Colorado City News 1887-1892 W.R. McCrea, editor/publisher.

Colorado City Eagle 1888-1889.

Colorado City Chieftain 1889-1898, William DeToliver, probably founder; weekly, and:

Colorado Chieftain 1895-1898, daily.

Daily Examiner 1907-1908.

Anti-Saloon Advocate February 14, 1911-1912.

Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs had its inception as a railroad project, organized by former Governor Alexander C. Hunt and General William J. Palmer, who formed a company in May 1871...“The Fountain Colony” assembled on July 31 that year...and agreed under the colony plan that the company should devote to general and public improvements a portion of the profits arising from the sale of lots and small subdivisions.

Colorado Springs Gazette 7/31/1921

General Palmer had a mission to build a North-South railroad line and a vision to build a town that would be an elegant cultural resort of scenic and healthful splendor. He succeeded well beyond his wildest dreams.

Palmer was on business for the Kansas Pacific railroad when he first caught sight of his utopia from the window of a dusty Santa Fe coach on July 26, 1869. Palmer formed a railroad company on October 27, 1870, and set out to obtain the necessary financial backing. The Colorado Springs Company handled property sales to members of the “Fountain Colony.” The Denver & Rio Grande railroad arrived in October, 1871. The first newspaper appeared the following year.

Out West March 23, 1872-December 26, 1872, Out West Publishing Co., William J. Palmer and William A. Bell, founders; J.L. Liller, editor and publisher. Another Palmer associate with a major interest in Palmer’s publications was William Sharpless Jackson, formerly of Philadelphia, and later, Helen Hunt’s husband. It published weekly for nine months and then became a monthly adjunct to the new *Colorado Springs Gazette* and *El Paso County News*, which was also started by Out West Publishing. The paper was eight

pages in quarto format and more closely resembled a literary magazine than a newspaper.

In the introductory first issue, Liller stated his objectives:

In the first place, we hope to publish a paper which will be interesting and acceptable as a Local Chronicle and as a Journal of General Information, to all who have made their homes Out West...

Men of wealth are coming to lay the foundations of vast enterprises; men of muscle to replenish and subdue the Land, Tourists, Artists, Poets, to look up to the magnificent scenery; Invalids to regain their health...

It is not surprising, therefore, that accurate information concerning the whole of this part of the Continent is being sought for with considerable eagerness. Capital and Labor—both looking abroad from the crowded markets of the East in search of fresh fields...To answer [their questions] will be one principal aim...In this way we hope, in some extent, to help forward the further progress of development.

In August 1872, a two-story Gazette Building was constructed as an office for *Out West*. The building was also the city's first public center, used for a courthouse, town hall, meeting place for various activities, a free reading room, a drill room for the Pikes Peak Rangers, the home of Volunteer Fire Company #1, and for Episcopal church services, where editor Liller, a lay reader, was often called upon to officiate.

In 1873, *Out West* became a monthly:

Out West July 1873-January 1874. J.E. Liller was still editor. Enlarged to 24 pages, magazine size with a heavy cover, the new publication was a literary periodical. It continued to give readers home and abroad "a faithful picture of the territory...its

physical and climatic characteristics, its resources, its industries, its wants, its social life; indeed, all that belongs to it..."

At the same time he was editing *Out West*, Liller was also editor of the new *Gazette*. The *Old West* name disappeared when it merged into the:

Colorado Springs Weekly Gazette and El Paso County News January 4, 1873-December 32, 1942. At some early point "and El Paso County News" was dropped from the name. A daily was added:

Colorado Springs Gazette May 1, 1878-February 4, 1946. J.E. Lillier, editor. The *Gazette* left literature to *Out West*, focusing instead on local and territorial news. The paper supported women's suffrage and temperance, and denounced Communism in the form of "outlawed murderers of the Paris commune [who] have flocked to this country."

Henry McAllister was named editor after Lillier's death in 1875, but he was succeeded by Marcellin L. De Coursey, another member of the Colorado Springs Company. De Coursey resigned in February 1876, and H.A. Risely became editor. Lillier's widow, Rachel, was appointed assistant editor.

In January 1877, Palmer and Bell sold the *Gazette* to the Gazette Publishing Co., consisting of E.P. Stephenson, James Bolton and Edwin F. Draper. Ernest Stephenson bought out Draper and Bolton and became sole owner in January 1878. The paper added a six-column daily in May 1878. It expanded to seven columns in December 1886 and to eight columns in March 1887.

Benjamin W. Steele became editor and publisher in 1878. He had joined the staff a year earlier with a salary of \$8 a week. Stephenson stayed on as manager until 1880. Steele acquired control of the printing company in 1882. Steele was influential and beloved. When he presided over the dedication of a new Gazette building in March 1891, local dignitaries were joined in attendance by members of the state legislature, who adjourned for the day and made the trip down from Denver. Steele died in 1891.

General Palmer regained control of the *Gazette* after Steele's passing. Walter L. Wilder was editor in 1892, but Palmer replaced him in December with William Alexander Platt of New York. Palmer made S.N. Francis business manager. In the fall of 1894, Palmer leased the paper to Platt and Francis for two years. Palmer sold the paper again in 1896 for \$30,000 to a group comprised of C. Vanderbilt Barton and Thomas C. Parrish, principal owners; Henry Russell Wray, editor and manager; and William McKay Barbour, business manager.

The six-day *Gazette* began publishing every day. The *Gazette* was Republican, and in 1896 found itself on the wrong side of Colorado's pivotal issue—silver—when it opposed silver champion William Jennings Bryant's candidacy for President. According to historian Wilbur Stone, it was the only daily in the state to support McKinley.

Isaac Stevens was editor and publisher from March 1900 to February 1903. He had been active in Denver politics, winning a run for Arapahoe County (which then included Denver) District Attorney in 1888, but leaving the capitol after an aborted run for Congress. Stevens sold the *Gazette* in 1903 to Charles M. MacNeill and Kurnal R.

Babbitt, who were both associated with copper mining. David Elliot, then with *Evening Telegraph*, was lured over to be the new editor of the *Gazette*.

The *Gazette* was sold again in 1904, this time to Clarence Phelps Dodge, owner of the *Evening Telegraph*. Dodge remained owner until 1923, when he sold the *Gazette* to the Telegraph Company. Charles T. Wilder was editor from 1904 until he passed the title to Dodge in 1916. Manitou's Alfred Ege was named editor and publisher August 13, 1919. Ege had been business manager of the *Gazette* for 12 years, then advertising manager for six years. Ege bought the paper in October 1922, and served as editor/publisher until the May 23, 1923 merger of the *Gazette* and *Telegraph* companies. The announcement of the merger stated that "both papers will retain their individuality and high standards, and that as soon as the details of the transfer can be effected, announcement will be made regarding the one Sunday paper." (see *Telegraph* below).

The *Telegraph* was only eight months younger than the *Gazette*. It began as:

Colorado Mountaineer September 3, 1873-April 1882, Baker and Mathes. Historian A.Z. Sheldon said the *Mountaineer* came to be "under the patronage of citizens who desired a journal independent of corporate influence." Judge Eliphalet Price was said to be an editor in 1874. J.P.C. Poulton, lately city editor of the *Pueblo Republican*, was a managing editor. He used the impressive pseudonym "Fluke McGilder Potomac."

A.G. Adams & Co. owned the *Mountaineer* in 1875. The Rowell directory that year describes the paper as “co-operative.” George H. Marsh and Fred Conant bought the paper in January 1876. Conant died in 1884, and J.W. Adams bought out Conant’s interest in September 1877. Abe Roberts bought an interest in 1878. In 1880 the *Mountaineer* absorbed the:

Deaf Mute Index February 1875-March 27, 1880, Jeff Kennedy, editor/publisher; weekly and monthly. Kennedy was superintendent of the Colorado Institute for the Education of Mutes, and brought with him from Kansas two cases of type and a small Star job press. It was first used to print up the rules for the Institute. After the *Index* was sold to the *Mountaineer*, the Institute issued another paper:

Colorado Index 1892–c.1901, H.M. Harbert, founder; G.W. Veditz, editor 1892.

Marsh and Abrams were co-publishers of the *Mountaineer* until April 1882. The paper was purchased by the Republic Printing Company and the name changed to:

Weekly Republic and Mountaineer April 1882-October 11, 1883. There was also a sister paper established earlier:

Daily Republic September 3, 1881-August 30, 1883. They continued as:

Colorado State Republic August 1883-1885, daily, and:

Colorado State Republic October 18, 1883-1885, weekly. The name changed again:

Colorado Springs Republic 1885-June 30, 1891 twice-weekly and daily; and:

Colorado Springs Republic 1885-1889 weekly.

W.T. Hobart bought the *Republic* in September 1883. C.W. Hobart was editor in 1883, and A.T. McDill, editor, 1884-1885. The *Republic* led a precarious life until it merged with the also struggling *Telegraph*.

H.C. and M.S. Crawford, who had owned the *Salida Mountain Mail*, bought the *Republics* in late 1886 or early 1887, but sold them January 2, 1888 to L.H. Gowdy (see *Colorado Springs Transcript*) and A.L. Andrews, two veteran printers, who continued the daily under the same name, but changed the name of the weekly to:

El Paso County Republic January 3, 1889-June 1891. On July 1 1891, the *El Paso Republic* and *Colorado Springs Republic* merged into the *Pikes Peak Herald*.

Colorado Hour April 4, 1885-1887, A.H. Carman, founder. On October 1, 1887, Carman sold the *Hour* to S.N. Francis & Co. (Francis and G. Herbert Brown). Conflicting sources say Carman changed the name before selling, or the new owners did, to:

Pikes Peak Herald October 1, 1887-March 9, 1893. Francis was listed as publisher and Brown as editor. Walter Wilder was also an editor from July 1888 to September 1889. Clarence Finch, known as the "Hearst of Colorado" because of the number of papers he owned, was co-owner with Francis from February 1891 to May 2, 1892.

In June 1891, S.N. Francis of the *Herald* and L.H. Gowdy of the *Republic* became partners, publishing two newspapers for the Republic Publishing Company. The *Pikes Peak Herald* and the *El Paso Republic*, both weeklies, merged into one weekly under the name *Pikes Peak Herald* until March 9, 1893, when the name became *Weekly Telegraph*. The daily *Colorado Springs Republic* became:

Republic and Telegraph July 1-1891-February 28, 1893. David Elliott apparently was the editor, and may have had an interest. His biographies list him as co-founder. The *Republic and Telegraph* was continued as:

Evening Telegraph March 1, 1893-July 30-1910, daily, with:

Weekly Telegraph March 16, 1893-1903. In March 1893, H.H. Eddy, H.L.J. Warren, Mr. Temple and Mr. Evans bought the two papers, but sold them in July 1894 to Charles S. Sprague, a successful Ohio newspaper publisher, and Thomas W. Jones. Sprague and Jones sold the *Telegraph* to David Elliot and Lewis Gaylord on October 1, 1898. Gaylord, a Philadelphian, may have sold his interest to D.B. Fairley and Congressman Franklin E. Brooks, the state Republican chairman.

Elliot continued as publisher/editor until 1903 when he left to edit the *Gazette*. Edward G. Reinery bought a part interest in April 1901. For a brief period the newspaper name was:

Colorado Telegraph 1901-1902. The name reverted to *Evening Telegraph*. During Elliot's tenure, the *Telegraph* absorbed two other newspapers, the *Mail* and the *Facts*:

Saturday Mail May 1888-1890. Carr Publishing Co., publisher. It was changed to **Sunday Mail** 1890-1891.

Evening Mail 1890-1891. It was purchased by the *Telegraph* December 3, 1891, and published as the *Evening Telegraph and Evening Mail* until January 1, 1902, according to Stewart. The *Sunday Mail* was consolidated with the *Cripple Creek Prospector*.

Facts 1897-March 28, 1903. *Facts* began in 1896 in Cripple Creek as the *Cripple Creek Guide* by Charles Stokes Wayne, and moved to Colorado Springs. S.N. Francis bought the paper from Wayne, and in 1903 it was merged into the *Weekly Telegraph*.

After Elliot's departure, Marvin Gaylord and Walter B. Nowgen were editors from March 1903 until June 1904. E. E. Rittenhouse was also an editor from April 1903 to July 1904. The Consolidated Publishing Company headed by Clarence Dodge purchased the *Telegraph* in January 1904, and published it until 1906. The *Telegraph* was rechristened:

Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph July 10, 1905, July 30, 1910. A corporation--C.F. Yaeger, president, Edward F. McKay, Lewis Talliferro and C.F. Perry--bought the *Telegraph* in March 1906. Edward McKay was editor and publisher for a few months

and evidently left, because the other three men are the only ones listed as publishers after that. David Elliot was brought back as editor until June 1909. William and Alexander Plant, E.H. Carrington and Charles F. Yaeger were editors from April to July 1910 when Elliot was brought back again.

Meanwhile, a new *Herald* had surfaced:

Evening Herald November 1, 1909-July 30, 1910, Charles T. Wilder, editor. Dodge started this *Herald* to compete with the *Telegraph* in the evening, but sold it a year later to the *Telegraph*:

Herald-Telegraph July 1, 1910-December 31, 1911, daily. The name reverted to:

Evening Telegraph January 1, 1912-February 4, 1946. Clarence C. Hamlin was editor in 1916 and T.E. Nowels became manager. On May 1, 1923, Spenser Penrose, Charles Tutt, T.E. Nowels Sr., and Clarence Clark Hamlin bought both the *Telegraph* and the *Gazette*. They were continued as separate and individual newspapers, but published in the same plant with the same staff until 1946. Hamlin was editor and publisher, and Nowels managing editor until 1940, when Nowels took the titles of president of the Gazette and Telegraph Company and general manger. F.R. Wadell was named editor.

The two newspapers entered a new era when Nowels sold them to R.C. Hoiles, his sons Clarence and Harry Hoiles, and his daughter, Jane Hoiles Hardie, of Santa Ana, California. Hoiles and his sons had published the *Santa Ana Register* and also owned

newspapers in Pampa, Texas, Clovis, New Mexico, and Bucyrus, Ohio. Nowels, in his forty-fifth year with the papers, stayed on for a year as president of the company and adviser to Hoiles.

R.C. Hoiles created Freedom Newspapers Inc. in 1950 as the publisher of the *Gazette-Telegram*. Harry Hoiles was publisher until 1975. Among the editors during this period were Fred R. Baker, Jr., Byron L. Akers, Robert Le Fevre, and Maurice Whitney. E. Roy Smith, a vice president of Freedom Newspapers, was made editor in 1975. Editors for Smith included Doug Miles, Robert D. Ludwig, Ken Noblitt and Tom Mullen.

Jon Stepleton was editor in 1991, replaced by Steven A. Smith in 1995. N. Christian Anderson was named publisher in May 1994.

Colorado Labor News 1901-?, A.B. Waterman.

Colorado Springs Labor News September 1901-1973, B.M. Barndollar, founder. A.J.E. Hubbard bought the paper from Barndollar in 1904. His wife, Bertha Hubbard, took over the paper in January 1906. W.E. Brown was publisher from March 1, 1907-January 17, 1908, followed by W.C. Whitthorne 1908-1909. C.A. Howland and C.J. Hasse bought the paper in September 1909. Hasse may have bought out Howland in 1910 and remained as sole owner until April 1915. A year earlier, T.C. Crowningshield was named editor.

E.H. Joslyn bought the paper in April 1915. Joslyn was a rabble-rouser and a leader in a failed effort to recall the mayor of Colorado Springs. He was hauled into

court to explain an article he wrote attacking a grand jury, but he refused to make a statement. After two days of silence, the Judge jailed him for contempt of court. Joslyn, who was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, published the *Labor News* until his death in 1928.

His widow, Lotte Joslyn, sold the paper and Joslyn Printery to Frank L. Cook, E.R. Chandler and Carlton L. Stuart in March 1928. The *Labor News* joined the other newspapers in the Print Craft Press stables: *Public Opinion* and *Daily Transcript*. Allen S. Dorsey was a partner in Printcraft in the late 1930s, but sold his interest in the *Labor News* and *Daily Transcript* in September 1940 to E.R. Chandler, M.A. Perry, C.W. Steavenson and Fred Bernheim.

The company name changed to Pioneer Printing & Publishing. Bernheim replaced Dorsey as editor of the *Labor News* by 1945, and Martin J. Murphy was publisher. Charles Steavenson was publisher in 1961, and Dale Steward in 1965. In 1973, the *Labor News* merged into the *Colorado Springs Transcript*.

Colorado Springs Transcript July 1902 to present, L.H. Gowdy, founder. E.C.P. Whitaker was editor 1913-1918. In 1909, the paper was publishing as:

Colorado Springs Transcript and Mining News Whitaker was still editor in 1915, but by then the name had been shortened to:

Transcript It was primarily a legal notices and court news paper. E.H. Joslyn was editor and publisher 1918-1928, and Frank H. Cook, 1929-1932. Carlton Stuart was

editor in 1935, followed by C.W. Steavenson, 1940-1944. Dale Stewart was editor 1965-1992, although he remained on the staff until 1995. John Bernheim became editor in 1995.

The third paper in the trio was:

Public Opinion 1905-1945. E.H. Joslyn of Joslyn Printery, publisher, 1918 to his death in 1928. Print Craft Press bought the paper and installed Frank Cook as editor, 1927-1932, followed by Carlton Stewart 1933-1938. It was the same staff as the other two newspapers. *Public Opinion* was either discontinued or absorbed by the *Transcript* in 1945.

Colorado Springs Free Press #3 February 3, 1947-April 1970, founded by the International Typographical Union (ITU); D. Maynard Wood, managing editor. The morning daily was born of an ITU strike against the *Gazette Telegraph*. The newspaper slogan was "We Are Behind Anything Good for Colorado Springs." Wood, the son of Roy E. Wood, had grown up working on his father's newspapers in Holly and Breckinridge, before moving to Colorado Springs where he was with the Democrat Publishing Co. and the *Gazette Telegraph*. Edwin P. Hoyt, Jr., son of the *Denver Post* publisher, bought the *Free Press* in 1951. In June 1955, Hoyt merged in the *Colorado Springs News and Advertiser* (see *El Paso County Democrat*, above).

The ITU, however, repossessed the *Free Press* in September 1955 for nonpayment of notes. Jack Mohler, whose father Ray had been circulation manager of the *Gazette Times* for 25 years, was publisher 1955-1957. Dan J. Cronin was managing

editor from September 1955-August 1956, followed by W.T. "Doc" Little, 1956-1960, a well-known newsman of Southern Colorado. Hank Greenspan bought the *Free Press* in April 1970 and changed the name to:

Colorado Springs Sun April 1970-March 1, 1986. William Woestendiek was editor and had an ownership stake. The Colorado Publishing Company, headed by Senator William Armstrong Jr. of Aurora, bought the *Sun* in August 1975. Ben Burns, former managing editor of the *Lansing (Mich.) State Journal*, took the same position with the *Sun*. The Oklahoma Publishing Company, headed by Edward Lewis Gaylord, purchased the *Sun* in July 1977. Lewis had an ambitious plan to capture the *Gazette Telegraph* market before going on to buy the *Pueblo Chieftain* and the *Denver Post*. But by the time he gave up the *Sun*, Gaylord was *believed* to be losing millions each year on the paper. It published its last issue February 28, 1986.

With the closing of the *Sun*, Colorado Springs became a one-newspaper town. According to its own triumphal editorial marking the occasion, the *Gazette Telegraph* had won a "victory in a long, costly struggle against a series of newspaper operators intent on driving the GT out of business." Though not as well publicized nationally, the conflict "was as intense and hard-fought as more famous press battles in the likes of Detroit, Dallas or Denver."

Colorado Free Press #1 April 1875-June 1876, Colorado Printing Co., publisher, Henry L. Hayward, editor. Historian H.H. Bancroft says the *Free Press* was established by

Judge Elphalet Price, and merged into the *Mountaineer*. Other sources indicate that the first *Free Press* was suspended in 1876.

Democratic Daily Free Press July 5-July 26, 1875. R.G. Buckingham, editor. The *Denver Mirror* commented on July 18, 1885 that “the editor of the *Mountaineer* exuberates over the decease of the *Free Press*, aged two months and three days.” One source suggests a connection between the two *Free Presses*.

El Paso County Democrat October 6, 1894-December 29, 1922, T.B. and Nellie Pyles, founders. The paper began in 1889 as the *Crystal Park Beacon* in Florissant, which was then in El Paso County (it’s now in Teller county). They moved the paper in 1894 and changed the name to *El Paso County Democrat*. As its name implied, it was an organ of the county Democratic Party.

The Pyles published the paper until 1905, when they sold to Clyde Starrett. Starrett sold in August 1906 to the Democrat Publishing Company, organized by Louis W. Cunningham, E.C. Starrett and Lawrence Snyder. Clyde Starrett leased the paper from December 1906 to about 1908. Starrett and Snyder were editor/managers. Judge Cunningham, active in the Democratic Party and a popular columnist, was publisher until the paper was sold in 1915 to John N. Green. Starrett and Snyder were out, but Cunningham retained a financial interest and his column continued until 1924. The name was eventually changed to:

Colorado Springs Farm News & El Paso Democrat July 20, 1923-December 1924.

George LaCrone bought Judge Cunningham's share of the paper in 1924. That year the name was shortened:

Colorado Springs Farm News January 2, 1925-December 1936, when the name was again shortened:

Colorado Springs News January 1, 1937-May 1949. Green was editor/publisher. Green was also president of the Colorado Press Association in 1925, and served as vice president of the National Editorial Association for five terms. In the spring of 1938, Green started a free distribution paper:

Colorado Springs Advertiser 1938-1939. It was merged into the *News*.

Green and LaCrone sold the *Colorado Springs News* to Victor Neisheim on January 1, 1953, but retained the printing firm. Neisheim sold the paper in July 1953 to Edwin P. Hoyt Jr. and his wife Olga. The Hoyts also owned the *Colorado Springs Free Press* but apparently did not merge the two operations. The old *News* became the weekly:

Weekend Journal June 9, 1955-July 1957, under Constantine (Connie) Poulous and Anne Carter, who bought the paper from the Neisheims. Poulous and Carter sold the paper to William Green and Lorraine Scheidman in June 1957 and it was soon discontinued.

Colorado Springs Independent #2 June 14, 1917-December 31, 1953, daily. Begun in Colorado City as the *Iris*, name changed to *Independent* (see Colorado City). Schuyler Landes, who had bought the paper in 1917, moved it and published it until 1920. He either sold or leased the *Independent* to Pierce Munsey, formerly publisher of the *Stratton Press*. J.C. McCreary, who owned the paper in Colorado City from 1904 to 1915, purchased it again in 1927. The *Independent* missed 20 issues in 1918 due to newsprint and other shortages created by Word War I.

McCreary leased the paper in 1932 to C.L. Ebersole, and to Lois Allen from 1933-1935. Back at the helm in 1935, McCreary published the paper again until January 1, 1937, when he sold it to Frank Cook. On September 1, 1946, Cook sold the *Independent* to a partnership of Robert E. and Melvin A. Erickson, brothers, and Miss Shirley Bonds. All three had been active in the printing and publishing business in Colorado Springs for several years, operating the Peerless Printing Co. Elizabeth Erickson was editor 1946-1949. The *Independent* was discontinued in the fall of 1956.

Black Forest News February 1960 to present; Harry Gormer, founder. The name was originally **Black Forest News & East Colorado Springs Crier**. It was also called the **Black Forest News & Divide Courier** at one time.

Opal Roper and her sister, Jean Watkins, bought the paper in 1961. By April 1972 Opal Roper was sole owner. She sold the paper in April 1977 to Randall and Marge King. Bill and Gwen Blake purchased the *News* in 1978, and sold it to Ms. Roper in 1981.

Charles Mattson formed Park Publications and bought the *Black Forest News* in 1983. The *Black Forest News* won a Lowell Thomas award for reporting.

Northern Light 1983-March 1992; Joyce Vogel, founder. William Kezziah, owner of the *Monument Tribune*, bought the paper in 1986. The *Northern Light* suspended publication in January 1992. It lacked a stable base of advertisers and, according to competitor Henry Walter of the *Cheyenne Edition*, it “didn’t have the commitment of their readers that is evident here.”

Colorado Springs Independent #2 October 27, 1993 to present Kathryn Eastburn and John Weiss, co-publisher/founder. It was a free distribution 30-page tabloid format. Weiss said the alternative paper would “give voice to a more diverse range of opinion than the more conservative *Gazette Telegraph*...we will be more liberal. But other than that, people will not be able to pigeonhole us.” In August 1994 the *Independent* merged in:

City Comix 1989-1994, Susan Schenk, founder. A monthly publication, it presented syndicated editorial and daily cartoons. Weiss sought “the selling talents” of Schenk.

Our Free Gold The only evidence of this paper’s existence is an editorial reprinted in the May 8, 1878 *Gazette*, in which the *Gold* “respectfully petition[ed] the city council to strike the word ‘sacramental’ from the ordinance relating to the selling of intoxicating and malt liquors” in order to “relieve the druggists...of a land-slide of responsibility.”

Capital City 1880-1881.

Magnet 1880-1881, A.H. Connan, publisher; an advertising sheet.

Colorado Antelope 1882, a women's suffrage newspaper, probably started by Caroline Churchill who had a paper of the same name in Denver.

Daily News 1884-1885.

Daily Times 1884-1885.

Colorado Springs Advertiser #1 1885-June 1891, Willis Coates & Co.

Mountain Falls Echo February 2, 1888-January 10, 1889 Carr Publishing. Started in Colorado Springs, it moved to Green Mountain Falls and was continued as *Green Mountain Falls Echo*.

Western News 1890-1892, R.M. Loan & Investments, publisher.

Colorado Springs Advocate 1891-1892, E. J. McNasser and Edwin C. Baty, editors/publishers. It changed hands and the name was shortened:

Colorado Advocate 1892—1898, A.C. Battle.

Colorado Clipper 1892-1893, daily.

Western Enterprise 1892-1912, an African-American paper. Publishers were J.F. Fleming, 1900; J.H. Jackson, 1902; Porter S. Simpson 1903-1907; C.S. Muse, 1906 and

Eugene Parker Boose 1908-1912. Simpson was later with the *Colorado Springs Colored Dispatch*.

Pikes Peak Populist March 11, 1893-1894, E.C. Gard and W.S. Neal, founders. They bought the plant of the old *Saturday Mail*, and had co-founded the *Cripple Creek Crusher*, and Monument newspapers.

Monthly Bulletin July 1, 1893-1894.

El Paso County News #2 1893-1901 with a companion daily;

Colorado Springs News 1893-1899, Matthews & Stewart.

Plaindealer 1893-1896, Will S. Trowbridge; a Prohibition newspaper. It began as *Business Bulletin*.

Co-operation January-March 1894, monthly; continued in Denver.

Colorado Springs World 1894-1895, daily.

Colorado Sate Journal 1895-1905, Consolidated Publishing Co.

Saturday Tribune 1895-1898, Wolfe & Whitaker 1896; W.G. Brandenburg 1898.

Colorado Press 1896-1911, V.S. Wilson, founder. In 1889 it was V.S. Wilson and Son. E.C.F. Whitaker was publisher in 1900; in 1901 it was Whitaker and Benson. David Elliot was publisher in 1909.

State Republican 1897-1901.

Sun #1 May 1890-November 4, 1893.

Colorado Springs Sun #2 1897-1905, Antlers Publishing, J.M. Booker was editor in 1899, J.M. Barker 1901-1905. Robert Ramey was publisher in 1900, and J. Monroe Booker 1901-1904. There was a Manitou edition of the *Sun* in 1900.

Sun #3 See *Free Press*.

Catholic News 1898-1907, Edward S. Kelley was publisher in 1898, followed by James O'Brien, 1900-1907.

Catholic Register 1905-1907, printed in Denver.

Megaphone 1898-1899.

Saturday Reflector 1896-1903, John W. Wilson.

Navajo 1900-1901.

Weekly Review 1900-1901.

Saturday Siftings 1900-1901.

Pink Iconoclast September 1902-1905, E.E. Sonanstone: a Free Thought newspaper.

Columbian News March 1903-1904, W.J. McGrath, founder.

Colorado State Journal April 4, 1903-1904, Consolidated Publishing Company.

Colorado Illustrated 1904-1905.

Colored Dispatch 1900-1908, Porter S. Simpson, founder.

Essence of Common Sense 1905-1906.

Frontier 1905-1906.

Colorado Springs Dispatch 1906-1909 weekly to daily and weekly 1909-1912.

Light 1908-1912, Frederick Madison Roberts, founder.

Daily Anti-Saloon Advocate March 29-April 5, 1909.

Cheyenne News & Idlewild Times 1912-1914, F.D. Denton.

Colorado Springs Eagle 1912-1913, Mrs. Julia Embry, publisher.

Colorado Advance 1914-1917.

Pikes Peak Press 1916-1918.

Colorado Springs Argus 1917-1918, F.A. Day. The paper was founded in 1900 in Colorado City and moved to Colorado Springs.

Colorado Springs Index 1922-1923.

Colorado Springs Observer August 12-September 29, 1926, Talk and Snelson, founders.

How 1928-1932.

Outlook Journal 1930, J.B. Moore, publisher. It was an anti-tobacco publication.

Colorado Springs Voice October 1949-1950.

Skyway Times 1955, a small tabloid to serve the Skyway Park subdivision.

Sam's People and Politics of the Pikes Peak Region August 14, 1958-April 29, 1959.

Colorado Springs Catholic Herald 1984 to present, John & Joanne Pearing, founders. It was a weekly to 1988, then monthly. The Parrings had been doing the Pikes Peak edition of the *Denver Catholic Herald*. When the Southern Colorado Diocese was formed, the Parrings started their paper to serve the new diocese.

Hispania 1987 to present, Robert Armendariz, a former radio broadcaster, founder; the paper is bilingual.

African American Voice June 1991 to present, Jim Tucker, founder. He conceived the idea while serving with the Army National Guard in Saudi Arabia, according to a *Gazette Telegraph* article.

Colorado Springs Northeast Mail 1973, Robert R. Guy, publisher; Mike Pike, editor.

Cheyenne Edition 1982 to present, Henry A. Walter, founder and publisher; Bob Campbell, editor.

Business Newspapers

Record 1889-1900, Richard Ballinger, editor/publisher. It may have been a real estate journal.

Business Bulletin 1892-1893, A.T. McDill. It merged with the *Plaindealer*.

Colorado Tourist 1899-1906, R.M. Roberts, founder. H. Jerome Toy was editor/publisher 1900 to about 1906. It was a daily morning publication.

Colorado Springs Business Journal 1988 to present. Initially published twice a month, it went weekly in December 1993.

Mining Newspapers

Cabinet 1874-1875, Colorado Springs Printing Company, publisher, R.G. Buckingham, manager. The *Cabinet* was devoted to "mining, minerals, etc."

Advertiser 1875, "published on behalf of the Colorado Cabinet Company by H.W. Horton." The name was changed to:

Miner and Advertiser March 1875-April 1876, H.W. Horton, editor. The paper was printed in Denver until September.

Mining Record 1899-? E.G. Reinert 1901-1902.

Real Estate and Mining Review 1892-1893.

Colorado Mining Era 1895-1896.

Mining Investor 1895-?, C.S. Sprague, publisher of the *Telegraph*, founder.
Claude Sachs was editor in 1898.

Anglo-Colorado Mining Guide 1897-July 31, 1900, E.W. Tope.

Daily Mining Stock Reporter 1902.

Mining News July 1902-1908, Will J. Mathews, founder. Mathews went on to newspapers in Castle Rock, Hayden and Wray.

Transportation and Mining News July 1902-1912. E.C.P. Whitaker was editor/publisher 1909-1912.

Daily Mining Stock Reporter #2 1926-1927.

Military Newspapers

Skyline Observer ENT Air Force Base 1959. The current name:

Space Observer, Peterson Air Force, published by John Bernheim, *Colorado Springs Daily Transcript*, who publishes all the current military publications listed below.

Fort Carson Mountaineer, current.

Falcon Flyer, current, Air Force Academy.

Prime Times, current, news about retired military personnel.

Camp Carson had a base newspaper in the early 1940s. In addition, a German-language newspaper, **Neue Volkszeitung**, published in New York, was distributed to prisoners of war.

College Newspapers

Colorado College, originally known as The Colorado Springs College, has had a newspaper with a changing name:

Occident 1880.

Collegian 1894.

Tiger 1909 and 1920 to present.

Kinnikkinnik 1915.

The Scribe 1979 to present. University of Colorado at Colorado Springs publication. It was suspended from January 16 to August 26, 1996, due to a financial crisis.

Eastonville

Col. Randolph Marcy camped where Eastonville, one of the towns on the main route south from Cherry Creek to Fountain, was located. The Denver & New Orleans railroad was built in 1882, connecting Denver and Pueblo. The train station was first called McConnellsville, but Easton, a mile or so north, was the post office designation.

When the post office moved to the train station, the post office changed the name to Eastonville to avoid confusion with Eaton. The town had one newspaper:

Eastonville World 1889-1901, J.B. King, founder. King also owned and operated the *Calhan Enterprise*. A.B. Whitmore was editor. H.W. Summerset bought the paper some time in 1900 and suspended it in January 1901.

Falcon

Falcon was established as a railroad switching yard on the remains of an old deserted sheep camp in 1887, and was named for the numerous brown and white prairie falcons native to the area. Falcon was a junction for the Rock Island and Denver, and Texas and Fort Worth railroad lines, and many of the streets were named for places along the rail lines. After a concerted advertising campaign to sell lots in the new town, Falcon became a major shipping point by 1890. The town had one newspaper:

Falcon Herald 1888-1892, Herald Publishing Co., Art Henry, editor. It published on Saturdays and cost \$1.50 per year, or 5 cents per copy (chickens taken in trade). Louis A. Booth was publisher of the *Falcon Herald* at one time.

Fountain

French trappers gave the name Fontaine-qui-Bouille—the “spring that boils”—to the river. A group of squatters settled in along Fontaine qui Bouille and called the camp Fountain. By 1871 they had a town with more than three dozen “tidy and substantial” buildings. The railroad arrived in 1872. The town was almost destroyed in 1888 by a

dynamite explosion in a runaway train near the Santa Fe station. Four people were killed. A brave engineer backed up another train to collide with the runaway and save the lives of the passengers still aboard.

El Paso Ranchman January 1, 1872-February 25, 1873, R.F. Long, founder, monthly. Long was a Civil War Union veteran from Kentucky who planned a colony for ex-soldiers in Fountain.

Fountain Dispatch 1888-1893, Will Hodges, founder. Hodges had owned the *Castle Rock Journal* and would go on to publish several newspapers in Littleton. W.S. Neal was publisher in 1890, followed by Uhland K. Lock, 1892 and W.B. Lock, 1893.

Fountain Wave 1888-1891.

Fountain Herald 1899-February 3, 1944, Henry Ellington, founder. T.B. and Nellie Pyles bought the paper from Ellington in 1907 and published it until December 15, 1919. The Pyles team had previously published newspapers in Colorado Springs and Florissant.

L. Wesley Hilgendorf bought the *Herald* in 1919. Born in Iowa in 1893, he had worked for the Pyles beginning in his high school years. Hilgendorf was active in the Pikes Peak region press association. J.A. Gordanier and Lemuel Linder leased or purchased the *Herald* in March 1943. In December Arthur Mitchell took over, but on February 3, 1944, the *Herald* was suspended.

Fountain Herald revived October 2, 1946-1950. Charles J. Haase Jr., a Colorado Springs native, bought the rights to the *Herald* and began publishing it again. Haase died in January 1948. His widow, Lucy Haase, published the paper until May 15, 1949, when she sold it to Rex and Nell Womack Evans, a Colorado Springs couple. They folded the *Herald* for good at the beginning of 1950.

Security Advertiser October 3, 1958 to present under several names. The paper was actually begun in 1953 as a shopper. The name and the founder are unknown. Carl Weise came to town in 1956 and was “talked into” investing \$1,000 and his photographic experience in the paper. Not long after, the founder upset local merchants by suggesting they needed competition. They boycotted the paper, and it was up to Weis to hustle to recoup his investment. Securing an advertising contract with the new Security Shopping Center was a turning point. The first issue of the renamed *Security Advertiser* was issued October 3, 1958 by Wiese and his new partner, Helen K. Larson. Wiese sold the ads, while Larson wrote the news, a “she diligently pursued until her death in 1981.”

As the population of Fountain Valley grew, so did the *Advertiser* and its circulation. It went from four pages to 40, and was called the “Voice of the Valley.” By 1971 the name had been changed to:

Security Advertiser and Fountain Valley News. It has at various times been known as **Fountain Valley News and Security Advertiser, El Paso County Advertiser and News,** and **El Paso County News.** By 1987 there were two editions: the *Advertiser and*

News, circulated by mail, and the *Fountain Valley News*, delivered by carrier. Carl Heinz Weise was publisher for 36 years. His wife Kathryn took over when he died in 1999, with his stepdaughter, Patricia A. St. Louis, as editor.

Green Mountain Falls

One hundred years ago, while much of Colorado was doing mad acrobatics in the chase for gold, the more serious circus masters, Barnum and Bailey, settled in a mountain town simply for the air and what grew out of the mountains—not what lay under them.

Merlyn Holmes, *Pikes Peak Journal* 7/20/1990

Barnum and Bailey both had daughters with tuberculosis, and both built summer homes. The first formal land titles were granted in 1873. A vast cattle ranch was sold, one part to the Colorado Midland Railway for a right-of-way, the other part to establish the town. Green Mountain Falls was established in 1889 and incorporated a year later. It straddles the border of El Paso and Teller counties.

The Colorado Midland Railroad arrived in 1889, and worked with the town on excursion trains and activities for visitors. Special “flower trains” had open cars that stopped when a particularly beautiful wild flower field appeared for visitors to alight and gather armfuls of petals. Hot air balloons were also a big attraction, and at least once a balloon landed in the lake. The arrival of the Stanley Steamer car in 1904 was a great boost to tourism.

The resort town had one newspaper:

Green Mountain Falls Echo January 17, 1889-1892, published by the town to advertise itself. The paper was started and printed in Colorado Springs by Carr Publishing, but moved to Green Mountain Falls in 1889.

Manitou Springs

Indians brought their sick and aged to the Manitou Springs “medicine waters” for centuries before the white men penetrated the area. Daniel Boone’s grandson, Colonel A.G. Boone, brought his two sons to the area for their health in the winter of 1833. John Charles Fremont’s 1843 expedition maps show the springs; they were called Fremont’s Soda Springs for many years. In 1871 the Fountain Colony of Colorado Springs bought land near the mineral springs and a new town was proposed: Villa La Font, a name that didn’t last long. Dr. William Bell, an Englishman visiting his investments, including those with General Palmer’s company, changed the name to “Manitou,” supposedly an Algonquin spirit in Longfellow’s *Hiawatha*.

Bell built the Manitou Park Hotel in 1873 to offer the best to illustrious guests, and he built the large English-style Briarhurst for his growing family and grand social events. The Denver & Rio Grande completed a “short line” between Manitou and Colorado Springs in 1880. The *Denver Times* reported in February 1890 that the Union Pacific planned an electric railroad to the summit of Pikes Peak. The first passenger train on the cog ascended to the summit of the mountain on June 30, 1891.

Manitou Springs Item March 14, 1882-1885, John R. Huffman, founder. He took a job at a small job press, bought it, and published the *Item* from the shop.

Manitou Springs Journal March 14, 1895-1933, C.P. Brown, founder. L.B. Crofton was editor/publisher in 1888. C.H. Frowine bought the paper in 1888 and ran it until his death 15 years later. In 1889 the *Journal* was a daily with A.N. Frowine as editor. In 1892, the paper went tri-weekly, under the name:

Triweekly Journal 1892-1898. In the summer months, the *Journal* was distributed free on trains from Palmer Lake to Pueblo, and was sent to principal hotels and resorts nationwide. The newspaper name reverted back in 1898:

Manitou Springs Journal It also tried issuing triweekly again from 1902-1904. C.H. Frowine died in 1904. Mrs. Frowine leased the *Journal* to E.D. Bowers 1904-1905, and to Miss Lisle Harris January 1905 to June 28, 1907. Mrs. Frowine sold the *Journal* to James A. Sevitz and J.W. Fisher in June 1907. At the same time they bought the *Journal*, Sevitz and Fisher purchased the:

Manitou Record 1906-1907. The merger produced a new name:

Manitou Springs Record-Journal June 28-July 12, 1907. Then it reverted to the old tried-and-true name:

Manitou Springs Journal In August of 1907, Sevitz bought Fisher's interest in the paper and became sole owner. Lois Allen, who had been connected with Colorado Springs newspapers, bought the *Journal* from Sevitz at the end of 1913. Allen sold the paper in June 1916 to A. DeBernardi, Jr. of Denison, Texas. DeBernardi leased it from July 1918-July 1919 to Shuyler Landes of the Colorado Springs *Independent*. From July to

September 1919, John A. Broadbent was publisher and R.A. Hampshire, formerly of the *Colorado City Iris*, was editor/manager.

Fran Butler bought the *Journal* in 1919. He was described as a “slightly eccentric” Englishman who had been the Royal Printer to King George V. He came to Colorado for the tuberculosis cure. Butler sold the *Journal* in 1924 to Lottie A. Joslyn, wife of E.H. Joslyn of the *Colorado Springs Labor News*. A L.E. Winnard took control in early 1926. William J. Graham of the Out West Printing Company bought the *Journal* in July 1926 from Winnard. Later the name was changed to:

Pikes Peak Journal 1933 to present. Graham launched various crusades for his town and region: promoting a name change for the town from Manitou to Manitou Springs; opening the Pikes Peak highway to the public; oiling the streets in Manitou; building a road from Deckers to Harstel; bringing conventions to Manitou; and improving the municipal playgrounds.

W.J. Graham published the *Pikes Peak Journal* until 1947, when he left the business to serve as El Paso County treasurer. His daughter Frances, who had learned the alphabet playing with printer’s type, was named publisher. Her sister, Lillian Graham, joined Frances as co-publisher in 1975. Their brother Joseph also worked on the paper, and their nephew, John Graham, succeeded them as publisher in 1980.

Pikes Peak Daily News 1891-1940, William Schube, founder. C.E. Tschudi was publisher 1906-1915; Lawrence Snyder 1916-1917; and Tom B. Wilson 1918-1926. Spencer and Spencer, brothers, were publishers in 1930, but in 1935, John R. Spencer

was sole publisher. Begun as a four-page paper, the *News* was printed only during the summer months on the 14,000-foot summit of Pikes Peak. The paper was mailed a memento to everyone who signed the register, all around the country and the world.

Manitou Tourist April 6, 1893-1894.

Manitou Springs Sun 1897-1899, John W. Wilson, founder.

Manitou Springs Record 1906-1907.

Pikes Peak Herald 1938-1940, daily/weekly summer months.

Monument

In 1866 a German immigrant, Henry Limbach, arrived in the area and established a stage stop known as Harry's Station. The first settlement made by a group of surveyors in 1869 but the town itself was established in 1874, named after the rock formation west of town. Primarily an agricultural center, Monument became famous for, and dependent on, the potato crop. The town was also the main shipping point for the country between Colorado Springs and Denver, and was served by five railroads.

Monument Journal 1880-1881, W.F. Walker, founder.

El Paso County Register 1885-1889. Edwin Albert Benedict was publisher by 1887; he and his wife, M.J. Benedict, were listed in 1888. Benedict came to Colorado from Nebraska in 1878 and founded the *Idaho Springs Iris* in 1879.

Monument Recorder 1889-1891, Man and Gard, founders. Mrs. E.C. Duffy was editor in 1890.

Monument Messenger 1890-1910. W.S. Neal, founder and publisher until 1893. O.H. Whittier was publisher of the *Messenger* from 1894-1896, and was succeeded by W.T. Lambert 1897-1907. C.D. Ford was co-publisher. C.A. Bent was the final owner. A school teacher, Bent also was editor of the Castle Rock *Record-Journal*, and bought the *Las Animas County News* in 1926.

Palmer Lake-Monument News February 5, 1965-1972. George Kobolt, founder. Current publisher Bill Kezziah says that the paper was begun in 1959 as a religious newspaper, printing Sunday sermons. The name was changed in 1972 to reflect a broader area of coverage:

Palmer Lake–Monument-Woodmoor News 1972-1973. The name changed again in 1973:

Palmer Tri-Lakes Tribune 1976 to present. James W. Campbell and Michael J. Nusca bought the *Tri-Lakes Tribune* in the fall of 1976. Musca was a building contractor from the Washington-Baltimore area.

William H. Kezziah bought the *Tri-Lakes Tribune* in 1979. Campbell stayed on as an editor. Kezziah teaches at Metropolitan State College of Denver and was president of the Colorado Press Association in 1995.

Palmer Lake

Located on an old Indian trail, the town was homesteaded in 1869 after General William Palmer decided to run his railroad through the area. The not-quite-a-town had several names: Divide, Loch Katrine, Palmero, and finally Palmer Lake, in honor of the General.

Palmer Lake Herald 1888-1894, Gard Brothers, founders. They published the paper until 1890 When Charles F. Wilson purchased it. Wilson was publisher until 1892. Whittier and Lambert were publishers for the final two years.

Palmer Lake Journal 1895-1896.

Mascot 1895-1896.

Yesterday and Today 1898-1909, Frank R. Sherwin, founder. Kate B. McClure was editor 1900-1906. She evidently married the publisher because Kate and Frank Sherwin are listed in 1909 as publishers.

Columbine Herald 1956-December 12, 1958, Glenn Peterson and Stanley Johnson, founders; weekly and semi-monthly. Finley McRae bought the paper in 1958 and changed the name:

Lake Land News 1958-?

Palmer Lake also had jointly titled newspapers shared with Monument:

Palmer Lake-Monument News 1965-1972, name changed to:

Palmer Lake-Monument-Woodmoor News 1972-1973, changed to:

Palmer Lake Tri-Lakes Tribune 1973 to present. In 1978 the name was shortened to *Tri-Lakes Tribune*.

Ramah

Ramah, on the border of El Paso and Elbert counties, was established in 1888. Like Simla, the name was supposed to have come from a book on India being read en route by the daughter of a railroad official.

El Paso County Leader 1889-1891, J.L. Wolf, founder.

Ramah Telegram 1909-1916, G.W. and J.J. Missemmer, founders. Missemmer later owned a number of Colorado newspapers, including the *Limon Leader* and *Hugo Eastern Colorado Plainsman*.

Divide Tidings 1914-1916 T.J. Holmes, founder. Holmes formerly published the *Swink Advocate*. In the summer of 1916, Holmes sold the *Divide Tidings* to Miles Johnson, who moved the paper to Calhan.

Ramah Record October 1918-1923, J.L. Frazier, founder. It was started to replace the emigrant *Divide Tidings*.

Roswell

Roswell sprang up in 1889 just north of Colorado Springs at the junction of the Rio Grande and Rock Island railroads. It was named in honor of Roswell Pettibone

Flower of New York, a banker serving in the U.S. House of Representatives and a stockholder in the Pikes Peak Cog Railroad. Historian Frank Hall called Roswell a “suburban residence site” and “a prohibition railroad town.”

Roswell Pathfinder October 1901-1904. Edgar Wallace Conable, editor. In 1904 the name was changed to:

Roswell Tribune 1904-1905, C.R. Jones, publisher, bi-weekly.

Special Sources: *“The Pikes Peak People,”* John Fetler, Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho, 1966.

“A Brief History of Reviving Old Colorado City,” David R. Hughes.

“Falcon Centennial Celebration” special souvenir edition, *Simla Ranchland News* 8/4/1988

Special Thanks to Monty Gaddy and John Graham.

CHAPTER XXIV

FREMONT COUNTY

Dashing, daring, curly-headed John Charles Fremont crossed the Rocky Mountains five times, leaving his name and his mark on Colorado. He found the country “one of the wildest, most awe-inspiring and savagely beautiful geographical areas on the face of the earth.” He believed in the West and its future. Where others saw a “great desert” or “unscalable mountains,” Lt. Fremont saw farmlands and a way to the west coast. He saw the Royal Gorge twice, both times with Kit Carson. He ran for President of the United States as the first candidate for that office from the fledgling Republican Party in 1856, but lost to Democrat James Buchanan.

The Indians – Utes to the west and Arapaho, Cheyenne, Kiowa and Comanche to the east – fought each other to rule the land, scaring off Spanish settlers. The vast Royal Gorge, the 1,053-foot deep “Grand Canyon of the Arkansas,” also deterred settlement. From 1800-1848, the Arkansas River was the boundary between several nations and far-flung empires: France and Spain; the United States and Mexico; the United States and the Republic of Texas. It took six international treaties and a war before the area was firmly included in the Territory of Colorado.

The first permanent American settler was a Missourian who began farming south of the future site of Canon City in 1859. During the winter of 1860-1861, hundreds of

miners came down from the high country to make winter quarters. They included George A. Hinsdale and Wilbur F. Stone, two men prominent in the development of Colorado. Stone would be a newspaperman and a Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court. Hinsdale was elected lieutenant governor under the state constitution rejected by President Johnson in 1866, and had a county named after him. The two helped to organize self-government among the settlers, who had been plagued by criminal desperados. Fremont County was established by the first Territorial Legislature in 1861, the year the man for whom it was named attained the rank of Major General.

In 1862 the Civil War drained the county as many men enlisted in the Union or Confederate armies or left to avoid the draft. Cañon City had many Confederate sympathizers who went south. But Easterners fleeing the draft or battlefields began arriving, replenishing the population. Rail service first arrived in 1872, when the Denver & Rio Grande reached Labran, near Florence, and Coal Creek to serve the coal fields owned by General William J. Palmer.

Bare Hills

Bare Hills was a mining district southwest of Cripple Creek. It was also called Furrow City. It was heavily promoted by the Bare Hills Land Company, which may have published its one newspaper:

Bare Hills Times 1897-1899, J.W. Clark, founder. This may have merged into the *Canon City Clipper*.

Cañon City

Cañon City was established in 1859, and two years later was named county seat, a designation it still holds. The town thrived in 1860 because it was on the most important road to the gold diggings in California Gulch (Leadville) and several other new camps. City leaders promised Denver support in its bid for state capitol in return for the placement of the state penitentiary in Canon City. As bargained for, the Territorial Legislature authorized the penitentiary in 1868, and the first building was opened for the reception of convicts in June 1871.

Canon City Times #1 September 18, 1860-October 7, 1861, Chandler, Chambers & Millett, founders. Chandler and Chambers were co-proprietors, Millet was editor. Asa C. Chandler built one of the first sawmills in Canon City. It was rumored that Chandler was a Confederate sympathizer and that his home served as a way station for those headed South to join up. Chandler was gone from the *Times* by October 17, as was Chambers. H.S. Millett, described by contemporaries as a “poet and a philosopher,” headed the *Times*. It was a sixteen column weekly.

In December 1860, Millett took an “express [to] Golden City to complete arrangements for a new press” which “will cost \$2,500, and will be prepared to do work of all kinds.” The press Millett bought was the legendary Mormon Press, the first printing press in Denver. The one-horsepower press had been a pawn in the battles between anti-Mormons and Mormons in the Missouri River Valley. Anti-Mormons smashed the equipment and threw it in a river in 1833. It was later fished out,

rehabilitated, and used to publish a newspaper in St. Joseph. John Merrick acquired it and brought it to Colorado, where it was used to publish several fledgling papers.

Early in 1861, Millett took on Matt Riddlebarger as partner in the *Times*. Even though Riddlebarger was another Southern sympathizer, the *Times* proudly trumpeted a famous subscriber:

Abe Lincoln subscriber to Canon City Times

Among the distinguished names that have been added to our subscription list is that of Abe Lincoln, the famous rail splitter. This is a compliment to the Times, and speaks much for the hard sense that is said to characterize the President of the United States.

The *Times'* final issue on October 7, 1861 stated that Millett had left for the States to report back on the progress of the war. He never returned and this version of the *Times* was done.

Canon City Times #2 March 7, 1872-May 3, 1877, A.B. Bowman, founder. In the first issue Bowman explained that he had planned to call the paper *Life*, but a “number of old settlers of '59 and '60” remembered Millett’s *Times* as “so readable that the old-timers are still attached to the name.” In September of 1872 Bowman leased the paper to Thomas Ripley, who took over as owner in November. J.F. Lewis and C.W. Talbot were associate editors in April 1873. Ripley brought in a brother named William; they published the *Times* as H. Ripley & Bro.

In February 1875, Ripley leased the paper to Holver Megorden, who installed Frank Warner as editor. With a bittersweet farewell lamenting his inability to obtain

better financial terms, Megorden gave up his lease in April 1875. Warner wrote a goodbye to readers April 22 when it was announced that J.W. Hughes had bought the *Times*. But the *American Newspaper Reporter* announced Warner's return in May. H. Ripley and his brother returned August 12, 1875, and shuttered the paper April 26, 1877, because "The publication of a newspaper does not pay here, and never has." They took their printing equipment to Ouray and started the *Ouray Times*.

Canon City Times #3 November 1898-October 12, 1911, A.F. Terrill, founder. Anson S. Rudd succeeded Terrill as editor or publisher 1903-1904, followed by Henry M. Mingay, editor 1904-1907, and William E. Spencer, editor in 1909. Civil War veteran Captain Mingray was owner and publisher of the *Saguache Crescent* in 1885, and mayor of Saguache in 1891. Known informally as "Old Cap," Mingray was an ardent prohibitionist. When he retired in 1911, the new owners gave the paper a new name:

Fremont County Leader October 19, 1911-May or June 1921. Phil Sheridan and J.N. Tomlinson were the first publishers under the new name. Clarence P. Dodge of the *Colorado Springs Gazette* bought the *Leader* in 1912 for a group of "progressive politicians as an organ for their battle when they backed Teddy [Roosevelt] against William Howard Taft," said Guy Hardy. Fred G. Shafer was an editor in 1914, an "imported hot shot" brought in to mold political opinion. H.C. Andrew took over as editor/manager early in 1914.

Lois Allen, formerly of the *Manitou Springs Journal* and the *Colorado Springs Telegraph*, bought the *Fremont County Leader* in the summer of 1916 from Dodge's

Leader Publishing Company. She closed the *Leader* in 1921, but was back in the newspaper business the next year with the *Pueblo County Democrat*.

Canon City Avalanche February 18, 1875-October 18, 1887, Dr. Isaac E. Thayer, founder. Thayer died June 19, 1875, and the firm of Warner & Company took over management of the paper. In August, editor Frank Warner left the *Times* to take charge of the *Avalanche*. He had not parted with the Ripleys on good terms; the *Denver Mirror* remarked in November that “the amenities of journalism between the *Times* and the *Avalanche* grow sweeter every day.” The Cramer brothers, H.M. and Saxe, bought the *Avalanche* in April 1878 and changed the name to:

Fremont County Record October 25, 1877-July 28, 1883. H.T. Blake bought the *Record* May 1, 1880. A native Philadelphian, Blake had enlisted in the Sixth Ohio Infantry Union army in 1861 at the age of 15, fought at Pittsburgh Landing, Chicamauga, and Mission Ridge, and marched through Georgia with General Sherman. Judge Wilbur Felton bought an interest in the *Record* in April 1883, and acquired the rest of Blake’s interest in August. The name of the *Fremont County Record* was changed to:

Canon City Record August 4, 1883 to present. Felton was not a novice in the newspaper business, having published the *Saguache Chronicle*. As a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1875, the Judge discovered that no provision had been made for appointing presidential electors. Through his foresight, Colorado sent the electors who cast the deciding vote for President Hayes. Felton was also a charter member of the State Press Association.

Printer Art Frisbie owned the *Record* from 1892 to 1895. Frisbie was interested in politics and boasted of his enemies and how he would get even with them. Reporter and ad salesman Guy Hardy reported that Frisbie kept an "S.A. Book - satisfaction assured for polite reference, in which he kept the record of those who had done him wrong."

Hardy bought the paper from Frisbie in July 1895. Under Hardy, the *Record* was one of only three papers in Colorado to support William McKinley in the 1896 presidential election, while most of their neighbors supported William Jennings Bryan and Free Silver. In the 1920s, the *Record* was boycotted by the Ku Klux Klan, which was powerful in Canon City at that time. The boycott lasted about a year and a half and caused a considerable dent in income, but it didn't break the paper. Hardy had standards for advertising; he didn't accept liquor ads, and he banned notices for "Mexican divorce lawyers, get-rich schemes, fake doctors, and sex disease remedies." The *Record* was never in a newspaper war, because Hardy preferred to "Kill [the competition] with kindness." He made the *Record* a daily affair beginning in 1906:

Daily Record July 16, 1906; the weekly was continued "out of sentiment" until 1969. *Record* editors included J. Leo Sterling, 1912-1917 and 1919-1925, and Illinois-born William W. Emmerson, 1917-1919 and 1925-1932. W.T. "Doc" Little Jr. was editor of the *Daily Record* from 1947-1956, and from 1967-1973. Willis A. "Wag" Gillaspey was editor 1956-1966.

Guy Hardy died January 26, 1947. Don Hardy, then the advertising manager, became publisher upon the death of his father. Don Hardy died in 1966 and was succeeded by his son, David. David Hardy sold the *Record* on December 1, 1978, to the Times-Call Publishing Company, headed by Ed and Ruth Lehman, publishers of the *Longmont Times-Call* and *Loveland Reporter-Herald*. Among the subsequent editors and general managers were Doug Miles, John Hawkins, Daryl Beall, Richard Joyce, and Robert Helsley. The latter was previously a publisher of the *Glenwood Post*. In 1983 the *Daily Record* purchased the weekly *Fremont County Sun*, changing the name to *Fremont County Trader*, then *County News*, *This Week*, and finally, *Marketplace*.

Canon City Clipper April 1888-December 29, 1905, Frank B. Sheafor, founder. Born in Iowa in 1855, Sheafor came to Colorado in 1879 and edited the *Pitkin Mining News* in Gunnison County for six years. Sheafor shepherded the *Clipper* until, devastated by the death of all five of his children, he moved to Denver, where he was the first sergeant-at-arms at the new state capitol and active in politics.

Henry Mingay was owner/publisher in 1896. W.H. Sweeney was managing editor of the *Clipper* in 1901. In 1904, Dartmouth graduate John Connelly became editor. Jack and Catherine Bell took over the *Clipper* and changed the name to:

Canon City Cannon January 2, 1906-1912. Mrs. Bell was publisher. The *Cannon* slogan was "Fired Once A Week." The Bells turned the *Cannon* over to printer Earnie C. Shumway about 1910. Shumway began a very successful free circulation morning daily

that succeeded beyond expectations. The *Cannon* consolidated with the *Record* in 1912.

Canon City Free Press July-September 1874, J.C. Housekeeper, editor. It was a monthly.

Canon City Reporter October 1880-1888, Udell Brothers (G.N. and L.H.), founders.

Mining Gazette October 1881-November 18, 1883, Henry W. Comstock, founder. Comstock was a respected authority on mining matters. He founded the *Silver Cliff Mining Gazette* in 1880, then moved it to Canon City in 1881.

Daily Express January 1882-1883 with a companion:

Weekly Express May 1882-1883. It was run by Comstock with Martin Ryan.

Cadet 1882, military institute college newspaper.

Canon City Advance March 4, 1884-1885. F.P. Beslin, founder. Beslin was known as the “blind printer from Red Cliff,” where he had lost his eyesight in a mine explosion. He was later with the *Carbondale Avalanche*.

Canon City Mercury May 9, 1884-1885, E.M. Lamont, founder. The eight-page, five-column paper was strongly Republican. A civic booster, Lamont ran a long article on “our mineral springs,” admonishing people who went to Manitou and paid \$4 a day for mineral baths when “ours right at home are a lot better.”

Rocky Mountain Guide 1884-1885, Lamont and Lewis. Probably a promotion piece either with the *Mercury* or published by Lamont on the *Mercury* press.

Gate City June 1885-1886, a monthly.

Fremont County News #1 1887-1890, Howell Brothers, founders.

Canon City Courier 1891-1892, Courier Publishing.

Royal Gorge 1891-1894, James Curtis, founder and publisher, and Frank McKineey, editor. Emma Ghent Cutis was co-publisher. The *Royal Gorge* supported the People's Party. There was a change of management and name in 1894:

Royal Gorge Review 1894-1897, R.H. Jones, publisher. He also published the *Florence NonPareil* 1894-1895.

Ruralist and Gate City Index 1896-1897.

Messenger late 1890s to the 1930s, C.L. Frederickson, founder. A weekly, the paper was supported by several churches. It was printed at Art Frisbie's Rambler Print Shop. According to *Inter-Mountain Press*, the *Messenger* "has occupied the church field and has not been known as a newspaper in the commonly accepted sense of the term."

Colorado Press February 1914-May 1920, Guy Hardy, founder. It began as a monthly but went quarterly in February 1915. It was a small magazine about newspapers and newspaper people, the forerunner of today's *Colorado Editor*. The *Press* was the official organ of the Colorado Editorial Association.

Fremont County News #2 August 25, 1924-?, R.W. Sperry, founder. The *Inter-Mountain Press* said “while nothing definite concerning the nature of the new publication is known, it is assumed that it will be antagonistic to the political aspirations of Congressman Hardy.”

Daily American 1925-1932, A Ku Klux Klan paper. The *Daily American* covered basic news like any newspaper would, but it was flavored by Klan events and opinions. With a circulation as high as 800, it was a solid competitor of the *Record*. The paper had a completely modern plant and over half of the businessmen of the town were stockholders, including many of the big advertisers. George Watrous was the first editor/manager. John Pierson, long-time advertising manager at the *Daily Editor*, was editor in 1926. Jean Jacques, formerly of Greenwich Village, New York, assumed the editorship in 1927.

G.C. Stearns was editor in 1928 when the chairman of the Fremont County Republican Party sued the *Daily American* for damages because of editorials published during the political campaign. The case was settled out of court, with the *Daily American* paying a “substantial sum” to the protesting GOP chairman. J.S. Tohill, former owner of the *Monte Vista Tribune* and *Otis Independent*, was editor in 1929. Maurice V. Mehan of Glenwood Springs, a former staff member of the *Rocky Mountain News*, became managing editor on April 15, 1930. The name of the paper was changed to:

Colorado News & American early 1932-November 21, 1932, still a daily. The last editor was Robert E. Smith. He sold the machinery to the *Daily Record*.

Kolorado Klan Kourier 1926-July 1931. It was a state-wide Klan publication with a circulation of 75,000, published in the same shop as the *Daily American*. The state Klan apparently withdrew some financial support in 1927 as its dominance faded. The *Kourier* may have gone from weekly to monthly publication about this time.

Fremont County Tribune 1933-1934, G.J. Knapp, founder. It was a monthly published "for the benefit of the stockholders of the Railway Savings and Building Association, in order that uncolored information be available."

Canon City Sun March 8, 1950-February 1, 1984. Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Day, founders. Started as a tabloid newspaper, the *Sun* changed format in October 1966 to an eight-column, twenty-inch size weekly. The Days sold the *Sun* to Mr. and Mrs. James Maxey August 1, 1969. They stayed less than a year. Myron F. Smith, mechanical superintendent of the *Florence Citizen*, bought the paper from the Days effective June 1, 1970. Guy and Marcia Wood bought the *Sun* in May 1973. Guy Wood came from a pioneer newspaper family, and cut his teeth at the *Boulder Daily Camera* and *Aspen Today*. In 1984, the Woods sold the paper to Ed and Ruth Lehman's company, Royal Gorge Publishing, publishers of the *Canon City Record*. They shuttered the *Sun* just a few months later.

Coal Creek

An early farmer in Fremont County who had one of the most productive fruit orchards discovered the coal seams that ran beside the stream, hence the name Coal Creek. The Colorado Coal Compay began first extensive mining began in 1871. The

Denver & Rio Grande laid track to the mines. Colorado Fuel & Iron built a company town. The town was platted by brothers Henry and Willard Teller in 1878, and incorporated in 1889. Henry Teller became one of Colorado's first two Senators in 1876 and later, U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

Coal Creek Enterprise January 1882-1891, A.J. Patrick, founder. Dr. R.E. Smith from Louisiana was publisher from 1884 to about 1890. D.R. Jenkins was editor in 1892. The name was changed to:

Coal Creek Growler 1890-1891, then back to:

Coal Creek Enterprise 1892-1897.

Colorado Hawkeye 1884-1885.

Copperfield

Copperfield was an obscure mining camp that flourished briefly up Copper Gulch during a period of mining excitement.

Copperfield Pioneer 1909-1911.

Florence

The first oil in the county was discovered at Oil Springs, six miles north of Canon City, in 1859. No major drilling took place until 1882-1883. James McCandless, the founder of Florence, arrived in 1866 with a passel of relatives, a wife and children, and a pregnant mistress. He bought the claim of Jesse Frazer, who had hauled fruit trees from

Missouri in 1859 to start the first orchard in soon-to-be Jefferson Territory. McCandless called his town Florence, after his daughter. McCandless was named Fremont County Commissioner in 1877.

The Oil Refiner November 1887-1894, J.W. Work, founder. The news was short and to the point, and ads took up a remarkable seven columns on the first two pages of the seven-column broadsheet. Work was a Republican with strong opinions. In 1895, the name was shortened:

Refiner 1895-1901, still under J.W. Work. The paper went to semi-weekly publication in 1901. It was sold to Frank A. Moore of Rockvale in September 1901. Moore changed the name to:

Ex Parte September 1901-1913. Moore was publisher until about 1910, when he moved back to Rockvale to start the *Paradox*. D.F. Door, who had been with the Akron *Washington County Leader*, succeeded Moore as publisher from 1911 to 1913. F.G. Hedges bought *Ex Parte* from Foor, changing the name to:

Fremont Democrat 1913-November 1914.

Florence Citizen March 3, 1898 to present, C.H. Bissell, founder. A daily was added:

Florence Daily Citizen 1909-1939. The founding year was the same the *Daily Tribune* folded. It has been suggested that the *Citizen* bought the *Daily Tribune* to start

the *Daily Citizen*. Lynn Smith and Irvine Meek acquired the *Citizen* in 1913. Together they also purchased the *Fremont Democrat* and the merged papers took the name:

Fremont Citizen-Democrat November 26, 1914-1925, at which time the name reverted to:

Fremont Citizen 1925 to present. Smith operated the paper until 1929, when he became secretary of the Florence Chamber of Commerce. The *Citizen* was sold December 1, 1929 to Milton H. Booth and Clifford Lees, both Pueblo natives. Booth published the *Citizen* from 1929 to 1946, buying out Lees in 1931 to become sole owner. In 1930 Booth bought the *Paradox*, and in 1943 he bought the *Penrose Press*, merging both into the *Citizen*.

Victor Koleber bought the *Citizen* from Milton Booth on October 1, 1946. Donald W. Diehl purchased the *Citizen* from Koleber in April 1952. Diehl sold on September 1, 1953 to Howard Rhodes of Laramie, Wyoming. Rhodes installed Robert B. Cruzen as publisher and managing editor. In 1960, Cruzen bought Rhodes' interest in the paper. Jim Little, a student at Colorado Mountain College in Glenwood Springs, joined the staff of the *Citizen* in 1973 and worked his way up to the position of managing editor, which he held 1975-1977. In 1981 Little bought the *Tribune*, which he continued to publish for many years. Bob and Nelda Cruzen sold the *Citizen* in 1987 to Robert and Susan Wood. Robert Wood had replaced Jim Little as managing editor of the *Citizen* in 1981.

Paradox 1914-1930, Frank Moore, founder. Originally founded in Rockvale in 1911 with a Florence edition, it was moved to Florence in 1914 by Moore, who

published the *Paradox* until 1925. The Baltimore-born Moore had served in the Colorado legislature and been owner of *Ex Parte*. When he retired in 1925, he sold the *Paradox* to brothers Arthur and Harry Duntsch, who were publishing the *Riverton (Wyoming) Review*. James Milota also became a partner. They began a daily companion to the *Paradox*:

Florence Daily News #2 June 1, 1927-August 1928. Milota was managing editor and Harry Duntsch was business manager. The *Daily News* lasted just over a year before it was suspended. The two men continued producing the weekly *Paradox* until 1930 when it was sold to the *Florence Citizen*, which absorbed it.

Derrick 1890-1892.

Florence News #1 1893-1898, A.B. Gray, founder. Hawkins & Cleghorn were owners in 1896, and Herbert W. Burdett in 1898. The *News* supported the Populist Party. In 1898 the *News* was consolidated with the *Herald*.

NonPareil 1894-1895, R.H. Jones, founder.

Florence Chronicle 1895-1896, Charles Dodson, founder; a daily. Dodson had been editor of the *Victor Daily News* and *Cripple Creek Miner*, and founder of the *Goldfield Gazette*.

Florence Daily Herald 1896-February 28, 1898, and companion weekly:

Florence Weekly Herald Herbert W. Burdett, founder. The *Florence News* consolidated with the *Herald* in 1898 and the combined papers became the weekly edition.

Florence Daily Tribune March 2, 1898-May 11, 1909, and:

Florence Weekly Tribune B.F.N. MacRorie, editor. John “Jack” Greenwalt was editor in 1900. Greenwalt was an active member of the Colorado Press Association. J.W. Summerset was editor 1903-1905; E.E. Watts in 1906; A.P. Williams, 1907-1909; and J.F. Torrence, 1909.

Penrose

The Penrose area at Beaver Creek was settled in 1864 by some 18 families who had come west from Iowa with “22 oxen and horse drawn wagons, 300 head of milk cattle and other stock.” To encourage fruit raising, the Beaver Land and Irrigation Company was formed in 1907 by prominent Colorado Springs investors, including Spencer Penrose, builder of the Broadmoor Hotel. The town bears his name.

Penrose Pioneer 1908–December 1909, George G. Dunne, founder. It was a six to ten-page weekly. At the beginning of 1910, the paper had a new publisher and new name:

Penrose Press January 7, 1910-July 15, 1943, H.W. Lamprecht, publisher. He changed the format to five columns. Health problems caused Lamprecht to give way in 1917 to A. Cowie as publisher and E.G. Downs as local editor. By the end of the year

Cowie had purchased all of Lamprecht's interest in the paper. The *Penrose Press* suspended publication in January 1919, but resumed in December of that year.

On January 1, 1920, there was a new editor and publisher: A.E. Farrand of Pueblo. E.G. Downs replaced Farrand in December 1923. Charles White owned the paper by 1930 and made C.A. Cole editor. Harry Fleenor bought the paper from White in 1932 and rehired Downs temporarily. Ernest Jacobs and then Jesse Jones followed as editors. Fleenor sold the paper in July 1943 to the *Florence Citizen*, then owned by Milton Booth, who merged the papers.

Rockvale

Rockvale was established by the Canyon City Coal Company around 1880. Canon City banker B.F. Rockafellow, president of the company, named the town Rockvale after a town in Maryland near where his regiment had camped during the Civil War. Incorporated in 1896, Rockvale was a company town, which in addition to providing housing and a company store, also supported a baseball team, club house, an opera house that showed movies, and a band in scarlet tunics. It also had newspapers:

Colorado Miner's Journal 1893-1894. (The Colorado Historical Society Newspaper project lists the name as *Coal Miner's Journal*.)

Paradox 1911-1914, Frank A. Moore, founder. In December 1914, Moore moved the *Paradox* to Florence, where it ran until 1925.

Whitehorn

A former cattle ranch, the land proved more profitable for coal mining. A small village was named for an “Accommodating grubstaker” named Arthur L. Whitehorn. The town was founded in Chaffee County in 1897. It was later caught in a fierce county line dispute. When the fight was over, Whitehorn was under the jurisdiction of Fremont County. Both of Whitehorn’s papers flourished while the town was part of Chaffee County. (For details, see Chaffee County.)

Whitehorn Whim 1897-1898.

Whitehorn News September 10, 1897-1910.

Sources: “Fremont and Custer Counties, Historical and Descriptive,” Binckley & Hartwell, 1879.

Hooded Empire: The Ku Klux Klan in Colorado, Robert Alan Goldberg, University of Illinois Press, 1981.

Canon City Daily Record, various issues, including National Newspaper Week edition, 10/15/1942.

CHAPTER XXV

GARFIELD COUNTY

Passing through your wonderful mountains and canons I realize that this state is going to be more and more the playground for the entire republic. Not only have you serious work to do, but you will have to provide for a lot of the rest of us from the east and west who will come here to see your magnificent landscapes, to enjoy holidays that can be enjoyed among your mountains. I have been more and more impressed with that as I have been through your state, and you will see this, the real Switzerland of America, made as much of a holiday place as Switzerland is in Europe.

Theodore Roosevelt 5/20/1905

Long a stronghold of the Ute Indians, the area that was to become Garfield County was relatively free of palefaced intruders until 1880. Among the first outsiders to pass through the country were Friars Escalante and Dominguez in 1776, Lt. John Charles Fremont and William Gilpin on an 1845 expedition, and prospector Richard Sopris, who made note in 1860 of the hot springs and a mountain that would bear his name.

Gold was discovered in 1872, but Utes held the line against miners by burning them out. The first successful camp came eight years later. It was called Defiance City, and was guarded by a rude log shelter known as Fort Defiance. The *Leadville Daily Chronicle*, May 19, 1880, reported on group of about 30 young pioneers from Leadville - "courageous, active and enterprising young men" - who founded the settlement:

During the whole of last autumn and winter the daring explorers were checked by the [Meeker Massacre] and not until the 27th day of April a beginning was made to open that splendid country to civilization and progress...They had to shovel through the deep snow in many places so as to break a way for themselves and their animals, and even after the Eagle was reached, traveling was by no means easy, as they were almost the first

pioneers in an untrodden wilderness....These indefatigable young men had to build rafts to ferry their supplies across [rivers] and had to swim their horses over those deep and rapid steams....When the confluence of the Roaring Fork with the latter river was reached, they found the most admirable sites for settlement [and] unmistakable evidences of rich minerals....

{The} band of hardy pioneers decided to make a stand for they did not think that they would find a better location....Thus began the town of Defiance....

Those pioneers laid off and incorporated a 640-acre townsite "of gently rolling river bottom, all of which is almost ready without preparation for settlement."

One of the group was C.C. Davis, publisher of the *Leadville Daily Chronicle*, who thoughtfully advertised a limited offer of choice home and business lots, prophesying:

The ineffable richness of the mines, surrounding the city for miles, gives positive assurance that the City of Defiance will before fall have a population of five thousands souls. In addition to the mineral wealth of the region, the country is self-supporting, abounding in elk, deer, antelope and smaller game. The streams abound in trout. The transcendental beauty of the country, its health giving mineral waters, salubrity of climate and vast mineral wealth, renders this the Elysium of the New West.

No one bought. But two years later, after a treaty removed the Indians, the Defiance Town & Land Company was organized, and immigrants arrived. The town name was changed to Glenwood Springs.

Originally a part of Summit County, Garfield County, named for the assassinated President James Garfield, was established February 10, 1883. The county boundaries included what would become Rio Blanco County in 1889. Carbonate City, founded in 1879, was designated county seat, but quickly lost the honor to Glenwood Springs, which pledged to furnish--free of charge--buildings for the county offices and records. Coal was

the county's salvation after the promise of gold and silver at Carbonate--whose promoters were better than the promise--dissolved. The financial panic of 1893 scuttled the coal industry until after World War II, when the coal basin was developed into one of the foremost producers of metallurgical coal. Experimental mining and production showed great promise for decades, but in 1982 the bubble burst when Exxon shut down its oil shale project. Uranium had a brief, exciting boom in the 1950s.

Garfield County was the first Colorado recipient--second in the nation--of the U.S. government's plan to preserve natural areas for future generations. President Benjamin Harrison created the White River National Forest Reserve in 1891 for the purpose of controlling excessive timber cutting by railroads, homesteaders, developers and lumber companies. It wasn't a popular move in Colorado, and newspapers were among the protesters. President Theodore Roosevelt later removed 68,000 acres from the original forest preserve in an effort to appease stock growers and farmers. Roosevelt was no stranger to preservation or Glenwood Springs. It was on a hunting trip in the area that he allegedly saved the little "Teddy" bear that has made him more famous than his conservation achievements or the Great White Fleet.

During the Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps helped develop the recreation areas with hiking trails. When World War II took away manpower, the *Glenwood Post* "put out a call appealing to people's patriotism to help protect the nation's timber resources--especially in the area of combatting forest fires." Prisoners of War were

used for two years to "pick up where the CCC left off." Glenwood Springs' winter sports activities got a boost in 1937 with the gift of some land to be cleared for skiing.

Carbondale

Carbondale, on the Roaring Fork River, got its start as a toll road. There were settlers in 1883, but the town wasn't platted until 1887. Nervous Satank people referred to Carbondale as "Hogmore" while those in Carbondale called Satank "Yellow Dog." The Carbondale town company bought lots, and constructed several business buildings and houses. There were the usual hotels, a restaurant, 13 saloons, a livery stable, and a millinery shop.

The railroad track-laying crew reached Carbondale on October 13, 1887. The town was incorporated in April 1888. The Aspen and Western Railroad started building a line from Aspen to Glenwood about the same time as the D&RG started its line. Two railroad crews and the miners brought "wild days and nights" to the town. The *Denver Republican* said that "Among the new towns of Colorado, there is not one with a brighter future than Carbondale!"

As did many small towns, Carbondale began fading. After World War II, however, several wealthy eastern families bought up farms and ranches, made improvements, and encouraged development. Carbondale was given a new lease on life. The first paper was the:

Advance August 6, 1887-December 25, 1889, Frank P. Beslin, founder. Beslin, known as the "blind editor," had lost his eyesight in an explosion at Red Cliff. H.J. Holmes bought the paper in 1889 and changed the name to:

Carbondale Avalanche 1889-May 31, 1891. Holmes moved the paper to Glenwood Springs in 1891. (See *Glenwood Avalanche*.)

Carbondale Item 1898-September 27, 1923, Charles Johnson and a Mr. Millhouse, founders. The latter was not there very long. Johnson was well known on Colorado's newspaper scene. A lawyer, Johnson came to Colorado in 1868 to prospect. He bought the *Rosita Index* in June 1880, guiding it to a solid position. (See Custer County.) He did the same with the *Carbondale Item*, which he published until 1911.

Verner A. Moore, who had previously been with the *Glenwood Post*, bought the *Item* from Johnson and ran it for ten years before he died in the spring of 1919. Moore's widow, Dulcie, took over the paper, but sold the *Item* in the spring of 1919 to Roy Shadle. Roy Shadle, who had been Moore's assistant, struggled with the paper until Sept. 27, 1923. Discouraged by "lack of sufficient patronage" to make the business financially successful, Shadle suspended publication and announced it was his intention to "lock the place and throw the key in the river." Shadle also closed down two other papers he had established, the *Basalt Frying Pan* and the *Marble Column*.

Crystal River Empire November 1923-1928, Frank E. and Mary A. Pierce, founders. The Pierces took what was left of Shadle's three papers and consolidated them all into the *Empire*.

Carbondale Headlight spring 1928-1929, Ada Graves, founder. The *Headlight* used the old *Empire* plant.

Roaring Fork Review spring 1974-1975, Bob and Gerri Sweeney, founders. The *Review* was billed as a weekly for Carbondale, Basalt, El Jebel, and Redstone. Sweeney, who has owned several northwest Colorado newspapers, sold the *Review* to Kelley Mansfield, who in turn sold it to the *Roaring Fork Journal*.

Roaring Fork Journal 1975, Patrick Noel and Rebecca Tucker, founders. Noel and Tucker were both former employees of the *Review*. In 1975 the *Journal* absorbed the *Review*. The new name was: **Roaring Fork Review & Valley Journal** 1975-1979, when it was changed to:

Roaring Fork Valley Journal 1980 to present. The paper was sold to Mountain States Communications (William Dunaway of Aspen) in 1978. Noel stayed on as editor/publisher. Irene Friedman, who joined the staff as general manager in 1980, was publisher in 1982. John Colson, editor in 1983, was listed as editor/publisher from 1984 to 1985. Michael Paludan was editor/publisher from 1985 to 1987. Pat Noel was editor/publisher again in 1988, but in January 1989, Dunaway sold the paper to C.T. and Judith Griffin. The Griffins also purchased the *Rifle Telegram*, another Mountain States Communications newspaper. Pat Noel left his position as executive editor of the *Valley Journal* early in 1990. Dunaway repossessed the papers in June 1990, after the Griffins filed bankruptcy. Noel returned as editor and part-owner. Robert Dundas is publisher.

Glenwood Springs

Jonas Lindgren arrived in Glenwood Springs in 1881, suffering from a bad case of rheumatism and eager to soak in the wonderful healing waters the Indians told him would heal all aches of man or beast.

Lindgren went across the Grand (now Colorado) River and built a wooden bathtub, having to hew his own wood....Lindgren would fill his tub by dipping buckets of hot water from a nearby hot spring, then speed--as much as that was possible with rheumatism--to the river and add some cold water. When the trough was filled to the top with water not quite hot enough to take his hide off, Lindgren would climb in and soak.

Nellie Duffy, *Glenwood Post* 8/23/1985

Lindgren shared his trough with others for 10 cents a soak--bring your own towels and carry your own water. Lindgren made enough money to buy a homestead, and sell the hot springs for \$1,500 in 1882 to Isaac Cooper, who had had his eye on the area since 1880. Cooper formed the Defiance Town and Land Company and surveyed the townsite. People living at Fort Defiance packed up their belongings and moved by log raft and portage the short distance to the new settlement. The town was renamed Glenwood Springs, honoring both Cooper's Iowa home town and the valuable springs.

The county seat was moved to Glenwood Springs in the fall of 1883 from Carbonate. That year the first house and first hotel were built, and a blacksmith shop and general store were opened. Glenwood was more fortunate than some other towns in getting a railroad. The Denver & Rio Grande wanted to reach Aspen and corral the Grand Valley rail rights. The first train engine moved through the new tunnel near Glenwood Springs and into town at 7:45 p.m. October 5, 1887. The Colorado Midland steamed into Glenwood two months later.

W.B. Devereaux, a banker who had purchased Cooper's hot springs, knew exactly what to do with his investment: turn them into a tourist bonanza. Devereaux's Colorado Land & Development Co. constructed a large bathhouse and swimming pool, costing between \$400,000 and \$500,000, of which one-half was spent on the bathhouse. It was a beautiful, substantially built structure with 44 bathrooms and dressing rooms, a ladies' parlor, physician's office, laboratory, and gymnasium. The pool was the largest outdoor natatorium in the nation, and the entire spa claimed to be the largest in the world. The vapor caves in the vicinity were also developed. The D&RG, which heavily promoted the spa with pamphlets, offered a free ride from Aspen to Glenwood. The Colorado Midland not only matched the free ride, it paid the admission to the pool for its passengers. The Devereaux development drew so many visitors so quickly, there weren't enough accommodations for all the people streaming in, although new hotels, rooming houses, and cottages had been built.

In 1891 construction began on the Hotel Colorado. The lavish hostelry opened in May 1893--second in size in Colorado to the Brown Palace--with at least one unique feature: electricity. W.H. Devereaux was also a mining engineer who built several hydro plants on Castle Creek. Because of them, Glenwood Springs and Aspen were among the first cities on Earth to have electric lights.

During World War II, Glenwood Springs had a small boom with a Navy Hospital moved into the Hotel Colorado and temporary homes for families of the Fort Hale ski

troopers. Many of the injured housed at the Hotel Colorado would later return to Glenwood Springs to live.

The first newspaper in Glenwood Springs, in 1884, is not usually recorded, but it is certainly worth noting as a December 1991 *Glenwood Post* did:

Glenwood Springs was not yet incorporated, that came the next year, but it had a Christmas newspaper, the Glenwood Times. This was entirely due to the efforts of 12-year-old Olie Thorson, an enterprising lad working under a kerosene lamp, using a stub of pencil to jot down alot of interesting local news.

He solicited wrapping paper at the same time hunting for ads.

He wrote with his well sharpened pencil with the greatest of care and finished in time to deliver after school on Dec. 20, 1884.

The paper delighted the town folk as much as if they had received one of the big Denver newspapers.

He even signed his paper, editor, Olie Thorson.

The enterprising youth later worked as a printer's devil on the *Ute Chief*. Thorson grew up to be a Glenwood Springs postmaster for 21 years.

The county's first real newspaper was the:

Glenwood Echo January 1885-March 11, 1891, B. Clark Wheeler, founder and publisher. Wheeler, who had founded Aspen, was also publisher of the *Aspen Times*. James L. Riland was manager and editor of the *Echo*. Riland came to Colorado in 1875 and worked on the Leadville paper. He retired from newspaper work in 1934, after almost 60 years, off and on, in the Colorado newspaper business.

William Cardnell succeeded Riland, who left to do some mining. Cardnell decided to buy the *Glenwood Springs Republican*, and was replaced on the *Echo* by James Coughlin until it was sold a few months later to H.J. Holmes. Holmes, who had bought the *Carbondale Avalanche* in 1890, bought the *Glenwood Echo* in March 1891 and merged the papers to:

Avalanche-Echo March 18, 1891-1928. Holmes also purchased another Glenwood newspaper:

In It Daily May 6, 1891-May 5, 1892. Holmes declared:

The IN IT DAILY is a peculiar name we know, but then if you don't act and be different...no one seems to notice you...we try to look pretty and wise at the same time.

In It Daily was undoubtedly "pretty" for the day. The unusually large front page nameplate had an art nouveau title superimposed over a swimming pool (complete with swimmers, divers, and loungers), a bathhouse and mountains. The first "I" in the title appears to have smoke rising from it and the word "soup." The right stroke of the Y has an Indian, with war bonnet and tomahawk, leaning on it, observing the swimmers. He is identified as the ghost of Colorow, fighting Chief of the Utes. The words *The Avalanche*, in smaller letters also appears in the nameplate.

What makes the *In It* different from other newspapers of the day is its use of white space between headlines and story, the use of one or more subheads on most stories, and the brevity of the stories, which in other papers might run up to two tight gray columns.

In It Daily became the:

Daily Avalanche May 6-1892-1918. Holmes began a 24-year-run as publisher of one of the pre-eminent Western Slope papers. The *Daily Avalanche* was discontinued in 1918 for lack of patronage and newsprint shortages caused by the war. The weekly *Avalanche-Echo* continued another ten years. Holmes, considered "one of the oldest

and most influential of western slope newspaper men," was known also for his running feud with A.J. Dickson, the puritanical publisher of the *Glenwood Post*. Ill health forced Henry Holmes to turn over management of the *Avalanche-Echo* about 1924; he died in Glenwood Springs May 26, 1926. With the issue of Monday, May 2, the Glenwood Springs *Avalanche-Echo* went to a daily. Leo H. Bowen sold *The Avalanche* in 1928 to A.J. Dickson, who consolidated it into the *Post*, resolving the feud between the papers.

Glenwood Post October 3, 1890 to date, C.H. Henrie and W.J. Wills, founders. Henrie and Wills kept the business going for five or six years. The 1892 Rowell directory lists the publishers as Henrie and Stidger. More competition--other than the *Avalanche-Echo*--surfaced in 1896:

Glenwood Springs Weekly Ledger 1892-December 26, 1896, C.L. Bennett and W.J. Wright, founders. The two either joined forces with or bought the *Post*, which was listed as:

Glenwood Post & Weekly Ledger January 2 -January 17, 1897. The name was shortened to:

Glenwood Post January 24, 1897 to present, C.L. Bennett, editor/proprietor. Bennett sold the paper on January 1, 1898 to A.J. Dickson, who was publisher until 1932. John Samuelson, a later publisher, wrote about Dickson, calling him a "*straight-arrow citizen who campaigned hard and at length against demon rum and its satanical followers.*" Dickson was a stalwart for the Republican party and as a notary public he was privy to many of the town's transactions. As water division engineer, he was also in

charge of irrigation allotments along the Colorado River in western Colorado. Tumultuous business years, marked by the Wall Street Collapse of 1929 and the ensuing Great Depression, coupled with his advancing years and declining health and energy, led Dickson to sell his beloved newspaper to Roy and Blanche Jackson in March 1932.

The Jacksons were "paper property entrepreneurs, having bought and sold newspapers throughout the West and Southwest," according to Samuelson. The Jacksons sold the *Post* in June 1935 to the family of L.P. Loomis, a former president of the Wyoming Press Association. Loomis had a bad automobile accident from which he never completely recovered, preventing him from managing his newspaper, so Roy Jackson resumed management and ownership of the paper on July 25.

The Jacksons sold the *Glenwood Post* in August 1936 to J. E. (Jack) Samuelson of St. Louis Park, Minn. The Samuelson family would set the record for owning the *Post*: 35 years. In addition to Jack Samuelson, there were his wife, Rose, sons John H. and James B., and Jack's brother, Charles H. Samuelson. When the Samuelson family began its tenure on the *Post*, subscriptions and printing jobs were sometimes paid for by bartering, commonplace during the Depression. Said Samuelson:

Hardworking, well-meaning ranchers and businessmen sometimes paid bills with chickens, eggs, honeycombs, strawberries, bushels of fruits or vegetables, and a variety of merchandise products. Even a side of beef found its way into the news office with nary a complaint.

As the economy improved, so did the ledgers in the bookkeeping department. The Samuelson sons were called into the Army in 1942. In addition to losing part of its

staff, the *Post* was hit with the rationing of newsprint that allowed for just six pages per week for most of the war. Post-war, the *Post* worked with the Glenwood Chamber of Commerce in a new campaign to promote the region's natural wonders and recreational facilities. When the elder Samuelson semi-retired in 1955, the two sons leased the paper, and were co-editors and publishers until 1966, when John bought out his brother's interest. For a while another generation was in training. The children of John and his wife, Angie, earned their "allowance" as newspaper carriers, and some of them learned to feed hand presses, remelt Linotype pigs, and do other newspaper work.

Stauffer Publications, a midwestern newspaper chain, purchased the *Glenwood Post* on January 1, 1971. Thomas H. Collison, Jr. (a Stauffer cousin) was named general manager and editor. Peter Stauffer became editor/publisher in April 1977, then editor. He was followed by his brother, Clay Stauffer, 1982-1985, Robert (Bob) Helsley, 1985-1989 and Robb Krecklow, 1989-1993. Gary Dickson, formerly publisher of the Atchison (Kan.) *Daily Globe*, was named editor/publisher in December 1993. Stauffer Communications, Inc. sold the *Glenwood Post* in July 1994 to Morris Communications Corp. of Augusta, Georgia.

Glenwood Springs Morning Reminder 1937-May 1967. E.N. Skidmore, founder. The husband-wife team of Allen and Charlotte Maggard purchased the *Morning Reminder* in November 1963, and in 1967 they bought the:

Glenwood Springs Sage December 3, 1959-June 1, 1967, William R. Dunaway, founder. The *Sage* began as a weekly but expanded to semiweekly in 1961. Dunaway sold the *Sage* to the Maggards, who merged the two newspapers to:

Glenwood Springs Sage-Reminder June 1, 1967-February 1976. The combined paper was issued five days a week for two years, but went back to semiweekly in 1969. Charlotte Maggard died in December 1973. Al Maggard sold the paper to Bob and Gerri Sweeney in April 1974. A year later, in March 1975, the Sweeneys sold the paper to Kelley and Carol Mansfield. Kelley Mansfield, of Washington, D.C., also bought the *Carbondale Roaring Fork Review* from Sweeney. Mansfield had most recently been director of communications for the National Alliance of Businessmen in Washington. He had begun his news career as a reporter for the *Atlanta Journal*, but moved on to *Business Week* where he covered energy and environmental matters.

Mansfield lasted until December, when he sold the paper to Western Editorial Service, Robert E. Cox, president. Cox was editor and his wife, Linda, general manager. The name of the paper was changed to:

The Weekly Newspaper* 1976-May 1990. Cox gave the paper a whimsical title--including an asterisk--and made it free. *The Weekly* explained:

Besides the price tag, boredom was also banished from these pages. Cox created a paper dedicated to irreverent humor, feature fun and hard-nosed, factual reporting based on the dictum that news is something that someone, somewhere doesn't want to see in a newspaper. Those someones have included everyone from local politicians to drunk drivers to the chamber of commerce to the advertiser with salmonella in his salads.

From 1977 to 1980, the paper was called:

Glenwood Springs Rocky Mountain Observer. In 1981, it was:

Glenwood Springs Weekly, "published in combination with *The Free Weekly Newspaper*." In November 1983, Christine Ensworth, a veteran Western Slope journalist, bought the *Weekly Newspaper* and its two affiliates, *The Free Weekly Newspaper** and the *Glenwood Guide*. A former nun, Ensworth had been working for 11 years on newspapers and radio stations in the area. Chris Ensworth sold the *Free Weekly* in the spring of 1989 to C.T. Griffin and his wife. The latter couple also bought the *Carbondale Roaring Fork Valley Journal* and *Rifle Telegram* from Bill Dunaway. By May 1990, the Giffins filed bankruptcy because "time, money and, most of all, good health have fallen short." Dunaway took back his two papers and was able to save them, but the *Weekly Newspaper* was no more.

Ute Chief June 1885-1888, Joseph S. Swan and William J. Reid, founders. Sometimes said to be the first newspaper in Glenwood Springs, the *Ute Chief* was founded six months after the *Echo*. Swan, born in Staten Island, New York in 1855, moved to Red Cliff from Iowa in 1880. He was elected Summit County assessor in 1881, holding that position until the county was divided in 1883. Swan left the paper when he was appointed register of the General Land Office. Henry Holmes, who had learned the printing ropes on the *Ute Chief*, bought the paper in the fall of 1888 and merged it into his *Daily News*.

Daily News May 1887-1888, Henry J. Holmes, founder. The paper was printed with "meagre and crude" equipment on a Washington hand press in a little cabin. After Holmes bought the *Ute Chief*, the two papers were merged to:

Ute Chief News 1888, daily. The paper was later reduced to weekly publication. There are two versions on what happened next. One version says the paper ended in 1888. Another version says the plant was leased to F.P. Warner, James L. Riland, and F.H. Myers, who changed the *Ute Chief* name to:

New Empire 1887-1889, daily and weekly. The dates, as listed in Oehlerts, would indicate that the *New Empire* merged in the *Ute Chief News*. The paper was said to have changed hands three more times, and names twice. George C. Banning bought the plant in the spring of 1889, added new presses and changed the name to:

Glenwood Springs Republican May 26, 1889-December 31, 1892. It was published by the Glenwood Printing Company. Lee, Eaton & Myers bought the paper in the fall of 1889. Myers may be the same one who was connected with the *New Empire*. As the year 1893 began, the *Republican* resurfaced as:

People's Herald January 7, 1893-1895, William Cardnell, founder. The paper was published by the Cardinal Publishing Co. By way of explaining the paper's name change, Cardnell published a diatribe to the effect that the once-noble Republican Party had been undermined by "designing men who by deception and falsehood became great in its counsels and fed upon its virtue until they destroyed it." The *People's Herald* was a

People's (Populist) Party newspaper. It was larger in size than its *Republican* predecessor. Cardnell sold the paper at the end of 1895 to the *Carbondale Item*.

Glenwood Springs Advocate August 11, 1886-1887.

Pool 1890-1891.

Health Resort 1893-1894, E.P. Kendrick.

Glenwood Springs Advance 1901-1904, E.B. Floyd.

Glenwood Springs News #2-1904-1905.

Daily Post-Reminder 1932-1933, Ernest Rowe, founder. The paper was published in the shop of Rowe's New Deal Garage, and came out five times per week. The news and advertising sheets were mimeographed and distributed free.

Yampah c. 1942-1946. During World War II, the Hotel Colorado was leased by the U.S. Navy for a convalescent hospital (the United States Naval Convalescent Hospital). The *Yampah*, published by a Danny Gallagher from Brooklyn, New York, was said to have "a great effect on the morale of our patients and furnishes a convenient means of placing necessary information before the entire hospital personnel."

Parachute/Grand Valley/Parachute

Homesteader John Hurlburt arrived in 1882, bought a claim and small cabin for \$100, surveyed the townsite of Parachute, and became a town father. Parachute was renamed Grand Valley in 1904 for the Grand as that section of the Colorado River was

then called only to be changed back to Parachute in 1980. Hurlburt and his sheep would start the cattle wars, known as the Book Cliff Range War. Hurlburt's cabin, with fawns' hides for windows, would serve as the post office in 1885 and first schoolhouse. Hurlburt's problem with cattlemen made news in August 1893 in the *Rifle Reveille*. Under the heading:

WAR DECLARED

FEDERAL LANDS DISPUTED

A good size war is on between the sheepmen and cattlemen on Parachute creek. From what we have been able to learn the trouble is between C.C. Brown, who keeps the section house at Parachute, and several Roan creek cattlemen. Last spring Brown purchased 900 head of Mexican sheep and turned them loose on the range. Mr. Hurlburt another large sheep owner at Parachute had an agreement with the cattlemen whereby his sheep were to feed on certain ranges. Brown...argued that he had just as much right to the unclaimed government land as the cattlemen....Early in the week a number of cattlemen....ordered Brown's herders to drive the sheep out. One of the herders resisted...the cowboys roped him but afterward let him go....The cattlemen drove the sheep into Rio Blanco county and there left them. The sheriff is investigating.

The first oil shale was extracted as early as 1908. One of the pioneers built a cabin with a magnificent fireplace of beautiful rock and invited friends for a housewarming, lit a fire and had a real housewarming. The rock was oil shale and went up in flames.

Parachute Index 1895-1899, J.B. Hurlburt, founder.

A new name for Parachute meant new hopes and a new paper:

Grand Valley News 1905-1976, Grand Valley News Co., founder. The *Delta Independent*, on Dec. 22, 1905, reported that Louis E. Brown was the "sycamore of the *Grand Valley News*. Grand Valley is the new name for Parachute." A second reference to the editor used the name Louis Bowen.

Harry A. Neel, formerly of the *Lake City Phonograph*, was publisher 1911-1912. John Winterbourne, formerly of the *Haxtun Herald*, took over the *Grand Valley News* in 1913, but he left to found newspapers in Teller County and Eckley. Another short-term owner/editor/publisher was William Von Mueller, 1913-1914. Von Mueller would leave to found the *Gunnison Empire*.

The first long-term owner was Elmer E. Wheatley, 1915-1937. Wheatley was a newspaper veteran when he arrived in Grand Valley. Born in Illinois in 1867, Wheatley had come to Colorado in 1888. After a stint in Denver on the *Times-Sun*, Wheatley founded the *Cripple Creek Daily Press*. He would publish the *Grand Valley News* until his death in July, 1937. He was active in the newspaper business for 54 years. His widow, Lucia Wheatley, published the paper for a few months.

Ernest V. Ward purchased the *Grand Valley News* from the Wheatley estate on Sept. 1, 1937. James Ward was editor. Printer Wes J. Van Horn bought the paper in 1943 or 1944 and published it until 1949. Floyd McDaniel leased the paper from Van Horn 1949-1951. Chester Mariner bought the paper from Van Horn Jan. 1, 1951, but on July 4, 1952 Kenneth H. Beckett took over. Beckett purchased the paper from Von Horn in March 1958.

In 1961, Floyd E. McDaniel bought the paper from Beckett. McDaniel discontinued the *Grand Valley News* in 1976. The *News* was Colorado's last hand-set newspaper and smallest newspaper operation. Until the paper went to offset printing, not long before it folded, it was run on an 1870 press.

New Castle

The man who developed New Castle was Walter Devereaux, who had been so important to the financial development of Glenwood Springs. He was quick to see the importance of coal. He saw that the railroads got fuel, had the town surveyed, and was one of the founders of the Grand Coal and Coke Co., which would become Colorado Fuel and Iron.

Grand Butte was the name given the town when it was founded in 1884. The name was changed in 1888 to New Castle at the suggestion of miners from Newcastle-on-Tyne, a major coal mining town in England. New Castle was incorporated in 1908. The great rock formations around the town made it almost inaccessible, but the railroad arrived in 1888, providing a link with the outside world and a way to ship out the coal that was New Castle's economic backbone. The coal that gave life to the town would also be its curse. An explosion in the chief mine in 1896 killed 49 miners. Another explosion in 1905 killed 37 men, many of them survivors of the 1896 one. The mine was closed in 1910 after a third explosion. The fires that had been smoldering for ages when the Indians named "Burning Mountain," smolder on.

New Castle Nonpareil 1888-1906, daily and weekly. George West, founder; J.W. Work, manager. The *Nonpareil* was a Populist newspaper. General George West was a legendary Colorado newspaperman. He arrived in Colorado in 1859, and founded his acclaimed *Golden Transcript* in 1866. S.N. White was editor in 1889. F.D. Pierce & Co. owned the *Nonpareil* 1891-1902, with editors P.C. Coryell 1891-1893, and F.D. (Buff) Pierce 1894-1902. Perry Coryell was back from 1903 to 1905. C.W. Dennis was editor in 1906. The *Nonpareil* was merged into the *Garfield County Democrat* in 1906.

Garfield County Democrat January 1, 1901-1923. C.W. Dennis from the *Nonpareil* was editor until 1907, followed by James Duce as publisher 1908-1912. R.W. Anspoker was publisher 1913-1917 and Ira Bean 1918-1923. Bean sold the *Garfield County Democrat* to the *Rifle Telegraph* in 1921. The *Democrat* was absorbed and terminated in 1923.

Grand Valley Cactus 1890-1891, S.M. White, founder. The area between New Castle and Rifle was called Cactus Valley.

New Castle News 1893-1898, G.B. Henderson, founder. Wallace Rex says C.A. Henrie was publisher 1893-1897. J.P. Hackenburg may have bought an interest before 1898, when he is listed as publisher.

New Castle Weekly 1923-1925.

New Castle Echo 1924-1925, B.L. Nestor, founder.

Garfield County Republican 1925-1926, Walter W. Roberts, founder. He moved the *Republican* plant to Manassa in the summer of 1926 to start the *Manassa Star*. He would later have newspapers in Norwood for 12 years.

New Castle Forum 1927, Frank Pierce, founder. Pierce founded the *Silt Broadcaster* at the same time. Both papers were published at the Glenwood Springs *Avalanche-Echo*, also owned by Pierce.

New Castle Tower, 1951-1952, brothers Lyle & Chet Mariner, founders. The *Tower* was part of *Western Colorado Farm & Ranch Reporter*. (See Rifle.)

Rifle

The land in this nature-favored country is cheap at present, but will not remain so....

Rifle Telegram special illustrated edition, January 23, 1903

In the 1880s there were no wagon roads, just game and Indian trails, and no bridges crossing the Grand River. It took two weeks to travel the difficult route from Rifle to Grand Junction, and there was a constant fear of Indians. After the Indians were removed, a few settlers cautiously began moving in, but the nearest supply point was 96 miles east.

Into this forbidding land came Abram Maxwell of Eagle, looking for a good location to start a new ranch. He found what he wanted and moved his family. The former bowling ten-pin setter--for \$2 per week--became one of the most influential men in Garfield County, the founder of Rifle, and a successful rancher. He hired a

surveyor, laid out half of his ranch as the Rifle townsite, and hired carpenters to build a hotel. The stage line reached Rifle in 1884, the Denver & Rio Grande in 1889. The cattlemen, who had formed the Grand River Cattlemen's Association in 1886, were ready to ship. The Colorado Midland broad-gauge rails got to Rifle in the fall of 1890, the same year the stockyards were built. Rifle was "the end of the line and for many years was the economic center of the Grand Valley, and for a time more cattle were shipped out of Rifle than any other stockyard in the state," said the *Telegram*. Rifle was incorporated in 1905.

The *Rifle Telegram* in 1994 said that the first paper was the:

Sharpshooter, but gave no date, names of owners, editors or publishers or other specifics.

The first verified newspaper in the busy new town was the appropriately named:

Rifle Reveille September 6, 1889-March 1916, H.J. Holmes, founder. Holmes also bought the *Carbondale Avalanche*. Holmes sold the paper to H.B. Swartz in the summer of 1890. Swartz had been associated with Holmes in publication of the *Reveille* since its inception. A year or so later, J. W. Armstrong bought an interest and worked with Swartz, but sold his interest to C.L. Todd in Dec. 1894. Swartz disposed of his interest in the *Reveille* to Frank P. Warner in December 1894 and moved to Aztec, New Mexico. Charles L. Todd bought the *Reveille* in February 1896 but in June he leased it to W.P. (Billy) Kennedy. Todd stayed on as business manager. Later in the year Kennedy became part owner and served as editor/publisher until Sept. 1901.

Todd took over as editor/publisher when Kennedy left. B.F. Miller was associate editor, starting in October 1901. Miller bought Todd's interest in the *Reveille* in January 1902; Todd remained as editor until 1912, but repurchased an interest in the paper in the summer of 1902. In September, B.F. Miller bought out Billy Kennedy's interest. In January 1903, Kennedy bought out Miller. Swartz, Todd, and Miller also seem to have had an interest in the *Rifle Telegram* at the same time they were part owners of the *Reveille*. Swartz returned to Rifle in September 1903 and rejoined Todd in publishing the *Reveille*. In 1907, the two sold their interests to the Rev. Horace Mann. Rev. Mann disposed of his interest on May 1, 1909 to Fred L. Tomlin. Fred Tomlin sold the paper to the *Telegram* at the end of March 1916.

Rifle Telegram January 23, 1903-April 7, 1916, L.L. Cummins and B.F. Miller, founders. The paper struggled, and by June 1904 a group of businessmen had bought and saved the *Telegram*. The businessmen were George Clarkson, C.M. Donell, E. McLearn, Fred Monro, M.N. Dymanberg, L. Hoffmeister, J.L. Cochran, D.F. Corbett, O.B. Fleming, J.G. Hickman, and E. Marker. Clarkson, Donell, and McLearn took over the management. H.B. Swartz and C.L. Todd bought the *Telegram* in October 1904 and published it until 1911, although they also had part-interest in the rival *Reveille*.

George E. Clarkson and Ed McLearn became publishers and managers from February 1911 to 1920. Swartz was editor off and on from August 1912 to May 1917. Ed McLearn disposed of his interests in January 1913 to Swartz. McLearn resigned as president and was replaced by George Clarkson. On October 1, Swartz was named

managing editor. Stockholders in 1916 were Swartz, Clarkson, Louis Hoffmeister, J.L. Cochran and O.B. Fleming. Clarkson and McLearn bought and merged the *Reveille* into:

Rifle Telegram-Reveille April 7, 1916-1922. Clarkson & Swartz were co-publishers in 1918. The editor's chair continued to revolve until 1920. There were three editors during 1917: C.O. Bourdette, B.F. Miller, and Dora Lee Clarkson, George Clarkson's daughter. The first issue of the *Telegram-Reveille* announced that formal transfer of the *Reveille* plant, the subscription list and good will had been made by Fred Tomlin to the *Telegram*, after negotiations of several weeks.

P.W. Dinsmore bought an interest in the *Telegram-Reveille* in May 1920. Dinsmore was imaginative: The *Telegram-Reveille* auctioned off front page advertising space with splendid results. Neither paper had ever carried front page advertising, but the inside pages got "crowded" so specific space on the front page was opened to bid. Dinsmore kept half a dozen monkeys--a gift--in the basement of the newspaper building. Passersby were entertained by the "newspaper circus" as they passed the gratings.

In 1922, the Telegram-Reveille reverted to:

Rifle Telegram 1922-1990. By 1928 Dinsmore was sole owner, but he soon ran into financial trouble. The *Rifle Telegram* was listed "among the assets of the defunct Union State Bank of Rifle" late in 1931. Dinsmore fled with the contents of the newspaper's cash box. In January 1932 the *Telegram* was taken over under a foreclosure and sold to W.R. Smith, formerly of Topeka.

J.H. (Harry) Barley and his wife, Ethel, bought the *Telegram* in September 1933, and published it until they dealt it to Koert Loomis in April 1946. Loomis was editor/publisher until May 1960. Mountain States Communications (William Dunaway of Aspen) bought the paper from Loomis and owned it until 1989. Dunaway appointed a series of editors until Ina LaMont became editor/manager/publisher in 1977. Mrs. LaMont first joined the staff in 1960. The Colorado legislature honored her when she retired in 1989, after 28 years with the *Telegram*, "to continue her education at Mesa College."

C.T. and Judith Griffin bought the paper in 1989, along with two papers in Glenwood Springs. They called their little chain the "Garfield News Network." The Griffins ran into one problem after another and filed for bankruptcy in June 1990.

A group of west Garfield County citizens, under the name Community Newspapers of Colorado, Inc., purchased the *Telegram* from Dunaway, in July 1990 and merged it with the *West Valley Citizen*.

Valley West Dispatch c. 1987-1990, Steve Anderson, editor. After the *Dispatch* folded early in 1990, another paper was founded to fill the void. The *Telegram's* Tom Griffin riled so many Rifle residents with his "badmouthing" that a move to start another newspaper developed. On the day Griffin filed for bankruptcy, the new paper was ready:

West Valley Citizen May 2-July 1990, Community Newspapers of Colorado (several business men and women), founders; Steve Anderson, editor. The *Citizen* published 10 issues before merging with the *Telegram*. Community Newspapers began

planning in February 1990, and by the time they were ready to start a paper, there were 103 paid members of the organization. Each paid \$200, for which they got two free ads in the paper, a subscription and membership in Community Newspapers. Investors gained back their investment within a year. The *Citizen* "is a totally unique concept in newspaper publishing," wrote editor Steve Anderson, who had also been editor of the *Dispatch*. He explained:

It will be a community owned newspaper which will provide extensive local and agricultural news, as well as editorials and area features...[in] a positive and dynamic news format....

The non-profit corporation is composed of 100 citizens in the area, who banded together because they'd always had a paper owned by somebody out of town....Members include organizations such as the Parachute Chamber of Commerce and the hospital district as well as individuals.

Anderson stressed that the *Citizen* would "serve the New Castle, Parachute, Battlement Mesa, Rifle, and Silt areas, as well as the Western Slope agricultural community." People from all the towns were in the corporation. Any profits from the non-profit corporation, above the cost of operating the *Citizen*, would go toward funding educational, athletic, and cultural activities within the community. The *Citizen* bought the *Telegram* and the two merged into:

Rifle Citizen Telegram July 11, 1990 to present, Steve Anderson, editor. Steve Anderson left the paper in 1993. In his farewell editorial he told about a Colorado Press Association conference where newspaper people were asked what type of newspaper their readers would probably prefer. The "overwhelming choice" was an investigative format, similar to "60 Minutes." But after discussing it at length, the conclusion was:

A muckraking approach to news coverage wouldn't work in their community....A small town paper with a sensationalistic style would eventually have to attack every facet of a community, including its own neighbors, dwelling on the negative instead of highlighting positive achievements a community is capable of accomplishing.

Susanna Hart, who had been news director of a radio station, was named editor to replace Anderson. Barb Donily was named general manager in the fall of 1995. Community Newspapers still adds members at \$200 for the first year with yearly dues of \$25.

Rifle Push 1905-1906.

Rifle World 1918, B.F. Miller, founder. Miller, who was associated with both the *Telegram* and *Reveille* in the early 1900s, apparently went to Utah after he left those papers. *Colorado Press* welcomed him back to the fold as "an old Colorado newspaperman."

Rifle Daily Reminder 1934-1939, Flossie Jarrad, founder. Published five days per week, the *Reminder* was a mimeographed paper, 8 1/2x14 in size, distributed free.

Western Colorado Farm & Ranch Reporter 1950-1958, Lyle Mariner and Dan Thornton. They intended to "cover all agricultural activities on the western slope." Gunnison rancher Dan Thornton, who was elected Colorado Governor in November 1950, had primarily a financial interest.

Rifle Tribune April 1980-January 9, 1985, James Cook, founder. Cook, who also owned the *Meeker Herald*, started the *Tribune* when Rifle was gearing up for a multi-billion-dollar oil shale boom. The paper closed with the bust. Jim Sullivan was editor in 1981. Sullivan was followed by Pat O'Neill, who left the *Tribune* in 1984 to return to

Kansas City and go into his family's business. Jim Dow, who wrote a column entitled "Horsepuckey and news analysis," was named editor.

The *Rifle Tribune* closed its doors January 9, 1985 with the headline:

"Adios Amigos...Tribune ceasing publication after chronicling booms and bust."

Wrote former editor Pat O'Neill: "Brother graduates of the Sage-brush School of Journalism, what we wrote here will one day be called 'history.'"

Silt

Silt is located on land once roamed by Chief Colorow and his band of Utes. The village, established in 1908, was known as Ferguson, after the first homesteader who owned a barn for stage coaches and wagon trains. Traffic was heavy because freighters wanted to avoid the narrow river canyons. The Denver & Rio Grande, noting the nature of the soil, changed the name to Silt. Like Rifle, Silt was a good central location for both transportation facilities and surrounding farms. The town was incorporated in 1915.

Silt Bugle, 1910-1912, Fred L. Tomlin, founder. According to newspaper bibliographer Wallace Rex, the *Bugle* name was changed to:

Garfield County News August 4, 1911-1914. W.S. Montgomery, publisher; R. Eaton Emery, editor.

Silt Searchlight September 1913-1915.

Garfield County Leader late 1914-1921, M.B. Ballard, founder. Rev. Giles Ellis and Doris McClung bought the paper in late fall, 1915. They sold the *Leader* in February 1919 to John B. Carter, who in turn sold the paper to Ira Bean in May 1919. Bean was also publishing the *New Castle Democrat*. Carter returned to Silt in 1921, repurchased the *Garfield County Leade*, and changed the name to:

Silt Leader 1921-June 1924, John Carter.

Broadcaster March 1927, Frank Pierce, founder. Pierce also founded the *New Castle Forum* at the same time, and was leasing the *Glenwood Springs Avalanche-Echo*. *Inter-Mountain Press* thought that the *Broadcaster* was printed in the *Avalanche-Echo* plant.

Sources: "Crystal River Valley," Rosemae Wells Campbell, Sage Books 1966.

"*Roaring Fork Valley*," Len Shoemaker, Sage Books 1958.

"*Pioneers of the Roaring Fork*," Len Shoemaker, Sage Books 1965.

Glenwood Post Centennial issue 8/31/1990, and various issues *Rifle Telegram/Rifle Citizen Telegram* Centennial Edition 6/8/1994 and various issues.

CHAPTER XXVI

GILPIN COUNTY

I have very large ideas of the mineral wealth of our nation. I believe it practically inexhaustible. It abounds all over the Western country, from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific and its development has scarcely commenced...the more gold and silver we mine makes the payment of [the national] debt so much the easier....Tell the miners from me that I shall promote their interests to the utmost of my ability, because their prosperity is the prosperity of the nation....

President Abraham Lincoln, 1865

President Lincoln was assassinated before his words reached Central City. But prosperity was the word, the goal, and the triumph in Gregory Gulch.

On May 6, 1859, in Gregory Gulch between Black Hawk and Central City, John H. Gregory, a Georgian, discovered \$4 worth of gold. The next day he and his friends panned \$40 worth. News of Gregory's gold, along with George A. Jackson's discovery along Clear Creek, opened the gates. Among the hundreds pouring in was William Green Russell, who had been working the rivers north from Bent's Fort with only a pinch of gold to show for it. This time he struck fissure gold veins in what is now "Russell's Gulch."

The press was right behind. William Byers, publisher of the *Rocky Mountain News*, came to spend a few days looking over the prospects. Horace Greeley, editor of the *New York Tribune*, jolted up the trail on a donkey, accompanied by fellow journalists A.D. Richardson and Henry Villard, to see if the finds were worth shouting about.

Greeley was guarded in his assessment, but he also uttered the word everyone wanted to hear: gold!

Byers printed the Greeley, Richardson and Villard report in the *Rocky Mountain News*' first Extra. The *Rocky Mountain News*' Thomas Gibson, bringing his own tent, joined Byers to observe and listen to John Gregory. On May 28 the *News* ran a report on Gregory Gulch, and Byers sent a copy to a pleased Gregory. A few weeks later there were 6,000 people swarming over the diggings. Gilpin County would soon lead the territory in gold production. During its "fabulous heydays," the last four decades of the 1800s, it was called "The Little Kingdom of Gilpin--Richest Square Mile on Earth."

Gregory District was organized May 16, 1859. There were only 16 men in camp. By June 1, there were thousands. Prospectors roughed it in the open the year of discovery, but before the year was out, cabins, supply buildings and roads to the camps were constructed. Almost each find meant a new camp, and miners held meetings to form mining districts, draw up laws, establish miners' courts, and elect officers. In 1861 individual governments were supplanted by the establishment of Colorado Territory, which designated 17 counties, including Gilpin, named for Colorado's first Territorial Governor, William Gilpin. The county still has its original boundaries. Central City has always been the county seat.

Naming the "cradle of Colorado" was a contentious issue. It was originally called Mountain County. One determined group wanted to name it after John Gregory, but

Gregory returned to civilization. After an animated discussion, the honor went to the visionary Gilpin, who had a multitude of ideas for the Territory's future.

Surface gold became scarce in the 1860s, so skilled men were brought from England, Ireland, Wales, Germany, and Italy for rock mining. They brought their families, along with varied cultural talents and appreciations from their differing backgrounds. As one writer put it, they "brought love of culture and beauty to a city of wealth and poverty, hope and despair, culture and vulgarity."

Frank Fossett, who edited the *Central City Herald* in the mid- 1870s, wrote a vivid description of early Gilpin County:

The first sight of these cities of the hills is one not soon forgotten. There is a novelty to the scene that attracts in spite of the general barrenness of the landscape....[Depleted forests, prospect holes, dumps and other man-made imperfection] scar the earth's surface....Streets and houses are wedged in narrow ravines and gulches and again crowded up their steep inclines. The towns centre where streams and gulches unite; for there is more room than can be obtained elsewhere, and room is an important item here....Far up the giddy slopes on either side hang cottages and mine buildings, seemingly ready to topple one on another....

It is a strange sight...these cities built at the tops of the shafts or mouths of the tunnels which lead to the treasure vaults below....

Gold, Gilpin county's vitality, was eclipsed by silver discoveries in Georgetown, Leadville, Aspen and elsewhere. Drops in prices paid for precious metals after the turn of the century resulted in reduced production and dwindling population. High prices for production during World War I led to the closing of most Gilpin County mines.

Scenery and memories kept Gilpin County alive. One revival harked back to the culture of the early days. The Central City Opera House was re-opened in 1932. Summers in Central City resound with immortal music, and hundreds of visitors to listen to, participate in, and watch the excitement. Gilpin County's two remaining towns got another boost after legalized gambling was permitted in 1990, and the winter-quiet little towns became a year-round attraction.

Mountain City

Mountain City, Black Hawk, Central City, and Nevadaville were all established in 1859. Mountain City, in May 1859, was the first of the camps, built of tents and log cabins along the gold-bearing stream. The steady stream of new miners overran Mountain City, so the other three towns were laid out within a two-mile radius. Mountain City disappeared from the *Colorado Business Directory* after 1878, when only two businesses were listed. What was left of Mountain City was absorbed by Central City.

Rocky Mountain Gold Reporter and Mountain City Herald August 6-October, 1859, Thomas Gibson, founder. The little newspaper with the bulky name was the first in Gilpin County. It was the third paper to be introduced in Jefferson Territory (though technically it was still Kansas Territory). The paper was of "modest dimensions, scarcely larger than an ordinary double letter sheet."

Thomas Gibson, one of William Byers' partners in the *Rocky Mountain News*, came to Gregory Gulch in late May to see for himself whether the excitement over gold

was warranted. Deciding it was, Gibson went back to Denver, bought the press used to print one issue of the *Cherry Creek Pioneer*, and towed his makeshift equipment to the diggings. The short-lived paper proclaimed itself:

..."devoted to the general mining interest and issued on Saturdays from the heart of the mining region in the Rocky Mountains...the GOLD REPORTER will be a medium through which the Eastern Merchant and Capitalist can get reliable reports of the amount of gold taken from the various mining districts of this region--the machinery employed, and needed, in mining operations, new discoveries and the richness they develop--and all the various improvements that may be made in every department connected with the mining interest.

The *Gold Reporter* lasted only a few issues--but that was more than the *Cherry Creek Pioneer* published on the same little "Mormon Press" that Gibson had bought for a grubstake. The *Reporter* ran until the snow fell. Gibson sold the press to George West, who used it to start the *Western Mountaineer* in Golden.

Apex/Pine Creek

Located in the northwest corner of Gilpin County, Apex was the center of the Pine Creek Mining District, which flourished during the 1890s. There were several good mines in the district. Apex blossomed after a broke and discouraged miner vented his frustrations by using the last of his dynamite at the end of the barren tunnel he had dug. When the smoke died down, a very rich lode was revealed. He reportedly bought a thousand ore sacks on credit and ordered two four-horse teams and ore wagons to haul out ore that assayed at \$1,800 per ton.

Kingdom of Gilpin 1894, Hassett and Pense, founders. The object of this paper, according to the *Central City Register-Call*, was to publish the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the State of Colorado. It was suspended after the election.

Pine Creek Gold Belt May 1, 1896-1897, E. C. Gard and G.A. Kennedy, founders. Ernest Chapin Gard had founded the *Monument Recorder* in 1889. He then went to Cripple Creek where he founded the *Cripple Creek Crusher*, forerunner of the current *Gold Rush*, but was "forced to retire by disgruntled citizens." His time in Apex was short.

Pine Cone July 3, 1897-June 2, 1900, Homer Hogoboom, editor. The Introductory, which was unusually brief, took a swipe at one or both of the earlier newspapers in the camp.

Baltimore

Baltimore was located two miles from Tolland, and thrived about the same time as Apex. It had a two-story hotel, the Baltimore Club, an Opera House and a packed saloon. Many of the fixtures of the buildings were later moved to Central City. Baltimore also had a newspaper:

Baltimore Herald 1904-1905. It was continued as the *Tolland Herald*. (See Tolland.)

Black Hawk

Established in 1859, Black Hawk got its name from a trademark that used the likeness of Indian Chief Black Hawk on equipment brought in for a quartz mill. The camp

was a mile down the hill from Central City, its chief rival. Originally a mining claim, Black Hawk was granted a patent by the U.S. Government for the land. The buildings in town were "sandwiched" in between the rocks, gulches, mines, and mountains.

Rivalry between Black Hawk and Central City was serious. Black Hawk was the first to be incorporated and the first to lay out a cemetery. Central City got out a newspaper first. Black Hawk built a skating rink, providing entertainment "at once healthful and innocent," but it was razed in 1878 and Central City built the rink that replaced it.

The Colorado Central railroad steamed its challenging path into Black Hawk in 1872. When the train went on to Central City later, Frank Fossett described the trip:

At one place streets are crossed above the level of the housetops, and at another, circling the mountain sides for two miles the train makes its appearance hugging the mountain side hundreds of feet above, and almost directly over the town. One can almost look down into the fiery chimneys of the great smelters, while streets rise above, and seemingly bottomless shafts and excavations yawn beneath in this thrilling ride among the gold mines.

In 1860 and for a few years thereafter the population of Black Hawk was 2,000 to 3,000, but it dwindled precipitously since the end of the 1860s and fell to 118 by 2000.

Colorado Miner July 4-November 1863, W. Train Muir, founder. The *Colorado Miner* didn't hit pay dirt, but that didn't discourage Ovando Hollister and C.W. Blakely who bought the *Miner* equipment to launch the:

Daily Mining Journal November 30, 1863-December 1, 1866, Hollister & Blakely, founders. Blakely left after the January 8, 1864, to take the "gold cure" (prospecting)

and was replaced by Frank Hall. The firm was renamed Hollister & Hall. The *Journal* managed to get some highly coveted legal publications, including the Journal of the House of Representatives for the fifth session of the territorial legislature.

A thorough writer, Hollister poured out his observations in the *Mining Journal* until December 1, 1866, when he left to work on the *Rocky Mountain News*. Hollister would later write the book, *The Mines of Colorado*, still a useful reference work. Hall left the *Miner* in October 1865 to buy an interest in the Central City *Daily Miners' Register*. He, too, would write a standard reference book, a four-volume, mostly eye-witness account of the "History of Colorado." The *Daily Mining Journal* printing plant was sold for use by the:

Daily Colorado Times December 1, 1866-March 1867, Henry Garbanati and O.J. Goldrick, founders. A sister paper was also issued:

Weekly Colorado Times December 11, 1866-March 1867. The *Times* was moved to Central City in 1867. After the *Times* left Black Hawk, it was five years before the town had another newspaper.

Daily Black Hawk Journal March 1872-October 4, 1873, George M. Collier, founder. Henry Ward was editor. There was also its sister paper:

Weekly Black Hawk Journal ran March 1872-October 1873. George M. Collier, 28, had been manager of the *Central City Register*. Henry Ward, who was editor of the *Journal*, would later be prominently associated with the *Rocky Mountain News, Denver*

World, and *Denver Tribune*. He was the press association poet in 1881. The *Journal* lasted a year and a half. George Collier moved to Denver and set up a print shop on Blake Street.

Black Hawk Post September 9, 1876-1880, William Laughlin and W.W. Sullivan, founders. The *Post* was a Democratic weekly. Sullivan was later part owner and business manager of the *Fort Collins Courier*. Sullivan sold his interest to James R. Oliver shortly after the founding of the paper. Oliver published the *Post*, part of the time with a partner named Brandgust or Brandgeest. In 1880 Oliver moved the paper to Central City.

Gilpin County Observer July 1884-July 21, 1885. There does not seem to be a connection between the Black Hawk and Central City *Observers*.

Black Hawk Times February 1886-July 20, 1887, A.L. Crosson, founder. Crosson had published the *Idaho Springs Advance* and *Buena Vista Herald* before coming to Black Hawk. He died in 1887. When the newspaper name changed, the paper was moved to Central City. (See Central City *Gilpin County Observer*.)

Black Hawk Advertiser April 14, 1888-1889, Newland and Blair, founders. Like the papers before them, they were there to stay--"provided that our continued presence is desired." Like the other papers, the *Advertiser* was not sufficiently supported, and was soon gone. E.M. Newland and R.D. Blair were active with Clear Creek County newspapers at this time.

Black Hawk Star December 9, 1897-1898, Charles M. Johnson and Louis Slingerland, founders. Louis Slingerland was a "master of types and ink" and was said to be much in demand by printing establishments all over the west. He would later be associated with Jefferson County newspapers.

Black Hawk Independent July 23, 1898-1899, Daniel Sayre. The *Independent* consolidated with the *Central City Republican*.

Gilpin County Advocate May 1989-1992, Kay Turnbaugh, founder. The *Advocate* was a sister paper to the Nederland *Mountain-Ear* that Turnbaugh had founded earlier. (See Boulder County.) The *Mountain-Ear* published news from Central City. "More and more news of Gilpin County crept into the pages of The *Mountain-Ear* until it was bursting for its own space." The *Advocate* was the answer to the space problem.

The Gilpin County gambling bonanza forced the *Advocate* out of its original quarters, but in November 1991, *Colorado Editor* noted that the paper was "able to return to its home base at the Blackhawk Car Wash. The paper was sold to William Russell Jr. of the *Register-Call* in 1992 and suspended.

Central City

The title "Central City" is singularly appropriate, since it occupies a central position between Black Hawk and Nevadaville, Russell Gulch and Apex, the extremes of settlement in the inhabited ravines....It was not recognized as a town, indeed there were only a few scattered cabins and sheeted wagons in the vicinity [in 1859].

By 1861, however, it had become the principal center of business and population. It was surveyed in 1866...when a patent to the townsite was applied for....

From 1859 to about the close of 1866, Central City, although not as populous as Denver, was in some respects the most important town in the Territory, and with its colleagues Black Hawk and Nevadaville, exercised a controlling influence in political affairs....

The record of Central City's vanished years is replete with glorified triumphs, the sudden accumulation of fortunes, and splendid social amenities, failures, disappointed hopes, millions recklessly squandered, tragedies and despairs....

Frank Hall

Central City's first newspaper had a short life and is all but forgotten in the wake of the town's second, still living giant.

Colorado Mining Life July 2, 1862-1863, Amala & Baugh, founders. *Mining Life* began as a weekly but went triweekly on December 23, 1862, while taking a firm partisan stand:

Committed to no political cliques, and attached to no political policies, this paper will be governed by no motives other than those of the purest devotion to this country, the laws and the GLORIOUS OLD DEMOCRATIC PARTY....

The endeavor will be to make the only Democratic paper in Colorado acceptable to the entire party and worthy of its cordial support.

On February 10, 1863, new editor William Train Muir announced that the paper would be renamed the *Daily and Weekly Democrat* and "moved to Golden City as soon as possible," where it continued into 1864. Frank Hall said *Mining Life* was "neither reputable nor calculated in any respect to meet the wants of the intelligent miners assembled in the mining districts."

Tri-Weekly Miner's Register July 28, 1862-August 20, 1863, Alfred Thomson, founder. Thomson dragged a Washington hand press from Iowa across the prairie, up

the mountain and into the bustling, news-hungry mining camp, where gold had transformed the wilderness into a promised land. While not the first newspaper in what would become Gilpin County, it is the one that has survived through the capricious years of changing fortunes, changing times, and unchanging determination. Today as the *Register-Call*, it is the state's second-oldest newspaper.

The first four-page issue might have been the last if it hadn't been for D. C. Collier. Thomson was out of town when the next issue came out. He may have taken the body of his wife Louisa, whose obituary was announced in the first issue, back to Iowa.

David C. Collier, a bright young lawyer and schoolmaster from Kansas, took it on himself to put out the paper in Thomson's absence. Collier did the job so well that Thomson promptly hired him. Collier had a sharply honed knowledge of local and national politics, considered "a necessity during the heated political canvass then in progress," and his pen evoked "many a spirited personal appeal to the loyalty of his fellow-citizens in the dangerous situation in which Colorado was finding herself placed in regard to [Southern] secession." Frank Hall says that Collier's "ringing editorials" about loyalty not only helped keep the Territory in the Union, but made it a "strong member" of it.

The massive stone and brick *Register* office on Eureka Street, built about this time, is still home to the venerable *Register-Call*. The newspaper was published on the second floor. Windows were built high in the thick wall to protect against the mountain cold. The room was heated by a big pot-bellied stove as late as 1962, and there were 30

cases of hand-carved type, including small pica type used for printing law briefs. The Chicago Taylor press installed by Laird and Marlow during the 1870s was later converted from steam to electricity, as was a small Gordon job press.

Thomson sold the *Register* on April 9, 1863, to Collier and two other employees, Hugh Glenn and George A. Wells. Collier was editor and "inside management." Wells headed the mechanical department. Glenn was circulation and business manager. On May 30 new materials arrived and the paper was enlarged to a 24-column sheet. The *Tri-Weekly Miner's Register* turned into:

Weekly Miner's Register July 22, 1863-July 23, 1868, and:

Daily Miner's Register August 21, 1863-July 25, 1868. The *Daily* carried Associated Press dispatches. Hugh Glenn sold his interest to his partners in September 1863. Frank Hall bought George Wells' interest in the *Register* on October 17, 1865, and the firm became Collier & Hall.

Hall, formerly of the *Black Hawk Journal*, was a skillful writer, and significant in molding public sentiment for the advancement of mining and commercial interests. Hall boosted the *Register's* national news coverage by arranging for special correspondents in Washington, D.C. The newspaper name was changed to:

Central City Register July 26, 1868-May 24, 1878, daily. **Central City Register** July 30, 1868-June 15, 1878, weekly.

A physical breakdown due to "excessive mental labor, resulting in broken health" forced Collier to sell his *Register* shares in June 1873 to W.W. Whipple and Frank Hall. Hall was editor and Whipple, mechanical superintendent. Whipple was a journeyman printer from Council Bluffs, Iowa, who had helped put out the first edition of the *Rocky Mountain News* in 1859. He sold his interest in the *Register* to Hall in June 1876 and returned to Denver.

The great fire of 1874 swept down Eureka Street to the doors of the *Register*, consuming everything along the way. The *Register* and Teller House next door were stone and brick and there was time to cover the two buildings with wet blankets. The two institutions were among the handful of buildings to survive the disaster, but the *Daily Register* was discontinued on June 6, 1874.

In June 1877 Hall sold the *Register* to James A. Smith and Den Marlow. Eight months later, February 1, 1878, Smith and Marlow were gone and Halsey M. Rhoads owned the paper. One of the truly peripatetic Colorado newspapermen, Rhoads had started two not-too-successful newspapers in town. One of them was **Town Talk**, a short-lived gossip sheet. Dates of that paper, and the name of the other paper he started in Central, are not known. Rhoads apparently became sole owner of the *Register* on February 1, 1878. It was three strikes and out for Rhoads in Central City. On May 24, 1878, a new paper in town bought the *Register*, its name, good will, equipment, and mailing list, consolidating it as the *Register-Call*.

Evening Call February 16-May 25, 1878, Den Marlow and G.M. Laird, founders.

George Laird had worked with Den Marlow on the *Register* when Frank Hall was publisher. Laird left the *Register* to open his own job printing plant in February 1876. Among the jobs were the printing of Halsey Rhoads' two short-lived newspapers. The first issue of the five-column *Evening Call* also was printed in the job shop, one page at a time on an old Gordon press operated by foot power. The two proprietors took turns "kicking off" the 1200 copies--"close to 5,000 impressions each day."

Two years later Laird and Marlow joined forces to publish the five column daily *Evening Call*, and were soon able to buy the ailing *Register* at a sheriff's sale. The combined paper was called:

Daily Register-Call May 27, 1878-November 3, 1890, and the

Weekly Register-Call June 23, 1878 to present, Marlow & George Laird, founders. Colonel John S. Dormer was editor and J.P. (Pres) Waterman, local and mining reporter. *The Register-Call*, a five-column, four-page paper, was Republican. Den Marlow died in Central City in 1895. Two years later Laird acquired Marlow's interest in the paper from his heirs and became sole owner.

George Laird, who published the paper for a record 58 years, was the man who "held more closely perhaps than any other man the fabulous, glittering history of the 'Little Kingdom of Gilpin.'" In the files of his newspaper is the day-by-day chronicle of the life of one of the world's most famous gold camps. He was active in newspaper work for 75 years, and took great pride in the fact that his paper never missed an issue, not

even during the days when it was difficult to get newsprint and supplies. George Morgan Laird died Sunday morning, April 26, 1936, at the age of 88.

Rae L. Laird, George's son, took over as editor and manager of the *Weekly Register-Call*. Like his father before him, Rae Laird always supported "projects and ideals which he felt were to the benefit of Central City and Gilpin County," often devoting entire issues to civic projects and community groups. Rae Laird had the pleasure and satisfaction of publishing both a 32-page 75th anniversary edition of the paper, and a 48-page 100th anniversary one--using the original shop equipment dating back to the late 1870s. Rae Laird also served as mayor of Central City at one time. He continued as editor and publisher until about 1965 when ill health forced him into semi-retirement, though he continued as co-publisher. He died April 11, 1971.

Laird hired Ernest Wright as editor in 1965. Wright stayed on until Dec. 30, 1977. On May 1, 1970, the *Register-Call* changed publishers for only the second time in 92 years. Another mayor, William C. Russell, bought the weekly May 1, 1970 and published it until his death.. He hired a succession of editors: Arnold F. Olean was managing editor in 1977. Judith Hoxsey, an advertising and office manager, was co-editor in January 1978, moving up to managing editor when Olean resigned. Hoxsey left in September 1979. The next editor was Kathryn Heider, a reporter-photographer. She resigned as editor in 1981, but continued as reporter-photographer until 1984. Janet Davis, who had been working in the county clerk's office, was managing editor 1981-Nov. 1986. Another reporter-photographer, Claire Tanner, who had joined the staff in 1984 became

editor in 1986, but switched to business manager in 1989. Beverly Nelson and Penny Round, both of whom had been on the staff for some time, were co-editors from 1989 until they resigned in 1991. Current editor Charlotte Taylor joined the staff in July 1989. Russell is still publisher.

The Central City Register-Call is the second oldest newspaper still existing in Colorado. Although the *Rocky Mountain News*, Colorado's first paper (April 22, 1859) is the oldest in years, the *Weekly Register-Call* uses the slogan "Colorado's Oldest Continuously Published Newspaper" because, it explains, "The snow blizzard that paralyzed Denver and most of Colorado in 1982 halted the presses at the *Rocky Mountain News* on Christmas Day and they were forced to miss the first issue of their paper in years. "The *Weekly Register-Call* gladly assumed the title and today retains it. The *Rocky Mountain News* is indulgent about it.

Colorado Times April 1867-January 1868, daily and weekly; Colorado Times Publishing Co., Henry Garbanati and O.J. Goldrick, editors. The *Times* was started in Black Hawk in December 1866 and moved to Central City. O.J. Goldrick, who is picturesquely remembered as the tall, thin dandy who drove into Denver swearing in Latin at his ox team, and clothed in a faultless suit of black broadcloth, immaculate linen, a glossy black plug hat, and kid gloves, was Denver's first schoolteacher. His stay in Central was not long; he was gone by September. By October 17 the newspaper firm's name had been changed to Colorado Times Printing Association, George Barnett, editor. Barnett was formerly associate editor of the *Denver Gazette*. Thomas J. Campbell

bought the *Times* in January 1868 and suspended it, but used the *Times* printing plant and equipment to start another paper:

Daily Colorado Herald January 8, 1868-March 1, 1875.

Weekly Colorado Herald January 1868-March 1, 1875, Thomas Campbell, publisher and editor. George W. Baker was associate editor in 1870. The *Georgetown Colorado Miner* described Baker as "one of the most versatile writers in the West." In June 1870 the *Georgetown Colorado Miner* reported that Baker intended to publish at Central City the *Colorado Mining News Letter*, but there is no record of this as a newspaper. Frank Fossett was editor of the *Herald* in 1871, but Campbell was still publisher, and the daily edition was discontinued. Campbell was later editor of the *Georgetown Colorado Miner* and a co-founder of the *Georgetown Mining Review*.

A year later Fossett was both editor and publisher, and the daily had been resurrected. Fossett continued in his dual positions until the *Herald* was suspended in February 1875.

Fossett, who arrived in Central City from Rome, N.Y., about 1867, was generally considered well informed and reliable on mining matters. Yet the *Register's* D.C. Collier greeted Fossett rather harshly:

We congratulate our very courteous and peace--loving neighbor, the Herald, on the acquisition of a very valuable correspondent who doubtless writes in accordance with the taste of the editor and whose past reputation, present status and scurrilous and willfully false writings indicate a fitness to be an inmate of a brothel or a correspondent of that sheet.

Campaign Herald August 13-September 10, 1870. The *Campaign Herald* was published every Saturday by the Democratic Club.

Coach November 9, 1872-November 1873. The nameplate had an elegant drawing of a coach and four, speeding along with the assistance of a driver wielding a huge curling whip. The road was flat and the passengers seemed comfortable. The masthead on November 8, 1873 provided the information: "W.G. Swan, Driver." Swan was the last editor.

A driver named Leach was owner and sold the paper to Mr. Atcheson. Leach was said to be a "fanatical anti-religionist." The *Denver Mirror*, June 8, 1873, commented:

The Coach in its self-elected line of duty, rides its religio-philosophic hobby and Hammond bronchos so persistently and savagely--for the benefit of the human race--that it finds little space for local matters.

Gilpin County Observer July 27, 1887-December 30, 1897. The *Observer* was founded in Black Hawk as the *Black Hawk Times* in 1886. It was purchased from the estate of the late A.J. Crosson and moved to Central City. The *Observer* was initially located in what became the Glory Hole Saloon. The *Observer* Publishing Company stockholders were a group of Central City citizens. Alex McLeod was editor 1888-1892. Succeeding managers were A.S. Petterson 1894, and W.F. Phelps 1896. J.D. and H.C. Hurd leased the *Observer* in December 1897. Fritz J. Altvater bought the *Observer* in 1898. The name was changed to:

Gilpin Observer January 6, 1898-December 8, 1921. A.B. Gray was editor in 1898. Politically, the *Observer* went from Democrat to Silver Republican to Silver

Democrat to Populist. Altwater had worked in Denver as a Linotype operator at the *Denver Post*. He left the *Post* to take over management of the *Gilpin Observer*, and become manager of the Central City Opera House. Altwater was Gilpin County Clerk in 1904, the year he sold the *Observer* to W.J. Stull. Stull published the paper until December 8, 1921.

Gilpin Miner October 19, 1898-1903, J.D. and H.C. Hurd. After giving up their lease of the *Observer*, the Hurds shipped in a plant from Denver and started the *Gilpin Miner*.

Tommy-Knawker June 5, 1953-December 19, 1968, Claude Powe, founder. Powe explained the unusual name:

When the Welsh and Cornish miners came to Gilpin county in the early days of the mines, they brought with them their elves of the mining country, the good little Tommy-Knawkers.

Second cousin to the Irish leprechaun, the Tommy-Knawkers soon established permanent homes here....

They were blamed for the mischievous things that happened, and they were wrongly blamed for causing some of the disasters. However, they were the ones who tried to warn the miners of anything wrong, and were harmless, friendly little creatures.

It plugged along until December 19, 1968 when it merged with the Idaho Springs *Front Range Journal* (formerly *Clear Creek Journal*). Powe, with civic and business leaders in Idaho Springs, formed the Front Range Publishing Co. There were offices in both Idaho Springs and Central City. Five months later the stockholders bought out

Powe, who moved to Denver and was named assistant editor of the *Denver Daily Journal*. He was with the *Daily Journal* until he retired in 1986.

Colorado Miner & Advertiser 1880-March 1876.

Post 1880-March 17, 1883. The *Post* began in Black Hawk in March 1875, and was moved to Central City in 1880. James Oliver continued as publisher until 1883, when the paper was purchased by S.L. Alexander and Mr. Rodolph.

Central City Enterprise March 1882-1883.

Gilpin Daily Graphic October 1882-1883.

Prohibitionist 1882-1883.

Central City Express 1883-1884.

Weekly Ledger November 10, 1883-1884, Calvin & Lucas.

Mining Reporter 1893-1894.

Gilpin County Republican October 15, 1898-October 7, 1899.

Gilpin Gold Belt July 1908-1909, a monthly.

Gilpin County Miner #2 September 1936-1941.

Gilpin County Advocate 1989-1992 (see Black Hawk.)

The Little Kingdom Come February 16, 1970 to present ("Published Whenever We Damn Well Feel Like It.")

The first issue did not have a name. The top of page 1 said:

"The _____"

See Page Four

Page 4 announced a contest to name the new publication. The paper swore it would not be undersold. The price was 25 cents per copy, \$2.50 a year; ads were \$1.00 per column inch. The front page carried two columns: "Fearless Hard-Hitting Editor Speaks Out" and "Up Your Flume."

Rollinsville

John Q. Rollins came from Illinois to hunt for gold about 1860. Rollins opened a quartz mill in 1861, built the first wagon road over the Continental Divide into Middle Park, and erected a hand-hewn wooden barn for the horses of travelers, coaches, and freighters. He improved the old Army Pass--rechristened Rollins Pass--and opened a toll road. The road is believed to have once been an Indian trail, and the route used by Mormons headed for Salt Lake City. The town was laid out in 1861 on a site Rollins owned. Rollinsville had one newspaper:

Rollinsville Record 1903-1905. The Rowell newspaper directory lists the paper but does not give the publisher or editor.

Tolland

Tolland originally was a stage station between Rollinsville and East Portal. When the Moffat Tunnel was built the town became a railroad station. Once called Mammoth, the town was renamed by Mrs. Charles Toll, owner of the townsite, for the English home of her ancestors. The area was frequently isolated from the rest of the state after the first snowstorm in the fall until July because of exceptionally heavy snows. Tolland had one newspaper:

Tolland Herald 1905-1908, Frederic Alley (Denver Printing and Publishing), founder. The paper had begun as the *Baltimore Herald* in 1903 but was moved two miles to Tolland when that town appeared to be a better market.

Special Sources: *Central City Register-Call*, 100th Anniversary issue 6/29/1962, and various other issues.

"*The Central City Story*" Central City Business Association, 1976; The Dana Company. (sic)

"*Gulch of Gold*," Caroline Bancroft, Sage Books, 1958.

Special Thanks to Charlotte Taylor, *Register-Call*, Amos Clark, George Laird's grandson, and Carol Higgins, A.J. Crosson's granddaughter.

CHAPTER XXVII

GRAND COUNTY

The first European to reach the area may have been the French explorer de Bourgmont in 1724. The words parc (meaning enclosure), Platte and Grand are French terms and a reminder of the French traders and trappers who were the first palefaces to explore parts of eastern Colorado. Grand County occupies much of Middle Park on the headwaters of the Colorado River. Initially it was called the Grand River until it merged with the Gunnison River at Grand Junction to become the Colorado.

John Charles Fremont called it the Grand Blue River in 1843. Congress gave the Colorado River its current name and place in 1921, creating controversy and resentment. The people in valleys and towns and on streets named Grand resisted the change for 16 years. Congressman Edward T. Taylor, who pushed the change through Congress, believed that the name Colorado carried “a most undisputedly very great and affectionate signification to every civilized human being on this earth,” while “the word ‘Grand’ is a mere adjective.” His argument prevailed.

Middle Park was the home and favorite hunting ground of the Ute Indians. These lands were officially relinquished by treaty in 1868, but the Utes parted with this country very reluctantly, and it was only after a great struggle that they were induced to relocate on White River reservation further west. The Middle Park was reputed to be the “best hunting range in all the mountain region,” according to historian Frank Hall.

Soon others discovered the fine hunting grounds. In 1855 the Irish nobleman Sir St. George Gore arrived with horses, hunting dogs, a retinue of more than 50 servants, and many wagons full of provisions. He crossed the range over the pass that now bears his name. The British Earl of Dunraven came on a hunting expedition in 1878, bagging large quantities of game. His caravan made camp on the river at Hot Sulphur Springs.

Settlers were not far behind. In the early 1860s, a group of Denver men including *Rocky Mountain News* editor William Newton Byers hired Edward Louis Berthoud, a Swiss-born engineer, to find a railroad pass through the mountains to Salt Lake City. Berthoud, who had worked previously on the Panama Canal Isthmus, set out with mountain man Jim Bridger in 1861. They found a route, but it was deemed unfeasible for railroads but did become a suitable wagon route from Empire over the pass that now bears Berthoud's name. Major promotion of the area appeared often in the *Rocky Mountain News* for a simple reason: Byers, founder of the *News*, was one of the first settlers, spa-keepers and civic boosters. He became a vital part of Middle Park development in 1863 and built a log cabin there two years later.

Originally a part of Summit County, Grand County was established in 1874 and named for the Grand River. The area included both Middle and North Parks, and what are now Routt, Moffat and Jackson counties. In 1877, Routt County (including future Moffat County) was formed to the north. Another section of land to the north, which would become Jackson County, was embroiled in controversy with Larimer County for years. A vague boundary description led Larimer County to attempt to "absorb" North

Park in 1883. Larimer County tried again in 1885, this time with the decisive support of the Colorado Supreme Court. The angry Grand Lake Prospector “likened the Colorado Supreme Court to the Court of Chancery in Bleak House.”

The first county election followed all the “bad non-rules of frontier politics”: heated contests, name-calling, gunshots, bedlam, and party bosses. As the Georgetown *Colorado Miner* reported on July 7, 1883:

While the nation throughout its length and breadth rejoiced on its 107th anniversary of independence, county officials at Grand Lake were shooting each other to death...Frank S. Byers, son of the Denver ex-postmaster has just arrived from Hot Sulphur Springs with the following dispatch:

The commissioners and county clerk of Grand County were this morning shot by a masked mob. We, the undersigned citizens request and pray of our honorable governor to send at once a company of militia for the protection of the citizens...

The shootings were the climax of an impassioned battle for the county seat. Hot Sulphur Springs was the only town in the county when Grand County was formed and was named county seat. Suddenly several other towns sprung up, including Grand Lake, which challenged Hot Sulphur Springs for the designation. An election was held and Grand Lake won, but the election canvassers favored Hot Sulphur Springs, claiming that a large number of votes cast for Grand Lake were cast by ineligible voters. The new board of county commissioners—Grand Lake supporters—declared the canvassers out of order and gave the county seat to Grand Lake. Thomas J. “Cap” Dean, county clerk from Hot Sulphur Springs, had the backing of William Byers and took his protest to the Colorado Supreme Court. After a legal struggle, Hot Sulphur Springs prevailed in 1882, but strife continued.

A factional quarrel split Teller City, and the *Georgetown Miner* fiercely attacked the leader of one of the factions, Commissioner John Gillis Mills, a “brave but reckless man,” who reportedly had left the South because he had killed someone. He was a graduate of Dartmouth College, a speculator in mines and toll roads, and a former newspaper agent in Cheyenne who turned to “political activity of an uncompromising sort and addressed himself to the perfection of grudges” against the *Miner* and two mining companies, according to Grand County historian, Prof. Robert Black. The *Miner* article fired a caustic volley of words not only against Mills but against all Grand Lake officials. Grand Lake, which was on Mills’ side, had no paper with which to return fire. It promptly got one: the *Grand Lake Prospector*, edited by George Bailey and James Smart, who spiritedly defended their town.

During the course of selecting delegates to the Republican State Convention, attorney Edward P. Weber, who represented William Byers, called Mills, chairman of the County Board of Commissioners, a murderer and fugitive from justice. Early on July 4, Mills and two of his Grand Lake confederates donned black bandanas, loaded their guns and hid behind boulders, laying in ambush while Weber, Dean and County Commissioner Barney Day headed to the scheduled commissioner’s meeting. As they reached the boulders, Mills jumped out, fired his rifle, and hit Weber. A gun battle ensued. Weber, Mills and Day were killed; Dean, shot in the head, survived for nine days, long enough to give an account of the mayhem.

The entire county commission having been wiped out in the shootout, the Governor was left with petitions for replacements from both factions. He chose to appoint men who did not have close connections with the violently deceased. Grand Lake momentarily was the county seat. But in 1888, Hot Sulphur Springs regained the designation, and no successful challenges were made again.

Fraser

Fraser, once known as the icebox of the nation for its official low temperature records, was laid out on homestead land and named for an early settler, Reuben Fraser. Established in 1871, the town as first called Eastom. The railroad arrived in 1905. Fraser was a center of the timber industry until the Forest Service headquarters was moved to Hot Sulphur Springs in 1915.

Grand County Citizen 1911-1913, L.L.Gray, founder. Gray was a commercial photographer.

Fraser Times 1914-1915, W.F. Val cook, founder. *Colorado Press* announced in November 1914 that the Times' subscription list had been taken over by Hot Sulphur Springs *Middle Park Times*.

Granby

The late-comer town of Granby was surveyed and platted in 1904 by railroad-builder David Moffat. Buildings were erected to serve his railroad, the Denver, Northwestern and Pacific, which rolled into town in 1905. Granby was named for

Denver attorney Granby Hillyer. The town was incorporated in 1905, and a three-acre tract of land was purchased in 1909 by the Denver YMCA for a summer camp.

Grand County Advocate 1905-1909, Victor Wilson, founder. Wilson's origins are uncertain, but Robert Black called him "a young man of conspicuous energy and unlimited irreverence." H.D. Hopkins was publisher in 1909. Conflicting information for this paper indicate it may have moved to Hot Sulphur Springs.

Sky-Hi News – November 1945 to present. E.C. (Al) Topel, founder. Topel, formerly of the Chicago Herald & Examiner, Chicago Times and St. Petersburg Times, sold the paper to Victor Huffacker in October 1946. Original editor E.J. Myers stayed on to work with Huffacker. Theodore (Ted) Varner bought the paper in March 1947. Late in February 1950, Varner dealt the *News* to Vincent E. Balke of Kearney, Nebraska. He sold the paper in September 1950 to John and Mary Keenan, recently of Oregon. John Keenan had been managing editor of the *Pagosa Sun*, and Mary Keenan was the daughter of well-known Colorado newspaperman Flint E. Holmes of the Fairplay *Park County Republican* and other Colorado papers.

The Keenans sold the *Sky-Hi News* in July 1971 to Bill and Erlene Cox. Cox had been connected with the Denver Community Service Publications as production manager. Owen K. and Katherine Ball, former owners of the *Evergreen Canyon Courier*, purchased the paper in 1974 and installed their daughter, Norma Jean, and her husband, Hanes Dawson as the editing and management team. Two years later the

Dawsons owned the paper. William Potter Johnson purchased the *Sky-Hi News* in 1980 and named Sue Wilson as editor. Patrick Brower was publisher by 1983.

Daily Tribune June 11, 1993 to present. A free circulation sister publication to the *Sky High News*. The *Tribune* emphasizes entertainment and activities of interest to visitors and tourists.

Grand Lake

The town of Grand Lake was founded in 1879 by the Grand Lake Town & Improvement Company, made up of a group of enterprising Kentuckians. The town was an outfitting point for prospecting parties during the mining boom. When the boom died, Grand Lake almost died too.

Grand Lake Prospector July 27, 1882-1888, John Smart and George Bailey, founders. According to Robert Black, circumstantial evidence suggests that the *Prospector* was launched to serve as John G. Mills' personal organ, "although Mills was, perhaps judiciously, still living in Teller City." Bailey, "an authentic specimen of the American Dream," grew up unschooled "but was fortunate in a natural literacy." In his spare time at the *Prospector*, he studied law and was eventually named to the Colorado Supreme Court after a successful legal career in Fort Collins. He left the *Prospector* in 1886.

Financial problems began to plague the *Prospector* in 1885, and the paper seemed to fade with the town. As 1888 drew to a close, the county seat and officials

returned to Hot Sulphur Springs, and the *Prospector* soon followed. Smart leased the paper to Oscar D. Bryan in 1888, and the name was changed to:

Grand County Prospector. The following year it became the Middle Park Times. J.N. Pettingell bought the *Prospector* in 1889. moved it to Hot Sulphur Springs, and changed the name.

Grand Lake Pioneer June 15-August 31, 1940.

Hot Sulphur Springs

Once a campground for Indians who came for the medicinal waters, Hot Sulphur Springs is the county's oldest settlement. Called Saratoga West by the earliest settlers in 1860, the name was changed by 1863. Byers bought the townsite in 1864. He built a log hotel and concrete bathhouses for a spa. He provided season passes to friends, notables, and fellow newspapermen who might give the hot springs a favorable mention. In 1884, the resort gained telephone service. The springs were eventually sold for \$60,000. The town began to fade as early as 1880, but Hot Sulphur's 1888 victory in the struggle with Grand Lake for the prize of county seat revived the town's fortunes. The railroad finally reached Hot Sulphur Springs in 1905, two years after the town was incorporated.

The town's first paper was hand-written:

Middle Park Pleasure Seeker February 6. 1875. John Himebaugh, founder. He dedicated the paper to "mirth and fun" and the attraction of summer tourists. "Country

people that want their fine butter, turkeys, chickens, or big girls noticed, please present them to the Editor," the first and last issue requested.

Grand Country Prospector 1888-1889. Founded in Grand Lake as the *Grand Lake Prospector*, in 1882, the paper followed the return of the county seat. Publisher John Smart leased the paper to Oscar D. Bryan in 1888. Sources state that both William Miner and Jake Pettingell owned it during 1889. The name was changed to:

Middle Park Times July 1889-June 19, 1938. Edward Throckmorton was editor 1891-1892, followed by Oliver Needham 1893-1895, and J.N. Pettingell, 1896-1898. Pettingell, a Boston law student, came west on doctor's orders. Black says of him:

He was not of a practical bent; he announced himself a "miner" but worked seldom with his hands. Nevertheless he would remain in Grand County through a lifetime of great length, recording its transaction in an easy and fluent script, serving as postmaster, notary public, insurance agent, abstracter, legal counsel, justice of the peace, and over entire decades, as county clerk. He would always be useful, never an irritant. It is not inappropriate that the county's loftiest summit carries his name.

Pettingell served as the local attorney for David Moffat's Northwestern and Pacific Railroad, and provided "more influence than anyone else in acquiring rights of way."

Morton Alexander was publisher 1899 to 1905. He later was with the *Dove Creek Inland Empire*. Morton sold or leased the paper to V.H. Driver in 1906, but was back at the *Times* helm in 1907. Driver returned 1908-1909.

John E. Brown was named editor in 1905. He supported Democratic incumbents in 1906, goading Victor Wilson of the *Grand County Advocate* into campaigning for the

other side. The incumbents were almost all swept out. Two years later the shoe was on the other foot. Wilson, whose *Advocate* was awarded the county legal publications, was faced with having to support the GOP incumbents charged with corruption and being machine-run. Brown helped seal a Democratic sweep with a special supplement a week before the election that blasted the Republican candidates and called Wilson “a grafter and a blackmailer.”

Robert E. Palm took over the *Times* and the county Democratic organization in 1912. He sold the paper to local rancher Lew Wallace in the fall of 1915. Wallace was a two-term county commissioner who wrote with a touch of whimsy, giving his column titles like “Tabernash Tinkles” and “Parshall Peeps.” In October 1921, a syndicate called the Calkins Printing and Publishing Company of Denver bought the *Middle Park Times* and the *Kremmling News*, the county’s only two newspapers. Wallace stayed on as editor and publisher of the *Times* until his death in 1924.

Thomas Houston, editor of the *Kremmling Register*, purchased the *Middle Park Times* from Mrs. Lew Wallace, “who had tried her hand running the paper after her husband’s death, but found it burdensome. Houston, who also had the *Kremmling* paper, merged them in January 1927 under the Middle Park name. Houston’s son, T. Wallace Houston, joined his father on the paper in late summer 1927. In July 1933, the elder Houston transferred title of the paper to his son. The younger Houston sold the paper January 12, 1934 to George S. Heaton, editor and publisher of the *Kremmling Record*. In November 1936, he consolidated the two papers:

Middle Park Times and Kremmling Record January 1937-1938. In May 1938, Heaton moved the consolidated paper to Kremmling with the name *Middle Park Times* (see Kremmling).

Grand County Messenger 1886-1889, J.R. Godsmark & Fred J. Perry, founders. Godsmark was a county judge and Perry was the county surveyor. To the start the paper, the two publishers bought the equipment of the defunct Teller City *North Park Miner*. Godsmark eventually realized the town would not continue to support two newspapers, so he took the *Messenger* and himself to Steamboat Springs. There he founded the *Inter-Mountain*, which was eventually merged into the *Steamboat Pilot*.

Grand County Advocate 1906-1909, Victor S. and L.E. Wilson, founders. (See Granby)

Grand County News 1940-1941, M.E. Cutler & J.K. Cox.

Kremmling

Kremmling originated in 1881 as Rudolph Kremmling's general store located on a ranch on the north bank of the Muddy River. The Kinsey ranch on the south side was platted for a town, so the general store moved across the river. The site was awarded a post office and Kremmling named postmaster. From 1891 to 1895 the town was called Kinsey City after the owners of the ranch that was platted for it, but the name Kremmling prevailed by 1896.

Cattle raising was the principal industry. The cattle were driven for shipment to Dillon, 45 miles away over snowy and rugged ranges. After the Moffat railroad in 1906, Kremmling was the county's central shipping point.

Grand County News June 1903-1907, T.J. Holmes, founder. For many years it carried a brand directory of local members of the Middle Park Stock Growers Association. Fred Perry was publisher 1906-1907. Victor Wilson, the energetic wordslinger from Granby, bought the paper in 1907 and changed the name to:

Kremmling News 1907-1923. Victor Wilson had his detractors, even before his later tussles with John Brown of the *Times*. One letter-to-the-editor published by the *Times* in April 1909 said "It seems to me that this man Wilson would die if he couldn't be trying to cut some ones [sic] throat all the time."

William H. Harrison, president of the bank of Kremmling, became publisher for the year 1912. George Edward Sand, a Republican newspaperman from Pennsylvania, bought the *News* and published it until 1923, when it was absorbed into the *Middle Park Times*.

Moffat Snow Plow 1904-1910, Frank V. Spring.

Kremmling Register 1925-1927, John L. Graves, founder. Graves sold the *Register* to Thomas Houston in 1927. It was merged with the *Middle Park Times* (then still in Grand Lake).

Kremmling Register #2 ? April 8-August 16, 1927. June Oakes, founder. *Colorado Editor* articles document the short life of a new *Register*, established and edited by Mrs. Oakes, formerly of Montana.

Kremmling Record November 1931-November 1936, George S. Heaton founder. An Iowa native, Heaton thought Kremmling would be a good field for a paper, having been without one for some years. He expanded his holdings in 1936 by buying the *Middle Park Times* and merging in the two papers. Two years later he moved the paper to Kremmling as:

Middle Park Times May 26, 1938 to present. From the *Grand Lake Prospector* 1882, to the Hot Sulphur Springs *Middle Park Times* to the Kremmling *Middle Park Times*, it is the oldest newspaper in Grand County. It has also been known as:

Middle Park Times & Kremmling News 1933.

Middle Park Times & Kremmling Record 1936. Joe M. Lundburg bought the paper from Heaton July 30, 1945, and published it until February 1949, when he dealt it to Mr. and Mrs. George E. Hamilton. They sold to M. Paul Way in May 1949. Way had the longest run as publisher of a Grand County newspaper to date. He sold the paper in April 30, 1966 to Bob Sweeney, who had a chain of Colorado newspapers. Sweeney sold the *Times* to Ed and Martha Quillen in 1975. They in turn sold in September 1977 to Haynes and Norma Jean Dawson. William Potter Johnson bought the *Middle Park Times* and *Granby Sky-Hi News* in April 1980. Chris Tracy was named editor. John M. Young

was publisher in 1982. Patrick Bower was named general manger in 1986, and became publisher by 1991.

Pearl

Pearl was founded on the promise of copper, and died of discouragement. A mining boom was expected when copper was discovered in 1900 and six mines, operated by steam power, were developed. A smelter was built in 1905, but it ran for only one day, abandoned because of the high cost of transportation. Laid out as a mining company town, Pearl formed a town government in 1902. It has one newspaper:

Mining Times September 1901-1906. The Pearl Townsite Company, publisher. Mark Crawford was editor in 1905. W.A. Knapp was editor when the *Mining Times* was discontinued.

Teller

Teller City was established in 1879. After the Grand Lake Fourth of July murders in which some of its residents and the newspaper had some role, Teller faded away. Reports of rich silver deposits were the magnet that drew people to Teller City. The camp was named after U.S. Senator Henry M. Teller, the "Silver Senator," a champion of free silver.

Grand County Times May 12, 1881-1882. A society note underscored the shortage of women in camp: "At a recent dance, some male dancers wore scarves around their arms to indicate they were 'women.'"

North Park Miner 1881-November 22, 1883, Mr. Clark, proprietor. The subscription price was \$2.50 a year. T.L. McKee and Mons C. Jharen bought the paper in April 1883. Jahren, a Norwegian-American, was elected mayor of Teller and stayed until the sad end. The *Miner* folded at the end of 1883, unable to turn a profit.

Winter Park

Winter Park began as a stagecoach station called Idlewild on the old Berthoud Pass wagon Road. Decades later the site was used as a construction camp during the building of the Moffat Tunnel. Denver Mayor Benjamin F. Stapleton and his Parks and Recreation manager George Cranmer pushed to develop the site a winter resort, and gave the place its more alluring present name.

Winter Park Manifest 1978 - to present, Jim Davidson, founder. Davidson sold the paper in 1978 to Virginia Miller Cornell, whose family had built the Miller Idlewild Inn in 1946. Cornell had a Ph.D. in Renaissance English Literature, but she “wore out the seats on many pairs of jeans learning the business because nothing in my background equipped me for the discipline of journalism,” Cornell would later say. Yet under her stewardship, the *Manifest* went from a “struggling, money-losing publication with 700 subscribers [to] a witty, literate, lively and informative newspaper with a circulation of 4,000, nearly a fourth of it out of state.”

Cornell sold the *Manifest* in the fall of 1983 to William Potter Johnson. Doug Freed was editor under the Johnson ownership from 1983 to 1991. Veteran newspaperman Patrick Johnson has been publisher since then.

Special Sources: "*Grand Lake: The Pioneers*," Mary Lyons Cairns, 1946.

"*Island in the Rockies*" Robert C. Black III published for the Grand Country Pioneer Society by the Pruett Publishing Company, Boulder, Colorado, 1969.

"Colorado Prospector" newspaper June 1980, June 1983, May, 1988.

CHAPTER XXVIII

GUNNISON COUNTY

Gunnison County owes its name to Captain John W. Gunnison of the U.S. Topographical Engineers, who headed one of four expeditions sent out in 1853 by Secretary of War Jefferson Davis to survey possible railroad routes to the Pacific Ocean. Known as a tough, serious New Englander of Swedish ancestry, Gunnison was born on a New Hampshire farm in 1812 and graduated second in his class from West Point.

The Gunnison expedition departed St. Louis for the Rocky Mountains on June 22, 1853 and proceeded to Bent's Old Fort, across the Arkansas River and the Spanish Peaks, through the San Luis Valley, over Cochetopa Pass, and into the valley of today's Gunnison River (Capt. Gunnison called it the Grand River.) From there the party moved into the high canyons of the Gunnison River, down the Uncompahgre, and over the real Grand [now Colorado] River, through the difficult and dangerous Ute country, and over the Wasatch Mountains to Mormon country. On October 26, 1853, as the Gunnison party broke camp, Capt. Gunnison and most of his men were ambushed and killed by a band of young Paiute braves at Sevier Lake in Utah. But Captain Gunnison, his job nearly completed, had found the western routes for immigrants, military roads, and a potential railroad route.

The county named for him first attracted prospectors in 1866 who found large true fissure veins. They built a log fort as a refuge and defense, but Indians burned the fort and drove the prospectors out in 1874. Settlers were persistent, and Gunnison County was authorized by an act of the first Colorado General Assembly on March 9, 1877. It was formed from the western part of Lake County. The fledgling camp of Gunnison was named county seat. Since then the county has decreased in size as parts of it helped form Pitkin, Delta, Mesa and Montrose counties.

Silver was discovered on Quartz Creek in 1878, and another rush began. Virginia City (Tin Cup) and Hillerton followed in 1878, then Ruby (Irwin), Gothic, and other boom-and-bust camps. Prospectors poured in. Newspapers of the day carried page after page of patent notices for the mines, and enthusiastically publicized the finds. One Gunnison editor set a line of type, and posted a notice near the composing stone that read: "Keep, in standing type, to be used at frequent intervals, this blurb:"

In the spring this camp will witness a great influx of capital and largely-increased prosperity.

In June 1881, the *Gunnison Review* predicted:

An inexhaustible supply of gold, silver, copper, iron, coal and lead [is] within a two-hour ride from town....Gunnison could become the "new Pittsburgh of Great West....

Rich as the Gunnison Country is in gold, silver and copper, THE REVIEW, will venture the prediction that in five years the coal and iron interests here will dwarf every other industry into insignificance.

But as quickly as the silver boom had begun, it collapsed in 1893 when the federal government repealed the Sherman Silver Purchase Act which subsidized the price of silver. Fortune seekers focused on other county resources -- gold, lead, copper, iron, manganese of iron, fire clay, graphite, bismuth, marble, aluminum, coal, copper, granite, molybdenum, sandstone, tungsten, and zinc.

Coal was discovered at Crested Butte in the 1880s. The town boomed. The Beaver granite quarry was opened specifically to furnish granite for the State Capitol Building in 1888. The town of Marble provided its unusually beautiful quality marble for the Colorado Capitol, numerous government buildings in the state, many Denver buildings, the Lincoln Memorial, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and other structures throughout the country. As the old mineral resources declined, new ones were found. The pick axes and burros of the 1880s were replaced by Geiger counters and jeeps. Uranium was discovered on Marshall Pass in 1956 during the Western Slope uranium boom. Molybdenum was also discovered.

Though ore was the main attraction, the county's fine grazing land had not escaped the notice of the agents and prospectors, who began establishing farms and ranches. The first Durham cattle were brought into the county in 1874. A variety of other breeds were tried and Herefords found particularly suitable. The cattle industry grew to feed the flood of prospectors and their mining camps. Once the railroad arrived, the cattle could be shipped out to other markets. Ranchers who used the land for

grazing took a dim view of the incoming homesteaders, sheepmen, and increasing government regulations.

In 1901 a group of nightriders, with blazing rifles and six guns, slaughtered more than 2,000 sheep, as they did again in 1904. A year later, a couple of cattlemen were expelled from the Stock Growers' Association for daring to raise a few sheep. The Colorado Night Riders held back the "menacing tide of migratory sheep for a while....[but cattlemen] were playing against a stacked deck--falling beef prices, depletion of their winter ranges by homesteaders, and opposition of the federal government...." Eventually a number of cattlemen switched to sheep for financial reasons.

Skiing, which had been a form of transportation in the 1870s, turned into a popular sport. A century later the Crested Butte Development Corporation created the resort known as Mount Crested Butte in 1970 to make recreation an important industry capitalizing on snow or "white gold."

Almont

Almont, established in 1881, was named after a Kentucky race horse belonging to rancher Samuel Fisher, Almont's founder. Arriving in 1879, Fisher bought a ranch, established a town on it, and got busy building roads. Fisher laid claim to 200 acres of government land, improved it, and by spring had built a toll road that extended up Taylor River to Spring Creek.

Almont was the end of a spur line for the Denver, South Park and Pacific railroad. Because the other camps had to bring their ore to Almont to ship, the town survived longer than some of its neighbors. Vernon Davis of Denver bought Almont in 1893 from Fisher, and turned it into a summer resort. Almont had one newspaper:

Marston Wizard May 1, 1905-1906. Vernon Davis was publisher in 1906. He quite possibly founded the paper to advertise his summer resort.

Bowerman

GOLD FIND UNPARALLELED! A gold find which staggers the imagination was made on the 26th of May by J.C. Bowerman. It is on the north prong of Hot Springs Creek, near the Pitkin Road, 32 miles from Gunnison. The news did not get out till last Friday, and by Sunday night, 500 claims had been staked in the neighborhood. A well defined vein of sugar quartz, honeycombing silver schist between a granite foot-wall and porphyry hanging wall, has been opened for 750 feet, and is known to continue for miles....The writer has seen it, and has seen assays by a reliable Pueblo assayer that ran 3598.76 ounces of gold--or a value of \$70,175.

Gunnison News-Champion 7/17, 1903

Bowerman worked his claim and sent for his wife to join him. She ran a boarding house so her husband would have "prospecting money," but, after years of non-productive claims, she could not keep her mouth shut when her husband struck it rich. She not only told everyone about it, she reportedly showed off some of the nuggets while on a shopping trip. Within weeks 500 prospectors had arrived to "share" her husband's gold hill before he could fence it off.

The first town officials were elected in 1904, the same year the first hotel was built. Another hotel was built, and two lawyers, three mining engineers, and a

newspaperman moved in. By 1907 there were about 200 residents. A second strike encouraged more newcomers, but the mines were not fortune-makers. People began moving out. Bowerman was deserted in 1911 after seven years. It had one newspaper:

Bowerman Herald August 1903-1906, Ellis Lore, founder and publisher until 1906. He previously worked for the *Gunnison Review*.

Crested Butte

The Hayden Geological Survey of 1871 came upon two huge mountain peaks resembling helmet crests, and recorded the "Crested Buttes"--Crested Butte and Gothic mountains--on its maps.

Extensive bituminous and anthracite coal deposits were found high in the rugged Elk Mountains in 1877. Within a year the town of Crested Butte had been laid out and a smelter built to handle a variety of ores mined at nearby camps. Crested Butte was one of the earliest and greatest coal camps on the Western Slope and a town company organized July 3, 1880. The *Elk Mountain Pilot*, then published in Irwin, said of Crested Butte in December 1881, "At night the place reminded us of a Pittsburgh by being illuminated with the flames from the coke ovens."

General William Jackson Palmer of the Denver and Rio Grande, and former territorial governor John Evans of the Denver and South Park railroads, bought land on which to build narrow gauge railroads. Palmer's D&RG tracks reached Crested Butte on November 24, 1881. The first load of coal sent out filled 13 railroad cars to Denver.

Palmer and an impressive group of associates formed the Colorado Coal and Iron Company (CC&I.) The Company's mines in southern Colorado counties were producing almost half of Colorado's total amount of coal, but Crested Butte had something the other areas did not: anthracite and exceptionally good coking coal. "In these great blessings, no place in the United States can compare with Crested Butte," said the *Denver Republican*. Silver king Horace A.W. Tabor, who had banking interests in Gunnison, underwrote the Bank of Crested Butte, giving it and the town a solid reputation, and opening doors for development.

Crested Butte was a Colorado Coal and Iron company town, though not a typical coal town. CC&I took care of business expenses and the building and maintenance of equipment, which many camps could not afford to do. It also controlled employee wages, which, down the road, posed a problem. In 1890 miners demanded--and got--a small temporary wage increase, but in less than a year it was rescinded. Riots and strikes were ahead.

The *Gunnison Review-Press* reported on a January 24, 1884 mine explosion:

Fifty-nine men were in a second of time ushered into eternity--fathers, brothers, sons--who left their homes but an hour before in robust health, kissing loved ones, bidding them good-bye, until they should return after their day's work in the evening. The terrible shock has cast a gloom over their beautiful city, and it will be a long time before they can hope to recover from it.

It is the most fearful disaster entailing a greater loss of life than any accident that has ever occurred in Colorado or for that matter in the Western States.

By 1885-86, Colorado ranked fifth nationally in coke production. Crested Butte's ovens monthly turned out 1,000 tons that sold for a premium price. The ethnic makeup of the miners began changing with the employment of more eastern European miners, the majority from Austria and Italy. The foreign-born, unused to the English language and ways, were an easy target, both to blame and to court for miners' unions, which listened to their grievances. Things came to a head in December 1891 when the miners went on strike.

Crested Buttians reacted with fear. The mayor wired fabled Gunnison Sheriff Roy Shores for help. The sheriff arrived immediately with an armed posse that the miners thought were scabs. A gun was fired, and shots returned. The miners scurried from the mine back to Crested Butte, and the sheriff took possession of the mine. Rumors flew and tensions rose. The miners threatened to blow up the mine. Guards were hired to protect the waterworks. Sunday church sermons urged everybody to avoid conflict. Governor John L. Routt sent in mediators. The miners got a raise, but were not happy that their pay henceforth came by check, not cash.

The CC&I reorganized as the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company (CF&I) and became the state's largest employer. World War I raised coal production levels, which helped the economy, but not enough to reach the "prosperous times [not known since] the boom days of [18]79 and '80" that the Pilot had hoped for. During the summer of 1952, the last load of coal was shipped out. CF&I and the D&RG pulled out of Crested Butte. As coal mining tapered off after World War II, Crested Butte flirted with a new industry:

skiing. During the pioneer era, the long, narrow, Norwegian-style skis were sometimes referred to as snowshoes. As early as the winter of 1880-1881 there were meets, races, prizes, broken legs, and skiers from neighboring towns. In November 1883 a baseball game was played on skis.

Still, the "bright future" was not forgotten. The *Crested Butte Chronicle* said on July 4, 1980:

Crested Butte is a microcosm of America; it is a living testament of the world's greatest experiment in democracy. But even more, it is a pledge to our forefathers; a covenant to seek new frontiers within which individuals can grow and prosper. The land can no longer be exploited and, instead, the new frontier lies within ourselves; to learn to live with our fellow human beings and our benefactor, the earth, in harmony.

Crested Butte Republican October 5, 1881-September 26, 1886, George H. Holt, founder; Crested Butte Publishing Company, publisher. The first issue explained that the editors had "impatiently borne long and vexatious delays in the receipt of our material, but cannot wait longer and [the paper] appears in partly borrowed dress." Holt bought the *Gothic Miner* about the same time, and on November 12, 1881, there was an announcement that the *Republican* and the *Gothic Miner* had consolidated for the winter, and the latter's name appeared in the nameplate.

George W. Temple and John Wallace Ohl, who had been with the *Gunnison Review* since its inception, took charge of the *Republican* in March 1882. Ohl was editor while Temple handled the business and printing sides. The *Review* couldn't pass up the chance to call the two "the Republican boys who sold themselves to the Democratic

ring." This apparently didn't bother "the boys" who didn't get around to changing the newspaper's name for another year and a half, to: **Crested Butte Gazette** October 6, 1883-May 1886, with a companion:

Daily Gazette December 18, 1884-1885, Temple & Ohl, publishers. The weekly *Gazette* used the same format as its parent, but the politics were now Democratic. Ohl was still editor and Temple, manager. Still filling the county promotion void, the *Gazette* said it was time to get the county minerals on display wherever possible and show the world "there is more in our statements than idle talk." Ohl left to publish the *Aspen Daily Democrat* in August 1885. John Phillips declared the *Elk Mountain Pilot* was responsible for the death of the *Gazette*.

Elk Mountain Pilot May 17, 1884-July 28, 1949, John Phillips, founder, moved the *Pilot* plant to Crested Butte from Irwin, where he had started it. It became the town's mainstay. An old photograph of the *Pilot*, taken in the winter, shows a small one-story building of perpendicular logs, with a two-story false front and snow up to the windows. Four overcoated, bowler-hatted men, one holding a newspaper, are shown, but not identified.

Phillips took up where the *Gazette* left off in promoting the town's great future, pointing out that it had the "best outlook," and confirming new-found mines and the rising price paid for coal. The *Pilot* played a significant role in Republican politics, but like other staunch Republicans, it objected to President Theodore Roosevelt's withdrawal of public lands for the new forest service. The *Pilot* saved its harshest words

for the 1911 Colorado legislature for "doing nothing but bickering with making or unmaking propositions which nobody could depend on...as what was done one day was torn up and thrown in the waste basket the next day."

The *Pilot* had a number of editors and publishers beside Phillips, who left in 1893 after selling the newspaper to Dr. J.W. Rockefeller and E.W. Gillet. Dr. Rockefeller, a long-time Gunnison County physician and businessman, was instrumental in bringing electricity to town in 1889, was president of the bank, and a town benefactor. He was Mayor of Gunnison in 1883, and was elected to the Colorado Senate in 1894. C.S. Adams and a Mr. Palmer became owners in 1895. They either sold or leased the *Pilot* to Frank Sanger 1896, but were back as publishers by 1898.

Charles L. Ross bought the *Pilot* on January 10, 1899. Ross, who grew up in Crested Butte, had done well. He owned a movie theater, held municipal office, and was Republican county chairman, secretary of the Light and Water Company, vice president and director of the bank, and president of a major coal company. The latter company evidently borrowed heavily from the bank, which failed, overshadowing all of Ross's achievements.

Ross leased or sold the paper to Ed L. Morris in May 1902, and to Will and Minnie Decker the following October. S.C. Robinson bought the *Pilot* on February 24, 1903, publishing the paper until 1916. L.E. Gavette was editor from August 1913 to September 1914. Josephine L. Wise was editor September 1914-September 1916.

Newspaper historian Walter Stewart says Lee Cox bought the *Pilot* in September 1920 but sold it the following March to H.D. Mace, who in turn sold it in September to William von Mueller. Newspaper bibliographer Wallace Rex does not list Mace, but says von Mueller and E.H. McDowell bought the paper in 1917.

Charles T. Rawalt, who had been publishing newspapers in Gunnison since 1891, bought the *Pilot* in 1918 and published it until 1933 when it was purchased by another long-time Gunnison publisher, Henry F. Lake Jr. After Lake died in February 1948, his son, Rial Lake, was publisher until October when he sold the *Pilot* to Wallace Foster, who also bought Lake's Gunnison paper. The *Pilot* ended "suddenly" in July 1949.

Crested Butte Pilot #2 November 17, 1972-1985, Sandra and William Hickok, founders. Ted Hoeller and Jean Paul Simille bought *Pilot #2* from Sandra Hickok in February 1977. Suzanne Lambert bought Simille's interest in the summer of 1977. Sharon Hoeller was managing editor in 1977. Jane Ervin bought Lambert's interest in January 1978. Jane Ervin was editor and Lee Ervin publisher in 1979. The *Pilot* merged with the *Crested Butte Chronicle* in 1985.

Crested Butte Chronicle November 9, 1962-1985, Helen Mann, founder. Albert Fisher was editor in 1963, and Stanley Johnson was publisher in 1965 when the *Chronicle* was sold to Fred Budy, owner of the Gunnison Globe Company. Budy moved the operation to Gunnison. The *Chronicle* moved back to Crested Butte in the summer of 1968.

Myles Arber bought the *Chronicle* from the Globe Company in December 1971. Gil Hersch, formerly a New York lawyer, joined the staff as editor in the fall of 1977, and then bought the paper from Arber in December. Arber repurchased the paper in January 1983 and named Paul Anderson editor. *Colorado Editor* reported that Arber had "achieved notoriety" for coverage of a controversial mid-1970s Crested Butte ski area expansion, involving Howard "Bo" Callaway, then President Gerald Ford's campaign manager. Arber bought the *Pilot* and the two papers merged as:

Crested Butte Chronicle and Pilot April 1985-to present. Arber was publisher, and Sandy Fails, editor. Lee Ervin remained on the staff as a contributing columnist and writer; he was named editor in 1986, a position he held for 10 years. Arber sold the *Chronicle & Pilot* to Fails and Michael Garren in December 1991 after a palace revolt. It began when Arber fired Ervin, followed by "irreconcilable differences [and] subsequent miscommunication and growing ill will." The entire staff resigned, but "after a fast-paced soul searching," they decided to either buy the paper or start their own. While negotiations to buy were underway, the staff set up a temporary office in Ervin's living room and printed a first issue of their new paper:

Crested Butte Standard December 20, 1992. As described later:

The first and, it turns out, the only issue of the Crested Butte Standard was published. The edition was born out of uncertainty, bravado, community spirit, self interest, deep fear and, if that's possible, a little schizophrenia....

We decided to compete in the free marketplace against the Chronicle & Pilot which, of course, used to be ourselves.

It was stressed that the *Standard* was "locally-owned and employee-owned" and published by Standard Publications, a name that would be adopted for the *Chronicle & Pilot* publishing company. Garren was named publisher and Ervin remained as editor. In February 1996, DP News LLC, the parent company of the *Crested Butte Mountain Sun* and the *Gunnison Country Times*, purchased the *Chronicle & Pilot*.

Crested Butte Mountain Sun January 1981-February 22, 1996, Perkins Sams, publisher of the *Gunnison Country Times*, founder. The *Mountain Sun* was owned by succeeding publishers of the *Country Times*. Roger Morris was general manager of the *Mountain Sun* from 1988 to 1991. Jerry Brock, who bought the *Times* and *Sun* in 1990, was listed as president in 1992, with John Thomas, publisher, and Gay Porter Byerly, editor. Chris Hunt became editor in 1993. Kevin Wright replaced Thomas as publisher in 1994.

Ventana Publishing Company, publisher of the *Telluride Daily Planet*, purchased Brock's Gunnison Communications, including the *Sun*, early in 1996. Mike Ritchey was named publisher, and Will Sands, editor. Sands later remembered trying to sell ads when he first came to Crested Butte. He was told, "Who knows where the *Mountain Sun* will be in a month? The *Chronicle & Pilot* is Crested Butte's paper."

The *Crested Butte Mountain Sun* set on February 22, 1996. Mark Reaman and Roy Huffstetler were named co-publishers of the merged papers. Between them they had 24 years of newspaper experience on the *Chronicle & Pilot*.

Crested Butte Weekly Citizen September 6, 1900-1907, Sylvia Smith, founder. A milliner who liked to travel, Miss Smith had no newspaper experience. In 1906, Smith moved to Marble and gained everlasting fame. (See Marble.)

Crystal

Prospectors found gold Crystal during the 1860s, but not until rich silver was found along Rock Creek in the summer of 1880 did the camp develop. By the fall of 1880, prospectors had also found a crystal-like quartz which gave a name to the small settlement, Crystal City. It prospered into the 1890s. Hemmed in by high mountains and a road that went straight up, Crystal was not easily accessible. The isolation didn't stop prospectors, but it did slow down development. Silver, lead and zinc were mined until the panic of 1893. One of the most productive mines, the Lead King, continued to be worked until 1913.

Crystal River Current October 2, 1886-1892, A.A. (Al) Johnson, founder. Joseph A. Bray was manager. When brothers Al and Fred Johnson decided Crystal needed a newspaper, they promptly brought in a press and set up shop. They used the first issue to say "HOWDY! We are little, but, O My!"

Al Johnson, a Canadian, was editor, postmaster, storekeeper, hotel keeper, and miner in Crystal. George Irwin called him the "leading spirit of the place." Fred Johnson was a mail carrier, who used snowshoes in winter, when he skied through up to 50 feet of snow. Joseph Bray was a Crested Butte boy who worked on both the *Gazette* and

Pilot. He ran the *Current* for a time when he was just 15 years old, and later worked for the Gunnison *People's Champion*. In 1892 the paper was moved to Marble.

Silver Lance December 29, 1892-October 20, 1899, George C. Rohde, founder. The *Silver Lance* espoused the Populist Party. Rohde thrived for seven years as the "stormy petrel of newspaperdom on the Western Slope." The paper ran a "Confession of Faith" [Populist] on the front page, or somewhere in the paper, almost every issue:

We believe:

That metallic money is a fraud.

That private property in land is robbery.

That protective tariffs are a delusive sham.

That our patent right system is a useless steal.

That paper money is the best that can be made.

That the government should own the railroads.

That the products of labor should not be taxed

That the SILVER LANCE is the newspaper of this section.

That human ignorance is the sole cause of human misery.

That Crystal will soon be one of the greatest mining camps in Colorado.

That free coinage of silver is essential to the present prosperity of the west.

Rohde used harsh words against the legislature, which was not very co-operative with Gov. Waite:

We are--whether consciously or not--a race of robbers. Reciprocal theft is out profession....But we are told that we must not call a thing a robbery unless it has been declared by man-made statutes. Bosh! There is a far larger percentage of thieves, as a rule, in our legislature than there is outside of them....Legalized robbery must end and to point the way we propose to speak God's truth in plain English.

The *Denver News* and *Denver Sun* particularly irritated Rohde. He called them "dumb as an oyster" with "hypocritical pretensions of morality" who looked the other way while police protected the dregs of Denver. He called their reporters "paid assassins of character [of Populist office holders]" and accused them of willfully assassinating the character of others for "political and private ends."

Rohde sold the *Silver Lance* to Wise and Eaton in 1894, and founded the *People's Champion* in Gunnison, where he still advocated populism, but left the management to others. Mrs. J.L. Wise was publisher in 1896, and George C. Eaton and Frank I. White, publishers in 1897. Eaton merged the *Silver Lance* with the *Marble Times* in November 1899. (See Marble.) Eaton and Evan Williams of the *Marble Times*, though of opposite political views, felt one paper would survive, but two would not. The *Gunnison Tribune* agreed, saying "the division of patronage made close picking for both." Marble was prospering more than Crystal.

Dubois

Dubois was one of a series of mining towns which sprang up in the early 1890s. Laid out in 1894, Dubois's first two years were good, but capital was lacking for proper development. Without development neither the mines nor town could survive. Dubois did incorporate, and it had three newspapers.

The Dubois Chronicle April 14-December 22, 1894, John Metzner and Henry Olney, founders. The *Chronicle* was "mildly" Republican, but "tolerated" Populist activities. By the end of July, the paper was half its original size because it was short of

newsprint and other supplies due to a railroad strike. The *Chronicle* lasted until at least December 1894.

Pick and Drill December 21, 1893-April 14, 1894, Charles Rawalt and a Mr. Watkins, founders. It was probably printed at Rawalt's *Gunnison News* plant. There were also *Pick and Drill* newspapers at Kezar, Spencer and Gunnison, as each town boomed.

Dubois Journal 1894-1895.

Gothic

Gothic, a promising small mining camp north of Crested Butte, was founded in July 1879. Despite gold, silver and copper mines, miners abandoned the town before the snows came due to an Indian scare. The Gothic City people returned in the spring, along with newcomers and a newspaper. The *Hillerton Occident* made a captious comment:

We'll bet, by Goth (hic) there isn't enough silver in the lode to make a thimble, and yet the tenderfeet fortune-hunters of this camp and elsewhere "rushed" as usual. A flock of sheep following a bell-wether is a fitting comparison to the way our tenderfeet follow a new excitement.

The *Occident* was wrong. The ample silver was so rich, it ran more than \$15,000 per ton, and nearby camps were almost deserted as miners rushed to the new field. They surveyed the town site which was surveyed, platted and official in May 1880. That year Gothic proved to be the richest city in Gunnison County. At its peak, the camp claimed a population of 8,000, undoubtedly a figure from the town fathers counting every person in the hills and then some. Gothic was a lively town until 1884 when rich

ore played out. The town hung on until the late 1880s when the Sylvanite lode closed. People started to leave until only one man remained, firm in the belief there would be another boom.

The revival finally came when the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory opened in Gothic for the advanced study in plant and animal life.

Elk Mountain Bonanza June 12, 1880-March 26, 1881, Bonanza Publishing Co., Rufus Choate, editor and manager. J.E. Phillips, editor of the Irwin paper which came out ten days later, states that Willis Sweet, backed by H.A.W. Tabor, started the *Bonanza*, and Choate was a later editor.

A Saturday paper, the *Bonanza* was Republican in politics, and half patent material. Printing costs were one of its problems. Choate complained in August 1880 that "It takes more money to publish a paper in a mining camp than we ever supposed possible. You can pull the camp till doomsday, and then search your pockets in vain for a nickel." On March 26, 1881, it was announced that a new name heading had been ordered from Chicago, and the next issue would carry the name:

Gothic Miner April 2-November 5, 1881, continuing the volume and issue numbers of the *Bonanza*. It was the same size, same appearance, and same management as the *Bonanza*. In July, 1881, E.T. Chester bought the *Miner*, but sold it in August to George H. Holt and J. H. Fletcher. Holt was publisher, Fletcher, editor

Holt founded the *Crested Butte Republican* on October 5, 1881, and on November 5 merged the *Gothic Miner* into the *Republican*. It may have been time. A "Gothic Notes" in the *Republican* in December reported that there were fewer than 50 people in Gothic. The *Gothic Miner* name was added to that of the *Crested Butte Republican* with the explanation that the two papers had been consolidated for the winter. It never returned to Gothic.

Silver Record, June 24, 1882-1886, C.M. Waggoner and John S. Cassidy, founders. J.H. Fletcher, formerly of the *Miner* was assistant editor. Lewis A. Wait and George J. Jones were listed as co-owners with Waggoner and Cassidy by newspaper bibliographer Wallace Rex; they may have bought out their partners in October.

In September 1883, the Gunnison *Review-Press* praised the "immense amount of interesting and valuable mining news" in the *Record*, and, a few months later, pointed out that the paper was issued "way up near the summit of the range, where the snow is from three to six feet deep, but it manages to get out a very creditable number, and gives a good report of the mines each week." It evidently wasn't easy, because Wait wrote in October 1885 that "We have lived on Copper Creek soup, Gothic scenery and the promise of business subscriptions for three years and we have no idea of being started out for the next century." The *Silver Record* ended in 1886. The *Review-Press* reported in December 1888 that Wait had quit the newspaper business and was endeavoring to make "an honest living pounding the drill."

Gunnison

We went to Gunnison in April 1874, and located the town, built roads, bridges, etc. Shortly after the arrival of the colony it disbanded, some remaining in Gunnison as ranchmen, others going to the mountains to prospect for minerals. Following in the wake of this colony came the horde of miners, stockmen, etc....

Sylvester Richardson

Silver was the spark that propelled Gunnison, but Richardson had bigger plans. A fast-learning geologist, Richardson was in the party that discovered silver along Spring Creek and large coal deposits near Crested Butte on a scientific mineral expedition in 1872. Cold weather set in, and the group returned to Denver where most of the men went bankrupt.

Richardson saw the Gunnison site as a place that would have easy access to the mineral discoveries, but he also saw the potential for agricultural development. Richardson had faith in Gunnison country, but it took a couple of years for him to raise the capital to form the Gunnison Colony, "a motley crew of twenty" men, who left Denver on April 10. Delayed by weather and the fear of Indian territory, the group arrived May 21, 1874, at the selected site. Richardson laid out a town, but soon realized that without more people or businesses there wasn't much need for a town. Richardson saw to the building of a saw mill, a bridge across the Gunnison River, and cabins. He gave up his hope for an outstanding farming area, realizing the land was better suited to ranching.

The Gunnison post office opened October 2, 1876, providing direct mail delivery instead of having to go through White River. The "cluster of rude cabins" that was Gunnison was voted county seat in May 1877. The prospect of railroads exacerbated dissension amongst residents about the lay-out of the town, and a new town company was formed. Richardson surveyed his second Gunnison town in 1879.

The new company included Richardson, former Governor John Evans of the Denver South Park & Pacific railway, Alonzo Hartman (the original--and most prominent rancher for many years), and newspaper publisher Henry C. Olney. The new town was laid off in 1880 by Olney, Hartman, J.R. Hinkle, and another early rancher, James P. Kelley. It was named West Gunnison. Newspaper historian Alice Spencer described the new Gunnison:

In the spring of 1880, the Gunnison boom was in its heyday; the iridescent mining bubble was afloat...hordes were swarming into the land of promise. Long lines of covered wagons filled the road from the east. It became impossible to find room for camps along the river. A town sprang up overnight; only traitors questioned the glory of its future. Where was there a more promising field for journalism? To go west and grow up with the country might apply to newspapers as well as to men.

Sure enough, Gunnison had two newspapers within weeks.

In 1880, the Bank of Gunnison was organized. Silver king H.A.W. Tabor was chairman of the board of directors (Tabor, his wife Augusta, and DSP&P railroad director David H. Moffat were all stockholders.) About the same time, E.A. Buck, a New York editor and financier, arrived in town to buy the *Gunnison News* and considerable real estate, link the surrounding camps with 250 miles of private telegraph lines, and donate the first church bell in town.

Because West Gunnison had the railroad, stage, and telegraph facilities, it flourished. The original Gunnison couldn't keep up. The two towns merged in 1882.

The brick jail and courthouse were the scene of great excitement in the summer of 1886. Accused man-eater Alferd Packer was incarcerated in the jail awaiting his second trial in Gunnison. The *Review-Press* covered the trial comprehensively until the Judge gave Packer 40 years in prison and he was "led away, and the curtain fell upon the greatest tragedy of the nineteenth century."

In 1901 the legislature authorized the establishment of a college in Gunnison, but Colorado State Normal School did not open until 1911. Today, as Western State College, it is the oldest and largest institution of higher learning on the Western Slope.

Gunnison News April 17, 1880-June 11, 1881, Col. W.H.F. Hall, founder. Col. W.H.F. Hall, a former correspondent for a Cincinnati paper and editor of the *Pueblo Bulletin* and *Pueblo Republican*, arrived in Gunnison in 1878 from Lake City. Hall ordered printing equipment from Chicago and set it up in one of the two rooms in his cabin. He had his office and was ready with copy, but there was a slight problem. Hall could not set type or run a press. Fortunately John E. Phillips was in Gunnison waiting for materials to start his own newspaper in Irwin and was hired to help produce the first edition, which came out on Saturday April 17, 1880. Newsboys delivered the seven-column paper by Indian pony. Phillips also stayed to help on the second issue, but Billy Milburn and Fred Dickensheets came from Denver to help through the summer, so Phillips went on to Irwin. Milburn was later a foreman of the *Denver Post* composing room.

Dickensheets, who had just arrived in Colorado from Scranton, Penn., was later with the *Denver Republican* for 40 years.

On May 15, Hall announced that he had sold three-fourths interest in the *News* to J.H. Haverly, C.S. Boutcher and E.A. Buck. Colonel Jack Haverly was a former minstrel show end man. Elisha A. Buck was a New York publisher, and C.S. Boutcher, an editor from Pennsylvania.

Buck invested a reported \$150,000 in Gunnison, owned Buck's Addition where he planted the 1,000 shade trees, subsidized the fire department, strung 250 miles of telephone poles to neighboring camps and Aspen and Leadville, and proposed building a private railroad line to the mines, if that was the only way he could get there. He donated the first church bell in Gunnison, in time to ring out the year 1889. He owned the famous Bullion King mine at Irwin, and other prosperous mines, ranches, saw mills, town lots, and coal fields. He was an absentee benefactor, but his influence and money, along with the respect in which the county held him, were a key factor in Gunnison's development.

Buck obtained full ownership of the *News* in February 1881. In May, he announced the purchase of the Gunnison *Democrat* and plans to consolidate the two papers. Elisha Buck was killed in a railroad accident in August 1893.

Democrat August 4, 1880-June 17, 1881, Frank McMaster, founder. H.R. Campbell was the editor. It was published by The Democratic Company, a courageous

move in a day when newspapers depended on patronage for legal publications in a Republican town, such as Gunnison.

In October a petition signed by 120 voters "praying for a voting precinct in West Gunnison was presented to the county board and the prayer granted." The **Daily Democrat** appeared on October 30 for the election campaign. McMaster's courage proved to be good sense: The 360 votes in Gunnison and 126 in West Gunnison elected the entire county Democrat ticket, although President-elect James Garfield was a Republican. The *Review* demanded to know how much the *News* had paid for the whiskey to buy votes.

At Christmas the *Democrat* issued a 16-page holiday edition, boasting that it ran "20,000 impressions on a hand press, entirely in our own office." The issue carried extensive coverage of the surrounding camps, an article on the county's mineral wealth, another on "Gunnison County's Curse"--the Utes--and patent national news.

On May 11, 1881, there was a brief announcement from McMaster that the "present proprietors of the *Democrat* close with this issue. It will be continued by Mr. E.A. Buck who has purchased it, and be merged with the *Gunnison News* which will take over all subscriptions" and, hopefully, the *Democrat's* patronage. McMaster later went to the *Montrose Press* to work for C. Sum Nichols.

Gunnison News and Democrat May 21-June 11, 1881, weekly.

Gunnison Daily News-Democrat June 17, 1881-1885.

Gunnison News-Democrat June 24, 1881-March 1891, weekly.

The press--a Campbell Press #24--had been shipped to Alamosa, then freighted over Cochetopa Pass to Gunnison. When the press was installed a man was hired to turn a crank attached to the drive shaft of the press for power. Later a water motor was attached. The water went in one side of the motor, hit a set of rotary blades, and went through the other side into a deep pit outside the printing office.

After electricity was installed, the crank was kept close at hand, just in case the power failed. The Campbell was a "great improvement over the Washington hand press" used on the *News*. A November 1943 article in *Colorado Editor* gave the history of the press:

The press survived numerous accidents and recovered from frequent attacks of indigestion, caused by would-be printers learning to feed the press....Now and then it developed temperamental streaks. When the word was flashed in November 1918 that Germany had surrendered...the printer was at that very moment getting off the first turn of the weekly edition of the News-Champion. Suddenly a huge wheel on the Campbell flew off with a crash that sounded like a 21-gun salute....It was soon fixed up, and the paper came off with the big news.

In November 1943, after 62 faithful years, the press, a valiant old soldier, was sold for scrap metal, and replaced by a "No. 1 Miehle, a model of press equipment."

Upon purchasing the paper, Buck sent his own team to run it. N.P. Babcock, from a New York daily, was editor. M.C. Mallowney was city editor, and Frank Tanner, business manager. The lanky Babcock, dubbed the "tall darning needle" by Eugene Field, was treated scornfully in Gunnison. He was called "E.A. Buck's 25 cent man who was sent from New Yawk on a salary of \$50 a week to do the dirty work of the

democracy of Gunnison county," a "petticoated tenderfoot," and inventor of the "Babcock truth exterminator."

M.G. Mallowney, originally from Wisconsin, was named editor when Babcock left in 1882. On November 18, 1884, there was no newsprint, so Mallowney ordered the paper printed on coarse white cloth. Joseph F. Heiner succeeded Mallowney in 1888. Henry Ames became editor in the fall of 1890 but only lasted until March 1891.

When the *News-Democrat* folded, its rivals sympathized. Ouray's *Solid Muldoon* gave it credit for attempting to run "a six-column paper in a one-column town." The *News-Democrat* was sold in 1891 to Charles E. Adams (not the Los Pinos Agency's General Adams) and W. Henry Corum, who renamed it the *Tribune* (see below.)

Joseph Heiner revived the *News*:

Gunnison News October 10, 1891-November January 1901. It was just in time for a spirited election. A Republican observer said that the reborn *News* was "devoted to the promulgation of Democratic doctrine in general, and the merits of the county Democrat ticket in particular. The new paper will make a good fight for its ticket, and will doubtless secure some votes."

A **Daily News**, started in June 1894, ran through the November election.

C.T. Rawalt entered the Gunnison newspaper scene by joining the *News* staff in November 1891, staying until July 25, 1896. When H.C. Getty joined the staff is uncertain, but he retired in 1898. George D. Blake apparently bought the *News* at this

time. Henry Lake Sr. came into possession of the *Gunnison News* late in December 1899, and leased it to Ellis R. Lore who "continuously failed to meet his monetary obligations," according to Rial Lake. Lake Sr. decided to drop Lore's lease, and foreclose. "One quiet Sunday in late December of 1900 when Lore was 'in his cups' following a Saturday night of carousing, Lake and his son Henry, Jr. hired some local teamsters with wagons to help move the plant" to a building owned by the elder Lake a few doors down.

Lake Sr. asked the unemployed Lake Jr. if he "would manage the *News* for six months or so until" he could find a buyer. Lake Jr., a young schoolteacher, had doubts, but his father was persistent--and sagacious. The younger Lake not only made it pay, he made it a remarkable career for almost 50 years. On January 11, 1901, the *News* bought and merged in the *People's Champion*.

People's Champion 1894-January 10, 1901, George C. Rohde founder. The hard times of 1893 and the violent financial and political disturbances that accompanied them provided a fertile ground for Populism. The *Champion*, like the *Crystal Silver Lance*, also published by Rohde, was a political organ for the People's Party (Populist), supporting Governor Davis Waite, presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan, and a slew of lesser candidates.

Rohde's partners in the venture included C.T. Rawalt, Joseph Bray, J.E. Whipp, H.C. Getty, J.R. Hinkle and H.B. Perham. Rohde, who had earlier founded the *Aspen Union Era* with Davis Waite, left the *Gunnison* paper before 1897. Before leaving,

however, Rohde stirred up the political area until his contemporaries spent almost more time firing at him than at the Populists.

In the late 1890s, the *People's Champion* published *The Informer*, a school paper, started by Charles Biebel, which ran for about six months. Young Biebel explained that the 3-inch by 6-inch *The Informer* was printed on blue paper because it "symbolizes my feelings, and the size of the paper indicates the amount of patronage received."

Rawalt, formerly with the *Gunnison Tribune*, and Bray became publishers when Rohde left. Bray sold his interest to Guy E. Miller in October 1900. George O. Blake, who had recently sold the *Grand Junction Star*, joined the staff as campaign editor but left after the November election. Miller, who had been with the Hotchkiss *North Fork Times*, was co-publisher with Rawalt until 1901 when Henry Lake Jr. bought and merged the *People's Champion* with the *News*.

Gunnison News-Champion January 18, 1901-1975, Henry F. Lake, Jr., publisher/editor. Lake had barely gotten his feet wet in the newspaper field with the *News* when he had the opportunity to buy the *People's Champion*. He snapped it up, thus laying the foundation for a newspaper empire. In July 1904 he bought the *Tribune*, and in 1932, the *Republican*.

The *News-Champion*, under Lake, had a "trenchant and aggressive editorial and news policy." The paper published names of those arrested by revenue officers during the bootlegging era, and those cited by the Game and Fish warden for illegal hunting. In one case, the Game Warden asked the paper not to mention the name of a prominent

resident, who had been cited. The *News-Champion* ran the name on the front page. The culprit temporarily canceled his subscription.

Lake Jr. sold the paper in November 1911 to Charles F. Roerig, who sold it to Judge Clifford H. Stone, who sold it back to Lake in July, 1914. An outspoken editor, Lake "took on anyone with a negative view about the community," his son said. "He did everything in his power to build the welfare of the whole community." Lake was adamantly opposed to the Ku Klux Klan, and wrote strong editorials against it. While the KKK did burn several crosses on Gunnison lawns, "it never scared anyone into leaving, [and] the small town atmosphere of Gunnison kept the Klan in line," said Rial Lake.

Rial ended up in a Klan rally on the college campus. The Klan had hired the town band, in which Rial played, to lead the march of about 200 Klansmen. But what Rial remembers about the rally is that the band drum major set such a fast cadence that the student carrying the 40-pound horn had to stop to soak his feet in an irrigation ditch. When he caught up with the band, the footsore player had a fist-fight with the bass drummer, which was far more interesting than the KKK.

News-Champion promotion and circulation building ideas were often mentioned in *Colorado Editor*. In 1927, Lake got out "a very attractive and useful blotter [which] carries a schedule of telephone rates from Gunnison to all the important towns near Gunnison and the big cities. It is a clever scheme and will be religiously referred to....It is an example of ingenuity and can well be copied by other printers."

On January 20, 1932, Lake purchased the *Gunnison Republican* (see below), merging it into the *News-Champion*. *Republican* publisher Carleton T. Sills joined the staff as a news writer for the merged papers until May. Henry F. Lake Jr. died February 2, 1948. His son Rial, who had gone to work for the *News-Champion*, became publisher.

Wallace Foster bought an interest in the *News-Champion* in 1948 and later became full owner. Foster and both Lakes were presidents of Colorado Press Association. Add Charles Adams, who once worked for the *Tribune*, and Ken Johnson, briefly at the *Courier*, and the town gave CPA five presidents with a Gunnison background.

The *News-Champion* and *Courier* (see *Courier* below) combined plants in late winter 1954, but the two papers were issued separately. The ***News-Champion*** lasted until 1975. By that time, it had bought and consolidated the *Review*, *Free Press*, *People's Champion*, *Tribune*, *Republican*, *Elk Mountain Pilot*, *Pitkin Miner*, and *Gunnison Enterprise*. On June 23, 1975, Wally Foster sold the *News-Champion* and the *Courier* to Sams Communication. In July 1975, Gunnison's longest-running newspaper got a new name:

Gunnison Country Times July 1, 1975-to present. The announcement in *Colorado Editor* said the new publishers were James Allison, publisher of the Midland, Texas *Telegram*; William Woody, general manager of the Midland daily; and Perkins Sams of Midland and Almont, Colorado. Sams previously published a group of Houston area newspapers. Stephen Swan was named general manager, and Wally Foster editor. Sams

also bought the *Gunnison County Globe*, merging it with the *Times*. Mrs. Perkins (Elizabeth Bradley) Sams was publisher the first year of Sams' ownership, but was killed in an automobile accident in August 1976. Perkins Sams took over as publisher. Among those who worked on the *Times* for Sams were Gary Minor, Larry Sebring, Joanne Williams, and Roger Morris. John Paul Pitts was editor/publisher 1981-1984.

Jerry Brock, publisher of the *Golden Transcript*, bought the *Gunnison Country Times* and the *Crested Butte Mountain Sun* from Sams December 1, 1990. Brock earlier had published several papers in Douglas County. Morris remained as general manager of the papers. John Thomas was named editor in 1992 and was listed as editor/publisher in the 1993 CPA newspaper directory. Kevin Wright replaced Thomas as general manager, and Evan Lukassen was promoted to editor in June 1993.

The Daily Times June-September 1991, a five-day-a-week sister paper of the *Country Times*. The mini-tabloid was "basically a tourist daily," according to publisher John Thomas. Circulated free at motels, restaurants, businesses and campgrounds throughout the county, it provided information on tourist activities.

Ventana Publishing Company, owner of the *Telluride Daily Planet*, purchased the *Country Times*, and *Crested Butte Mountain Sun* from Brock in January 1995. Mary Vader was named interim editor. Steve Reed was named editor later that year, and in August 1996 was named publisher. Reed had worked on several Texas newspapers, and for United Press International in Dallas, Houston, London and Moscow. The company name was later changed to DP News, LLC.

The *Country Times* switched to a Monday through Friday publication on October 29, 1993, but reverted to weekly publication September 18, 1997.

Gunnison Review May 15, 1880-July 29, 1882, Frank Root and Henry C. Olney, founders. It was published in West Gunnison. Olney had hoped to be the first to publish a Gunnison paper, but the slow-moving equipment meant the *News* took the honor four weeks earlier. The first issue of the *Review* off the press sold for \$100 at a public auction. Sylvester Richardson was the auctioneer and General George A. Stone the buyer. The money was donated to the Methodist Church. A daily was added a year and a half later:

Gunnison Daily Review October 11, 1881-July 28, 1882. The four-column *Daily* was published six days a week, excepting Sundays. Its debut gave Gunnison a second daily, the *News-Democrat* having issued its first daily the previous June. The Saturday issue, numbered as part of the *Weekly Review*, contained stories from the dailies of that week.

The newspaper equipment was shipped from Kansas to Pueblo on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad. From there it went via the D&RG to Alamosa, by mule team to Saguache, over Cochetopa Pass, reaching Gunnison, a distance of 150 miles, on April 28. Because there was no stage service, Frank Root and his 15-year-old son Albert walked the 75 miles from Saguache to Gunnison.

Henry Olney was already in Colorado where he was publishing the *Hillerton Occident*, and living in Lake City where he owned the *Silver World*.

No building in Gunnison was suitable, so, as Olney remembered:

The equipment was unloaded on the dirt ground. A floor and foundation were laid for the building by May 3. The publishers set up the print shop and built the building around it, while the staff worked at setting type for the first issue. There were no shingles in town for the roof, which leaked during heavy rain and snows and was buffeted by winds before the first issue was out. During one drenching everybody in the office was "busy for a couple of hours waltzing back and forth [with supplies] to keep off the rain....Every type case was filled with water....We had an excellent time to study astronomy and navigation. After laboring day and night for two weeks, suffering all the inconveniences possible, being visited by frequent snow storms and heavy northwest winds, we finally got Vol. 1 # 1 out.

The seven-column *Review* was published Saturdays. The plant had two presses, one a hand press, and a crew of four in 1880. By September 1882 there were five presses in daily use by the paper and job printing department, and 20 employees, including the carriers. In summer of 1882 it merged with the nine-month old *Free Press*, a month after the *News* and *Democrat* merged.

Free Press September 10, 1881-July 29, 1882, Free Press Company, publisher. Southerland was editor of the four-column, four-page paper scheduled to appear on Wednesdays and Sundays for \$4 a year. Lute P. Bowen was editor on the second issue. J. Wallace Ohl became editor October 1881, and publishers George W. Temple and Marchand H. Lawall were listed beginning December 3. Ohl remained editor until the merger.

The Free Press was as strongly Republican as the *Review*, and shared the same optimism about Gunnison's future as the other papers. It pushed for fire protection, cleaner streets, and a historical society, a thoughtful suggestion considering the town was barely two years old.

Gunnison Review-Press August 5, 1882-December 20, 1890.

Daily Review-Press August 1, 1882-1886. The Lake City *Silver World*, which Olney also owned, said the *Review-Press* was "published by a stock company, limited to the stockholders comprising only former proprietors of the separate papers."--Olney and Root of the *Review*, and Temple and Lawall of the *Free Press*.

The *Review-Press* was a daily with a weekly issue. Over the years it was weekly, semiweekly, triweekly, and daily. In September 1882 the *Review-Press* boasted that it had "a larger patronage than any other daily newspaper in Colorado west of the range" and printed more papers daily than had ever been printed in the county in any two additions. The price had gone to \$2.50 a year, and there were an estimated 600 subscribers. The paper also carried its first photo, picturing the newly-installed Cottrell steam press.

Olney had sold his interest to his three partners by November 1882, when Lawall was listed as president, Root as secretary-treasurer, and Temple, manager. The first issue of 1883 listed A.B. Johnson as president/manager, and Frank Root, secretary and treasurer. The July 3 *Review-Press* announced it had been admitted to membership in the Western Associated Press, "secured at enormous expense."

Johnson went to California for the winter of 1884 and Root leased the paper. In March 1886, he "laid aside the stick and rule and went to work for the D&RG" in Gunnison. Johnson returned in April 1885, but left for good in July 1886. Olney came back to Gunnison in July 1886 and became president, manager and managing editor of

the *Review-Press*. Root was secretary, treasurer and assistant editor. Root, co-founder and rock of the *Review*, left in November to join his sons in publishing a Kansas paper.

After Root left, the paper the daily was suspended for good and the **Tri-Weekly Review-Press** was issued. Olney said he doubted a daily would be self-supporting during the winter. According to Alice Spencer, it was clear the "*Tri-Weekly* was also playing a losing game. Whole pages were filled with outside advertisements; others were patent; editorials had not the cheerful confidence of early years....The *Tri-Weekly* was clearly not receiving adequate financial support."

The *Tri-Weekly* ended in November 1889, after being published at a loss. The weekly *Review-Press* was losing ads to the *News-Democrat*. Olney sold the paper to C.E. Adams and W.H. Corum. In leaving, Olney, who had been crippled in a railroad accident, told of his "long and arduous years in the harness" going from printer's devil to editor, and said he was now through with newspapers, leaving it to the younger men. The *Review-Press* published its last issue January 10, 1891, but was reincarnated a week later under the new owners, and a new name:

Gunnison Tribune January 17, 1891-July 1, 1904, W. Henry Corum, publisher, and C.E. Adams, editor. Both men had been trained on the *Review* and other Gunnison papers. Adams, educated in Gunnison schools and a former printer's devil on the *Review-Press*, bought Corum's interest and took over as publisher in 1893. He was managing the *Pitkin Miner* on a lease arrangement when the first *Tribune* came out.

The *Tribune* was fortunate to get the lucrative delinquent tax list legal publication, sometimes filling three pages. Mining news was thoroughly covered, and the *Tribune* published a special eight-page issue devoted to the new mining districts, which sprang up after gold was discovered in 1896.

After 14 years with the *Tribune*, Adams sold it to Henry Lake Jr. Adams moved to Montrose where he became one of the most prominent publishers in the state. (See Montrose County.) The *Tribune* was merged into the *News-Champion*, and *Tribune* name ended.

Sun September 29, 1883-July 19, 1884, Sylvester Richardson, founder. A.W. Moore was publisher, with Sylvester Richardson, editor and proprietor, and C.A. Ward, associate editor. The newspaper nameplate proclaimed "Independent in all things, neutral in none." Richardson did not print accounts of murders because he didn't think it was proper for a family paper and might encourage crime among the young. To elevate knowledge and culture, he devoted considerable space to literary and scientific subjects. He wrote articles about early Gunnison, on which he was an authority, if not always an accurate one.

On December 29, *The Sun* announced it planned to publish a seven-column daily in the spring. But the daily never materialized, and the *White Pine Cone* reported on August 8, 1884: "The Gunnison *Sun* appeared as a half-sheet last week. *The Sun* shines but dimly in Gunnison it would seem. General business depression is the cause." It was

probably the last issue of *The Sun*. The Oehlerts newspaper guide gives the ending date as July 19, 1884.

Gunnison Empire January 19, 1917-August 8, 1929. William von Mueller, formerly on the *Salida Record* staff, founder. According to *Colorado Press*, he was a "good printer and a wide-awake hustler." E.H. McDowell bought the *Empire* at an unknown date, and sold it to C.T. Rawalt and Robert Potter in the spring of 1919. Rawalt kept the *Empire* going for a few more years, but sold the paper in August 1929 to Carleton Sills, who merged it into the *Republican*.

Echo September 14, 1932-December 1934, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Lickess, Sr., founders. The *Echo*, a small six by nine inch, four-column paper, was entirely hand set. Lickess noted that ever since he had started a Gunnison printing shop in February "hardly a day passed but someone would come in and all but beg us to start a paper." In January 1935, the *Echo* had a new name and co-publisher:

Courier January 10, 1935-July 1, 1975 Wayne Lickess, and Willis Gillaspey, publishers. The new paper was set by Linotype and was a larger size. Lickess and his wife Jennie bought Gillaspey's share after several months. In September 1945, James J. Smidl and Kenneth A. Bundy purchased the *Courier* from the Mr. and Mrs. Lickess, who were having health problems.

Bundy, who had been a photographer on the *Rocky Mountain News*, bought Smidl's interest in 1952. In July 1955, Bundy and his wife Virginia sold their stock in Gunnison Newspapers, Inc. to Mr. and Mrs. H.E. Holden of Loveland, who sold it, in turn,

to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace D. Foster. Foster continued as manager of the company, and editor of the *Wednesday News-Champion* and *Sunday Courier*. The newspaper plants were combined but the two papers published individually until Sams Communications bought both papers in 1975, and combined them, along with the *Gunnison County Globe* into the *Gunnison Country Times*.

Gunnison Advertiser December 20, 1881-November 1882, S.E. Dawson and Co., founder. A small sheet with few news items, the *Advertiser* was published semimonthly and monthly. Stough and Davis were later publishers.

Gunnison County Mining Journal November 18, 1882-1883, Major Hank Stephens Ehrman, founder. Ehrman was an acclaimed mining expert. The *Review-Press* said the paper was "neatly printed and ably edited." It was devoted exclusively to Gunnison County mining news.

Gunnison Republican December 4, 1884-May 21, 1885, C.S. Nichols, founder, president and manager. A.W. Moore was secretary and treasurer. Moore and F.A. Root of the *Review-Press* had feuded when both owned newspapers in a Kansas town. Moore was publishing a paper when Root moved in to start a more successful competing paper. Moore was forced to sell the *Republican* and its good will to Root for \$50.

Colorado Mining Journal September 1894-1885, C.A. Moore, founder. C.A. Ward, a "very able writer" was editor, assisted by W.C. Ditto. Ditto was mayor of Gunnison in 1904. The *Review-Press*, which wasn't sure the prospects for the new paper were very good, recommended that "The proprietor should hold on to the few dollars he has, and

not recklessly cast them in the wind. A mining journal in this county is a pre-destined failure."

Gunnison County Pick and Drill 1895-1896. Gunnison was the third stop on the *Pick and Drill's* four-city circuit. It evidently stayed in Gunnison until a new camp was flourishing enough for it.

Republican # 2 January 19, 1901-January 17, 1920, C.T. Sills, founder. Charles Sills, who arrived in Gunnison in 1880, had been in the real estate and insurance business, which he maintained after starting the newspaper. He was the chairman of the Gunnison County Republican Central Committee. Mr. Sills died early in January 1919 and was succeeded by his son Carleton.

In January 1929, the *Republican* bought and absorbed the *Gunnison Empire* and the *Pitkin Miner*. It also bought the Crested Butte *Elk Mountain Pilot*, but continued to issue that paper in Crested Butte. The *Republican* was purchased and merged into the *News-Champion* by Henry Lake in January 1932.

Top O' The World 1921 to present, Western State College student newspaper, weekly.

Gunnison County Globe May 23, 1956-July 1, 1975. Charles A. Page, Jr., formerly with the *News-Champion* was editor from about 1959 to 1960, followed by Fred Budy, who was editor/publisher until 1967. Jim L. and Twyla S. Fink bought the *Globe* in October 1967, and sold it in April 1972 to William H. James. Bill King, owner of several

Colorado papers, bought the *Globe* in January 1973. Sams Communications bought the *Globe* in June 1975, along with the *News-Champion* and *Courier*, merging the three into the *Gunnison Country Times*.

Community Herald 1984-by 1987, Gil Hersch, founder. Hersch, formerly editor of the *Crested Butte Chronicle*, forced to give up the *Herald* after he was seriously injured when his car struck a black horse standing in the middle of the road. The *Herald* was defunct by July 1987 when former publisher James Vincent Randazzo, leader of the Spiral of Friends religious group, was arrested in Mesa County on the charge of "sexual exploitation of children."

Gunnison Headlight, circa 1880, Colorado Headlight Publishing Co., W.A.C. Camplin, President. Alice Spencer lists this unusual paper. The two inside pages were full of high praise and plaudits for Gunnison. Page 4 was all local ads. The front page was blank, except for a nameplate with a picture of an engine in it. People were urged to write a letter on it and mail it as a Gunnison advertisement. It was used as stationery by the Mullin House about 1882.

Hillerton

Hillerton, two miles north of Tin Cup, appeared in 1879 and was named for Edward Hiller, financial backer of the camp. The town was incorporated by a group from Denver who believed that Hillerton would be bigger than Tin Cup. During the camp's first few months, building in Hillerton outpaced its neighbor. There was a smelter, a "commodious" hotel, a bank (opened by Edward Hiller), several sawmills, a variety of

businesses, a toll road that provided the quickest route to Crested Butte and Ruby (Gothic), and Gunnison county's first newspaper. But the bounty of mines was short-lived. Before 1880 was out, the newspaper and the residents moved to Tin Cup. Miners dismantled Hillerton's buildings to carry on the two-mile trip.

Visiting the district early in 1879, Henry Olney thought the place looked promising enough to support a newspaper. Olney got together the necessary printing equipment, but there were "vexatious delays on the terrible Cottonwood Pass toll road, a holy terror to freights." The press fell in the river, but Olney retrieved it and set up his outfit in the first--yet unfinished--building erected in town.

Hillerton Occident June 28-October 14, 1879, H.C. Olney, founder and proprietor. It was the first newspaper printed in Gunnison County. J.H. Kellogg was editor, and F.W. Parmlee, an experienced printer from Chicago was in charge of production. When the camp moved to Tin Cup, so did the *Occident*, "bag, baggage and cabin logs."

Irwin

Irwin, 30 miles north of Gunnison, was surveyed by a deputy U.S. mineral land surveyor in November 1879. People arriving the next spring would have missed the camp entirely had they not seen smoke curling up through holes in the deep snow drifts.

Irwin was named for Richard Irwin, a well-known roving prospector and mining correspondent. In the camp's brightest days there were six producing mines, all shipping out high grade silver ore.

Several satellite silver camps lay within Ute Indian lands so neither lots nor the town could be registered; when Gunnison County asked for tax payments, the camps refused because it wasn't in Gunnison County. The county prevailed.

For almost three years Irwin was "a brisk and promising camp" but by 1895 the population had dropped to 178, and to 45 in 1890. The exclusive Irwin Club reflected the town's decline, dropping from 100 members to five in 1884. The five, including John Phillips, decided to auction off the club furnishings and have a last oyster supper together. The sale netted \$9, but the remaining members were too sad to eat.

Elk Mountain Pilot June 17, 1880-May 10, 1884, J.E. Phillips and J.L. Lacey were printers with ambition in January 1880. They were working on the *Rosita Index*, when they decided to start their own newspaper. Phillips and Lacey brought some equipment from Rosita, but also ordered a printing outfit, including type, ink, and equipment, from S.P. Rounds of Chicago. After bad weather and shipping delays, the freight arrived on May 1. The two hauled everything to Irwin by ox teams, taking six days to go the 40 miles, a trip that cost almost as much as the printing outfit itself. But they could only get to the snow-line, three miles short of their destination. The people at Irwin, waiting impatiently for a newspaper, made snowshoes, strapped them on, and went out to meet their future publishers. Filling their pockets with type, strapping bits and pieces of equipment on their backs, and clutching pieces of the hand press under their arms, Phillips, Lacey and their eager potential readers, plodded into town. At times the angle of ascent was forty-five degrees, and the descent was over "an unknown depth of snow,

in a style peculiarly western, evincing pluck, energy and perseverance, American to the extreme" according to one observer.

By summer's end, the *Pilot* had its own frame building, was out of debt, and the six-column, four-page paper was coming out each Thursday. The press was later used for the *Gunnison Empire*. Phillips evidently bought out Lacey in the summer of 1881. When 1884 began, the exodus from Irwin was well underway. Phillips and the *Pilot* stayed until there was almost nothing left before departing for Crested Butte. He didn't miss an issue. The last Irwin *Pilot* was issued on May 10, 1884, the first one in Crested Butte on May 17. (See Crested Butte *Elk Mountain Pilot*.)

Kezar

Kezar was platted in 1891 by Gardner Kezar, one of the original settlers, who was engaged in ranching and stock raising. Never a large camp, Kezar was more focused on agriculture than mining. It had the advantage of a railroad; the track had been laid to Kezar by June 3, 1882. Kezar had one newspaper:

Pick and Drill 1894-1895. This is probably the same *Pick and Drill*, which was at Dubois 1893-1894, in Gunnison 1895-1896, and in Spencer 1896-1897. C.T. Rawalt's name has been connected to the *Pick and Drill*, but it is uncertain whether he was publisher or simply printed it at the Gunnison *People's Champion* plant, of which he was part owner.

Marble

It is my opinion that this field will in time be a direct means of employment to thousands...and in time, the average citizen of Gunnison may yet dwell in a marble hall...at a trifling cost.

Sylvester Richardson, August 1873

Richardson was part of a geological expedition in the Elk Mountains in 1873, who, with the aid of some prospectors, built a road over Schofield Pass. Richardson stayed after the others left, in order to explore more of the Marble area. Early prospectors were more interested in silver and gold than marble. But some paid attention when a publication about Colorado resources, in 1883 reported:

Immense [marble] beds are said to exist near the head of Rock Creek, in Gunnison County. It is described as a clouded marble in all colors, and forming superior building material.

No special effort has been made to utilize any of these valuable deposits, but the time is near when they will become prominent features of our industrial forces.

Some of the marble had pink, gray or blue serpentine spots in it. The Yule Creek marble was pure white. All of it was remarkably high grade and beautiful. Remnants can still be seen in what still stands of Marble itself, survivors of fire, heavy snow, rock slides, and time. The problem with marble is that it was hard to handle, and transporting it was a formidable undertaking where there were only a few rough trails and six months of bad weather. Afraid the town might die in 1883, a fantasizing reporter for the *Gunnison Review Press* wrote that roads were good, winters mild, snow slight, and the agricultural and industrial potential "unexcelled" in the entire state.

Untrue as it was, the first marble quarry opened just upstream in 1884. The *Marble Times* began a campaign for better roads serving the town, going so far as to accuse the county of misappropriating the road money due them. As late as 1897 mail and passenger service were by stage. The telephone reached Marble in 1895, before the train did. Appeals by the town fathers for rail service were heard, but the expense, weather, and other priorities kept even a locally sponsored outfit from laying track all the way to the quarries. It wasn't until November 23, 1906, that a train got there. The Crystal River & San Juan railroad arrived in town at 2 p.m. to "an enthusiastic celebration." The town of Marble was incorporated August 5, 1899.

The Colorado Yule Marble Company, major operator of the vast marble quarries, was hit by a strike over "poor wages and domineering bosses" in 1909, but the Gunnison County Sheriff talked the 45 armed strikers into returning to work. A week later 500 men struck, "demanding an eight hour day, time-and-a-half for overtime and double time for Sundays." Labor leaders arrived from the east, and Sylvia T. Smith was getting ready to restart the *Marble City Times* and become the prickliest thorn in Colorado Yule's side.

Almost everybody in town, except the independent Miss Smith, was either employed by, or dependent on, the Colorado Yule Marble Company. From the first issue, Smith's *Times* kept things stirred up, and she quickly became the most controversial person in the county. She pressed editorial attacks on Colorado Yule, accusing them of any number of transgressions, and sending copies of the *Times* east to

Yule stockholders and prospective investors. Heavy storms and slides in March 1912 wrecked the Colorado Yule mill. Smith was exultant. The company shut down for good in April 1917; other small mills had already done so.

After World War I some of the quarries re-opened, the population increased, and the marble for the Lincoln Memorial was shipped out. Another brief resurgence in 1929 fell with the stockmarket crash. It helped when marble workers arrived to quarry marble for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The huge blocks left Marble in February 1931.

A flood in 1941 shut the quarry and wiped out part of the town. Another marble company closed, and the post office closed in 1943. Many of the company-built four-room cottages were moved to Grand Junction. In 1945 another mud slide devastated what was left of the town of 40 people. The *Elk Mountain Pilot* compared the flood destruction to that left by World War II bombing raids.

Marble City Times 1891-1906, Evan Williams, founder. It is listed as *Marble City Times & Clarence Chronicle* in the Rex newspaper bibliography; it is listed in the Colorado Business Directory after 1894 as *Marble Times*. Williams, whom John Phillips called "the little Welshman," was the only publisher. In November 1899, the *Times* merged with the *Crystal Silver Lance*, then published by George Eaton. The merger of the two small papers was a matter of financial survival, and was well received. The paper was briefly called *The Marble Times and Crystal Silver Lance*. The last mention of the *Marble Times* in the Colorado Business Directory is in 1906.

Marble City Times #2 July 1909-March 22, 1912, Sylvia Smith, founder. The same time as the tumultuous Smith moved in, so did labor troubles. Smith's confrontational style upset powerful people in the town within a few months.

Her "Destiny keeps an appointment" headline in response to the snowstorm that destroyed the Colorado Yule mill was the last straw.irate officials called a meeting, urging every man and woman to be present, "BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE." After the resolution, listing the alleged outrages of Smith, 25 people were picked to present a copy to her, which she refused to accept. The following afternoon she was arrested and jailed, and the *Times* office taken over by the marshal. Smith eventually won a lucrative court settlement from several of her persecutors.

Reporting that Smith had won her "celebrated lawsuit," the *Gunnison News-Champion* said "Sylvia [should have] spending money for some time, and enable her to continue her campaign against the 'plutocrats and autocrats.'" Smith is believed to have stayed with relatives in Pueblo for a time, and done some free lancing for the *Denver Post*. She died February 27, 1932 at the age of 67 in Denver.

Marble Booster 1911-1917, Frank Frost, founder. Its purpose was two-fold: to support the town as strongly as the businessmen's association supported the *Booster*, and counteract the *Times*. The *Booster's* equipment is said to have been purchased from Colorado Yule, which had printing equipment because it foreclosed on a mortgage of the former owners of the *Times* (Williams and Eaton).

Frost promoted the town, took a progressive community approach, and said positive things. In short, he *was* the counterpoint to Smith. After the *Times* ran the 1912 avalanche story, Frost, printed and helped circulate a handbill calling the meeting against Smith. He covered the meeting in detail, including the names of all who signed the petition to ask Smith to leave town. It was a mistake. The *Booster* list was the source of names for proof in Smith's lawsuits.

Among the 14 defendants found guilty and required to pay judgments was Editor Frost. It cost him the *Booster*, which was attached by the Sheriff, who allowed Frost to keep publishing. The July 13, 1915 issue announced the seizure of the paper and printed "A Plain Statement by the Editor Concerning the refusal of the Colorado Yule Marble Company to Make Good Its Obligations in the Sylvia Smith Case and What Then Happened to Individuals."

Marble Age 1909-1910, Herbert H. Lynde, founder.

Marble Column 1923-1924, H.D. Pratt, founder. Pratt was a miner. Roy Shadle either co-founded or bought the paper almost immediately. He suspended it, however, discouraged by the "lack of sufficient patronage to make the business financially successful" and departed for California saying he was going to "lock the place and throw the key in the river," according to *Inter-Mountain Press*. He also owned the *Carbondale Item* and *Basalt Frying Pan*. Frank and Mary Pierce bought all three papers and consolidated them into the *Crystal River Empire*, published in Carbondale.

Marble Meow 1931, started by "a group of civic-minded individuals." It lasted long enough for the *Elk Mountain Pilot* to offer a compliment: "The general staff is to be congratulated on the snappy little paper they put out." The paper is mentioned in "Marble, Colorado: City of Stone," by Duane Vandebusch and Rex Myers.

Crystal River Current 1892-1906. Oehlerts lists this under both Marble and Crystal. A.A. Johnson, *Current* publisher, owned a good marble claim, but he lived in Crystal.

Ohio City

About 20 miles east of Gunnison, Eagle City was started in the spring of 1880, following the discovery of silver in the Quartz Creek district. The name Eagle City was changed to Ohio City because it was situated at the junction of Ohio and Quartz creeks. Once the silver boom died, the camp was ready for a gold boom in the 1890s. For a time, Ohio City was renamed Gold Creek (as was the nearby stream) but the name Ohio City resurfaced. Millions were produced in gold and silver during Ohio City's mining days. There was one newspaper:

Ohio City Times 1904-1905, E.R. Lore, founder. Lore, originally at the *Gunnison Review*, also published the *Bowerman Herald*, which lasted from 1903-1906.

Pitkin

Established July 16, 1879, during the silver rush, the camp was originally named Quartzville for nearby Quartz Creek. It was later renamed Pitkin, in honor of then-

Colorado Governor Frederick W. Pitkin. Newspaperman Frank Fossett, visiting in spring 1880, wrote:

Pitkin City has grown to be a lively and populous mining town in a few short months and boasts of a newspaper, and other institutions of civilization. It is the first settlement on the D.&S.P. road, on the western slope of the main range, being 42 miles from Buena Vista, 12 from Alpine Pass railroad tunnel, and 25 miles east of Gunnison.

In 1891 the Colorado State Fish Hatchery located in Pitkin. Hit by the silver crash in 1893, Pitkin hung on, and survived as a resort.

Pitkin Independent July 17, 1880-October 1884, F.P. Sheafor, founder. The *Independent*, proud of its camp, threw down the gauntlet to an older mining camp, Lake City. Said the *Independent*:

There is not now, nor has there ever been, a mining camp or district in Colorado where the average grade of ores it produced was as high as it is in the Quartz Creek district. I will wager a copy of the [Lake City] Silver World as long as it shall be published, that I can name fifteen mines within a radius of five miles of Pitkin from which the average grade of the vein will exceed that of any five mines you can name within a radius of ten miles of Lake City.

Much of the paper was patent material, but there were columns with catchy titles, such as "Pitkin Pellets" and "Mining Matters." The *Independent* was an early proponent of a miners' home, insisting "There should be an institution established as soon as legal authority can be obtained."

The *Independent* didn't publish every week during the winter, and in the spring of 1881 it was sold to J.B. Graham "for cash." After folding the *Independent* in October 1884, J.B. Graham joined the staff of the *Telluride Republican*.

Mining News October 21, 1881-June 1888, S.B. Porter, founder. The *Mining News*, a Republican supporter, cost \$4.00 a year, at a time when most papers charged \$3.00. Sheafor bought the *Mining News* in 1883, according to Wallace Rex. The paper was advertised for sale "at a great bargain" in February 1888. Evidently there were no buyers because the *Mining News* ceased publication in June 1888.

Pitkin Miner June 1888-August 1889, C.S. Adams, editor. (This is not the same person as C.E. Adams.) The *White Pine Cone* thought the paper was suspended because of "difficulties with the owner of the plant." The paper resurfaced:

Pitkin Miner July 1890-July 26, 1929, C.E. Adams. The *Cone* reported that Charles E. Adams of the *Gunnison News-Democrat* had leased the *Miner* plant and would resume publication. Adams, however, with his multiple activities, delegated others to run the *Miner*.

Ellis Lore and C.A. Fredericks, both from the *Tin Cup Times*, were proprietors in 1893. Lore was proprietor until 1898 when Maud Farley took charge. L.M. Nance was listed as publisher 1890-probably 1905; J.A. Wiseman was editor/publisher 1906-1918, followed by Ruby Corum, who bought the newspaper late in 1917 and the plant a year later. C.A. Rawalt purchased the *Miner* after 1920. C.T. Sills bought Rawalt's *Gunnison Empire* in 1929, as well as the *Pitkin Miner* and *Elk Mountain Pilot*, also owned by Rawalt. The *Empire* and *Miner* were merged into Sills' *Gunnison Republican*.

Pitkin Bulletin January 6-November 11, 1893, C.E. Adams, founder. The *Bulletin* was a branch paper of the *Gunnison Tribune*, but was suspended after the demonetization of silver late in the summer.

Sherrod

Founded in 1903 during the Bowerman boom, Sherrod was the most important satellite camp in its short three-year existence. W.H. Sherrod was one of the founders. Good gold ore had been found in late summer. Sherrod sprouted without much thought to the altitude (12,000 feet) or the weather (very cold), which prevented winter work. By 1906, the ores played out and the camp was abandoned.

Sherrod Review October 1902-1903, E.R. Lore, founder.

Sherrod News July 19, 1904-1905.

Spencer

Spencer, in the center of gold and copper mines, was established by gold miners in 1894, not far from Dubois. It was named for county clerk and recorder, S.P. Spencer. A promising new camp, it attracted businessmen from Creede who set up branch stores, including a dry goods store, a hardware store, a saloon, and an ore hauling service, and a newspaper from Tin Cup. Most of the buildings were made of logs.

The town did well for three years but in 1898 it was almost as dead as the disappointing mines. Spencer boomed again briefly in 1900 as a copper camp with 500

people. The copper mine shut down due to "too much litigation, too little capital and poor management." Cattle roam the area today.

Spencer Times October 1894-1897, C.A. Frederick, founder. Frederick, who had been publishing the *Tin Cup Times*, shut it down and moved the equipment to start the *Spencer Times*. Frederick's cheerleading began almost immediately: "Another winter will not have passed before the gold camp will be employing thousands of men and its output reckoned in the millions."

Pick and Drill 1896-1897. It was the last stop for the perambulating newspaper that began in Dubois in 1893.

Tin Cup/Virginia City

Tin Cup is the ghost town that refused to be one.

The favored story behind the name is that a prospector found gold-flecks as he swirled his tin cup in a stream. After Jim Taylor's find in 1860, only a few prospectors tried panning the difficult to reach stream. Taylor and two of his partners left to join the Confederate Army. After the war, Taylor returned to pan enough gold to live on, but he never found the mother lode. It wasn't until 1877 that the lode was found. Named the Gold Cup Mine, it was said to be the finest mineral lode discovered in the region; it sold for \$300,000 three years later.

Tin Cup sprouted in 1879 as a gold camp and at one time claimed to be the largest and richest camp in Gunnison County. Some of the town builders wanted a

more cultured name, so Tin Cup became Virginia City, an incorporated and planned community with wide streets, a water system, and a fire engine complete with leather buckets and a hook and ladder.

Tin Cup was noted for the heavy turnover in marshals--one after another--who lasted only a few months. Some met violent deaths; the others looked for less hazardous work. The gamblers and saloon keepers kept the marshals in check and the town wide open. Gradually, however, the sheer number of law-abiding miners and families moving into town brought law and order.

The name Virginia City was not acceptable to the post office department, already juggling towns by that name in Nevada and Montana. The post office changed the name back to Tin Cup in April 1880, but holdouts for Virginia City stubbornly used that name until July 1882. The town re-incorporated as Tin Cup.

Again like other camps, the prosperity didn't last. By 1900, Tin Cup was all but a ghost town. There was a revival in 1903, but in 1917 the "faithful" Gold Cup Mine shut down. A few people remained in Tin Cup the year round. More came in the summer for fishing and recreation.

Tin Cup Record May 14, 1881-July 22, 1882, Henry C. Olney, founder. Olney had founded the *Hillerton Occident*, but when that town moved to Tin Cup, Olney found it advisable to do the same. A picture instead of the words Tin Cup appeared in the newspaper nameplate. Olney was listed as publisher, and O.H. Violet, editor. Olney, a Republican, and Colonel Violet, an "old-line Bourbon Democrat," were an intriguing

combination. In August, Violet was editor and proprietor (a designation usually meaning publisher or owner).

In November Violet retired, admitting he knew nothing about the newspaper business and that the paper was suffering financially. The Colonel was replaced by Major Hank S. Ehrman, nicknamed "Gunnison Hank," who made it clear as he took over the *Record* that "We are no tenderfeet."

Ehrman had mining mania and would work in a newspaper office to earn the money to go off and prospect again. He slept and ate in the office, living on almost nothing, saving even more. A mining expert, Ehrman was a specialist on mining news and had personal knowledge of nearly every claim in the district. His writing, unlike many early editors, avoided insults to any camp or individual.

Colonel Violet returned in the spring to take back the paper, but he sold the *Record* in November 1882 to C. Sum Nichols, reaffirming, "We don't know anything about the newspaper business. Never did." Nichols, who did know the business, changed the name to reflect the leading industry:

Tin Cup Miner November 1882-January 1885, C.S. Nichols, publisher. Hank Ehrman leased it in the fall of 1884 for six months while Nichols was in Gunnison starting the *Weekly Republican*. Nichols was later in Durango, Montrose and Salt Lake City. The *Tomichi Herald* announced the death of the *Miner* in its February 14, 1885 issue, stating that in its place was the *New Democrat and Tin Cup Mining District Advocate*.

Mining District Advocate 1884-1885, Willis B. Ehrman, founder. Hank S. Ehrman was editor in 1885. The *Advocate* either changed its name or merged with the:

New Democrat March 21, 1885-June 1885, Henry Ames, Hank S. Ehrman, and Joseph Heimer, founders. Alice Spencer lists the paper as the *New Democrat and Tin Cup Mining District Advocate*. Bibliographers Oehlerts and Rex list each paper individually. The Tomichi *Herald's* announcement indicates the merger or name change took place, or was discussed, in February.

Garfield Banner September 3, 1881-April 29, 1882, A.E. Saxey, founder. The town of Garfield, named for President James Garfield, is in Chaffee County, whose newspaper history states that the *Banner* was started there and moved to Gunnison County. Saxey embellished the front page with Garfield's picture, set in a frame of stars, each one garnished with a letter of the words *E Pluribus Unum*.

The boosting *Banner* was concerned about negativity in November 1881:

A large proportion of the lawless and turbulent element which infested the camp a year ago and made life and property uncertain and unsafe have departed for other fields....Within the past month sales have been made aggregating about \$200,000....The amount expended in development during the past year is not far from a quarter of a million in dividends as soon as there is a certainty of a good and constant market for ore....

Evidently not all the rough element left, because the Gunnison *Review-Press* said in May 1883 that "Tin Cup is sitting in very early with her accustomed output of first class murderers....[We hope] the yield will not be as abundant as some previous seasons." President Garfield's death changed the newspaper name:

Tin Cup Banner May 6, 1882-1883, W.R. Newton and William S. Uhren, publishers, Joseph Cotter, proprietor. Uhren, a lawyer, kept up his law practice, and later moved to Oregon where he was active in politics. Cotter, the county treasurer was probably a co-owner. The ubiquitous Halsey Rhoads and James Riland filled in for Cotter as editors and leasees from May until sometime in October. Denver newsman Eugene Field, who practiced word-craft making snide remarks about newspapers, called the *Tin Cup Banner*, the "Tin Horn Banner."

Rhoads, an Iowan, left Tin Cup to buy the Denver *Rocky Mountain Herald*, which he ran for 30 years. James L. Riland, who eventually had an impressive number of important Colorado newspapers on his resume--*Colorado Springs Gazette*, *Aspen Times*, *Glenwood Echo*, *Leadville Herald* and *Leadville Democrat*--went on to found the Meeker *White River Review*, which he published for 32 years. W.B. Newton became the last editor/proprietor of the *Tin Cup Banner* in November 1882.

Tin Cup Report, summer 1890-1891, H.S. Ehrman, editor and probably founder.

Tin Cup Times 1890--September 1894, Ellis Lore, possibly founder. C.A. Frederick was publisher by October 1892, when he unsuccessfully ran for state representative on the Independent People's ticket. Frederick moved the *Times* in 1894 to the new camp of Spencer.

Tin Cup Times #2 summer 1896-?. Ellis Lore revived the original *Times*, but it may not have lasted through the fall.

Tomichi

A post office with the name Argenta was established in 1880 on the headwaters of Tomichi Creek. Several other names for the town cropped up as several rich lodes were found. They all merged into Tomichi on August 23, 1880. Perry Eberhardt, author of "Colorado Ghost Towns & Mining Camps," says the name is an Indian word for "hot water."

Tomichi flourished until the silver panic of 1893. The town was temporarily deserted for three years, but miners returned when mining was revived. The new boom was short-lived. The town of Tomichi was wiped out in a snowslide in 1899 and was never rebuilt. It had one newspaper:

Tomichi Herald September 18, 1882-June 6, 1885, Tompkins Publishing Co. The *Herald* was started in Poncha Springs in 1881 by Fred Tompkins, who had published several newspapers in Chaffee County. The *Tomichi Herald* was the same size and "general makeup" of the Poncha Springs one.

W.H. Baker was editor and manager in September 1884, and purchased the paper from Tompkins shortly after. The camp was declining but the newspaper was still publishing in February 1885, when it appeared half its regular size, and printed on stiff, yellowish wrapping paper. Baker explained that "the storm last night kept supplies from arriving. So our readers must be content with a half-size Valentine." The *Herald* was discontinued in June 1885. The *White Pine Cone* announced that it would honor *Herald* subscriptions.

Vulcan

Vulcan was the largest and most productive camp in the mid-1890s. Located, south of Gunnison in the "gold belt," the first strike was made in 1895, and a town was platted. Originally named Camp Creek, the name was changed to Vulcan, the Roman god of fire. Vulcan Crest and Vulcan Hill were nearby. For several years 200 men worked in the mines, shipping out two carloads of ore a week. All the mines were closed not too long afterwards. The Vulcan Mines company later bought the larger mines and produced copper, sulfide and quartz. The town lasted a little longer than the newspapers.

Gold Belt Enterprise 1896-1897, by McCain & Co., publishers. The name was changed to:

Vulcan Enterprise 1897-1898, McCain & Co.

Vulcan Times January 1900-1901, Robert and Rufus S. Crosby, founders. They were brothers. The *Times* claimed to be the "representative paper of the Southern Gunnison Gold Belt."

White Pine

The first prospectors at White Pine arrived in the fall of 1878, but it wasn't until the snow melted the following spring that anyone came to stay. Other people were close behind, and soon there was a lively camp, right in the center of the Tomichi District mines, which were rich in lead and silver.

One of the first residents was Henry F. Lake Sr., who was elected president of the mining meeting held to organize the district in August 1879, at Wavell & Lloyd's cabin. Henry Lake arrived in June, pitched a tent, and, with two partners, located the first paying lode, the North Star. A camp called Lake's Camp rose up around it. It wasn't much, but it was known as "a happy-go-lucky sociable town" and the home of the Soup Bone Musical Club. Said the *White Pine Cone*, "The storm may roar and snort but Galena Gulch will have music when the last willow has dropped and the last soup bone has boiled away...." Lake was superintendent of the very productive North Star. Lake's Camp, almost in spitting distance of White Pine, flickered but never quite died.

Democracy was at work in White Pine for the November 1880 election. Ballot boxes were made and used to vote in White Pine in the morning. At noon a couple of burros and two judges headed to Tomichi with the boxes. Any prospector along the road was allowed to vote before the judges certified the returns and sent them to Gunnison. The White Pine town company established the town in 1881.

Afternoon ladies parties, picnics, and dances provided the social life. The Grand Army of the Republic had a "Grand Hop," and the Miners' Union had one where "all the talent which swings the hammer and pounds the steel was in attendance with wives, sisters and sweethearts." The ratio of unattached males to females was eight to one. The ladies weren't "permitted to miss a dance."

White Pine was all but deserted the year after the silver crash of 1893. But in 1900, miners were back and mines were re-opening. The U.S. Census listed a population of 69 for 1900 before White Pine disappeared from its rolls altogether.

White Pine Journal May 19, 1881-1883, A.O. Parsons, editor/publisher, and H.B. Neal, proprietor. (Neal founded the *Maysville Chronicle* later that year.) In the first issue the paper laid claim to the "largest subscription list in the county" and said it was appearing in a "brand new dress" though there is nothing to indicate it started earlier. George Root worked on the *Journal* for a brief time.

White Pine Cone April 13, 1883-December 30, 1892, George S. Irwin, founder. George A. Root, son of Gunnison pioneer publisher Frank Root, left Gunnison on March 30, 1883 to lend his "long and valuable experience in every department of the journalism business" and "indomitable courage and industrious habits" to the new paper. Root was proud of the paper and wrote:

The White Pine Cone was six columns, all home print, strongly Republican in politics. The editor was a good localist as well as a forceful writer, and the Cone at once took its place as one of the liveliest papers in the county. Irwin was a past master in the art of peeling political epidermis from the backs of opposition party candidates, and was threatened with more lickings from those he had taken to task than any other scribe I can think of, and yet I recall none he actually got.

Editor Irwin wrote with the best of them, and rose to big news:

BOLD HOLD-UP

THRILLING EXPERIENCE OF PASSENGERS ON THE

SARGENT-TOMICHI STAGE LINE

Ingold Peterson drove merrily day by day through the dark canon without thought of disaster...But [last Monday's events] are calculated to cause the traveler of the near future to traverse the canon with feat and trembling. Weird shadows will flit across his path.

Last Monday clouds obscured the sun and a snow fall darkened the heavens. A feeling of depression came over the passengers. [Among the passengers was] an alleged drummer [who] frequently glanced at the mail bags and nervously watched on either side of the road when once the canon was entered.

About midway between Cosden and White Pine as the driver hurried the team around a curve, there suddenly came into view a dark grim sentinel who stood silently by the roadside. Not a word was said but his actions were ominous and the passengers shuddered as the stage drew near.

With dilated nostrils and trembling limbs, but obedient to the lash and rein, the horses sprang forward in the face of a broadside well delivered.

A few sharp screams, muttered curses and stifling gasps, and the danger is past. But the holdup has done his work. Peterson [and a passenger] are badly hurt...but the faithful horses bring the load to White Pine.

The holdup escaped and the drummer left. Peterson is recovering.

One year the Gunnison papers were involved in several libel suits, and Irwin complained that he was "jealous of his contemporaries. A libel suit is splendid advertisement." Then Irwin got sued--and suggested that the plaintiff pay his long overdue subscription fee, because "We need the money to defend ourselves."

In the fall of 1886, Irwin was sentenced to 15 months in the Laramie penitentiary for violation of postal laws. He said the offense was "unintentional," served his time, and returned to White Pine in November 1887. Charles Bevan and Root filled in while Irwin was detained. John H. Howard was editor in 1887. George Root took charge of the *Cone* in the summer of 1889, leaving Irwin free to devote time to his mines. Root was listed as joint publisher and editor through 1890.

By March 1892, the *Cone* was on "Half-Rations" with only two columns of local advertising. On December 30 the *Cone* was asking for at least half--or "pay what you can on account"--of the \$1,000 owed the paper. That issue was evidently the last one.

Special Sources: Alice Starbuck Spender, "Newspapers in Gunnison County: 1879-1900"; Western State College thesis.

The Silver Lance, Crystal Colorado; selected issues reproduced in a pamphlet.

"Marble, Colorado: City of Stone," Duane Vandenbusche and Rex Myers, 1972, Golden Bell Press.

"Brand Book 1946," Sylvia T. Smith, "Her Day In Court."

"When Coal Was King, a History of Crested Butte, Colorado 1880-1952," Duane Smith, 1884, Colorado School of Mines Press.

"Gunnison--A Short, Illustrated History," Betty Wallace, 1964, Sage Books.

"Reminiscence of White Pine, Colorado." George A. Root. *Gunnison News-Champion* 75th anniversary issue, July 1955.

"Tin Cup Colorado," Conrad P. Schade.

Special thanks to Ken Bundy, Isabelle Holmes, and Rial Lake.

CHAPTER XXIX

HINSDALE COUNTY

Larger in size than Rhode Island, Hinsdale County had the smallest twentieth century population of any county in Colorado until San Juan County gained that distinction during the 1990s. The county rides the Continental Divide like a saddle, part on the western side and part on the eastern, and is renowned for its almost rugged, mountainous sheer beauty.

Hinsdale County was named for George A. Hinsdale, a prominent pioneer Pueblo lawyer, early editor on the *Pueblo Chieftain*, and the 1865 territorial lieutenant-governor. The county was established in 1874 from parts of Lake, Costilla and Conejos counties. The original county shrank in 1893 when the eastern border was shaved off to form Mineral County.

Permanent prospectors ventured into the area in 1871, but the Utes, who had long occupied the area, were clearly unfriendly. Two years later the first of several Indian treaties--the Brunot treaty--required the Utes to relinquish all of what is now Hinsdale, San Juan, Ouray, San Miguel, Dolores, Montezuma and La Plata counties, for a token fee. Prospectors and settlers began moving in.

The isolation of the future Hinsdale County, not to mention the tremendous cost of obtaining supplies, was discouraging. Nonetheless Otto Mears started a very

successful mercantile store, grain mill and newspaper in Saguache, and built a toll road to move his supplies and connect Saguache to the rest of the San Luis Valley. He saw no reason not to proceed into newly-opened Indian land. Construction of his 130-mile toll road was temporarily slowed when his partner, Enos Hotchkiss, discovered gold as he surveyed the route. Once the rode from Saguache to Lake City road opened in 1874, Hotchkiss created the town of Lake City, named for nearby Lake San Cristobal. Mears hauled in supplies and a newspaper outfit, and made plans to continue building deep into the San Juans.

Mears, the famed "Pathfinder of the San Juans." soon undertook a second wagon toll road from Del Norte over Slumgullion Pass. One traveler called the 11,361-ft high pass a "villainous mountain road." The toll rate on the road was \$2.50 for each wagon with horses (50 cents more for another set of horses), and 20 cents for each pack animal, 25 cents for saddle animals, 20 cents for loose cattle, mules and horses, and a nickel for sheep and goats.

San Juan City was the first Hinsdale County seat but Enos Hotchkiss managed to get an election changing it to Lake City. He was on the first board of trustees along with fellow road builder and founder Otto Mears.

It didn't take long for a sudden rash of guidebooks to draw an estimated 200 people to the San Juan mines. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad put out *The San Juan Guide* in 1877, promising "accurate, reliable, and statistical information." The *Guide* listed three essentials for success: courage, patience and strength. The *Guide* also

said that people from all over the world were headed for the San Juans where law and order prevailed and everyone would be "secure in a delightful climate."

Despite encouraging words, a passable road, and good mining, the remoteness of the county discouraged growth. The toll roads were gradually replaced by railroads, although Lake City didn't get one until 1889 when the Denver & Rio Grande Lake Fork route reached the town. Until then, ore had to be hauled 150 miles over mountain trails, first to Cañon City, the nearest railroad. Later the D& Rg reached Sapinero, considerably closer to Hinsdale County mines. The road to Lake City, "by crude and rugged trails which tried the souls of men to the uttermost," was now a road for traveling to prosperity. Said the *Lake City Times*:

The town has awakened from its long sleep; new people and new enterprises are coming in at a rapid rate; outside capital is coming to the rescue, and Lake City is on the eve of a prosperity such as it has never seen before.

The railroads, in turn, were replaced by the automobile. The narrow gauge D&RG rail line, said to have been built by Navajo Indian labor gangs, was abandoned in the early 1930s. The early winding roads for cars weren't much better than the ones used for wagons--and were often one and the same. The 56 mile drive from Lake City to Gunnison took almost three hours--all day in the spring when roads were mud. Not until 1965 did a new paved highway cut the time to one hour. The road situation didn't deter tourists who came, saw and built summer homes.

Initially Hinsdale County blossomed with mining camps: Antelope Springs, Belford, Capitol City, Carson, Gold Run, Rose's Cabin, Henson, San Juan, Sherman,

Sunnyside, White Cross and Lake Chrystobal, the latter said to be named by a U.S. Army Engineer with a passion for the poet Tennyson. It was later spelled Cristobal. Only Lake City survived as a town, although Gold Run prospered long enough to have a newspaper. Mining declined in the 1900s, and the county developed a new economic profile as a small, but prime, recreational and sportsman's paradise.

Gold Run

The first major strike at Gold Run was made in 1893. The camp was accessible by an old freighters' trail from Stony Pass. The camp first was called Gold Run and Silvertip, and later, Beartown. After the ore strike was made, almost 400 prospectors trailed into the camp along with merchants from Creede. Lute Johnson from the *Creede Candle* hedged when he named his new paper the *Gold Run Silvertip*. So many people came from Creede that Gold Run was referred to as the "Creede Annex." Gold Run proved to be a good mining area and a convenient place for robbers choosing the easy way of prospecting. The contents of two wagons loaded with silver are said to be still buried in the area where the guards hid the treasure from thieves.

Eventually the prerequisite buildings had been erected, and the newspaper published, just in time to voice an old complaint:

The camp needs a road. A dozen men with a team could build it in a day and at the miners' meeting the other night it was decided to do this. Nothing has been done, however, and probably will not be until one of the mines wants an outlet for ore.

Gold Run Silvertip June 17, 1893-1895, Lute Johnson, founder. A.W.B. Johnson, editor. The paper was issued semimonthly. Lute Johnson, one of the grand old men of Colorado newspapers, arrived in Colorado on his 21st birthday. He published papers in Fort Morgan and Cheyenne Wells before moving to Creede to found the famous *Creede Candle* in 1892. After the *Gold Run Silvertip*, Johnson spent almost half a century on newspapers in Denver, Leadville, Silverton and New York, last working with the *Denver Post*.

Lake City

Here one is brought face to face with the cowpunchers of the Arkansas and the Platte, the rugged and bearded miner of Utah and Nevada, the almond-eyed Celestial and the squatty Pinto, the irrepressible stoop-shoulder Yankee and the lank, swarthy habitat who contended for his rights south of the Mason and Dixon line, white mule drivers, bull whackers, three card monte men, sewing machine agents, lawyers, doctors, preachers, prospectors...Now and then you brush coats or clink glasses with a millionaire, some fellow who has sold out his pile and who proposes to have a good time with the boys before leaving on the next stage. And then, again, your charity is appealed to by some grasshopper sufferer who asks you with tears in his eyes and a lump in his throat the size of a goose egg, for the loan of a dollar, and who spurs your compassion with the remark that he has not had a mouthful of food in three days.

Rocky Mountain News about Lake City, 1877

Lake City was laid out and named for the nearby Lake San Cristobal in 1874. By November 1875 there were 67 finished buildings, 400 inhabitants living in log houses or Mexican adobe buildings, and a swirl of activity.

Susan B. Anthony rode horseback into Lake City in Sept. 1877, carrying her crusade for women to a new outpost. Speaking in front of the courthouse, she appealed for inclusion of women's right to vote in the about-to-be-drawn Colorado Constitution.

The telegraph arrived in November 1879, the telephone in May 1881. Lake City's first boom cycle ended in 1879 after many people had given up trying to live in such an isolated spot, and a disastrous fire--the worst of all fires in Lake City--burned 21 buildings. Some buildings were taken down by fire hook or dynamite in an attempt to stop the fire's progress.

Things slowed down because, said the *Silver World*, people "had come with no knowledge of the country, mines or mining, and most had no special skills. The exodus of these men was as great as their coming, and as rapid." Oddly, while the transient population left, business people continued to come in and turn the camp into a permanent town.

The year 1889 was a banner one for Lake City. The narrow gauge railroad steamed in, but it was not Otto Mears' long-anticipated railroad. It was David Moffat's Denver & Rio Grande. When the railroad finally arrived at "one of the deadest camps in Colorado," mines re-opened, and businesses expanded to greet the influx of new and returning residents. Two daily trains carrying freight and passengers livened up the town again. The rail line was abandoned in 1933.

At the turn of the century, the *Lake City Times* posed a thought:

Lake City is either too good a summer resort to be used as a mining camp, or else it is too good a mining camp to remain a summer resort. It's up to the people as to which they want. If mining men of the moneyed stamp are to be driven out of town always, let's quit trying to do mining business.

Lake City claimed to have the first newspaper on the western slope. Though not a direct descendent, the current newspaper has the same name as the first one.

Silver World June 19, 1875-March 31, 1888, Harry M. Woods, Clark L. Peyton, and silent partner Otto Mears, founders. Entrepreneur Mears, who had already made a success of Saguache and his newspaper there, intended to do the same for his investment in Lake City. Peyton was the brother of Mears' friend Isaac Peyton, editor of the *Saguache Chronicle*.

Astute businessman Mears concluded that a newspaper was the best vehicle for promotion, and much more economical than expensive ads in the Eastern newspapers. The *Saguache Chronicle's* old Washington hand press and all the needed equipment for the *Silver World*, was hauled to Lake City on the Mears Toll road. The second-hand Washington press would be replaced in two years by a new Campbell power press that was said to be the first power press to cross the Continental Divide. It weighed 6,000 pounds and was drawn on a trail wagon by a six-mule team from La Veta to Lake City "in the surprisingly short time of fifteen days."

Contents of the first issue were a good mix of national, state and local news, historical comments, detailed regional mining news, and "readyprint" stories and features. The publishers had the life-blood of income from printing county and city legal

notices. The *Silver World* advertised itself as "the miner's newspaper," and claimed to be the "only paper in Colorado published on the Pacific Slope." That claim lasted for only three weeks.

The first American flag in Lake City was flown by the *Silver World* on the Fourth of July. The not-quite-accurate flag was made by Billy Grimes, a newspaper employee, with stripes from red underdrawers, a blue flannel shirt, and a white towel. He couldn't figure out how to make the stars.

Woods and Peyton bought out Mears' interest in the paper in December 1875. On September 15, 1876 Woods sold his half interest to Henry C. Olney, an experienced newspaperman and former business manager for the *Rocky Mountain News*. In October Olney & Peyton announced "the opening of the largest job printing office south of Denver." The size of the paper and news coverage increased. In March 1877 the first four-page descriptive "San Juan supplement" was issued. A new banner carried the slogan: "Silver World, Devoted to the Mining and Industrial Interests of the San Juan." Clark Peyton sold his interest in March 1878 to Olney, who became full owner. M.M. Lewis ("Moss Agate") was editor in 1883. Lewis was a former Washington, D.C., correspondent for the *Pueblo Chieftain*.

Olney was not disturbed when the second boom ended in August 1881, commenting:

It portends a more stable, orderly future growth on a sound basis. Our towns have been largely deserted by the bad characters; snide operators have found their level

and have been driven out by public sentiment or inability to longer ply their vocation; our business houses are now in fair proportion to the demands of the surrounding camps.

Olney moved on to Gunnison County where he established several newspapers, including the *Hillerton Occident*, that county's first newspaper. Before leaving Lake City, however, he was appointed register of the Land Office in 1877, and, in 1883, was appointed representative of the Union Railroad land department. He offered to sell half interest in the *Silver World*, but there were no takers. He made the offer again in 1885. Still there were no buyers, so Olney leased the paper to A.R. Pelton, who had been with the *Salida Sentinel*. Pelton returned to Salida--this time the *News*--and Gideon R. Propper took over the *Silver World*. He was succeeded by James Galloway, a dentist. Dentist/editor Galloway kept a chair in the newspaper office, where he offered "mechanical, operative and surgical dentistry...teeth extracted by the Painless Process." As Grant Houston tells it:

Galloway's editorship apparently struck a nerve among the Lake City business community, for in 1887 he complained that Lake City business owners had organized a boycott of the Silver World.

The *Silver World* began a slow decline. The Western Slope's first newspaper was suspended in April 1888. There are several versions of the end of the *World*. Several reliable sources state that Mendenhall changed the name to *Hinsdale Phonograph* or *Sentinel*. Thomas Gray Thompson, in "*Lake City, Colorado*" says Frank E. Dacons took charge of the *Silver World* in 1888 and changed the name to the *Sentinel*, which was suspended a year later, but apparently revived by Mendenhall under the name *Hinsdale Phonograph*. The failure of the *Phonograph* "ended the fourteen-year career of the

original *Silver World*." Historian Wilbur Stone concurs that the *Silver World* died as the *Sentinel*. Oehlerts' newspaper guide ends the *Silver World* on March 31, 1888, and lists the *Sentinel* from 1888-1889, and the *Hinsdale Phonograph* 1888-1890, continued as *Lake City Phonograph*. But Grant Houston says the *World* ended in 1888 when editor Walter Mendenhall printed the paper's "Own Obituary" thanking the paper's loyal readers but criticizing local businesses that "by and large [were] indifferent to the paper's welfare."

Lake City Sentinel, 1888-1889, Frank E. Dacons, founder. The name was expanded to:

United States Sentinel 1889-1890 but publication was suspended in 1890.

Hinsdale Phonograph October 5, 1888-January 11, 1890. There is agreement that Walter Mendenhall started the *Phonograph*, which also underwent a name change:

Lake City Phonograph January 18, 1890-December 30, 1911 or 1912. Mendenhall, who became well known for his "well researched mining articles," was part of the Hinsdale journalism scene for more than 30 years. Similar in format and editorial policy to the *Silver World*, the *Lake City Phonograph* was published by Mendenhall until 1893 when he sold the paper to J.J. Gutherodt. Harry A. Neal owned the paper in 1894, but left to run the *Creede Candle* and several other Western Slope newspapers. He died in Florida in 1938. Dwight Kidder followed Neal for a year, but in 1896 John Uglow, another long-time Western Slope newsman, bought the *Phonograph* in 1896, publishing

it successfully until 1911, although he sold it to Ray Madison in 1909. Walter Mendenhall bought the paper back later that same year but suspended it in 1911.

Lake City Mining Register May 21, 1880-April 24, 1885, James F. Downey, founder. As the name implied, the *Mining Register* was almost entirely news of mining and allied interests. Issued on Fridays--the other papers had been Thursday publications--the four-page, seven-column *Register* had more news than ads, and, despite the limited intent, ran a good amount of non-mining local news.

The *Mining Register* "grew and prospered" but in April 1885, Downey announced he had received "a liberal offer from the Democrats of Montrose to start a paper there." Feeling that he could not do justice to either paper if he attempted to publish both, he chose the *Montrose Register*. The *Lake City Mining Register* was discontinued.

Lake City Times January 15, 1891-June 21, 1917, D.S. Hoffman & A.R. Arbuckle, founders, backed by a group of Lake City businessmen who established the Lake City Printing and Publishing Company. Hoffman, a Republican, was a former county treasurer, and a member of the Colorado House of Representatives in 1882. Arbuckle, formerly of Denver, was editor.

The staff changed often. Arbuckle returned to Denver in April 1891, and was replaced by W.J. Furse who lasted a month. Daniel A. Farrell became editor and "kept the paper neutral in politics, but always for Lake City and free coinage." He didn't last long either. Furse returned as co-editor with O.H. Knight. Farrell took over as manager. James G. Gates was editor/publisher from January 1898 to August 1899, when James

Deck bought the paper and brought back O.H. and H.C. Knight as co-editors/publishers.

In 1898 O.H. Knight changed the name to:

Silver World and Lake City Times for a brief time. The name reverted to *Lake City Times* until June 1917. James G. Gates was editor 1899-1900. William C. Blair purchased the *Times* in October 1900 and a new and remarkable era began in Lake City journalism. With the exception of two years from December 1913 to December 1915 when Walter Mendenhall leased the paper, Blair published the paper for 38 years.

C.V. Kinney ran the *Times* for Blair from 1908 to 1914; his son, Mathew Kinney worked on the paper in 1920-1921. C.V. Kinney, who wrote columns under the name "Kinnikinick," had worked on papers in Rocky Ford and Greeley, and, later, the *Salida Mail*. June 21, 1917 *Times* was dropped, and the name was back to the original:

Silver World (#2) June 28, 1917-1938. Blair's wife, Anna Maurer Blair, helped her husband on the paper, particularly when he was heavily involved in Republican politics, and he often was. Lake City felt the pinch of the depression, and so did the *Silver World*. The newspaper ceased publication in 1938, but according to Grant Houston,

"Up until his death in 1948, Billy Blair continued to return to his dusty, paper-strewn newspaper office to relive the days of his Lake City journalistic career and, perhaps, dream of a revived newspaper at some distant date in the future."

Silver World # 3 May 1978 to present, Grant Houston, founder.

Lake City's second two newspapers did not last long.

Stage February 20, 1877-1878.

San Juan Crescent July 19, 1877-July 1878, Harry M. Woods and Thomas Reynolds, founders. When Lake City reached a population of 2,000 in 1880, James Downey, formerly with the *Mining Register*, decided the town was big enough, and the expanding economy solid enough, to sustain another newspaper:

Silvery San Juan News-Letter 1896-1897, James Downey, founder.

San Cristobel Magazine 1900-1901, Cris C. Wright, founder.

Lake City Tribune, June 13, 1946-1948, Ollin Wineland, founder. The *Tribune* was a 16-page tabloid-size newspaper. Wineland was a former Western State College professor and one-time publisher of the *Western Colorado* magazine in Grand Junction. His brother, H.L. Wineland, was editor, and Carolyn Wright, associate editor.

In July 1947, Jerry Sheridan, editor of the *Pagosa Springs Sun*, leased the paper. Carolyn Wright continued as news editor. Mrs. Wright, a longtime resident of Lake City, was a teacher, county superintendent of schools for 16 years, and a correspondent for the *Gunnison News-Champion*, *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel* and *Denver Post*.

Lake City Pioneer July 1976-May 1979, James and Carol Bishop, founders. Harold Leary bought the *Pioneer* in 1977.

Sources: "*Lake City, Colorado, An Early Day Social and Cultural History*," Thomas Gray Thompson, 1974, Metro Press, Inc., Oklahoma City OK.

"*TINY HINSDALE of The Silvery San Juan*," Carolyn and Clarence Wright, Big Mountain Press.

"Tiny Hinsdale County," Ralph Taylor, *Pueblo Star-Journal*, July 10, 1955.

Silver World, various issues. Packer material May 26, July 21 and 28, 1989.

Special thanks to Grant Houston.

CHAPTER XXX

HUERFANO COUNTY

When the flat west begins to rise and a cooling wind begins to blow and an aura of mystery and enchantment begins to descend, the traveler has reached the land of the Huajatolla.

Wrapped in legends and tales which are familiar to those who have read of the hard driving, hard riding, hard dying west, the Spanish Peaks, known to the Indians as the Huajatolla, rise in solitary splendor over Huerfano County.

These were the first peaks sighted by explorers not long after Columbus reported his discovery of the fabulous New World....

The Peaks were approached by these early explorers, some with fear, some with veneration, but to all they were a guidepost to the future. Many legends of hidden cities, ruled by kings garbed in cloth of gold, and of strange gods and untold treasures were told and retold....

In the archives of Mexico City are ancient records which give detailed description of a "gigantic double mountain situated in the northern-most limits of the Empire." Among the tribes that inhabited the "painted desert" there are traditions which relate to the Huajatolla, "situated toward sunrise, where the world ends in the limitless plains."

Walsenburg World-Independent 7/27/1954

Indians named the formation Huajatolla (pronounced Wa-ha-toy-a), meaning two breasts. The Indians believed "all living things on earth, mankind, beasts and plants, derive their sustenance from that source. The clouds are born there, and without clouds there is no rain and when no rain falls, we have no food, and without food--we must perish all."

The Spanish who came later called them "the breasts of the world." Now they are known as the Spanish Peaks. The double mountain is geographically unique in America because it is independent of any mountain range. A dozen dykes or walls branch mysteriously out from the base of the Peaks. Legend says they are the breastworks of giants. Remains on a mountain ledge of a crude little sun temple suggest that the Huajatolla were worshipped as a thing of eternity and infinity. Another unusual geologic formation gave the county its name. Huerfano Butte was a landmark for early explorers, long before they found Pikes Peak. It, too, stood alone. Jack Lacy wrote of the Butte in 1938:

Reports of "El Huerfano" may be read in Spanish annals, and in the writings of early American explorers. El Huerfano stands naked in the lower valley of the Huerfano river--an odd, cone-shaped mountain that is a reminder of a period when the earth was writhing in the throes of volcanic convulsions. It stands alone, far removed from other hills or peaks, therefore an "orphan"--in Spanish, "Huerfano."

Various civilizations contested the region for centuries before American settlement began. After the Indians came Juan de Oñate who, according to legend, built a fort in northwestern Huerfano County in 1598. Then came Villasur, Uribarri (sometimes given as Ulibarri), de Anza, Cuerno Verde, and Escalante. The Spanish planted a flag in 1706 to let the French know just who had been there. The French paid little attention, and raised a flag of their own. There was a furious battle between the Spanish and the French-led Pawnees in 1720. In succession there were Republic of Mexico, Republic of Texas and American flags flying over this remote and beautiful area.

Lt. Zebulon Pike, viewed the breasts 1807. His interpreter, A.F. Vasquez, was the ancestor of one of the oldest families settling in the shadow of the double mountain. Explorers were followed by trappers in the 1830s, and about 1840 French-Canadians started the first commercial farm on the Cuchara river. Four years later agriculture and stock-raising began in earnest after the Mexican government approved the Vigil and St. Vrain land grant.

Huerfano County was already settled when the Pikes Peakers arrived and it was one of the most stable areas when the territorial government made it one of the seventeen original counties in 1861 using the St. Vrain-Vigil land grant as the boundaries--from the New Mexico line to the Arkansas River, from the Sangre de Cristo mountains to the Kansas state line.

The first official business of the new county was conducted at the Autobees ranch of Charles Autobees one of the first county commissioners. When the current Huerfano County boundaries were established in 1867, Badito, a trading post/stage stop opened about 1847, was designated county seat--because, it is said, the county clerk, appointed by the territorial government, lived there. Finally, after much squabbling and several elections, Walsenburg became the county seat in 1872.

Charles Autobees was a popular man with a popular product--Taos Lightening, a brew said to include "old boots, rusty bayonets, yucca and cactus thorns" which gave imbibers the feeling of "a torchlight procession galloping down their throats." Ceran St. Vrain enticed Autobees to take part of his land grant, and in February 1853 the whisky

salesman settled down on a choice piece of property near the confluence of the Huerfano and Arkansas rivers.

The 1862 Homestead Act brought in a stream of claimants to the land which the early comers had already tamed. Autobees lost most of his ranch when the U.S. government included it in homestead land. Reduced to poverty, he was accorded a small pension by the Colorado legislature in 1879. Charles Autobees died before Congress acted on Indian fighter's pensions in 1882.

Early settlers kept warm by an indigenous fuel which eventually became the county's economic base: coal. The first coal mine--the Walsen--opened in 1876, soon followed by more mines and a rapidly increasing population. Huerfano County suffered in the 1893 financial crash, but the worst affliction was from the coal mine strikes in 1913-1914. The county never wholly recovered. The tragic Ludlow Massacre occurred April 16, 1914, between Walsenburg and Trinidad, both of which were directly affected by the outcome. Agriculture, particularly cattle, again became the major industry but it, too, has declined.

Of the dozen or so towns in Huerfano County, only four had newspapers.

Larimer/Mustang

Settled by Swedish farmers around 1894, the name of the town was changed from Larimer to Mustang by the Colorado and Southern Railroad because of nearby

Mustang Arroyo. The small town had a depot, general store-post office, school and one newspaper.

Larimer News April 1910-1915, Alfred Steele, publisher. Clarence Ecklund was editor. The town name was changed to Mustang but the newspaper continued under the *Larimer News* flag until it was suspended in October 1915 by Ecklund. It is thought that part of the newspaper may have been in the Swedish language. Ecklund was postmaster until mandatory retirement at age 76.

La Veta

La Veta was founded in 1962 by Colonel John Francisco, then about 42 years old, and Henry Daigre, then about 30. The two men had spent ten years in the army fighting Indians...and decided to settle down. They chose La Veta, a beautiful level piece of ground in a wide sweeping bend of the Cucharas river....

Col. Francisco had secured 1,700 acres upon which this scion of one of the first families of Virginia agreed to erect a fort which was to protect [people in the area from Indians, although] the nearest neighbor was some 20 miles away.

Francisco and Daigre had been army storekeepers at Fort Garland. Francisco opened a store in Pueblo and built the first house of any size.

In 1862 [the two] again joined forces and in partnership built the fort and a house and began to farm at La Veta....Within a few years they were raising bumper crops on a thousand acres, and both had become wealthy. They sold lots to whoever wanted one and the settlement grew.

World-Independent 7/27/1954

LaVeta originated during the 1860s as Fort Francisco, an adobe fort constructed by John Francisco, who purchased the land from the owners of the Vigil and St. Vrain Mexican land grant. Francisco's trading post became the hub of a settlement first known as Francisco Plaza. Prospectors renamed it La Veta (Spanish for vein) for a gold vein on

nearby Spanish Peaks. Former territorial Governor Alexander C. Hunt, an agent of the Denver & Rio Grande, arrived in 1876 scouting a path for a railroad. Hunt laid out a train route, and platted the town.

Today's highway leading to La Veta follows the tracks Hunt laid out. The tracks to the Pass were narrow gauge, but those to the town were broad gauge by 1894, which meant that cargo was transferred from the smaller to the larger cars, and the La Veta railroad yards were bustling.

Francisco Plaza became La Veta (Spanish for the vein) in 18760s. Buildings were constructed of the fine local sandstone and the white mineral, yaso, was used to whitewash the adobe houses. The Huerfano County Historical Society acquired Fort Francisco in 1957 and turned it into a still thriving museum.

Huerfano Herald November 4, 1880-November 8, 1883, J.B. King, founder.

Nancy Christofferson of the *Huerfano World* described the paper in a 1992 article:

The four-page broadsheet covered everything from local trivia ("Say, Bob, does it pay to trade hot cakes for wood chopping?") to state, national, and world news. Editorial comment was sprinkled freely among the local items, most of which were phrased to highlight La Veta as the most prosperous, scenic, fascinating town in Colorado if not the entire Western Hemisphere. Installments of popular national series also made the page.

The *Herald* was the only newspaper in the county when it advertised in 1880 for new subscribers, \$2 per year. It got the subscribers, and the accompanying problem they caused. King found a plea necessary in 1882: "*We would take it as an especial favor if those in arrears to the Herald would make an early settlement. We need the money badly.*" In 1883 the paper was moved to Walsenburg.

La Veta Quill 1884-1885, T. (or J.) Knox Burton, publisher/editor. He later was a Pueblo County Commissioner.

La Veta Times 1886-1894, A.J. Patrick, founder; Fred Herbin, editor, 1889. A.A. Foote may have been a co-founder, and was publisher 1888-1892. The paper "gained a reputation for its sporadic schedules," although it managed to publish often enough to carry public notices. Its offices were a polling place and the site of the town board meeting. The *Times* was sold to W.A. (Arthur) McDuffee in 1894 and moved to Aguilar, where McDuffee founded the *Aguilar Sun*.

Huerfano Informer 1892-1893.

Silver Courier October 1893-1895, Charles E. Clements & Ed M. Slawson, founders. Both men were housepainters. The *Silver Courier* was a Populist weekly.

La Veta Herald 1894-1895, W.A. McDuffee, founder. It began as a two-page, six-column daily, costing \$19 a year. A.A. Foote was editor of this paper, too, but departed to help found the most successful of the La Veta papers, the *Advertiser*.

La Veta Advertiser May 1895-1957, A.A. Foote and the Turner Brothers, founders. Heber Turner was with the paper 1895-1897, and brother Chris E., 1895-1936. Originally started as a real estate review, it soon expanded to a general interest newspaper.

Many years later, J. Horace Erwin, who said he helped get out the first issue, told about working with Chris Turner on an old Armstrong press. Erwin folded the papers

from the first issue until July 1897. The printer's devil, Eddie Springer, inked the type. Both boys got out of school every Friday early (2:30 p.m.) to help get the paper finished.

Heber Turner moved away, and Foote was replaced as editor in 1899 by Chris Turner. The *Advertiser* became La Veta's longest-running business under the same management in 1910. After devoting 41 years to the *Advertiser*, Chris Turner, whose health was failing, sold the paper in 1936 to Consolidated Publishing Company of Walsenburg, which published the Walsenburg *El Clarin* and *Huerfano County News*. L.E. (Earl) Gault was publisher and James B. Woody, editor.

Gault changed the *Advertiser* format from broadsheet to a four-column tabloid and concentrated on local news, even though Woody once complained the "Local news is like business--there isn't any." Woody left in 1937 to work for the *Rocky Ford Enterprise*; in 1947 he bought the *Rocky Ford Tribune*. Fate Hutcheson replaced Woody during the summer of 1937. Longtime newspaperman Edward E. Engberg took over in September 1937 and stayed until the paper closed in 1957. Ownership of the *Advertiser* changed in the fall of 1951 when Consolidated Publishing Company of Walsenburg, purchased the paper; they also owned the *Huerfano County News* and *El Clarin*. The final edition of the *Advertiser* was December 27, 1957.

La Veta Enterprise January 1903-1921, A.A. Foote and J.M. Elrod, co-founders. A. A. Foote, who relished a forum for his opinions, was back in business. His son, Albert E. Foote, was publisher. The paper was issued sporadically but in March 1909, Elrod announced it was "resurrected" and would publish weekly. Foote was back at the helm

in 1910. Under the venturesome Foote, the *Enterprise* was "The Paper with an Opinion." Foote's opinions were not always popular. *Colorado Press* called him "the bulwark of Republicanism in his territory." Foote was a persistent prohibitionist, accusing pro-liquor interests of "trickery and lies."

The *Enterprise* merged into a brand-new paper in the spring of 1921:

La Veta Leader and Enterprise April 19, 1921-1923. George Sanders publisher, Walter Abbot editor. The *Leader* died in 1923.

Cuchara Valley Voice July 1976-June 1986, Hazel Bankman, founder. The paper was bimonthly until 1980. Pat (Wise) Arnold bought the *Voice* in 1980 and issued it weekly. Linda Horseman was Arnold's partner. Larry Slie and Rob Bubak bought the *Voice* in June 1984. Bubak left within a short time, but Slie continued publishing the paper until June 1986, when the paper folded. Almost immediately after the *Valley Voice* was stilled, there was another newspaper:

La Veta Signature June 1986 to present, Pat Arnold founder. Arnold, who had spent 11 of the 13 years she'd lived in La Veta in the newspaper business, sold the *Signature* in July 1992 to Rick Carpenter.

Carpenter was the run-away winner in the paper's class in the CPA newspaper contest for 1994, winning 19 awards, the Sweepstakes, and the roar of the crowd.

Rouse

Rouse was a Colorado Fuel & Iron coal mining camp about ten miles southeast of Walsenburg. It had one newspaper:

Rouse Enterprise December 1892-1894. It merged into *Walsenburg World*.

Walsenburg

Adventurer Don Miguel Antonio Leon was seduced by the beauty and tranquility of the Cuchara Valley in 1859. He joined a dozen or so other Spanish, Portuguese, and French families who found the valley a good place to graze cattle and raise families. Don Miguel's settlement along the river was the smallest of them all, but it was the one that grew, and it was named for the gracious old gentleman who tended his plum trees.

La Plaza de Los Leones arose on both sides of the old Indian trail which is now Walsenburg's Main Street. It was the Spanish plaza style, one large complex serving as homes for people and livestock, and enclosed as fortification against Indians. Kan-yat-che, the chief of a band of southern Utes, gave the settlers little trouble unless he lost at gambling. He was noted for his tall hat decorated with feathers. One of the hats had belonged to Denver's Professor Goldrick, founder of the Denver *Rocky Mountain Herald*.

By 1870 La Plaza de Los Leones was the most flourishing of the county settlements and had attracted many newcomers, including Fred Walsen, who opened the first general store. Born in 1841, Walsen emigrated from his native Prussia at the age of 18, and served with distinction with the First Missouri Volunteers. As the Civil

War ended he headed west, first to Fort Garland, where he met Otto Mears. As partners Walsen and Mears were major forces in developing Southern Colorado. It was Walsen who saw the possibilities of coal as an industry for the county--the first major coal mine was the Walsen Mine. He also built up the county's stock-raising industry with thousands of sheep and cattle, and he furnished most of the ties for the incoming Denver & Rio Grande Railway in 1876. Walsen was chosen the first mayor. He expanded into banking and various activities throughout the state, becoming a major taxpayer in half a dozen counties. An early supporter of Abraham Lincoln, and a life-long Republican, he was elected Colorado state treasurer in 1882. The critical Dave Day, who seldom had kind words for anyone, particularly Republicans, did have some for Walsen in a May 1884 *Solid Muldoon*: "*Fred Walsen is the best and safest State Treasurer Colorado has ever had. There is no Sunday school hypocrisy about Fred.*" The *Pueblo People*, a Democratic newspaper, is said to have suggested the town be renamed for Walsen because Huerfano County had shifted from Democrat to Republican under Walsen's influence.

Coal discoveries around Walsenburg led to a large influx of miners, many of them foreign-born. At one time the town boasted 52 nationalities. Walsenburg became "the city built on coal," with camps dotting the many regional mines, each having company stores.

The early 1900s coal wars and decline in mining had a devastating effect on the county and its central town which began a long, slow ongoing decline. Once a year a

more recent past remembered flush times with an annual Fiesta when the name Plaza de Los Leones reappeared on road signs for a few days.

Huerfano Independent December 11/1875-c. 1877, Herman Duhme, founder. "Early Printing in Colorado" by McMurtrie and Allen says the prospectus for the paper was put out in the fall of 1875 by Major T.O. Bigney, who had been a *Pueblo Chieftain* local editor, and who founded the Walsenburg paper in December. Louis Sporleder and Herman Duhme state that Duhme was the founder. One 1876 newspaper directory lists Bigney & Co. as publishers, Herman Duhme, Jr., Proprietor. The Independent was printed in English with a Spanish section.

Major Bigney, who came to Colorado after the Civil War because of his tuberculosis, had been local editor of the *Georgetown Miner* and *Pueblo Chieftain*, and proprietor of the *Central City Herald*. A Georgetown publisher said of him: "The only way he could keep alive was by drinking whiskey." Bigney was a poet of some note and had several books of poetry printed by William Byers of the *Rocky Mountain News*.

When Bigney retired from the *Independent* in September 1876, the *Denver Mirror* attributed his decision to "the want of business tact...in conducting a country newspaper under peculiarly distressing financial difficulties." He sold his paper to M.V.B. Jackson for \$500. Jackson and Hayward are listed as editors/publishers in the 1877 business directory, and are the ones who changed the name to *Colorado Independent* and moved the paper over the mountain. The firm closed business in 1877 to follow the railroad over La Veta Pass to Alamosa.

Huerfano Herald November 1883-1884. Begun in La Veta by J.B. King, who moved it to Walsenburg.

Huerfano Cactus December 19, 1883-1889, Grant Pugh, probable founder. He is believed to have had the financial backing of Dr. T.F. Martin, a developer who was the next owner. Jack Howard Corbin was the next editor. Major C.B. Bowman and G.B. Wick purchased the *Cactus* in 1889 and the name was changed to:

Walsenburg Cactus 1889-1898. Bowman sold his interest to Wick almost immediately and launched the weekly **People's Messenger**. The *Cactus* lasted until 1898 when the name was again changed, this time to *Walsenburg Yucca*. The *Cactus* reported in November 1889 that "A new ordinance sets fines of between \$50 and \$100 for operating opium dens inside town limits."

The *Cactus* began daily publication in May 1898 to provide readers with up-to-date Spanish-American War news. The daily didn't last long. According to the *World*, "The *Cactus* began issuance of an evening daily last Thursday to cover the war news. It twinkled out Wednesday." Publisher George Byron Wick was an advocate of women's suffrage, and the rival *World* said Wick "deserves the very best wife he can get for his hearty advocacy of Equal Suffrage." The new owners of the *Cactus* changed the name to:

Walsenburg Yucca 1898-1904, William Butler, "formerly of *La Veta*," and William B. Brice were editors. The *Yucca* office burned in the fall of 1903, but the paper

persevered for another year. Victor Jackson was editor when the *Yucca* was sold and merged into the *World* in 1904.

People's Messenger 1889-1891 Major C.B. Bowman, founder. The *Messenger* lasted only until 1891, when it was merged into the *World*.

Walsenburg World March 1. 1889-May 12, 1933, G.M. Magill, founder. Magill, a Kansan, also owned the *Las Animas Bent County Democrat*, and sold real estate and fire insurance. He used the *World's* front page extensively to advertise the latter interests.

The ubiquitous Halsey Rhoads was editor/publisher, along with a Mr. Thompson, 1890-1892. They were succeeded by the Rev. C.N. Bissell in 1893. At that time the *World* was running a considerable amount of news from *La Veta*, Gardner and other county camps. It wasn't always easy as a plea in a January 1890 issue revealed: "What is the matter with our country correspondents? Have they gone into winter quarters? If still alive, please kick."

Bissell was followed briefly by A.W. Wright. Wallace C. Hunt and E.F. Halbert bought the paper later in 1896 and the masthead stated:

*If it's in the World, it happened,
if it ain't, it never did.
For there's nothing from its editors
Or from its 'Devil' hid."*

Hunt took on some new partners and the World Publishing Co. was incorporated. J.D. Montez and J.B. Farr were stockholders in 1913. Jefferson B. Farr was sheriff in 1913. He and his brother, Edward, came to Huerfano County in 1880 from Texas. Edward Farr was elected sheriff, but was killed in 1899 in a "grim battle" with train robbers (one of whom belonged to the Butch Cassidy Bunch). Jeff was appointed to his brother's position, and was re-elected six times. Jeff Farr's charitable enemies called him Czar Farr. Barron Beshoar described his alleged abuses of power in "*Out of The Depths*":

[Anyone who] questioned Sheriff Farr's authority in matters political or sought to vote other than a straight Republican ticket...went to jail on a trumped up charge...[Professional men] who failed to follow Jeff's lead found themselves without a practice....When a man was tried in District Court, Jeff sat near the jury box and signalled its occupants in much the same way that the ancient Romans signalled the fate of a Christian--thumb up for freedom, thumb down for conviction.

Robert Mitchell of the *Independent* knew he was asking for trouble when he took on Farr and his political machine. He gathered information to show that Farr had stolen the last election, and it was turned over to the U.S. District Attorney in Denver. Shortly thereafter, Editor Mitchell was gunned down by nocturnal intruders in his home, who escaped over a back fence. The wounded editor was put on a train for Pueblo but died on the way.

Sheriff Farr attributed the death to burglars, but to squelch rumors about himself, he organized the search for the murderers through miles of tunnels. The searchers found nothing. The skeptical U.S. District Attorney was not impressed with the sheriff's efforts, saying:

The murder looks like a political killing to me. Mitchell had led the fight against the notorious Farr gang and he had been a great help to me in my investigations of alleged corrupt election methods.

Mitchell's murder was never solved, but Sheriff Farr's election was overturned by the Colorado Supreme Court, and the office was turned over to E.L. Neelley of the *Independent* who had won the contested election.

Hunt sold the *World* in 1928 to the Huerfano Publishing Company, but retained an interest until May 1933. The company name was changed in 1929 to Consolidated Publishing, and the *World* merged with the *Independent*. Each paper retained its name. The *World* was issued on Tuesdays.

R.J. Saller followed Hunt as editor in 1930, but was replaced in 1931 by John J. Fitzpatrick. The *Rouse Enterprise* was published as part of the *World* in 1893. In 1904 the *Walsenburg Yucca* was merged in. Hunt sold his interest, apparently to Fitzpatrick, in 1933, and on May 19 the *World* and *Independent* merged.

Walsenburg Independent April 3, 1909-May 12, 1933, Independent Publishing Co, Ray Robinson, editor and publisher. Nancy Christofferson, associate editor of the *Huerfano World*, described the paper in a 1992 article: "From the beginning, the *Independent* was a strictly Democratic, working class newspaper, founded to oppose the *World's* Republican stance." Walter Stewart lists the paper's early editors: Ray Robinson 1909-1913, followed by A.T. Manzanares 1914-1916, J.W. Thomas, J. F. Coss 1919-1924, Charles Otto Unfug 1925-1928, George M. Kramer, J.E. Atha, and J.J. Cunningham. The *Independent's* business manager Robert S. Mitchell, who was also

chairman of the Democratic Central Committee, was shot and killed in an ambush as he returned from a movie in 1915. (See section on Jeff Farr under *World*.)

Inter-Mountain Press reported a newspaper war in February 1921:

The Walsenburg Independent and the Walsenburg World have started open warfare on a third newspaper which is being established in their city, contending that the town is not large enough to support three good newspapers and that the inevitable result will be the deterioration of the two well-established papers already in existence. In a clean-cut, forceful argument the fight is being carried directly to the newspaper patrons of Walsenburg and vicinity in an effort to prevent the business of the community from being spread out so thinly as to produce starvation for all concerned.

The *World* and *Independent* merged in 1929, but continued publication each under its own flag--the *World* on Tuesdays and the *Independent* on Fridays. The merger was reported in the December 1929 *Colorado Editor*, which said that two papers under one management was "a new plan so far as Colorado is concerned." In May 1933, however, Consolidated Publishing merged the names and began a daily evening publication except Sunday:

Walsenburg World-Independent May 19, 1933-June 6, 1958, John B. Kirkpatrick, editor, John Dinise, manager. The *World-Independent* had an Associated Press wire, and began a newsreel of local people and events that was shown on the local movie screen. The "W-I" initials were used beginning in 1930 by the carrier boys in collecting. The papers warned about paying anyone without the W-I logo.

Unfug--by then better known as Otto--bought an interest in the paper in December 1935. Thought he would be listed as editor of the W-I, Unfug would continue

to live in Sterling and act as editor/manager of the *Sterling Farm Journal*. Unfug installed Chester E. Clark, former editor of the *Brush News*, as his assistant editor in Walsenburg. Sitting editor Kirkpatrick resigned.

The Saturday edition was dropped in March 1936 but was revived during World War II as a shopper carrying news of hometown servicemen and a weekend local news wrap-up. Copies were sent to the Huerfano servicemen overseas.

Madison became publisher in 1947, when the company reorganized and Unfug sold his interest to William Prescott Allen of Laredo, Texas. Madison went on to positions with other Colorado papers and was president of the Colorado Press Association in 1948. Allen, who had several other papers, is better known as publisher of the *Montrose Daily Press* (see the Montrose chapter).

James H. Skewes and Harold L. Call bought the paper from Allen in September 1948, according to Stewart. Skewes sold his interest to Call, who sold the W-I to John Dinise and George Zanon, both of whom had been with the paper for some 20 years. Editors during the Dinise-Zanon ownership included Gus August, Jerry Kaplowitz, Jane Hoye, James Edmonds, Jr., and Raymond Adams.

The W-I bought the *La Veta Advertiser*, *Huerfano County News*, and *El Clarin* in October 1957. The name *World-Independent* disappeared May 29, 1958, and became:

Huerfano World June 6, 1958 to present, with Dinise as publisher and general manager and Zanon as advertising manager. It became a weekly. The newspaper

carriers who had proudly worn sweatshirts with the W-I logo, gotten free passes to the movies, and fielded a baseball team also disappeared; the papers were mailed. There was no more wire service: only regional news was carried. The nearby small towns had individual news columns and there were special columns from such contributors as the County Extension Agent.

Optimist 1920-1922, Charles N. Bissell, founder. It was a daily.

Walsenburg Daily Reminder 1932-1933.

Huerfano County News 1934-December 29, 1951. Stewart's "Newspapers" says it began as a free circulation paper October 19, 1932, but does not have any editors listed until Stanley J. Shuster who was there "by 1943." Earl Gault was publisher from June 1947 to October 1951 when it was a small, sometimes daily, six-page tabloid, featuring advertising. Dinise and Zanon bought it in October 1951, and ran it as a Saturday companion to the daily *World-Independent*. It was discontinued two months later. The name was changed to:

Walsenburg News before 1951, but reinstated:

Huerfano County News October 20-December 29, 1951.

Spanish Language Newspapers

La Opinion Publica March 15, 1905-1913. A.T. Manzanares was president of the publishing company, Modesto Valdez, vice president, A.M. Guerrero, treasurer, and C.H. Sanchez, manager. Directors listed when the company incorporated in January 1909

were J.D. Montez, P.L. Sanchez, A.T. Bustos, Juan A. Medina, A.D. Valdez, T.D. Baird, J.B. Farr, J.B. Dick and Adolph Unfug.

Imparcial 1911-1914, A.T. Manzanares, founder.

El Bien Pueblo August 1916-? The three founders were J.G. Archuleta, county clerk, C.H. Sanchez, county assessor, and A.M. Guerrero. It was printed at the *Independent* office.

Clarín Americano 1919-1920, A.T. Manzanares, founder.

El Clarín 1934-1942, Mr. and Mrs. Agapito P. Atencio, founders. Atencio, a member of one of the earliest families to settle in Huerfano County, was Walsenburg postmaster 1932-1935. The weekly paper was printed in Spanish and English until 1943 when the Atencios sold the paper to Earl Gault. Gault anglicized the name *El Clarín* and the language:

Clarion 1943-1951, Earl Gault 1943-1951. John Dinise and George Zanon of the *World-Independent* bought the Clarion in October 1951 and discontinued it.

The *World* reported in August 1904 that Charles Demolli planned to start an Italian newspaper in Walsenburg. It was a logical plan for the growing Italian community, but there is no further information on whether it got off the ground.

Sources: *Huerfano World*, 10/1/1992 "Huerfano County loves its news!" by Nancy Christofferson, who also wrote:

"*Twin Lakes...*", 12/29/1994, and a five-part county history in January and February 1991.

"*Pioneers of the Territory of Southern Colorado*" by Members of the Southern Colorado Auxiliary of the Territorial Daughters of Colorado.

World-Independent articles 1953-1954; assorted "This Week in Walsenburg" clips

Special thanks to Jack Lacy and Lucille Crisp, former editors, and current associate editor Nancy Christofferson.

CHAPTER XXXI

JACKSON COUNTY

The valley narrowed as we ascended, and presently degenerated into a gorge, through which the river passes as through a gate. We entered it, and found ourselves in the New Park--a beautiful circular valley of thirty miles diameter, walled all around with snowy mountains, rich with water, and with grass, fringed with pine on all mountain sides below the snow line, and a paradise to all grazing animals. The Indian name for it signifies "cow lodge" of which our own may be considered a translation; the enclosure, the grass, the water, and the herds of buffalo roaming over it, naturally presenting the idea of a park.

Lt. John C. Fremont, June 1844 expedition

Some called Jackson Countyt the "Buffalo Pen" or "Bull Pen" but the name that has lasted is North Park. The boundaries of North Park are almost the same as today's Jackson County: Wyoming on the north, Rabbit Ears Range on the south, Park Range on the west and Medicine Bow Range on the east.

Indians long found the area a hunting paradise in the summer. In the winter they and game moved to a lower altitude because of severe weather. The first white men to explore North Park were French fur trappers, followed by some familiar names in western history: Kit Carson, Jim Bridger, Jim Baker, and Old Bill Williams, who died sitting against a tree in North Park. Lt. John C. Fremont passed through the park in 1844, and described Arapahoe Pass, used by the Arapaho for frequent hunting trips into the area, as one of the most beautiful passes he had seen. The Arapaho's bitter enemy, the Ute, came over Ute Pass, and their battles were many.

Miners and prospectors turned up next. James O. Pinkham came to pan gold in the early 1870s, summering in North Park and wintering in Laramie. He built a home in North Park in 1874 and spread the word about rich placers. Within a year nearly a hundred men had joined Pinkham to search for placer gold. In 1878 a herd of milk cows became the first year-round cattle, providing milk and butter and an income for its owner. The cattle business was established, but with a temporary withdrawal following the Meeker Massacre in 1879.

The easiest route to the outer world was to Laramie, Wyoming, which thought the new settlement viable enough to build a road to North Park in 1876. Shipping to and from North Park came by the Laramie-North Park route until 1911, when the railroad was built. Gold, silver (at Teller City), and lead were found, but the transportation costs were too high to make mining profitable. Small flocks of sheep were introduced in 1918, but cattle ranches were dominant. After the cattle were fed, there was often enough hay left over to market commercially. There were also brief bursts of other industries: copper mining at Pearl, coal--off and on from 1890 to 1993--fluorspar, oil, gas, lumber, and tourists. Today's economy is based primarily on ranching and recreation.

Jackson County was originally part of Larimer County. When Grand County was established, both Grand and Larimer counties claimed jurisdiction over North Park, and the right to assess and collect property taxes. It was a very long way to Fort Collins, the Larimer County seat. The legislature finally agreed the way was too long, and Jackson

County was established in 1909. Walden was named county seat for the new county named, apparently, for President Andrew Jackson.

The mining towns of Pearl and Teller City were founded in Grand County. Most of their productive life occurred in Grand County, as did their newspapers. Teller City was all but a ghost town when it became part of Jackson County, and Pearl hung on by a thread. Donald Oehlerts' *"Guide To Colorado Newspapers"* lists the two towns under Jackson County. Because of their role in Grand County history, information about them will be found in the Grand County chapter.

Walden

The abundant hay of North Park encouraged ranchers to move in when mining failed. Wagon roads to the various parts of the county crossed at a place called "Point of the Rocks." A few years later there was a new town and a new name, Walden. It became the county seat when Jackson County was established in 1889. When the first town officials were elected and the town incorporated, Walden had an official population of 64, but, unofficially, a few hundred more.

The difficulties of freighting were more or less solved with the advent of the railroad in 1911. Built by a local company, the Laramie Plains Line was known as the LHP&P for Laramie, Hahn's Peak and Pacific. It was soon nicknamed the "Long Hard Pull and Perhaps."

A Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) unit moved into Walden to build fences, thin timber and clean roadsides during the Great Depression. In 1943 the same building used by the CCC became a Prisoner of War Camp.

North Park Union 1896-1907, Union Publishing Co. Eugene Alvar Anderson was editor from 1896 to 1905, and again in 1907. I.W. Ott was editor in 1898. The paper was purchased from James O. Mosman and Son by Kenneth J. McCallum, a bank cashier, in January 1906. McCallum was Walden mayor in 1899, 1912-15 and 1923-26. His son and daughter-in-law, A. Boon and Jean McCallum, were editors in of the *Union* 1906 and 1908. Weather did not keep the *Union* from making its appointed delivery; snowed in one winter and unable to get newsprint, the paper was printed on tissue paper.

North Park News 1898-1900.

New Era 1906-1914, New Era Publishing Co. Editors were: Mark Crawford 1906-1908, Alfred H. Law 1909-1911, and C.L. McFadden 1912-1914. They brought the first Linotype machine to North Park, and their motto was "In God We Trust, all others cash or good security." Carl L. McFadden sold the paper to A.E. Wilkins who merged it into the *Jackson County Star*.

Jackson County Times 1911-1913, Sam E. Swire, founder. Swire was the first Jackson County assessor.

Jackson County Star 1913 to date, Arthur E. Wilkins founder. Charles Henry Reed was editor of the *Star* 1915-1918. Wilkins was publisher until 1923, although he is listed

in the Ayer newspaper directory as editor/publisher through 1935. The *Jackson County Star*, however, says Wilkins sold the paper to Sam Swire in 1923.

Wilkins came to Colorado from Illinois in 1911 to work on the *New Era*. He left that newspaper to found his own, but bought the *New Era* in June 1914, combining its circulation with the *Jackson County Star*. *Colorado Press* said that "Such consolidations are always commendable. There are too many newspapers in many small towns--and big towns also."

Swire died due to injuries sustained in an accident early in 1935. Ralph Sommers, manager of the *Routt County Republican*, bought the *Jackson County Star* from the estate of Sam Swire on April 13, 1935. William J. Hrdlicka had been managing the paper in the interim between Swire's death and Sommers' purchase. Sommers and his wife published the paper until September 1938, when they sold the *Star* to L. Clark Varner, who came from a newspaper family.

In 1954, Varner developed a heart problem requiring surgery in Denver. Shelby Candland, formerly an advertising salesman for the *Arvada Enterprise*, took over the *Jackson County Star*. In 1957 the *Jackson County Star* was sold to Mr. and Mrs. William (Hope) Davis. Bob Sweeney, who may hold the record for most newspapers owned in Colorado, bought the *Jackson County Star* in 1967 from the Davises. Chard and Dusty Smith "of St. Louis, Mo. and Rand, Colo," purchased the paper in the fall of 1979 from Sweeney, who also sold his other northwest Colorado papers at the same time.

Sources: Jackson County Star, various issues, and the Walden Centennial Commemorative Edition 11/8/1990.

CHAPTER XXXII

JEFFERSON COUNTY

This flourishing and rapidly growing [area] is located on the Vasquez Fork of the South Platte, better known to immigrants as Clear Creek...Early in the last spring thousands of gold seekers here pitched their tents preparatory to pushing on into the heart of the mountains....About the first of June several claims were staked off upon either bank of the creek and recorded as farming and roughing claims...[thousands] stopped for supplies...and it became evident at once that this was a good point to build up a town.

Western Mountaineer 12/7/1859

This site on Clear Creek was, indeed, a good point for a town--and a county, territorial capital, and the home of the third newspaper on the incipient Colorado frontier. Golden was so robust that she gave her earlier-established sisters on Cherry Creek considerable concern. While Denver City and Auraria battled each other, Golden put its energy into building up its gateway site and launching Jefferson County.

Golden City grew steadily but, not being the source of unlimited gold, without much fanfare. The town became a supply center for those going through to the mining districts, and for those settling down to grow vegetables and grains for market. Lying half on the plains, half in the mountains, Jefferson County was the gateway and mid-point between Colorado's two areas of development. The location served well in advancing the county's claim to being the "cradle of government." As Albert D. Richardson put it in his book, *Beyond the Mississippi*:

Making governments and building towns are the natural employments of the migratory Yankee. He takes to them as instinctively as a young duck to water. Congregate a hundred Americans anywhere beyond the settlements, and they immediately lay out a city, frame a state constitution, and apply for admission into the Union, while twenty-five of them become candidates for the United States Senate.

True to this instinct, the people of this unfledged community, nominally in Kansas but practically as far from government and civilization as central Africa, were already making a State constitution....

As the camps along Cherry Creek and in the foothills sprouted, the territorial town builders wasted no time in electing a representative to the Kansas Territorial Legislature and a delegate to go to Washington, D.C., to seek territorial status. The following spring, as droves of immigrants arrived another meeting was held at pioneer Dick Wootton's all-purpose hall in Denver to set up elections for a June 1859 constitutional convention. "Jefferson" was the name chosen for the proposed entity, but there was heated debate over whether the aim was a state or territory. A state would require unwelcome local taxes, while a territory would depend on the U.S. Treasury. Voters chose a territory, 2,007 to 649.

Sometime during the winter of 1859-1860 the legislators met in Golden. They moved between Golden, Denver, and Colorado City until 1862, when canny Goldenites secured designation as the official Territorial Capital. Commented the *Denver Commonwealth*:

Both houses will be far more comfortable and convenient [in Golden] than they were at the last session in Denver. Ample preparations and accommodations have been made at the hotels, especially for members at the low price of \$10 a week with a good room. Rooms for committee clerks and other officers are supplied with everything desirable for facilitating business.

"Everything" included a free hall, firewood, and an increased stock of whiskey and ice at P.B. Cheney's saloon. W.A.H. Loveland provided the free hall and space for the legislative balls. Denver leaders, of course, grumbled until they got the capital back in 1867. Although the "Jefferson Legislature" got off to a good start, creating counties, passing laws, and setting up a judicial system, it soon ran into trouble with a proposal to levy a poll tax. Up in the hills hundreds of miners vowed to resist the tax. And they did, successfully.

Congress, by this time, had decided to rename Jefferson Territory as Colorado Territory in 1861, but the name Jefferson was retained by the Territorial Legislature for one of the seventeen original counties. After the Civil War began, Territorial Governor William Gilpin organized a cavalry unit at Golden, intended to scout the frontier and repress all attempts at guerilla warfare. Within months the Colorado troops were sent to repel the Texas Confederate troops at Glorieta Pass. The Coloradans were victorious; but Gilpin's ill-advised scheme to pay the troops with unauthorized federal credit meant the end of his career as Territorial Governor. President Abraham Lincoln replaced him in 1862 with John Evans.

The Civil War temporarily dimmed Golden's glow. As the War was ending, however, W.A.H. Loveland obtained a legislative charter for a railroad "from the east to the west boundary of Colorado by the valley of Clear Creek." A year later, at his own expense, he engaged two engineers to make a survey along the valley to Black Hawk. The report showed a broad-gauge railroad was possible, but would be very expensive.

Loveland contacted his friend, Capt. Edward L. Berthoud, who was stationed at Fort Sedgwick, for ideas. Berthoud, in reply, suggested a narrow gauge line along the route he had proposed in 1861. The efforts of Loveland and Berthoud brought the Colorado Central railroad to Golden on September 26, 1870. The railroad signaled a decade of rapid expansion. Most of it centered around Golden, which had smelters, a flour mill, a paper mill, coal mines, the Coors brewery, the Colorado School of Mines, and a variety of industries, institutions and attractions.

It wasn't until after 1910 that the growth shifted to the eastern part of the county, including Arvada, Edgewater, Lakewood, and Wheat Ridge. One-time farming communities have become residential areas, fulfilling another prophecy, made in 1938, that said, "eventually one can expect to drive from Denver to Golden through all of these towns without realizing he has passed from one to another." It would be the automobile, not the railroad, which would unite the towns. The post-World War II building and population booms caused Jefferson County town to sprawl over the farm lands until streets united Adams and Arapahoe and Denver counties.

Arvada

Lewis Ralston and a party of Georgians discovered gold in 1850 in what became known as Ralston Creek. The town that developed was known as Ralston, Ralston Point, and Ralston Station. Benjamin F. Wadsworth took a squatter's claim and built a log cabin on it in 1863. It was the Wadsworth land that became Arvada in 1880, when the community wanted a post office. B.F. Wadsworth's name is preserved on the major

north-south boulevard through the town. The town was named for Wadsworth's daughter, Arvada.

Agriculture, not mining, became the major industry, and the town was a residential and commercial center for agriculture. After World War II, rapid residential development eliminated the remaining farms.

Colorado Fruitgrower December 9, 1892-?, Edgar Russell, founder.

Arvada Advocate September 9, 1899-1900, Charles S. Warren, founder.

Arvada Citizen #1 March 1902-1905, Lewis L. Gray, founder. Gray, who had earlier founded the *Boulder Miner*, published the paper, with several suspensions, until 1904, when Earl R. Bishop took over. Because he was only 17, Bishop was called "Ye Kid." He changed the newspaper's name to:

Arvada Sun 1905-November 14, 1919. Bishop was publisher to 1907. Harry Baller was connected with the paper from 1906-1907, followed by A.W. Armstrong 1909-1912. Baller and his wife Teresa returned as publishers 1912-1913. C.M. Danford bought the *Sun* in 1913. In 1919 he bought the *Golden Globe*. Juggling two papers evidently didn't suit Danford, so in February 1919 he sold the *Sun* to his son, Frank D. Danford. In October 1919, John F. Vivian, a Republican Party leader in the county, and others bought the *Sun* at an auction and moved it to Golden, where it was combined with the *Globe* and became the *Jefferson County Republican*. (See Golden.)

Jefferson County Star 1903, F.G. Pabor, founder. It lasted only a few months. Pabor was the son of William E. Pabor, an early Colorado newspaperman and Press Association champion of considerable repute.

Arvada Discoverer 1906-June 1908, C.A. Wellsher, founder. Oehlerts says it continued as the *Enterprise*.

Arvada Enterprise June 3, 1908-1970, J.F. White, a Methodist minister, publisher from 1908 until Feb. 24, 1911. T.S. Knapp, a real estate agent, was connected with the paper from 1908 until sometime before 1911. White and Knapp cofounded the Arvada Historical Society. Thad S. Sutton leased the paper from 1911 to April 17, 1913, when W.W. Moberly bought the *Enterprise*. Moberly was publisher until he sold the paper to J. S. Flanagan & Sons in 1920. L.P. Kennedy, formerly of the *Parker Post*, bought the paper in 1921, selling it in May 1923 to Russell L. Gorrell.

Gorrell died of a heart attack On November 7, 1940. Gorrell's widow, Hazel, and their son, Lloyd, then 19, continued publishing the paper until May 1944, when Lloyd went into military service. Vancil (Pete) Smith and Roswell Graves leased the *Enterprise* while Gorrell was in service. Smith stayed on until 1954. Lloyd Gorrell returned from service in 1946 and picked up the newspaper reins again. He was publisher until April 1970, when he sold the paper to Harry Green, Jr., who merged the *Enterprise* into *Arvada Citizen #2*.

Arvada Citizen #2 August 24, 1966-November 3, 1971, Harry Green, Jr., and Harry Farrar, founders. Farrar left in July 1969. In 1968 the *Citizen* had a companion free

circulation paper, the *Arvada Advertiser*. The *Citizen* and *Enterprise* merged on April 2, 1970, under the *Citizen* name. Green remained as publisher until November 1971, when he sold the paper to Community Publications, which changed the name to:

Arvada Citizen Sentinel November 3, 1971-March 1, 1979. The name was shortened to:

Arvada Sentinel on March 1, 1979. Green stayed on with the new company, Community Publications, until October 1973. Publishers were Thomas Noonan, 1971-1983; Harrison Cochran 1983-1988; and Robert Schumacher 1988-May 1990. When Community Publications dissolved in 1991, the paper was purchased by WestEdit, the company headed by Bob Cox, and the name became:

Arvada Jefferson Sentinel 1991 to present, Bob Cox, publisher.

Paramount Weekly December 8, 1939-1940, Bob Black Jr., founder.

Brentwood Herald 1956-1961. Oehlerts lists the paper under Arvada, but Dick Hilker thinks the paper was in Denver.

Jefferson Herald June 1962-1971, Clifford Bautsch, Colorado Publications, founder. It was part of a suburban newspaper chain in Jefferson, Adams, and Boulder counties. Circulation of the *Herald* was primarily in Arvada and Wheat Ridge. It was merged into the Arvada and Wheat Ridge *Sentinels*.

Arvada Edition to Arvada Independent 1985. This was part of Bob Titsch's ill-fated newspaper chain (see Arapahoe County).

Arvada Community News 1990 to present, Old Towner Publications, Inc. Jim Connor was publisher/general manager in 1995. S.K. Connor was co-publisher and Harriet Ford, editor.

Arvada Community News 1989 to present, Jim Connor, publisher. Started as a newsletter, the *Olde Towner* was changed to newspaper format in 1991. The name was changed to reflect "the new community-wide direction [of the paper]...in the tradition of the hometown newspaper."

Conifer

George Conifer opened a roadhouse for the Denver-Leadville Stage route, according to "Place Names in Colorado", published in 1957 by the *Jefferson Record*. The booklet notes that opinion is divided over whether the name came from the man or the thick growth of conifer trees in the area. The town was established in 1860 and first known as Hutchison (after an early settler) and then Junction City. The name Conifer became official in 1900, but the town did not have a newspaper until 1977.

High Timber Times June 6, 1977 to present, William Potter Johnson, founder. Jacque Scott, now with the *Golden Transcript*, was editor/publisher in 1984. The Media Group, headed by Dennis Rooker, bought the *High Timber Times* and *Evergreen Courier* in November 1986. Kamal Eways is publisher of both. Editors for the Conifer paper have included S.E. Humphries 1986-88; Debbie Marshall 1989; Ellen Stiner 1991-92, and Tony Messenger 1990 and, again, 1993 to present.

Critchell

Located south of Morrison in a mining area, Critchell "was quite a lovely place to live." It was reached by stage from Littleton and active enough for one newspaper:

Rocky Mountain Reveille March 31, 1899-September 21, 1900, W.R. Hill, founder. Hill was a mine promoter for whom a boomtown--now a ghost-town--in Jefferson County was named. Jefferson County historian/writer Betty Moynihan discovered a bound volume of 65 *Reveille* issues, including the first issue, at the Topeka, Kansas Historical Society. The *Reveille* dedicated itself to promoting mining, the main industry. The unusual slogan under the newspaper title was "Home Protection."

Edgewater

In the early 1880s Edgewater, on the west shore of Sloan's Lake at the Denver city limits, tried to obtain approval for the name Edgewater Park, but the legislature did not pass the bill. By 1890 the area had grown as a pleasure resort, and the town was established and named Edgewater.

Edgewater Record 1911-1914.

Community News 1920-1921.

Edgewater Tribune January 2, 1923-May 1923, Taft & Allen, founders. They soon gave up the ghost and moved their plant to Denver, where they conducted a job printing business.

East Jefferson Sentinel May 6, 1931-January 5, 1945. O.A. Morris, founder. W.D. Morris was editor. The founding dates vary from 1930 (Oehlerts directory) to 1931 (Ayers directory) to 1932. Newspaper historian Walter Stewart gives May 14, 1932 (a date the paper used in print, but it was the date it received an Edgewater mailing permit, not the founding date). Stewart says the *East Jefferson Sentinel* was "designed to fight questionable practices and methods," and adds that "By February 2, 1934 the nameplate read 'combined with *Lakewood Sentinel* and *Edgewater Sentinel*.'"

Neither Oehlerts nor Ayer list Lakewood or Edgewater *Sentinels* but the 1932 *Colorado Business Directory* lists both under Edgewater--they were in the Edgewater post office district--but does not list the *East Jefferson Sentinel*. The Lakewood and Edgewater Sentinels, owned by Martha Cormack of Edgewater, were brought under the East Jefferson Sentinel's wing by 1934, according to Dick Hilker.

Colorado Editor announced in December 1932 that Morris had sold the paper to "J.G. Parsons, for the past year foreman of the *Englewood Monitor*." Parsons, "an experienced newspaperman" who had had a daily in Idaho, took over the *Sentinels* on November 1, 1931. Jess G. Parsons was still publisher in February 1933, although Leo O.M. "Max" Lucero bought the paper in the spring of 1932. Lucero and Parsons both seemed to have been editors, and Parsons also was in charge of the mechanical department. *Colorado Editor* reported that Lucero would also issue a Spanish-language newspaper from the *Sentinel* plant.

Charles Deus, who had been employed for 10 years in the *Pueblo Star-Journal* composing rooms, and 18 years in the *Pueblo Chieftain* shop, became publisher of the *Sentinel* in June 1933. Robert J. Olson, in his "Sentinel, The Story of the Sentinel Newspaper," states that Deus was publisher in February 1934, but "the real power behind the paper was Leo O.M. 'Max' Lucero." According to Hilker:

Lucero was a fearless foe of the gambling figures who set up "shop" in business establishments and homes fringing the Sheridan-Colfax intersection. Anything that rankled him or struck him as unjust, whether in local politics, county government, schools or the neighborhoods...became his target.

L.O.M. Lucero was secretary of the El Imparcial Publishing Co., a Spanish-language newspaper in Denver. He evidently replaced Parsons with J.E. Manzanares, a member of the family that published *El Imparcial*. In the fall of 1935, Lucero ran into problems. A suspicious fire at his plant may have been started by kids in the employ of corrupt targets of Lucero's journalistic muckraking. The *Phantom* editor, Arthur Doak, was pistol-whipped and shot at a few weeks after the fire. The unknown assailants were never apprehended.

With the plant in ashes, the *Sentinel* moved to Arvada for six months. Lucero sold the *Sentinel* in January 1936 to Frank Farrell, formerly of Crested Butte. Farrell evidently didn't last long. Stewart doesn't even list him, and states that F.F. Fuller bought the paper from Lucero and a group of 40 businessmen in "Fall, 1935." Olson thinks that the businessmen represented an effort by Farrell "to obtain local support from the Lakewood business community [giving] Farrell the backing to purchase the paper from the financially-strapped Lucero." Dick Hilker speculated:

After fire demolished the Sentinel's office-plant operation, the merchants and subscribers recognized that without the official voice of a newspaper they had lost a possible chance for that individualism. Whether by invitation or as voluntary backers is unknown, but numerous people chipped in to get the publication rolling once more.

Farrell did, however, stay on as local editor for Fuller, who opened a new shop in the next block, at 5316 W. Colfax, in July 1936. The *Sentinel* was the official publication for both Jefferson County and the City of Edgewater. Fuller said in the July 31 issue that it was six months since the paper had resumed publication, indicating a lapse of publication between the fire and Farrell's purchase. In 1940 F.F. Fuller & Son became publishers, F.F. Fuller, editor, ad salesman, and circulation manager. The name of his son is not given in directories, but it is known that daughter Helen was typesetter. Fuller inaugurated a network of community reporters in each town served by the *Sentinel*.

Gifford Phillips, owner of the Golden *Jefferson County Republican*, bought the paper in 1944. Gifford named Guy G. Alexander editor of the *Sentinel* early in 1945. Alexander was said to have wide newspaper experience in Colorado and the country. He was a statehouse reporter for the *Rocky Mountain News* for several years, then in the same capacity for Associated Press for nine years. He was also on the editorial staff of the *Denver Post* at one time.

In late 1945, Ray Ernst was named general manager of the *Sentinel*. On January 5, 1949 Phillips merged his two newspapers into the *Jefferson County Republican & East Jefferson Sentinel*. (See *Lakewood Sentinel* for history since 1949.) Morris' small group of Sentinels were the foundation for what grew into the largest chain of suburban Denver newspapers. In April 1970, Harry Green, Jr., owner of the *Record Stockman* and other

papers, purchased the Jefferson County *Sentinels*, but in November 1971 Cowles Media Company of Minneapolis bought controlling interest in the *Sentinels*, and two other suburban *Sentinel* newspaper chains around Denver. The Colorado company was named Community Publications, and the newspapers thrived. However, economic problems in the late 1980s forced a consolidation of some of the *Sentinels*, and in 1991 the papers were sold in the communities they served; many of the new owners were former *Sentinel* employees. The major *Sentinels* still exist.

Edgewater Tribune #2 1982 to present, Ron and Bonnie Allison, founders.

Colorado Editor said in August 1991:

When you have a State Senator and a Mayor in the same household, one would think that there'd be enough crises and telephone calls to satisfy anyone. But for Mayor Ron and Senator Bonnie Allison, that wasn't enough. They started their own newspaper which has been published both biweekly and weekly for ten years. The mini-tabloid newspaper restricts its content to the community of Edgewater....

Daughter Judith explained that her office-holding parents "are just the kind of people who can't help rolling up their sleeves to improve their community." Most of the staff was "an unlikely assemblage of volunteers," and the paper should have been named the "Shoestring." The six-page paper was printed in a garage, and there was a weekly contest to see who could spot the most embarrassing typos.

Columbia Gardens-Edgewater News 1926. *Inter-Mountain Press* announced in the February issue that this was "a new community paper started recently...." but there were no specifics and it was not mentioned again.

Edgewater Tribune #3 c. 1950. A news item in the September 1950 *Colorado Editor* says that Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Withers published the *Edgewater Tribune* and *Wheat Ridge Journal*. The Withers also published the *Westminster Journal*, which they founded, the *Wheat Ridge Sentinel* and *Erie Herald*.

Evergreen

Set in a forest of pine and spruce trees, the town's name Evergreen was a natural, although the original settlement in 1860, of 40 or so people, was called The Post after village storekeeper Amos Post. The ranch on which the townsite was built was originally homesteaded in 1866. Evergreen soon blossomed as a popular summer resort.

In 1882 the Bear Creek Stage Line was advertising, "Comfortable stages will hereafter connect with all trains at Morrison, conveying passengers to all the summer resorts along the famous Bear Creek canyon." The 1887 *Colorado Business Directory* showed 7 out of 23 businesses were either summer resorts or hotels. By 1900 a new four-horse coach was put on the road, making "a great improvement in stage service."

Mountain Park News May 13, 1932-1959, Glen Gants, founder. He moved to Evergreen from Walsenburg in the summer of 1931 because of his wife's ill health. *Colorado Editor* had a story in April 1956 about new owners George and Ruth Gilfillan. The Gilfillans were newspaper people. George had worked for the *Philadelphia Ledger* and *Inquirer*, and was assistant director of the *Detroit News* library for 25 years. The Gilfillans discontinued the paper in 1959.

Mountaineer February 1946-December 31, 1947; LeRoy Gray, founder. Sherman Mason bought the paper in September 1947 and discontinued it in March 1948.

Canyon Courier 1953 to present. Again, there are conflicting starting dates. Oehlerts and Ayer say the *Courier* started in 1953. Stewart says it was founded May 5, 1955 as *Smoke Signal* by the Indian Hills Fire Department. Tri-Canyon Publishing Co. bought the paper in July 1956; Vern Manning was editor/publisher. The name was changed to *Canyon Courier* October 23, 1958. Olen and Mary Bell, who owned several suburban papers, bought the *Courier* in June 1960 and sold it in June 1963 to Owen and Katherine Ball.

Owen Ball had had a long career on daily newspapers, but was shopping around for a small-town newspaper. It took him five years to find his dream: the *Canyon Courier*. Ball was surprised at the pace on a weekly--he described it as faster than a daily. William Potter Johnson bought the *Canyon Courier* from the Balls in February 1974. He would eventually own four additional Colorado newspapers. Among the editors and general managers during his ownership were John Fellows, who started in 1974 and later became editor/manager of all the Johnson papers in 1980, and Carole McKelvey.

The Media Group bought the *Canyon Courier* and the *Conifer High Timber Times* in November 1986. Kamal Eways was named publisher, a position he still holds. Tony Messenger, a Colorado native, has been executive editor of the *Canyon Courier*, *High Timber Times* and *Columbine Community Courier* since 1991.

Evergreen Hustler 1971-? The *Hustler*, which had a circulation of 13,500 along the U.S. Highway 285 corridor in 1988, was sold that year by Diane Rozzi to Kamal Eways, owner of the Evergreen and Conifer papers.

Evergreen Today 1982-1984, Cary Stiff and Carol Wilcox, founders, and owners of the *Idaho Springs Clear Creek Courant*.

Golden

Golden City sprang from a three-man camp in 1858 to a bustling supply town. In the fall of 1858 George A. Jackson, Tom Golden, and James Sanders built a small cabin on Clear Creek then-known as the Vasquez Fork of the Platte River. They referred to it as Arapahoe City; in 1860 it had a population of 80. Tom Golden found another spot by a canyon, called it Golden Gate City, and went into road building. The small Golden Gate City was a toll gate station until a better wagon road and the railroad passed it by.

The credit for founding the city of Golden, however, goes to the Boston Company, which appeared June 12, 1859, and saw "golden opportunities." Four days later a town company had been formed. The town was the trading center for the successful mining camps springing up all along Clear Creek. George West, who had brought several wagonloads of supplies, began erecting the Boston Building, a substantial two-story log and hand-hewn timber trading post. The first floor was to be a general store and post office, while the second floor would be West's print shop. Simultaneously, W.A.H. Loveland began constructing his general store. Wagers were placed on which structure would be finished first. West was confident:

I figured I had the edge [because] I had traded for shingles to roof what was to be the Boston Building, while he didn't have enough for his.... We thought we had him licked when we retired one night, but the next morning we found our supply of shingles gone and the Loveland building under roof. That afternoon Loveland sent back the shingles he had surreptitiously appropriated, together with apologies and a five-gallon keg of whiskey....

The first election in the county was held January 2, 1860. J.W. Stanton was elected Mayor and W.A.H. Loveland, treasurer. The Territorial Government made Golden the Capital City in 1862. The word "City" was officially dropped in 1872, although the English world traveler and journalist, Isabella L. Bird, used it in a captious comment late in 1873:

Golden City by daylight showed its meanness and belied its name. It is ungraded, with here and there a piece of wooden sidewalk supported on posts, up to which you ascend by planks. Brick, pine, and log houses are huddled together, every other house is a saloon, and hardly a woman is to be seen.

Western Mountaineer December 7, 1859-December 20, 1860, George West, founder; the Boston Company, owners. It was Colorado's fourth newspaper. The office was over the Boston Company's store. The little press was being used for its third Colorado paper. Thomas Gibson acquired it for a grubstake after Jack Merrick decided one issue of the *Cherry Creek Pioneer* was enough. Already a relic, the press had been dumped in the Missouri River by Mormon-haters, and would have many owners in many towns and be known as the Peripatetic Mormon Press. (See Boulder County Sidebars for full details on the Mormon Press.)

Gibson, one of the *Rocky Mountain News* founding group, took the press to Mountain City and started the *Rocky Mountain Gold Reporter*. He left the camp for the winter, loaning the press to George West. Gibson intended to take the *Gold Reporter* back from West in the early spring and restart it. West founded the *Western Mountaineer*. Subscribers to the suspended *Gold Reporter* received the *Mountaineer* instead.

The *Mountaineer* was distinguished for a number of things besides George West. The staff was composed of some of the most brilliant writers in American journalism and a stable of mining camp correspondents. A.D. Richardson and Thomas Knox joined the staff in July 1860. E.H.N. Patterson was a regular contributor under the signature "Sniktau." In July, Sniktau made his debut writing:

This is getting to be a great country isn't it? Your correspondent remembers the time--only a brief year ago--when one could hardly thread his way through the wild and jungle-covered gulches about Gregories Diggins; but, the other day visiting that locality again, I found a thronging population, fine houses, thousands of stumps where once a grand old forest darkened the mountain slopes; huge piles of gold-divest gravel where but a few months ago, tangled thickets and wild flowers held sway in ravines; thundering stamp mills and screaming steam whistles where once we only looked for bear and elk! "Sich is life"--Sich is the transforming power of the greed for gold! And ages hence will it be ere the action of the elements shall heal the wounds that man has made with pick and shovel and crowbar and blast upon the face of nature.

December 20, 1860 was the last issue of the *Western Mountaineer*. West wrote a valedictory:

With the present number this publication...will cease....The publisher...has not accumulated a huge pile of this world's goods, in the short time he has been engaged in proclaiming truth, and affording instruction to an unpolished hemisphere....[Prompting]

the sale of the Mountaineer--a deficiency in the bank account of the establishment....We have labored for the good of the public and also had an eye to our own. We flatter ourselves that the world has looked with favor upon our efforts and given us a due amount of praise, but it has not been as liberal in its bestowal of reward of a more solid and substantial nature. We find no fault with those who have patronized and paid us, but tender them our humblest and warmest thanks; for those who have given no patronage, or who have given it unaccompanied with pecuniary considerations, we have not a word of gratitude to offer....

Sniktau also said goodbye:

"Here lies a noble Mountaineer,

Who died when he was young.

His only fault--if fault that were--

He wagged a saucy tongue.

Here sleeps the Western Mountaineer,

Last of his noble race--

Then, stranger, pause, and drop a tear,

For none can fill his place.

West's new press and complete new office was sold to A.C. Chandler and H.S. Millet to start the *Canon City Times*. West was only temporarily out of the newspaper business. After *The Mountaineer* went West, Golden had no local newspaper for more than year. Another Democrat made a pitch.

Colorado Democrat February 18, 1863-1864. L.M. Amala, proprietor, William Train Muir, editor. The masthead said *Colorado Daily Democrat*, and it was published every day but Saturday. The weekly publication, recapping daily stories, came out on Wednesday, and it was also noted that "*Mining Life* is published Wednesdays in

Central." The *Democrat* promised "the services of many learned and experienced gentlemen in every portion of the Territory--whose able contributions will add worth and value." The *Democrat* also promised "job printing at Denver prices."

Between the end of his first Golden newspaper, the *Western Mountaineer*, and his second, the *Transcript*, George West had gone off to war but had kept up his newspaper credentials through the *Rocky Mountain News*. West was commissioned a Captain in the 2nd Regiment of the Colorado Volunteer Infantry in 1862, and the *Rocky Mountain News* announced that it had just acquired Colorado's first war correspondent. George West sent back reports all through the Civil War.

Capt. West returned from the War, "wiser and on the road to a healthier bank account." He wrote:

When the cruel war was over, and we returned to our mountain home dead broke...and stopped our old black topped ambulance in front of the old News office on Larimer Street on that hot afternoon in July '65 to say "How" to the boys, we were incontinently bounced by then proprietors Byers and Dailey--to take the position of local editor of the NEWS. Did we take it? You bet we took it and stuck to it like a puppy to a root until the fall of '66 when we started the TRANSCRIPT....

E.L. Berthoud, Baskin history

Colorado Transcript December 19, 1866 to present; George West, founder. *Transcript* or *Daily Transcript* was sometimes used in the nameplate, and the name evolved to **Golden Transcript** about 1955. The *Transcript* did not get the plum perk of a state capital--the state printing contract--not even for the time when the capital was

located in Golden. West's promise to eschew politics did not help. West was a Democrat and the legislature was Republican.

The *Transcript* was an opinion leader for the mountain cities, all of whom lusted for supremacy over Denver. West and his old chum, W.N. Byers, owner of the *Rocky Mountain News*, used their papers to fight over the capital location. The two publishers also disagreed on statehood. Byers was a leading exponent; West was firmly against it, mainly because of money. The estimated amount of taxable property, said West, is "ridiculously small...to support a state government." He insisted a state government would increase expenses by one-third (this was at a time when Golden was donating freebies to host the legislature) and one could never be certain of federal subsidies. West also thought it might be better if the mining population stopped increasing for a while and the emphasis of the state changed to agriculture. He never did support the statehood movement but, in the end, he admitted it was coming and he would, therefore, "not stand in its way."

In the early months of 1875, West was said to be negotiating for the purchase of the *Denver Democrat*, but nothing seems to have come of it. Instead he issued a daily edition of the *Transcript* in Denver in March 1875. That same month, the *Denver Mirror* said that the *Denver Transcript* was "the only creditable organ the [Democratic] party ever had." It lasted nine months. Capt. Smith said the *Colorado Transcript* "made much" of the silver question and gained a "wide circulation in mining camps and trade

centers...." and that led to the to the development of the *Denver Transcript* when the silver issue was hot.

For nearly 40 years, George West and the *Transcript* were key players in the development of Golden, Colorado, and the state's newspaper profession. Still a dedicated Democrat, George West went to the polls to vote in the morning of November 15, 1906. That afternoon he died at the age of 80 years and 7 days.

After the founder's death, the *Transcript* was owned by Mrs. West and her three children until February 24, 1916. The elder West son, Leslie B. West, and son-in-law, George M. Kimball, had already joined the staff as publishers/editors of the paper from February 1, 1899 to December 18, 1901. Leslie left to go into the telephone business, and died before 1920. Kimball was again editor in 1905, a position he held until 1911.

West's younger son, Harley Dean West, joined the paper in February 1905 as local editor. After his father died, he was editor/manager--the family corporation was the publisher--from 1906 to February 24, 1916, when he became full owner. Harley learned the newspaper business from the lowly job of printer's devil to the top, owner-editor. Harl, as he was called, preferred the production end of a newspaper, and was one of the first to install a Linotype for a Colorado paper. He sent employee Oscar Goetze to the Mergenthaler plant to learn how to operate the machine. Like his father, Harl was active in the Press Association, and was a community booster and builder. In January 1927, his only child, a daughter, Harleyn, died of scarlet fever, leaving behind a

husband and a three-week-old baby. Harl West never got over the blow. He died unexpectedly on May 1927 following an appendectomy.

His widow, Vera, took over the *Transcript*. Oscar A. Goetze, was associate editor from 1913 to July 1929. George West's grandson, Neil West Kimball, joined the *Transcript* as an apprentice printer and was promoted to editor/manager in 1916.

Vera West remarried and her new husband, H. Fleet Parsons, eventually became editor. Parsons, like George West, was a Democrat, but "balanced" his editorials with ones written by a Republican, Virginia Miller Weigand, daughter of J.C. Miller. Vera West Parsons died in 1952. H. Fleet Parsons married another presswoman, Hazel Durkee. He died in late summer 1959 and his son, Harley West Parsons, became editor, Hazel Parsons, publisher. On April 1, 1960, the *Transcript* passed out of the hands of the West family. The *Golden Transcript* had been a one-family newspaper for 94 years.

A group consisting of advertising executive William Kostka, Englewood publisher John Jameson, and Colorado Press Association manager William M. Long bought the paper from Hazel Parsons in 1960, and published it for three years. Bus Tarbox was the first editor and publisher for the group. Barclay Jameson, John's son, became editor in 1963. Charles E. Donnelly, Jr., and M.W. Clarkson were publishers from April 1963 to March 1966; Earl Howey, Jr., was a co-publisher from June 1964 to March 1966.

Bill King, owner of a string of Colorado papers, bought the paper in March 1966, and published the *Daily Transcript* twice per week. He also installed a modern press in a new building, and went to offset printing. In August 1968 a new corporation for the

Transcript was formed with the *Kansas City Star* and *Great Bend Tribune*. The paper was expanded to a five-day daily. King was president of the company but resigned in January 1970. Jerry Emerson was named publisher to succeed King, and Mike Smith, editor. Bob Edwards bought Emerson's stock and was publisher from November 1975 to April 1978. John G. and John D. Montgomery bought the paper April 7, 1978. Denver Dixon was manager, James Horton, managing editor. On October 1, 1979 editor Jim Hall announced that the *Daily Transcript* would become the semiweekly it still is.

John Thomas was named editor and publisher of the *Transcript* in November 1980. Thomas had been with papers in Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, and Massachusetts. In September 1983 Jerry Brock, who had worked on the paper for Bill King, and Jim Adkins purchased the paper. Brock and Adkins also owned several newspapers in Douglas and Elbert counties. Ed Engler, a native of South Dakota, was named general manager. Dean Rowland, who was news editor, was promoted to editor.

The Englers moved to New Hampshire in 1987 to manage weekly papers. Robert Short, who had been general manager for the Adkins-Brock Douglas County papers, was named general manager of the *Transcript*, and would later be a co-partner of the *Transcript*. Jacque Scott, who had edited the *Conifer High Timber Times* for several years, was named editor. A Denver native and journalism graduate of the University of Hawaii, Scott has won numerous press awards, and has served on various Colorado Press Association committees, and the Board of Directors since 1991.

The *Transcript* in recent years has also issued the *Jefferson County Transcript*, *Applewood/Wheat Ridge Transcript*, *Golden Guide*, and *Jefferson County Magazine*. In January 1996, Jerry Brock became sole owner of the *Transcript* after purchasing the stock owned by Bob Short. Brock then sold the paper to Golden Media Inc., a partnership of race car driver Price Cobb, Texas newspaperman Vince Bodiford, and Joe Mavilia, a computer software company owner.

Golden Media took over the assets, land and publications of the *Golden Transcript* in June 1996, and Jill Jamieson-Nichols, a graduate of the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo, was promoted to editor. She won the Colorado Press Association "Shining Star Award" for outstanding journalism in 1993, and has won honors for reporting, column writing, public service and feature writing.

Golden Eagle March 1872-1873, John Sarell, founder. After West started the *Transcript*, it took six years for the Republicans, the dominant party in the county, to challenge their Democratic friend. The *Eagle* was a Saturday publication and a Republican counterpoint to the *Transcript*. P. Achey bought the paper in February 1873 but sold it a month later to William F. Dorsey and Edgar Watson Howe, who turned the "listless flapping" paper into the respected:

Golden Globe March 22, 1873-November 20, 1919. It too was a Saturday-issued, Republican newspaper. When Dorsey became co-owner of the *Globe* he was 24. W.G. Smith acquired Dorsey's interest in the *Globe* in June 1873. Ed Howe sold his interest in the paper in March 1875 to his brother, A.J. Howe, who thus became W.G. Smith's

partner. Smith, who hailed from Michigan, bought A.J. Howe's interest in 1879, though Howe remained on the staff until 1888.

The Rowell newspaper directory lists Donaldson and Moore as publishers in January 1878, and W.G. Smith and Joseph Bass, publishers, in October that same year. There is no question about A.J. Howe and William G. Smith of Michigan owning the paper from 1875 to 1879; others named may have been investors.

William Grover Smith sold the *Globe* in April 1890 to Clarence H. Pease. O. W. Garrison, an attorney, bought the paper in January 1893, and ran it with a steady hand until 1912. Smith said Garrison wrote "many an editorial full of pathos and sound advice, always pointing a good moral to guide some wayfaring traveler." Garrison died in Golden on February 26, 1916 at the age of 80.

From 1906 to 1908 the Morrison *Jefferson County Graphic* was published as an insert in the *Globe*, with a Morrison dateline. J.W. Arasmith was editor of the *Globe* from 1911 to 1917; he died in an automobile accident. A series of people held part-interest from 1911 to 1919: M.M. Stuart, Garrison's son-in-law, 1911-1920; Alfred J. Isham, who owned the *Brighton Blade*, 1917; and Louis Slingerland, who leased the paper in 1917 and bought an interest in 1918. C.M. Danford, owner of the *Arvada Sun*, bought the *Golden Globe* in April 1918. The *Sun* and *Globe* were consolidated in the fall of 1919 under the name:

Jefferson County Republican November 20, 1919-January 12, 1949. Officially titled the *Jefferson County Republican & Arvada Sun*, the name of the newspaper was

shortened to *Jefferson County Republican* in 1923. The paper was owned by a corporation financed by 30 Republicans from Denver and Jefferson County "desirous of having a dominant Republican organ in the county," according to *Colorado Press*. R.B. McDermott, "a considerable stockholder in the consolidation," was elected manager and editor. Charles Danford was in charge of the mechanical department.

McDermott had been with the *Loveland Reporter*, and, after two years with the *Jefferson County Republican*, would go on to one of the most distinguished weekly newspaper careers in Colorado. Although he was connected with more than half a dozen newspapers in the state, most of his career was with the *Las Animas Leader*.

McDermott left the *Republican* in June 1921, and Danford became editor, with J.W. Klein as manager until 1924. Monty Budd, a former editor of the *School of Mines Oredigger*, joined the staff June 5, 1924 in a "managerial and editorial capacity," according to a 1945 *Colorado Editor* article written by Virginia Miller Weigand. In July Harry L. Serviss and Budd were named co-managers and editors; Danford was in charge of the mechanical end. Budd left in 1926, and Serviss was made editor and manager, and Danford, associate editor. Harry Serviss died June 9, 1929, at the age of 63 from heart disease.

Danford retired as associate editor and manager of the *Republican* in November 1927 and moved to Denver to establish the South Denver Printing Company. James Cuyler Miller bought a controlling interest in the *Republican* and on July 4, 1929, put out his first issue. During the next 10 years, he "quadrupled the value of the composing

room by the addition of the latest type machinery and equipment, as well as enlarging the newspaper," according to his daughter, Virginia Miller Weigand.

Miller moved to Golden in 1929 as editor of the *Golden Transcript*, but the Democratic policies of the *Transcript* bothered him, so later in the year he bought an interest in the *Republican*, which suited him better, and which he published until his death in September 1939. His daughter, who was society editor, was promoted to editor until the paper was sold later in the year. Virginia Weigand Miller was a journalism graduate of the University of Colorado. She went to work for the *Transcript* in 1945 and retired 40 years later.

Leo R. Brewington, of Salina, Kan., bought all the shares of the Republican Publishing Company in December 1939, and dealt it to W.R. Coyle in May 1941. Coyle, former publisher of an Iowa newspaper, sold the *Republican* in 1944 to Gifford Phillips, who owned the *Edgewater East Jefferson Sentinel*, which became the Lakewood *East Jefferson Sentinel* in 1945. In 1949 he merged the *Republican* into the *Sentinel*. Phillips named Guy G. Alexander, editor of his *Edgewater Sentinel*, to the position of editor of the *Republican*. Alexander replaced James Martin, a former Loveland newspaperman, who joined Golden Press when it was organized in 1943.

Colorado Central July 27, 1878-1879.

Jefferson County Graphic September 8, 1906-October 3, 1908; begun in Morrison, moved to Golden. (See Morrison.)

People's Press 1907-1912.

Rocky Mountain Mountaineer January 4, 1908-1909.

Union News 1921-1922.

Outlook 1945-1989/1990, George A. and J.W. Barley, founders.

(See *Golden Advertiser*.)

Free Press 1926, F.C. Craig, founder.

Golden Advertiser 1961-? The Barley brothers--George and J.W.-- bought and merged at various times the *Edgewater News*, *Evergreen Mountaineer*, *Lakewood Leader* and *Wheatridge Times-Graphic*, *East Jefferson County Star*, and *Jefferson County Shopper*. Most were free-circulation "shoppers."

Lakewood

Joseph Wight was in the stage coach and freighting business when he moved to Lakewood from Denver to farm on the bounty land. Some early prospectors found better results growing things than digging them. The foothills were as far as they got, and they prospered with agriculture. In 1889 W.A.H. Loveland platted the area between Harlan and Carr streets, south of West Colfax as "Lakewood." He built a large Victorian brick home on Harlan Street and West Colfax Avenue that still stands. Lakewood had the benefit of a good location. W.A.H. Loveland's company ran the first electric tramway--the Denver, Lakewood and Golden Railway Co.--through the town in 1893. But the 1893 crash halted Lakewood's development. Property values fell and much land

was sold for back taxes. The city W.A.H. Loveland planned forgot its dreams and went back to farming.

Still sparsely settled in the late 1930s, Lakewood underwent a building boom starting in 1940 with the Denver Federal Center and the Denver Ordnance Plant. People flowed in, many living in tents as the early pioneers had, until they were hired and housing built. With them came new businesses and incredible growth.

On June 25, 1969, the town--briefly named Jefferson City--became Colorado's 255th incorporated community, and on November 6, by a nine to-one-margin, residents voted to change the name to Lakewood. The new town included areas of Lakewood, Alameda, Green Mountain and Applewood Knolls.

East Jefferson Sentinel 1945-January 5, 1949. The paper was begun in Edgewater in 1931 (see Edgewater). The Golden Bell Press, headed by Gifford Phillips, bought the paper, changed the publishing location to Lakewood, in 1945 and the name to:

Jefferson Sentinel January 12, 1949-1969, when the name changed to:

Lakewood Sentinel 1969 to present. Editor Gifford Phillips, a member of the Phillips Milk of Magnesia family, saw the potential of the new boom. In April 1944 he bought the *East Jefferson Sentinel* and the *Jefferson County Republican* which was based in Golden. He operated them separately as sister publications, but since both papers

carried pretty much the same news, the *Republican* disappeared into history January 5, 1949.

Phillips was known as a crusading editor and an "aggressive promoter and booster of the West Colfax business community." Among his crusades were school bond issues necessary for fast-growing Lakewood, resistance to Denver's attempts to annex Lakewood and Wheat Ridge, and the water company, which Phillips considered too taciturn and unresponsive. Phillips drilled his own well when the water company refused to give the newspaper a tap for its new quarters. He also bomb-proofed his new building because he had antagonized so many people.

Phillip's stepfather--Charles A. Johnson--joined him in the newspaper venture. Another partner was Arthur Brooks, an attorney and Republican state representative from Denver County. Phillips sold the *Sentinel* in 1950 to Ed Moder, a farmer, cheese salesman, and novice politician.

According to Dick Hilker, a *Sentinel* writer hired in 1952,

"There wasn't really a lot of 'hard news' to report. Most of the space in the inside pages was filled with gossip items collected by a small army of neighborhood correspondents...The front page and the editorial page were reserved for Moder's brand of slam-bang journalism."

Hilker, who had been with the Denver Post for six years, was named editor in September 1960. Moder died unexpectedly from a heart attack March 4, 1960. Just a few weeks earlier he had picked up the Colorado Press Association annual awards for typography and for general excellence.

His widow, Martha, continued to publish the newspaper until November 1966. She sold it to a partnership of employees: Hilker, Pat Wilcox, and Bill Armstrong, who bought the Gateway West Publishing Co., the *Sentinel's* corporate name. Non-employees Sherwood Waterman of Lakewood and Irwin Armstrong of Albuquerque, were also partners. Harry Green Jr., owner of the *Record Stockman* and *Arvada Record*, was chief stockholder and publisher of the *Sentinel*. Green was publisher from 1966 to 1975. Keith Varner, production department foreman of the Gateway West Publishing Company, was given a Colorado Press Association Golden Makeup Award for 50 years in the newspaper business in 1973. Varner was with the *Sentinels* from 1957 through 1972.

After Lakewood and Wheat Ridge were incorporated in 1969, Hilker was honored as one of 13 people who were instrumental in achieving Lakewood's incorporation. The newspaper name was changed to:

Lakewood Sentinel 1969 to present. It became one of the Community Publications chain in 1971. When Community Publications was dissolved in 1991, Bob Cox of WestEdit--the *Lakewood Gazette*--bought the three Jefferson County *Sentinels*, in Arvada, Lakewood, and Wheat Ridge. All three *Sentinels* were given the name *Jefferson Sentinel* in 1991, but soon "merged apart," as Cox put it, to include their individual town names. Hilker, who was the Sigma Delta Chi Journalist of the Year in 1971, is still with the *Lakewood Sentinel*, and writes a diverting column that appears in other *Sentinels*.

Green Mountain Gazette June 1988-1991, owned and published by WestEdit, Inc., Robert E. Cox, editor and publisher. Within a few months the newspaper name was

simply *Gazette*. WestEdit purchased the Jefferson County papers from the *Sentinel* chain in 1991, and the *Gazette* name was changed to:

South Jefferson Sentinel 1991-1993, when it became the:

Daily Times October 1993 to present. Bob Cox is working on twenty-first century plans for the *Daily Times*, which could take effect "real soon." Cox, who urged Colorado Press Association to get going on steps to become "major travelers on the information highway," practices what he preaches. WestEdit, Inc. also publishes *Jeffco's Daily Fax* and the *Daily Times Online*.

There were other newspapers in Lakewood, but only one, the *Jefferson Record*, was a sturdy competitor.

Jefferson Record March 1946-1959, Robert L. Wier, founder. The *Record* was backed by Republicans who were furious at the *Sentinel's* condemnation of Republican leadership in the county. Robert Wier was a Colorado Press Association director, and filled many a March *Colorado Editor* with photographic highlights of the annual press convention. In 1955 businessmen Ivan Gillett and James Colegrove bought the paper, selling it to Olen Bell in 1959. Bell merged it into his *Wheat Ridge Advocate*.

East Jefferson Photo-News 1949-1951.

Lakewood Times-Graphic, 1953, Bill Chenoweth, founder.

Lakewood Leader, date uncertain, Barley Brothers.

South Jefferson Sun, 1959, Barley Brothers.

Westlander August 25,1960-1961, an advertising section of the *Sentinel*.

Jefferson Scout 1972, a "shopper" published by the *Sentinel*.

Lakewood Today 1977-1982, Bill Armstrong, John Tracy and Irwin Armstrong, founders. Earl Bennett bought the paper in 1981 and sold it to the *Sentinels* in 1982.

Morrison

The town was named for 1859 homesteader, George Morrison, who built a three story-residence of brown, red, and white sandstone. John Evans, David Moffat, and Morrison were the original builders of the Denver & South Park Railroad and owned the Morrison Stone, Lime & Town Company, among other things. By April 1875, the *Rocky Mountain News* was extolling the "unsurpassed" hotel and livery accommodations, the fishing in "clear, swift flowing Bear Creek," and the "splendid brown and white building stone." There were no physicians or lawyers, "which is certainly a healthy sign." Preachers were not needed because "society is so primitive and uncontaminated by the outside world." A schoolhouse was being built, and "no less than seventeen of Denver's most prominent citizens have signified their intention to erect Swiss cottages" in the vicinity. The peaceful summer resort was shattered by two consecutive floods on July 25, 1896. Morrison did rebuild, of course, and in January 1906 citizens voted 69-0 to incorporate.

Late in 1912, John Brisben Walker, who owned Red Rocks Park in Jefferson County, proposed building "the most extensive magnificent system of parks possessed by any city in the world," contending that they would attract thousands of tourists. It was the natural amphitheatre at Red Rocks Park, called the "Angel's Retreat" by pioneers, that Walker had his eye on. His plans, according to the *Denver Post*, called for reproductions of the Sphinx, ten prehistoric animals, and part of the Mesa Verde cliff dwellings, and "a great stadium" that could seat 100,000 people. Walker did not live to see the completed world-famous Red Rocks amphitheatre.

National Park campsites and roads to them were built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), headquartered in Morrison. Other roads were built to or through parts of Jefferson County by the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

Morrison Bud March 1888-1899, W.H. Phelps and W.S. Neal, founders. A.W. Armstrong was publisher from 1890 to 1900. In March 1900, the paper announced that its name would change to:

Jefferson County Graphic March 10, 1900-August 24, 1906. Charles McCall was publisher from 1900 to 1902. M. De Leon Imus apparently bought the *Graphic* in 1903.

In September 1906, the *Graphic* began appearing in the *Golden Globe* as an insert bearing the dateline Morrison, with the slogan: "Devoted to Best Interests of Morrison and Southern Jefferson County."

Morrison Independent 1912-1914, Thad S. Sutton, founder.

Morrison Monitor February 12, 1914-1918. Mrs. A.M. Cochran, founder. Late in 1917 Mrs. Cochran leased the *Monitor* to Edward L. Bundy, formerly at Strasburg. *Colorado Press* reported in February 1918 that Cochran had sold the Morrison Monitor to Bert North, a well-known newspaper man from Longmont. There is no further mention of the *Monitor*.

Wheat Ridge

Which? Wheat Ridge or Wheatridge? Sign painters in suburban Wheat Ridge have a lot of latitude. It's the same in Wheatridge.

Whether the name of the suburb west of Denver is one word or two seems to depend entirely on who wields the paint brush....

Denver Post 6/30/1957

The *Post* gave examples: Wheatridge on a county sign, a Wheatridge shopping center, Wheat Ridge Water District, Wheat Ridge Post Office, Wheat Ridge Realty Co, Wheatridge Hardware, Wheatridge Medical Clinic--but another sign said Wheat Ridge Medical Clinic. Two fire trucks carried the name Wheatridge, two others, Wheat Ridge.

The town was named Wheatridge in 1882 by State Senator Henry Lee, one of the first settlers. Early newspapers referred to Wheatridge, but the U.S. Census, which first listed it in 1960, has always used Wheat Ridge. Established in 1862 as a wheat growing area, Frank Hall described the town as "the seat of the farming aristocracy, a beautiful place, dotted with splendid farms, orchards and costly dwellings, giving every evidence of wealth and prosperity." Orchards and truck farming also contributed to the development of the town. Wheat Ridge--two words--was incorporated in 1969, at the same time as Lakewood.

Wheat Ridge News 1911-1916. Samuel W. Johnson was publisher in 1915, and James Bailey in 1916.

Wheat Ridge Journal c. 1950, A.B. Withers, founder.

Wheat Ridge Advocate February 1957-November 1957, Olen and Mary Bell, founders. The Lakewood *Jefferson Record* bought the *Advocate* and merged it out.

Jefferson Journal 1958-1967, Barley Brothers. J.W. Barley was editor and publisher, George Barley, business manager and publisher. *Colorado Editor* in December 1968 said M.B. Enterprises--Richard P. McKee and Norma Behm--bought the *Journal* and moved it to their Arvada office.

Jefferson Herald 1963-1971, Clifford Bautsch, founder. Community Publications bought and discontinued it in 1971. (See *Arvada Jefferson Herald*.)

Wheat Ridge Sentinel 1969 to present, Harry Green Jr., founder, with Dick Hilker, Pat Wilcox, and Bill and I.W. Armstrong. The Wheat Ridge and Lakewood *Sentinels* had been part of the *East Jefferson Sentinel* prior to incorporation of their respective towns. The *Sentinel* was sold to Community Publications/*Sentinels* in 1971, and was purchased by Bob Cox, WestEdit, in 1991.

Wheat Ridge Transcript 1982 - present. Owned by The Mile High Newspapers. originally the *Jefferson County Transcript*.

Sources: *Arvada Sentinel* 6/1/1989.

Golden Colorado Transcript 12/19/1866, 11/16/1916, 12/19/1991.

Lakewood Sentinel 3/10/1983.

"Sentinel, The Story of the Sentinel Newspaper 1931-1991" Robert J. Olson, 1991.

"Jefferson County Colorado, the Colorado Past of a Great Community"; Sara E. Robbins; published by the Jefferson County Bank, Lakewood, 1962.

"The Shining Mountains"; Georgina Brown, B&B Printers, Gunnison, 1976,

Special thanks to Bob Cox, Dick Hilker, Betty Moynihan, Jacque Scott.

CHAPTER XXXIII

KIOWA COUNTY

Bent County [which in 1888 included future Kiowa County] was very large, comprising much of southeastern Colorado. Las Animas [the county seat] could not properly govern this large area, and lawlessness reigned. The SS [a ranch] fence, designed to keep the cattle in, also frightened off settlers. President Grover Cleveland signed an executive order that all these fences must come down....That, and the presence of railroad survey crews from both the Missouri Pacific and the Santa Fe, started a rush...into Colorado.

Ruthanna Jacobs, "Kiowa County Colorado Centennial History", 1989.

The Double S (SS) Ranch was founded in 1871 by Hiram S. Holly, a former miner who went into the cattle business. A settlement grew up around the ranch; it is now known as Holly, but it ended up in Prowers County in 1889. The deed to the ranch, bought by a group of Englishmen in 1883, "conveyed rights to 700,000 acres of government land lying on both sides of the Arkansas River, used as a cattle range," according to William F. Dawson, who wrote the SS story for the 1989 "Kiowa County Centennial History." Dawson claimed that his tract of land was one of the first to be fenced in the Kiowa County. He claimed his land included the site of the massacre at Sand Creek. The National Park Service has since purchased his land as part of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site.

When the Territorial Legislature established the first Colorado counties in 1861, a section of land bordering Kansas was set aside for an Indian Reserve, but in 1870 the legislature broke the Reserve into Greenwood and Bent counties. Four years later, the

two counties merged into one large Bent County. In 1889 Bent County was chopped into six counties: Kiowa, Otero, Prowers, Cheyenne, Lincoln, and a much smaller Bent. Kiowa County was named for one of the Indian tribes that hunted in the area. The name is said to mean "principal people."

The old Kit Carson trail--Kansas to Bent's Fort--passed through Kiowa County, as did a cattle trail from Texas to Wyoming. Many immigrants were passing through in the summer of 1864 when Territorial Governor John Evans was attempting to work out a co-existence with the various plains Indians. He failed miserably.

On November 29, 1864, Colonel John M. Chivington led the Third Colorado Cavalry in an attack on a peaceful village of Arapaho and Cheyenne Indians camped at Sand Creek. His troops slaughtered an estimated 163 Indians, most children, women and old men. Today, cattle graze peacefully around the small stone marker commemorating the site on what was once part of the SS Ranch.

Sheridan Lake was designated as Kiowas County seat. Among the first county officers were two Sheridan Lake newspapermen, J.S. Booher (*Kiowa County News*), assessor, and W.K. Dudley (*Kiowa County Leader*), sheriff. A courthouse and a jail were constructed for \$7,000, but early in December 1900, the courthouse burned down. Most county records were saved, but the people of Eads, chagrined at being passed over for the county seat designation, had another chance at the prize. An election was held in November 1901 in which both Eads and Sheridan Lake claimed victory. The commissioners ordered the county records moved to Eads, and most of the "available

men" from Eads sped to Sheridan Lake to gather up the records and transfer them by a railroad flat car. Sheridan Lake took the dispute to court, claiming that although Eads had received the largest number of votes, it failed to secure two-thirds of the vote, "as required by law." In August 1902, a District Court Judge issued a writ of mandamus ordering county officials to return the seat of government to Sheridan Lake, or "show cause why they fail to do so." Evidently cause was shown, because Eads remained the county seat.

The principal industries were, and are, farming and stock growing. Although boosters claimed the county is part of the so-called "rainbelt region," Kiowa is a county that still prays for rain in dry times. A severe drought in 1889-1890 destroyed crops, precipitating reservoir projects for water storage. The 1891 season produced fine harvests, thanks to the heaviest rains "known in many years." Oil was struck as early as 1913 when G.A. Newton, publisher of the *Haswell Herald* was promoting wells. In later years, about half the county was leased for oil, but Brandon had the only commercial quantities.

Arlington

Arlington was founded in late spring 1887 by a group that included newspaper publisher J.S. Booher. Arlington (first called Joliet, then Arlington Springs) was named for a Missouri Pacific Railroad official. When the railroad was built, the town was moved a couple of miles downhill to be on the rail line, and the name shortened to just Arlington.

Arlington Review 1888-1891, O.L. & A.S. Reed, founders. A Mr. Billings was an editor.

Blizzard October 9, 1889-1893, Gibson, Boyd & Co., founders. Gibson and Boyd were sisters. Jennie F. Boyd was editor.

Arlington Observer 1915-1916, O.F. McKittrick, editor/publisher. An item in the November 1915 *Colorado Press* states that C.P. Dutton "at Arlington will hereafter print that paper at his plant at McCracken, Kansas, where he publishes another newspaper."

Arlington Advance 1920-1921, C.L. Hall, founder. Announcement of the new paper was made in the April 1920 *Inter-Mountain Press*.

Brandon

Founded about 1887, the town name probably came from nearby Lake Brandon, one of the county's reservoirs.

Brandon Bell May 1, 1909-December 31, 1915, continued as:

Westland January 7, 1916-June 24, 1921 continued as:

Brandon News July 7, 1921-1924. The February 1914 *Colorado Press* said that L.F. Randolph had purchased the *Brandon Bell* and was making a success of it. Newspapers historians Wallace Rex and Walter Stewart say that Randolph founded the *Brandon Bell*. The Oehlerts guide gives the founding date as July 1907, and the 1920 Ayer directory gives 1906. In February 1916 *Colorado Press* reported that Leslie

Randolph, who also owned the *Colorado Farm and Ranch* at Eads, had changed the name of the *Brandon Bell* to *Westland*. Randolph merged *Colorado Farm and Ranch* into *Westland* in February 1917. Randolph was editor until March 26, 1920, and publisher until December 29, 1921. Louis Wilson was editor 1912-1913.

Edward Emerine, who had apprenticed on the *Calhan News*, bought *Westland* in July 1921, publishing it until 1924. The "successor to *The Westland*" appeared in the nameplate when the *Brandon News* was issued July 7, 1921. The *Brandon News* merged in the *Midway Magazine* December 29, 1921. The *Kiowa County Press* in Eads bought the *Brandon News* in 1922.

Chivington

Located about 12 miles south of the Sand Creek site, the town is named for Colonel John Chivington. Surprisingly, in light of the controversies over Sand Creek, the name has not been changed. Established in 1887, it was a busy village claiming 2,500 residents and "a couple dozen saloons." It was a Missouri Pacific freight division station, but the roundhouse was moved to Kansas, and the old Kingdon hotel to Sugar City. Today it's a virtual ghost town.

Chivington Chief 1887-1895. Alson W. Brown, founder. J. Frost Liggett bought the *Chief* in 1895 and moved it to Sheridan Lake, changing the name to *Sheridan Lake Press*. (See Sheridan Lake.) When the county seat was moved to Eads, the newspaper followed.

Eads

Eads, organized in 1887 as a railroad town, almost ended up three miles away. A site called Dayton was the Missouri Pacific Railroad survey destination, but the line didn't get past Eads. Dayton packed up and moved to the railroad. The town was named for James B. or Captain George Eads, the latter the engineer who built the Eads bridge over the Mississippi River at St. Louis. Eads became the county seat in 1901.

County Times 1887-1888, J.B. Rogers, founder.

Colorado Bandanna June 1888-1889, J.C. Blevins, founder.

Kiowa Journal 1889-1896, J.C. Blevins. Whether this is a continuation of the *Bandanna* or a new paper started by Blevins is not known.

Kiowa County Press December 7, 1901 to present, C. Frost Liggett, founder. The *Press* had its beginning as the *Chivington Chief* in November 1887. The paper was moved to Sheridan Lake in 1895 as the *Sheridan Lake Press*. It then moved to Eads as the *Kiowa County Press*. Liggett stayed with the *Press* through three name changes, until July 1903. Liggett alternated as editor and publisher with his wife, Emma, and son, Charles Orcutt Liggett.

J.L. Pyles purchased the *Press* July 3, 1903. He was editor/manager to January 5, 1917, when Floyd W. Pyles took over. Louis Wilson, formerly at Brandon, and more recently foreman at the *Lamar News*, acquired the *Kiowa County Press* early in 1917,

immediately securing the designation as "official paper of the county," according to *Colorado Press*.

W.C. Messinger and James C. Miller bought the *Kiowa County Press* June 18, 1921. Messinger left in 1923, but Miller stayed on until June 1928, when he sold to James LaVelle. A few months later, LaVelle married Edith and not only acquired a bride, but a busy colleague, too. Edith LaVelle was news reporter, bookkeeper, and columnist, and assistant editor. The LaVelles "guided the *Press* through the bust years of the Great Depression, then led the paper to what was probably its most prosperous period during the 1940s," said Dan Cunningham, a later publisher.

The *Haswell Herald* was merged into the *Kiowa County Press* on April 1, 1933. LaVelle published the *Kiowa County Press* until the end of 1962. Jack Gardner was owner, editor and publisher of the *Press* from January 1, 1963 to October 1, 1971, when he sold the paper to Betz Publishing of Lamar in 1971. Fred Betz Jr. was publisher until 1976, and his daughter, Becky (Mrs. Gerrald) Larrew, was manager until December 1972. Betz Publishing sold the *Kiowa County Press* to Nick Johnson in January 1977. Johnson sold it to Paul Daniel and Connie McPherson in May 1978. Daniel bought McPherson's interest in 1979.

Late in 1981, Paul Daniel took on his son, Robert, as co-publisher. Paul's wife, Pearl, was ad manager. The Daniels sold the *Kiowa County Press* in September 1987, to Dan and Roseanna Cunningham. Dan Cunningham, a journalism graduate from the University of Utah, had praise for his predecessor:

[Daniel kept] the 1,000 circulation newspaper alive. Realistically, newspapers this small have begun to disappear throughout the country; however, the Daniels have helped the area maintain its own newspaper by developing other areas of revenue such as printing and office supply sales.

Unfortunately, the Cunninghams found it necessary to leave the paper because of health reasons. They sold the paper to David H. Parker, a New Yorker, in August 1992. Parker didn't stay with the paper very long. When he took over the *Press* in the fall of 1992, he had a "vision." He saw a chain of newspapers in the southeastern part of the state. But he soon felt he was in over his head. "I stepped on a lot of toes of people--the kind of people you don't want to mess around with if you want to stay alive," Parker said. He left a bitter message under the headline "County commissioners receive early Christmas present. Press owner David Parker leaves State of Colorado."

He left the paper "in the care of Connie McPherson," the long-time employee and former co-owner of the *Press*. Managing Editor Chris Sorenson announced negotiations for purchasing the paper, and was successful. He is now publisher, McPherson is advertising/circulation manager.

Colorado Farm and Ranch 1913-February 23, 1917. Leslie Randolph, founder. The paper was founded in Sheridan Lake March 1, 1908. (See Sheridan Lake.) Ora Nelson was the owner in 1916 and early 1917. Randolph merged *Farm and Ranch* into his Brandon *Westland* in February 1917.

Kiowa County Champion 1913-1914.

Galatea

Galatea, founded in 1887, was situated on the Missouri Pacific Railroad also. The population in 1890 was about 100. Galatea had one newspaper:

Galatea Courier 1888-1890. Raymond Miller and Walter K. Dudley may have been the founders. Grant Turner "operated" the newspaper.

Haswell

Haswell, established in 1905 as another railroad town, was the highest geographical point on the route between Pueblo and Kansas City. As previously mentioned, the town was named by the daughter of Jay Gould or another executive. Another version of the name's origin says the people of Haswell "were so happy to strike water, the name came from 'has a well.'" The town had one newspaper:

Haswell Herald 1913-1933, G.A. Newton, founder. *Colorado Press*, in the November 1918 issue, had a Haswell report:

For some time G.A. Newton of the Haswell Herald, has been engaged in oil well promotion. The Herald has been conducted by Mrs. G.A. Newton and Mrs. Maude Cubitt during Mr. Newton's absence and they have done it very well. Several issues of the Herald had so much legal matter in it that it looked better than an oil well.

Clarence L. Hall bought the *Herald* in 1925, selling it to James LaVelle in 1928. LaVelle also owned the *Eads Kiowa County Press* with which the *Haswell Herald* was eventually merged. After the sale, LaVelle continued publishing the Haswell paper, but

printed it at his Eads *Kiowa County Press* plant. On April 1, 1933, LaVelle merged it into the *Press*.

Sheridan Lake

Sheridan Lake was founded in April 1887 by the Sheridan Town Company. It was the first county seat. Named for Civil War General Phil Sheridan, the town was laid out in 1887, independently of the railroad, which preferred the town of Arden a few miles farther west. The town built a depot just in case, turning it over to the railroad, which eventually recognized that the town was serious and abandoned Arden for Sheridan Lake.

Sheridan Lake Courier 1887-1888, Newman H. Mix, founder.

Sheridan Lake Times 1888-1889, C.C. Kline, founder.

Sheridan Lake Chronicle 1889-1890, Newman H. Mix, founder. The dates suggest that the second two papers may be a continuation, under other names, of the *Courier*.

Kiowa County Leader 1890-1896, W.K. Dudley, founder. Walter Dudley was one of the first county commissioners. Emma Hutchcraft was publisher in 1893. J.C. Funderburg and C.L. Smallwood were publishers from 1894 until the *Leader* was discontinued in 1896.

Sheridan Lake Press 1894-1902, C. Frost Liggett, founder. The *Press* was founded in Chivington as the *Chivington Chief* in 1887, and moved to Sheridan Lake. Liggett

would later move the paper to Eads, renaming it *Kiowa County Press*, when Eads became county seat. (See Eads.)

Kiowa County News 1896-1899, H.A. Long, editor and publisher. J.S. Booher was co-publisher.

Colorado Farm and Ranch March 1, 1908-1913, Leslie Randolph, founder. It was continued in Eads under the same name until it merged with the Eads *Kiowa County Press*. This is another newspaper with conflicting starting dates. The Oehlerts' directory uses the March 1, 1908 date. Newspaper historian Walter Stewart gives March 1906 as the founding date. The 1915 Ayer directory gives 1896.

Stuart

An area of 500 square miles of the richest prairie land in the United States with a great trunk line R.R. passing east and west through its center...

Stuart Chronicle 5/17/1888

In 1888 the infant community already had a Post Office, two grocery stores, a hotel, saloon, two blacksmith shops, a wagon shop, a feed store, a coal yard, a lumber yard, a printing office, and several residences. There was a literary society, Sunday School, and "other social privileges that compare favorably with older towns."

Stuart Chronicle May 17, 1888-1889, S.D. Bollinger, founder. The first issue featured a three-column ad, a full page in length, for Stuart, Colorado, to remind readers that 80 acres of Government Land were open and "being rapidly settled and

improved." The Government lots "are absolutely FREE to those who improve them." The ad continued:

STUART has all the natural advantages to make it the best town in Eastern Colorado.

Stuart is not a County Seat.

is not a Rail Road Center

is not a Rail Road Division

But while it is only six weeks old, it is making a rapid, legitimate growth and relies upon the development of the country and its natural resources for success.

Stuart is surrounded by a class of PERMANENT settlers which makes it the principal trading point in this section.

Bollinger would later establish newspapers in Cripple Creek and Victor.

Western Wave 1889-1890.

Water Valley

Water Valley Clarion 1887-1888.

Special thanks to Dan Cunningham, Jack Gardner, Betty Jacobs, and Sharon Johnston.

CHAPTER XXXIV

KIT CARSON COUNTY

We heard the echoes of prayer chants, war chants, hunting chants of Arapaho and Cheyenne. We saw the hills dark with buffalo, more buffalo than man could count, meat to feed the plains people forever; and we heard the echoing rifle shots of the buffalo killers, who took tongues and hides and left the carcasses for the carrion eaters, the bones for us to find in the eternal grass forty years later. We saw the shadowy herds trailing north...heard the echoes of their bawling, their hoof-and-horn rattle, the sad chants of their night herders....

We saw, heard, smelled, felt, almost tasted the past.

Hal Borland, *Country Editor's Boy*, 1970

The first ranch in Kit Carson County was settled in the early 1870s. Not until 1887 did the railroad and the first real land rush arrive together in 1887. The first train, the Rock Island line, ran through in the fall of 1888. Most of the towns were built along the rail line. The railroad publicity attracted settlers of all kinds: farmers, laborers, professionals, and families.

Many of the homesteaders failed in a short time because they were ill prepared or plagued by bad weather. The years 1889-1890 brought hot summers and few rainfalls. Loan companies foreclosed or bought the land cheap. Many of the companies, in turn, failed in the financial panic of 1893, the same year an extreme drought hit.

The county, named after one of the most celebrated frontiersmen of his time, was organized by the legislature April 11, 1889, from the far eastern side of Elbert

County. Burlington was named county seat. Around 1900 another land boom, nurtured by good weather and crops, and the introduction of farm machinery made it easier to manage large acreages.

Beloit

In 1890, the only year Beloit was listed in the U.S. Census, the population was 97.

Beloit Bugle 1888-1889. It was sold to the *Burlington Boomerang*.

Burlington

The first small party of settlers arrived in 1870 to establish a service town for the growing number of ranchers. The original village was replaced in 1886 when a town named Lowell was platted. It was abandoned almost immediately. A second plat in 1887 on the same land was named Burlington by early residents who came from Burlington, Kansas. This time a town survived, and later thrived, for three special reasons: irrigation, a railroad and determination. The Rock Island railroad came through in 1888.

A new era commenced when the first deep well was drilled, ending total reliance on Mother Nature. In 1951, completion of the Bonny Dam sparked another burst of activity. Irrigation helped the farmers, which helped businesses, which kept the "economy on a roll." After the Bonny Dam, despite an anticipated exodus, many of the construction workers stayed on. Bonny Dam, however, disappeared during after Kansas claimed its waters belonged to that state.

Burlington Blade 1887-1889, A. Casey, founder. There is some evidence that the name was changed to the *Boomerang*, or that it was merged into the second paper. The year 1887 is given as the *Boomerang's* birth.

Burlington Boomerang 1888-1892, John F. Murray, publisher. Historian LeRoy R. Hafen states, without dates, that the first two papers in Burlington were Murray's *Boomerang*, and:

Tribune, published by J.H. Stewart. No dates are given, No further information has been found on this paper.

Kit Carson County Advocate 1889-1890, L.E. Tobias, founder.

Burlington Republican 1890-1921.

Burlington Republican and Record 1920-1931.

Burlington Record 1931 to present. The newspaper used the words "And Republican" in small type beneath the *Record* name until at least the end of 1936.

Burlington Republican March 1, 1890-December 29, 1911, Arch Cunningham, founder. He earlier published the Crystal Springs/Flagler *Register* from 1880-1890. The Burlington paper may be a continuation of the *Register*. Newspaper directories give 1892 as founding date. Cunningham may have let the *Republican* lapse so it was reborn in 1892.

The Reverend C.W. Smith was publisher 1892-1893, followed by Percy L. Hill. Hill is listed as managing editor on June 24, 1893. The paper name is in bold, dominant capitals. In 1896, the *Republican* was the Official Paper of the county. Prohibition was a major issue in 1899. The *Republican* carried a Women's Christian Temperance Union column and several anti-booze editorials.

F.N. King, whose real estate, loan and insurance business ads were among the first advertisements in the paper, became editor in 1898. He held the position until 1907, when the *Republican* was purchased by George L. and R.L. Wilkinson. Three years later, the *Republican* bought the *Kit Carson County Record*:

Kit Carson County Record August 1901-July 7, 1921, Frank J. Mann, founder, and publisher until 1907. Arthur Wilson, a former Kansas printer, "ran" the *Record* from 1906 to 1910, according to the 1938 Who's Who in Colorado. Alma Viola Morrison, who would publish several Colorado newspapers later on, was editor during that period.

R.L. Wilkinson bought the *Record* January 6, 1910. Two years later, he and his father, George Wilkinson, bought the *Republican*. The two plants merged, but separate newspapers were issued until at least 1921, when the two papers merged into the *Burlington Republican & Kit Carson County Record*. George W. Wilkinson was publisher, except when he was out of the state, and turned over the reins to his son, R.L. Wilkinson. A fellow plains newspaperman, writing about his fellow publishers, says that George Wilkinson was in the running for longest serving plains editor, "but he left

the state for several years, so continuity was broken...'continuous' is a crucial word in newspaper claims."

Inter-Mountain Press reported in April 1922:

*The Kit Carson County Record has changed its name to that of the **Burlington Republican and Record**, the change being dictated by George L. Wilkinson, who took charge of the paper when his son, R.L. Wilkinson, assumed the duties of postmaster at Burlington.*

George Wilkinson published the *Republican and Record* until his death in 1930. T.A. McCants purchased the *Burlington Republican and Record* in August of that year. McCants was recently managing editor, business manager and owner of the Greeley *Weld County News*. By August 1930, the paper sold to A.W. Hudler. The Hudler family is still successfully guiding the *Record* almost 70 years and four generations later. Hudler began phasing out the *Republican* name by using it as a sub-name, until the current name became standard:

Burlington Record 1931 to present. Not too long after buying the *Record*, A.W. Hudler was convinced that the *Record* was "the descendant of the *Burlington Blade* of 1887." In 1944, the *Burlington Record* and the *Burlington Call* merged. Bill Hudler had been trying to buy out the competition for several years, without success. One late winter day John Hudler walked into the *Record* office and announced that he now was the owner of the *Call*--would his father like to consolidate? *Colorado Editor* called it "John's best trick, singlehanded."

Burlington Call 1918-February 24, 1944, Arthur Wilson, founder. He was editor and publisher the entire life of the *Call*.

Born in Abilene, Kan., May 11, 1874, Wilson went to work for the Abilene *Reflector* in 1893. Moving to Denver in 1896, he spent the next ten years working for several job printers, until moving to Burlington and a job with the *Kit Carson County Record* 1906-1910. Shortly after selling the *Call* to John Hudler, Wilson's health failed. He died May 24, 1944, of a cerebral hemorrhage.

The Hudler (John R.) purchase and merger of the *Call* with the Hudler (Bill) *Record* resulted in a father-son partnership, "as smooth-working as any you ever saw," commented an obviously impressed *Colorado Editor*. For the first time in 26 years, Burlington was again a one-newspaper town. It still is. A.W. (Bill) Hudler died August 18, 1956, of a heart attack. He had been in the newspaper business for 35 years, and with the *Record* for 26. He had semi-retired, leaving his son, John, to operate the *Record*.

Bill Hudler started a family tradition of Colorado Press Association activity. Bill Hudler served on the Colorado Press Association Board of Directors. Active on CPA, John R. Hudler was named Colorado Press Association Publisher of the Year in 1980. The third generation, Rol and his wife Joy, were active on committees and the Board of Directors. Their son John serves on committees. The fourth generation of Hudlers, Rol's son John R. Hudler III, joined the staff in the early 1980s; in 1997 he is general manager/advertising. A photo in the June 1962 *Colorado Editor* showed five generations

"of the Hudler clan"--Mrs. A.W. Hudler, publisher John Hudler, Rol Hudler, and Mrs. Hudler's mother, Mrs. R.J. Gilchrist, holding her infant great-great grandson, John III.

Late in June 1997, the *Burlington Record* was purchased by The Denver Post Inc. It became the seventh in the *Post's* Eastern Colorado Publishing Group chain, which also included the *Akron News-Reporter*, *Brush News-Tribune*, *Fort Morgan Times*, *Julesburg Advocate*, *Lamar Daily News*, and *Sterling Journal-Advocate*. No changes in personnel or the operation of the *Record* were expected. Rol Hudler remained as publisher, and John Hudler as advertising director.

Kit Carson County Banner 1892-1896, H.L. Barter, founder. Barter had been publishing the Castle Rock *Douglas County News*. He would go on to publish several newspapers in Teller County.

Swenson's Weekly December 17-1926-January 22, 1927, Joseph M. Swenson, founder. James J. Weir was editor. Both were from Burlington. Swenson had founded an earlier *Swenson's Weekly* in Brush in 1896. It, too, was short-lived.

Carlisle

A town on the Rock Island railroad line, Carlisle was just east of Burlington, near the Kansas border. The population in 1890 was 300. It is not listed in later U.S. Census records. It had one newspaper:

Carlisle Reporter 1887-1888, Orvill D. Rogers, founder.

Claremont

Another railroad town, Claremont was west from Burlington, and east of Vona. Claremont became Stratton. Claremont had a remarkable number of newspapers, but no copies survived. No names of publishers or editors have been located. Oddly, none of the newspapers moved with the town site to Stratton, which had only one newspaper.

Crystal Springs Register July 1888-1889, Arch Cunningham, founder. The railroad bypassed the town and the paper moved to Flagler.

Claremont Journal 1888-1891. This is the only Claremont paper listed in the Colorado business directory.

Claremont Star 1888-1889.

Kit Carson News 1889-1891.

Claremont Educator 1893-1895.

Flagler

Nothing before us on the stretch of lonesome prairie but one home....We had no idea of the hardships we would meet, so were unprepared for blizzards or storms and had but one ton of coal with the outfit....The men pitched camp setting up the tents, feed racks, etc.

March 28, 1888 settler

Originally the town was named Malowe for M.A. Lowe, an attorney for the Rock Island. The original post office was called Bowser, after the postmaster's favorite dog. The eventual name, Flagler, honored a one-time partner of John D. Rockefeller: Henry

M. Flagler, a millionaire railroad man, who probably never set foot in his namesake town.

Flagler Register 1888-1890, Arch Cunningham, founder. (Formerly the Claremont *Crystal Springs Register*.)

Flagler Advance 1891-1895. C.W. Smith was publisher in 1894. He published the *Burlington Republican* 1891-1893. Newspaper bibliographer Wallace Rex thinks the *Advance* was "an evident revival" of the *Register*.

The Rev. C.W. Smith, a Congregationalist minister, came from Kansas in the spring of 1888, after filing for a homestead near Claremont. The Reverend returned in July 1888 to deliver his first sermon in Colorado from the steps of saloon. He attracted 100 listeners because the sermon included what they hungered for: news from the East. Smith was able to get some printing equipment--perhaps some that would be used on the *Register*--to publish a small religious paper, "The Messenger of Love."

The small paper attracted the attention of some leading citizens, who "induced" Smith to start a local general newspaper. The *Advance* was born, and, in a stroke of luck, the *Advance* was awarded the contract for Kit Carson County legal publications. Unfortunately, the *Advance* "died of starvation" after the exodus of people following the financial panic of 1893.

Golden Rule 1893-1894, B.F. Odell, founder.

Flagler Progress 1908-1918, Charles E. Gibson, founder. He was the only publisher during the paper's ten-year run. Hal Borland described Ed Gibson as "a nice fellow, but easy-going and an old-line Republican." The *Progress* pretty much survived on county legal notices placed by Republican county officials. Things changed in 1916 after Democrats swept the national and state elections. The once healthy *Progress* started to lose business. The end of the *Progress* loomed, but it took a mutual friend, acting as a "subtle go-between," to make the arrangements for Borland to buy what was left of the *Progress*.

Flagler News January 1913 to present, Edward H. Kruchten, founder. It was a Democratic weekly. In 1914, the *News* had two owners: J.D. Heiny, followed by H.E. Wetherell. Heiny also owned the *Vona Herald*. Will Borland bought the *News* from Wetherell in April 1915. Borland printed the paper one page at a time until he could order new equipment. He put his son Hal to work learning the printing trade. His wife, Sarah, also became part of the staff, keeping the books and writing local items.

There were bad times, of course, and Borland did the same as many newspapers did when subscribers couldn't pay. He traded papers for produce, chickens or other offerings. When the ad lineage declined he changed the no-front-page ads policy for a leading merchant and dependable advertiser who wanted to run his weekly merchandise specials on the front page instead of inside. The same merchant paid extra to run a scented ad for perfume, "even if it smells like a cat house." To make sure the ad

wafted fragrance, the Borlands hand-dabbed every ad in every paper with a wad of perfume-soaked cotton.

Trees were one of Borland's "minor crusades." Most of the trees in Flagler were cottonwoods, but it didn't take long for them to succumb to the climate. Borland pushed for maple, green ash and honey locust trees, and Flagler had shade.

Borland also campaigned for municipal power and water. Flagler wasn't a legal entity that could raise funds or contract for civic improvements. So Borland campaigned for incorporation, which was eventually achieved.

The politically friendly Republican town officials gave the legals to the *Progress* as Borland knew they would. He had never declared the *News* to be a Democratic paper, but now, he decided to do so:

It is time that Democratic principles were put into action all over this country. It is time for a change in Colorado and Kit Carson County, and it is imperative that Woodrow Wilson be kept at the helm of our nation. The Flagler News will work for and support all those objectives with all the strength at our command.

Democrats won, the *Progress* declined and Flagler was left with one, Democratic-inclined, newspaper. Borland became an active and vocal Democrat. As Hal Borland put it, "Julius Gunter and Woodrow Wilson never knew it but they saved the *Flagler News*." (Gunter was Colorado Governor-elect.)

The change in political fortune also was a change financially for Borland, who decided he could afford a new press "to make the *News* a real newspaper." He bought "a jewel of a press" from the *Stratton Press*, and figured he now had "a real printshop."

The new press produced a better looking newspaper. Ad lineage increased. The *News* published the county legal notices. The *News* bought the *Progress* in 1918, and has been Flagler's only newspaper since then.

After two years at the University of Colorado, Hal Borland came back to help his father again. Hal was made a junior partner, but left the *News* in October 1921 to finish his education at Columbia University. He sold his interest in the *News* to his uncle, Bert R. Borland.

Will Borland sold the *News* in April 1923 to Philo Falb, "a well known young man in journalistic circles in eastern Colorado," according to IMP. Falb was associated with the Borlands in publishing the *Arriba Record*. He was a veteran of World War I, "in which he saw active service," and had been editor and publisher of the *Arriba Record*. Will and Sarah Borland returned to the *Flagler News* September 1, 1927, either buying back or reclaiming it from Falb. Their son Hal went on to become a prominent author and writer for the *New York Times*.

The Borlands sold the *News* to T. Guard and his wife Grace on March 1, 1931. (Guard preferred just the initial to his given name Twyman. He was called "Slim"). Guard moved the *News* from the original location in the basement of a bank to street level. The old place was "quiet and peaceful and you could get a lot of work done without being disturbed by casual visitors, but casual visitors are a necessary part of any business," he thought. Guard bought a second Linotype machine in the 1940s; it was still

being used for special printing in 1993. From 1938-1942, the Guards also owned the *Seibert Settler*.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Coulter, formerly of Evanston, Ill., purchased the *Flagler News* from the Guards on July 1, 1948. Since the Guards were staying on in Flagler, Coulter talked Mrs. Guard into continuing her column of observations of happenings around town. After 45 years of weekly publication, vacationing only for an occasional few days, the Coulters sold the *News* on January 1, 1993, to Tom Bredehoft, a graduate of Flagler High School and the University of Northern Colorado. The old, still-working newspaper press used by The *News* for more than 40 years was given eventually to the Old Town Museum in Burlington. It is operated on summer weekends. (Coulter used a central printing plant in Burlington to print the *News* after the press was gone.)

Seibert

Seibert was founded in 1888 and named for Henry Seibert, another New York City millionaire and Rock Island official, who donated a library of 500 books to the town. The train made a special stop for Seibert to see the library in person in 1900. Told that a fund-raising entertainment was being planned to fill up the shelves, Mr. Seibert "said he would fill that also." Rock Island officials were "much pleased with the library, in fact it makes a fine appearance," reported one newspaper.

Seibert Free Press 1887-1890, G.L. Olds, founder. Patterson & Lantz were publishers in 1890.

Seibert Settler 1907-April 10, 1942, A. Viola Morrison, founder. Mrs. Morrison, former editor of the *Burlington Record*, was publisher until 1921. In August 1915 she bought the subscription list of the *Seibert Monitor*, which had folded. Mr. and Mrs. Val S. FitzPatrick bought the paper in 1921. FitzPatrick, known as the "Poet of the Plains," was an avid letter writer to *Colorado Editor*, with queries and comments. While there was a depression for many newspaper plants in 1934, *The Settler* was not one of them, *Colorado Editor* reported:

Val FitzPatrick wasn't to be whipped by a mere depression. When he found himself surrounded by not only a depression but also a very serious drouth he decided that there was business to be had in the publishing of directories. He first issued a county directory, then he went into other counties. The business grew and grew until now he is putting out over thirty directories for counties in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas and Idaho. He now has several people working for him in getting the names and selling the space to the local county merchants and the plan has gone over big. Val has made money out of the plan and all the printing is done in his Seibert plant.

During the 1920s hey-day of the Ku Klux Klan in Colorado, FitzPatrick was approached to join the group--or go without any advertising or printing jobs. His revenue plummeted, but he held out. He refused to join an anti-Klan movement as well. FitzPatrick was publisher of the *Settler* until 1928. FitzPatrick and his globe-trotting wife divorced, and, according to his obituary, she was awarded the paper in the settlement. However, *Colorado Editor* reports on succeeding ownership give Val FitzPatrick as owner, but say nothing about how he got it back.

On February 15, 1928, Chase H. Day of St. Francis, Kansas, purchased the *Settler* from Val FitzPatrick. FitzPatrick, however, was still not through as owner. In November

1929, *Colorado Editor* reported that Robert Short "took charge [of the *Settler*] about six weeks ago when editor Chase Day left the plant in the hands of mortgage holders. Robert is one of the youngest editors in the state and he is making good with the *Settler*." In December 1929, A.G. Risley, formerly with the *Stratton News*, leased the paper from FitzPatrick.

The *Flagler News* reported in June 1930 that Mr. and Mrs. Carl G. DeTar of Wellsville, Kansas, had paid it a visit. Mr. DeTar informed the *News* that he "expected to take over publication of the *Settler* in the near future, having completed arrangements with Val FitzPatrick who holds the controlling interest in that newspaper plant." Judson F. Loveridge, a schoolteacher with newspaper experience who hailed from Nebraska, bought the paper in late summer 1932. The name of the paper was changed about this time to:

Prairie Settler. It was published semiweekly. After returning from South Africa, Val FitzPatrick took back the *Settler* in late 1933 or early 1934. Walter Stewart lists Loveridge as a co-publisher/editor. T. Guard of the *Flagler News* purchased the paper from FitzPatrick June 1, 1938. Terms of the sale transferred newspaper ownership, the name, subscription list, and job printing business from Seibert to the *News*. The deal did not include the *Settler* printing plant, which was to remain in Seibert for the use of FitzPatrick and his directory business.

Guard hired Carl Van Scoy as editor of the Seibert paper, though the paper was printed at the *Flagler News*. R.F. Gaines, formerly with the *Cortez Journal*, replaced Van

Scoy in the fall of 1939. The *Settler* proved unprofitable, so the Guards discontinued the *Settler* April 10, 1942. The subscription list was sold to the *Arriba Advocate*.

Seibert Boomerang 1911-1912.

Seibert Monitor 1913-1915. Monitor Publishing Company. It was a Democratic paper alternative to the Republican *Settler*. When it folded the mailing list was purchased by the *Seibert Settler*.

Stratton

The first settlers, starting a town in 1888, called the spot Old Columbia, but when the railroad depot was built, it was four miles west and called Claremont. The townsite was changed again and everyone moved again. The name was changed again, this time to Stratton. The post office was opened March 24, 1906. Named for Winfield Scott Stratton, the Cripple Creek mining magnate, it is said that the name honor was given in hopes that the millionaire would donate money to improve the town. Apparently he never did.

Stratton Press 1907-1982, a Mr. Folsom, founder. A year later, W.E. Baker started the *Vona Enterprise*, which proved stiff competition for the *Press*. To add to Folsom's problems, there was a fire in the plant, leaving the paper in "a state of confusion", and Baker started a paper in Stratton:

Stratton Democrat April 16, 1909, W.E. Baker, founder. There was a Stratton dateline, but the paper was published every Thursday at Vona. April 30, 1909, Baker

announced that he had bought the *Stratton Press* and that was the end of the competition. The *Democrat* ended. *Colorado Press* announced in November 1915 that Morgan & Crane had bought the *Stratton Press*. The following February, 1914, *Colorado Press* said that C.D. Morgan, publisher of the *Stratton Press*, had also taken over the *Vona Herald*.

Morgan sold the *Press* to W.F.P. Munsey, a Kansas newspaperman, in November 1917. Munsey evidently bought the paper's financial troubles, too. In November 1918, *Colorado Press* reported that W.E. Baker, who "published the *Stratton Press* in years ago," is again in possession of the plant. Baker lived in Colorado Springs, so G.W. Rae "looks after the *Press* for him." Rae eventually bought the *Press* and enlarged the paper to eight pages in the spring of 1919.

Hal Borland bought the *Stratton Press* and took possession October 25, 1925. Borland was gone by August 1926, when *Colorado Editor* referred to him as the "former owner." Jesse Jones was managing the paper, but in October 1926, Jones, "formerly editor of the *Press*" gave up the paper. He had "a series of misfortunes and was forced to turn the paper back" to Will and Hal Borland.

Will Borland sold the *Press* to H.L (Hod) Clark in July 1927. Clark sold it in the fall to H.E. Risley and his son A.G. Risley; another son, Leroy, also was connected with the *Press*. Clark moved to California for health reasons. He returned when the Risleys left, but "was physically unable to continue" publishing the paper. He sold it to J.C. Sweeney of Benton, Mich. in June 1930.

Roy E. Herburger published the *Stratton Press* 1932-July 1, 1959. Born in Nebraska in 1901, Herburger had worked on Nebraska and Iowa newspapers before he bought the *Flagler News* in 1929 and the *Press* in 1932. J.C. Carnathan and his wife Shirley bought the *Press* from Herburger in July 1959. Bill and Beje Schweitzer bought the *Press* in 1980, along with the *Hugo Plainsman*. The following year they bought the *Ordway New Era*, and struggled with all three. The *Stratton Press* published its last issue in January 1982, the 30th issue of its 75th year.

Rick and Beverly Gaddy tried to buy the *Press*. When the attempt was unsuccessful, they started a new paper within the month:

Stratton Spotlight January 1980 to present, Rick and Beverly Gaddy. The Stratton Community Development Corp. took over ownership in 1991. Dave Dischner was editor; he was publisher in 1993, and general manager 1994-to present. Linda Coles was ad director until 1995 when she also was managing editor. She was named editor in 1996. The publisher in 1997 was MIM Companies.

Vona

Settled by Rock Island railroad employees in 1888, the town was named for a niece of a Burlington attorney who promoted the town. The town was incorporated in 1919.

Vona Herald #1 1889, L.W. Rogers, founder. Newspaper bibliographer Wallace Rex is the only one who lists this paper.

Vona Enterprise 1908-1910, W.E. Baker, founder. He discontinued the paper after buying the *Stratton Press*.

Vona Herald 1913-1916, Dr. J.D. Heiny, founder. He later owned the *Flagler News*. Dr. Heiny sold the *Herald* to W.D. Kohl in the fall of 1914. In August 1915 *Colorado Press* announced that H.K. Haynes had purchased the paper from Carl Scheidegger. By February 1916, C.D. Morgan, publisher of the *Stratton Press*, had taken over the *Vona Herald*. He evidently discontinued it or merged it into the *Stratton* paper.

Star Reporter April 30, 1936-1938, Dale S. Sechrist, founder. According to *Colorado Editor*, Sechrist, of Vona, was the AP representative for his district and "has considerable experience on newspapers in the state." The paper was printed in the *Flagler News* plant.

Special Sources: *Burlington Record* 1988 (undated).

Flagler News 7/1/1948; 7/17/1997.

Stratton Spotlight 7/21/1988.

High, Wide and Lonesome, Hal Borland; J.P. Lippincott Company, 1956.

County Editor's Boy, Hal Borland, Lippincott 1970.

CHAPTER XXXV

LA PLATA COUNTY

The placer excitement in the Winter of 1860 sent a swarm of prospectors [who] rushed in, built a town, brought on stocks of goods, and laid out great plans. But there was shortly a stampede, and men came out worse "broke" than the Pike's Peakers of '59....The leader of the party barely escaped hanging at the hands of the disappointed rabble. He pled his own cause before the miners' court [insisting a fortune was there]...but confidence in the capacity of the region did not return....

The New York Times 10/25/1873

On December 14, 1860, a party of about 100 set out from Denver by ox train on an astonishing journey to the "wild country" past the San Juan Mountains. They were headed into formidable Indian country with few and far-between trails, and fewer possibilities of meeting allies from the States. The group included Benjamin Eaton, later a Colorado governor; James Taylor, after whom Taylor River and Reservoir are named; Thomas Pollock, Denver's first blacksmith and his wife, Sarah, daughter of Colonel John Chivington; David C. Collier, the brilliant lawyer/writer who would gain newspaper fame on the *Central City Register-Call*, and several men who would become settlers in the new region.

The route went south to Pueblo, through Sangre de Cristo Pass, past Fort Garland into San Luis Park and, in the middle of March, to a spot on the Animas River in what is now northern La Plata County. It took 14 days to cross the mountains in inclement weather. About the same time word came from the East that Civil War was

imminent. The patriotic ladies whipped up a United States flag from available petticoats and bonnets, flew it from the tallest pine tree and achieved a historic footnote for raising the first Stars and Stripes in the San Juan region. Unfortunately the threat of Indians and starvation grew as the likelihood for mining riches shrank. Most of the party returned to Denver in mid-summer 1861. Few outsiders had ever stayed long.

Prehistoric Indians had farmed the land for several hundred years, but they didn't stay either. They left something permanent, however: the Mesa Verde cliff dwellings. Next were the Spanish. Coronado passed through looking for gold in 1541, followed by Father Escalante, who mapped the area in 1776, naming the four rivers running through: the Rio de las Animas Perdidas, Rio Florida, Rio de la Plata and Rio de los Pinos. La Plata is the Spanish name for silver.

The Baker expeditions in 1859 and 1861 paved the way for future development. It came from the West instead of the East. Californians, led by Captain John Moss, arrived on horseback with pack animals in 1873, pitching their tents and hopes at the mouth of La Plata Canon. They, too, ran out of provisions, except for berries and small game. They called their collection of rude brush and log shelters "Camp Starvation."

Despite false starts, La Plata County was established in 1874 from portions of Conejos and Lake counties. The first of the five San Juan Basin counties, it filled the southwestern corner of the state and included most of the area that is now divided between the counties of San Juan (established 1876), Dolores (1881), San Miguel (1883), and Montezuma (1889). The fifth Basin county is Archuleta, established in 1885. The

first county seat was at Howardsville, but it was moved to Parrott City when Howardsville became part of San Juan County. Durango won the designation in November 1881.

Animas City (#2)

This was the second Animas City, the first being the 1861 camp to the north. The second one, about three miles from present-day Durango, was settled in September 1876 and was the end of a toll road and a regular stage route from Silverton. The town was surrounded by good agricultural land, and in a position to supply miners and new settlers. Animas City was not a mining camp, and was not subject to "boom-and-bust" cycles, or reliance on one industry. The farms and ranches produced cattle, fruit trees and enough crops for the town and for a larger market. Following the Meeker Massacre that set the Western Slope a-tremble, the town was garrisoned.

The railroad planned to build to Animas City, but the town wasn't willing to deal. Landowners on the proposed rail route hiked prices. The town declined to appropriate any money for the railroad. The D&RG saw no reason to dicker further and Animas City was doomed. Several men who had homesteaded south of Animas City were quite willing to co-operate with the Durango Land and Coal Company, a front for the railroad. Late in December 1876 the new town to the south with a new newspaper reported: "All of Animas City is coming to Durango as fast as accommodations can be secured..."

Animas City faded very slowly. It wasn't until 1947 that the village merged with its Durango neighbor. The publishers of the *Durango Herald-Democrat*--Allen Dorsett

and Harold Anderson--were instrumental in getting the towns together.

Southwest October 1879-1880, Eugene Engley and John Reid, founders. When most of Animas City businesses and residents moved to Durango, the *Southwest* moved, too.

Bayfield

Bayfield was homesteaded before 1886. The homestead went through a couple of owners before being sold in 1894 to W.A. Bay, who donated church lots, laid out the town in 1898, and had his name attached to the new community. Bay raised Belgian horses and supplied them to fire departments in the area. He also organized a 16-piece Bayfield band which was much in demand for special occasions all over the San Juan basin. Mr. Bay played the cornet.

Bayfield Blade July 8, 1909-1925, D.L. (Dan) Egger, publisher. Egger and his sons had several very successful newspapers throughout southwestern Colorado. Daniel L. Egger, born in Ohio in 1861, came to Colorado in 1888, and founded the *Mulvane News*. During the next 30 years he also founded the *Pagosa Springs News*, *Bayfield Blade*, *Ignacio Chieftain*, and *Pagosa Springs Observer*. On the side, he was a successful rancher, held a number of public offices, and helped incorporate Pagosa Springs. The *Bayfield Blade* merged with the *Ignacio Chieftain*, another of the Egger family newspapers.

Bayfield Banner 1910-1911, George J. Blakely, founder. Blakely was formerly with the *Cripple Creek Gold Belt* and *Anaconda Tribune*, and published the *Durango Great Southwest* #2.

Pine River Times May 30, 1985 to present; Steve Cannon, founder. Ann McCoy has been publisher since April 1988. Carole McWilliams is editor. Cannon had been in the sports department of the *Durango Herald*. The paper appeared "unannounced in valley mailboxes, sporting pictures of a mural at Bayfield High School and smiling mug shots of the paper's proud new parents, Stephen and Lynda Cannon." With expanded coverage, the *Pine River Times* serves both Bayfield and Ignacio.

Durango

The new town of Durango is growing very rapidly. It is near old Animas City, and 110 miles beyond the end of the railroad. The Leadville sports of both sexes have moved upon the town in force, but they are quite too early. The town has been incorporated but no building material except brick or stone are allowed to be used in the business part of the place....A good many buildings are going up, and many saloons are in full blast.

The town will be a lively one--while it lasts. A four column daily is published there called the Record, and the paper is well patronized, showing that the citizens of the town are full of life and energy.

Colorado Springs Gazette 1/9/1881

Durango, a town founded by a railroad, was established in 1880 and is the trade center for the San Juan Basin. Former Territorial Governor Alexander C. Hunt, prominent in developing a number of places in the state and an agent of the Rio Grande Railroad joined General William Palmer and Dr. William Bell--Palmer's Colorado Springs colleague--in forming the Durango Trust for the purpose of purchasing coal land and

townsites along the Denver & Rio Grande railway route. Animas City spurned the railroad, so the railroad headed for Durango, which sprang to life almost overnight. Palmer, the father of Colorado Springs, and Bell, a charming young Englishman with good connections and a bit of Irish blarney, bought or built quarries, coal mines, smelters and anything that would increase business for the D&RG, which in turn increased Durango's assets.

The town was said to have been named by Hunt, who had just returned from a trip to Durango, Mexico. The name is a Basque word, "urgano" meaning "water town." The D was added by the Spanish. The *Durango Record*, in which Hunt had an investment, disputed this, at learned length, and said it was a dialect (presumably Indian) word meaning "convergence" or a "coming together."

The first issue of the *Durango Record* reported in December 1880 that there were 2,500 to 3,000 people (including railroad workers), sheltered in tents, dugouts and other temporary cover. Bruce Hunt, the son of Gov. Hunt, brought in the first stock of goods in October 1880 using bull teams from the end of the railroad 150 miles away. On July 31, 1881, the *Record* reported on the arrival of the Denver & Rio Grande train at Durango. The rail track was continued to Silverton in July 1882, providing another outside connection, and establishing Durango as the chief distribution point for the district. That same year large coal deposits were discovered nearby, bolstering Durango's position as both a shipping point and a mining center.

Coal, not gold, was to become the paying resource. The newspapers promoted it, including the *Southwest's* belated 1884 claim that coal "is the necessary that is going to make Durango famous for the San Juan." When mining labor troubles hit Colorado at the end of the 1890s, and again in 1903, Durango was not exempt. However, it did not suffer as much as other parts of the state did, partly because the local union could not corral all the miners. Agriculture, however, was the main industry. "The agricultural wealth in the territory tributary to Durango exceeds even the mineral wealth of the district," a 1910 article in Lillian Hartman's *Colorado* magazine stated.

As mining declined, new forms of agriculture, and the tourist industry, increased. By 1925 a Chamber of Commerce was getting articles in national magazines and newspapers, publishing tourist information and answering queries. When New Mexico warned tourists that Durango didn't have enough water to drink, the *Durango News* "thundered back that Durango had never had a water shortage and never would."

Hollywood found the town more than a suitable place to film both high- and low-budget films, long before Colorado had a film commission to encourage movies to shoot in the state. Among the movies filmed in La Plata County were "The Durango Kid," "Ticket To Tomahawk," "Across The Wide Missouri," and "Around The World in 80 Days."

Fort Lewis College is located in Durango. Fort Lewis began as a frontier U.S. Army Post that the federal government later operated as an Indian School. The property was ceded to Colorado in 1911 and became a state-supported junior college, a branch of the

then-Colorado State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (now Colorado State University in Fort Collins). Fort Lewis graduated to a four-year, degree-granting liberal arts college in 1962.

Durango was one of the Western Slope towns caught up in the uranium excitement in the 1950s and 1960s. An old smelter was re-opened and within a few years it produced more uranium concentrates than any other mill; it closed in 1962. The town then became an oil exploration headquarters.

Durango Weekly Record December 27, 1880-April 1882, and:

Durango Daily Record December 29, 1880-April 23, 1882, Caroline Romney, founder. Durango's newspaper history began the day a sprightly little lady with an apron full of moxie rode into town on a lumber wagon. Caroline Westcott Romney arrived in Durango on December 24, 1880, from Leadville via Pueblo and the southern route. There was no building to house her newspaper plant, and 16 inches of unbroken snow blanketed the selected site. The snow was shoveled off, a tent--borrowed from the town agent--erected, the ground covered with sawdust and a stove fired up. The sparse, damp newspaper quarters hampered production, and Mrs. Romney apologized for the "diminutive size, so unworthy of the town whose first newspaper representative it is." But 34 businessmen thought the *Record* worthy of carrying their advertising in the first edition.

Mrs. Romney described everything she saw, and did double duty as historian and guide book tantalizer. The phrasing was varied, the style, whimsical. Soaring prose was

common in the 1880s boomer newspapers. Mrs. Romney penned some of the best. And she had a sensible approach to women's rights. She wrote in February 1881:

The best way for women to pursue, in business enterprises at least, is not to wait for men to accord them their rights, but to go ahead and take them. Such women have so much practical work to do, that, as a rule, they haven't much time to talk women's rights. They do what is better--they act them.

Mrs. Romney was known to gather news on the street, and dash back and forth to the office writing editorials, advertisements, and news items with the greatest zest. Because she was attractive and entertaining--and a widow--she received the attention of many aspiring and eligible beaux. "In fact," she said, "we can't afford to support a husband just yet." But she understood the problem inherent in a barely-settled town and sent out a plea for girls--girls who could dance, go to church, attract men, wait on tables, girls who would be sweethearts. "The only lack of our resources is those potent civilizers of their pioneer brothers--the girls," she wrote.

When the *Southwest* claimed to be the "first" paper in Durango, Mrs. Romney set the record straight:

The Southwest is not the senior journal, that is so far as Durango is concerned. We published thirteen issues of the Daily Record before the Southwest was moved down here, although it dated its first of January number from Durango, which was really published in Animas City, as was its next issue. We had three daily issues out prior to the first of January, so we are still ahead of the Southwest, even according to its own record. That is the secret of the enmity of the Southwest man. He didn't like our getting ahead of him with only two miles to come, whereas we had four hundred and fifty, over mountains, in the middle of winter.

In April 1882 Mrs. Romney moved to California where she became a correspondent for eastern newspapers. The *Record*'s presses and "entire office and

good will" were sold to the *Herald*, which merged in both the daily and weekly editions. She returned to Colorado and started the *Trinidad Review* December 1, 1883. It lasted until 1886.

Daily Southwest March 1881-1883, John Reid and Eugene Engley, co-publishers. Reid and Engley founded the paper in Animas City in 1879, making it the first newspaper in what would become La Plata County. When Animas City lost the railroad, most of it moved to Durango, and the *Southwest* did, too, but it had to eat a little crow about what it had said about a questionable future for Durango and its suggestion the rival town was putting on airs. The daily *Southwest* had a companion weekly:

Southwest October 6, 1882-July 19, 1884. Five of the *Daily Southwest's* seven front-page columns were filled with large, well-spaced advertisements. T.P. Lindsay, the wholesale grocer, had a picture of his store in his ad and featured Proctor & Gamble's Mining Candles. Wixon & Co. had the company name run sideways as an attention-getting border. All the ads left little room on the front page for news. A story on the Democratic Caucus was more than half a column, shorter than the full column titled "In the Hills," consisting of quotes from other Southwestern Colorado newspapers.

Frank Hartman, former owner of the Rico *Dolores News*, and Willis Emery, a Kentucky newspaperman, bought the *Southwest*--daily and weekly--in October 1882. Hartman was said to be an "energetic, persevering and enterprising" 24-year-old. A confirmed booster, he had only one complaint in his second issue: "All that makes it

disagreeable to live in Colorado is a wind like the one of today." In August 1884 Hartman changed the name of the *Southwest* to:

Idea August 2, 1884-July 1, 1889, with a sister publication:

Daily Idea 1887-July 1, 1889. Henry C. Butler, lured west by tales of mining camps, went into partnership with Hartman in the early 1880s. In October 1877 Butler and Charles Turner purchased the paper from Hartman, who departed for California. Although Oehlerts newspaper guide says the *Idea* ended November 3, 1888, Butler's biography and Smith say the papers were destroyed in the Great Fire of July 1, 1889, and not revived. Practically penniless, Henry Butler found a reporting job on the *Rocky Mountain News* and later moved to Leadville. He eventually bought the *Leadville Herald-Democrat* and became a highly regarded, nationally known newspaperman.

There was another *Southwest* within a few years, but it was not related to the original.

Great Southwest August 1, 1892-1895, Frank P. Warner, editor; weekly and:

Daily Southwest 1892-1894. Like its namesake predecessor, the afternoon *Great Southwest* ran into financial problems and succumbed in the wake of the 1893 financial crash. It merged with the *Herald* in 1894. C.A. Pike was editor 1894.

Great Southwest #2 1909-1911, George J. Blakely, founder. Blakely, formerly with the *Cripple Creek Gold Belt* and *Anaconda Tribune*, would found the *Bayfield Banner* in 1910.

Durango Daily Democrat by April 1881-1882. Although Oehlerts lists a *Durango Democrat* 1879-1881, there is consensus that the *Durango Record* was the town's first newspaper. The *Democrat* evidently did not get off to a good start, possibly because there was competition from two other dailies. But the *Democrat* tried and tried again. On May 9, 1881 the *Record* reported that the *Democrat* "a second time has gone up the flume....Owing to lack of brains and lack of money, the D.D. came to grief this morning." It was also the unhappy victim of a shortage of Democrats, and Durango's first newspaper strike, when its employees struck for overdue wages.

Durango Herald (weekly) March 1881- February 1892, and **Durango Evening Herald** March 1, 1881-1882, Jerome L. and George Marsh, founders. A father-son team from Wisconsin, the two had published a weekly in Wisconsin for 11 years. The father, Jerome, had been in the business much longer than that, at one time working for Horace Greeley.

The Marshes also declared that "the naked facts [would be clothed] in the simplest and plainest English at their command...not to mislead anyone [about Durango]...." Unlike other frontier editors who drew no promotion lines, the Marshes did not believe Durango should be widely touted, or would even be ready for a boom until its resources had been developed.

With the *Herald*, Durango had two Republican papers, one Democratic one, and "the more serene *Southwest*." The *Southwest*, however, became vociferously Democratic after Frank Hartman bought it in 1882. The *Herald* joined a number of its

Colorado colleagues and departed its Republican fidelity to support Williams Jennings Bryan on the silver issue. Its headline after Bryan's 1900 defeat read "Our Savior Crucified Upon the Cross of Gold." The *Herald* returned to the Republican fold.

The *Herald* bought the *Record* from Mrs. Romney in late April 1882. It may have taken a printer or two with the sale, because within the month the *Herald* was bragging about the "wonderfully nimble finger[ed]" printers who got out 684 papers within half an hour after a town execution.

The *Red Mountain Pilot* noted in April 1883 that the *Durango Daily Herald* had been "revived" by George Marsh and John Sullivan, who joined the paper at the time of the merger: "Marsh furnishes the experience and Sullivan the money." Sullivan bought an interest in the *Durango Herald* and went to work in the production department. After selling his newspaper interest, he owned and operated a stationery store.

C. Sum Nichols, who had started newspapers in Tin Cup and Montrose, bought an interest in February 1887, and bought the remaining Marsh interests in April 1887.

Duane Smith described Nichols as a "vigorous and ready writer." Nichols may have tried switching briefly from an evening to a morning daily, suspended briefly at two different times, before settling on just the *Durango Herald*.

Two brothers, George N. ("Noodle") and Solomon W. Raymond, who had been working at various San Juan area newspapers, bought the *Herald* in September 1887. "We have come to Durango to stay," said the Raymonds, and they did, publishing the *Herald* for more than 30 years.

In July 1892 the Raymonds went into a doomed partnership with Dave Day, who had worn out his welcome in Ouray, and moved the *Solid Muldoon*--daily and weekly--to Durango in February. The Raymonds' *Herald* and Day's *Muldoon* weeklies were printed as the *Solid Muldoon*. The two dailies became the *Herald*. The merger was a way to keep the peace and maintain decent profits. But by November 1895, the partners had come to a parting of the ways. Day founded the *Durango Democrat* a few months later; the Raymonds continued the *Herald* without the *Muldoon*.

In 1895 the Raymonds bought the rights to the defunct *Southwest*, retitling the paper:

Durango Herald and Daily Southwest 1895-1896, returning to:

Durango Herald 1896-1945.

After almost a quarter of a century with the *Herald*, the Raymonds, who came to Colorado in 1875, thought about retiring. They sold the *Herald* to George B. Munson in January 1912, but he was gone in three months. I.J. Bradford was hired as editor and stayed until February 1916. Giles T. Vandergrift bought the paper in July 1912, but the Raymond Brothers resumed ownership again on March 1, 1913. They finally found a reliable buyer in 1916.

Mr. and Mrs. John Henry McDevitt bought the *Herald* on February 6, 1916. Like the Raymonds, the McDevitts were publishers for 30 years. Harry McDevitt, a Colorado native, bought the paper in partnership with I.J. Bradford, who sold his share to his

partner within a short time. McDevitt gave Durango a dependable newspaper. He was a dependable Republican, too, active in the party, and elected and appointed to several offices. The 1930s were not happy years for McDevitt, who was outspoken in his opposition to President Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal.

Among the *Herald* editors under McDevitt were his son, J.H. McDevitt Jr. 1922-1925, and Irena S. Ingham 1924-1929 (later with the Cripple Creek newspapers). In April 1928, The *Herald* bought the *Democrat* and continued the daily under the name:

Durango Herald-Democrat April 6, 1928-June 13, 1952. The weekly was continued under the name:

Democrat #3 1928-1932. Jack Stevens, formerly of the *Weekly Democrat*, editor. The daily *Herald-Democrat* was Republican and the weekly, *Democrat*, a nice arrangement for lawyers, who chose papers for legal publications by political affiliation--and a nicer arrangement for the *Herald*, which collected the publication fees.

Harry McDevitt died in November 1942. His daughter, Doris, and her husband, Walter Wilson, who had joined the staff in 1936 as circulation manager and ad salesman, took over the paper. Another daughter, LoVisa McKean, was city editor. In August 1945 ill-health prompted the sale of the *Herald* to Harold L. (Prexy) Anderson and Alton C. Dorsett, who were impressed with Durango and the San Juan Basin "and with the possibilities of their expansion, especially in the immediate post-war era." Anderson was from Minnesota, Dorsett from Texas. Dorsett later recalled:

[I came to a] really closed community. They didn't want any strangers, they didn't want anybody new coming in. The old timers, they didn't want any new blood. I'm still that damned 'furner' from Texas, but Prex and I had the advantage, though, we had the newspapers....

The "furners" published the first *Herald* vacation supplement in May 1948. Called "Westward Ho" the supplement used the slogans "When You Come to Play, You'll Want to Stay" and "The Basin Vacation Wonderland." The partners, with the support of the *Durango News*, helped bring about the merger of Durango and Animas City.

Anderson and Dorsett sold the paper in October 1948 to Morris T. Higley, who in turn sold it Timothy Austin O'Conner and Mrs. B.B. Morgan in June 1950. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ballantine bought the *Herald-Democrat* and the *Durango News* June 1, 1952, merging the two as:

Durango Herald-News June 15, 1952-July 23, 1960. The name reverted to:

Durango Herald July 25, 1960 to present. The Ballantines purchased the *Durango News* on May 31, 1952, and the *Durango Herald* a day later. The combined name, *Durango Herald-News*, was later shortened to *Durango Herald* "because the nameplate was considered to be too awkward mechanically," according to Don Schlichting, former assistant to the publisher.

The Ballantines brought another new era to Durango newspaper history. The town was not quite ready for more non-Coloradans, no matter how young, knowledgeable, wealthy and enthusiastic. When the Ballantines immediately jumped into a campaign for improvements to the water system, advertising revenue dropped

drastically. But the water system improved. Arthur was slugged in the eye by a councilman who didn't like the way the paper reported council meetings.

The Ballantines added offset printing, and a new printing process and plant, and watched circulation grow. Arthur Ballantine died unexpectedly in November 1975. His wife, Morley, became editor/publisher. After publishing the Herald for 44 years, she broke the old longevity record. A highly regarded and accomplished individual, Morley is listed currently as Chairman of the Board/Editor. The elder son, Richard G. Ballantine, has been publisher since 1983.

Solid Muldoon February 1892-1895, weekly, and

Solid Muldoon March 7-June 30, 1892, daily. The *Solid Muldoon* was started in Ouray by David Day in 1879 and named for William Muldoon, whom Day considered the greatest athlete and prize-fighting promoter of all time. The *Muldoon* was moved to Durango in March 1892, with the encouragement of Durango Democrats--and most of Ouray, which was numb from Day's tart tongue.

People in Durango soon felt the Day sting. One of the financial backers who brought Day to Durango later said he would give twice that amount to send him back. A man who worked for Day summed up the pugnacious publisher's talent best: "His paper was condemned by many, but was read by all." It was true. Bruised or not, people read the *Muldoon*--and they talked about it.

J.P. Coston was a co-owner of the Durango *Solid Muldoon*. In July 1892 Day and Coston became partners with the Raymond Brothers of the *Herald*. The daily *Muldoon* was merged into the daily *Herald* and issued as the *Herald*. The weekly *Muldoon* and weekly *Herald* were issued as the *Solid Muldoon*. Day left the *Muldoon* in 1893 to found the *Democrat*, and the *Herald* absorbed the *Muldoon*. It was not Day's best year, and he wrote in the *Muldoon* on December 29, 1893: "The doctors have given up all hopes of saving the year 1893 and death is expected inside of three days." Day's peppery pen was not still for long. He issued his first:

Durango Democrat #2 1893-1932, with companion:

Daily Democrat 1897-April 5, 1928. The *Herald* became one of his favorite targets (he called it the "bladder") and the *Herald* returned in kind (calling the *Democrat* "the only blight on Durango's prosperity").

The *Democrat* was a muckraker, attacking the popular targets of trusts, Pure Food and Drug violations (correctly, as it turned out, when inspectors did find violations), and railroads. Day's politics were unrestrained. On election night in 1896, while others celebrated in the usual fashion, Dave Day sat on a street corner with a box of big firecrackers. Each time he learned a state had carried for Bryan he threw a lit firecracker into the air and yelled "Bryan." Bryan carried La Plata County (and Colorado) overwhelmingly in 1896 and 1900, the first Democratic presidential candidate to do so.

Duane Smith said:

Day cajoled, badgered, and promoted his adopted home. His style made Durango famous and quotable. He supported causes, at least ones that he approved. For example, he suggested coal miners unionize for better wages (but he became highly incensed when his printers struck in September 1910), and he committed the political heresy of backing Teddy Roosevelt, mainly because he advanced the creed of Day's great hero William Jennings Bryan.

Someone actually got the best of Day while he was publishing the *Democrat*. It was during the free silver controversies, when any attack on silver was considered treason to Colorado. Day was serving as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. During an investigation of Indian problems, Day was tied up in Navajo Springs. He complained to Francis S. Leuppe, the assistant commissioner, that he had lost his entire day and hadn't written a line of editorial copy for the next day's *Democrat*. Leuppe helpfully offered to write copy, if Day would agree to print his articles.

Day agreed, sent instructions to the newspaper foreman to print whatever arrived, and told Leuppe, "I don't care what you write." All three statements were a mistake. Leuppe, with a gleam in his eye, captioned the lead editorial "A Confession Wrung from Conscience." The editorial repudiated silver and included all of the "gold bug" reasoning. Associated Press wired the story from a supposedly leading silver exponent nationwide. How Day took Leuppe's "joke" is uncertain, but he'd given his word. Durangoans were furious and Day was an "untouchable" for months.

Following Dave Day's death June 22, 1914, his son Rod S. Day and other members of the family ran the paper. The rivalry with the *Herald* continued, culminating in a tragedy. Rod Day shot and killed William Wood, of the *Herald*. According to the *Inter-Mountain Press* in April 1922:

Angered over a newspaper controversy in which both the Democrat and the Herald had participated for several days, Rod S. Day, editor of the Durango Democrat, shot and killed William L. Wood, city editor of the Herald, on a street in Durango on Monday, April 24. Two shots were fired, the second striking Wood in the back of the neck and penetrating the spine, causing his death within an hour....

Approaching Wood...Day is said to have threatened him with a steel square which he carried in his hand, and the two men came to blows. In the melee Wood struck Day in the face, breaking the latter's nose. He is then said to have withdrawn and started down the street away from Day, but the latter walked only a few steps before he turned, pulled an automatic pistol from his pocket and fired twice at the Herald editor....

The trouble, according to men familiar with events preceding the shooting, grew out of an acrimonious newspaper discussion of the prohibition question [pro or con], Wood having referred scathingly to what he termed Day's record in that regard. The Democrat editor retaliated with an attack on Wood's history, referring to a divorce suit which separated him from his first wife. The discussion had grown exceedingly bitter and some sort of trouble between the two men was anticipated by friends of both.

Day was 47, Wood, 28. Day's friends contended that Wood had made threats to "get" Day and Day fired in self-defense. Wood's friends said that Day "deliberately provoked first," forcing Wood to defend himself. Day was charged with first degree murder, tried, and acquitted.

Two years later the Colorado Industrial Commission ruled that Wood died in the line of duty and the company which held the *Herald's* liability insurance must pay his widow. Day sold the *Democrat*, saying "Au Revoir, but not good bye" and bought a theater in December 1924. He was back in the newspaper business in 1930, when he founded the *Durango News*.

Rod Day sold the paper to a team of lawyers, including George W. and Mrs. Lane, John B. and Mrs. O'Rourke and Reese McCloskey. George Lane was the prosecuting

attorney in the Wood murder trial. John O'Rourke was a deputy district attorney at the time of the trial. McCloskey apparently sold his interest in the *Democrat* early. Lane purchased O'Rourke's interest in the spring of 1927 and became sole owner. Lane owned the paper another year before selling the *Democrat* to R.B. McDevitt of the *Herald* who merged the two papers into the *Herald-Democrat*.

Durango Republican 1881-1882, daily; Burroughs & Co., proprietors; Eugene Engley, publisher, and H.M. Condict, business manager. The Ayer newspaper directory in 1882 carried the note that the Republican was the "official organ of La Plata County, Animas City, Parrott City and Durango." Ayer also said the *Republican* was established October 25, 1879 as the Animas City *Southwest*.

Eugene Engley was a founder of the *Southwest*, a newspaper still being published in Durango, by Frank Hartman. The *Southwest* outlasted the *Republican*, but was not listed in the 1882 Ayer. A Durango reader--and certainly Frank Hartman--might have raised an eyebrow at Engley's claim that the *Republican* had direct lineage from the *Southwest*.

Investigator June 1888-1889, daily.

Examiner July 1888-November 1888; Frank and Lillian Hartman. The Hartmans, formerly publishers of the *Idea*, returned from California and started the *Examiner*, declaring "while we invite honest and friendly criticism, we reserve all rights and waive to no power but God." They said the *Examiner* was an "independent newspaper" but was in full support of re-electing Grover Cleveland, and when he was defeated the

Hartmans took their press to New Mexico, although Benjamin Harrison was president there, too.

Durango Tribune October 1889-1890, H.T. Keane, founder. He sold it in August 1890 to Frank and Lillian Hartman, who changed the name to:

Durango Examiner #2 1891-1892, Frank and Lillian Hartman, returned from New Mexico to get right back into the Durango newspaper business. In 1892 there was a Populist sweep in Colorado, but the nation elected Grover Cleveland. The paper was sold to the *Great Southwest* in July, prior to the election. Frank stayed on the *Great Southwest* staff. Lillian, a free spirit, opened the "Shakespeare School of Physical Culture and Dramatic Art" in Durango.

Wage Earner July 1895-1905, 1907-1912; Wheeler & Star, publishers; O.S. Galbreath, editor 1896, and H.C. Wheeler, 1902. "Smothy" Galbreath was later dean of lawyers in Washington state. The Telluride *San Miguel Examiner* reported in March 1902 that A.E. Benson had purchased an interest in the *Wage Earner*, "and the pages bear scintillating evidence of it at this time. Benson's pen is active and poignant and his inspirations are wholesome, if they are fictitious at times." The *Wage Earner* was a four-page weekly that liberally borrowed stories from other papers, and didn't have much local advertising.

Durango Weekly Banner 1905-1907. The *Wage Earner* merged with the *Banner* in 1905 and gained the unwieldy name:

Durango Weekly Banner and Durango Weekly Wage Earner 1905-1907. It espoused the "People's Party." H.M. Andrew was editor in 1906 and 1909, with C.C. Wright a co-editor in 1906. The *Wage Earner* reverted to its original name in 1907, and folded in 1912.

Uplift 1898-1899.

Durango Telegraph 1902-1907, daily; John G. Higgins 1904-1906; J.A. Pulham 1907.

Durango Trades Journal 1902-1903. The *Trades Journal* reportedly was started by Frank Hartman to "lambaste Dave Day" who was saying unkind things about the carpenters' union. Day called it "woodpecker's union."

Hartman and Dave Day got involved in a shooting scrape on Main Avenue. After a number of shots were fired, Hartman got a bullet through the calf of his leg. Day spent time in jail because of his editorials on the matter. He refused to pay the court-ordered fine, and had a splendid time in jail, eating superb meals (the jailer's wife was a good cook), accepting fruit and baked goods through the bars from well-wishers, holding court--and editing the newspaper from his cell.

The irrepressible editor-in-jail was memorialized in 1945 on one of a group of murals painted in the office of the *Colorado Sun* at the University of Colorado. The *Sun* was a "mythical daily" put out in a journalism classroom at the university. Day was

shown handing copy through the jail bars and being offered food. One of a group of *Solid Muldoon* readers outside was roaring with laughter.

Farmers' Voice 1909-1912, semi-monthly.

La Plata Miner 1913-1914.

Durango Klansman 1925 monthly, short-lived. The 1920s was plagued with the rise of the Ku Klux Klan in Colorado. The Klan was exceptionally strong in about 20 Colorado communities. Local businessmen and the newspaper were pressured to join the Klan under the threat of economic boycott. Physical harm often came to those who didn't subscribe to the threats. Efforts were made to get newspapers to publish Klan propaganda, and in some cases it paid off. Usually it didn't. Klan newspapers began blossoming all over the state. The *Durango Klansman* motto was "Without Fear Or Favor."

Durango News May 2, 1930-June 13, 1952, Rod S. Day, Judge John B. O'Rourke (formerly of the *Democrat*), John C. Young, and John Winner, founders. The *News* was Democratic. The *News* --"A Paper for People Who Think as New and Modern as Today"--arrived at a propitious time. The Democratic landslide, which Day had been awaiting for years, was just around the corner. He wholeheartedly embraced President Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal. He endorsed the National Recovery Administration's sweeping plans and put the symbolic "blue eagle" in the *News* window. In fact, Day joined up. He sold the paper to partners Winner and Young in 1934, and became a

supervisor of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Colorado and Wyoming. Rod Day died in March 1940, after a brief illness.

The *Durango News* was awarded the Arthur A. Parkhurst trophy in recognition of excellence in the field of community service for three consecutive years at the end of the 1930s. Named after a Boulder newspaper publisher, the Parkhurst award was presented by the University of Colorado.

Bedeveled by labor and supply shortages during World War II, Young and O'Rourke sold and transferred the *News* to Leo R. Brewington of Delta and Kenneth C. Gray of Montrose, on June 1, 1946. Judge O'Rourke died in March 1947 at the age of 59. Brewington had owned newspapers in Cedaredge, Delta, and Golden. Gray was a longtime Linotype operator at the *Montrose Daily Press*. The *Durango News* was sold to the *Durango Herald* in May 1952, and the merged papers became the *Herald-News*.

San Juan Daily American 1931-1932.

Top O'The World 1931-1932.

Basin Star March 26, 1959-June 14, 1962, Paul and Gerald Malott, Ken Sparkman, and Harold Wampler, founders. The company name was Tri-State Printing Company. Ralph Atlass bought the paper in October 1961 and discontinued it in June 1962. Duane Smith says "the competition proved too stiff and the market too small."

Basin Star #2 September to December 1975, Robert Christopherson, Glen Hoselton and Carl Snook, founders. It was primarily a sports newspaper.

Mountain Eagle November 23, 1973-April 30, 1975, Hans von Mende, founder. The *Eagle* included the *Ignacio Chieftain* and the *Bayfield Blade*. Kathleene Parker was editor.

Animas Journal July 10, 1975-January 1976, Emilie Goodyear and Rod Barker, founders. A weekly, 3-column tabloid, the *Animas Journal* was politically independent and was striving for a "news magazine concept."

Today October 1975-1985, Tom Stuber and Bill Wehrman, founders. The two handled ads, sales, news gathering, researching, and writing while their wives, Susie Stuber and Eleanor Wehrman did the typesetting. Susie was on the job typesetting and delivering the paper the day she went into labor and delivered a baby. Stuber and Wehrman sold *Today*, about five years after it began, to Scott L. McGaugh. McGaugh sold the paper to John and Coral Betterman in the fall of 1985. Betterman had been the general manager of *Today*. *Today* lasted only a few months longer.

San Juan Journal c. 1970s, Louis Newell, editor. Newell was a free-lancer for the *Denver Post*, and then owned the *Grand Junction County Mail* from 1963 to 1967, and the *Telluride Times* from 1969 to 1975.

Four Corners Business Journal early 1990s, Avanti Communications, publisher; Hugh LeVrier, president and editor/publisher.

Hesperus

The small town of Hesperus (Greek for "Evening Star") was established in 1882. Principally a coal-mining town, it also served as a trading and railroad center for the nearby mines and farms. When the soldiers were moved out of Fort Lewis in 1891 to make room for the Indian school, the Fort Lewis post office was reassigned to a Hesperus post office. The only newspaper was the:

Hesperus Harpoon 1910-1911, George Blakely, founder. Blakely also published the *Bayfield Banner* and *Durango Great Southwest*.

Ignacio

The Ute Indians were the first settlers in the Ignacio area, moved there from New Mexico in 1876. An agency, under the supervision of an Indian Agent, was opened to oversee the Indians and a trading post. The post office was named after the Southern Ute Chief Ignacio. Homestead land opened in 1896, but only a few settlers came much before 1910 when land was bought from the Utes. Ignacio is on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, and is headquarters for the Reservation, and the Indian school and hospital. There was one newspaper.

Ignacio Chieftain July 21, 1910 to 1974/75, D.L. and Reef Egger, founders. D.L. (Dan) Egger was Reef's father. A father-son team, T.J. Bradshaw (the town's first school teacher) and his son, Frederick L., bought the paper in 1913. T.J. Bradshaw left the paper

in July 1915, but Frederick stayed on until October 1917, when he sold or leased it to S.R. Kirkpatrick.

Frederick Bradshaw repurchased the *Chieftain* in 1924, but a year later D.L. Egger repurchased the paper from Bradshaw, and merged it with the *Bayfield Blade*, which he also owned. The name was changed to:

Ignacio Chieftain & Bayfield Blade December 1923-March 1933.

Another Egger son, Raymond, was put in charge of the combined paper. The Eggers then did something unique. *Inter-Mountain Press* detailed it in May 1925:

The Ignacio Chieftain, plant and building, has been purchased by Raymond Egger of the Bayfield Blade, and Reef Egger and Kenneth D. Hill of the Pagosa Springs Sun. The Sun is installing a new Linotype to enable it to handle the work on three papers.

Thus another district adopts the Neuman & Fry plan which is being successfully operated at Elizabeth for a group of nearby points. The fact is that wherever there is a group of small towns situated close together, each can be given a much better paper in this way than any single town could possibly support by itself. The only things which have ever interfered with such localities getting better service on the group basis are the insistence, against their own real good, of merchants in such small towns that each must have a printing plant as well as a newspaper, and that there are still persons in the newspaper game who have no better business judgment than to jump in anywhere they can locate an incorporated town, whether there is a reasonable chance of developing business to support a newspaper or not. The state association might well add to its slogans "better newspapers; if necessary, fewer newspapers."

Jack Stevens, formerly of the *Durango Democrat*, bought the *Ignacio Chieftain* about June 1933. He tried to change the name to *La Plata Chieftain* but ran afoul of the U.S. Postal Service, which forced him to retain the *Ignacio Chieftain* name. The local postmaster refused to allow the paper circulation privileges, according to *Colorado*

Editor. Stevens and the postmaster had a running battle over circulation. Stevens won the battle twice by going directly to Washington, and he swore that Ignacio would have a new postmaster if it happened a third time. *Colorado Editor* did not report another incident.

In debt and not having put out a paper for three weeks, Stevens passed off the paper to a young couple at the end of 1934. Fay Jones had worked for the Great Western Sugar Company in Brighton while his wife Charlotte had studied journalism at Western State. The Joneses were never sure afterwards exactly how or why they ended up with the newspaper, a hand-cranked press and one-story building, all attached with \$400 of Steven's debt. What they discovered, after Stevens handed them the key and left, was a stack of unpaid bills, a shaky subscriber list with 200 names on it, and a well-established system of advertising trade-offs. "I had more beauty treatments and hairdo's during the depression than any other time in my life," Charlotte Jones remembered 20 years later in a *Colorado Editor* article. The beauty treatments were one of the trade-offs for ads.

Within a few years they moved into a larger building and about 1947 bought a new mechanical press and a second-hand Linotype that needed coaxing to operate. As Don Schlichting recalls:

Jones had a "galloping" newspaper press. The press and its motor were not secured to the floor. Consequently, when Fay got up on the press for the paper run, the vibrations of the running press would cause it to "walk, gallop" toward the front of the shop.

Periodically Fay would have to get a crow-bar and hump the press back to the rear of the shop. Fortunately this was only necessary once or twice a year. Fay was a neat fellow and a darn good newspaperman.

The Lunsford Group--composed of a dozen men--bought the paper in March 1957, but the Joneses repossessed it in June. Dick Carmack bought the paper in August 1963, selling it in January 1966 to Alton Dorsett (former owner of the *Durango Herald*), who sold the *Chieftain* in February 1967 to Carl Snook and Paul Malott. Dorsett was back in July 1968. He sold the paper again, this time to Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Kurtz in July 1969. Cortez Newspapers (Dewey and Russell Brown) bought the *Chieftain* in May 1970, but sold it a year later to Edwin E. Krull, who in turn sold it in April 1972 to Clayton Willis.

Under Clayton Willis, the *Chieftain* set up a working journalism program to train printers and reporters. Willis commented on this for the *Colorado Editor* in 1973:

We are pleased we could train two American Indians, two Spanish-Americans, three high school students and four college students--and this after the paper in 62 years of publication before I bought it never had either an Indian or a Spanish-American writing for the newspaper.

The *Ignacio Chieftain* name was changed sometime before 1973 to:

Four Corners Chieftain. Hans Von Mende, a Boulder attorney, bought the *Chieftain* in February 1973, discontinuing it toward the end of 1974 or beginning of 1975.

La Plata City

Gold may have been found here by Spanish explorers a hundred years before Americans found and produced both gold and silver. But the Spanish did not settle in the area. La Plata City sprang up in 1875 after the ore was discovered. During the boom years, freight teams streamed along the road night and day. A daily stagecoach kept the camp in touch with the outside world. There were more possibilities than progress in the La Plata mines, and eventually the camp became a ghost town after the century turned. There was one newspaper:

La Plata Miner 1894-1907. W.H. Kelley and George M. Carr were editor/publishers in 1898, and C.O. Clark from 1899 to 1906. "Mad Muldoon" Kelly, born in Illinois in 1849, ran away from home when he was 12 to join the Union Army. He served as one of the patriotic young drummer boys. The Civil War ended, and Kelly pressed on to see what adventures there might be in Colorado. In the next two decades he wrote for or edited newspapers in a dozen Colorado gold camps, including Georgetown, Leadville, Silverton, Mancos, Ouray and La Plata. He got his nickname while working for Dave Day on the *Solid Muldoon*.

Parrott City

Parrott City is sixty miles from Silverton. It is a lively mining camp that is growing rapidly. Thus far, it has suffered from difficulty of access, there being no wagon road connecting it with other towns and districts in the San Juans. Goods and supplies have to be packed in on burros....the day is fast approaching when it will take rank with its sister towns of the San Juans....

Early-day account, "*Empire of Silver*," R.L. Brown

In the quiet summer of 1873, a party of prospectors from California was led into La Plata Canyon by one of the more interesting adventurers to find ill-fame and fortune in Colorado Territory. Capt. John Moss, born in New York but late of California, had an intense interest in gold and Indians. He was said to know and or understand almost every Indian dialect in the Southwest. Moss worked out his own treaty with Ignacio, Chief of the Southern Utes: mining and farming rights in exchange for 100 ponies and a quantity of blankets. There was a rumor the Indians were also given whiskey and sheep that the prospectors had stolen from the Mexicans and the Navajo.

Treaty in hand, Moss returned to San Francisco and found a banker who was impressed enough by Moss' resourcefulness to finance a second prospecting group to the area. From this colony came Parrott City and the disenchanting easterners looking for new beginnings referenced by *The New York Times* (cited at the beginning of this chapter). If fortunes from gold were elusive, there was money to be made in sustaining the gold seekers. One of the Moss party almost immediately began growing vegetables to sell to his friends. Five thousand head of cattle were brought in from Texas and other parts of Colorado to run on the open range.

La Plata County was organized at Parrott City, but when the legislature made it official, Howardsville, to the north, was designated county seat. The famous photographer, W.H. Jackson of the U.S. Geological Survey, stayed in Parrott City in 1874. Among the photographs he took on that trip were those of the ancient dwellings in Mesa Verde. The first county election was held October 3, 1874, in a brush lean-to with

an empty oyster can as a ballot box. Two years later the Captain was still stuffing the ballot box, this time in Silverton, when San Juan County was created by lopping the top off La Plata County. San Juan County included Howardsville, the La Plata County seat. La Plata had to have a new county seat election, and, as Moss planned, Parrott City was chosen by ballot. Parrott City lost the county seat when the D&RG went to Durango, which grabbed the prize designation in 1881.

Parrott City Gazette June 1876-1877.

Special Sources: *"Durango's Newspapers 1880-1992"*, Duane A. Smith, produced by the *Durango Herald* 1992.

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Special thanks to Don Schlichting and Pat Jetton.

CHAPTER XXXVI

LAKE COUNTY

Lake County, created by the territorial legislature in 1861, covered about a sixth of the state. Its boundaries were Utah Territory on the west, Fremont and Park counties on the east, Conejos and Costilla counties on the south and Summit County on the north. The name comes from the Twin Lakes, one of the county's dominant features. All or part of 14 Colorado counties have been carved from Lake County, until an area only about 22 miles long and 24 miles wide was left. Lake is now Colorado's third smallest county, after Denver and Gilpin.

A small cluster of tents and rude cabins along a stream called Oro City was designated the first county seat. In 1866 the people voted to move the county seat to Dayton (later renamed Twin Lakes). Two years later Dayton lost the county seat to Granite. But when Chaffee County was organized in 1879, Granite was within its boundaries. After Leadville was established in 1877 and grew by 1880 into Colorado's second largest city it replaced Dayton in 1879 as the county seat.

Like many other Colorado counties, Lake was first settled by gold seekers. Prospector Abe Lee found small quantities of gold near Leadville in the fall of 1859, and returned with a sizeable group in February 1860. When he struck gold on April 26, 1860, Lee fired a musket in the air and shouted jubilantly, "By God, boys, I got California

in this here in pan!” Lee’s cry gave California Gulch, a tributary of the Arkansas River, its name. By late spring nearly 5,000 prospectors swarmed to California Gulch, creating the town of Oro City. Horace Austin Warner and his wife Augusta arrived to open a general store, and grubstaked prospectors in exchange for an interest in their discoveries. This strategy helped him become the “bonanza king of the West.”

The gold fever didn’t last but silver launched another rush. The heavy black sand that had so annoyed earlier prospectors was carbonate, a source of silver. Leadville arose to become the highest, biggest and wildest of Silver Cities with the new rush. The *Leadville Chronicle* wrote colorfully of the early days:

The phantom cities built by the dainty hands of...the East, to the stranger could produce no greater amazement than the first sight of Leadville...[in 1878] the mines hereabout began to attract attention, and a few months later the marvelous wealth of the carbonate camp was being told all about the world. Even at that date few were dreaming of the human avalanche soon to follow.

Lake County boomed. Legendary mines were discovered: Carbonate, Chrysolite, Denver, Ibex, Little Johnny, Little Pittsburgh, Matchless, Morning Star and scores more. The county declined again after the silver crash of 1893, but managed to keep going by expanding into copper and zinc, while continuing to work gold and silver deposits. Lake County’s next boom came when molybdenum was discovered in 1900. Molybdenum came into use as a hardener for steel used in tanks and then in automobiles. In 1915 the Leadville press reported the Climax Mine exported the “largest quantity of molybdenum ever shipped, enough to meet world demand for two years.” At one time, 90% of the world’s supply came from Lake County.

Camp Hale

During World War II, the famed U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division ski troops trained at Camp Hale, north of Leadville at a site called Pando, a Rio Grande railroad siding. The 10th Mountain Division fought with distinction in Italy, leading troops into the Alps to block a German retreat late in the war. The camp, on the Continental Divide between Lake and Eagle counties, was named for General Irving Hale, a West Point graduate who grew up in Central City and Denver and rose to prominence during the Spanish American War. Camp Hale maintained the military camp tradition of a post newspaper. It was originally titled:

What's My Name? 1942. The name was changed to:

Camp Hale Ski-zette 1942-1944. Lt. William Garner was editor in 1942.

Leadville

Leadville's great silver boom began in the summer of 1877. The town was incorporated in 1878, making it the highest incorporated city in the United States. By 1880 the crowds of fortune seekers gave Leadville a census count of 14,480, making it the second largest city in Colorado. R.G. Dill observed:

The streets in the evening are filled with an army of miners, speculators, capitalists and gamblers, crowded from curb to curb...Pedestrians often chose the middle of the street rather than the sidewalk, although it meant taking their chances at being run over by the dashing horsemen and coaches that whirled over the road at any hour day or night.

According to newspaperman Teller Ammons,

All sorts of wicked persons—murderers, thieves, bunco-steerers, confidence men, good and bad members of the gambling fraternity, pickpockets, thugs, yeggs and promoters of all sorts of swindling enterprises poured into Leadville from all over the world.

Horace Tabor borrowed from his Oro City store to open another in Leadville. His optimism paid off when two of the men he grubstaked discovered the little Pittsburgh Mine. It launched the Tabor fortune. Tabor opened a post office in his Leadville store and was elected the town's first mayor.

Lake County Reveille February 23, 1878-January 8, 1880, weekly and daily, Richard S. Allen, founder. Allen, who had been running the *Fairplay Sentinel*, "got the bulge on the other fellows by sneaking in a few weeks earlier than the cutest of them and had set up the *Reveille* office, such as it was, in a log cabin close to the trail that afterward became Chestnut Street" according to fellow journalist Lute Johnson. Though his Leadville paper did not last long, Allen was a charter member of the Colorado State Press Association, founded in July 1878. The *Reveille* was consolidated into the *Leadville Herald*.

Leadville Eclipse fall 1878-January 1880, weekly and daily, W.F. Hogan, founder. Hogan bought Alma's *Mount Lincoln News* late in 1877 or early in 1878, then closed it in September 1878, hauling the equipment to Leadville to start the *Eclipse*. R.G. Dill was managing editor in 1879. The *Eclipse* was Democratic, to offset the Republican *Reveille*.

Evening Chronicle January 29, 1879-1911, daily. The Chronicle Publishing Company, Carlyle Channing (Cad) Davis, John Arkins and James. M. Burnell, founders. The sister publication was the weekly:

Carbonate Weekly Chronicle January 29, 1879-January 5, 1987.

The *Chronicle* came to life over a telegraph wire between Denver and Leadville with the encouraging words: "Greatest silver camp on earth, but better for a newspaper than silver." Colonel John Arkins was a printer with several Denver newspapers. Burnell was also a printer, and Davis was a reporter and city editor as well as printer. Burnell sent the propitious telegram. Arkins was chosen editor, Burnell manager of the mechanical department, and Davis business manager. The paper was a financial success from the start.

The first issue was a small 15 by 8 inch five-column sheet, about the size of a "theatre program." The partners optimistically ran off 500 copies from their hand-powered press and were stunned at the demand when the paper hit the street. They kept running copies until the clamoring crowd dispersed, 9,000 copies later.

The proprietors declared that the primary purpose of the *Chronicle* was to provide a medium "through which the resources and advantages of this wonderful camp might be properly presented to the capitalists of the East, whose money is needed to further develop our mines, build our railroads, and erect much wished for manufacturies." The *Chronicle* underscored this mission by opening an office in New York to handle national and international circulation and advertising. In its heyday, the *Chronicle* could be found in many American cities, and even in Paris, Brussels, Nice, Florence, Naples, and Rome.

When Arkins departed in April 1880, he was replaced by Henry Ward, a retired U.S. Army Major who had most recently been editorial writer for the *Denver Tribune*. Called the “Mascot of Colorado journalism,” the Major worked on nearly every paper of influence in the state, according to the Press Association history compiled by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Writer’s Project. Biographical information is sketchy, but the WPA book states: “Although of great influence, Ward apparently preferred to remain anonymous, while letting others receive the public acclaim.”

Before the *Chronicle’s* first birthday, it had several competitors in Leadville.

Leadville Evening Times dates uncertain, Summer 1879 or spring 1880. George G. Wanless, editor and manager, H.A.W. Tabor was a major financial backer, and W.H. Bush was president of the company. Sources provide different dates, but seem agreed that the *Times* was a casualty of competition from the *Chronicle* and that it expired after a 13-week “struggle.”

Chestnut Street Boom 1879 or 1880, Dr. Worrall, founder. Worrall tried again with the *Carbonate Camp* in 1881 (see below).

Leadville Circular 1879 Or 1880-1882, John Bonner, founder. The *Circular*, devoted to mining news, enjoyed a temporary popularity before going the way of many weekly newspapers in mining camps. Born in England, Bonner was a graduate of Oxford and Cambridge universities. He moved to the United States prior to the Civil War and went into banking, but lost everything in the 1873 financial crisis. He decided to go into journalism, working for such publications as the *New York Herald* and *Harper’s Weekly*.

Intrigued by the mining developments in Colorado, Bonner moved to Leadville and took a position as mining editor at the *Chronicle*, where he built a reputation for himself and the paper. He parlayed that reputation into his own paper, the *Circular*, but its lifespan was limited.

Leadville Courier 1887-1880.

Leadville Daily Herald October 21, 1879-December 11, 1885. R.G. Dill, founder.

There was a weekly companion:

Leadville Weekly Herald November 1, 1879-December 1885.

Dill came to Leadville to work on the *Eclipse*. When that paper failed, Dill recognized the need for a Republican morning paper in Leadville. He impressed a number of businessmen to invest in a stock company. William P. Newhard was his “able lieutenant.” The *Herald’s* “excellence as a newspaper and as a political journal was a surprise to Captain Dill’s strongest friends and a confusion to his enemies,” said the *Herald Democrat* in 1887. In January 1880, the *Herald* “swallowed” the *Lake County Reveille*. J.W. Wallace was an editor in 1883 and also owned an interest in the paper, which he would later sell to Horace Tabor.

The *Herald* did not just support candidates editorially. Lake County Republican leaders met in the newspaper office early in 1882 to discuss increasing recognition for potential Leadville candidates. When it was rumored that Colorado Senator Henry Teller might be appointed Secretary of the Interior, Tabor, who now owned a large block

of stock in the *Herald*, demanded the paper support his bid to replace Teller as Senator. When other stockholders refused, Tabor bought them out, paying a premium price. He enjoyed “a brief and costly season of newspaper management,” observed Dill.

After losing his election bid, Tabor lost interest in his “expensive luxury,” which had been operating at a deficit – but he refused to sell to the *Chronicle*’s Davis. Tabor hired a new managing editor, James McCarthy, better known as “Fitz-Mac.” In “due time” Fitz-Mac, a friend of Cad Davis, offered to buy the *Herald* from Tabor, who was happy to unload it on him. Twenty minutes after the deal closed, Fitz-Mac sold the paper to Davis, who consolidated it into the *Chronicle*. Tabor never forgave him.

Leadville Weekly Democrat November 1, 1879-October 1883, WA.H. Loveland, founder. A daily companion paper began with the new year:

Leadville Democrat January 1, 1880-October 1885. Loveland, a force in Colorado history, was a Democrat in a largely Republican state. The year before he established the *Leadville Democrat*, Loveland purchased the Denver *Rocky Mountain News*, to the dismay of state Republicans. Correctly identifying Leadville as strategically important to state political affairs, Loveland and his *Rocky Mountain News* editor John M. Barret formed a stock company to finance the *Leadville Democrat*.

Barret was general manager of the *Democrat*, but he stayed in Denver, sending Michael J. Gavsick, one of the most capable reporters on the *Rocky*, to serve as editor of the Leadville paper. He was followed as editor by Captain James T. Smith, another

Rocky Mountain News veteran. W.F. Robinson was business manager. Colonel J.L. Bartlow followed as editor-in-chief. In 1881, Frank "Pap" Heideroff was the new editor.

Before 1880 was out, Loveland was forced out as owner by other stockholders over his sympathy for a miner's strike, which his colleagues avidly opposed. Unwilling to see the *Democrat* used to back the strikers, they bought him out. In 1881 Nelson Hallock was the *Democrat* proprietor. M.H. Tilden took over in 1882, and E.D. Cowan, formerly of the *Chronicle*, in 1883. C.C. Davis, owner of the *Chronicle*, was able to buy the *Democrat* when it became burdened by debts in October, 1883. Davis kept the *Democrat* name, publishing it with the intention "to make it the leading morning journal of the mining sections of the state." Despite stiff competition from the free-spending Leadville *Herald*, Davis put out the *Chronicle* as the evening paper (except Sunday) and the *Democrat* as the morning paper (except Mondays). Two years later Davis eliminated the competition by purchasing the *Herald* as well.

Now the owner of three dailies, Davis merged the *Herald* with the *Democrat*:

Leadville Herald-Democrat December 12, 1885 to present. It was issued as a morning daily until September 1929, when it switched to evenings. The proprietors were C. C. Davis and Joseph Maher, who had purchased an interest in the papers. Davis was general manager, and M.L. Goldenburg was business manager.

Davis had a veritable monopoly on Leadville News. In a moment of braggadocio, Davis declared "successful opposition to my morning and evening journals was not possible...twenty-seven distinct attempts were made ...and all found eternal rest in the

same burying ground!” Davis’ health failed in 1895, and the following year he sold his papers. The buyers formed the Leadville Publishing & Printing Company. Among the new owners were Simon Guggenheim and Jacob O. Heimberger.

William H. Griffith was named manger of the *Herald-Democrat* in 1896. J.M. McClellan and Lute Johnson, who joined the staff in 1896, were editors. James M. Knight became manager in 1904. Heimberger bought the entire business in November 1902 for \$40,000 and operated the newspapers until his death in June 1904. His widow was publisher until October, when she sold to James Knight and Henry C. Butler, who had been on staff since 1884. Knight retired in 1916, selling his interest to Frank Vaughn who became principal owner of the papers. Samuel Danford Nicholson, who bought an interest, was general manager of the company, as well as a major stockholder from 1921 to 1923.

Butler became full owner, but it is unclear exactly when. He was widely known during World War I, when his editorials were republished in many papers throughout the East, because of “their clear analysis and patriotic capacity.” Butler sold the paper in November 1938 to Joe McConnell, the first Leadville-born owner. He sold the paper January 9, 1947 to William Prescott Allen of Laredo, Texas. He installed Wallace Echberg of Burlington, Iowa to manage the paper.

Robert and Lois Theobald bought the *Herald-Democrat* from Allen in the fall of 1957. Robert Theobald was Colorado State Revenue Director. Francis and Pauline Bochatey purchased the *Carbonate Chronicle*, *Herald-Democrat*, and the *Summit County*

Journal, two printing plants and buildings from the Theobalds on July 24, 1959, and formed the Continental Divide Press, Inc. The Bochteys spent almost 27 years producing the two Leadville papers. When they sold them in 1986, the *Herald-Democrat* was the last Colorado daily still produced on a Linotype.

Merle Baranczyk of the *Salida Mountain Mail* purchased the daily *Herald-Democrat* and the weekly *Carbonate Chronicle* from the Bochteys in August 1986. Larry Tangley of Montana was named manager and editor of the Leadville publications. The *Chronicle* came to a sad and abrupt end on January 5, 1987 when declining advertising revenue compelled the owners to consolidate the paper into the *Herald Democrat*. Hal Walter replaced Tangley as editor in 1989. Chris Barnett was editor from 1990 to 1995, when Grant Dunham was named to the position. Dunham resigned in November 1998, and was replaced by Jeff Dick, who had joined the staff as a reporter the previous January.

Larry Tangley deserves credit for creating the Leadville Newspaper Museum. Opened in May 1988, the museum contains old presses, wood and metal type, and other newspaper memorabilia. The last issue of the *Herald Democrat* printed on the flatbed press was left on the press "in hopes of one day creating a museum and placing the *Herald's* equipment on display." And there it is.

Leadville Zeitung February 1880-1883, founded by a Mr. Ott, published by E.B. Hennes & Co. The paper has also been listed as **Deutsche Zeitung** and **Der Zeitung**. It was published in part in the German language to serve German-speaking immigrants in

the area. H.A. Wildhack and William Ackerman succeeded Ott, but the paper died “a natural death.” Wildhack was later with the *Meeker Herald*.

Monday Morning News 1880-1881, Fred Schrader, founder. Schrader, a former *Chronicle* city editor, went on to write dramas and became manager of the opera house in St. Joseph, Missouri. The *News* went out of business temporarily, but was revived as:

Leadville News 1881-1884, under the direction of John Bonner, W.S. Alexander, and C. St. George. It was a Democratic-leaning newspaper.

Carbonate Camp 1881, Dr. Worrall editor.

The Journalist early 1880. It did not last long enough to make the September 1880 city directory.

Leadville Crisis July 1880-1881, George Crosby, George W. Clark and William Lee, founders. Established soon after the great miners’ strike, the *Crisis* was “intended to represent the interests of the strikers, but met with only slight pecuniary encouragement at their hands.” It was suppressed when the city went under martial law.

Leadville Leaflet January 5, 1881-1882. The Reverend Mr. Paddock, founder. The *Leaflet* was a religious paper with “an extended circulation among Congregationalists throughout the country.”

Mining Index April 1881-May 1882, A.F. Wuensch, founder. Wuensch moved to the *Chronicle*, where he was mining editor in 1884 and promoted to editor in 1887. The

Index was taken over by the *Mining Review*, reported the *Rocky Mountain News* on May 25, 1882.

Mining Review 1882-? F.E. Vaughn and J.C. Cline, founders. Vaughn was later owner of the *Herald Democrat* and *Chronicle*.

Leadville Press #1 1882-1883, J.C. and L.M. Cline, founders. Cline was described as “possessed of more energy and ‘gall’ than money.” Despite his best efforts, “the *Press* was buried among the other ruins.”

Dome City Blade spring 1883-1884. A.F. Nayaneach, founder. The *Herald Democrat* states that it lasted two issues, although the Oehlerts’ newspaper directory gives it a year.

Dome City Hatchet 1883, John G. Richville, founder. It lasted only a few weeks longer than the *Blade*.

Cloud City 1884-1885, G.W. Bartlett, manager. Bartlett promptly antagonized the Typographical Union and Knights of Labor. Within weeks he was arrested on a charge of criminal libel. Upon being bailed out he fled to Kansas, and *Cloud City* was no more.

Mine, Stack and Rail 1885, D. Baumann, founder. He was previously mining editor of both the *Chronicle* and *Democrat*. It was a statewide publication with additional offices in Denver and Pueblo. The *Herald Democrat* says it was moved to Buena Vista.

Leadville Dispatch Dispatch Publishing Company, Percy A. Leonard, publisher. S. Howe Hill was business manager in 1890. The *Dispatch* had a custom of issuing special holiday editions which gave a detailed account of Leadville's mining and business history for the year, intended to build confidence in the area's mining industry. Lon Hartman succeeded Leonard as editor in August 1890.

Leadville Daily Journal September 6, 1886-1888, Journal Publishing Company, composed of Dr. D. Heimberger, H. Clay Brownlee and W.S. Alexander, all experienced journalists. Brownlee left after a few weeks. The *Journal* was published on a press that had belonged to the *Saguache Chronicle*. John Shepard was editor in 1888.

Leadville Argus 1889-1891, S.W. Teagarden, founder.

The Star January 30, 1892-1893, Star Publishing, Ward McLain, Robert H. Starcher, and Elmer Ambrose, editors and proprietors, daily. The *Star* offered a dozen copies of a photograph of the customer's choosing by the paper's photographer as a bonus to patrons who subscribed at the annual rate of \$2. The *Star* was Democratic.

Cloud City News 1893-1896, William McCabe. As a young miner, McCabe worked for the *Chronicle*.

Leadville Pay=Streak 1895-1896, Delvan W. Gee, founder. The line underneath the nameplate said it was a "Continuation of the Granite *Pay=Streak*." Only the Leadville nameplate used "=" in *Pay=Streak*. The Leadville volume and issue numbers

correspond with earlier issues from Granite. The paper was founded in Granite in 1884, but moved to Leadville. It returned to Granite in 1886.

Born in 1860, Gee began his career by publishing an “amateur” newspaper at the age of 15 in Washington D.C. In 1876, he and a group of other teenage boys organized the National Amateur Press Association in Philadelphia. He came to Colorado in 1878 as secretary to James Belford, Colorado’s first Congressman. His first Colorado newspaper job was with the Meeker *Rio Blanco News*; his last was at the *La Jara Gazette* in 1944. In between he touched every corner of the state, was a popular and active member of the Colorado Press Association, and a member of the International Typographical Union for 58 years.

Free Lance October 21, 1895-1899, J.F. Manning, founder and publisher; “A Weekly Journal Devoted to Truth.” Historian Edward Blair said the *Free Lance* “attacked almost everyone.”

News-Reporter October 1895-January 5, 1902. Excelsior Publishing Co., Tobin and Newman, Proprietors; Thomas P. Tobin, editor and business manager. It billed itself as “The People’s Paper.” The name was changed to:

Evening News-Dispatch January 6, 1902-June 30, 1903.

Western Miner 1896-1904, J.H. Schwerzgen and L.W. Rogers, founders. It was a labor paper. It had a sister publication:

Leadville Daily Miner 1896-1902. F. Tarkington Baker took over as editor in 1900.

Leadville Press #2 March 6, 1908-1910, Ed. C. Austin, Proprietor and Manager. Austin hired Del Gee as editor upon his return to Leadville. R.F. McLeod followed Gee as editor.

Lake County Miner 1914-1915, E.J. Hoefnagles, founder (see Twin Lakes). He sold the paper to E.C. Austin and W.A. Davis in May 1915. The paper was gone by the end of the year.

Leadville Record 1936-1938, William Marquardt and C.L. Preusch, founders. Preusch generated a "canned feature" of stories from the Bible. D.R. Watson of Oklahoma bought the Leadville paper in September 1937 for his son Wayne. The younger Watson, however, was bothered by the altitude and forced to sell to Carl Van Scoy, most recently editor of the Merino *Tri-County Herald*. Pruesch was back in control in early in 1938 when he bought the *Loveland Valley News*, suspended the *Record*, and moved the equipment to the Loveland plant.

Leadville Shopper 1938-March 20, 1942, Ed P. Larsh. A free circulation sheet.

Cloud City Call 1958-1959.

Leadville Leader July 24, 1959-1960, M.L. Collett and Fred Parris, founders.

Leadville Legend October 1975-1978, Jack East, founder and publisher; Rick Johnson, editor. An offset, paid-circulation tabloid. It was suspended in June 1978.

Leadville Chronicle #2 February 12, 1998 – present. Eagle-Summit Publishing, Mike Kirschbaum, general manager, Karen Bowers, managing editor. The new *Chronicle* featured articles about education, politics, controversies, history and “people pieces,” in addition to a news digest in Spanish, syndicated columns and comics.

Leadville Courier 1879-1880.

Leadville Topic 1891-1896.

Leadville Critic 1899-1900.

Leadville Courier #2 1905-1907, daily/weekly.

Twin Lakes

Twin Lakes was a small mining camp twelve miles southeast of Leadville. Nearby hills were rich in minerals, including gold. Mt. Elbert, towering over the town, was dotted with mines. Originally, a small mining camp known as Dayton, it started in the early 1860s. It drew residents from Oro City looking for new prospecting fields. With Oro City in decline, Dayton was voted the second county seat in 1866. The boom was short-lived. In 1868 the county seat switched to Granite, and Dayton faded.

The town of Twin Lakes was built on the remains of Dayton when two “commodious hotels” were built near the Lakes. Soon Leadville carbonate kings, several state officials, and “everybody who was anybody” had opulent homes by the lakes. The Interlaken Hotel, built on land between the two lakes, claimed the “best cuisine in the county,” a dance pavilion, and all kinds of entertainment. After a dam was erected

between the lakes, many VIPs moved away in disgust. Twin Lakes was added to the National Register of Historic Places in the 1970s. The U.S. Forest Service maintains the Interlaken as a National Historic Site.

Twin Lakes News 1901-1903.

Twin Lakes Miner December 1902-1911. E.J. Hoefnagels, founder and publisher.

It became:

Lake County Miner October 1911-1914. The *Miner* was a member of the Colorado Editorial Association. The *Miner* moved to Leadville in 1914.

Special Sources: *Leadville: Colorado's Magic City*, by Edward Blair, Pruett Publishing Co., Boulder, 1980.

Olden Times in Colorado, by C.C. Davis, Phillips Publishing Co., Los Angeles 1916.

History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado, by Don L. Griswald and Jean Harvey Griswold, Colorado Historical Society with University Press of Colorado, 1996.

Leadville: A Miner's Epic, by Stephen M. Voynick, Mountain Press Publishing Co., Missoula 1984.

Here They Dug the Gold, by George F. Willison, Bretano's Publishers, New York, 1931.

Leadville newspapers, various issues, particularly the *Herald Democrat*.

CHAPTER XXXVII

LARIMER COUNTY

Larimer County's first white settler is thought to be Antoine Janis, who had led a scouting party through the area in 1844 and supposedly declared it "the most beautiful place on earth." Fourteen years later, Janis established a claim on the Cache La Poudre River near the present site of LaPorte. At about the same time, Mariano Medina established Fort Namaqua on the Big Thompson River just west of present-day Loveland. Pioneer dug irrigation canals along the Big Thompson and Cache la Poudre in the 1860s, allowing agriculture to thrive as the area's main occupation.

Larimer County was one of the original 17 counties when Colorado Territory was created in 1861. LaPorte, first called Colona, was the first county seat, but in 1868 a campaign to move it to Fort Collins was successful. The county name honored General William Larimer, a Colorado pioneer and one of the founders of Denver. A portion of Larimer County was included in Rocky Mountain National Park, when Congress created it in 1915.

Berthoud

Rancher Lewis Cross staked a homestead claim where the Colorado Central railroad company planned to cross Little Thompson creek in 1872. When the railroad laid tracks through the valley in 1877, the tiny settlement of Little Thompson sprang up

at the crossing. It was later renamed Berthoud for civil engineer Edward .L. Berthoud, who surveyed the rail route through the valley.

Berthoud Beacon July 10, 1886-1887; L.A. Thompson, publisher.

Berthoud Blade 1890-1893; W.T. Michel, publisher. Indiana native Michel had previously been editor of the *Leslie Republican* in Washington County. He sold the *Blade* to G.E. Halderman, who changed the name to:

Berthoud Bulletin April 21, 1893-1980; G.E. Halderman, publisher. Like Michel, Halderman hailed from Indiana, where he studied literature and law. William Forgy and J.T. Pyles bought the paper in 1894. Pyles left the following year, but Forgy stayed until 1897, when he sold the *Bulletin* to attorney J. Mack Mills and his wife, Belle Mills, who served as editor. They sold in 1899 to W.F. Phelps, a “practical newspaper man” who came “well recommended.”

Phelps lasted until February 1902, when he sold the *Bulletin* to E.F. Harris, who left in December. R.C. Hardesty took over from June 1903 to June 1908, when he sold to John E. Marshall. Marshall dealt the paper in December of the same year to G.A. Hill. Hill sold and left for the *Ault Record* in April 1910. New owner J.S. Bailey ran the paper until August 1911.

John Y. Munson bought the *Bulletin* from Bailey, and ran it for 19 years, bringing a period of stability. Munson was a prominent citizen of Berthoud, serving the community as a merchant, banker, home-builder, and member of city council. Munson

installed Sam D. Finley as editor. Finley and fellow *Bulletin* employee Lucinda Gosney bought out Munson in 1930. Finley served as editor until his death in 1941, when Gosney took over. In 1943, Raymond K. Welch leased and then bought the *Bulletin*. Welch had been owner of the *Kit Carson Herald* since 1934, but suspended that paper when he took over the *Bulletin*.

Welch dealt the *Bulletin* in 1948 to Darrell Bartee and Lucille Bartee, who in turn sold in November 1951 to Rolland Fletcher Sr. Fletcher and his wife ran the paper until March 1969, until they sold to Colorado newspaper magnate Bob Sweeney. He sold it in January 1971 to James, Richard, and Barbara Kost, who dealt the paper seven months later to Ed Lehman, owner of the *Loveland Reporter-Herald*. Lehman appointed Tom Oxley as editor. The *Bulletin* was suspended in 1980.

Berthoud News 1896-1898; George W. Johnson, founder. The *News* was a Populist organ in the waning years of that political party.

Berthoud Banner February-October 1982.

Berthoud Recorder October 1982-1987; Walter Kinderman, founder. The *Recorder* was founded as a free circulation to attract readers. In October 1985, Kinderman sold out to Denver native James Hansen. Walter Kinderman and his wife Patty Kinderman returned to the *Recorder* in 1987. They changed the newspaper's name to:

Old Berthoud Recorder 1987-2008. In 2000, the Kindermans sold again, this time to Newsmedia Corp. of Illinois. The *Recorder* suspended publication in 2008.

Estes Park

Estes is named for Missourian Joel Estes, who founded the town in 1859 and moved his family there in 1863. *Rocky Mountain News* editor William Byers published an enthusiastic account of his Long's Peak ascent in 1864, helping to spread the park's reputation as a pristine wilderness. In 1867, Giff Evans saw the potential for tourism and began building cabins to accommodate visitors. Soon he was host of Estes Park's first dude ranch, offering guided hunting, fishing and mountain climbing. The Earl of Dunraven first visited in 1872 and tried to obtain the whole valley for his own private hunting reserve. He partly succeeded, grabbing 6,000 acres and opening the area's first resort, the Estes Park Hotel. The Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1911.

The Mountaineer June 4, 1908-1909, J. Gordon Smith, editor. It was issued only during tourist season.

Estes Park Trail #1 June 15, 1912-September 12, 1914; J.Y. Munson and W.T. Park, founders. During its brief run, the first *Trail* was published at Munson's *Berthoud Bulletin* plant.

Estes Park Trail #2 April 15, 1921-1971, A.B. Harris, founder and publisher. The *Trail* was aligned with the Ku Klux Klan during its regrettable period of influence in Colorado. In May 1931, William G. Jackson and Dean Kirby became owners. Jackson

bought Kirby out in August 1934. Former secretary of the Estes Park Chamber of Commerce William Dings became editor the same year. Jackson's son, William F. Jackson, took over as editor in 1938.

Glen Prosser bought the paper in 1947, and stayed on as editor/publisher for twenty years. Under Prosser, the *Trail* began publishing special "Vacation Editions" each summer. Though aimed at tourists, these large, colorful editions packed with advertising also won kudos from fellow journalists and publishers, garnering a feature in the June 1952 issue of *Colorado Editor*. Prosser served as Colorado Press Association president in 1959.

Minnesota native Roger Berquist bought the *Trail* in 1967. Berquist sold in 1969 to Cecil Jahraus but stayed on as editor. Berquist regained control by repossession and sold again in March 1971, this time to former *Trail* editor Bill Murray and Mr. and Mrs. William J. Robinson. Murray had founded the *Estes Park Mountain Gazette*, and merged the two papers.

Estes Park Mountain Gazette October 3, 1968-1971; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Murray, founders. The Murrays were previously with the Idaho Springs *Front Range Journal*.

Estes Park Trail-Gazette March 31, 1971-present. William Robinson and Bill Murray, co-publishers; Bill Murray, editor. The paper became a semi-weekly. In the summer of 1971, the *Trail-Gazette* issued the:

Mountain Marquee for twelve weeks. It was a “tourist-oriented” paper, distributed free through motels and tourist stops.

Murray sold his interest in the *Trail-Gazette* in 1973 to Alan and Anabel Mencher and Blake and Peggy Patterson. Robinson stayed until 1976, when he too sold to the new partners, who had operated three Idaho newspapers before coming to Colorado. Alan Menchin died in 1979 and Blake Patterson died in 1983. Their wives managed the paper until February 1984, when they sold to Alan Cramer and Terry License. Cramer and License sold the *Trail-Gazette* to the *Denver Post* in 1999.

Alikasai 1915-1920, Claude Smith and Mark Ellison, founders. It was a seasonal paper. Both Smith and Ellison were associated with the *Loveland Herald*.

Fort Collins

Fort Collins began as a military post, chosen for its view of the surrounding countryside and location beside the Cache la Poudre River. Originally known as Camp Collins, the outpost established in 1862 honored Lt. Colonel William O. Collins, who patrolled the emigrant route on the Overland Trail. In 1864, after Camp Collins had nearly been wiped out by floods, it was moved about a mile further downstream to a new site. The new camp’s name was upgraded to Fort Collins.

By 1867, the fort was abandoned, but in 1872 members of the Greeley Agricultural Colony settled in the area. The town of Fort Collins was laid out and incorporated in 1873. Railroads and the success of the State Agricultural College (now

Colorado State University) helped grow Fort Collins into a prosperous agricultural community by the 1920s.

Larimer County Express April 26, 1873-1880-1916; weekly. Jos McClelland; publisher. In 1880, McClelland sold to brothers Henry A. and Horace P. Crafts, and George Webb. The Express Publishing Company, with William B. Miner, president and Frank S. Smith, editor, bought the paper in 1891. The *Express* was a Republican paper, except for a four year dalliance with the breakaway Colorado Silver Republican Party in the late 1890s.

Veteran journalist Howard Russell bought the *Express* in May 1898. Walter B. Sheppard bought a part interest in January 1903. W.D. Junkin bought the paper in November 1905. In August 1906, James G. McCormick bought half interest in the paper. The following year, his brother George G. McCormick traded an Iowa newspaper for the other half. They added a morning daily companion to the weekly paper, the **Fort Collins Express**. In 1916, the *Express* absorbed the *Fort Collins Review*, and published for a time as:

Fort Collins Express-Review 1916-1918, weekly; McCormick Bros., publishers. In 1918, the name reverted to **Fort Collins Express**. In 1920, the McCormicks bought the competing *Courier*, and the *Express-Courier* was born.

Fort Collins Courier 1878-1920, weekly; Ansel Watrous and Elmer M. Pelton, founders. The *Courier* was a Democratic paper until 1899, when it switched to backing the Republicans. The paper was a weekly until March 1902, when it went daily.

Watrous waged relentless editorial campaigns against vice, and was credited with cleaning up rough-and-tumble Fort Collins in the early 1880s. According to Colorado Editor's obituary, "when gambling halls were wide open and vice laughed at the law...in spite of threats of death for himself and dynamite for his newspaper plant, he waged a vigorous campaign against the underworld, and the better element backed him."

In 1886, Ansel Watrous sold the *Courier* to the Courier Printing and Publishing Company, but stayed on as editor and president until 1916. Carl Anderson, principal shareholder of the Courier Printing and Publishing Company, took charge of the paper in 1899. He added two weekly supplements, the *Fort Collins Weekly Courier* and the *Fort Collins Weekly Farmer*. In 1902, Anderson added a new evening daily edition of the *Courier*, known as the *Evening Courier*. In 1916, Anderson sold the *Courier* to Morris Emmerson. Four years later, Emmerson sold to the McCormick brothers, resulting in the consolidated:

Fort Collins Express-Courier 1920-1945, daily and weekly; McCormick brothers, publishers. In April 1928, the McCormicks sold the paper to Alfred G. Hill. His keen eye for news and skill at ad sales made for a profitable newspaper. Hill sold out in 1937 to Speidel Newspapers, Inc. In 1945, the paper underwent another evolution, taking a new name:

Fort Collins Coloradoan 1945-present. Clyde E. Moffat served as publisher from 1945 until 1971. Gannet Newspapers bought the *Fort Collins Coloradoan* in 1977, and in 1980 they shortened the name to simply the *Coloradoan*.

Argus 1895-1904. C.L. Wiedman was publisher and T.B. Ogilvie was editor. The *Argus* was a literary paper. It continued as the:

Larimer County Democrat March 1904-June, 1920. H.C. Branch, publisher and J. Manning, editor. The *Democrat* was indeed the leading Democratic-leaning newspaper in the area.

Fort Collins Standard 1874-1876, R.K. Boughton, publisher.

Temperance Gazette November 1879-1880. W.C. Wheeler, publisher, Rev. E.L. Allen, editor.

Larimer Bee September 1885-1887, S.W. Teagarden, founder. Headley and Mosley were publishers when it folded in 1887.

American Standard 1894-1895, semi-weekly.

Fort Collins Gazette 1895-1896, V.P. Wilson and Son, publishers.

Larimer County Republican 1889.

Fort Collins Prospectus 1891.

Evening Star 1903-1904, daily, I.C. Bradley.

Fort Collins Beacon 1907-1908. Mr. and Mrs. B.F. Evans, founders. It was a "bright and sparkling literary weekly."

Union Label Bulletin 1908-1919, monthly; C.E. Moore, ed.

Larimer County Independent July 1920-January 1921. The *Independent* may have been the successor of the *Larimer County Democrat*. It continued as:

Mountain and Plains Farmer 1921-1930, and then:

Mountain and Plains 1930-1941.

Fort Collins News 1921-1923, R.L. Gorrell and R.E. Wilson. Ansel Waltrous, the dean of Larimer County journalism, contributed some writing to the *News*. The *News* began as both a weekly and a daily, but abandoned the daily almost immediately due to stiff competition from the dominant *Express-Courier*. The weekly version continued into 1923.

Fort Collins Herald 1925-1926.

Fort Collins Leader November 1929-1942, C.E. Clippinger, publisher. He was succeeded by William M. Williams, 1933-1936; Vic Cornelison, 1936-1941; and Judge Albert Fischer, 1941-1942.

Fort Collins Daily Reminder 1932-1933, daily; F.H. Thompson, publisher; I.N. Monroe, editor.

Fort Collins Bulletin 1934-1942.

Fort Collins Crusader 1938-1939, semiweekly.

Long View 1949-1953, Clare Long and Marguerite Long, publishers. The *Long View* began in Wellington as *The Wellington* before changing its name to *Larimer County*

News. The paper took the *Long View* name in 1949 when it moved to Fort Collins. Robert White and George Denig bought the paper the same year, but discontinued it in 1952.

Fort Collins Times January 1, 1958-December 31, 1959. George Hungerford, founder. Hungerford sold the paper in 1960 to Verne E. Secrest, who changed the name to **Larimer County Times** and discontinued it about 1964.

Northern Colorado News 1964-1972. It also published as **Guardian News** and **Larimer County Guardian-News**.

Northern Colorado Star February 6, 1964-October 7, 1972, Olen and Mary Bell, founders. Other publishers included George Sanford, 1967-1969; Robert "Bob" Sweeney 1969-1971; James Kost and Richard Kost, 1971; Robert E. Rickman 1971-1972; and Robert Beard and Bettie Beard, 1972. A companion **Morning Star** was added in 1967. A **Sunday Star** and **Saturday Morning Star** were tried in 1968 before the *Northern Colorado Star* resumed its usual Thursday publication in July 1968.

Triangle Review 1974-, weekly; Donald McMillan and Susan McMillan, founders. John PfiEFFenberger bought the paper in 1983. Editors included Susan McMillen, 1974-1978; Anne Lennox McMillen 1980-1983; Connie PfiEFFenberger, beginning in 1983.

Loveland

Loveland was laid out on the site of a wheat field in September 1877 and named for William Austin Hamilton Loveland, a founder of Golden and Lakewood and president of the Colorado Central Railroad.

Loveland Reporter August 1880-1922, G.N. Udall, founder. The front page banner carried the motto "Independent In All Things, Neutral In Nothing." The first issue of the *Reporter* was hand set in a Loveland boarding house lighted by kerosene lamps, when the town's population was 300. Udall sold out only two months after founding the *Reporter*. The new owner was Frank A. McClelland, the eldest son of the founder of the *Fort Collins Larimer County Express*. McClelland in turn sold the *Reporter* in 1882 and went on to a long career with newspapers in Denver. Two former Grand County newspaper publishers, George W. Bailey and John Smart, bought the paper from McClelland in 1882. When they sold is uncertain but the next owner was John B. Bruner. In August 1895 the proprietors were Serbert & Title, followed by Frank S. Smith in January 1889.

On December 4, 1890, "dashing and flamboyant" 32-year old Walter Lewis Thorndyke bought the *Reporter*. His motto for the paper was "The Only Truthful Paper in Colorado." Born in Boston and having cut his teeth on papers there and in South Dakota, Thorndyke brought a distinctively elaborate and flowery writing style to the *Reporter*. He retired in 1905, selling the paper to Frank McMeekin. Around this time the *Reporter* issued a companion daily:

Evening Reporter 1909-? It may not have lasted long.

The *Reporter* changed hands again in February 1909, when McMeekin sold to I.O. Knapp and Edwin Roy Shirey, who had been on board as a local reporter for two years. Knapp had earlier founded the *Loveland Leader #2*. Irwin Guy Stafford bought the *Reporter* in 1913, making it a semi-weekly. He was followed as owner by A.W. Barnes in 1915. Under Barnes the *Reporter* went to a thrice-weekly schedule, then became a daily. In 1922, Barnes bought the *Loveland Daily Herald* and merged the two papers.

Loveland Register December 20, 1894-June 28, 1906; Arthur G. Coykendall and J.B. Coykendall, founders. The Coykendall brothers sold in 1896 to E.B. Harbaugh, who in turn dealt the paper in December 1899 to R.C. Hardesty. A succession of owner/publishers followed: George C. Briggs, 1901; John Gordon, Smith and J. Marion Price. 1906-1908; and Mark Ellison, 1908. G.A. Collet was editor when Ellison renamed the paper:

Loveland Herald 1908-1922; Mark Ellison, publisher. It had a daily companion:

Loveland Daily Herald 1908-August 1, 1922. A.W. Barnes bought the Herald in 1922 and merged it into his *Reporter*, creating the:

Loveland Reporter-Herald August 2, 1922-present. Only a few weeks after the merger, Barnes sold the new paper and moved to Illinois. The new owners were Robert J. Ball and his son-in-law Robert J. Etter. The two ran the paper together for 22 years.

Former Kansas publisher Harley E. Holden bought the *Reporter-Herald* in 1944. His son John (Jack) E. Holden joined him as partner in 1948. The senior Holden sold his interest to Harlow E. Tibbetts, another former Kansas publisher, in March 1959. After Tibbetts died in 1962, Jack Holden served as sole publisher and editor until he sold out to Lehman Newspapers, owner of the *Longmont Daily Times-Call*, in May 1967.

Loveland News #1 October 1882-1883, Charles F. Coleman, publisher.

Loveland Leader #1 1883-1884. Horace P. Crafts, formerly of the *Fort Collins Express*, was founder.

Loveland Leader #2 January 1, 1892-August 25, 1893, Ira G Knapp and G.A. Perry, founders. They sold out to the *Reporter* in 1893.

Loveland Daily Visitor 1912-1913.

Loveland Leader #3 1925-1935, semi-weekly, weekly. It was a Klan paper founded by William A. Heller. Subsequent owners were H.C. Arnsperger, 1927; George H. Henderson and Earl Baum of Denver, 1931; and J.E. Atterbury, 1933. L.J. Bissey bought the *Leader* in 1935 and changed the name to:

Big Thompson Valley News 1935-1938, L.J. Bissey, founder. It continued under the following publishers, some of who were leasing the paper: L.A. Glerye, 1936; LaMonte M. Lundstrum, 1937; W.E. Woodward, 1937-1938; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Walling, C.R. Preusch, and Earnest B. Smith, all 1939; Ralph Shivey, 1959; and Verne Secrest, 1959. Secrest merged it into the *Loveland Times*.

Loveland Pioneer Press 1938-1941.

Loveland Round-Up December 1947-January 22, 1959; Roy H. Hahn, founder. John B Phillips was publisher 1950-1953, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wolf. They sold after a few months to Ralph L. and Esther T. Williams. Verne Secrest bought the paper in 1958, changing the name to:

Loveland News #2 January 29, 1959-April 28, 1960; Verne Secrest, founder.

Larimer County Times 1959-April 28, 1960. It merged with the *News*, creating the:

Larimer County Times-News May 5, 1960-1967. Byron Tarbox and Richard Snively bought the paper from Secrest in January 1962. Snively sold his interest to Tarbox in August 1962. Charles G. Gerard and Gordon Bundy were the next owners, followed by Olen Bell and Mary Bell in 1965. They changed the name of the *Times-News* to:

Loveland Morning Star 1965-1969, Olen Bell, founder. George Sandford was publisher when the paper moved to Fort Collins in 1969.

Thompson Valley Sun January 1971-July 1975; Chuck Bowman and Donna Lee Bowman, founders. It was revived briefly as:

The Sun September 1975, Donna Lee Bowman.

Manhattan

Manhattan was a booming mining camp with brilliant prospects in the 1880s and 1890s. Several gold mines were temporarily productive, but over the long run the cost of mining outstripped the profit. A blizzard buried the town in 1913, driving many of the remaining residents out. A district forest ranger was located in the town until the Forest service pulled out in the 1950s.

Manhattan Prospector February 17, 1887-1888; Dr. M.A. Baker, publisher. The *Prospector's* aim was "to proclaim to the world the golden resources of its chosen home," reported journalist and historian Ansel Waltrous. But the newspaper was short-lived. Its plant was moved to Denver in 1888.

Pearl

Pearl was a copper-mining company town, surveyed and platted in 1900, the same year of a promising discovery that attracted six steam-powered mines. A huge smelter was built in 1905, but operated for only one day, abandoned because of the high cost of transportation.

Mining Times September 1901-1906; The Pearl Town Site Company, publisher. Sam Swire, Mark Crawford and W.A. Knapp worked on the paper before it discontinued as the town declined.

Teller City

The biggest and busiest of the sprouting silver camps in North Park was Teller City, settled in 1879 and named for Colorado politician Henry M. Teller, a strong supporter of federal subsidies for silver. The eager prospectors of 1879 deserted North Park in 1883 for the new hope in Cripple Creek, leaving behind enough empty buildings to provide lumber for the new town of Rand—as well as furniture and equipment for the new buildings. One report says the people left in the middle of the night to flee their debts. The town was abandoned but eventually acquired by the Forest Service, which brought in archeologists to map, identify and preserve it.

Grand County Times May 12, 1881-1882; Charles A. Clark, editor/publisher. A society note in the *Times* underscored the shortage of women in camp, reporting on a recent dance in which some male dancers wore scarves around their arms to indicate they were “women.”

North Park Miner 1881-November 22, 1883. A Mr. Clark was proprietor; it is unclear if this was Charles A. Clark of the *Times*. T.L. McKee and Mons C. Jahren bought the *Miner* in April 1883, but shuttered it in November of that year.

Wellington

Situated in the heart of the Boxelder Creek farming district, Wellington was founded in 1902 and incorporated in 1905. The town was named for a Colorado & Southern Railroad track manager. When the C&S extended a line to Wellington from

Fort Collins in 1903, the town became a shipping point for livestock and agricultural products.

The Wellington July 1, 1905-January 30, 1907, weekly; C.P. Martin, editor and publisher. Martin, a minister, favored church news and boosterism, urging readers to ask themselves "What can I do to make our town more attractive to the visitor, to make it a more desirable place to live in?" John E. Marshall, former owner of the *Berthoud Bulletin* was editor and publisher by January 1909. He changed the name of the paper to:

Wellington Sun February 6, 1909-November 8, 1945; John E. Marshall, publisher. Experienced printer and newspaperman John E. Pope purchased the *Sun* in June 1909. He would go on to publish it for thirty-six years. Waltrous said that under Pope, the *Sun* "has done much to advance the material, social, and moral welfare of the far-famed Boxelder valley."

Businessman Frank M. Shedd of Fort Collins purchased the *Sun* November 1, 1945 and appointed fellow World War I veteran Clare A. Long as publisher. Long and his wife Marguerite renamed the paper:

Larimer County News November 11, 1945-1948. The *News* moved to Fort Collins in 1947.

Wellington News 1983-1988; Gibb Green, founder. Marilyn Maxwell of Fort Collins purchased the *News* in the spring of 1986. Deb Dunlap was named publisher in 1987, but the paper suspended publication the following year.

Sources:

The History of Larimer County by Ansel Watrous, Courier Printing & Publishing Company, Fort Collins, Colorado, 1911.

The History of the Original Fort Collins Courier, Wolverine Farm Publishing Company and Bookstore, Fort Collins 2014. <http://www.wolverinefarm.org/sneak-peek-the-history-of-the-original-fort-collins-courier/>

CHAPTER XXXVIII

LAS ANIMAS COUNTY

Here is the country for crowded millions. Here is the clime for the hardy men and honest women who are looking for future homes. The land is cheap, the mines are plenty, and the prospect, like the scenery, is boundless and grand. If the air is light, the gold and silver are heavy. If we do pay heavy for a few luxuries, we pay nothing for quinine and calomel. If our new society is sparse, it is good what there is of it. In a word, it is "God's Country," for capitalists and settlers, as near as you can reach it...We say come on and pitch your tent with us.

"Las Animas County," Dr. Michael Beshoar, 1882.

Quite a few others had pitched their tents in the area more than two hundred years earlier. Arapahos, Cheyennes, Comanches, Kiowas and Utes long roamed the land. In 1706, Spaniards moving north from New Mexico led by Juan de Uribarri claimed possession of the region in the name of Spanish king Philip V. Both the French and Indians contested Spanish claims. Sometimes the Spanish made uneasy alliances with native tribes against the French. France ceded territorial claims west of the Mississippi to Spain in 1763. Spain's domination would last more than a century, and is evident today in place names, family names and culture. Mexico inherited Spain's claim to the region after it declared independence in 1821.

Las Animas County was created in 1866 from a large southeastern section of Huerfano County. Baca County, named for prominent Trinidadian Felipe Baca, was sliced off the eastern section of Las Animas in 1889. The name of the county comes from the Las Animas River. Early Spanish explorers called it El Rio de las Animas Perdidas en Purgatorio (River of the Lost Souls in Purgatory) for explorers killed there

without last rites. The French shortened the river's long name to Purgatorie. English-speaking settlers Anglicized to Purgatory.

English and Scottish capitalists, as well as investors from the Eastern United States, invested heavily in Las Animas County. Farming and stock raising proved profitable for several decades, but were replaced as the main industry when the first coal mine opened in 1877. The first extensive mining operation was at El Moro, a target of General William J. Palmer's Rio Grande Railway in 1876. Colorado Coal and Iron (CC&I, later Colorado Fuel and Iron, CF&I), also owned by Palmer and his Colorado Springs Associates, bought up land and mineral rights, amounting to an immense acreage of coal land in Las Animas County. Las Animas County boosters boasted it could provide the entire nation with bituminous coal for generations. But labor problems, costs and changes in demand have effectively shut down the mines which at one time produced more coal than any state west of the Mississippi.

Aguilar

About halfway between Trinidad and Waslenburg, Aguilar became a post office town in 1890 and incorporated in 1894. Begun as a trading post for Indians and Spanish-American farmers, it bears the name of Jose Ramon Aguilar, a cattleman who migrated to the area in 1879 from New Mexico. During Prohibition, Aguilar had a thriving bootlegging business. One of the main buildings in town was "honeycombed with subterranean tunnels to hide distilleries that made 'White Mule.'"

Aguilar Sun 1895-1898, W. Arthur McDuffee, founder. McDuffee had owned the *La Veta Herald* and *La Veta Times*. The name was changed to:

Aguilar Times #1 December 2, 1898-1904, Times Printing Company, publisher, G.W. Kite, manager. The Republican administration in Las Animas County bought the paper July 20, 1900, installing S.K. Hamburger as editor. Hamburger quit in October. S.T. Todd took over as editor in July 12, 1901, followed by John Sullivan.

Aguilar Times #2 December 23, 1905-? Dr. John Grass, founder. He was said to be a political foe of Senator Casimiro Barela.

Aguilar News #1 1902-1903, J.I. Lucero, founder/editor. The paper was printed in Spanish and English.

Aguilar News #2 1934-1935, Daniel J. Penno, founder. He published newspapers in Trinidad at the same time.

Aguilar News #3 1952, briefly, John Dinise and George Zanon, founders/publishers. They also briefly owned the *Walsenburg World-Independent*.

Apishapa Valley Record 1904-1913, J.D. Francisco, founder. C.F. Hellmore was editor 1905-1906, and Ignacio M. Vigil 1907-1908. Frank Muth was proprietor in 1909, and Casimiro Barela in 1911. The *Record* was published by the Aguilar Record Publishing Co., A.I. Lindsey, president and publisher in 1912. Edgar Sherman was editor in 1913.

Aguilar Press December 1913-1914, Aguilar Printing Company, publisher. Eric C. Schumway, previously of the *Canon City Cannon*, took over the paper in May 1916. He in turn sold the *Press* to Henry Webb of Culbertson, Nebraska in the summer of 1917. Webb did not last long. In February 1918, *Colorado Press* reported that F.L. Anturm had surrendered his lease to Helen Cossum, a daughter of a stockholder who was

“conducting the paper” on behalf of the stockholders. By 1919 the *Press* was owned by J.A. Reagan and edited by C.H. Reagan.

In August 1922, the Reagans sold to E.H. Beverly, who published the *Press* until May 1925, when he sold it to A.C. Saunders, formerly of the *Center Post-Dispatch*. By October, E.H. Beverly had returned, and business was good enough that he could invest in new equipment “to give Aguilar the best in printing services.” Beverly sold the paper to Harold W. Quirt of Wisconsin on May 1, 1929, but Beverly was back at the helm by December. Harry M. Fleener purchased the *Press* in 1931.

Arthur Dowless became owner early in 1932. He made the paper a member of the Colorado Press Association and proudly ran its emblem on the paper. In February 1934, he decided to move the *Press* to Trinidad, saying he “was moving to a larger field of endeavor, and expressed appreciation of the support given the *Press* by the people of Aguilar during the 23 years of existence of the paper.”

Branson/Coloflats

Coloflats was the original name, when a post office was established in 1915. The town was also known as Wilson or Wilson Switch before being renamed Branson in 1918, for Al Branson of Trinidad, one of the town founders.

Homesteaders flocked in by the hundreds. Leona Castleberry Cummins, daughter a newspaper publisher, remembered that in the 1920s the town “had grain elevators and was a bustling community.” But the Depression caused such a severe drop in cattle prices that ranchers “left them on the land to overgraze the prairie...The government bought and shot them.”

Las Animas County News October 1916-1925, J.S Booher, founder. The paper was printed for at least part of its run by the Western Newspaper Union in Denver. A.L. Castleberry, a Baptist minister, was editor in 1920. His daughter Leone Castleberry was cranking out the *News* by hand at age 13. She also handset type, took money for want ads, and rolled up, addressed and mailed the papers.

The *Las Animas County News* passed into the hands of Professor C.A. Bent in March 1926. A former editor of the *Castle Rock Record-Journal*, himself, Bent hired experienced newspapermen Frank Roddy and J.S. Booher and changed the name of the paper to:

Branson News March 11, 1926-? The *News* apparently did not survive long after the name change.

The National Issue July 16, 1920-1921. J.S. Booher, founder, News Publishing Company. The paper had a progressive tilt; its motto was "Your Demands Are Just, Your Strength is Mighty." Editor Booher favored a "national organization of farmers and the laboring man," that together they might "take advantage of the recent reorganization of the industrial conditions through legislation." The last known issue bore a new name:

Branson Leader November 25, 1921, J.S. Booher, editor.

Dehli

Dehli was established in 1899. The name may have come from the city in India. It was a successful cattle, stock and crop raising area.

General News April 30, 1920-1926. Louise J. Raymond was publisher in 1921. The *News* carried local news from the surrounding area: Simpson, Earl, Thatcher, and

even the children of the Cross School contributed a column. F.J. Graves and George Kerr seem to have been publishers early in 1922. On September 24, 1922, the nameplate said:

General News and Timpas Times The town of Timpas was nearby, about 19 miles into Otero County. Publishers were Raymond and Raymond. By June, Fred B. Deal was proprietor. The Raymonds, however, were back in November.

El Moro

El Moro was established in 1876 when the Denver & Rio Grande made it the southern terminal of the railroad. Located on the north bank of the Purgatorie, El Moro was in full view of the Trinidad's furious citizens, who expected the train to continue to their town. El Moro was a Colorado Fuel & Iron camp, and the largest coal producer in Colorado until 1890. Former territorial governor and D&RG officer A.C. Hunt laid out the town. Another railroad man, who though the battlements of nearby Raton Peak looked like Moro Castle in Havana, provided the name.

Enterprise and Chronicle 1886, briefly. (See *Trinidad Enterprise and Chronicle*).

New Era 1887-1888.

El Moro Dispatch 1888-1890, B.M. Griffith, founder. Robert H. Davis is publisher in 1890.

El Moro Monitor December 1892-1985, monitor Printing Company. No editor was named. The masthead called it "The People's Monitor." The *Monitor* was a strident supporter of miners and the Populist Party, and firmly against "dead head" lists—the practice of delivering a paper to prestigious "subscribers" who did not pay:

No one in this town or out of it holds a position so exalted that he can confer a greater favor on us than we can on him. There is not a man nor a position that THE MONITOR cannot help when occasion requires, far more than the paltry price of subscription.

Kim

Kim was first settled in 1893, but the farmers, ill-prepared for the dry conditions, failed and moved on. The town was restarted in 1918 by Loin Simpson, who also built a post office on his homestead. The town was named as a tribute to Rudyard Kipling's boy hero Kim.

Dry Land Record May 5, 1918-December 12, 1921, S.M. Konkell, founder. The paper began at Kenton, Oklahoma in 1912, and moved to Kim in 1918. The *Record* was first printed in a schoolhouse, until its own frame building could be erected. Konkell sold the *Record* in 1922 to W.C. Byers, C.R. Johns and employee Harry Waters. The new owners changed the name to:

Kim Country Record January 1922-October 30, 1970. Joe Alexander bought an interest in May 1922. Johns remained as publisher until December 1923. Arthur Robb, a homesteader originally from Illinois, became editor in 1923. Robb bought the *Record* in December 1926, and published it until his death in June 1939.

Victor L. Waters bought the paper after Robb died. Under Vic Waters, the *Record* gained fame, partly because of his "short, sharp editorials," and the fact that it was still being hand-set and hand-operated. A staunch Republican, Waters was an equal opportunity critic and keen commentator. He hated modern radio music ("grunts, peeps, howls, squawks, slow, strangling, sibilant snorts...") daylight savings time, pony

tail hairdos, the Communists, and IRS instructions. He often quoted from—and made kind comments about—his Southern Colorado newspaper colleagues.

Victor Waters died in 1959. His brother Harry Waters took over, but sold to Dominic Ozzello of the Trinidad *Chronicle News* in July 1960. Ozzello printed the *Record* in Trinidad for distribution in Kim. He sold the paper in October 1970 to the La Junta *Arkansas Valley Journal* which printed it as a supplement for a short time before discontinuing it.

Ludlow

Ludlow was a coal mining camp about 18 miles north of Trinidad. Like other coal camps, it had wretched company housing and company stores which ran on scrip instead of money. Ludlow workers and their families joined the mass exodus of striking miners leaving camps to pitch tents nearby in September 1913. Don MacGregor, a *Denver Express* reporter, described the scene:

No one who did not see the exodus can imagine its pathos. The exodus from Egypt was a triumph, the going forth of a people set free...

But this yesterday...through the rain and the mud, was an exodus of woe, of a hopeless people seeking new hope, a people born to suffering going forth to new suffering...

Every wagon was the same, with its high piled furniture, and its bewildered weebegone family perched atop...Little piles of miserable looking straw bedding. Little piles of kitchen utensils...so worn they would have been the scorn of any second-hand dealer on Larimer St.

Ludlow Lyre February 4, 1914-?, Lon Johnson, editor, Louie Pikus, city editor, and Hank J. Franyes, Manager. The *Lyre* may have been a one-issue paper. It struck a sardonic tone in favor of the embattled miners and against the soldiers and militiamen who harried them.

Plum Valley Leader 1918-1921, S.M. Konkell and F.J. Graves, founders. The Konkell-Graves partnership also included papers at Springfield, Branson, Campo, Kim, and Boise, Oklahoma.

Sopris

The Denver Fuel Company opened a mine at Sopris, five miles west of Trinidad, in 1887. In 1890 it was the largest coal producer in Colorado. The main operation stopped in 1928. The town was named for General Elbridge B. Sopris, a Trinidad businessman, who once commanded a Colorado militia protecting the Santa Fe Trail from Indians. Sopris was bulldozed to make way for a dam and Trinidad Lake in 1971.

Saturday Signal 1889-1890. N.D. Ackerman, founder. The *Signal* moved to Trinidad (see Trinidad entry).

Trinidad

The first permanent settlers arrived in 1859. According to one version of the story, they called the place Santisima Trinidad—"most holy trinity"—later shortened to Trinidad. Founding father Felipa Baca, who had been raising cattle in Mexico, stopped here on his way to sell flour in Denver. Deciding the soil and climate favored agriculture, he returned to make it his home, and raise crops and sheep. Three years later he brought a dozen families from New Mexico to Trinidad. Understanding the importance of friendly relations with the Indians, Baca made agreements with the Utes, Arapahos and Tahumaris, giving them flour and corn so they would not attack his sheep. He also built the first lumber mill in the county. Baca donated land for the town site and was an

organizer of the Trinidad Town Co. A leading citizen in Trinidad's civic and cultural life, Baca, a Republican, was a representative to the Territorial Legislature. Baca County is named for him.

Trinidad was a cultural hodgepodge. There was friction between different cultural groups, as early arrivers contended with newcomers. The *Denver Tribune* described Trinidad in 1882, with more than a little Anglo-centric prejudice:

You see the old and new grotesquely commingled. Americans speaking Spanish and Mexicans struggling with Anglo Saxon speech. American, Mexican and African children mastering the English language in schools common for all...You see Mexican Women, their heads wrapped in tapadas gliding along modestly, meek and tired looking; Mexican men wrapped in blankets, chill, uncheerful, seeming strangers in their own land; Indians in long hair, in blankets and bucksin, moccasined feet—most humiliated and despised race—once master of all this broad America. These jostle and are jostled by the newly-come Americans—a strange mixture of incongruities out of which is to come social harmony, not impossible if given time.

The territorial legislature passed an act to incorporate Trinidad on February 1, 1876. Desperately wanting a railroad, Trinidad held an election in 1876 for railroad bonds. Despite lack of support from rural voters, the bonds carried. The Santa Fe line reached town in 1878.

Trinidad Enterprise September 1870-March 1875. According to A.W. Archibald, "several citizens of Trinidad associated themselves together for the publication of a local newspaper to be known as the *Enterprise*." F.G. Bloom and E.F. Mitchell, both early settlers, were two of the original members of the publishing firm. Dr. Beshoar recalled Smith as a "good printer but not a good writer." The *Enterprise* was printed in both English and Spanish.

A.W. Archibald bought the paper in 1871, becoming editor and proprietor. His coverage of a frontier election made him the target of angry reprisals. By Archibald's own account:

Numerous people, some of them of the rough and ready style of controversialists, sought to teach the editor how he ought to conduct a newspaper.

John P. Smith, compositor on the paper, later known as "Shot-Gun Smith," was persuaded to sue out an attachment against the office for wages alleged to be due. George W. Thompson, sheriff, served the writ of attachment, and gave force to his commands as an officer of the law, upset and mixed the type which stood in the forms—reduced it to "pi" [a mess on the floor] as the printers say. This controversy went on till Smith fired both barrels of a double barreled shot gun at [Archibald] while walking on Main street. Smith was a good shot after game, but proved quite nervous on this job. He had never before attempted assassination. His first shot appeared to go wild, but I threw up my hands and the second shot mutilated my right hand and wrist.

Smith's legal action forced the *Enterprise* to shut down for two weeks, but he regained control of the paper. Archibald soon gave the editorship of the *Enterprise* to John C. Fitnam, Esq., a lawyer and an Episcopal clergyman. The *American Newspaper Publisher* noted that at this news, another paper opined "that preaching Christ crucified would be much easier than publishing a paper in a town like Trinidad." Editor Fitnam proceeded to declare war against all evil and evil doers in Trinidad. His "aggressive course did not result in drawing much business to the paper."

After some weeks of this, Archibald induced young Denver attorney James S. Nottingham to move to Trinidad and divide his time between practicing law and editing the *Enterprise*. Nottingham lasted more than a year, but he too faced firearms. Four gunmen stopped him on the street, leveled cocked revolvers at him, and hurling many oaths, demanded that he retract statements made in the *Enterprise*. Nottingham refused, and was hit on the cheek, opening a long, bloody gash. The second-story

offices of the *Enterprise* were targeted by a small riot at the foot of the stairway in 1872. No lives were lost, but Fitnam was bloodied again.

George W. Chilcott, “a northern Colorado Republican with political ambitions,” bought the paper about 1872. Chilcott, who ranched near Pueblo, was one of the leaders in the formation of Colorado as a territory and a state. Well aware of the *Enterprise’s* turbulent history, he sent the sturdiest printer he could find to the Trinidad paper. E.G. Stroud stood a massive six-foot-four-inches. But when he antagonized stage drivers by condemning them for their reckless and drunken driving, notorious stage driver Jim Lord burst into the *Enterprise* office and put his .44 under Stroud’s nose. With no real choice, Stroud promised a retraction. Knowing his career in Trinidad was now over, Stroud wrote a facetious “roast” entitled “How We Apologize,” slotted it for the front page, and quickly departed town before the paper hit the street.

J.R. Winters of Missouri was editor in 1873. He died late in the year, and his son, D.C. Winters, took over as editor and publisher. A.W. Archibald became editor and proprietor of the *Enterprise* again in 1875. He rehired J.P. Smith as printer and John C. Fitnam as assistant editor. The *Enterprise* merged with the *Chronicle* in March 1875.

Colorado Chronicle #1 December 5, 1873-March 11, 1875. Chronicle Publishing Co., F. Warren Baker, editor. George W. Hoover, Jr. was listed as editor in the 1874 Rowell directory, but gave way when Archibald took over in the 1875 merger. The resulting new paper was:

Enterprise & Chronicle March 19, 1875-1879, A.W. Archibald and his youngest brother, Caleb Putnam Archibald, were editors and publishers. Archibald promised to

publish reliable information about the coal and mining industries, and to use such information to “interest capital” and investments, “which shall insure prosperity and establish industries upon a thrifty basis.”

The paper moved early in 1876 to El Moro, the new town at the end of the Denver & Rio Grande line in Las Animas County. J.M. Rice, formerly of the Pueblo *Colorado Advocate*, was editor and publisher. The paper returned to Trinidad in November 1876.

Trinidadian February 3-March 1875, John C. Fitnam, editor and publisher. Offering a competing viewpoint to the Republican *Enterprise & Chronicle*, Fitnam’s *Trinidadian* was firmly Democratic. He changed the name to:

Democratic Star March 1875-June 28, 1876. John C. Fitnam, editor / publisher.

Colorado Pioneer February 6, 1875-1878, Don Rafael Chacon, a well-known stockman and land owner, founder. Urbano Chacon was publisher 1875-1878, and Spencer Maynard was editor from May 1876-June 1878. Dr. John Noel served a stint as editor in 1878. Its front page featured territorial and national news, local items, and several small ads. The inside pages were printed in Spanish. A year later, the *Pioneer* printed two editions, one in English and one in Spanish. The Spanish version was named:

El Explorador February 1876-1877, Urbano Chacon, “*editor-propietario*.” It carried the same serial numbering as its parent. *El Explorador* was the first Colorado newspaper published entirely in the Spanish language.

Trinidad Daily News 1878-March 3, 1899, Henry Sturges, founder and publisher until 1898, but editor only until 1881. There was also a weekly edition:

Trinidad Weekly News 1878-March 6, 1899. Sturges was editor of the *Enterprise* in 1877, when Archibald owned it. Olney Newell, native Ohioan who had operated papers in La Junta, Rocky Ford and Raton, was editor and co-founder of the *News*. Edwin Blair succeeded Newell as owner/editor of the *Trinidad News* in 1888. The *News* merged with the *Chronicle* in March 1899.

Trinidad Chronicle #2 1889-March 3, 1899, daily; George W. Benedict, founder. Daniel W. Stone leased the *Chronicle* from August 1890 to 1892 when D.W. Shea purchased it. In 1893, Frank Goodale bought an interest in the paper. Stone rejoined the paper in 1894, and the masthead carried the names Stone and Goodale. Stone, the son of a Canadian millwright born in Wisconsin, purchased the *Chronicle* in 1896 when Goodale left to start the *Trinidad Daily Sentinel* in 1897. Stone bought the *Trinidad News* in 1899, and merged the two papers:

Trinidad Chronicle-News March 6, 1899 to present, daily, D.W. Stone, publisher.

Trinidad Chronicle-News March 6, 1899, 1939, weekly.

During Stone's tenure, the *Chronicle-News* became one of the leading newspapers in Southern Colorado. A Republican, Stone took an active part in politics, sitting on the county and state Republican Central Committees. He served as clerk of the district court of Las Animas County for eight years, as well as being appointed postmaster in 1901 and again in 1906.

Judge Jesse G. Northcutt bought the paper from Stone September 18, 1911 and was publisher until 1927. Also a Republican, Northcutt was a district judge and attorney for CF&I, the Victor Fuel Co. and Rocky Mountain Fuel Co. In 1915 he was assistant special prosecutor during the miners' strike. A.R. Brown was the first editor of the *Chronicle-News* under Northcutt in 1911. Fred Winsor was named editor in 1913, a position he held until 1937, and again from 1938-1957.

Rupert Ewing McClung bought the *Chronicle-News* in 1927. McClung was publisher, with his wife Lillian H. as co-publisher, until his death in 1934. Lillian McClung became publisher. Son Robert E. McClung was manager 1927-1934, and other son Rupert L. McClung, manager 1934 to 1937. By 1937, Rupert L. McClung was editor. Daughter Ruth Lillian McClung married James Henritze. Their daughter, Cosette Henritze, has been editor of the *Chronicle-News* since 1989.

The McClung family sold the paper on April 17, 1937 to the Shearman family of Lake Charles, Louisiana. Merritt F. Riblett, formerly of Denver, was named publisher. Riblett, a World War I veteran, had been "prominent in Denver civic affairs" and worked for seven years as business manager of the *Rocky Mountain News*.

Native Chicagoan William E. Inglis Jr. was publisher June 1938-September 1940. John M. O'Connor served as editor, followed by the return of Fred Winsor in June 1938. Harry H. Northam was publisher from September 1940 to June 1941. Joseph G. Wheeler was named publisher in June 1941. He had begun at the *Chronicle-News* as a printer's devil, and worked his way up as Associated Press news service telegraph operator and

then general manager. In all, Wheeler worked thirty-three years at the *Chronicle-News*. He died in 1953.

Dominic Ozello was publisher from the mid-1950s until 1973. Arch Gibson was editor from 1960 to 1966. In 1969, the Shearman family incorporated as the Lake Charles American Press, Inc., which still owns the paper. Ed Swartly was editor in 1977-1978. Penny Perkins was editor from 1982 to 1988. Cosette Henritze joined the staff in May 1987 as a stringer and reporter, and was named editor in 1989. By June 1996, she was editor and publisher.

Trinidad Daily Republican September 2, 1880-June 9, 1882, Henry Sturges and a Mr. O'Connor, publishers.

Trinidad Republican September 17, 1880-June 9, 1882, weekly. On some front pages, where a news headline would normally be, the *Republican* ran a streamer ad in large type: "Go To Rocky Mountain Sears For Your Cow Saddles." A.K. Cutting took over the paper by early 1882, but it was in the charge of C.H. Nelson by April 28 of that year.

Trinidad Daily Democrat #1 June 24-December 31, 1882, Democrat Co-Operative Co. publisher; A.E. Cutting, editor and business manager; C.R. Everhart, local reporter and solicitor. Cutting needed partners to survive. He brought in veteran newspaperman, physician and politico Michael *Beshaor*. The doctor "had taken the gold cure as far as newspapers were concerned," but Cutting offered him a majority share of the new company for only \$1,200. Behsaor was back in the newspaper business, this time for a 23-year run.

The Trinidad Publishing Company was formed with Casimiro Barela, president; Dr. Michael Beshoar, secretary, and A.K. Cutting, general superintendent and manager. The paper was refashioned as a morning daily at the beginning of the year.

Trinidad Daily Advertiser January 4, 1883-July 31, 1898, Dr. Michael Beshoar, publisher, and:

Weekly Advertiser January 4, 1883-December 1884. The weekly was continued as *Cattleman's Advertiser* (see below).

The *Daily Advertiser* thrived. In a short time it had Associated Press telegraphic news, a staff of reporters, an ad salesman, and several printers.

In the 1892 election, the *Advertiser* was the only Democratic newspaper in the state to support the Democratic presidential candidate Grover Cleveland. The Populist candidate, William Jennings Bryant, carried Colorado. The *Advertiser* was on the side of the United Mine Workers during the coal mine wars which began in 1903.

The successful *Advertiser* branched out. The *Weekly Advertiser* was renamed:

Cattleman's Advertiser January 5, 1885-December 29, 1887. The name reverted to:

Trinidad Weekly Advertiser January 1888-May 1898.

The *Advertiser* published a paper geared toward the large Spanish-speaking population:

El Anunciador January 1, 1885-December 29, 1887. It was purported to be "the only Spanish secular newspaper in the state." It was produced from the *Advertiser* building.

Meanwhile, Frank Goodale, once the *Advertiser's* business manager, struck out on his own to found a newspaper:

Daily Sentinel August 10, 1897-July 30, 1989, Frank Goodale, founder. The *Sentinel* published Monday through Saturday afternoons. It merged with the *Advertiser* a few weeks short of its first anniversary.

Advertiser-Sentinel August 2, 1998-March 1, 1901, daily. F.D> Goodale and Daniel Stone were editors in 1899, Goodale and S.H. Stevens in 1900. The name reverted to:

Trinidad Advertiser March 2, 1901-1912, Trinidad Publishing Company, daily. Dr. Michael Beshoar sold the *Advertiser* late in 1905, but kept working until he retired from the *Advertiser* on February 4, 1906 to "take it easy." Dr. Beshoar died less than two years later.

The new company had a succession of editors: C.J. Roberts, 1906-1907; S.J. Donlevy, 1908-1909; M.F. Campion, 1909, and LeRoy Kennedy, 1910-1912. Kennedy had been a war correspondent in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. He later was the organizer of the Typographical Union in Arizona and was instrumental in establishing the Printers Home in Colorado Springs, where he died of lead poisoning in 1929.

The *Advertiser* merged with the *Monitor* in 1912.

Peoples Monitor 1893-January 20, 1899, W.A.DeBusk and A.F. Hollenbeck, weekly. It was strongly associated with the Peoples/Populist Party, billing itself as "The Original Freesilver Paper of Trinidad." The newspaper had more names than publishers:

Weekly Monitor 1899-July 27, 1900: G.E. Hosmer and A.F. Hollenbeck.

Twice-A-Week-Monitor August to November 16, 1900, Hollenbeck and G.E. Hosmer publishers.

Trinidad Monitor November 23, 1900-August 30, 1912. George Hosmer was editor until 1902. Frank Goodale was editor in 1906, and Hollenbeck 1907-1912. In 1912, the *Monitor* merged with the *Advertiser*:

Advertiser-Monitor September 6, 1912-1918. Editors included John H. English, 1913; Ed J. Welsh, 1914; J. Orlando Northcutt, 1915; C.V. Crouse, 1916; and Russ E. Rogers 1917-1918.

Trinidad Review December 1, 1883-1886, Caroline Wescott Romney, founder. Mrs. Romney, a widow, had a long background in journalism. She had been a staff member of the *Chicago Times*, a correspondent for number of Eastern newspapers, and had founded Durango's first paper, the *Record*.

On December 20, 1884, the *Review* changed hands. John Roosa, a judge, was the new owner, and his wife, editor.

Red Cross Banner March 27, 1886-?, published by Trinidad Encampment L.C.R.C.; G.C. Shiels and Hoyt, managers. "Our motto," read the salutary,

is morality and temperance, and our aim is upbuilding and advancement of that noble and humane organization known as Red Cross....We do not ask the support of any liquor dealer and will not accept it if tendered under any consideration.

Trinidad Daily Citizen June 1, 1887-February 1890, S.W. DeBusk and W.A. DeBusk, founders.

Trinidad Citizen June 1887-February 1890, weekly.

George Shiels became a partner. The *Citizen* was long on local news and short on news from outside the county. Its editors enjoyed throwing barbs and jeers at the *Citizen's* competitors.

Trinidad Free Press 1911-1952, Free Press Publishing Company. Daniel J. Penno, founder, president and editor. The *Free Press* had one unusual feature: Penno often wrote news stories in free verse. In 1913 the paper claimed to be the "Only Democratic Paper in Las Animas County." A strong advocate for the miner, Penno had an all union staff and the support of the United Mine Workers. The paper published daily during the 1913-1914 Miners strike. The *Free Press* covered the State Federation of Labor convention and published letters from Louis Tikas, a Greek immigrant and leader of the Ludlow strike camp.

By the end of 1914, the paper was publishing as:

Weekly Free Press, John O'Neill, editor, and Robert Bolton, business manager.

O'Neill was a Union man editing a miner's magazine. He stated the *Free Press* mission:

The Weekly Free Press will oppose wrong and injustice and plead for the rights of humanity. The Press will fearlessly and unfalteringly battle for the economic freedom of the working class and attack with all its power the fortified citadel of a system that stamps on labor's brow the brand of slave...

The crawling, venomous press, that mortgages its columns and endeavors to mould sentiment that will be in harmony with the depravity of commercial brigandage, is redoubling its efforts to earn the price of fits treason to the people, but conditions are rising up against the oily diction of a subsidized press and are demanding a solution and a settlement that is not contained in the verbal vocabulary of purchased journalism.

The "purchased journalism" was likely that of the *Chronicle-News*, often accused by the *Free Press* of ignoring the plight of miner's and giving voice solely to the interests of ownership.

Jospeh M. Satterthwaite was editor by February 1915. Edgar Sherman was assistant editor. The *Free Press* changed its name in 1916 to:

Democrat 1916-1920. It was owned by the United Mine Workers, which may have bought an interest earlier. John O'Neil was editor. Daniel Penno returned in 1920 and so did the original name of the newspaper:

Free Press In February 1923, Clyde H. Ashen, formerly an ad manager of the *Picketwire*, bought the *Free Press*. Daniel Penno continued to serve in an editorial capacity. The *Free Press* closed its doors April 4, 1952.

Trinidad Picketwire September 1, 1915-January 7, 1928, R.W. Robinson and A.W. Wright, founders, daily and weekly. Ralph Carr was editor 1915-1917. Later an attorney and Colorado Governor, Carr was active off-an-on in newspaper work most of his life.

Edgar Sherman bought the *Picketwire* in 1917, but the Robinson-Wright Printing Company either repossessed or bought the paper back in 1919. Charles Maloney, formerly with the *Denver Post*, was named ad manager of the *Picketwire* early in 1923, succeeding Clyde H. Ashen, who moved on to Penno's *Free Press*. G.F. Rose was editor 1919-1922. Frank J. Rose was editor 1923-1936. The Chronicle-News Publishing Company, managed by R.E. McClung, purchased the *Picketwire* in 1928 and consolidated it in to the *Chronicle-News*.

Las Animas County News March 29, 1934-1937; founded as *Aguilar Press* and moved to Trinidad by Arthur Dowless in February 1934. In addition to local news, it featured syndicated material such as a weekly Washington Digest, and serial romantic

action stories. Angry editorials castigated the National Recovery Administration, a New Deal agency, or attacked the plutocratic ways of outside powers that really controlled Trinidad, along with their journalistic allies:

The one great daily newspaper of the city, only a mouthpiece for these large corporations who are draining the resources from the community, sits on the sidelines cheering and bally-hooing and at the same time ready to forget the welfare of the community for paltry sum of advertising, boosting and bragging about the number of competitors it has murdered and buried in the graveyard of newspapers. No other business would be so unethical after competition had been eliminated.

R.W. Robinson joined the *News* as manager early in 1934. He bought the paper in August and discontinued it December 20, 1934.

Morning Light December 23, 1933-October 10, 1953, Maio brothers, John, Silvio, Mario and Armand, founders. The brothers grew up in the business on their father's newspaper, *Corriere di Trinidad*. Arthur Wright was the first editor. Like so many other Trinidad papers, the *Morning Light* could not overcome the dominating competition, and in December 1953, the *Chronicle-News* bought it out, "promising to honor all of its subscriptions and provide jobs to all of its employees."

Colorado Democrat 1878-1879, P.H. Hubbell, founder.

Trinidad Democrat #2 1918-1920.

Las Animas County Democrat 1924-1925, I.B. Rogers, founder. It was a weekly publication of the Las Animas Democratic Party.

Trinidad Daily Times #1 1880-1882, E.S. Lenfesty, founder. Lenfesty was a lawyer, and also in real estate and insurance. A.W. Archibald said of the *Times* that Trinidad was "too young too sustain an effort pitched in so high a key."

Trinidad Times #2 1889-1890, J.F. Fulkerson publisher.

Trinidad Evening Times #3 1898-1899.

Monday Morning Reporter November 27, 1882-1883, H.C. Lawhon, founder.

Saturday Signal 1889-182, N. D. Ackerman, founder. The *Signal* began in Sopris.

J.W. Love was editor in 1892.

Three Links 1889-1891, listed in the Colorado business directory for those years.

Coal Miner 1893- 1894, Chris Taylor, founder.

Home Gazette 1898-1900.

Forsyth's Chips January 1899-1901, William O. Forsyth, founder. It was a Prohibition paper, with editorials about the "liquor problem."

Southern Miner July 1901-1909, Robinson-Wright Printing, publishers.

Trinidad Leader 1911-1912.

Trinidad Post April 8-October1932, Arthur Dowless, Emerson G. Jones and Fred W. Medlen, owners.

Trinidad Herald May 1928-1932, Frank J. Rose, daily.

Trinidad Herald #2 October 31, 1969-November 1970. Bill Chamberlain, founder. Chamberlain, who had once worked for the *Chronicle-News*, "began with an office in the back seat of a car, advanced to a borrowed basement of a home," and progressed to an office shared with a Farmers Insurance agent, before folding in November 1970.

Spanish Newspapers

Colorado Pioneer February 1875-1878, Urbano Chacon; printed in English and Spanish. (See earlier *Colorado Pioneer* entry)

Explorador February 1876-1877, Urbano Chacon

Annunciador de Trinidad 1883-1887 (See *Advertiser* entry)

El Progreso 1888-1944, Casimiro Barela, founder. *El Progreso* may have been discontinued and restarted in 1898. S.M. Sanchez was editor in 1891-1892. George C. Shiels was editor and publisher 1893-1896, and possibly co-owner. Jose M. de la Pena was publisher and manager, with Salomon C. Garcia, editor from January to June 1899. Jose Inez Garcia was “*regente*” in June 1899. S.C. Garcia was listed in 1900, but in 1902 La Compani Publicista El Progreso was publisher.

Colorado Press announced in August 1916 that Daniel J. Penno was leasing *El Progreso* from Senator Barela. F.M. Chacon, a long-time editor from Las Vegas, New Mexico, was named editor and manager in 1918. When Senator Barela died in 1920, Penno bought the paper. His wife Hattie Penno was editor from 1924 until at least 1935. The paper was discontinued in 1944.

Republicas 1895-1897, Casimiro Barela, founder, J.A. Hermida, editor 1897. This paper is sometimes listed as **Los Dos Republicas**, which is also the name of the printing company established by Barela to serve constituents with Spanish language materials of all kinds.

Trinidad Anunciador 1904-1943. P.J. Martinez was editor in 1906. Casimiro Cruz was publisher from at least 1909 until his death in 1933. Mary K. Cruz, wife of Mr.

Cruz was publisher in the 1930s, and son Bennie Cruz was editor. Della Cruz followed as editor. T.S. Lopez was editor from 1940 to 1943, when the paper was shuttered.

El Faro January 1912-1938, J.I. Garcia and J.T. Maestos, founders. Maestos left in 1918, but Garcia was editor until 1928. Daniel Penno's Free Press Printing Company published the paper 1929-1934. L. Moco was editor in 1930. Garcia returned in 1934 and discontinued the paper in 1938.

Italian Newspapers

Corriere di Trinidad 1903-1944, Giuseppe G. Maio, founder. *Corriere* was printed in both English and Italian. Italian-born Maio lived in Brazil before migrating to Trinidad in 1902. He was Italian counsel for Colorado and Northern New Mexico for 25 years.

Trinidad newspaperman Daniel Penno and his associates took over the paper early in 1918. R.D. Lukens was named editor of *Corriere*. Mario P. Notte was editor in 1935, and Emilie Laffarelli and Dr. Michael Abli were editors 1941-1944.

Lavoratore Italiano May 1902-1905, A. Bartoli, founder.

Le Alpi 1910, Le Alpi publishing C., Fellin and Zannovello, publishers. Only one issue of this paper has come to light.

Troy

Troy was a "growing new town in Las Animas County," reported the 1887 Colorado Business Directory. It was on the Denver, Texas and Fort Worth Railroad line, later absorbed by the Union Pacific. It had one newspaper:

Troy Settler 1887-1888, Weeden Brothers, founders and publishers.

Watervale

Watervale, 46 miles from Trinidad, was also on the Denver, Texas and Fort Worth Railroad line.

Watervale Times 1888-1889, B.F. Kean, founder and publisher.

Sources: *Chronicle-News*, various issues.

Hippocrates in a Red Vest by Barron Beshoar, American West Publishing Company, 1973.

Out of the Depths, by Barron Beshoar, Golden Bell Press, n.d.

(general) Chase manuscripts, Denver Public Library.

Special Thanks to Sara Murphy, Trinidad Carnegie Public Library; Cosette Henritze, Ted Rousses, and Marilyn Chang.

CHAPTER XXXIX

LINCOLN COUNTY

Established in April 1889 from parts of Elbert and Bent counties and named for Abraham Lincoln, the county consists mostly of grazing and dry farming land, although there is a small percentage of hay meadow and irrigated pasture land.

The well-traveled Smoky Hill Trail traversed the county and stage coaches stopped at Willow Springs Station. In the mid-1860s the stages were sometimes attacked by Indians, as were the stage stations. Passengers got the ride of their lives; several station hands were killed. Horace Greeley, riding the new Leavenworth & Pike's Peak Express Co. stage through Lincoln County in 1859, wrote unflatteringly of "a thin, alkaline incrustation [on the Big Sandy]...Hence I infer that the water of its stagnant pools must be prejudicial to man or beast."

Later the Kansas Pacific railroad built along the Smoky Hill Trail, ensured shipping, supply facilities and the rise of towns. Hugo, named county seat when the county was established, was the only village in the county with a newspaper, essential for publishing legal notices.

Arriba

Arriba was established before 1890. The name is Spanish for "above" or "over" and refers to the town's altitude--5,239 ft.--higher than other towns in the area.

Arriba Mirror March 9, 1889-1890.

Arriba Record 1907-August 1, 1953, F.B. Miller, founder. Miller sold the *Record* to S.A. Smith in 1911, and later published the *Bristol Herald*. Smith was formerly with the *Brush Mirror*, and was with the *Record* until 1915. John R. Davis bought the paper in 1916 and was editor until June 1917, when he was succeeded by John L. Ross, possibly on a lease arrangement.

Davis leased the *Record* to Charles H. Schiels at some point after that, but by February 1919 Davis was back as publisher. Davis owned the plant, but didn't have much luck keeping editors or prospective buyers. He was appointed postmaster and intended to devote his time to that position rather than the newspaper.

Borland & Borland, with partner Philo F. Falb, purchased the paper early in 1921. Will and Hal Borland were owners of the *Flagler News*. Falb was in charge of the *Arriba Record*, although most of the mechanical work was done at the *Flagler News*. They sold the *Record* in November 1921 to Edwin K. Pusch of Boulder. Pusch, formerly with the *Boulder Camera* mechanical department, immediately took charge of the *Arriba Record*. Assisting him on the *Record* was his wife, who, like her husband had country newspaper experience, and was a compositor. They sold the paper, apparently early in 1924, to

Clyde Durrell "who found the condition of his health was such that he could not continue active work."

John R. Davis was owner of the *Record* again in 1927. W.C. Davis--relationship, if any, unknown--was editor/publisher 1925-1927. A period of stability, of sorts, was begun when Nelson Publishing Co. purchased the *Record* in February 1927. George H. Nelson published the *Arriba Record*. His father, George L. Nelson, was publisher of the *Lyons Recorder*. In a complicated newspaper purchase-swap, a number of papers changed hands, *Colorado Editor* reported in January 1931:

Walter Spencer bought the Lyons Recorder from George L. Nelson, who bought the Arriba Record from his son, George H. Nelson, who has bought the Collbran Voice from C.C. Ford....Spencer, formerly owner of the Lyons Recorder...became its owner again when he bought out all interests of George L. Nelson to whom he sold it in 1926....George L. Nelson, who sold out to Mr. Spencer, returned to Arriba and bought the Record from his son, George H....This gives [George L.] a chance to be with Mrs. Nelson who is a teacher in Arriba. George H. Nelson, son of George L., then went to Collbran, where he negotiated a deal for the Collbran Voice....

George H. Nelson edited and owned the *Arriba Record* until February 1933 when, due to business conditions, the paper was sold to W.M. Hoffman, editor and owner of the *Genoa Sentinel*. William M. Hoffman bought the paper for his son, Walter M. Hoffman, "who will run it in the future."

J.J. Missemer and J. Ember Sterling, owners of the *Hugo Plainsman*, bought the *Arriba Record* in February 1939. Sterling bought out his partner of ten years and became sole editor and publisher of the *Record* until his death in August 1953. The *Record* was discontinued and the rights sold to the *Hugo Eastern Colorado Plainsman*.

Arriba Advocate 1939-1944, John Hoff, founder. Hoff had been publisher of the *Genoa Guide* for a year, but changed his focus to Arriba. He suspended the *Advocate* January 14, 1944. The subscription list was sold to the *Flagler News*.

Genoa

Genoa was established in 1888. It had been called Creech earlier for a contractor on the Rock Island Railroad, then Cable for the president of the railroad. Presumably the present name came from the town in Italy.

It was very apparent that Genoa needed a newspaper as the town grew and newcomers arrived steadily and took up homesteads, so my father decided to try a new idea. He arranged to buy sheets of paper printed in such a way as to form three pages of a four-page paper. On the blank page he wrote up news items and advertising, and sent it to Denver to be set into type and printed. Then the completed four pages were sent back to Genoa for folding, addressing and mailing. This paper was named The Genoa Times. It was popular, but there were so few people on the mailing list that it did not pay expenses and had to be abandoned after a few issues. It served one purpose, however, and showed that Genoa needed and wanted a newspaper, but costs had to be kept down, so my father set out to get printing equipment together, and in a short time had a press and some type and a new paper was born. It was called the Genoa Sentinel.

Warren K. Hoffman, letter to the *Limon Leader* 1990

Genoa Times 1911 W. (William) M. Hoffman.

Genoa Sentinel August 12, 1912-February 1939, W. (Walter) M. Hoffman, founder. He ran the paper until May 1914. Rev. E.P. Owens was editor/publisher from May 1914 to January 1925. Walter Hoffman repurchased the *Sentinel* and published it from 1925 to February 1939. Hoffman sold the *Sentinel* to the Cooleys at the *Limon Leader*. The paper was suspended.

Genoa Guide 1938-1939, John Hoff, founder. He either folded the *Guide*, or changed it to the *Arriba Advocate*, which he founded in February 1940.

Hugo

Hugo began as a trading post on the old Smoky Hill Trail, on the stage route from Fort Leavenworth to Denver (Willow Springs Stage station) and as a roundup center for local cattle and sheep ranchers who settled there just ahead of the homesteaders. The Kansas Pacific built a division point there in 1870 and named it after John Hugo, a noted stage driver. The town grew after being selected as county seat in 1889 and was incorporated in 1909.

At one time Hugo had three weekly newspapers, two of them published independently by members of the Miles family: father and teenage son George. The first two papers were founded while Hugo was still in Elbert County.

Elbert County Record 1884-1885, Oscar McAllister, founder. McAllister also had a paper by the same name in the town of Elbert.

Hugo Stayer 1887-1888, Lyman W. F, founder. Tidbits from the *Stayer*:

All persons visiting the cemetery are requested to see that the gate is kept closed and thus prevent cattle and horses from trampling down the graves.

Newt Vorce is still running at large, but is being pursued by a squad of men that would be afraid to take a three-year-old providing the kid would show fight.

A thousand tom cats are being collected for shipment to the rat invaded town of Hugo, according to the Colorado Commonwealth.

As to the gathering of the cats we cannot say, but as to the rats, to put it in plain words, it is a d--- lie. There isn't a rat in Hugo, not even a typographical one.

And, on December 13, 1887:

We have a first class printing office which we will sell for cash if bought before Jan. 1, 1888.

Lincoln County Ledger March 1889-1898, S.M. Wilson, founder. A Mr. Waggoner was editor/publisher the early part of 1890, and Joseph H. Jordan the latter half. The Ledger Publishing Co. owned the *Ledger* in 1895, with Morton Jones as editor. Alice B. Jones bought the paper in 1897 and was editor/publisher, followed by Morton Jones again in 1898. Whether Alice Jones is Morton's wife or related in some other way is not known.

A young printer named Clarence Miles, who had lived in Denver for 22 years, went to work for the *Ledger* in 1895. Miles married Olive Capper in May 1897 and the following year the young couple bought the *Ledger* from Jones and changed the name to:

Range Ledger 1898-February 8, 1935. The *Range Ledger* regularly carried a feature page of stockmen's brands without an advertising charge. The paper was considered the official paper of the stockgrowers' association.

Clarence Miles published the *Range Ledger* for 25 years. After his death in 1923, Mrs. Miles and son George carried on the legacy until February 1935. *Colorado Editor*, in an article giving a brief history of the paper and the role of the Miles family during the past 40 years, reported that the paper was sold in 1935 to Ralph Stewart and Robert

Jones, both of Casper, Wyoming. Two days after the sale of the paper to Stewart and Jones, the paper was sold to editors J. Ember Sterling and J.J. Missemer of the *Hugo Plainsman*. The consolidation of the two papers became effective immediately.

Today's **Eastern Colorado Plainsman** is the result of the merger of two long-running Hugo newspapers, the *Ledger* and the *Democrat*.

Lincoln County Democrat March 1912-April 26, 1929, J.H. Starbuck, founder. Starbuck sold the new paper almost immediately to A.R. Logan, former owner of the *Brighton Register*. In November 1915, Logan bought the *Deer Trail Tribune* and sold the *Democrat* to J.J. Missemer. Missemer, who would guide the *Democrat* for 32 years, had two partners. Walter Bales was co-publisher from 1914 to 1918, and J. Ember Sterling, 1918-1953.

Sterling was a leader in civic affairs, prominent in the Lincoln County Democratic party and state, serving on the Central Committee. He was active in the Colorado Press Association, serving on a number of committees, and as president in 1941. In 1953 he was working on the annual Rocky Mountain Mechanical Conference, of which he was chairman, when he died of a heart attack.

In May 1929 the name *Democrat* was changed to:

Eastern Colorado Plainsman May 3, 1929 to present. The *Plainsman* bought the *Range Ledger* in February 1935, and in September 1947, Sterling bought out his partner and became sole owner of the *Plainsman*. At one time it was said to be the third-largest

weekly in the state outside of Denver. Harvey A. Borgen, formerly with the Simla and Calhan papers, was associate editor from Sept. 1947 to April 1948.

Sterling published the *Plainsman* until his death in 1953. His widow, Agnes, ran it for almost a year before selling it to the Wilkins family: Cecil, his son C. Bryce, and son-in-law John McNall. Cecil Wilkins was the mechanical superintendent at the Colorado Springs *Gazette-Telegraph*. Bryce Wilkins also worked in the printing trade in Goodland.

William and Harold Connelly bought the *Plainsman* January 2, 1964. William was editor/publisher, Harold was assistant publisher, and his wife, Marlene, was news editor. The Connellys were from LaGrange, Indiana, and were experienced in various facets of the newspaper business. In 1967 Harold Connelly became editor/publisher, and Allen Connelly was assistant publisher.

Rodney J. Dent bought the *Plainsman* from the Connellys in June 1968. Dent was a former *Detroit Free Press* reporter/editor who got tired of big cities, big newspapers, riots (The *Free Press* won the Pulitzer in 1968 for race riot reporting), and traffic. A strike closed the *Free Press*, which then dispersed its staff. Dent was sent to the *Chicago Daily News*, also a big city with a big newspaper and similar problems. The Dent family moved to Hugo, but he was not successful with a small-town newspaper. He also owned the *Cheyenne Wells Range-Ledger*. By the spring of 1971 Dent was ready for bankruptcy and suspended the *Plainsman* in April.

Hugo citizens, led by Hugo pharmacist Glenn Lake, tried to keep the paper afloat so legal status was preserved, but they also had problems. Betz Publishing of Lamar

bought the paper in bankruptcy proceedings in June 1971. Betz ran the *Plainsman* until June 1975, when it was sold to employees Laura M. Solze and Foster (Frosty) Allenbaugh. Mrs. Solze, a lifelong resident of the area, had been working on the *Plainsman* since 1971 as general business manager and advertising manager. Allenbaugh began his newspaper career as a printer's devil on the *Holly Chieftain*. He also worked for the *Monte Vista Journal* and the *Lamar Daily News*.

Allenbaugh left the *Plainsman* in the spring of 1978, but Mrs. Solze remained until 1986, when she sold the paper to Wes and Juliet Brewer. Solze had sold the paper in 1981 to William K. Schweitzer, who bought more papers in Colorado than he could handle and subsequently ran into financial trouble. Solze had to take the *Plainsman* back within a year.

The Brewers won a National Newspaper Association environmental award in 1987, but in late fall, they sold to Becky Osterwald, a Colorado Mountain College graduate who started her newspaper life on the *Plainsman* as an editor for Solze.

Hugo Times June 20, 1914-May 7, 1919, George W. Miles, founder. Editor/Publisher George was 13 years old, and he ran the *Times*--independent of his father's *Ledger*--until he graduated from high school.

George Miles was Colorado's youngest editor and was honored with a full membership in the Colorado Press Association and a story in *Publisher's Auxiliary*. The *Times* was admitted to second class post office entry with a circulation of more than 200, a sale price of 10 cents per month (50 cents per year.) The paper was a two-

column, four-page paper, 5 1/2 x 7 1/2. It was increased to a three-column, 7 1/2 x 11 paper in 1918. Miles' sister, Helen Miles Bradshaw, described the paper in a June 1950

Colorado Editor article:

The miniature newspaper carried several weekly display ads, want ads, some legal ads, several columns of local news, much high school news and an editorial column urging action in voting, in buying War Savings Stamps and Liberty Bonds, and comments on civic matters, state laws pending and the progress of World War I, the Kaiser, Uncle Sam and local boys in service.

The *Times* ended when George Miles graduated and went to work with his father on the *Plainsman*.

Hugo Star 1888-1889.

Hugo Advocate 1889-1890.

Hugo Independent 1898-1900, Earl W. Kelley, founder.

Limon

First called Limon's Camp for a Rock Island Railroad foreman, it was also called Limon's Junction when the Union Pacific and Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific tracks met there. Founded in 1888 it shortened the name for incorporation in 1909.

Limon Independent 1898-1900, Earl W. Kelley, who also had the *Hugo Independent*, founder.

Limon Herald 1907-1924, Fred Dickerson, a Denver lawyer, founder. The paper was edited by Ralph Littler. Newspaper historian Wallace Rex says that Roy E. Dickerson

and W.C. Schuet were editors 1907-1910. Charles J. Schroder sold the *Herald* plant and business to Fred L. Jones in 1919, according to the January 1923 *Inter-Mountain Press*.

Limon Express 1912-1922, C.T. Rawalt, founder. Merchants in Limon in 1910 "became tired of the representation they were being given by the only publication in town, the *Limon Herald*, and decided to do something about it," according to a *Limon Leader* 80th anniversary story.

The *Express* was established as a weekly but later went daily--Limon's only daily--for an undetermined time. Rawalt, who is better known for his extensive newspaper holdings on the Western Slope (see Gunnison), was not with the *Express* long. He left in 1913 to become a field organizer for the Non-partisan League.

J.J. and A.B. Missemmer bought the *Express* from Rawalt. George W. Wagner of Denver bought the *Express* from Missemmer in May 1915. He was appointed teacher of printing at the State Normal School in Greeley in November 1918, although he does not seem to have left the paper. D.L. Lucas followed Wagner as editor/publisher in 1921 but was gone in 1922. The *Flagler News* reported in March 1922:

Jerry Missemmer, one of the editors of the [Hugo Democrat], will soon move to Limon, where he will assume editorial charge of a new paper to be called Eastern Colorado Leader....Thus the mystery connected with the launching of a real newspaper at Limon is solved. Well, Jerry is a live-wire and will give Limon a wide-awake newspaper.

The paper was not new. It was the old *Express* with a new name:

Eastern Colorado Leader 1922-January 3, 1947, J.J. Missemmer editor/publisher. Evidently Missemmer always had several irons in the fire. In January 1923, *Inter-Mountain Press* reported that in addition to the *Leader*:

Jerry Missemmer has gone into the radio game as a sideline, having installed a complete set for long-distance operation at the Leader office. He is also acting as a distributor for the sets, and described his particular variety of radio outfit as "a regenerative tuner and two-step audio-frequency amplifier"--whatever that is. His equipment enables him to tune in on anything in the United States and in parts of Mexico and Canada, which have not yet gone dry.

Adolph Herzberg, a staff member of the *Chicago Tribune*, purchased the *Eastern Colorado Leader* from the firm of Sterling & Missemmer on February 29, 1924, but he was gone in November 1925. Howard Africa, formerly a Sanborn, Iowa, publisher, purchased the *Leader* from Herzberg. At the age of 12, he fulfilled his dream by going to work for the paper in Goodell, Iowa. He moved to Kanawha, Iowa, where he met his future wife, Bessie. Shortly after their marriage, Africa bought the *Crystal Lake (Iowa) Reflector*. Although still not of age, Africa was elected Mayor, the youngest Mayor in the United States at the time. The family moved on to Limon in 1925.

Always active in civic affairs, Mr. Africa was serving on the Limon City Council when he died on December 26, 1936. Mrs. Africa assumed his duties until February 15, 1937, when Dale and Ronald Cooley bought the *Leader*. Two years later the Cooley brothers bought the *Genoa Sentinel*, merging it into the *Leader*. In 1947, the name of the paper was shortened to:

Limon Leader January 10, 1947 to present. The Cooleys, "bowing to the inevitable pressures of time and advancing age," sold the property to Norman R. Sunderland of Wellington, Kansas, on June 6, 1945.

A Kansas native, Sunderland had been in the newspaper field for 23 years, starting as a printer's devil at the age of 12. He planned to continue the *Leader* "along the same lines as in the past, a home-town, area-wide, family-type weekly newspaper."

Norm Sunderland and his wife, Gladys, bought the Paonia *North Fork Times* in the summer of 1984. They moved to Paonia, leaving the Limon paper in the capable hands of son Randy and his wife, Pat. Randy Sunderland moved to the Western Slope to take over management of the *Delta Independent* when the family bought that paper in October 1987. The Sunderlands sold the *Limon Leader* April 1, 1993 to John Thomas, formerly of Gunnison. Thomas sold the *Leader* in March 1996 to Fred Lister, formerly with Worrell Enterprises.

Limon Arrow 1993-October 5, 1995, Shelley Hendrix, editor/publisher. Said Hendrix in the last issue: "We tried and didn't make it."

Sources: "Beginning 80 years..." by Lucille Reimer, *Limon Leader* 1/3/1991.

Limon Leader Tornado issue, 6/14/1990.

CHAPTER XL

LOGAN COUNTY

Situated between Sedgwick, Phillips and Weld counties, Logan County was originally part of vast Weld County, one of the 17 original counties in Colorado Territory. Logan County was formed from the northeast corner of Weld County in 1887. Sedgwick and Phillips counties, authorized in 1889, were created from the east and northeast section of Logan County. The county was named for Civil War hero Major General John Alexander Logan, who earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery during the siege of Vicksburg.

For centuries several Indian tribes made the area their home. From 1540 to 1682, Spain claimed the territory. Later the French asserted their claim, and sold it to the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase.

The South Platte River, entering Colorado in the northeast corner of the state and running through what are now Sedgwick, Logan, Morgan, and Weld counties, was a well-traveled landmark and route for Indians, explorers and traders long before the opening of the West. Sterling editor D.C. Fleming called the South Platte “the Nile of North America.” A part of the Louisiana Purchase, Logan County was included in Missouri Territory, then Nebraska Territory. It was called the “Platte River Settlement. Ranches dotted the trail. One was owned by Holom Godfrey, who called his ranch “Fort

Wicked.” The house was built like a fortress, with a moat, outer stone walls, and loopholes for firing guns. When asked why it was called Fort Wicked, Godfrey replied: “Well, I guess the Sioux and Cheyenne know well enough.” Battles with Indians raged in the area now comprising Logan County throughout the 1860s.

Cattlemen dominated early on. The success of the agricultural Union Colony at Greeley, however, proved the land was not a “Great American Desert.” Some of the first sugar beets in Colorado were grown in Logan County in 1890, thanks to the county commissioners, who bought seed to distribute among the farmers. A sugar beet processing factory was built in 1903, and the red vegetable became a major industry.

Atwood

Founded in July 1885, Atwood was established and platted by Victor P. Wilson, who bought the land and brought a colony of 30 families from Abilene, Kansas to settle there. He named the town after Reverend John S. Atwood, a Unitarian Minister from Boston, Massachusetts.

Atwood Advocate October 3, 1885-February 1887, Victor and John W. Wilson, founders. When an effort to bring the county seat to Atwood failed, the Wilson brothers moved the paper to Sterling as the *Logan County Advocate*. Their father was a Denver newspaper man.

Crook

Established in 1881, Crook was named by the Union Pacific for General George R. Crook, commander of the Department of the Platte from 1875-1882. He captured Geronimo in 1883.

Crook was cattle country until new populations brought more diverse economic activity in the late 1890s. The railroad was crucial to the life of the town. The actual townsite was laid out in 1907 by the Cedar Valley Land and Irrigation Company.

Crook Index 1919-1921, Roy E. Faes, founder. Faes had previously been with the *Englewood Democrat*. The *Index* had unusual quarters: it was located in City Hall.

Crook Booster 1923-1925, John L. Yost, founder, publisher and editor. Start and end in dates in the Ayers directory indicated that the *Booster* may have been a resurrected and renamed *Index*.

Yost ended the *Booster* in the spring of 1925. *Inter-Mountain Press* quoted a fellow publisher's thoughts about the suspension:

The Peetz Gazette refers feelingly to the fact that [Crook] has lost more than Yost has by the suspension of the paper and quotes [Yost] as saying that he could have continued had he been willing to stand for the dictation of others as to what he should and should not print. Crook has had three newspaper publishers in as many years and apparently is a rather hard town to get along with.

Crook News #1 1914-? E.A. Buckley began the *News* as **Buckley's Store News** in 1913, but the name was changed to *Crook News* in 1914. There are hints that it may have stopped and started several times.

Progress Review June 15, 1928-fall 1931, John Leuthold, founder. Like his predecessors, Leuthold too found that Crook could or would not support a thriving paper. Leuthold was previously associated with the *Summit County Journal*, the Dillon *Blue Valley Times* and the *Fairplay Park County Republican*.

Crook News #2 1936-1942, John F. (Jack) Lunsford, founder. He was publisher of the *Sedgwick Independent*, and may have started the *Crook News* as part of the Sedgwick paper. It was an eight-page, seven-column paper.

Fleming

Fleming began near a railroad siding called Twenty-Nine Mile Siding, also known as Calvert, 29 miles from Holyoke. Henry B. Fleming was the brother-in-law of a superintendent for the Nebraska and Colorado Railroad Company, which was rapidly moving across the county. In 1888, Fleming settled on 240 acres given to him by the company. In 1889, Fleming platted the town, and it incorporated in 1917.

Fleming Democrat 1888-1889. The name was changed to:

Fleming Herald 1889-1891, Reed Brothers. Joe E. Reed was publisher and Winfred Morris, editor. Morris, who ran a hardware store, may have been a co-founder.

Fleming Chronicle December 18, 1913-? Vance Monroe, founder.

Fleming Courier 1914-1915.

Fleming News 1918-February, 1934. J.C. Scott, founder. Scott also owned the *Sterling Evening Advocate* and *Peetz Gazette*. E.R. Kielgas was editor. He would later found the *Ovid Oracle*.

Charles Grubb became manager and editor in the spring of 1920, replacing E.C. Shumway, who had resigned. H.M. Garber of Fleming bought the paper around the first of the year 1923. Grubb remained as editor. In March 1923, *Inter-Mountain Press* reported that "While rescuing his wife from the whirling shaft which drives the press...Garber received painful injuries to one of his hands." During his absence the paper was published by H.E. Carlton, formerly with the *Haxtun Herald*.

C.C. Davenport, formerly of the *Eckely Tribune*, was editor and publisher in 1926. He sold the paper to L.J. Boyd of Fleming in the fall of 1927. Leslie Taylor and Tom Crist, owners of the *Haxtun Harvest*, purchased the *Fleming News* from Boyd at the end of 1929. Editors under their regime included Duane Wilson, Dwight Johnson, and W.D. Shephardson, formerly of Wellington, Kansas, who bought the *News* from Taylor and Crist July 1, 1931. Control soon reverted to Taylor and Crist, who sold the paper again in December 1932 to V.L. Green of Merriman, Nebraska. Green suspended the *News* in March 1933. Taylor and Crist regained the helm once again and resumed publication in August 1933, installing Milton Cooper as editor. But in February 1934, the *News* was suspended for the last time.

Fleming Farmer Summer 1938-March 25, 1939, Val S. Fitzpatrick, founder. Henry Weiler was editor. Fitzpatrick published the *Seibert Settler* for 27 years on and off, before going into business printing directories in six states.

Iloff

John Wesley Iloff of Ohio arrived in future Colorado in 1859 and proceeded to build a fortune feeding miners and railroad workers from his growing cattle herds. He gained 650,000 acres of the public domain on which to graze his cattle. By the mid-1870s, his ranch extended from the eastern border of Colorado, west almost to Greeley, and from the South Platte north to Wyoming.

The townsite of Iloff, established in 1881, on its namesake's ranch, was platted in 1887, and incorporated in 1926.

Iloff Independent 1910-1925, W.L. Stuck, founder. Succeeding owners were E.N. Heaton, formerly of the *Sterling Republican-Advocate*, 1911; J.C. Scott of the *Sterling Evening Advocate*, 1913, and S.P. (Perry) Majors, formerly of the *New Raymer Enterprise*, 1914. Majors changed the name to:

Iloff Independent-Press 1914-1917. W.L. Strickland was owner or editor in 1915. M.M. Thompson of the *Merino Breeze* purchased the *Independent-Press* from J.K. Kirby in the fall of 1916, and put Clarence Finch in charge. Finch bought the paper a few months later and changed the name back to:

Iliff Independent 1917-1923. *Inter-Mountain Press* noted that under Finch the *Iliff Independent* was “a progressive Republican newspaper when the [Theodore] Roosevelt boom was at its height.” Finch owned or edited many papers across the state and was dubbed the “Hearst of Colorado,” after publishing titan William Randolph Hearst.

Finch leased and later sold the paper to J.J. Fleming of Haxtun in 1919. Fleming in turn sold the *Independent* to the Reverend J. Edward Stone in late 1920. Finch and Stone became embroiled in contentious litigation, and by the fall of 1922, Finch had repossessed the paper. Finch then sold to a “coterie of Iliff businessmen,” who installed John D. Garst as manager. Guy N. Daffron leased and then bought the *Independent* in late summer 1923, and changed the name to:

Iliff News 1923-1925. Unfortunately, “the country newspaper field in northeastern Colorado is not entirely covered with roses of the thornless variety,” said *Inter-Mountain Press* in June 1924, when Daffron called it quits. Trustees struggled on into 1925, when Iliff’s newspaper history ended with the *News*.

Leroy

Located in the southeastern portion of Logan County, Leroy was surveyed and platted February 13, 1889.

Leroy Republican 1889, Mark Little, founder. Little had been publisher of the *Leslie Colorado Cactus*.

Logan

Logan was first known as Amen, after a family of that name which owned the land and laid out the town in 1918. The name was changed to honor General John A. Logan.

Logan Sentinel 1887-1888.

Merino

The last of the buffalo herds still roamed the area when the first settlers came in the early 1870s. The town of Buffalo was laid out in 1873 by the Beaver Colony Development Company. Because the Union Pacific had another town on the line named Buffalo, the name was changed in 1882 to Merino, after a type of sheep grazed there.

Merino Breeze 1909-1937, C.E. McKimson, founder. Thad S. Sutton was editor. In early January 1911, Sutton called for a thief to be tarred and feathered. "It's one thing to steal a man's honey," he wrote, "but to also draw out his bees into the cold and cause them to die, that's too much."

McKimson sold the *Breeze* in 1912. New owner Earl E. Hanway sold it a little more than a year later. M.M. Thompson bought the *Breeze* in 1915, publishing it for five years. He leased the paper to Lonnie Pippin in 1921, and sold it to A.M. Brown in 1925. Brown sold the *Breeze* almost immediately to J.W. Sarjent, formerly of the *Olathe Criterion*. When Sarjent died in 1930, George W. Stair leased and then bought the paper from the estate, finalizing the deal in April 1931.

Former Kansas newspaperman Dwight M. Saunders bought the *Breeze* from Stair in April 4, 1932. He installed a new typesetting machine before selling the paper to Carl Van Scoy of Missouri in September 1935. Van Scoy enlarged the circulation area to include parts of Morgan and Washington counties, and changed the name of the paper to reflect the expansion:

Tri-County Herald Spring 1937-June 25, 1942. F.E. Bullus Jr. bought a half-interest in the business and equipment of the *Tri County Herald* in February 1937. Van Scoy bought the *Leadville Record* in the fall of that year, and sold his remaining interest in the *Herald* to Bullus. He suspended the *Herald* on June 29, 1942.

Peetz

Peetz was first called Mercer by the Burlington Railroad, which built a siding, depot, and station house on the spot. Peter Peetz arrived in 1885 to homestead land, which he later sold to the Lincoln Land Company. When the railroad realized there was another Mercer in Colorado, they changed the name to honor settler Peetz. Peetz incorporated in 1917.

Peetz Gazette February 16, 1917-January 26, 1950, Jay Mathews, founder. Mathews, former editor/publisher of the *Silverton Miner*, sold the *Gazette* to J.C. Scott, who in turn sold to Denver Post employee and International Typographical Union organizer and former president Frank J. Pulver in May 1919. When Pulver died in 1930, his estate sold the *Gazette* to George E. Hungerford, a young man who had recently sold his newspaper in Dunbar, Nebraska.

The *Gazette* brought itself and the town of Peetz national recognition during World War II for a highly successful scrap metal campaign. Prodded by the *Gazette*, which urged readers to “get into the scrap by getting out the scrap,” citizens collected 14 tons of scrap the first day of the campaign. On October 8, 1942, all businesses in town closed so “every available person could collect scrap. The result was a haul of 100 tons in a single day.

Hungerford sold the *Gazette* to Lloyd Goranson on March 1, 1949. Goranson suspended the paper on January 26, 1950, selling the subscription list to the *Sterling Farm Journal*.

Peetz Bridge 1978-? Dee Nelson, co-founder. The latter-day 20-page newspaper, which was issued monthly and printed on a Xerox machine in the bedroom of a double-wide mobile home, had no official editor or publisher. “A rotating group of townspeople” did everything from “reporting to stapling the issues together, bookkeeping, copying and circulating the paper,” according to a 1991 article in Denver’s *Westword*.

Rockland

Rockland was located in the southeastern corner of Logan County. It was founded in 1888 to serve a planned Burlington rail line that was never built. There was one newspaper:

Rockland Times 1880-1890.

Sterling

The original Sterling was founded in 1873 by David Leavitt, who was so taken with the area while on a Union Pacific railroad survey that he returned, started a ranch, and obtained a post office on his land. The name came from Leavitt's home town in Illinois.

Cattlemen arrived with their stock as early as 1871. Many of the early settlers were Southerners who had lost their homes in the Civil War. They formed a colony and settled in "Old Sterling" a few miles from the current town. When the Union Pacific rail line finally headed for Sterling in 1881, M.C. King and R.E. Smith platted a new town of 19 blocks nearby the original settlement, and donated land for a depot and other public buildings. The only incorporated town in the county at the time, Sterling was named county seat in 1887.

Sterling Record May 13, 1882-1884. It was the first newspaper in the county. The name was changed to:

Sterling News #1 1884-1886. A Mr. Krause and D.C. Smith were publishers in 1887.

Platte Valley Record 1886-1889, A.E. Gordon and a Mr. Rowden.

Logan County Democrat #1 1889-1891, A.F. Spoor, founder. His newspaper colleagues, Victor and John Wilson, minced no words about Spoor, calling him "mullet-

headed” and a “lick-spittle tool” of the county treasurer, whom they accused of taking the interest on invested county money.

Logan County Advocate Winter 1887-July 4, 1907. Founded in Atwood in 1885 by Victor and John Wilson, the paper was moved to Sterling two years later. John W. and T.B. Wilson published the Advocate until 1895. In 1889, the Wilsons launched the

Daily Advocate 1889-? In 1896, V.S. Wilson sold the *Advocate* to D.C. Fleming and a M.R. Lacey. It is likely that they bought both the weekly and daily *Advocates*, and discontinued the daily version. F.A. Day purchased the paper in 1900. He too launched a companion daily:

Sterling Advocate 1900-1902. Day sold the *Advocate* to Judge David Clark Smith, editor of the *Logan County Republican*. Smith renamed the paper *Republican-Advocate*; various sources date the sale at different times between 1903 and 1907.

Sterling Republican #2 1906-July 4, 1907, David C. Smith, founder. A farmer and stockman from Nebraska, Smith was appointed clerk of the district court in Sterling in 1897, and elected county judge in 1901. The busy judge was elected mayor of Sterling in 1907.

Smith consolidated his *Republican* with the *Logan County Advocate* after purchasing the older paper. The merged paper was called:

Sterling Republican-Advocate July 11, 1907-1934, weekly. E.N. Heaton bought the consolidated paper in 1907. In 1909, new owner J.E. Hanway added a new title to the *Advocate* family.

Evening Advocate 1909, J.E. Hanway, founder.

E.N. Heaton was apparently back with the paper in some capacity, but Sterling First National Bank was listed as owner, indicating a foreclosure on the previous owner. C.H. Woodward was editor. The Sterling Publishing Company owned the paper from 1913-1918. Editors during this period included J.E. Hanway, 1913; J. Forest Lewis, 1914, and finally, John Henry Shaw, who had been editor of the *Republican-Advocate* for two years when he left the paper for the competing *Sterling Enterprise* in 1917.

John G. Scott was majority shareholder and in control of the *Advocate* when he sold his interest to John J. Woodring, Charlie E. Hayne and Roy G. Ferguson in late 1917. Allen Biggerstaff joined the staff in 1917, at the age 23. Due to a "small and unstable" staff, Biggerstaff was promoted to editor within six months of his initial hire, and invited to buy a minority ownership stake on easy terms. Under Biggesrtsaff, a 1919 special 48 page New Year's edition printed as a tribute and welcome home to the returning World War I veterans turned into a profitable but unwieldy annual tradition.

So successful financially was the first venture that the New Year's edition became an annual affair, ranging upward to 128 pages, and prepared entirely by our regular force. It was my duty to provide a plausible and expansive theme to fill the gaping pages...

The New Year's editions won awards but the work involved made them Biggerstaff's "prolonged nightmare...I scarcely knew the meaning of the holiday season with my family during 33 years."

On Thanks giving Day 1953, the *Sterling Advocate* changed hands in a sale to a group headed by Mrs. Anna C. Petteys, president of the Farm Journal Publishing Company, publisher of the *High Plains Journal*. Anna Petteys' son, Robert Petteys, was named publisher/editor, a position he held until 1970. The new owners changed the name to:

Sterling Journal-Advocate December 21, 1953 to present. Sterling Newspapers Inc. bought the *Journal-Advocate* in June 1970. The stockholders hailed from Virginia and Alabama. David Watson was a leading share-holder and served as publisher of the *Journal-Advocate* until 1977. J. Howard Crooks was editor 1970-1972 and again in 1986. Other editors included Fred Brown, 1974, and Gordon Tustin, 1976, 1978.

T. Eugene Worrell was owner in November 1977 and he installed California publisher Clifton Forrest as president and publisher. Ronald K. Lower held the post for two years beginning in 1982. David L. Smith was named publisher in 1984. Stephen May succeeded Smith as publisher in 1987. Michael J. Konz was editor 1988-1990. In September 1988, American Publishing Co. purchased the *Journal-Advocate*, and installed William Muldoon as publisher in 1990. Garden State Newspapers, a subsidiary of MediaNews Group, owner of the *Denver Post*, became owners in 1996.

Sterling Democrat August 17, 1895-October 31, 1929, Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Price, founders. Charles and Mary Price were co-publishers until 1897 when Mr. Price was said to have deserted his wife. She continued as editor/publisher for several years. A companion daily *Sterling Democrat* was started in 1898, but discontinued in 1900. Charles Price returned in 1906 and the paper sold to Joseph A. Campbell in March 1907. Campbell was born in Scotland in 1861, immigrated with his parents to Iowa, and had previously managed the *Logan County Advocate*. He leased the *Advocate* to A.M. Brown and later Lonnie Pippin, both during 1925. Campbell ran the *Democrat* until 1929, when he sold to the Journal Publishing Company and retired. The paper was renamed:

Sterling Farm Journal November 7, 1929-July 17, 1952, John N. Green and Charles Otto Unfug, publishers. The *Journal* had the misfortune to be born just after the great crash on Wall Street and the year "the beets froze in." The paper almost didn't make it.

Green was co-editor/publisher until 1945, when he sold his interest to Unfug. Green was also publisher of the *Colorado Springs Farm News* and the *El Paso County Democrat*. He was Colorado Press Association president in 1925, and vice president of the National Editorial Association for five years in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Otto Unfug remained editor with brief sabbaticals until June 1948. Unfug also published the *Brush Mountain County News*, *Fort Collins Express-Courier*, and *Walsenberg Independent*. He served as Colorado Press Association president in 1939.

Adolph Herzberg, formerly a *Kansas City Star* reporter, bought the *Sterling Farm Reporter* in August 1931. But his time was short and control reverted to Green and Unfug. In 1938, their Journal Publishing Company expanded its revenue base by purchasing the Roberts and Printing and Office Supply company. Anna Petteys and her son Robert purchased the *Farm Journal* from Unfug June 1, 1948. In 1952 the weekly paper became a daily, and changed its name:

High Plains Daily Journal July 22, 1952-October 31, 1953. It reverted to a weekly, with the name:

High Plains Farm Journal November 1, 1953-March 24, 1955. Anna and Robert Petteys purchased the *Sterling Advocate* in November 1953. The former *High Plains Daily Journal* and *Sterling Advocate* were merged into the *Sterling Journal-Advocate* (see above). The Weekly *Farm Journal* continued as it was.

At the beginning of 1954, the Petteys sold all of their stock in the High Plains Publishing Company to Lowell Rodgers, Otto Unfug and Edgar Tunison, manager of the Sterling Production Credit Association. Rodgers had been editor of the *High Plains Journal* for four and a half years. The arrangement lasted until March 1955, when the *Sterling Farm Journal* and *Sterling Enterprise* and two weekly papers were sold to the *Business Farmer Printing Company and Associates* of Scottsbluff, Nebraska. The paper was now the:

Business Farmer March 1931-November 21, 1955. Robert H. McCaffree of Scottsbluff bought the paper and changed the name to:

High Plains Farmer November 28, 1955-October 1, 1959. The paper was suspended, and the *Sterling Journal-Advocate* assumed its subscription obligations.

The Populist September 1892-1896, J.W. Vanderverter, founder. The paper espoused Colorado party leader David Waite's contention that the richest lands and resources were controlled by Eastern and foreign capital, to the detriment of the people. John and Victor Wilson "were livid" when the *Populist* appeared, according to historian Nell Brown Probst, "not only because of the competition but also because they considered the whole Populist movement to be a conspiracy against the Republican Party."

Sterling Enterprise 1911-1922, D.C. Smith, founder. C.O. Finch, former editor of the *Julesburg News*, bought the paper in April 1914, but sold it to Dr. C.E. Fish in 1916. Eight months later the paper was sold to J.G. Shaw. Shaw remained as editor until March 1921, but took on co-owners from April 1919. In 1921 Shaw sold the paper to a group of farmers associated with the Nonpartisan League. By July the *Enterprise* belonged to J.K. Honeck and L.G. Krater, but it shuttered for good in October.

Sterling Times 1888-1889.

Colorado Cultivator & Rocky Mountain Colonist October 1894-1989, V.P. Wilson, founder. It was a monthly.

Eastern Slope 1895-1896, C.M.C. Woolman, publisher; W.L. Hays, editor.

Sterling News #2 1896-1900.

Northwest Colorado News 1932-1949, Allen Biggerstaff, founder. Published weekly by the Advocate Publishing Co.

Wemple

Wemple was a small town near Leroy. It had one newspaper:

Wemple Optic 1890-1891. Optic Publishing Company, publisher; O.W. Shupp, editor.

Special Sources:

"The New Empire of the Rockies," Steven F. Mehls, Bureau of Land Management, 1984.

Forgotten People: A History of the South Platte Trail, Nell Brown Propst, Preutt Publishing Co., 1979.

Special thanks to Bill Muldoon.

CHAPTER XLII

MESA COUNTY

Mesa County was still Ute country until 1880, when the great Chief Ouray died and the massacre of agent Nathan Meeker and some his staff at the White River Agency set off a chain of events that lead to the Utes' expulsion. Grand Junction was founded in 1881. Mesa County was formed in 1883 from the western part of Gunnison County. Grand Junction, designated county seat, became a commercial center of the Western Slope. 1884 irrigation canals provided needed water for agricultural activities. Sugar beets were introduced to the area in 1890 and became one of the most important crops; the first sugar beet factory in Colorado was built Grand Junction in the 1890s. Later fruit orchards became the major crop and since the 1990s Mesa County has become a major wine growing region. From the 1920s Mesa County experienced periodic mining booms with coal, gas, oil, oil shale and uranium.

Clifton

Clifton was originally a Denver & Rio Grande track section town. Established in 1882, it took its name from the nearby cliffs. The railroad made it a center for fruit shipping. During the oil shale, oil and natural gas booms, many orchards became residential subdivisions and strip malls.

Clifton Success 1908-1914, A.W Thomas, founder.

Clifton Tribune 1914, J.P. Morehouse, editor/publisher.

Clifton Valley Citizen 1978-1981, James "Jay" Brodell, founder. Brodell, later a newspaper broker and a member of Metropolitan State College of Denver's journalism faculty, sold the *Citizen* to "production men who had been with the *Wall Street Journal*." Jeff Weber was publisher early in 1980. He sold later that year to Shelby Kesterson, formerly of the *Gunnison Country Times*. By September 1980, Tyler and Johnnie Sue Todd owned the *Citizen*.

Clifton Tribune 1995 (see *Palisade Tribune*).

Collbran

George Hawkins and his family were the first settlers, and gave their name to the small outpost, which was granted mail service in 1882. The town of Hawkins incorporated in 1892. It tried to sway the Colorado Midland Railroad into building a line into town by renaming itself for CMR general manager Harry Collbran. The gesture was in vain, but the new name stuck. Once an important center for cattle ranching, Collbran languished as the surrounding farming and ranching economy declined.

Collbran Leader 1892-1893.

Plateau Valley Herald 1896-1898, A.R. Craig, founder. It was a semi-weekly.

Collbran Oracle November 1899-April 6, 1901. J.D., Tower, founder and owner until 1900. C.B. Pitts followed Tower as publisher and editor. C.B. Pitts and B.F. Pitts were owners in 1901 and changed the name to:

Plateau Valley Stockman 1901-1905. Pitts and Pitts. They renamed the paper again:

Plateau Voice January 1905-1929. C.B. Pitts was publisher until 1914, when he took on M.E. Woodworth as partner. Woodworth was full owner by fall in 1914, but Pitts was backing control by August 1915 and remained publisher until August 1919. Byrd A. Wilson and Oscar Anderson purchased the *Voice* in August 1919. A year later, Wilson sold his interest to Anderson.

G.N. Murray bought the paper from Anderson in 1922, publishing it until the summer of 1926, when he sold to C.C. Ford, former proprietor of the Baggs, Wyoming *Sentinel*. Ford changed the name to:

Plateau Valley Voice 1929-October 2, 1942. Late in 1930, Ford sold the *Voice* to George H. Nelson, who had been publishing the *Arriba Record*. Nelson sold the *Record* to his father, George L. Nelson, in order to buy and operate the *Voice* instead. After Nelson died in May 1940, his widow E. Bernice Nelson ran the *Voice* until November, when she leased it with an option to buy to Glen Edmonds, best known as publisher of the *Pagosa Sun*.

Byron and Helen Hubbard bought the *Plateau Valley Voice* from Mrs. Nelson in February 1942, but soon Shirley Roper took over, assisted by S.D. Lawrence. The *Voice* was discontinued November 1, 1942.

De Beque

Dr. Wallace A.E. de Beque, a physician, settled in the area in 1883. A post office was named for him as was the town two years later. The town has also been known as DeBeque. The town's namesake founded its first newspaper.

Era 1890-1898, de Beque, editor and publisher until 1893. James Lightfoot succeeded de Beque as publisher, followed by H.N. Kingman with Louis Napoleon Shank as editor. G.R. de Buque was the *Era's* final publisher.

Wildwest 1895-1898, George O'Blake, founder. The paper supported the Free Silver cause.

De Beque Post 1898-1902, A.J. Dickson, founder; a Prohibition paper. Dickson later published the *Glenwood Post*.

DeBeque Record 1898-1899; merged with the *Bugle*.

DeBeque Bugle 1899-July 1909. A.E. Pelton was editor in 1909. The combined paper was known for a time as:

De Beque Bugle & Weekly Record 1909. Soon it changed again:

De Beque New Era July 24, 1909-April 9, 1921. Available records show that M.V. Crockett was publisher 1914-1920. In 1921 there was another new owner and name change:

De Beque Shale and Oil News April 16, 1921-June 29, 1923, Earl Jones, publisher. Jones sold the *Shale and Oil News* to Frank E. Pierce, who had owned or leased newspapers in Garfield County, in August 1921. There was another name change:

De Beque News July 6, 1923-1929. L.G. Shwalenberg was publisher in 1925. He sold the *News* in July 1928 to Agnes Benson, who suspended it in February 1929. However the paper was restarted four months later:

De Beque News June 1929-June 1931, restarted by C.C. Ford, publisher of the *Collbran Voice*. Lewis Barker was the next owner, followed by Harold H. Hawhurst in the fall of 1930. C.A. Stewart bought the paper in March 1931 and suspended it in June 1932.

De Beque Dragon 1936-1942, a bi-weekly.

Fruita

Fruita was founded by W.E. Pabor in 1883 with the backing The Colorado Loan and Trust Company of Denver. It was a “dry” town, with bylaws dictating that every property deed include a perpetual clause prohibiting liquor.

Mesa County Mail 1892-1929, Kiefer Brothers. In 1929, the name changed to:

Fruita Times 1929 to present. Ira M. Frantz was the original publisher.

Fruita Star 1889-1890. W.E. Pabor, publisher.

Telegram 1905-1909.

Lower Valley Sun 1951.

Mesa County Mail

Grand Junction

Settlers arrived in the 1880s and pursued farming and cattle raising. Uranium mining gave the area a boost in the mid-twentieth century. Grand Junction was home to the Climax Uranium Mill, controlled by the US Atomic Energy Commission. Grand Junction and the surrounding Grand Valley prospered in the 1970s and early 1980s due to oil shale development. ExxonMobil made Grand Junction the base of its operations in the area, but its withdrawal when the boom faltered hurt the economy in the region. Orchards and, mostly recently vineyards, also provide an agricultural base.

Grand Junction Weekly News 1882-1918, Grand Junction Print Company, publisher. It eventually added a daily companion paper:

Grand Junction Daily News 1904-1924, George G. Reed, publisher. Apparently both the weekly and daily versions of the paper sometimes published under the simplified moniker *Grand Junction News*.

Grand Junction Democrat 1883-1884, C.F. Coleman & Co., publishers.

Mesa County Democrat 1884-1889, Charles W. Haskell, publisher.

Grand Junction Democrat 1906-1909.

Ranch & Range 1884-85.

Promotor 1898-1902.

Grand Valley Star and Western Colorado Horticulturist 1889-1890, W.E. Pabor, publisher. It was published as the *Grand Valley Star and Mesa County Democrat* beginning April 5, 1890. The name was simplified to:

Grand Valley Star 1889-1893. P.A. Leonard, a native Kentuckian who had cut his teeth on Chicago newspapers, was the founding publisher/editor. Colonel J.L. Bartow, formerly of the *Leadville Democrat*, followed Leonard as editor. A sister publication, designed to serve as a town “booster,” began the following year:

Grand Junction Star 1890-1893, Russel & Henrie, publishers.

Grand Junction Times 1892-1893. It merged with the *Star*, creating the:

Grand Valley Star-Times 1893-1896, Grand Valley Publishing Company. The name changed to:

Weekly Star-Times 1896-1898, J.S. Swan, publisher. It also published as *Grand Valley Star-Times*.

Semi-Weekly Star 1898, A.J. Peck, publisher. It was a semi-weekly from February to April 1898, and then became:

The Weekly Star, 1898-1901. Editors included John Bartow, until 1893; Lawrence Hynes and James Lightfoot, 1894; William Connely, 1896; W.J. Wills, 1897; C. Sum Nichols, 1898-1899; A.J. Peck, 1899; and George O. Blake, 1890.

Ranch and Range 1884-1885.

Promoter 1898-1902, Hardy Bros., publishers. A farming monthly.

Western Colorado May 10, 1899-1900, W.A. Pabor, publisher. It was an agricultural and horticultural monthly.

Grand Junction Reveille 1902, Theo Lemmon editor. It was an Indian School Publication.

Grand Junction Star #2 1900-?, Grand Junction Print Company, publishers. A weekly.

Grand Junction Weekly Sentinel November 20, 1893-1943. Lee & Bunting, founding publishers. The name changed when it became a daily:

Grand Junction Daily Sentinel 1943-present. The *Sentinel* has long been the dominant newspaper in Grand Junction. Pennsylvania-born traveling salesman I.N. Bunting founded the newspaper in 1893 with partner Howard T. Lee. Walter Walker bought the *Sentinel* in 1911 and ran it until his death in 1956. He left the newspaper to his son, Preston Walker, who served as publisher until his death in 1970.

Preston Walker left the newspaper to one of his employees, Ken Johnson, who sold it to Cox Newspapers in 1979. James Kennedy served as publisher until 1985 when he went on to become chairman and chief executive of parent company Cox Enterprises, naming George Orbanek publisher. Alex Taylor became publisher in 2007. In July 2009, Kansas-based Seaton Publishing Co. purchased the *Sentinel* and formed Grand Junction Media Co. Jay Seaton became publisher of the *Daily Sentinel* and executive vice president of Grand Junction Media.

During Walter Walker's tenure, the *Sentinel* was a strong voice against the Ku Klux Klan, which at that time was a violent and powerful force to be reckoned with in Colorado politics. It controlled every major position in the Grand Junction municipal government. As Klan crosses burned in Grand Junction in the year 1924, Walker wrote:

Never before in the history politics, religious, fraternal or civic organizations has there been in this state such a bold, bald, daring effort to incite, excite, and play upon the prejudices of men so as to mould them into a mass sufficiently welded together that political speculators, free-booters and traders could feel safe in offering for sale, like common merchandise, the votes, en bloc, of thousands of Americans. I call on every patriotic man in the organization to betake himself from such surroundings.

For his public stand against Klan intimidation, Walker was assaulted on the street by Klan toughs while compromised police turned a blind eye. As he was being beaten, Walker assured his assailants they would not back down from his editorial campaign against the "Invisible Empire." A few days later, 13-year-old Preston Walker, Walter Walker's son and the future editor of the *Sentinel*, was struck a severe blow over his right eye on his way home from a movie. The eye was permanently damaged. The Klan wall of silence hid the names of those responsible, but broader public disgust at the

reprehensible attack on Walker's child may have hastened the end of Klan power in Mesa County.

The Western Slope 1895-?

The Grand Valley Sun 1895-1905, Grand Junction Printing Company, publishers.

For several years it had a daily counterpart:

The Evening Sun 1900-1904, William J. Connely, publisher and probable founder.

Union 1896-1897.

The Revolutionist 1902-?, Mesa County Socialist Party, publisher. A weekly.

Herald 1903-1910, Walter Walker and H.E. Frost, publishers/founders. The *Herald* was apparently linked to:

The Herald and Grand Valley Progress 1910, Herald Publishing Company; and

The Western Slope Ranchman and Herald-Progress 1910, Herald Publishing Company; and:

The Herald and Western Slope Ranchman 1910-1911(?), Herald Publishing Company and S.A. Meyer were both listed as publishers.

Rural Talk 1903-1905.

Grand Junction Advocate January 1904-1907, Victor S. Wilson, publisher.

Grand Junction Index 1908-1910.

Grand Junction Record 1908-1910, daily.

Grand Junction Record #2 1917-1918, weekly.

Grand Valley Progress 1909-1910.

Grand Junction Hornet 1910-1911, daily.

Grand Junction Dawn 1912-1913.

The New Critic 1916, L. Ross Conklin, publisher.

Leader 1917-1918 (?), published by D.C. Ashum in the former *Critic* plant.

The Colorado Organizer 1917-? Jennie A. McGehe, publisher. It was issued with *The New Critic* and billed itself as the "Official Newspaper of the Socialist Party."

Western Colorado Progress 1925-November 1928, founded by the Grand Junction Ku Klux Klan, Reverend G. P. Raymond editor. Subsequent owners included D.S. Taylor, David Greb, and C.H. Hinman, who bought the *Progress* in November 1928 and changed the name to:

Grand Junction Farm News November 1928-March 8, 1929.

Western Colorado World July-September 1933, Merle McClintock and Geraldine, Dickson.

Grand Junction Independent 1934-1935. Peter Hamilton, who had worked briefly for the *Sentinel*, began the *Independent* to compete with it. But like other *Sentinel* competitors, it was unsuccessful.

Eye Opener 1936-1937.

Intermountain Counselor March 1939-? Robert V. Campbell, founder. It was a weekly for labor and farming unions.

Advertiser 1950, J.J. Harkness, founder. It was a free circulation paper.

Grand Junction Record 1957-1958, daily. It was begun by the International Typographers Union, which was on strike against the *Sentinel*. The *Record* was sold to the *Morning Sun* (below).

Western Colorado Reporter 1950-December 27, 1957, Lyle Mariner, founder.

Morning Sun 1956-1958, founded by Lyle Mariner, a weekly. In 1958 it combined with the *Record*, to become a daily known as:

Morning Sun and Record 1958-1960. Dan Thornton bought out Mariner. Thornton dealt the paper to Denver entrepreneur Allen J. Lefferdink. Despite investing heavily in the *Sun*, Lefferdink shut it down in 1960.

The Leader August 26, 1965-?

The County Mail 1963-1967, Luis and Helen Newell, publishers.

Journal October 15, 1975-spring 1976, Charles T. (Tom) Jones.

Westpeople 1984-?, John Gregory, publisher.

Senior Beacon 1987-? A monthly. Susan E. Malonberg, publisher.

Colorado West Business Journal November 1993-December 31, 1994, Avanti Communications, publisher.

Grand Valley Business Times 1994-? Terry Lawrence and Brent Frederickson, founders. Free circulation and direct mail.

Mesa

A small town in the Plateau Valley, Mesa grew on land homesteaded by Archie R. Craig in 1887.

Plateau Valley Leader 1896-1989, A.R. Craig, founder. It was issued with the Collbran *Plateau Valley Herald*, also founded by Criag.

Mesa Enterprise 1911-1913, D.A. McLean, founder.

Palisade

Established in 1895, Palisade took its name from the high perpendicular bluffs along the north edge of the valley, which offered protection for a fruit industry that produces some of the most famous peaches and wines in the country.

Palisade Courier December 1900-1903, T.J. Holmes, founder. It was a Saturday publication and an annual subscription cost \$1.50.

Palisade Tribune June 1903 to present, Clinton H. Martin, founder. Clinton was a fervent town booster who gave his newspaper the motto "Push for Palisade." Clinton sold the *Tribune* in 1909 to printer/editor Eli S. Sherman, a New Jersey native who had worked on several Denver newspapers. When Sherman died of a heart attack July 26, 1922, Clinton Martin took the paper back briefly. James Holden was the next publisher, followed by Willard McCoy. McCoy sold the *Tribune* November 1, 1923 to C.W. Culhane of Grand Junction.

Clinton Martin returned as publisher in February 1931. Mark McCoy took over management of the paper under a foreclosure proceeding in March 1935. J. Guy Bailey, a fifteen-year veteran Linotype operator, including ten years as foreman of the *Grand Junction News*, purchased the *Tribune* from the trustees in 1936. Bailey was publisher until he sold to Carlisle G. Bare on March 1, 1948. Bare had been mechanical superintendent on the *Grand Junction Sentinel*. Bare dealt the *Tribune* to Harry Renoux and William Lorenzen in the summer of 1953; Lorenzen bought out Renoux's interest the following year.

Marion L. Stocking bought the paper from Lorenzen in 1979 and published it until June 1984, when she sold to James and Christine Keener. Bill and Kathi Conrad bought the *Tribune* from the Keeners in January 1987. The Conrads had been associated with the *Durango Herald*, the *Grand Junction Sentinel*, and the *Dolores Star*. Multi-newspaper publisher Bob Sweeney bought the *Palisade Tribune* in July 1991, "to keep my nose in western Colorado." The *Tribune* launched two other publications in 1995:

Colorado Fruit & Wine Country Explorer, distributed to high-income Front Range households and hotels and motels along the I-25 and I-70 corridor. It was an annual publication publicizing Palisade area wineries.

Clifton Tribune, covering Clifton High School.

CHAPTER XLII
MINERAL COUNTY

It seems probable that one of the greatest mineral sections in Colorado has been opened in the vicinity of Creede Camp....No one who has not been to the camp and examined the great mines which have been opened on Campbell and Bachelor mountains can realize the importance of the discoveries, and the mining men of the state are, therefore, inclined to look upon the meager reports which have been sent out as exaggerated and sensational. Six producing mines, all but two of them unlocated until last summer, and all of them showing seemingly inexhaustible ore bodies, has never before been equaled in mining in Colorado.

San Juan Prospector 12/26/1891

Mineral County was the last of the San Luis Valley counties to be settled. It took a world traveler named M.V.B. Wason to put down permanent stakes in future Mineral County in 1871. He ran hundreds of horses and black Galloway cattle. He also maintained a deeply-resented toll road, until later dropping the toll in exchange for a county seat in the town he quickly founded as Wason. Prospectors began exploring nearby Bachelor Mountain as early as 1873, and at Sunnyside in 1876. Stage stations were built every ten miles along the Grande from Del Norte to Lake City and Silverton in 1874. Among the stations were Wagon Wheel Gap, Riverside Bridge and Antelope Park, where a small settlement sprang up.

Richard S. Irwin and Charles F. Nelson arrived in March 1885. Irwin, a successful prospector for whom Irwin in Gunnison County was named, bought the mine at Sunnyside. Nelson located the Ridge and Solomon mines that he later sold to U.S. Senator Thomas M. Bowen.

Flush times arrived after a nearly penniless roving prospector and his dog, wandering over Wagon Wheel Gap one day in late summer 1889, paused to rest as "a glorious red" sun set. Nicholas C. Creede remembered lifting his head, "and there was, projecting out in front of me, a huge boulder of silver, big as a house. Holy Moses!" He had discovered one of the most famous silver mines in Colorado, and would go on to fame, fortune, misfortune, and a town that would bear his name and the Holy Moses Mine.

Cy Warman of the *Creede Candle* wrote In his newspaper:

[N.C. Creede] looked above where the eagles flew by the ragged rocks and thought of Elijah; how he hid away in the hills, and how the ravens came down and fed him. He looked at his torn and tattered trousers and thought of Lazarus. Neither of these names pleased him. Lazarus suggested poverty and Elijah was hard to spell. He looked away to the stream below, where the willows were, and thought of the babe in the bullrushes. He looked at the thick forest of pine that shaded the gentle slopes and thought of the man that walked in the wilderness. He called the mine the Moses; then fearing his partner might object even to that, rubbed it out, and wrote "Holy Moses."

Nicholas Creede, born William H. Harvey in Indiana about 1843, grew up in Iowa, and fell in love. The girl, however, chose to marry his brother. The heartbroken young man renounced his family and his name and headed to Omaha in 1863 to begin life anew as Nicholas C. Creede. He joined the army and was assigned to the Pawnee Scouts unit, organized to guard the western trails and railroad crews against Indian attacks. Here Creede met Major Lafayette E. Campbell, who would become his business partner. Creede spent the winter of 1870 in Pueblo and went off the next spring to spend 20 years searching for a bonanza in Custer, Lake and Chaffee counties, and the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo mountains, thence to the San Luis Valley. At Bonanza, in Saguache

County, he made a small fortune by discovering and selling the Twin Mines but was soon broke again.

Major Lafayette E. Campbell, Creede's friend from his army days, was quartermaster at Fort Logan, with side interests in mining. When Creede needed financial help, Campbell came through. Campbell also interested David H. Moffat, banker and railroad builder, U.S. Senator Thomas Bowen of Del Norte, Roger Woodbury, formerly of the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Times*, and several other prominent Denver businessmen.

Creede sold the Holy Moses to Moffat a few months later, and then, on August 8, 1891, Creede discovered the Amethyst Mine, one of the richest silver strikes. He acquired a fortune, and a fortune-hunting wife who made his life miserable. Six years later Nicholas C. Creede was dead of morphine poisoning in the rose garden of his Los Angeles home. It was listed as a suicide, but Major Campbell, for one, insisted it was not. The *Apex Pine Cone*, however, said "[Creede's] wife wanted to live with him again and he preferred death."

Meanwhile the town of Creede fared much better. Many mines opened, and the mountains were soon honeycombed with shafts and tunnels. Silver worth six million dollars was taken out the first year; before the mines closed a few years later, they yielded thirty-eight million dollars' worth. David Moffat, president of the Denver & Rio Grande, built a line to Creede in 1891. It was one of the fastest laid rail lines, and it was worth every dollar. There was daily passenger service to Alamosa and Pueblo; freight

trains brought in necessities and took out ore. The Moffat line paid for itself in four months. Passenger service lasted until 1932, freight until 1956.

Saguache, Rio Grande and Hinsdale counties all served Creede until Rio Grande County was created in 1893 with the brand-new town of Wason as seat. Major Wason had already built a courthouse in anticipation.

The people in Creede were not happy about the county seat being "down in the Cow-Pasture at Wason," while the county's main business and population was in Creede. Disgruntled Creede officials called a county seat election and Creede won. To avoid any delay, the citizens of Creede began an abrupt transfer of docket books, records, furniture even Wason's old wooden courthouse, but it burned down in 1946.

The silver crash of 1893 crippled Creede until mining shifted to gold, copper, lead and zinc. The Homestake Mining Co.'s Bulldog Mine produced gold until it closed in 1985. Creede hung on but the surrounding communities of Amethyst, Jimtown (or Gintown), Upper (or North) Creede, South Creede, Bachelor, and Weaver became ghosts

The first paper in Mineral County was the *Wason Miner* December 12, 1891, followed by three Creede papers, *Sentinel*, *The Candle*, and *Chronicle*. Between them, it was said, "no public figure was left whole; editors in those times had little to lose but their lives, and they expressed themselves freely." During the first two years of solid settlement, ten newspapers were founded, six of them in Amethyst/Creede, and three of them dailies. No other mining county or town in Colorado can match that record.

Amethyst

Nicholas Creede located the Amethyst mine--named for the color of the rock outcroppings--in 1891, and the town grew up around it. Amethyst was one of the string of camps which would meld into Creede. The Amethyst Post Office was located in Jimtown's business center. The Creede Post Office was in the upper gulch.

The Amethyst newspaper history is confusing, and complicated by the fact that the Amethyst Post Office was used for mailing the Creede papers. Four newspapers used the Amethyst location in their name, and two more used the address until the post office was closed.

The Oehlerts newspaper guide lists all but the *Amethyst Sentinel* under Creede. The Rowell newspaper directory lists the *Creede Amethyst*, *Amethyst Creede News* 1894, *Amethyst Sentinel* 1896 and *Amethyst Creede Miner* 1898. The Colorado Historical Society Newspaper Project lists the *Creede Daily Herald* at Amethyst. *The Creede Candle*, which also used the Amethyst Post Office for mailing but not in the title, is listed under Creede.

Creede Amethyst January-March 1892, Harry Parsons Taber, founder. Taber, a former New York theatrical news reporter, was drawn to Colorado because of the promised opportunity. He had "neither cash nor meal tickets, but he had a smooth round face and had acquired the habit of looking the other fellow in the eye when holding him up for a loan," according to Lute Johnson. Taber joined a railroad crew working toward Creede, and when he got there discovered 200 people with no

newspaper. He promptly started one, and almost as promptly stopped it when he ran out of money and the printers went on strike for overdue pay.

E.G. Miller, "late of La Jara," and C.E. Marvin apparently provided some financial backing and became publishers of *The Amethyst*. William S. Adams was general manager. The last issue of the *Amethyst* was published in the first issue of the *Creede Chronicle*. Said the publishers:

To The Public....This is the last issue of THE AMETHYST. Time was when such a paper answered the purpose, but Creede is too long, too broad and too swift for anything so slow as a hand press. Our plant has been purchased and closed by the CHRONICLE Publishing Company, and this morning a perfect newspaper with a complete press report will be issued. The people who will publish the CREEDE CHRONICLE are among the best-known newspaper people in the state--they have a complete plant, and the dying Amethyst wishes them success

From this silver grave of woe,

THE CHRONICLE shall grow.

Harry Taber became a member of the *Chronicle* staff, and reported on the fateful evening when Jesse James' slayer, gunman Bob Ford, shot up the town.

Amethyst Creede News January 23, 1892-1895, Harry Edwards, publisher, Jesse H. Lewis, editor. W.L. Siegmund is listed as publisher in January 1895. Oren Mattox was editor/publisher in 1894. The *Creede News* had a problem keeping up with county boundaries. The first issue gave the location as Creede, Saguache County. A year later its location was Amethyst, Hinsdale County. The next year it was securely in Mineral County.

Lionel B. Moses, one of Colorado's youngest editors, became editor of the *Creede News* about 1894 when he was 16 years old. He was elected chairman of the Mineral County Democratic Central Committee when he was 17, and too young to vote. In 1923 he joined a Chicago advertising agency and later became vice president of *Parade* magazine.

Amethyst Creede Miner 1893-1904, W.H. Sweet, publisher. Originally founded--the oldest paper in Mineral County--in December 1891 as the *Wason Miner* by the unpopular C.M. Morrison, it was moved to another post office, with another publisher. The *Creede Candle* reported on November 10, 1893:

The first issue of the Creede Miner, which is the ghost of the Wason Miner in a new form, will appear tomorrow. After two years of wrestling with adverse fate in trying to make a town of Wason, Editor Morrison finally crawls in under the big tent and will lend his voice to songs of praise for Creede. Kelly is the authority for the statement that the Miner comes for the avowed purpose of doing up The Candle, but this we do not believe, and we welcome Morrison to the clover pasture.

Johnson must have withdrawn the welcome mat because he was not supporting Morrison in 1894 when there was a scrap between Morrison and the editor of the *Teller Topics*. (see Bachelor *Teller Topics*.) Charles Dailey, later of the *Aspen Times*, was editor in 1896. L.F. Sweet was listed as editor in Rowell 1906.

A **Daily Miner** was issued May 1898-1899. Donald Oehlerts gives the dates 1895-1904 for the *Miner*.

Amethyst Sentinel 1895-1896, C.O. Sprenger, publisher. (The name is sometimes spelled Springer.) The date indicates it might have been a continuation of the *News* it replaced. Sprenger also published the *Bachelor Sentinel*.

Creede Daily Herald March 1892-1893, W. M. Oungs and H.S. Savage, publishers. Both had worked on Pueblo newspapers.

Bachelor (Teller)

The first strike on Bachelor Mountain came in 1885, but it wasn't until the Last Chance Mine was discovered in the fall of 1891 that hundreds of prospectors poured in.

In January 1892 the *Creede Candle* reported that:

Yesterday there was a stake raid for lots and it is proposed to plat an eighty-acre government townsite to include the territory of the Last Chance mill site, a portion [of other claims] and some vacant ground....Two saloons and a female seminary are already in operation and other business houses are expected. It is to be called Bachelor.

A post office was approved in April 1892, but the post office department changed the name to Teller City because another town named Bachelor had first dibs. Like the people of Creede Camp, with its various names, those in Bachelor stuck to the original name, regardless of official actions. Only the post office and newspaper seem to have used the name Teller.

The town was surveyed in January 1892 and incorporated seven months later. David Moffat and the Holy Moses Mining Co. bought the Last Chance Mine and formed the Bachelor Mining Company. Because some of the most productive mines were on Bachelor Mountain, the town became a center of Mineral County activity. The saloons

and allied entertainment thrived, but there were also enough families to assure good attendance at dances, plays, and musical benefits. Bachelor crashed with the 1893 silver crash. The mines cut back or closed and many of the 72 businesses departed although the Post Office lasted until 1912.

Teller Topics July 22, 1892-1894, John Shorten and Lute Johnson, founders. It was a Populist paper. Although the details of an editorial scrap between the *Teller Topics* and *Creede Miner* aren't known, Shorten got some editorial backing from his peers. Lute Johnson's *The Candle* reported in brief:

John Shorten may be in the dotage but we will back him as a man or as an editor in his journalistic scrap with the Miner, and wager that Shorten gets the best of it. Here is a bomb thrown into camp by the Del Norte Enquirer: "The Teller Topics complains of the ungentlemanly practices of C.M. Morrison, the editor of the Creede Miner. Morrison has neither principle nor honor and is a disgrace to the profession. We know him of old."

Shorten was later publisher of the *Bachelor Teller Topics* and the *Cripple Creek Sunday Herald*.

Bachelor Sentinel 1894-1895, C.O. Sprenger, founder. Sprenger also published the *Amethyst Sentinel*, and may have been connected with the:

Bachelor Tribune 1896-1903, T.W. Vincent, editor in 1899. The policy was Free Silver. Vincent was the Town Clerk and Police Magistrate.

Creede

Life in Creede was of necessity rapid. The doings of a day comprised a cycle of time. Locations were made in the morning, sold at noon, jumped at night. The arrival of a freight train with the rising sun indicated a new place of business at sunset.

Cy Warman

Six distinct business centers arose for the booming silver city of Creede. The original town in the narrow gulch on East Willow Creek expanded half a mile downstream to Jimtown/Gintown, Creedmore and Amethyst. Upper Willow Creek turned into North Creede. Adjoining camps were Bachelor/Teller, Sunnyside, Weaver and South Creede whose advantages were outlined in the first issue of the *Creede Chronicle*:

The South Creede addition has been upon the market but a few weeks, yet the substantial business buildings, including the CHRONICLE'S, already erected, and those promised in the near future, show how popular the new territory is. There are reasons for this. The lots occupy the best position in the town. The land is high and out of the way of the water. The South Creede depot is upon the property and is thus convenient. The owners have adopted a liberal policy which will bring to their addition many business houses....The sun rises here early and sets late, a phenomenon which is not known further up the gulch...[all making] South Creede a desirable place to live and do business.

The Denver & Rio Grande reached Creede Camp in October 1891 n full of lumber to build a town. Within a few months Creede had three daily passenger trains as people poured in at the rate of 150 to 300 a day. The population would reach an estimated 10,000 before the silver panic of 1893 crushed the miners' dreams.

Among the early arrivals Jefferson Randolph Smith ran a gambling house. He was called Jeff in Creede but in Denver he was known as Soapy Smith, a con artist almost without peer. The nickname came from his bait-and-switch game that involved selling

bars of soap which appeared to be wrapped in greenbacks. The buyer got soap but no legal tender.

The notorious Bob Ford, "that dirty little coward who shot Mr. Howard" (Jesse James) and had been traveling ever since then, ended up owning a Creede bar. A more distinguished resident was 38-year-old Bat Masterson, a former Dodge City marshal. Masterson was making his way around Colorado, sometimes as a lawman, sometimes a gambler, sometimes a newspaper reporter. In Creede, the dapper, corduroy-suited Masterson dealt the cards at one of the better gambling and drinking houses.

Creede became notorious according to Leland Feitz in his *A Quick History of Creede*:

About half the population of early Creede was made up of bunco artists, mining sharks, saloon keepers, pickpockets, dance hall girls, professional gamblers and other riff-raff. Efforts toward bringing any kind of order into the lawless gulch were almost useless.

Another reporter said:

At night there are no policemen to interfere with the vested right of each citizen to raise as much Cain as he sees fit, and it is a reasonable estimate to say that fully three-fourths of the population are of that kind which does see fit....Drunken men empty their revolvers into the air or somebody's leg....

The year 1893 started well for the mines, but the plunging metal prices later in the year hit hard. There was a comeback in the late 1890s, including several of the best production years. The resort business began in the early 1890s and continues to be a major factor for the town.

Today the town trades on campers, sportsmen, a repertory theater, and its "Wild West" past.

Between them Creede and Amethyst had nine papers. In January 1892 there were four newspapers, one a daily. Two months later there were six papers, two dailies. Most of them had short lives. *The Candle* was the last to burn out.

When the railroad arrived in Creede in 1891 it brought in two newspaper outfits. They may have been used for the first two papers in the county: the *Wason Miner* and *Creede Sentinel-Echo*. Or it may have been Lute Johnson, who was on the train with his "hatful of type, a hand press and brains." The *Wason Miner* is said to have been the first paper issued, December 12, 1891.

Sentinel-Echo 1891-1892. A hyphenated name usually means a merger of two papers, but there were none by either name in the adjacent counties. The *Sentinel-Echo* had barely come out when it faced stiff competition from the *Amethyst* and the *Creede Candle*, and was probably gone when the *Chronicle* debuted in March. The next paper was the one best remembered.

The Candle Thursday, January 7, 1892-December 27, 1930, Lute Johnson, founder. Johnson apologized to readers for the appearance of the first issue:

We have been fighting fate in the shape of cold weather, an unfinished building, a coal famine and pied cases and are unable to present the paper [we want]...don't judge of what we can and will do by this paper.

Pied cases were a printer's pain. The individual letters and punctuation of type were kept in individual compartments in a case, and picked out one by one to make a story and entire newspaper. If a case pied it meant a mixed up mess that even a printer as experienced as Johnson would have to spend hours putting back.

The Candle was the Official Paper of the City of Creede, and was published by The Candle Publishing Co. The paper was entered at the post offices of Creede and Amethyst. *The Candle* offered the "best map of Creede yet issued," information on Creede mines at reasonable charges, and the ability to "place small amounts to good advantage" for Easterners wanting to invest in the Creede mines.

During the spring of 1892, the names "Clarque and Johnson," Lute Johnson, editor, appeared in the masthead for a brief time. From June 1892 to the end of August 1893, J.W. Hogan was associate editor. A daily *Candle* was launched November 1, 1892 but evidently was only published during election periods: November 1-6, 1892 and 1894, November 1-7, 1893.

The March 3, 1893, *Candle* had two unusual legal notices. In the top right-hand column, was the announcement that Gov. Davis H. Waite had "issued his proclamation...that every female person [of age] shall be entitled to vote...in the same manner in all respects" as men. Notice was given that registration books in the county clerk's office "are now open to any lady...wishing to register." The women weren't eager to register, despite a visit from suffragist Carrie Chapman in October. By

December 15 not one woman had registered to vote, but a week later, nudged by Johnson, seven women had taken the pioneer step.

Johnson took an honest, but hopeful, view of the 1893 crash:

Everybody is trimming his sails to the wind and sailing as close to shore as possible. Luxuries are out of the question....There is no despair, no thought of it, but simply an honest appreciation of the situation....There is a great deal of grim humor in the experience through which Creede is passing. This is still the best camp in the state and its mines will be the first to ship when silver touches a permanent point. We must whistle and laugh now and then though it is much like courage stimulated while passing through a graveyard. We can whistle because we know pleasant meadows be ahead.

But Lute Johnson himself left in November 1894, selling to Harry A. Neel, an editor and printer of many years' experience. Johnson moved to Cripple Creek but would later say, "I went to Creede and put it on the map with my little tallow candle." Few disputed the claim.

Harry Neel, with *The Candle* 1895-1904, began his newspaper life as a printer's devil in Kansas. His first job in Colorado was with the *Lake City Phonograph*. After leaving Creede he would own five papers on the western slope in the Grand Valley area. Neel may not have been a resident publisher of Creede. W.J. Wright was editor 1895. The 1898 Rowell lists George C. Wilder as publisher and S. A. Motz as editor. Wilder bought the paper from Neel and was publisher until Aug. 1907. Sam Motz, apparently stayed on with Wilder; he was the next owner from Aug, 1907 to 1910, when The Candle Publishing Co, incorporated, purchased the "plant and good will of THE CANDLE" and assumed all debts and collections.

A succession of managers and manager/editors followed: Harry Baker, manager, January.1910-June 1913; Samuel Platt editor and manager, June 1913-Sept. 1914; Milt McLaughlin, September 1914-Oct. 1918; Ray Madison September 1918-May, 1920. A published poet like Warman and Johnson, Madison had briefly owned the *Lake City Phonograph*, and would later be editor for the *Center Post-Dispatch* and *Fort Morgan Herald*.

Will N. Burr, "a self-styled printer and newspaper man from the short-grass section of Kansas," purchased *The Candle* July 3, 1920 but lasted only until July 31. H.L. Blanchard, formerly of the *Eagle County News*, bought *The Candle* in 1920, published his first issue on August 8, and made a go of it until May 30, 1925.

In 1921, *Inter-Mountain Press* reprinted a discouraged quote from *The Candle*:

The man who edits the average country newspaper at some time or other is going to step upon somebody's toe. Regardless of how hard one may seek to avoid indulgence in personalities, somewhere he's going to forget his step. And when he does, he must expect to be censured. He must, too, expect to be often censured for failures of an unintentional nature; he must expect to be considered a fool and a coward by some people; he must fully expect that for his hard work he will receive little thanks compared with the abundance of abuse which seems to be an inherited lot of the editor; he must expect little of love from an individual who has an axe to grind and wants the editor to do the grinding; he has no right to hope that his efforts, no matter how conscientious, to better the lot of fellowmen and brighten the paths of those less fortunate, will be appreciated today, and perhaps not tomorrow; he must realize that if he is going to conduct a truly worth while newspaper he's not destined to please all people. A funny game, this newspaper game is. And may the Lord have mercy upon the editor who expects other than what he gets.

Harry Cochran of the Del Norte *San Juan Prospector* bought the paper in June 1925 but sold it in December of the same year to Sunshine Champion, who "expressed a desire to be of service to the community and pleasure at the reception accorded the change by advertisers." Mrs. Champion sold the paper "on account of poor health," in August 1928 to L.G. Schwalenberg, formerly of the *DeBeque News*. Schwalenberg "felt that the revival of mining would make Creede a good location," said *Colorado Editor*. By December, Schwalenberg felt otherwise. He sold the paper to Allen J. Hosselkus, who lasted until May, 1930, when Schwalenberg repurchased it. The June *Colorado Editor* reported that Hosselkus was now engaged in mining, and Schwalenberg was apologizing:

Because of circumstances and the lack of help this week it has been impossible to do justice to the local news field, but we expect to cover it fully in the future. We might make the suggestion, however, that there is considerable extra advertising that readers will find interesting.

It will be the aim of the publisher to make the paper a credit to Creede and Mineral county, and to do this we hope to have the hearty cooperation of all residents and other persons having interests here.

In December 1930, *The Candle* and the *Aspen Times*--both longtime newspaper soldiers--folded because of the steep decline in the mining industry. The *Aspen Times* was revived, but *The Candle* had been extinguished. Harvey Jones, owner of the *Del Norte Prospector* (formerly the *San Juan Prospector*) bought the rights to *The Candle* and in January 1931 and merged it into the *Prospector*.

Creede Chronicle Tuesday, March 22, 1892-1895. It debuted as a morning daily with a press run of 5,000 papers. Cy Warman was editor. The *Chronicle* was a daily and

weekly. The weekly lasted only a short time but the daily lasted until 1895. Superlatives were not long in coming. One writer said that "not since Nevada's palmier days has a mining camp region seen such a paper as the *Chronicle*." Another said: "*Everybody praised the paper, everybody was wroth when, as frequently happened, it was not distributed before breakfast.*"

In addition to Warman, the *Chronicle* staff included Lon Hartigan, a West Point graduate, as city editor. Harry Taber was the "general rustler for news." To get the *Chronicle* out there was "plenty of type, a rotary press, a great strong boy to turn the press, six union compositors, the United Press wire service and a freckle-faced boy" named Freddie to run errands. The newspaper jack-of-all-trades, C.O. Sprenger, was in charge of the city circulation, and a mounted carrier left at 7 a.m. with the paper for Bachelor City. From there he went to the Last Chance, Amethyst and Moses mines, giving "all who can and will read an opportunity to get the news of the world every morning." He returned by the upper gulch. The route was designed to reach the mines as the shifts changed, a good hour for the carrier to sell papers and to pick up the news of the camp from the local correspondent for the next day's *Chronicle*.

On July 6, 1892, W.H. Cochran, president of the Miners' and Merchants' Bank, foreclosed the mortgage and placed a custodian in charge. Several newspaper lions were out of a job. They "rustled a \$5 payment" from each one, and with city editor Lon Hartigan as their spokesman, went to *The Candle*, and "asked permission to write a farewell." *The Candle* obliged:

The click of the type has ceased, the burr of the press has died out; the last printer has retired from the composing room and the lights in the office of the Chronicle are extinguished.

The paste is growing hard in the little tin cup on the editor's desk and the tame office mouse is undisturbed in his revel....There is an air of calm rest pervading the scene, broken occasionally by the snore of the deputy sheriff, who slumbers peacefully in the editor's armchair, regardless of the fact that five printers are hungry and three newspaper men have now only the willows to shield them from the cool night winds....

The good people of Creede patted us on the back and told us to go in and win. We went in. That we did not win is due mainly to the fact that Filthy Lucre, a stronger quarter horse beat us. But the race was an exciting one, and the spectators received the full value of whatever they paid at the gate....

Warman, who was elected a Creede trustee in April 1892, was still there, with a new business manager, when the *Chronicle* appeared again on July 11. *The Candle* said on July 15:

The rejuvenated Chronicle appeared Thursday as an evening daily. It replaces the morning Chronicle, Democratic, Cy Warman, editor, with the evening Chronicle, Republican, Cy Warman editor. It is old wine in an old bottle with a new label. W.H. Cochran will pose as the cork to prevent evaporation of finances.

In September *The Candle* reported a major upheaval:

The Chronicle's wheel of fortune has taken another whirl, and Cy Warman retires this time both in fact and in name. John D. Vaughan, who has practically been editor and manager since the reorganization, assumes full charge with W. S. Adams, who has been associated with the mechanical part since the first issue. Mr. Vaughan is a thorough, practical man, and if anybody can make a daily paper go here, he can. Mr. Warman will devote himself to literary work, and hopes at some future time to return again to his idol.

The Chronicle survived until 1895 with Vaughan and W.S. Adams in charge.

Creede News January 23, 1892-1895. (See Amethyst.)

Creede Daily Herald March 3, 1892-1893. (See Amethyst.)

Creede Miner 1895-1904 (See Amethyst and Wason.)

Creede Mineral County Miner August 21, 1975 to present, Steve and Beverly O'Rourke, founders. Steve and Cynthia Haynes bought the paper in December 1980.

Steve wrote about it:

When we bought the Miner in 1980 and moved to Creede, the office was in a log cabin which measured (I think) about 15 by 17 feet. There was one employee, a part-time typesetter, a miner's wife named Eloise. She had a smart mouth and good ears, could hear any word spoken in the front room and would comment without missing a beat on the Compugraphic. (She later got divorced, went to the seminary and is a minister in, last I heard, Ordway.)

After the closing of the Homestake mine in 1985, though...real estate went bust, the economy in Creede was not good. At the end of 1986 the papers were merged with San Luis Valley Publishing and we moved to Monte Vista to run the entire group.

The Haynes became partners in the San Luis Valley Publishing Company. In May 1993, SLV Publishing was sold to Valley Publishing, a subsidiary of News Media Corp. of Illinois. Valley Publishing also owns the *Alamosa Courier*. Doug Knight, formerly connected with newspapers in Julesburg and Sterling, was named publisher. The Haynes moved back to Kansas.

South Fork

About 1890, this early stage station became a town named for its location where the South Fork joins the Rio Grande. It never incorporated and had only one newspaper:

South Fork Tines 1981 to present. Tines, is the chosen spelling, not "times."

Originally part of the *Creede Mineral County Miner* in 1975, it was split off as an individual newspaper in 1981 by Steve and Cynthia Haynes.

Spar City

Spar is peopled by honest, industrious Americans out of work and out of money. They are proud but they must eat. Having nothing to exchange for bread and meat, they propose following the plan of the N.Y. bankers and issue clearing house certificates backed by their brawn and industry and offer them in exchange for flour.

The Creede Candle 7/21/1892

Fisher City was laid out in the spring of 1892, and named for one of the first prospectors. It was also known as Lime Creek before it became Spar City, probably named for the feldspar around it. By July 1892 there were 500 people in the camp, more in the nearby hills. When the Silver Panic of 1893 hit, the few remaining miners and their families were in such dire straits that the people of Creede came up with a relief plan. They would butcher a cow and sell it to those in need, who would promise to pay for it as soon as they could obtain employment.

Editor Sam Hyde wrote:

...People living in agricultural regions or large cities may find it difficult to realize how a community of people in this land of plenty can be placed in such a trying position, but, while a community may have untold wealth at its doors, it is not directly of a nutritive character. A power beyond our control has made our mineral valueless for the time being, our women and children must be fed...assistance is necessary. Meat and flour we must have.

Most families moved on. A Prohibition group bought what was left of the camp as a summer resort in 1905. One of the group found his large cabin still had a long pine bar and poker table, remnants of the town's biggest saloon; allegedly the bar was the one behind which Bob Ford was shot in Creede.

Spar City had one newspaper. *The Creede Candle* opened an office to publish a local newspaper:

Spar City Spark 1892-1895; Lute Johnson, publisher; Sam Nott Hyde, editor. J.D. Vaughan, formerly with the *Creede Chronicle*, was editor in 1894. It was printed in Creede.

A race for Spar City town clerk pitted two newspapermen against each other: Hyde and W.S. Adams, of the *Creede Chronicle*. Adams won. Hyde apparently took his defeat tolerably, saying, "A newspaperman in a small town--like a prophet--may be without honor, but he is usually hard to insult."

Sunnyside

Sunnyside sprouted on the side of Bachelor Mountain shortly after Bachelor City sprang up. Ore had been discovered in the early 1870s but the real excitement developed in 1883 when the Alpha Mine was located, followed by other claims. A post office was opened in 1887. There was one newspaper:

Sunnyside Sentinel 1892-1894 C.M. Morrison, publisher; C.O. Sprenger, editor.

Wason

A Vermonter named Martin Van Buren Wason began a horse ranch here in the early 1870s. When the rush to Creede, about four miles northwest, began, he caught town site fever and converted his beautiful homestead into a town. The Major built a courthouse, sponsored a huge Fourth of July celebration and started the town's sole newspaper:

Wason Miner December 12, 1891-1895, A.M. Morrison, proprietor, C.M. Morrison, editor and manager. The *Miner* "heralded the beauties and advantages of the bend where the Rio Grande enters the Gap, after leaving a sinuous silver trail, from its source in the Snowy Range," wrote competitor Warman.

Morrison had worked on the *Cheyenne Wells Gazette* with Lute Johnson, but any friendship they may have had seems to have been sorely tested along their way to success in Wason and Creede. (See *Amethyst Creede Miner* and *Bachelor Teller Topics*.) The *Miner* moved to Amethyst/Creede in 1893.

Special Sources: "*Creede, History of a Colorado Silver Mining Town*," by Nolie Mumey; Artcraft Press, Denver 1949.

Creede Chronicle, The Candle, various issues.

Special thanks to Steve Haynes, and Carl Miller, President and Executive Director of The National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum in Leadville.

CHAPTER XLIII

MOFFAT COUNTY

The confluences of the Yampa River (then known as the Bear River) with the Green River, Williams River and Fortification Creek saw settlers as early as the 1870s. Small towns developed around a handful of ranches: Windsor in 1878 and Yuma by 1885. The Colorado Legislature carved Moffat County from the western portion of Routt County in February, 1911. The new county's name honored Colorado railroad tycoon David H. Moffat. Moffat's Denver, Northwestern & Pacific (aka The Moffat Road) tried to build a line from Denver to Salt Lake City. The reorganized company, operating under the name Denver & Salt Lake, only got as far as the town of Craig in 1913.

Craig

The town of Craig incorporated on April 24, 1908. Founded by William H. Tucker, Craig was named for one Tucker's financial backers, Reverend William B. Craig. Craig became county seat when Moffat County was created from Routt County in 1911.

Pantagraph March 1891-1895, Clarence Bronaugh, founder. In 1895, Bronaugh sold the *Pantagraph* to Hiddlestone & McKeever, who changed the name to:

Courier February 1895-1899. Humphrey Jones became publisher and Walter Spencer, editor. The name changed again to:

Routt County Courier 1903-1911. Walter Spencer progressed from editor to owner. The name became:

Great Divide Sentinel 1917-1918 George Kimball, founder.

Moffat County Courier 1911-1929 L.A. Marble became publisher, followed by Julian E. Duvall in 1918. Charles A. Stoddard and his brother J.C. Stoddard took over the *Courier* in 1926. In December 1929, the *Courier* merged with the *Craig Empire*.

Craig Empire 1911-December, 1929. George Kimball, founder and publisher. He brought in his son, Neil Kimball, to help run the *Empire* from 1913-1915. In June 1915, Kimball sold to Herbert Belford Gee and Carl Van Dorn. George M. Kimball was back in 1917, aided until 1924 by Charles Dins. L.S. McCandless was publisher in late 1929. In December of that year, the *Empire* merged with the *Courier*.

Craig Empire-Courier 1929-1974. L.S. McCandless was publisher until August 1967. Charles A. Stoddard Jr. obtained a controlling interest in the paper in the mid-1960s. Colorado newspaper mogul Bob Sweeney bought the *Empire-Courier* in 1974, continuing it briefly as a weekly until he merged it into his *Northwest Colorado Press*.

Northwest Colorado Press 1960- present; Al Shafer, founder. Bob and Gerri Sweeney bought the *Press* in 1960, changing the name in 1963 to *Northwest Colorado Daily Press*. Howard Publishing bought the *Press* in 1979. Subsequent publishers included Brian Manning, 1980; Jack Palmer 1983; and Dave Simpson, 1985.

Moffat County Mirror 1942-1943, Val S. Kirkpatrick, founder. When he died in January 1943, his widow Helen Kirkpatrick took over the *Mirror*. Neil Larmon was editor. Robert Walker bought the *Mirror* but discontinued it before 1943 was out.

Hannah Miner Press 1971-1973, Bob Sweeney, founder.

Snake River Press 1969-1987, Bob Sweeney, founder.

Yampa Valley Flashes 1949-1974. L.S. McCandless and Charles A. Stoddard Jr., founders. Bob Sweeney purchased and discontinued this paper.

Maybell

County Bell 1916-1928. E.B. DeuPree, founder.

CHAPTER XLIV

MONTEZUMA COUNTY

Montezuma County has one of the best claims to antiquity in the state. The basket-making Indians of Mesa Verde are believed to have settled there around the year 1 A.D. The Spanish explorer Juan Maria de Rivera passed through the area in 1765, looking for silver and the Tizon River, now known as the Colorado. One of Rivera's group suffered a bad leg injury on the journey, leaving the name of his condition—Mancos, the Spanish word for cripple, on the river, canyon and ultimately the town.

Rivera named many of the waterways and mountain ranges: the San Juan, the Piedra, the Rio Pinos, Rio de Las Animas, the La Plata, the Mancos, and the Dolores. Dominguez-Escalante followed the same route in 1776. U.S. agents surveyed the area as early as 1859. The first gold mine was discovered in 1873, and the first cabin built in 1875. The following spring, cattlemen began arriving, setting the stage for a flourishing cattle industry in Montezuma County.

The Rio Grande Southern Railroad connected Mancos and Durango in 1891. Montezuma County was formed from La Plata County in 1889 and Cortez named county seat.

Mesa Verde was declared a national park in 1906. Only 27 total tourists were enterprising enough to view the spectacular ruins the first year. The first automobiles

tried the trip in 1914, but many sank deep into mud holes on the primitive road. By 1930, improved automobile roads made it possible for 16,000 to see the park's wonders.

Ackman

Ackman is located in the midst of prehistoric ruins in the northwestern corner of the county. It had only one newspaper.

Pioneer Chieftain 1920-1924, H.H. Beaber, founder and publisher. Its slogan was "Give all the people, all the news, all the time." The first issue included a directory of town, county, state and federal officials.

Cortez

Cortez was laid out in 1886 by the Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company. Workers, suppliers and service businesses filled the town as the company endeavored to bring water from Dolores River. By the time the irrigation project was complete, the agricultural market was depressed and the crash of 1893 loomed. But Cortez hung on and eventually prospered as the rise of the automobile brought tourists to the Four Corners area and the ruins at Mesa Verde.

Montezuma Valley Journal 1888-present, John Curry, founder. The *Journal* "suspended publication five or six times," according to editor and newspaper historian Ira Freeman. Early editors included Sterl P. Thomas, Frank Hartman, Charles Day, Melvin Springer, Dave Longenbaugh and Will Beal. Day resurrected the *Journal* April 12,

1895 after it had been suspended for some weeks. He suspended the paper later that year but started it again in 1896.

C.M. Frederick of Paonia took over the *Journal* August 1, 1906. He sold the paper to Lillian Hartman Johnson in May 1908. Frank Hartman was editor during this period. The *Journal* merged with the *Herald* in 1919.

Cortez Herald 1908-1919. George Hutt, founder. Hubert Hall and daughter Hattie Hall, novices to the newspaper business, bought the paper in 1908, but sold it back to Hutt and Clarence Howard in 1910. D.M. Logenbaugh bought the paper in April 1911, just in time to report on oil exploration and the first finding in July.

John E. Brown became owner in January 1912, beginning a three-generation history with the paper. A former schoolteacher, Brown was editor and publisher of the *Herald* 1912-1920; *Journal-Herald* 1921-1932; *Montezuma Valley Journal* 1932-1933; and *Mancos Times-Tribune*, 1930-1933. He had previously been publisher of the Hot Sulphur Springs *Middle Park Times* from 1904-1910.

The *Herald* was merged into the *Montezuma Journal* when C.A. Frederick bought it in 1919. The new name was:

Cortez Journal-Herald After Frederick died in 1921, John Brown became editor and publisher again. In 1932, the name was changed back to the original *Montezuma Valley Journal*. It published semi-weekly. John's sons Dwight F. and Charles Dewey Brown became owners. When Dwight Brown died, his widow, Frances Dewey Brown,

became co-publisher. Their children, Russell and Elizabeth, became owners with their uncle in 1951.

Cortez News 1889-1890.

Cortez Sentinel 1928-1978. H.H. Beaver, founder. He and his brother Ross ran the paper until 1940, when Ross bought the *Silverton Standard*. H.H. Beaver's son Cal became co-publisher until May, 1958, when the paper was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ballantine, Jr. of the *Durango Herald*. They made the *Sentinel* into a five-day daily for about a year, before returning to a weekly schedule. Dewey and Russell Brown bought the *Sentinel* in October, 1960. It was issued on Mondays while their *Montezuma Valley Journal* came out on Thursdays.

Dolores

Settlement along the Dolores River began about 1877. Cattlemen were the biggest group of new-comers, but breeders of sheep and race horses came as well. The first post office arrived in 1880. The present town was platted when the Rio Grande Southern committed to the area; the train arrived in 1891. Merchants from the original town, called Big Ben, closed up and moved lock, stock and barrel to sustain the new town.

Dolores Herald February 1896-1897. Fred Holt was the founder of this small sheet. All that remains of the *Herald* is a fragile front page that was found as insulation in an old house. The surviving issue touted train travel and tourism in the area.

Silver Star April 8, 1897-1901, R.B. Hawkins, founder. He had taken over the plant of the defunct *Herald*. The flag ear presented the *Star's* motto: "All the News. Independent in Politics. No Favoritism." The alliterative Hawkins noted that "Telluride boys persistently pelt pedestrians with plentiful pellets of packed precipitation and police profess powerlessness to put a period to the practice."

Joe De Witt bought the paper in 1901 and changed the name to:

Dolores Star De Witt sold in 1903 to Charles Bear, who was publisher for 22 years. A Mr. Swarner bought an interest in May 1909 and apparently served as co-publisher for several years.

Fred Bradshaw of Ignacio bought the paper and was editor/publisher from September 1925 to December 1949. He was followed by Ed and Jim Gould, 1950-1955; Tommy Johnson, May 1955-December, 1956; Dick Burke, December 12, 1956-October, 1960; Lawrence and Marilyn Pleasant, 1960-July, 1977; Bill and Cathi Conrad, May 1980-November 1980; and Sam and Melinda Green, 1980 to present.

When interviewed by the *Star* for a 1987 profile, Gould recalled tough times doing double duty in the early 1950s. "In those days, the job printing was the bread and butter of the *Dolores Star*," he said. "The income from the paper barely bought the paper it was printed on." As editor, Gould fought running battles with the town board. But he also engaged in a phony editorial feud with H.H. Beaber, owner of the *Cortez Sentinel*, to capitalize on the "healthy" rivalry between Dolores and Cortez. "It may have

seemed like we were ready to slit each other's throats, but it was just good readability. It sold papers," said Gould.

Mancos

The Mancos post office was established in 1878 on a ranch. Supplies were freighted in from Alamosa by horse and ox drawn wagons. Transportation improved when the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad reached Durango in 1880. Mancos was established in 1881.

Mancos Times April 1893-1905. C.M. Danford, founder. Danford sold the paper in June 1893 to W.H. Kelly of Ouray, better known as "Muldoon Kelly." He had been with the *Miner* at La Plata, and was known as one of Colorado's most colorful, adventurous and outspoken editors.

Kelly's *Times* reported sensational mining strikes and rich discoveries in almost every issue. He vigorously boosted the district as having the richest mining in the state. Every sample of ore brought in by the prospectors was reported with acclaim, and the paper trumpeted assays that indicated riches beyond the wildest dreams of miners. These claims were overblown as only a few paying mines were ever developed in the area.

Mancos Tribune April 26, 1902-1905. William Spring was publisher in 1905 when it was sold to William Kelly and the name was changed to:

Times-Tribune 1905-present. Kelly was editor/publisher until he sold to Ira S. Freeman in 1910. Freeman owned the paper until 1928. His son, Wilbur Freeman, was editor. John E. Brown followed Freeman as owner from August 1928-1940. Brownlow Beaver was in charge from July 1940-1941; Mrs. H.H. Beaver, 1941; Dean Hammond, 1943; Richard M. Sprenger, 1943-1963; Richard and Carol Pattick, June, 1963-1967; and Dewey and Russell Brown, 1967 to present.

Towoac

Ute Mountain Ute Echo 1989-present. A monthly newspaper published by and for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

CHAPTER XLV

MONTROSE COUNTY

Settlers arrived at the Uncompahgre Valley in the 1870s, but were held at bay by the Utes, until that tribe was forced to relocate to a reservation in Utah. The town of Montrose sprang up in 1881-1882. The town was known variously as Pomona, Dad's Town, Uncompahgre and other names, until Joseph Selig suggested the name Montrose after the lead character in Sir Walter Scott's novel, *The Legend of Montrose*.

Montrose

Montrose News 1880-(?)

Montrose Messenger 1882-1898, Abe Roberts, founding publisher. In 1885, Billy Cassel followed Roberts as publisher. F.J. Land took over in 1886. In December of 1886, the *Messenger* absorbed the *Republican*. In 1890, Abe Roberts returned as publisher and stayed until 1892. He was followed by T.G. Berry, 1893; C.Y. Berry, 1894-1896, and F.J. Land, 1898. That same year, the *Messenger* changed its name to:

Montrose Press 1898-1923, weekly. Matt L. Koppin bought the *Press* on September 29, 1898. Abe Roberts, this time with Kat K. Roberts, was back at the helm by 1902. W.J. Horton was their editor through July, 1902, when the Roberts sold the *Press* to S.A. Heckethorn and E.H. Murphy. Heckethorn became publisher and Murphy

was editor until March 1904. Charles E. Adams bought the newspaper that month, and served a long tenure as editor-publisher, until June 1940. The *Press* went daily in 1907:

Montrose Daily Press 1907-1912. Charles E. Adams, publisher. In 1912, the *Press* absorbed the *Daily Western Empire* (below), and for three years was known as the

Montrose Daily Press & Daily Western Empire 1912-1915, Charles E. Adams, publisher. In 1915 it reverted to:

Montrose Daily Press 1915-1923. In 1923, Adams purchased and merged in the *Montrose Empire*. The resulting newspaper took the title:

Montrose Enterprise-Press 1923-1944. When publisher Charles E. Adams died in 1940, his son, Charles E. Adams Jr., took over as editor-publisher until 1944. In April of that year, William Prescott Allen Sr. bought a 90% ownership interest share. Around this time the name reverted to:

Montrose Press 1944-present. William Prescott Allen Sr., publisher. Editor-managers under Prescott included Ernest A. Milner, February 1945-April, 1946; Richard J. Theobald, April-September 1946; and Henry Bell, September 1946-January 1947. Prescott served as editor-manager himself for a time in 1947 before installing his son, William Prescott Allen, Jr., in 1948. The Adams family returned in 1967, when Charles E. Adams, Jr. became editor.

Montrose Republican 1885-1886, daily and weekly. C. Sum Nichols was the founder and publisher. It merged into the *Messenger*.

Montrose Register 1885-1889.

Montrose Enquirer 1884-1885, W.B. McKinney and M.W. Atkins, publishers.

Montrose Champion 1888-1889.

Industrial Union 1891-1895.

Health and Wealth 1892-1893.

Western Empire 1906-1912, weekly, G.A. Clawson, founder. In 1910, the *Empire* became a daily:

Daily Western Empire 1910-July 5, 1912. John J. McCarthy was editor to 1911. In July 1912, the *Empire* was bought and merged in by the *Montrose Daily Press*.

Montrose Enterprise 1888-1923, weekly; 1920-1923, daily. Abe Roberts & Matt L. Koppins were the founding publishers. O.C. Skinner bought the paper in 1897 and served as editor-publisher until 1906 or later. Lynn Monroe was editor when the *Enterprise* was absorbed by the *Press*.

Farmers Exchange Bulletin 1920-1925.

Colorado Service Star 1921-(?) Published by the Dept. of Colorado Women's Auxiliaries.

Montrose County Chronicle 1924-1926, semi-weekly.

Western Slope Democrat 1930-1932, C.T. Rawalt, founder.

Montrose Advertiser 1940-1941.

Montrose Sun 1982.

Nucla

Independent 1913-1929. The Due Brothers were listed as publishers.

Nucla News 1940-1944. A weekly founded by Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Scates.

Nucla Forum 1953-1971, weekly, John S. Gilmore, publisher.

San Miguel Basin Forum 1971-present, Marvin A. Hearnberger bought the Forum in July, 1973, then dealt it to Colorado newspaper magnate Robert "Bob" F. Sweeney in March 1975. Sweeney quickly flipped his investment to Ken Brin and Rose Brin, who bought the Forum from him almost immediately. Roger Culver became editor in April 1976 and bought the paper in March 1977.

Olathe

Hub 1875-1882.

Western Slope Criterion 1905-1920. A weekly founded by the Hanes Brothers, Irvin H. Hanes and Will C. Hanes. Frank R. Stearns bought them out and was editor-publisher in 1909. Will C. Hanes was owner again in 1910 to 1913. John Uglow bought the *Criterion* in 1914 and stayed until 1920. The name changed to simply:

Criterion 1920-1973. J.W. Sargent was owner and publisher by the time of the name change and stayed until 1925, when Uglow returned. Subsequent publishers

included: Thomas L. Blackwell and Edna V. Blackwell, 1929-1937; Charles E. Adams Jr., April 1937-November 1940; Ernest L. Milner, 1944 (?); Dennis Beaver, May 1945-August 1947; Phil Bennett, 1947; A. Boon McCallum, late 1947-January 1948; G.F. "Bob" Roberts, January 1948-November 1948; and H.R. Holliday and James Cinnamon of the *Delta Independent*. They suspended the *Criterion*, but it was revived in January 1949 by Wallace Dobbins and Carolyn Dobbins, who published it until May, 1955. Ray E. Thorndyke and Orvilla Thorndyke bought out the Dobbins and served as publishers until August 1971. The new owners, Damon A. Hubbard and Linda Hubbard, suspended the paper in 1973.

Hub #2 January 1, 1975-(?) This weekly was founded by Art Nichols and Joanne Nichols.

Sun 1986-?

Pinon

The Altrurian 1897-1903, a monthly published in Denver by the Directors of the Colorado Co-Operative Colony and distributed in Pinon.

Redvale

Naturia Valley Record 1909-1917. Lislle Wilson published this weekly.

CHAPTER XLVI

MORGAN COUNTY

The early history of Morgan County is the history of the development of irrigation in eastern Colorado, and the abundant crops that now flourish there stand as a monument to the imagination and enterprise of the pioneers who could visualize barren prairies as fertile, productive fields... the county owes its present status to the resourcefulness and courage of its settlers rather than to the bounty of nature....

Only a few scattered frontiersmen followed the vague trail through the buffalo grass of eastern Colorado, but in the year 1849, wagon wheels wore deep ruts in the arid soil as eager gold seekers swept across the prairie toward the land of promise.

Hardship and Indians took their toll, and some of the pioneers found a last resting place beneath the soil, but those who survived gave no thought to the wealth to be taken from that soil, so engrossed were they with the lurid tales of fortunes to be had for the taking farther West...Gold fever subsided but still the arid plains of eastern Colorado were deemed useful only as a stamping ground for buffalo.

Robert Stapp, *Who's Who in Colorado* 1938

Then a strange thing happened. In 1864 a trader driving an ox team to Denver was overtaken by an early winter storm. He unhitched the oxen and left them to starve while he rode horseback to Denver. In the spring he returned to salvage supplies. Lo and behold, there were the oxen, in better shape than before. The grazing industry in eastern Colorado was born.

The Overland Trail had a cut off near Fort Morgan for Denver and the gold fields, and was well known to western travelers. The Indians did not take kindly to the heavy traffic. They followed the wagons and to straggle away or fall behind could be death to a white man. As more emigrants intruded, hostilities escalated, until the government

found it necessary to establish forts along the way for the protection of its citizens and the mail.

In the summer of 1864 a sod fort was erected and manned by a troop of "Galvanized Yankees," Confederate prisoners of war who donned the Yankee uniform in exchange for freedom. Prior to the end of the Civil War they were sent west for duty against the Indians. The fort was called Camp Tyler but as it quickly grew into a sizable group of adobe houses and barracks, enclosed by a stockade, the name was changed to Camp Wardwell. It was said to be the largest post on the South Platte River--about the size of a city block--with a regiment, a battery of guns and 500 souls.

The name was changed again in 1866 to honor a former "printer" whose Civil War record has been of the brightest and purest character. Colonel Christopher A. Morgan, born in Ohio, was the son of one of the founders of the *Cincinnati Gazette*. He remained in the Army after the war and in January 1866, when he was serving as an inspector-general, he was asphyxiated when the pilot light on the gas stove in his bedroom went out and died. It is doubtful that Col. Morgan ever set foot anywhere near the county, and town, which bear his name. Nobody knows who proposed his name, or why, for Fort Morgan.

With some military protection, immigrants began settling in the area. Many of them were from Iowa farms, looking for greener pastures. Cattle and sugar beets were the linchpins of Morgan County's economy. John Wesley Iliff was the first and foremost of the South Platte cattle barons. Jared Lemar Brush was not far behind. The Burlington

Railway, which laid track east from Denver through the county in 1882, promoted settlement through its Lincoln Land Company and its "Homeseeker's Excursions."

In the 1950s there was a new economic prospect: oil. Like the prospectors a century before, oilmen poured in. Unlike primitive 1859, there was more at stake for an old settled area. The oil industry was nice to have, but the costly side effects for additional schools, county services, and highway upkeep tempered some of the excitement.

Morgan County was one of the last six counties of the northeast corner of Colorado to be sundered from Weld County in 1889.

Brush

"What shall we call the place?" telegraphed a station agent in 1881, asking about the lone shipping corral on the prairie.

"Name it after that big cattleman who ships out of there," came the answer--so the place was called "Brush" after Jared L. Brush, one of the most esteemed and influential cattle and landowners in Weld County.

Brush Lariat, 1884

Brush was known as Beaver Creek to cattlemen who used the site as a shipping point on the Texas-Montana trail. The Burlington railroad laid tracks for the shipping in 1882 when the town was established. It was incorporated two years later, and one of the first orders of business was to set a speed limit for horses. Danish immigrants brought in for a harvest in 1889 decided to put down roots in Brush.

Life in Brush centered around the demanding fields of agriculture, leading a 1916 editor to grumble that Brush was "the only town in Eastern Colorado that has not had a day of amusement in two years." The town eventually got an all-purpose park--dedicated after harvest.

First the Indians, then the cowboys, then the newspaper...No single element has had a greater share in making our country what it is than the little one-horse pioneer newspaper....

Edward Madison, *Brush Tribune* 1906

William Holmes came from Greeley to Brush to start the first newspaper. He came by train and wagon, and after fording the river, he concluded that "A bridge at this point is a necessity." But it was worth it when he saw Brush "*rise up before us over a well-traveled road, and we feel we are at home.*"

Lariat May 10, 1884-May 2, 1890, William Holmes, founder, under the "management" of Jared L. Brush. Despite Holmes' good feeling about the new town, the *Lariat* survived only a year. It was a few years before Brush had another paper:

Morgan County Eagle 1889-1890, Elmer Condit, founder. It was moved to Fort Morgan.

The first lasting newspaper was the:

Brush Mirror 1896-January 1899, W.E. Smith, founder. He moved a printing plant from Akron to Brush. The *Mirror* is the ancestor of today's *Brush News-Tribune*.

W. Ebert Smith was a banker and mayor. He did not stay in the newspaper

business. Samuel A. Smith bought the paper late in 1896, although the Rowell newspaper directory still lists W.E. Smith as publisher in 1898.

The foreman for Samuel Smith was E.H. Madison, who joined the paper in 1898 and bought the *Mirror* in 1899. Edward H. Madison was born in Illinois, where he learned the printer's trade. He worked first in Fort Morgan, where he was briefly co-owner of the *Fort Morgan Times* before buying the *Brush Mirror* which he renamed the:

Brush Tribune February 3, 1899-April 1, 1943. In addition to the *Tribune*, Madison acquired a wife: Samuel Smith's daughter Hattie. It was a team that lasted for the next 20 years. 'Ed,' as he was known to his friends, handled news, advertising and editorials; Hattie was society and local editor. She also was of invaluable assistance in the mechanical department.

Danish immigrants in Brush had a monthly publication called *Phoebe* (meaning "Messenger"), which was printed by the *Tribune*, using "old Danish script." Madison didn't know Danish but the Rev. Jens Madsen helped with the typesetting. Each learned from the other, language and printing.

Evelyn Dortch had pleasant memories of growing up in the newspaper office and wrote about them:

My pre-school education was balanced between my mother's piano and the Tribune office--the smell of which can be recalled instantly--that heady perfume of new paper, machine oil, dust, fresh ink and tobacco smoke. Modern newspapers, with their quick, sleek new methods, have lost that heavenly aroma. When I ran off, as I did steadily during my fourth and fifth years, it was invariably to the Tribune I ran--and to my father whom I regarded as a dweller on Olympus.

Mrs. Dortch also had a "job" when she was six, helping with the outgoing mail. It was her job to neatly fold the correct number of papers for outlying towns. After piling them, she would "place a short plank across the pile and sit on it for several minutes to 'pack them down' to neat mailing-package size." Her father called her his "press."

Schmidt was listed as publisher until 1936 and editor to 1937. He was a state representative 1934-1936, and mayor of Brush. With her husband busy holding office, Mrs. Schmidt (Ida) became publisher about 1936 and remained so until she sold the paper in 1943. Raleigh Wilson was editor and/or manager of the *Tribune* from the early thirties until 1941.

The *Tribune* went semi-weekly in 1924 but reverted to weekly in 1941. Charles Bryan leased the paper in the early 1940s. Don M. McCarty, owner of the *Brush News*, bought the *Tribune* in 1943 and merged the two papers into the **Brush News-Tribune**.

Morgan County Republican September 1901-1925, J.M. Stuart, founder. Madison thought it "calamitous that a town of less than 1,000 should attempt to support two newspapers. Nevertheless both editors struggled along and made the grade," said Mrs. Dortch.

J.M. Stuart owned several Colorado newspapers. *Colorado Press* reported in 1914 that John M. Stuart (Jack) was editor and manager of the *Alamosa Journal*, recently connected with the Denver *Colorado Progressive*, and formerly publisher of the *Alamosa Courier*. "When Jack puts on the gloves in a newspaper combat they are always the very light weight variety," commented *Colorado Press*.

L.C. McCracken was editor 1901-1906. H.G. Nelson, H.L. Hildreth, J.D. Epperson and W.E. Epperson bought the paper from McCracken, who remained editor. David Payne Saunders, an experienced newspaperman from New York, came on the scene in 1906, when he and Thomas Adams bought the *Republican*. Saunders worked at both the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post* before settling down in Brush. A large man with a head of flaming hair, his nickname was "Red." To Ed Madison he was "The Big Red Rooster in the Little Green Coop on the Alley."

Saunders was "stiff competition" for the *Tribune*, said Mrs. Dortch. Totally opposite in temperament and physical appearance, the two publishers "for years kept the Brushites amused with a cross-fire of editorial criticism. Underneath, however, [the two] were understanding friends with a sincere respect for one another's differences."

Saunders was a popular editor, active in the press association, and, in 1916, a candidate for governor on the Prohibition Ticket. He didn't get enough votes to be mentioned in the official election returns. He was appointed postmaster in 1921 and sold the paper. When Red Saunders died in February 1934, *Colorado Editor* called him a "picturesque figure" who had livened Colorado's journalistic world.

Omar Henderson purchased the *Republican* in December 1925. He changed the name to:

Brush News November 1925-March 25, 1943. Described as "a dynamic newspaperman with a flare for the dramatic," he did well by the *News*. Raleigh Wilson,

former editor/publisher of the *Eckley Tribune*, was manager from the fall of 1931 to August 1932. He was replaced by Frank Terriere.

Charles Otto Unfug, who had wide, if not lengthy, experience in newspapers, bought the *News* in 1931. Unfug was one of the "three distinguished gentlemen" to whom James Michener dedicated his best-selling book "*Centennial*." The dedication to Unfug credited him with teaching Michener about cattle. Unfug was publisher of the *Sterling Democrat* at the same time he owned the *Brush News*. He lived in Sterling, leaving the *News* in the hands of editors. Long active in Colorado Press Association activities, Unfug was president of the group in 1939. He died in Sterling in 1973.

Chester E. Clark, a University of Michigan journalism graduate with "wide experience," took over the *News* July 4, 1935, according to *Colorado Editor*. Clark had been associated with Campbell-Ewald Advertising in Detroit, Associated Press and several daily newspapers. Don M. McCarty bought a half-interest in the *News* in March 1937; he bought the other half in 1940, and in April 1943 he bought the *Tribune* and merged the two papers to:

Brush News-Tribune April 8, 1943 to present. McCarty, a University of Wyoming journalism graduate, had worked for the *Fort Collins Express-Courier* and the United Press for eight years. For 12 years, while he was owner of the Brush paper, McCarty also was co-publisher of the *Fort Morgan Herald* and associate publisher of a paper in Taos, New Mexico.

McCarty retired and sold the *News-Tribune* in July 1968 to Ann Maher, publisher of several Kansas newspapers. Her nephew, Mike Fisher, also a Kansas journalist, was editor and publisher of the *News-Tribune*. Miss Maher died in 1972 and ownership went to Fisher and to Mr. and Mrs. George Fisher. McCarty re-acquired the paper in 1976 as a member of a corporation composed of McCarty and his wife, daughter Sharon, and Sharon's husband, James Bzdek. A tabloid companion paper, *Brush Country*, was started in 1979. The *News-Tribune* was sold again in December 1988 to Sterling Publishing Co., a division of American Publishing Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of Hollinger, Inc. of Toronto, Canada. The APC group of newspapers in 1988 included 140 publications, including Brush, Fort Morgan and Sterling papers.

Dave Graves, a Brush native who returned home after going to the University of Northern Colorado to join the staff, was named publisher. Graves wrote a biography of Jared Brush. Darlene Doan has been publisher/editor since 1991. Garden States Newspapers, a subsidiary of the company that owns the *Denver Post*, purchased the paper in April 1996.

Morgan County Eagle 1889-1890, Elmer G. Condit, founder. The paper was moved to Fort Morgan.

Swenson's Weekly 1926-1927, Joseph M. Swenson, publisher; James J. Wier, editor.

Brush Banner May 28, 1975-December 1987, founded by Centennial Publishing, Dane Edwards, editor/publisher until January 1976. He was succeeded by Drusylla

Georgeson. The paper was free circulation. Centennial Publishing was composed of five businessmen: including Earl Georgeson, Ron Stalling, Dr. Willard Mees, Dean Mullen and Steve Vogel. Mr. and Mrs. Dane Edwards were the managers. As others have found, "ownership by committee" didn't work very well. Edwards and his wife "lost interest" and Georgeson bought the paper. Somewhere along the line, the name was changed to:

Morgan County Banner. The owners, G-Z Broadcasting Inc., filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in December 1988.

Fort Morgan

With two great railways at its door and the Platte river flowing along its boundary, it is destined to become one of the important towns of Northern Colorado. Irrigation appears on a magnificent scale here where one finds the most extensive canals in the State.

Ralph Meeker, *Greeley Tribune* 1884

Abner Baker, who had already started construction, filed the plat for the town in May 1884. He lured the Burlington railroad's subsidiary, the Lincoln Land Co., to town by giving them half the town lots to build on. The land company laid out the town at Baker's direction, and acquired additional land from the government as the railroad tracks were laid. The railroad siding and station were completed by fall. At one point in the early years, Abner Baker owned the entire town, according to the *Fort Morgan Times*.

Fort Morgan was incorporated in May 1887, and two months later the first election was held in George Warner's office in the Clatworthy building. The 1888 town budget was \$900. Morgan became county seat in 1889. At Abner Baker's insistence, Fort Morgan did not have saloons, and the original deeds, perhaps emulating Greeley's, prohibited the sale of "intoxicants." That rule remained in effect until the 1950s.

Two things happened as the town neared its fortieth year: the Great Depression hit and the sugar beets froze in their fields, resulting in "one of the most devastating impacts on the economic well being of Fort Morgan that any catastrophe could have," said the *Times*. Farm prices dropped, foreclosures were common and the weather alternated between drought and flood. There were rabbit and grasshopper invasions. The *Fort Morgan Times* Centennial Edition ran an astonishing photo of thousands of dead rabbits piled up.

Fort Morgan's newspaper history is older than the county, and centers on the first newspaper to serve the community and the three-generation family that has published it since 1907.

Fort Morgan Times September 4, 1884 to present, L.C. Baker and G.W. Warner, founders. It began as a weekly and became a daily in 1908.

Lyman Coe Baker and George Wyllys Warner were among the founders of Fort Morgan. Baker, who began as a printer at the age of sixteen, had been with the *Greeley Tribune* as foreman of the mechanical department.

Baker and Warner put the first paper together in Baker's coal shanty. The first issue carried the editorial opinion that Fort Morgan's prosperity would "amply support the *Times*." It took several years before they could count on any such ample support. Although the editors stated it would not be the organ of any party, within a few years they changed their minds and said it would "have strong Republican" stands, a position which lasted for years. In an unusually candid statement, the publishers concluded: "The *Times* will be run for our own amusement and the general enlargement of the firm's pocketbook."

Baker sold an interest in the paper to Lute H. Johnson, and the two men formed a partnership which lasted for many years. Taking time off for the harvest on his farm-- he was a farmer, livestock-feeder and fruit-grower--Baker left the paper in the hands of the versatile Johnson. Johnson became editor and manager for Baker, the "proprietor." After Johnson had been running the *Times* for a year, Baker wanted it back. Johnson moved on in 1887 and sold his interest in the *Times* to clear his debts. Baker put the paper up for sale. Evidently there were no serious buyers, because a month later it was not for sale and Baker was complaining, "*There is positively no news to fill the paper this week. Everybody is too busy at routine work to create any excitement.*" Later, Lute Johnson was back as one of the proprietors, but he picked up and left again in September 1891. By January 1892 he was proprietor of the *Creede Candle*.

Emil Rettig, another experienced newspaperman and printer from Ohio, bought Johnson's interest in 1892, but lasted only until spring, when John F. Ash replaced him.

Ash's health "enforced a move to Denver" within a couple of months. Baker sold an interest in the *Times* in December 1896 to W.H. Phelps, citing "conflicting farming interests [which] demanded a release on his part of the burdens he had been carrying and so the sale." Phelps promptly sold half his interest to Frank B. Kinyon. Kinyon wrote:

From this date the Times will be conducted as a Populist paper...we enter upon the conduct of this paper in the belief that the Populist Party is the only political organization in this state that can efficiently carry on the fight for bimetallism and against trusts and other forms of corporation greed.

Alas, the Populists were no longer popular in Colorado. E.H. Madison, later of the *Brush Tribune*, operated the printing department with Kinyon. Six months after Kinyon's arrival Baker was back, announcing in the *Times*:

Owing to the sudden departure for parts unknown early in the week of Frank H. Kinyon, for six months past publisher of this paper, the undersigned was called upon in order to protect his interest.

Baker was not only annoyed at having to leave his farm, but he was "enraged" that the paper had "degenerated into an insignificant reprint sheet" and swore to rebuild it. Baker stayed until April 1899 before leasing the paper to Fay E. Williams, a man he called "a hustler for news and business." Again Baker announced his retirement, this time for "a condition of health that demands more outdoor exercise." Amazingly,

"Lyme" Baker had endured with the *Times* through 12 changes of ownership and an almost equal number of partners for 20 years.

Six months after he took the *Times* job, Williams left for Wyoming. Bert E. Smith and Clarence J. Lewis were in charge. Lewis hung on for two years before leaving to sink wells that he thought would be more profitable. James A. Ide bought the paper in 1900 and stayed until August 1907, a period in which the paper underwent "substantial growth" and an upgrading of the mechanical equipment. Ide published a weekly colored supplement in 1906.

Ide was a crusading editor, advocating the development of sugar beets, the establishment of an electric light plant, sewage and water systems, and cement sidewalks. Shortly before Ide left the *Times, Ranch and Range* said of him:

Editor Ide is one of those broad-minded, enterprising, hospitable men that are so seldom found in a country newspaper office....He is among the few editors who are raising the standard of country journalism....He championed the beet sugar factory cause and pushed it so energetically that within a few months the drowsily inclined of the peaceful town of Fort Morgan in the valley of Platte, will be awakened from their beauty slumbers by the shrill whistle of the great beet sugar factory calling its army of employees to work...there are few large enterprises in the town which cannot trace their origin back to the fertile brain of Editor Ide.

Then, in mid-summer 1907, the train steamed into town with a man aboard whose name is still synonymous with the *Fort Morgan Times*. Robert B. Spencer and his

wife planned to settle down in Fort Morgan. Spencer first tried to buy a bank but there wasn't one for sale. He stopped by the paper to ask if it were for sale, and Ide named a price: \$8,000. Spencer bought. He announced immediately that "We want to accommodate the people and want to know them." To do that, he began making house-to-house calls not only in Fort Morgan but in the surrounding country. In four months he visited every home in the county. In 1908 he built a new building for the paper. He added a daily *Evening Times*. The weekly continued until 1928, providing a weekly summary of news, a common practice of daily papers for many years.

Spencer, a former "poorly paid superintendent of schools" in Iowa, focused on promotion of business and the school system, and news that would make the *Times* Morgan County's finest. During his tenure the *Times* did not run liquor or cigarette ads. Even though there were "distressing times" the ads were not run and the potential revenue was sacrificed for principle. With the exception of a period from 1908 to 1910 when O.E. Copeland was a partner, R.B. Spencer was owner of the *Times* for 58 years.

Spencer accentuated the positive and all but eliminated the negative in the *Times'* columns. It didn't take long for Spencer to gain the town's respect--in 1910 he was elected mayor. Through the years he devoted much time, energy, money and ideas to public service and civic projects. He was on the Chamber of Commerce board for 43 years.

He started his son, Robert Wellington (Bob) Spencer, in the business early, putting him to work sweeping, cleaning, and carrying "every paper route in town at one

time or another." Bob was named editor of the Fort Morgan High School yearbook in 1925 when he was a junior. After graduating from the University of Colorado with a journalism degree, he returned home just as his father was struggling with a special edition. Without unpacking, Bob pitched in to help. He's still there.

The Depression years hit the town and paper. One Saturday there was only one ad in the paper, so the staff was cut to two: the elder and younger Spencers. Bob's wife, Fern, joined them to do the society page. It wasn't until the 1930s that the *Times* hired a full time advertising manager. In 1943 Bob took over as editor, with his father as publisher. Robert Wellington (Bill) Spencer, Jr., joined the staff as editor in 1966.

American Publishing Co. purchased the *Fort Morgan Times* in December 1988. APC, which also bought the Brush and Sterling newspapers that year, made no changes, but Bob Spencer retired from the *Times*. Like his father, he spent 58 years, and a little more, with the family business. Bill Spencer became publisher/editor.

Garden State Newspapers, parent company of the *Denver Post*, bought the *Times*, and five other Colorado newspapers, in April 1996. Bill Muldoon, publisher of the *Sterling Journal-Advocate*, another of the APC newspapers purchased by Garden State, was named publisher of the *Fort Morgan Times* in mid-July 1996. Bill Spencer continued as editor.

Morgan County Eagle 1890-1893, Elmer G. Condit, founder. The paper was started in Brush but moved to Fort Morgan in 1889 because Condit thought the financial rewards would be better. Walter Stewart lists a Mr. Carver with the paper in 1890. Will

C. Ferril, who is remembered more as publisher of the Denver *Rocky Mountain Herald*, and as the father of Tom Ferril, bought Condit's interest in 1891. Just before selling the *Eagle* in 1893 Ferril renamed the paper:

Morgan County Herald, 1893-1959 under two name variations: **Morgan County Herald** to 1939 and:

Fort Morgan Herald 1939-January 19, 1950 and **Morgan County Herald** again 1950-1959. George W. Johnson, later owner of the *Longmont Call*, bought the *Morgan County Herald* from Ferril. Johnson was followed as owner by James Flannigan 1898-1905 and George E. Hosmer 1906-1912. Hosmer, active with Colorado Press Association, went on to head the National Editorial Association. The Herald Printing & Publishing Co. was owner from 1913 to 1924. Wilbur Fisk Stone, whose Colorado history was published in 1918, lists Ballard & Sanford as owners and editors of the *Herald* at that time.

Judge C.W. Ballard sold his interest in the *Herald* in February 1918 to Harry L. Brown, former publisher of the *Yuma Pioneer*. Leigh Sanford and Brown disposed of their interest in the fall of 1921. *Inter-Mountain Press* (IMP) reported the sale but gave no details. In November, there was news that the *Herald*, "which recently changed ownership" was "conducting a circulation contest under the management of Frank Kane." Harry Brown returned to the *Herald* and didn't sell it until April 1923 when he formed the Morgan Printing Company. The *Craig Empire* wished him well and said he "is an artistic printer as well as a level-headed businessman."

Carlton S. Brooks, born in New York City in October 1887, purchased the paper in 1924. One of the editors during Brooks' ownership was Barron B. Beshoar, on the road to his illustrious career as journalist, author and Time-Life bureau chief. Brooks was publisher of the *Herald* until his death in January 1935 at the age of 47. His widow sold the paper in April to Harold H. Smith.

Harold Smith, a University of Kansas graduate, who had been owner of the *Julesburg Grit-Advocate*, was elected president of Colorado Press Association in 1937. He had the foresight to see television as a potential worry for the newspaper business. Before 1937 was out, Smith had resigned from the CPA presidency to take a public relations position with a Colorado chain store.

Ivan P. Gillette bought or leased the paper in 1937. A former University of Colorado student and ad manager for a Kansas travel magazine, Gillette studied Colorado newspapers and found "what he considered outstanding opportunities for community service in Fort Morgan." He later owned a Lakewood paper.

In June 1938, Don McCarty of the *Brush News* and Glenn Prosser bought the *Herald*. McCarty bought Prosser's interest in August 1944. Prosser later bought the *Estes Park Trail*. McCarty changed the newspaper name from *Morgan County Herald* to:

Fort Morgan Herald 1939-June 23, 1950. Ray Madison was editor briefly in 1944, followed by Helen Cudworth 1945-1947 and Rainsford J. Winslow to June 1949. Winslow invented a combination slide rule and calculating device "which many an editor will cherish." *Colorado Editor* explained it in February 1937:

Recognizing the needs of the publishing industry to eliminate waste in typesetting--the numerous advertising corrections, editorial oversight, etc.--engineers, art directors and inventive editors have readied several new types of proportioning rules for the market.

Some of the newly developed gadgets, long sought by ad layout men and type artists, have special application to the men in the editorial departments charged with duties of makeup and copy control.

"There just wasn't such a gadget on the market, so I decided to design one," said Winslow....

The Multi-Rul, the trade name Winslow has given his product, can be used in computing proportions of cuts from photos; it can aid in figuring how many lines of various sizes of type will fit on a page; and it will assist editors and ad men and women in transferring words into type.

It is six and a half inches long and one and a half inches wide, and has an inch, a pica, an agate line and a point scale.

Winslow, who started his journalism training while a member of the 95th Infantry Division, graduated from the University of Denver in journalism in 1936, worked briefly on the Fitzsimons General Hospital newspaper, and joined the *Herald* staff in August 1936.

The Fort Morgan Publishing Co.--Charles E. Mills, Ben J. Sellers and Ruth Sellers--bought the *Herald* in August 1949, selling it January 23, 1950 to Anna Petteys and her son, Robert, owners of the *Sterling Farm Journal*. The Petteys changed the name back to:

Morgan County Herald January 23, 1950-1959. The Petteys launched the "*High Plains Magazine*" in June 1951, with Lowell Rodgers as editor. The magazine was a supplement in the *Fort Morgan Herald* and *Sterling Farm Journal*, two papers owned by the Petteys.

Helen Cudworth, C.W. Maylander and Ruth Graves purchased the *Herald* in June 1952, with Cudworth as editor and Graves as business manager. Maylander sold his interest to his partners in July. Ruth Graves, a Fort Morgan native, had returned home after working for investment firms in Denver and California. Helen Cudworth, a drama major at the University of Colorado, was active in Little Theatre, health and hospital associations, various community activities and with the Fort Morgan radio station at one time. She served as president of Colorado Press Women in 1955, and was one of the first Americans to interview Fidel Castro. She was editor of the *Herald* from 1943-1947, under the tutelage of Glenn Prosser.

The *Herald* was suspended in 1959 and the subscription list sold to the *Fort Morgan Times*.

Morgan County News 1889-1893, founded by E.B. Pettingill. George B. Pickett succeeded Pettingill and appears to have been editor when the paper was suspended.

Platte Valley Gazette existed 1899-1903.

Fort Morgan Catholic Shield, dates unknown. It was "an excellent Catholic publication at Fort Morgan," said *Colorado Press* in February 1916, adding:

Father Juily, who is editor and publisher of the (Our Parish Monthly) attended the [Colorado Press] editorial meeting and was initiated as a full-fledged and welcome member of the Association. He realized his long expressed desire to meet [Gene] Hogue, [Roy] Ray, and the rest of the bunch. His wit and humor at once put him in the good graces of that select coterie of joshers from northern and eastern Colorado, as well as the other members of the association. Red Saunders felt it appropriate to call him "Father Jolly."

Hillrose

An old sod supply station-house was discovered in 1869 by trappers pursuing beaver, otter and mink in the winter, and deer, antelope and buffalo in the summer. Settlers there in the 1880s obtained land through various types of grants, or outright purchases from the state. Among them was the Emerson family, which helped develop the town.

Kathryn Emerson donated 160 acres for establishing the town in 1900 with the stipulation that she could name the town and streets. The Emerson daughter was named Rose, but there already was a post office called Rose Hill in Colorado so the town became Hillrose. The main street was named Emerson and some streets for other Emerson children. There was one newspaper:

Hillrose News dates uncertain. In March 1922 *Inter-Mountain Press* carried this item:

Woody Wester, editor and publisher of the Hillrose News, has disposed of his interest to J.G. Davis, who came to Hillrose from Provo, South Dakota. Wester, who spent but four months in Hillrose, has not announced his plans for the future.

The paper was listed in the Colorado business directory only in 1922, but no names were included.

Hoyt

Established about 1882, the town was named for Dr. James A. Hoyt who was a surveyor--usually for railroads--as well as a doctor. His mother had homesteaded the land that became Hoyt. The town had one brief newspaper.

Hoyt Free Press 1887-1888. G.L. Olds, founder.

Orchard

A small forest of cottonwoods, inviting to travelers who had been coming across parched plains, gave Orchard its name. Hundreds of thousands viewed it a century later as a location for the town in the television miniseries of James Michener's "*Centennial*."

There were no houses or people when Colonel John C. Fremont stopped there on one of his expeditions and gave his name to the original settlement: Fremont's Orchard. The first settlers were cattle ranchers, including J.W. Iliff. The town's first resident was a Frenchman who built a ranch in 1872. The town started in 1881 soon had a depot, water tower and small store owned by the railroad. Later the town was moved about five miles away and "Fremont" was dropped from the name in 1890. Part of the town site was platted by the Union Pacific in 1890 and became a station on the Omaha Short Line.

After the area around Orchard was opened for homesteading in 1909, the town grew quickly. It spurted again in the 1920s from oil activity just to the north, but when

the oil boom ended, Orchard languished. Orchard had two papers, with three titles, during the oil years.

Orchard Organ 1919-1921, H.M. Richeson, founder. It consolidated with the *Wiggins Courier* under the latter name, in Wiggins. Daniel J. Martin, Wiggins publisher, promised to "devote such space as may be necessary to the Orchard district to do justice to its news and advertising possibilities."

H.M. (Mack) Richeson bought Orchard's first store in 1889 and was appointed postmaster, a position he held for more than 25 years. In addition to being postmaster, publisher and outstanding citizen, Richeson was a county commissioner.

Orchard News November 1930-December 1931, M.O. York, founder. York also owned the *Weldona Tribune*. Jesse Jones bought the paper in July, but apparently defaulted because it was York who suspended the *News* in December 1931. Before that, however, Jones gave a dance to the people of Orchard, *Colorado Editor* reported. The *News* was revived in February 1932 by Eber Gardner as:

Orchard Times February 1932-1935. Raleigh Wilson took over the *Times* in December 1932 from Morgan Powell. The plant was owned by Orchard businessmen and the paper was suspended in November 1933. W.H. Bruno had been named editor in June.

The *Times* was revived a month later by W.C. Harris. The *Denver Labor Advocate* said in November 1933, that "*Harris is a long-time member of organized labor and will*

conduct the Times as a community paper with stress on farmer-labor problems." In January 1934, W.L. Culver's name was in the masthead and by April, Royal Young had taken over the paper. H.E. Risley, a Denver newspaper owner, added the *Orchard Times* to his stable in July. *Colorado Editor* noted in August 1934: "It is reported that H.E. Risley has taken over the Orchard Times. This paper sinks, dies and revives so often that it is difficult for the Colorado Editor to keep track of."

Snyder

Cattle King John Wesley Iliff, who reportedly could ride for a week in one direction and never leave his realm, owned 15,000 acres of range and ran cattle over 650,000 acres of the public domain. Iliff came to Colorado with the 1859 gold rush, but within two years he began building a cattle herd, and in 1867 was given the Union Pacific contract to supply beef to construction crews.

A community of cowhands grew up around the corrals. The Union Pacific built a station there, naming it Snyder. It became a major shipping center for Colorado. The Burlington and Missouri railroad, building into Brush and Fort Morgan in 1882, planned its own shipping center and the two new towns eclipsed Snyder. The present town was laid out in 1891 about a quarter mile east of the first site. The town had one--maybe two--newspapers:

Snyder Enterprise 1898-1901, H.E. Nelson, founder.

Morgan County Bulletin 1924. *Inter-Mountain Press* announced in September 1924 that a single mimeographed sheet was being published in Snyder:

The sheet is unsigned, but carries the statement that it is 'brought into existence when needed.' The Bulletin is given over for the most part to political editorial, and is declared to be Republican in politics.

Vallery

Vallery was name for John F. Vallery, a general freight agent for the Burlington Railroad. There was a newspaper:

Vallery Index 1913-1915, listed in Oehlert's newspaper directory, and in the Colorado business directory.

Weldona

Weldona, originally called Weldon after an early settler, became a town in 1886. Ranchers were settling in 1873 and were well established in 1881 when the railroad showed interest in the locale. A canal was built, giving agriculture water for growth. The Union Pacific raised a station in 1885, and the town was laid out the following year. The name was changed to Deuel, but several years later the name Weldon was back, with an "a" tacked on the end to avoid confusion with Walden.

Weldon Valley News February 1907-1918, George B. Hotchkiss, probably founder. *Colorado Press* reported in November 1915 that Hotchkiss sold the paper to J. Ray Logsden. Logsden, in turn, sold the paper to J.J. Perry in 1918. Perry leased it to Albert A. Henning, an employee of the Heinz Pickle Company. Perry sold the paper in

1918 to Robert Spencer of the *Fort Morgan Daily Times*, who suspended the *News* later that year.

Weldon Valley Wonderland 1923-1924, Alma V. Morrison, founder. Her son Paul was manager. Mrs. Morrison had been publisher of the *Wiggins Courier*. She sold the *Weldon Valley Wonderland* in December 1923, when the name was:

Weldona Wonderland. R.P. Matthews, who had been publisher of the *Eckley Tribune*, was the purchaser. It is unclear whether he changed the name or suspended the *Wonderland* and started:

Weldona Tribune 1924-1932. Ayers 1925 directory lists the paper as founded in 1924. Miama O. York, formerly with the *Brush Morgan County Republican* and *Orchard News*, was owner in 1926. York sold the paper to the *Morgan County Herald* in 1932.

Miama O. York, a Wisconsin native, was president of Colorado Press Association in 1932 but did not complete his term. He moved to Denver, where he started the *University Park Herald* in December 1933.

Wiggins

Wiggins, established in 1897, was named for Oliver P. Wiggins, an army scout--chief of scouts during the Civil War--who "made an excellent record in a very useful and dangerous calling," according to historian Frank Hall. Wiggins was an associate of another old army scout, Kit Carson, and was in charge of eating stations along the Overland Trail.

The town with Wiggins' store was a Greeley Colony town a few miles from the present site of Wiggins. One source says it was originally named Vallery, then Corona, and finally Wiggins when Burlington railroad officials moved the Corona post office and the town was renamed Wiggins. The train station didn't catch up with the Wiggins name for ten years. The town consisted of the station and two houses. Homesteaders began arriving and the town was platted in 1889. A newspaper was slow to follow.

Wiggins Courier March 6, 1910--September 29, 1955, Smith R. Clements, founder. He was publisher until 1913 and again from 1924-1926 and 1938-1941. Fred M. Montgomery owned the paper in 1913. *Colorado Press* says A.Z. Stirling, who owned half a dozen Colorado newspapers, bought the *Courier* in September 1914, but leased it to Mr. B. Ross in November. Another source says Robert B. Spencer of Fort Morgan was owner in 1914.

Accounts of the Wiggins Courier in Colorado Press publications sound like a merry-go-round with riders riding double. Ross gave up the lease in May 1915. Gostrup and Kelley were editors and publishers in 1915. D. M. Wogaman was owner in 1916. Anti-German feelings during World War I, which extended to those with Germanic surnames, led Wogaman to change his name to Daniel Martin. Alma Morrison was said to be publisher 1919-1920. She founded and published the *Seibert Settler* from 1907 to 1919 and owned the *Wiggins Courier* from 1919 to 1923. Daniel Martin was publisher from 1920 to 1924.

Clements, who had been working on the *Fort Morgan Times*, returned in 1924. IMP reported in September 1925 that E.R. Little had purchased the *Courier* from Clements and "will try to avoid the Klan rock which split the Clements ship." (The *Fort Morgan Times* said the Klan had "moderate" success with their activities in Morgan County in 1924, but "Every newspaper in the area united against the cross burners, including editorials against acceptance of the group.") C.A. Brown purchased the paper in 1928. An IMP story in 1926 had said that the *Courier* "quit business on account of lack of patronage and community interest." C.A. Brown was editor at that time.

The 1933 editor, L.N. Cagle, caught the town's attention when he published a "newsless newspaper," saying, "The future of the *Courier* lies in the hands of our readers and advertisers." As reported in *Colorado Editor*:

Not one scrap of local news is to be found in the entire sheet--nothing but ads, legals, and ready print. The paper certainly furnishes a striking example of the value of local news to the local advertisers. We hope that it impressed the Courier's merchants as effectively as it did us.

A flood in June 1935 necessitated a move to Fort Morgan, where the *Herald* helped publish the *Courier* until the Wiggins plant was dried out and oiled. Two years later C.A. Brown moved the plant to Fort Morgan and again suspended the paper.

Meanwhile, Smith Clements had started the:

Wiggins Reporter in January 1938. In June he bought the rights to the suspended *Courier* and merged the *Reporter* into a new: **Wiggins Courier #2** January 1938-September 29, 1955. Clements, who seemed to be in good health, dropped dead of a

heart attack while drinking a cup of coffee in a local restaurant May 8, 1941. His widow, Genevieve, became owner of the *Courier* after her husband's death and sold in 1946 to Hallie and Cara MacIvor. The MacIvors sold the paper to Ralph E. Bierbower in May 1951. He discontinued the newspaper in September 1955.

Wiggins Courier #3 March 12, 1987 to present, Dave Reynolds, founder. Reynolds was publisher of the *Keenesburg New News*. The *Courier* covers Wiggins, Weldona, Hoyt, Orchard, Roggen and Byers. In September 1989 the paper settled down in an office in Wiggins.

Special Sources: *Fort Morgan Times*, Centennial Edition 9/4/1984; Bill Spencer, Evelyn Madison Dortch, Sue Spencer. Kent Smith, Jo-An Barnett, and Leslie Bernard, writers.

Special thanks to Bill Spencer and Verna Segelke.

CHAPTER XLVII

OTERO COUNTY

...[In 1833 a fort was completed] by two St. Louis brothers, Charles and William Bent, recently displaced from the Missouri River by the violent trade wars to control its commerce. Here on the borders of a foreign land they found a field for a fresh start. Together with Ceran St. Vrain, a man who knew the Mexicans well, they built a vast mud castle that Mexico came to fear far more than she had its mythical predecessor [Indians]. There was reason. For here was the spearhead of American expansion to the Southwest.

David Lavender, *Bent's Fort*

Bent's Fort was the center of a giant commercial empire for 17 years. It ended in flames in 1849, a smoldering monument to Manifest Destiny. William and Charles Bent and Ceran St. Vrain, partners in a fur trading company, built the Fort along the Santa Fe Trail on the north bank of the Arkansas River. First called Fort William, it was the most important post between Santa Fe and St. Louis. Goods were transported from Missouri to the Fort and beyond to outlets in Santa Fe. The return trip carried goods east from Santa Fe and several Indian tribes.

One visitor in 1839 said, "Fort William [is] impregnable, for the red devils would never dream of scaling the walls," and could garrison as many as 200 men. Indians did attack, steal animals and shoot off a few fatal arrows, but generally the relationship with the Indians was commercial and friendly. Interpreters were needed for the language mix of Sioux, Cheyenne, Ute, Comanche, English, Spanish, and French. A New Orleans journalist rhapsodized in 1840 that Bent's Fort was "a sight such as to strike the

wanderer with the liveliest surprise, as though an air-built castle had dropped to earth...in the midst of the vast desert." Another inspired writer referred to it as "a medieval city gone Wild West."

As the Mexican War approached, Bent's Fort was overrun with soldiers and army wagon trains poised for battle. General Stephen Kearny's Army of the West used the fort as a staging point for the invasion of Mexico. Peering over military shoulders were fortune-seekers who set their own rules for gain, and encroached on Indian lands. Cholera decimated the Indians; those remaining were intractable. The U.S. government found Bent's Fort strategically useful, but Bent found the troops a restraint on his business. He was willing to sell the Fort to the government, but the government wasn't willing to pay the price Bent was asking, and negotiations broke down.

On August 21, 1849, Bent loaded wagons with everything of value in the Fort and moved down river into what is now Bent County. After the wagons had left, the intrepid founder put a torch to remaining gun powder and blew up the Old Fort. Small traders moved into the ruins of Bent's Old Fort, and it later was a stage station and refuge for wagon trains. Today, a recreated Bent's Old Fort, a spellbinding step back in time, is a National Historic Landmark, and a living monument to Colorado's beginnings.

The Indians who had roamed the plains and been William Bent's friends made a treaty with the U.S. government in 1860 and a large tract of land was designated for an Indian Reservation. The area included the present day counties of Cheyenne, Crowley and Kiowa, and parts of Bent, Lincoln, Otero and Prowers. The natives were not

impressed with the agency plans to turn them into farmers. The Indian Reserve ended in 1870 with the creation of Greenwood and Bent counties.

Otero County was formed in 1889 from a western section of Bent County. La Junta was named county seat. The county was named for Miguel Otero, a descendent of an old New Mexican Spanish family, and head of a mercantile firm that opened a branch at La Junta when the railroad arrived. Primarily an agricultural area, Otero County flourished with the criss-cross of canals and ditches, and become famous for fruit--particularly melons--sugar beets, and strong cattle and sheep industries.

Cheraw

Cheraw was established in 1907, and named for a nearby lake whose name is said to be the Indian name for "sparkling waters." It was once called the "Turkey Capital of the West." Cheraw had one of the livelier newspaper histories, if not a very long one.

Cheraw Clarion 1910-1915, C. B. Stewart, founder. Stewart, born in 1842 in Iowa, came to Colorado in 1898, first founding the *Granada Times*. He then moved to Ordway in 1902 to start the *Ordway New Era*, which he later sold to start the *Cheraw Clarion*. The *Clarion* was suspended in the spring of 1915.

Cheraw Citizen 1914-1915. A few months after the *Clarion* folded, a new paper appeared:

Cheraw Advertiser 1915-1916, R.L. Wadleigh, founder.

Cheraw Herald 1916-1924, R.J. Goldsworthy, founder. In January 1920, Goldsworthy, who previously published a Cheyenne Wells paper, decided to sell the paper to T.J. Holmes, formerly editor and publisher of the *Swink Advocate*. In October 1921, T.J. Holmes sold the *Herald* to Dean M. Baker of Ohio. Baker leased the paper in August 1922 to W.E. Pressnall and Harry B. Sherman, "old Rocky Ford men."

Sherman moved on to the *Saguache Crescent*. Arthur Thomas took over the *Herald* in January 1923 under an arrangement with owner D.M. Baker. The Intermountain Press reported:

The new editor announces in his salutatory that most of the people of the district know him "only too well," but for the benefit of those who haven't the honor of his acquaintance, he adds: "I am six feet tall, have blue eyes and long hair. I am 18 years old and a junior in Cheraw high school, but I'm going to run this paper if you will help me."

Thomas didn't last long. By April, Ben G. Whitehead of Edinburg, Texas, was editor and publisher. IMP had this to say about Whitehead in July 1923:

Probably there is no busier man in Colorado than Editor Whitehead who is engaging in a running fight with a coterie of men whom he charges with being unpatriotic, is buying a brand new newspaper press and at the same time is undergoing a series of strenuous treatments for the relief of diabetes. In his fight against the people whom he charges with disloyalty he has the backing of other editors in the valley and apparently of the Ku Klux Klan, which recently presented the school board at Cheraw with a flag, which is to be displayed in the school building.

Whitehead expanded his work in October to inaugurate a monthly publication, apparently in conjunction with the *Herald*, "*The Cactus Spike*." But Whitehead's journalistic style did not sell well. IMP reported in March 1924:

Apparently Ben Gordon Whitehead, who attempted to throw into the columns of the Cheraw Herald all the breezy journalism of a day long past, found no market for his stuff.

The *Ordway New Era* was blunter:

There's a new kind of editor down in Cheraw. The paper came out last week with George F. Gordon's name over the title "Emergency Editor and Publisher." It's like this: The man who had been running the paper "run it into the ground" and the business men, deploring the idea of having a town without a paper, put Gordon, who is also one of the business men, on the job until other arrangements could be made.

IMP reported in November 1924 that Edward B. Ellison and his wife of Pueblo were the new publishers. But the *Herald* did not last into the new year.

Fowler

When the town's first newspaper was founded in 1897:

There were no electric lights in town--street lighting consisted of one coal oil lamp on a downtown corner.

Nobody "listened in" on the telephone.

Ladies wore bustles.

Operations were rare.

Nobody wore white shoes--and nobody wore shoes with the toe protruding, unless the wearer were poverty-stricken. You never saw a woman's leg above her shoe top.

Wheat was 90 cents a bushel. Alfalfa hay was \$3 a ton in the stack.

You never heard of a "Tin Lizzy" or cared about the price of gasoline and pneumatic tires were a joke.

Farmers came to town for their mail.

The milk shake had just come into existence and was a favorite drink.

Fowler Tribune 1947

Originally known as Sibley Siding, the name was changed to Oxford in April 1882 when a post office was opened. The Oxford Ditch irrigated thousands of acres nearby. The name was later changed to Fowler for Professor O.S. Fowler, a phrenologist who made an appearance in the neophyte community, then nothing more than a railroad side track with a small station. The Professor liked the place so much he stayed on to help develop the town until his death a few years later. The surrounding countryside was good farming and stock-raising land.

Fowler Tribune September 17, 1897-February 23, 1900, George P. Devenport, founder. For seven months the paper was printed in Denver, but in less than a year equipment was purchased for the *Tribune* and it started rolling off its own press. The first few years were turbulent ones with changing management.

The handsome Devenport surprised the Fowler nay-sayers with the success of the paper, but he decided he'd rather be in a field that offered a wider range. He moved to Rocky Ford and established the *Tribune* there. Professor F.A. Boggess took over as publisher of the *Fowler Tribune* March 2, 1900, and the newspaper name was changed to:

Fowler News March 2, 1900-December 1901. Boggess' teaching duties intruded on the time he needed to spend with the newspaper, so Devenport returned to the paper--and changed the name back:

Fowler Tribune January 1902 to present. Although he apparently did not own the paper, C.A. Watson succeeded Devenport as editor/publisher until sometime in

1903. Frank B. VanGundy, who had been with the *Rocky Ford Republican*, bought the *Tribune* in 1903.

George W. Smith, formerly of the *Castle Rock Journal*, bought the paper in 1906. He sold the *Tribune* in 1907 and departed for a long run as publisher of the *Routt County Republican*. C.A. Watson returned briefly as owner in 1907, but within the same year Dr. W.H. McDonald purchased the paper and was listed as co-editor and publisher with Everett R. Hall. Dr. McDonald earlier owned the *Rocky Ford Tribune*. C.A. Newton owned the paper 1908-1909, and then the *Tribune* was blessed with a newspaper family which, 86 years later, is still devoted to its publication. Charles William Buck bought the paper December 11, 1909 and was editor and publisher until his death 42 years later.

The Arkansas River unleashed a shattering flood in June 1921, which almost destroyed Pueblo. C.W. Buck joined with G.E. Bicknell of the *Manzanola Sun* to issue an extra--the first newspaper in the area to get out any information on the disaster. The Pueblo newspapers, their equipment buried in mud or washed away, were unable to print. Power lines were down, but Buck and Bicknell found gasoline engines to hook up to a typesetting machine and a press. Bicknell set the type in Manzanola and the paper was printed on the Fowler press on June 6, three days after the flood. Immediately under the newspaper nameplate were the words:

The Fowler Tribune and the Manzanola Sun jointly are the First Papers in the entire Valley since Friday's Flood to Give the News:

"Flood Deals Death"

Five Foot Wall of Water Sweeps Down Arkansas

River Valley, Leaving Wide Path of Ruin in its

Wake--Hundreds of Deaths in Pueblo

Born in Indiana, C.W. Buck remained active on the *Tribune* until just after his seventy-seventh birthday in December 1950. Donald Buck succeeded his father as editor. His column "Dabs Dabbles" was widely quoted throughout the valley. He retired in August 1963 because of emphysema and opened an office supply store. Charles W. Buck, Jr., and his sister, Wilma Buck Gager, succeeded their brother. Olive Buck, Mr. Buck Sr.'s widow, was owner of the paper until her death in 1977, at which time Charles Jr. and Wilma became co-owners.

In April 1996, 86 years after C.W. Buck bought the *Tribune*, there was a new, non-family, owner. Buck's children, Charlie and Wilma Buck Gager, sold the paper to Karren "Sparky" Turner. Turner had been a Fowler resident for 17 years. Her daughter-in-law, Dorothy Sallee, was named editor. Turner's father Ken Clark served as advertising manager and his wife, Betty, as business manager. Ken Clark, a rancher, is a former Colorado State Senator.

Turner sold the *Fowler Tribune* on November 17, 1997, to the La Junta Democrat Publishing Company, owners of the *La Junta Tribune-Democrat* and other southeastern Colorado newspapers. John Lowe, the *Tribune-Democrat* publisher, became publisher of the *Fowler Tribune*. T.V. Hagenah, who had worked on the *Fowler Tribune* for Wilma Gager and Charlie Buck, and more recently handling Fowler news and photographs for the *La Junta Tribune-Democrat*, assumed editorial duties at the *Tribune*.

Fowler Advertiser 1912-1926. W.E. Silvey severed his connection with the *Wiley Journal* in 1914 to take on the *Advertiser*. H.B. Perrine was publisher in 1925. The *Advertiser* folded in 1926.

La Junta

[La Junta is a railroad town. For more than 100 years the newspapers] have chronicled events that make up the life and times of La Junta residents, and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway [which] has had more impact on the social fabric of the town than any other institution or group of people.

David Vickers, *La Junta Tribune-Democrat* 2/24/1997

The point where La Junta would be founded was reached by Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe construction crews in December 1875. By February 16, 1876, tracks were laid and the railroad continued on to Pueblo. The camp was called Otero Station, after the Otero, Sellars and Company located there.

The Santa Fe and the Kansas Pacific railroads turned the small settlement into a place with a large commission and freighting business. There was sizable growth in 1875, but it dropped off a year later when the rival Denver & Rio Grande Railway sheared away the Trinidad and Santa Fe trade, leaving La Junta out of the loop. In 1878 the Kit Carson branch of the Kansas Pacific Railroad was torn up. But the Santa Fe railroad continued to move southward, and made the town its Colorado division headquarters. A new period of temporary prosperity ensued.

Station Agent J.C. Denny, 31 years old, arrived on June 14, 1878. He found a "12x14 foot depot that had been brought from Granada on a flat car; a water tank, and

two old warehouses" that had been used for a commission business in wool. It was a town where "each cowboy had an able-bodied Winchester, as well as a few Colt revolvers on the side, only to show good faith," remembered Denny. In July 1878, the president of the Santa Fe railroad ordered the name Otero changed to La Junta.

Although the town was incorporated in 1881--a movement led by Denny--it wasn't until 1885 that a new influx of settlers from Kansas and adjoining states sparked a steady growth. The Santa Fe moved its train crews to La Junta, helping to make the town a thriving commercial center, with all the trappings of a successful and prosperous community.

La Junta is home to the internationally famous Boy Scout Koshare Dancers, who have introduced southwestern Indian history all over the world. J.R. Thompson of the *Rocky Ford Daily Gazette* was a Koshare dancer, and performed with the group during a press association convention in Southeastern Colorado.

In 1880 I bought an army printing press and started the La Junta Tribune, and I shall always consider this the greatest act of my life while at La Junta, and could consistently say with Horace Greeley, "Put on my tombstone only this. He founded the New York Tribune," changing only the words New York to La Junta. Sometimes one has a right to feel proud--weak and incompetent though he may be, because perhaps, though inadvertently, he builds better than he knows.

J.C. Denny, *La Junta Tribune* 11/27/1907

La Junta Tribune 1880-1939, J.C. Denny, founder. The *Tribune* began as a weekly, progressing to semi-weekly, Wednesdays and Saturdays, February 1895-August 1906, and finally daily.

La Junta Tribune 1939-May 31, 1944, daily. It merged with the *Democrat* to *Tribune-Democrat* (see below.) Some sources, including the *Tribune* itself, have stated the paper began in 1878. If true, it may have been irregularly published until 1880. George Phillips, a later owner, said that Denny suspended the paper at one point, but it was restarted a short time later "by some party whose name seems to have been forgotten."

Nelson H. Bowman took charge of the *Tribune* on September 13 1883, "as he frankly informs us, at the instance of T.J. Hickman and J.C. Jones, holders of the property by mortgage, and for the purpose of boosting his friends into office." Hickman, one of the Colorado '59ers, was a veteran of the Confederate Army. He moved to Las Animas in 1873 and was appointed sheriff. Bowman published the paper on a regular basis every Saturday. In March 1884 he purchased the paper, expanding the *Tribune* plant.

George D. Phillips bought the *Tribune*, plant and subscription list from Bowman in April 1886 for a "temporarily borrowed" \$1,200. With the thought of retiring, Phillips sold the paper to A.J. Johnson, formerly of the *Rosita Sierra Journal*, and W.S. English in July 1887. The retirement was brief. Phillips, re-acquired Johnson's interest in June 1888, was sole owner again in March 1890, and was connected with the paper for nearly 10 years. By October 1890, English was apparently back in the picture, in partnership with E.E. Johnson, but Phillips was back at the helm three months later. In March 1891 he sold an interest to G.S. Thompson, but Phillips was again part owner in

1892. J .F. Thompson had an interest from December 1892 to April 1893. W.S. English was with the *Tribune* as a printer or proprietor from 1887 until at least 1894.

At the time Thompson edited the *Tribune*, ad rates were 25 cents a line for locals, and \$4 per inch for display ads. The newspaper management "was seriously affected by a financial depression." Thompson had an uncommon solution. He rode out to an immense ranch, and told the owner that he "desired to write up the ranch for the *Tribune*." The owner "acquiesced readily and took great pains to display his ranch and stock." A three-column article appeared in the next *Tribune*, describing the ranch and the owner's possessions. Editor Thompson mailed the rancher a copy--along with a bill for \$250. The amount was cheerfully paid.

Phillips and English sold the *Tribune* in December 1894 to A.T. Hunt who "traded places with Mr. C.D. Parks of Unionville, Missouri" in January 1896. It wasn't until 1897 that the *Tribune* got a long-term publisher. Frederick Bane Mason bought an interest on September 1, 1897, and was publisher until his death February 3, 1928. He would later say that "When we took charge of the *Tribune*...it wasn't much of a print shop, nor was La Junta much of a burg."

The *Tribune* firm name was Parks & Mason. Charles Parks left the paper when he was named postmaster in March 1898, and was replaced by H.L. Brown. The firm name was Brown & Mason. Mason became sole owner of the *Tribune* in January 1900, when Harry L. Brown, originally of Carthage, Illinois, bought the *Rocky Ford Republican*.

Mason was active in the press association until his death February 3, 1928, after an illness of six days.

The Sydney Brothers, former owners of the *Julesburg Grit-Advocate*, bought the *Tribune* in November 1928, but sold it a few days later to Joseph Henry Shank. Born in Kansas in 1887, Shank joined the *Tribune* staff in 1919. He was "educated largely thru his own efforts," said *Colorado Editor*. Shank served two terms on the Colorado Press Association board in the early 1930s. He published the *Tribune* until February 1937, leaving La Junta to become a court reporter in Pueblo.

Charles E. Nelson, who had been the *Tribune's* advertising manager for seven years, bought the paper from Shank. An Ohio native and retired army officer, Nelson was a founder of Sun Engraving, which had offices and a plant on the second floor of the *Tribune* building at the time he became owner. Under his direction the *Tribune* won a National Editorial Association award for general excellence as a weekly newspaper.

In September 1939 the *Tribune* bought the *La Junta News* and merged it out. W.A. Girch, owner of the *News*, and Nelson were co-publishers of the merged paper, which became a morning daily, with Associated Press wire service, on October 12, 1939. It switched to an afternoon daily in 1940, still under the *Tribune* name. The *Tribune* was purchased and merged by Ralph L. Wheeler of the *La Junta Daily Democrat* as the *Tribune-Democrat* June 1, 1944.

The *Democrat* half of *Tribune-Democrat* began as:

Otero County Democrat 1889-1920, Harry V. Alexander, founder; weekly. A notice in the *La Junta Tribune* November 30, 1889, announced that the "*Otero County Democrat* came out with a new heading," suggesting it may have been issued earlier, which is confirmed by its 1889 Colorado Business Directory listing.

Daily Democrat February 1, 1897-May 29, 1944, Marion R. McCauley, Proprietor. As with the *Tribune*, a variety of founding dates are given in various sources. The earliest is the Colorado Business Directory, which lists the *Otero County Democrat* in 1890 with Alexander, and again in 1892 with Charles L. Kiser. It lists a "*Daily Democrat*" in 1893, with Craig & Fritter. This is the earliest mention of a daily.

Owners included Charles L. Kiser 1891-1892; F.D. Craig 1893; and "Messers Burnett, Woodson & Fagan" 1894-1897. Mr. Burnett was said to have published a "prominent third party newspaper on the West Coast." Hunter Woodson had "conducted one of the brightest republican papers in New Mexico." Fagan was head of the mechanical department. The trio started the *Daily Democrat*.

Marion R. McCauley, formerly owner of the *Las Animas Bent County Democrat*, was the first long-term publisher of the weekly *Otero County Democrat* and the *Daily Democrat*. He was the first proprietor from 1897-1900. Burnett and Fagan returned 1900-1902, but McCauley was back 1903-1920. James A. Sevitz was editor/manager 1915-1940.

McCauley was on the Executive Committee of a typographical union organized in March 1914 by 17 printers from La Junta and Rocky Ford. Sevitz, who entered the

newspaper business at the age of 16 in Ohio, had been owner of the Manitou newspaper. He arrived in La Junta in the spring of 1914, taking over the paper a few weeks later from M.R. McCauley, who was appointed postmaster. The La Junta Democrat Publishing Company was incorporated in March 1914 for the purpose of editing, printing and publishing the Daily and Weekly *Democrat*. McCauley, his wife Nelle, and Sevitz were the directors.

Sevitz became a stockholder in the Democrat Publishing Company sometime between 1914-1919; after that he was vice president, editor or associate editor. McCauley and his wife resigned as stockholders in September 1919, and sold the *Otero County Free Press* to the La Junta Democrat Publishing Company.

La Junta Free Press 1909-1911, I.B. Johnson, founder; changed name to:

Otero County Press 1911-1919, merged with *Democrat* (above). Irving Johnson was still with the paper in 1918. Johnson was co-publisher of the *Free Press*, and part owner of the *Democrat*. He died in Pueblo in 1951 at the age of 81.

Otero County Democrat-Press 1919-1924, weekly. A listing appears in the 1925 Ayer, so it probably was absorbed into the daily in late 1924. James B. Pearce evidently bought out the interests of the seven "prominent people" in the Democrat Publishing Company before 1921. He had controlling interest until 1937, when he sold the paper to Ralph Wheeler, and retired. Maurice B. (Jerry) Sheridan arrived in late 1937 or early 1938, and bought a minority interest in the paper.

Sevitz and Sheridan were associate editors from 1938 to late 1945, although Sheridan left in 1942 for military service. Sheridan was later owner of the *Pagosa Springs Sun*. Sevitz, who had been co-owner of the Manitou Springs *Pikes Peak Journal* from 1907-1914, put in a total of 58 years in the newspaper business. Ralph Wheeler bought the *La Junta Tribune* in June 1944 and merged it with the *Daily Democrat*. The name became:

La Junta Tribune-Democrat June 1, 1944 to present. Continuing as editor, Wheeler promised "a larger and more complete daily newspaper." Originally from Indiana, Ralph R. Wheeler was publisher of an Indiana newspaper, and served with Scripps-Howard for ten years before coming to La Junta in 1937. During World War I he served in the Marine Corps, and was awarded the Croix de Guerre. Asthma, complicated by a heart ailment, caused his death in August 1945 at the age of 45.

After Ralph Wheeler died, his wife, Opal, who had a journalism degree from Indiana University, took over the paper. She sold the paper in May 1946 to Aley H. (Al) Burtis and his nephew G. Spencer Burtis. A pioneer in newspaper production methods, Al Burtis formed Valley Offset, Inc. as a central press for newspapers in the Arkansas Valley. The *Tribune* and *Rocky Ford Daily Gazette* became the first daily newspapers produced by offset printing in Colorado.

Al Burtis was publisher 1946-1966, and editor from 1946 until his death in 1987. Spencer Burtis, Al's nephew, was publisher from 1966 until his retirement in 1985. Al's son E. Mack Burtis, who went to work for the paper in 1974 when he retired from the

U.S. Navy, was editor when his father died, and became publisher when Spencer retired in 1985. Over the years Mack was "reporter, business manager, sports editor, editorial page editor and general manager." The name Burtis had been in the masthead for 49 years.

A third generation joined the paper in 1981. John Burtis Lowe, son of Al Burtis' daughter Betty and her husband Jack Lowe, came aboard. John Lowe started as a pressman and worked at various times in the circulation, payroll and composition departments. In 1984 he moved into advertising, and was named business manager in 1989. John Burtis Lowe's wife, Wanda Lowe, joined the staff in 1982. Since 1988 she has written features, society and general news. She was named editor in September 1994.

La Junta Times 1894-December 1897, James B. Pearce and John A. Martin, founders. The two men were vital in the development of southeastern Colorado. The paper was Republican. The *Times* merged with the *Rocky Ford Republican* to the *Rocky Ford Times-Republican* in December 1897.

La Junta News 1928-1939. *Colorado Editor* mentions the 1928 start of the paper without naming a founder, but says that it "was soon taken over by M.R. McCauley, a pioneer newspaperman," who guided the *News* for almost its entire life. He retired in 1937, and was succeeded by W.A. Girch in 1937. The paper is listed in the Colorado business directories as:

La Junta Merchants Trading News 1931 to 1939 and as **La Junta Shopper** in 1941. The *News* was suspended in September 1939, when it merged with the *Tribune*. Girch and Charles E. Nelson were co-publishers of the merged paper.

Arkansas Valley Journal February 1949-September 6, 1996, James W. Martin founder. The *Journal* was founded in Rocky Ford in 1945 by Martin, who also owned the *Rocky Ford Gazette*, according to *Colorado Editor*.

Milton H. Booth purchased controlling interest in October 1950, although Martin retained a substantial financial interest. Booth published it in Rocky Ford, using the *Rocky Ford Gazette* presses, and then moved it to La Junta in 1952. Another source says the Booths moved it to La Junta June 22, 1950. Robert Ellis of Pueblo also owned an interest. Ellis is said to have persuaded Booth to take over the paper.

Daniel R. Hyatt and Dwight Sechrist Jr. purchased the capital stock of the paper from Milton H. Booth and Robert D. Ellis on April 1, 1977. Hyatt, who joined the *Journal* staff in 1972, had been a reporter, production manager and managing editor of the paper. Sechrist, a vocational education instructor at Otero Junior College for nine years, had joined the *Journal* staff in 1972 as advertising manager.

In the fall of 1996, the *Arkansas Valley Journal* name was changed to:

Ag Journal September 6, 1996 to present, Daniel Hyatt, owner, Pat R. Ptolemy, publisher. Ptolemy joined the paper as general manager after Sechrist left. The

announcement of the new name was made at the Colorado State Fair on August 30 at a reception.

Anciano 1882-1889, Rev. J.J. Gilchrist, founder; semimonthly. (There were papers of the same name in Alamosa, Akron and Del Norte about the same time.)

La Junta Derrick 1887-1889, A.J. Lemoreaux, founder.

Otero County Eagle September 1, 1889-June 27, 1890, C.L. Seeley and E.E. Hood, founders; continued as:

Otero County Republican #1 July 11, 1890-1891, George Henry.

Otero County Republican #2 September 1901-1907, A.N. Daily, publisher.

La Junta Watermelon 1890-1895, T.B. Wilson, publisher; weekly.

Watermelon 1894-1895, either a companion daily to the above, or the weekly converted to daily publication.

La Junta Advertiser 1893-1894 daily/weekly, merged with *Forum*. An 1893 *Tribune* story said the *Advertiser* was published by a "syndicate" under the name La Junta Publishing Co.

La Junta Forum 1893-1894, semiweekly; merged with *Advertiser* to:

La Junta Advertiser-Forum 1894-1895, daily/weekly.

La Junta Call 1893-1894, L.W. Beach, founder. It was founded as the daily *Morning Call*, but cut back to weekly.

La Junta Graphic 1894-1896, daily/weekly; Merritt Springer, publisher.

Megaphone 1913-1915 Thomas L. Cate, founder; an African-American paper that moved to Pueblo, according to *Inter-Mountain Press*. Cate was in military service during World War I and started the *Pueblo Rising Sun* when he returned. Anne Thompson tells of a black settlement south of Manzanola homesteaded by former slaves who had moved to Otero County from a Kansas town populated primarily by blacks. Some of their descendants still live in the area.

Arkansas Valley Empire 1914-1915.

Industrial Review 1922-1925, Clyde Frazee, founder. The *Fowler Tribune* reported in October 1924 that Frazee, formerly of Swink, had "mysteriously disappeared on Sept. 18, his whereabouts and his reason for leaving being alike unknown."

Otero County Star 1922-1926. *Inter-Mountain Press*, February 1925, reported that L.T. Stanley "has begun the publication at La Junta of the *Otero County Star*, in which is included the late *Industrial Review*."

Otero County Herald May 11, 1950-?, Jack Compton.

Otero Transcript 1947-?, a free weekly listed by Stewart.

Manzanola

Manzanola was settled in 1869 by two stockmen and a grocer. Originally called Catlin, it was platted in 1891, and the name changed to Manzanola--Spanish for red apple--in 1900. The Catlin Canal still irrigates the region.

Colorado Fruit Grower 1894-1896; H.A. Warner, publisher, George D. Warner, editor; merged with *Rocky Ford Gazette*.

Manzanola News 1897-1900, Ernest C. Wilson editor/publisher.

Manzanola Sun March 1901-1965; John W. Bowman, founder. Succeeding editors were Frank Hays Jr. December 1903-1907; Henry Judson Woodbury 1907-1912; Holeman Pastor/Union Publishing 1913-1914; George E. Bicknell 1914-1947; Albert A. Pangborn 1947-July 1948; Roy A. Williams 1948-1950; Dennis Beaver 1950-April 1954, and George F. Pavitt 1954-1965. *The Sun* was discontinued in December 1965.

Manzanola Times late 1965, Joe Owens founder, is listed by Stewart. It apparently did not last long.

Rocky Ford

In 1868 a trading store was established on the Arkansas River 45 miles above Las Animas by A. Russell. He sold an interest in the store to George W. Swink in 1870, and the firm of Russell & Swink thrived from the start. The company received a mail contract and the trading post became a "general rendezvous" for a wide area. When the Santa Fe railroad built into town, the post office was transferred to the railroad station. The

trading post moved with it, and in 1877 Russell and Swink commenced laying out a town. It is said that the original riverbank site was called the "Rocky Ford" by Kit Carson.

By 1890 a canning factory provided jobs and filled as many as 10,000 cans daily with local produce. George W. Swink encouraged farmers to raise watermelons, and proposed "Watermelon Day," which has become a sizeable annual event. Swink, the first mayor, also championed the sugar beet industry, was a state senator and gave his name to the town of Swink, established in 1900.

Rocky Ford Enterprise June 1, 1887-March 17, 1950, Harry V. Alexander, founder; semi-weekly/weekly. David W. Barkley became owner in 1890, but sold almost immediately to Richard C. Herrick, who was editor/publisher until 1895. Barkley bought the paper back in August 1893 and remained editor/publisher until 1907. Merritt Springer was editor 1893-1895.

Canadian Will R. Monkman bought the paper in March 1907 and published it for 38 years. His wife and daughter, both named Frances, worked with him. The daughter Frances graduated from the University of Denver and planned to teach, but because of rheumatoid arthritis--treated by bed rest at the time--she couldn't teach, and returned to Rocky Ford. A later publisher, Miles Porter, hired her to write society, club and personal news. She stayed on when the Thompsons bought the paper.

James B. Woody, formerly of the *Walsenburg World*, *Walsenburg World-Independent*, and *La Veta Advertiser*, took over the management and ownership of the *Enterprise* in April 1944. His brother, Jacob, had a half-interest later that year, until

1948. In 1947 the two, along with Maurice Whitney, bought and merged in the *Rocky Ford Tribune*.

James Woody sold the paper to Miles F. Porter III of the *Rocky Ford Gazette* in 1950. Porter merged out the *Enterprise*. Woody became foreman and floorman for the *Hugo Plainsman*. Jacob Woody sold his interest to Maurice D. Whitney, who perfected an engraving-making process that cut production time to a few minutes. After selling the *Enterprise* he moved to Colorado Springs and continued working on the engraving process. It was never a financial success.

Rocky Ford Republican #2 June 1895-December 30, 1897, Merritt E. Springer, founder. In 1896 be bought and merged in the *Manzanola Fruit Grower*. Springer sold the paper to Frank B. VanGundy in 1897. VanGundy bought and merged in the *La Junta Times* in January 1898, and the name was changed to:

Times-Republican January 7, 1898-June 15, 1900. Van Gundy sold the paper in January 1900 to Harry L. Brown. Merritt Springer bought the paper back six months later and immediately changed the name back to:

Rocky Ford Republican 1900-1901. It began publishing daily. The Gazette Publishing Company, C.V. Kinney, owner, bought the paper in March 1901 and changed the name to:

Rocky Ford Gazette March 1901-February 1909. Kinney wrote often-quoted articles under the pseudonym "Kinnikinick." He sold the paper in November 1905 to

W.H. Butterfield, former owner of the *Rocky Ford Tribune*. Butterfield sold an interest to J.W. Sherman in January 1906, but bought him out and dissolved the partnership a year later.

Butterfield built up the paper "to the largest circulation in the county, official paper of the City of Rocky Ford and the County." But, like many printers, he got itchy feet and left Rocky Ford and the newspaper business.

In 1907, the *Gazette* began issuing a supplement farm magazine:

Western Farm Journal January 1907 for an undetermined period.

John Frazer bought the *Gazette* from Butterfield in April 1907. Apparently Butterfield repossessed it in August 1908, and was able to sell it again in November 1908 to J.B. Johnston. The *Gazette* went from being politically independent to "mildly Democratic," says Walter Stewart. Johnston suspended the *Gazette* in February 1909.

About this time the younger son of Westcliffe's Alexander Lacy, John Brooks Lacy, who had been publishing the *Wet Mountain Tribune* since his father's death, was looking for a new paper. He found it in Rocky Ford. He and F.A. Disbrow "resurrected" the paper as:

Rocky Ford Gazette and Topic March 6, 1909-1954. It was daily for a year before going weekly. (It would be daily again 1936-1954, and semi-weekly 1915-1918. "And" would be changed to "&" and then to a hyphen.)

A large cut-out wooden devil, complete with type stick, sat on Main Street in front of the newspaper, which was then located in a small wing of a theater building. Getting the paper going again was costly, so Lacy augmented his income by working nights caring for the city's water pumps. Water would become one of his editorial campaigns. The newspaper did well enough, but the partnership was dissolved March 3, 1910. Disbrow left, and Lacy changed the paper to a weekly because he felt that Rocky Ford couldn't support a daily at the time. Lacy wrote a very popular column, "Jack the Josher," which included "rough shod articles about the need for a new city water system, oversights by the County Treasurer, and contracts of the beet sugar industry," his son recalled.

Jack Lacy was a crusader and he was successful at it. Rocky Ford got sidewalks, street lights, paving, irrigation canals, and much, much more because of his prodding. His paper was known as "The Little Paper With the Big Boost." Lacy almost lost the paper when he took on the Ku Klux Klan, but he survived the fiery crosses on his lawn and assorted indignities. Lacy started a four-times-a-week free-circulation paper in conjunction with the weekly *Gazette*:

Daily Midget News 1932-1936.

The *Gazette -Topic* became a daily in January 1, 1936, and the *Midget News* disappeared. Lacy was publisher for 31 years. After his death in March 1940, his widow, Mayme, and daughter Eleanor, ran the paper until December 1945.

James W. Martin bought the paper from the Lacy family in December 1945. Martin previously was associated with the *Mead Gazette* and *Golden Republican*. Martin sold the *Gazette* to Miles F. Porter III in April 1949, and founded the Rocky Ford *Arkansas Valley Journal*, which was later moved to La Junta. Under Porter, the *Rocky Ford Enterprise* was merged into the *Gazette-Topic*. Ross and Anne Thompson purchased the *Gazette* in April 1954 and changed the name to:

Rocky Ford Daily Gazette April 20, 1954 to present. The *Daily Gazette*--"a technological innovator" under the Thompsons--beat the *La Junta Tribune Democrat* by a week in 1962 to become the first daily newspaper in the state to be printed by the offset method. The *Gazette* was also the first Colorado daily to use Macintosh computers and a Laserwriter to produce everything but the photographs in an issue, said Thompson. Other papers soon followed suit.

J.R. Thompson, the second-generation Thompson on the *Daily Gazette*, began working for the paper as a delivery boy when he was 6. He graduated to other duties while in high school. He has been full time since 1973 and is currently editor. His sister, Annette, has also been connected with the paper, and his wife, Laura, is the advertising director.

Rocky Ford Tribune September 1896-1947. Begun as the *Fowler Tribune* in Fowler by George P. Devenport, the paper was moved to Rocky Ford as the *Tribune* in May 1900. Harry V. Alexander bought the paper from Devenport when it switched

towns. (The original *FowlerTribune* continued in Fowler as the *News*, but later reclaimed the *Fowler Tribune* name.)

John W. Bowman was owner from December 1903 until November 16, 1904, when he sold the paper to W.H. Butterfield. Bowman stayed on as editor until Butterfield sold the paper in August 1905. Butterfield sold the *Tribune* to Dr. W.J. McDonald, a practicing physician and three-term mayor of Rocky Ford, in August 1905. Dr. McDonald sold to W.J. Seller just over a year later. Seller sold the *Tribune* to J.R. O'Connor in April 1909. R.S. O'Connor became co-owner in 1910.

In 1912 the paper was sold to Int Stanley and Sons, who owned it until 1923, when H. Bryan Stanley became sole owner until 1927. ("Int" is correct.) W.T. Stanley "took the helm" from his brother, H. Bryan Stanley in May 1927. The Stanleys promised "to make the Rocky Ford newspaper a little better newspaper than seems necessary."

Fred G. Vickers of Globe, Ariz., bought the paper from Stanley and was owner 1928-March 1937, followed by George D. and Robert J. Brown, father and son, 1937-1939. George Brown was publisher and his son Robert, editor. James and Jacob Woody bought the *Tribune* in 1947 from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown and merged it into the *Enterprise*.

Rocky Ford Republican #1 1888-1889.

Watermelon 1889-1890, moved to La Junta.

Rocky Ford Graphic 1894-1895.

Western Farm Journal 1906-1907.

Rocky Ford Klansman 1924. *Inter-Mountain Press* reported:

[The Klansman,] a periodical devoted entirely to the activities of that organization, made its first appearance during the latter part of April. The name of the editor of the publication does not appear at the masthead, in accordance with the program of secrecy which marks all the Klan's activities.

Rocky Ford Booster 1932-1935, daily

Arkansas Valley Journal 1949, moved to La Junta.

Swink

Swink was founded in 1900 and named for one of Otero County's founding fathers, farmer-legislator George W. Swink. Once a railroad stopping point, the town was built by the Holly Sugar Company factory.

Swink Advocate 1909-1922. T.J. Holmes owned the paper before 1914, and may have been the founder. Holmes later owned papers in Ramah, Palisade, Parker, Kremmling and Mead before returning to Otero County to publish the *Cheraw Herald*. W.L. Martin sold the paper in March 1914 to D.M. Fox, an "experienced newspaperman from Oklahoma." Fox was appointed postmaster and in September 1916 sold the paper to Clyde Frazee, who was publisher until after 1920. A Kansan, he "fulfilled his promise to make it one of the newsiest papers in his part of the state," said *Colorado Press*. He later owned La Junta newspapers.

American Tolerance 1924-1925; Ben Gordon Whitehead, founder. Whitehead, formerly of the *Cheraw Herald* and *La Junta Cactus Spike*, published *American Tolerance*

in Swink but it was printed in Denver. Whitehead had published a paper in Cheraw earlier, and *Inter-Mountain Press* said at that time that he apparently had the backing of the Ku Klux Klan. In spite of that possibility and the name, *American Tolerance* bitterly denounced the Klan. Whitehead, who seemed to have financial problems, moved the paper to Denver in 1925. No more was heard of it.

Timpas

Named for Timpas Creek, a tributary of the Arkansas River, Timpas was the earliest of Otero County's still existing towns, established in 1868. Timpas Creek appears on maps as far back as the early 1800s. The name is Spanish for timpa stone which was used in the front of the hearth of a blast furnace. The town had one newspaper:

Timpas Times 1921-1923, Louise L. and Ben W. Raymond, founders.

Special Sources: *La Junta Tribune-Democrat* and *Rocky Ford Daily Gazette*, various issues.

La Junta Tribune-Democrat 100th Anniversary Issue 2/24/1997.

Special thanks to: Mack Burtis, Dan Hyatt, Jack Lacy, Eleanor Lacy, and Ross, Anne and J.R. Thompson.

CHAPTER XLVIII

OURAY COUNTY

Carved out of San Juan County in January 1877, Ouray County was the first designated by the newly formed Colorado State Legislature. Its name was chosen to honor Chief Ouray, the esteemed chief of the Ute. The town of Ouray was designated county seat in 1877. In February 1881, Dolores County was formed out of Ouray County which yielded even more territory to the creation of San Miguel County in February 1883.

Dallas

Founded in 1880, Dallas bore the name of the former Vice President of the United States, George M. Dallas. Dallas grew up around a stagecoach stop on a toll road which linked Ouray and Montrose. The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad reached Dallas in 1887 and the town incorporated on April 2, 1889. When the new town of Ridgway grew in prominence, Dallas slowly faded away.

The Western Slope 1889-1891, founded by Earnest C. Bacon. It relocated and took the new name *Ridgeway Herald*.

Dolores

Dolores News 1879-1886, John R. Curry, publisher.

Ouray

Like so many other Colorado mountain towns, Ouray began as a mining center. Prospectors arrived in the area in 1875 and found workable quantities of both gold and silver. Ouray had more than 30 active mines at the height of the boom. The town incorporated on October 2, 1876, and became county seat of newly formed Ouray County on March 8, 1877.

Ouray Times 1877-1886, one-page weekly, founded by brothers Henry Ripley and William Ripley. M.Y. Woods bought an interest in May 1881 and served as editor until March 1882, when Henry Ripley resumed editorial duties. Charles York (June 1883-1884) and Robert Morison Jr. (1884) also steered the editorial helm. Charles A. Ward leased the paper from the Ripleys in 1885. The name changed to:

Ouray Budget 1886-1888. It continued as:

Ouray Plaindealer 1888-1892. L.N. White was owner, editor and publisher in 1890. In 1891 the paper sold to F.J. Hulanski and a Mr. Kelly. In 1892 the *Plaindealer* absorbed the *San Juan Silverite*, founded by Mark W. Atkins, to be continued as:

Ouray Silverite-Plaindealer 1892-1901. A.E. Long was editor in 1892. In 1893 Al Warren bought the paper. He dealt it the following year to a Mr. Humphrey. F. Hulanski regained ownership, probably in a repossession, and served again as editor-publisher until early 1902. In January 1902, T.L. Hood bought the paper and the name reverted back to:

Ouray Plaindealer 1901-1921. W.A.H. McDaniel purchased the paper in 1906 but Hood repossessed it or bought it back in 1907. McDaniel was back in 1908 and stayed until 1910. Walter Walker bought the *Plaindealer* that year and stayed until December 1911, when a Mr. Zeller became owner. Cary A. Griffin and Oscar Winter bought the paper in 1913. They sold to John J. McCarthy in 1916. His editors included William Lee Knous, William Rathmel, and Thomas V. Canavan. In 1921, the *Plaindealer* merged with:

Ouray Herald 1894-1901, Ernest C. Bacon, publisher-editor. It began as the *Dallas Western Slope* and then became the *Ridgeway Herald*. Bacon served as both publisher and editor, making way for other editors in relatively brief stints: Harry L. Heil, January 1908 to August 1910; John C. Miller, August 1910 to March 1911; and E.C. Weatherly, March 1911 to May 1911. In June 1911, Bacon resumed the editorship before turning it over in October 1912 to an R.R. Bacon – possibly a son or other relative. In September 1913, John J. McCarthy bought the *Herald* and served as editor-publisher until the subsequent merger with the *Plaindealer*.

Herald and Plaindealer 1921-1939. Royal A. Young bought the combined paper in 1924 and served as editor-publisher until he dealt it to W.S. Olexa in January 1928. Mr. and Mrs. Karl W. Boll purchased the paper and ran it until November, 1936. A quick succession of short-time owners and editors followed: Charles E. Adams (1937-1938); Irvin Stafford (1938); Alvin DeJulio (1938); Mrs. John Addington (1938). Charles Rowland

Spencer bought the paper in July 1938 and gave it some stability, along with a new name:

Ouray County Herald 1939-1969, Charles R. Spencer, publisher. The publisher's spouse, Beverly Spencer, gained a half interest in 1947. In 1953, Donald Spencer became editor for a year. The *Herald* was leased to a series of husband and wife editor-publisher teams: Mr. and Mrs. John Jorgensen, (October 1954-March 1956); Mr. and Mrs. G.C. Burnham (March 1956-September 1960); and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bonan (September 1960-August 1961). Marjorie Spencer Darling had the editor-publisher's chair from August 1961 to December 1962. Paul and Clara Baker bought the paper in December 1962. In September 1966, Dennis and Marne Kaum bought out Paul Baker after his wife and partner died. Joyce Jorgensen and Preston Walker became owners in 1967. They gave the paper yet another name:

Ouray County Plaindealer & Herald 1969-1980. By 1970 Joyce Jorgensen was sole owner. In 1980, the name reverted to *Ouray Plaindealer*.

San Juan Sentinel 1877-1879.

San Juan Silverite 1891-92, A.E. Long, publisher. Merged into *Plaindealer*.

Solid Muldoon 1879-1892, weekly, founded by David Frakes Day and Jerrold R. Letcher. Day was managing editor until Mark W. Atkins bought a half interest and took editorial control in 1885. James W. Greenfield bought out Atkins and filled the editor's role from July 1891 until February 192, when the *Muldoon* suspended publication.

David Day and J. P. Coston revived it the next month, however, and in June 1892 it merged with the *Durango Herald*.

Red Mountain

Red Mountain Review 1883-1884, C.S. York, publisher. This weekly also published in Ironton.

Red Mountain Journal 1889-1893, G.W. Seaman, publisher. It was bought by the *Silverton Miner*.

Ridgway

Denver and Rio Grande railroad superintendent Robert M. Ridgway established the town in 1891 and gave it his name. The town sits at the northern terminus of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad, where it meets the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad running between Ouray and Montrose. Ridgway incorporated March 4, 1891.

Ridgway Herald 1891-1894. Earnest C. Bacon & Wright, publishers. They moved the paper again to Ouray, where it became the *Ouray Herald* (1894-1901) before being absorbed into the *Plaindealer*.

Ridgway Populist 1894-1904, Ellen G. Cassidy, publisher; a weekly.

Ridgway Reporter 1905-1906. H.H. Smith, publisher.

Ridgway Sun 1908-1926. Grant Turner, publisher. A weekly.

Ridgway Sun #2 1979 to present. Joyce Jorgensen, publisher.

CHAPTER XLIX

PARK COUNTY

The Utes prevailed over other Indian tribes in defending their mountain home, but lost against later newcomers. Spanish and French explorers came through in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. *Parc* is a French word for breeding ground or game preserve. The park was called *Bayou Salado* —salty water—because of the salt deposits there. The Louisiana Purchase brought the land into the United States in 1803, but Zebulon Pike’s exploratory expedition of 1806 barely touched South Park. Captain John Fremont avoided confrontation with the warring Utes and Arapahos when he crossed the Park in 1844. But trappers, traders and mountain men found their way to the area.

The gold rush of 1859 brought miners who intruded on prime Indian hunting ground. Gold was discovered on Tarryall Creek, which became the site of the first new settlement. Tarryall could not accommodate all the fortune-seekers who came to South Park, so newcomers moved on to new settlements at Ten Mile, Breckinridge, and Georgia Gulch.

One of Colorado’s original 17 counties in 1861, Park County’s boundaries have changed only slightly. Tarryall was the original county seat, but commissioners met there only once before moving the seat in 1862 to Laurette (renamed Buckskin Joe 1865), closer to the diggings. Fairplay replaced Buckskin Joe as the county seat in 1866.

The Tarryall *Miner's Record* reported in August 1861 that the "country seems overrun with thieves and robbers." The notorious Reynolds gang in particular preyed on South Park, waylaying wagons and raiding ranches. Not content with terrorizing travelers, Reynolds, a Confederate sympathizer, announced he would sack and burn Denver. Poses formed in South Park were joined by the 1st Colorado Cavalry. They cornered Reynolds and his gang in a remote corner of Park County where they allegedly buried their loot for safekeeping. Reynolds and four others were captured near Cañon City, and the remainder of his gang were caught in Butte Valley. Reynolds and his henchmen were ordered taken to Fort Lyon, but they never made it. The cavalry captain in charge of their transfer and his men declined comment on what happened to them. The "buried treasure" is still being sought.

Alma

Mining activity on Mount Bross brought the town of Alma into existence in 1873. Located at the junction of Buckskin Creek with the South Platte at an elevation of 10,355 feet, Alma was a supply center for the miners between Buckskin Joe and Fairplay. It is the highest town in the U.S. (Leadville is the highest city). There were four versions of how the town got its name: all agree it was named after a woman, but it could be for Alma James, wife of the first storekeeper; Alma Graves, wife of Abner Graves, operator of the Alma Mine; Alma Jaynes, popular daughter of one of the first settlers; or Alma Trevor, the first child born in the camp. Alma had four newspapers from 1875 to 1936:

Mount Lincoln News: November 1874-September 1878, P.H. Hubbell, founder. Charles H. Davis purchased the paper in November 1875. When Davis passed away a year later, his estate sold the *News* to William F. Hogan. Hogan moved the *News* equipment to Leadville to start the *Leadville Eclipse* in 1878.

Park County Bulletin December 1880-1914, Percy Allan Leonard, founder. Leonard wrote about mining activities for Denver and Boulder papers over ten years before he started the Buena Vista *Chaffee County Times* in February 1880. It did well, so Leonard, a Kentucky native, decided to branch out. He enjoyed the “reputation as being one of the finest newspaper men in the state of Colorado,” and later served as secretary to Governor McIntire.

E.P. Slade took over the *Bulletin* from Leonard, but sold it in 1885 to E.M. Hawkins and E.S. Cleghorn, then publishers of the *Fairplay Plume*. They sold the *Bulletin* and later founded the *Florence News*. Otto Fehring was *Bulletin* publisher in 1892. In 1894 the Miner Publishing Company was publisher. A.M. Anderson was publisher in 1898. Edward Edwards was publisher from 1907 to at least 1909. The *Bulletin* may have ceased publication and then restarted. T.H. Coleman was editor/publisher in 1914, but the paper ended its run later that year.

Alma Mining Record May 10, 1935-1936, Roy H. Simpson and Frank L. Simpson, founders. Roy Simpson was publisher and his brother Frank was editor and business manager. Both were from Rifle. Roy Simpson took over as editor from his brother in the fall of 1935. He sold the *Record* to Bert O. Benson, editor of the *Breckinridge*

Journal, on November 15, 1935. This gave Benson “practical control of the newspaper business in the South Park region,” but he sold the *Record* in March 1936 because “he found it next to impossible to reach the Alma plant during the winter months.” The buyer was Gilbert Gregg of the *Buena Vista Republican*. He suspended the *Record* by the beginning of 1937 when mining activity in Alma declined.

Bailey

Established in 1864, Bailey was named for William Bailey, who ran a hotel and stage station. Bailey evolved into a summer resort just before the turn of the century.

Front Range Clarion, July 1968-? Mather C. and Joan S. Wallis, founders. The Wallises also owned the *Fairplay Flume*. The *Clarion* was printed in Fairplay, but mailed from Bailey. The *Clarion* was probably absorbed into the *Flume*.

Park County Republican & Fairplay Flume (see Fairplay).

Balfour

Balfour News January 20, 1894-1895, J.S. Swan and a Mr. Lightfoot, founders. Swan was a native New Yorker who arrived in Colorado in 1880. He co-founded the *Ute Chief* in Glenwood Springs in 1885.

The first issue of the *News* was printed on one side of a linen broadsheet, folded in half. The paper offered a subscription deal to miners: “Gold dust will be taken on subscriptions, subject to correction of weight on our platform scales.”

Buckskin Joe/Lauret/Laurette

A colorful mountaineer named Joseph Higginbottom, dressed head to toe in tanned deer skin, led a party of prospectors into South Park in August 1859. Everyone knew him as “Buckskin Joe,” and that’s how the original location certificate was signed: “We, Buckskin Joe & Co., claim 1,800 feet on the Philips lead, and I, Buckskin Joe, claim the right of discovery.” One of the hungry prospectors hunting for food aimed at a deer and missed, hitting instead a rich vein of placer gold. By September 1860, the gulch was claimed, staked and recorded on both sides. The gulch was given a new name, “Lauret,” by “compounding the names of the only two ladies in the gulch.” “Laurette” was apparently an alternate spelling. That official post office name was replaced in 1865 by Buckskin Joe.

Western Mountaineer March 1-December 20, 1862. Matthew Riddlebarger and L.B. St. John, founders. Riddlebarger and H.S. Millet had published the small semi-monthly *Cañon City Times* in 1861, but it folded when the Civil War and Indian fighting halted communications and depopulated Cañon City. Riddlebarger came into possession of the illustrious “Mormon press” that was passed through several early Colorado newspaper operations, and used it to produce the *Mountaineer*. The paper declared itself an “Independent Democratic Union” publication, but was in fact a largely a campaign organ supporting the Congressional candidacy of Colonel John Francisco, a Democrat and founder of the town of La Veta. Some said the paper had Confederate sympathies. The *Mountaineer* was short-lived.

Como

A few miles northeast of Fairplay, Como was an important stage station until the coming of the railroad in 1879. Most of the miners at Como were Italian, and they nostalgically named the town and a nearby lake for Italy's Lake Como. The town was incorporated in 1883.

Como Headlight March 1883-1888, Richard Linthicum, founder. A native of Libertytown, Maryland, Linthicum was an abolitionist and former chief operator of the United States Military Telegraph at Santa Fe. He moved to Colorado in 1881 and gained praise for his Como paper. Linthicum left the *Headlight* in 1887 for a job with the Denver *Colorado Graphic* as associate editor and writer.

Park County Democrat 1887-1888.

Como Record 1889-1905. Rowell's newspaper guide lists Webster Ballinger as publisher in 1892 and 1898. The Colorado Historical Society Newspaper Project has Richard Ballinger 1894-1901. L.F. Austin and C.P. Burgess were publishers in 1905.

Fairplay

Fairplay Diggings was established in 1860 on the South Platte, about 14 miles southwest of Tarryall. The town got a boost in 1867 when it was designated county seat. It became a business and political center for South Park. The town was sometimes known as South Park City, but officially incorporated as Fairplay in 1872. It South Park

City history park is a major attraction composed of many historic building arranged into a pioneer town of log, frame and brick structures.

South Park Gazette 1872-1873. The only information about the *Gazette* is in the “Resources and Advantages of Colorado,” published in 1873.

Mount Lincoln Sentinel March 27-September 25, 1873, Richard S. Allen and Frank Burrett, founders. Fairplay was devastated by a great fire in September 1873, which destroyed the printing equipment. When the *Sentinel* resumed publication, the new name was:

Fairplay Sentinel December 18, 1873-August 1878, Allen & Burrett, proprietors. Burrett was a Fairplay attorney. Dick Allen, who came to Colorado in 1866, was a pioneer prospector and newspaperman. James R. Oliver became a partner in 1874, but left a year later to join the *Black Hawk Post*.

On July 8, 1875, the *Sentinel* irreverently headed one of its morning articles: Give us a continuous ore market, Oh, Lord God.” The *Rocky Mountain News* noted that “At last accounts there had been no response, and consequently no change in the ore market.”

Allen closed the *Fairplay Sentinel* in August 1878 and left to start the *Leadville Reveille*.

Fairplay Flume February 20, 1879-December 19189, E.M. Hawkins & John B. Bruner, founders. The *Flume’s* first home was in a cottage building. Hawkins and

Bruner had both been with the Boulder *Sunshine Courier*. The *Flume* enjoyed strong advertiser support from the start and was available in Denver as well as Fairplay.

Bruner sold his interest to E.S. Cleghorn in 1881. Hawkins was editor/publisher until 1883. Cleghorn sold his interest to Hawkins in April 1882, but in August Cleghorn leased the paper from Hawkins and was editor/publisher until 1893. George Miller, the county superintendent of schools and a lawyer, purchased the *Flume* from Hawkins in 1895. D.H. Tobey bought the paper from George Miller in February 1900. Tobey in turn dealt the paper to J. Randolph Ballinger in January 1904. Celsus P. Link bought an interest in the *Flume* early in 1906, but ended the partnership in September of that year when he bought out Ballinger. George Miller repurchased the paper from Link in 1914, but evidently sold it almost immediately to P.W. O'Brien and A.W. Brent. Ed N. Barlow and M.E. Dodd bought the paper March 12, 1915. The next year, Dodd sold his interest to Mrs. Sadie G. Barlow. In December 1918, the *Park County Republican* bought the *Flume* and merged the two papers.

Park County Republican Fall 1913-December 21, 1918, A.F. Wilmarth, founder. He merged in the *Flume* in December 1918, and the new paper was called:

Park County Republican & Fairplay Flume December 28, 1918,-to present. Wilmarth was editor/publisher until December 1933. Born in Chicago in 1853, Wilmarth had a varied background including studies at the Chicago Art Institute, a real estate business in San Francisco, and ranching and sheep raising on a ranch near Fairplay. He had also been a cartoonist for the *Denver Republican*.

In 1930 the *Park County Republican and Fairplay Flume* bought the competing *Park County News*:

Park County News fall 1925-1930, Gregg Publications, Edward and Estella Gregg of Monte Vista. The Greggs also owned the *Buena Vista Republican*. When Ed Gregg died in 1927, his family sold the *News*.

Swiss native John Leuthold bought the *Park County Republican & Fairplay Flume* from Wilmarth in 1933 and sold it in August 1938 to Mr. and Mrs. Flint E. Holmes. Chet and Marjorie Mariner purchased the paper from Holmes in August 1955. Mather C. and Joan T.S. Wallis bought the paper in September 1964. Joan Stanford became sole owner July 1976. Linda Ann Rulli, mining editor, was promoted to associate editor.

Richard Hamilton was owner by 1980. Financial problems almost forced Hamilton to sell, and distribution became “splotchy.” A husband-wife team—both retired United States Air Force colonels—flew to the rescue, purchasing the paper in May 1985. The next month, they also bought the *South Park Times*, and hired that paper’s managing editor, Sharon Morris. The *Times* ceased to exist and the *Flume* carried on.

Arkansas Valley Publishing Company, based in Salida, bought the paper in February 1987. Ellen Stiner was editor 1987-1989, followed by Stephen Millard until 1998. Rockford “Rocky” Hayes was named general manger and editor of the Fairplay paper in 1998.

Guffey

Guffey, also known as Idaville and Freshwater, sprang up in the early 1890s as a gold mining town. It was incorporated April 12, 1895 and named for J.K Guffey, a pioneer settler. At its peak, the town had three newspapers:

Guffey Prospector 1897-1903, Alvin M. Anderson, publisher.

Guffey Independent 1900-1901.

Freshwater Pilot 1901-1902.

Puma Pilot

Puma City, northwest of Lake George near the border with Teller County, sprouted in the late 1890s. In 1897 there were productive mines, a population of more than 1,000, and a newspaper:

Puma Ledger 1897-1898, C.R. Young, founder.

Tarryall

In July 1859, 14 mining men who were disappointed with the pickings in Gregory Gulch set out to look for gold at Bayou Salado (now Tarryall Creek). They did not put out the welcome mat for new arrivals. They staked everything in sight and changed the mining code to allow claims of 150 feet instead of the standard 100. The next wave of prospectors found no land available. They called the camp "grab-all" and set off to find a place where there was "fair play."

The town of Tarryall was laid out in 1861 and temporarily served as county seat of the newly approved Park County. Citizens of Tarryall staked out one claim as town property, to provide for the general welfare. Anyone in “prime need” and short of funds could pan “Whiskey Hole,” and help themselves to enough gold dust to have a drink or two.

Tarryall Miner’s Record July 4-September 14, 1861. William N. Byers, Edward Bliss and Horace E. Rounds, proprietors. All were associated with the Denver *Rocky Mountain News* and its News Printing Company. Most sources say the *Record* was a campaign journal for the first territorial election, printed at the *Rocky Mountain News* plant in Denver but dated and circulated in the Tarryall area. But Byers’ salutory seemed to promise a real and ongoing journalistic endeavor, asking rhetorically, “a printing office on the summit of the Rocky Mountains to-day—where will the next stride be?”

The *Record* carried fresh and complete Civil War news, as well as thorough reports from the mines. The Act of Congress establishing the Territory of Colorado was carried in its entirety in one issue. Byers was deeply concerned about and involved in the role of territorial government. John L. Dailey became co-editor in August 1861, but the paper folded for lack of patronage in September.

Sources:

“Remembrances of South Park,” G.W. Champion, *Colorado Magazine*, May 1963.

“Early Mining Camps of South Park,” Norma L. Flynn, 1951 Brand Book.

Park County magazine, published by *Park County Republican and Fairplay Flume*, undated.

Park County Republican and Fairplay Flume, various issues.

CHAPTER L

PHILLIPS COUNTY

Once a fragment of the Louisiana Purchase, Phillips County was formed from the southern part of Logan County in 1889, and the two-year old Holyoke was designated county seat. The county was named in honor of R.O. Phillips, secretary of the Lincoln Land Co. of Nebraska, which laid out several towns in eastern Colorado. As in other prairie counties, the land was open and level, adaptable for agriculture and stock raising. The first county election was held in November 1889, and among those elected was Charles E. McPherson, the only temporary county officer appointed in July to retain his position. McPherson was county clerk and recorder, and a later publisher of the *Phillips County News*.

The first permanent settler, Frances Beal arrived in June 1885. By the time the Burlington Railway Company built a line through the county, the land was dotted with dugouts and soddies. For a few years the area was promising, but in 1894 a severe drought spoiled almost everything. Even the hardiest grass failed to turn green that summer. Scores of settlers left to find a living elsewhere and the population was cut in half. The turn of the century brought new homesteaders, some to take up abandoned claims, others to file new ones. The open range gradually was fenced off and farming replaced cattle-raising as the chief industry.

Bryant

Bryant was a town that never was, although the census found 54 people living there in 1900. When it was thought the railroad was coming through, the site was mapped out in the southwest end of the county. There was one store and a newspaper. But the train didn't come. The store was moved to Haxtun, and the newspaper folded.

Logan County Headlight 1888-March 1889; founder unknown.

Haxtun

Haxtun began when the Burlington built a rail line in 1888. The thankful settlers named it for a railroad contractor. The Lincoln Land Company laid out a small town which kept expanding until it was big enough to incorporate in 1909. Early references and maps sometimes say Haxtum or Haxton.

Haxtun Herald #1 1888-1889.

Epworth League Herald 1907-1911, John Winterbourne, founder. Winterbourne later owned papers in Teller County and Eckley. He sold the paper to Carlton Vance Monroe, who changed the name to:

Haxtun Herald #2 1911-1924. Monroe came to Colorado for his health in 1910. Politically, the paper was Progressive. Monroe was an outstanding agricultural writer. His work is mentioned in Upton Sinclair's "*Goslings*." After leaving Haxtun in 1918, Monroe edited the *Colorado Leader* and *Colorado Union Farmer*, both published in Denver. He died in Denver in 1945.

Edgar Sherman was editor for the Haxtun Herald Publishing Co. in 1920. Glen W. Stovell was editor 1921-1924.

Haxtun Harvest #1 1907-1908.

Phillips County Independent 1909-1910, Guy J. Saxton, founder. Saxton later published newspapers in Wyoming.

Haxtun Harvest #2 March 13, 1919-November 1975, Delavan W. Gee, founder. Gee was in the newspaper business for 69 years. Gee sold the *Harvest* in the fall of 1921 to Adolph A. Herzberg, who had been associated with the *Chicago Tribune*. Gee repossessed the *Harvest* in June 1922. Leslie E. Taylor, formerly of the *Routt County Republican*, was editor in June 1922, and in September he and Tom C. Crist bought the paper. Crist was co-publisher 1922-1934. Loren Hovel was editor in 1938. Taylor had been publisher for 53 years when he discontinued the paper in November 1975.

Haxtun Herald #3 November 13, 1975-December 1995, C. Bryce and Ronald Wilkins, founders. Kathy Wacker was publisher 1977-1984. Jean Gray leased the paper in the summer of 1984 and was editor and publisher. Deb Kugler, who started as a *Herald* typesetter in 1985, became a partner when she and Gray bought the paper in May 1989. Gray later became sole owner.

Jean Gray, a Kansan, earned a business and accounting degree in college, but landed a job as a newspaper reporter and then owned a small paper in the early 1970s. She came to Colorado in 1984 and almost immediately became one of the more active

members of Colorado Press Association. In 1994 she was elected the fifth woman president of CPA.

Under Gray, the newspaper name became:

Haxtun-Fleming Herald October 18, 1995 to present. Said Gray:

It seems logical that Haxtun and Fleming share this newspaper. The communities share a lot of common ground....Both communities have struggled to remain viable through population ups and downs and faltering economic times. Both communities are also tied through family, old schoolmates and long-time friendship....

Holyoke

Holyoke was established in 1887 by the Lincoln Land Company and for two years was located in Logan County. When Phillips County was formed in 1889, Holyoke was designated county seat. Holyoke began as a small camp for the railroad builders about a mile northeast of the present town. According to the *Holyoke Enterprise*, the town was named for Edward Holyoke, the son-in-law of G.W. Holdrege, who was general manager of the Burlington Railway system.

A *Rocky Mountain News* reporter was impressed at what he saw and wrote in June 1890:

Years ago when the professional hunters had abandoned the plains, cattle raising was the sole industry of this region, the cowboys frequently entertained the writer with stories of the beautiful valley of upper Frenchman River and of the wonderful grass crops that grew there. Said one of them: "We were kept busy frightening away the buffaloes and antelopes that they might not stampede our herds. It was not a matter of grass, for there was plenty to spare but domestic animals do not take kindly to the presence of wild ones...."

A city like Holyoke was not only a natural result but a necessity. All great farming districts must have a commercial center, and Holyoke fills this need....

A severe drought in 1892 inspired citizens to hire a rainmaker. He fruitlessly worked his machine, giving up the day before a drenching rain eased the water situation. He was not credited with causing the downpour. Had he stayed one more day, his reputation would have been made. A year later the rainmaker committed suicide after too many other unsuccessful attempts at rainmaking.

Logan County News August 9, 1887-March 1889, Fred C. Brobst and B.F. Williams, founders. The first issue was published in a little sod shanty. Brobst, who had earlier founded both the *Yuma Pioneer* and *Yuma Sun*, didn't stay long. Williams kept the paper going. In April 1888 the proprietors were Williams and Eckhard.

The *News* was in the forefront urging that Holyoke be designated as county seat, but felt the people weren't trying hard enough:

Our people acted on last Tuesday as though they did not want a county seat nearer to them than Sterling, and preferred to toast their shins around the stove than go to the polls and vote for Holyoke. Out of 508 voters registered in this precinct, only 216 went to the polls.

When Phillips County was broken off from Logan County, the name was promptly changed to:

Phillips County News March 1889-1892. Charles McPherson was publisher in 1891 and 1892. Evidently the competition from the *Herald* was too strong, or McPherson, a county clerk, was too busy. The *News* ended sometime in 1892.

State Herald September 7, 1887-1921. C.W. Painter and W.N. Jordan founded the *Herald*, a five-column, small-sized, Republican newspaper. It was published in a little shack near the stockyards. In 1888 Painter bought out Jordan, but the next year he sold the paper to A.A. Spahr. J.H. Painter bought the paper back--or repossessed it--late in 1890. The Painter family--C.W., O. M. and J.H. Painter--was connected with the *Herald* for 34 years. O.M. succeeded C.W. as editor in 1889, and J. H. was owner from 1891-1921. C.E. Damewood bought the *Herald* in 1921 and changed the name to:

Phillips County Herald 1921-April 1, 1927. Damewood sold the paper November 4, 1921 to J. C. McCreary, and moved to an Akron newspaper. McCreary had been editor of the *Colorado City Argus*. When he sold the *Herald* is not certain, but in September 1923, IMP reported it was in the hands of a Willis family, with father R.O. Willis handing off management to his sons Dwight. and H.L. The *Holyoke Enterprise* bought the *Herald* April 1, 1927 and merged it out.

Phillips County Republican July 1, 1901-1909, Roy Ray, founder. Ray left in 1902 when he bought the Windsor *Poudre Valley*, which he published for 40 years. O.C. Zingg bought the paper in 1902, selling it in 1906 to A.W. McFadden. Zingg apparently repossessed the paper a year later, but McFadden was owner again in 1908, when the name was changed to:

Holyoke Enterprise 1909 to present. McFadden sold the paper in 1911 to R.N. White, a town trustee and two-term mayor, who, in turn, sold the paper in 1919 to former *Enterprise* manager Edward B. Crane and Al G. Snedeker from Bridgeport,

Nebraska. It was an eight-page, "all home print" publication. The *Enterprise* often used "screamer" headlines--bold, black, one-inch banners--in the mid-1920s, bringing a big-city flavor to the staid community.

Crane was there for about a year, Snedeker until July 1921. E.W. Lindberg bought Crane's half-interest and was publisher from November 1920 until June 1943. In July 1921, J.L. Dilley and L.L. (Coley) Coleman bought Snedeker's remaining interest. Coleman, whose sister, Marjory, was married to Lindberg, sold his interest in April 1927.

Ward A. Hougas bought Coleman's interest, and joined Lindberg and Dilley. Hougas was editor. The newspaper flag read "*Holyoke Enterprise (with which is combined the Phillips County Herald)*" from April to November 1927.

James C. Naylor bought Hougas' interest in September 1930, but ill health caused him to sell it to the other partners, Lindberg and Dilley, in March 1931. Eugene Powell replaced Naylor as editor. Lindberg bought Dilley's interest in August 1935, ending a long partnership. Lindberg died in June 1943 and his wife became owner. She sold the paper in September 1943 to Mr. and Mrs. F.B. Kelly. They sold it September 3, 1946 to W. Max Starbuck, who would be publisher for 31 years.

In announcing the sale to Starbuck, the paper noted that Starbuck was "a foreman and faithful assistant" who had worked for Lindberg for 14 years and for the Kellys for three. Under Starbuck the paper moved to bigger quarters, switched from letterpress to modern offset in 1973, and featured "Clark's Corner" a popular page-one column by Ted Clark. Starbuck retired March 3, 1977, his 67th birthday. He received the

Colorado Press Association Golden Makeup award a month earlier for his more than 50-years in the business.

Loral and Elna Johnson bought the paper from Starbuck in March 1977. The Johnsons, who also published the *Imperial Republican* in Nebraska, named Wally Machamer, who had been employed at the *Enterprise* for several years, as editor. When Machamer retired in September 1980, the Johnson's daughter, Brenda Brandt became editor and general manager, a position she still holds.

Western Critic 1887-1888.

Holyoke Sun 1888-1889.

Holyoke Tribune 1888-October 1890, W.N. Jordan, formerly of the *Herald*, founder. C.P. Frank owned the paper in 1890. It was moved to Nebraska.

Overland Mail 1893-1895, C.M.C. Woolman, founder. Woolman was the resident agent of the Lincoln Land Company, and town clerk from 1890-1893.

Special Sources: *Holyoke Enterprise*.

Special thanks to: Brenda Brandt and Jean Gray.

CHAPTER LI:

PITKIN COUNTY

Warner A. Root, a Leadville newspaperman, had heard "no rumors brighter" in 1879 than the prospects in the Roaring Fork of the Colorado River. He set out to join the "risky adventurers [and] delve after riches in that seemingly far-off camp on the Pacific Slope." His journey ended at Hunter's Creek across from the tents of Ute City, where 35 prospectors in residence had been "grubstaked for the winter by parties in Leadville."

The Ute Creek contingent had made their way "through snow two to three feet deep, with animals heavily laden with bedding and grub. No thought had been given to the possibility of an early setting in of winter." One of the men was sent back to Leadville to bring back provisions. He did not return. Those with dauntless spirit formed a union company to sink a shaft, but it failed, said Root, because "Some were afraid they were doing more than others."

In June 1879, three prospectors pitched camp beside a large spring and found good outcroppings of silver ore. Before the summer was gone more than 30 men were busy in a camp they called Ute City. Another four prospectors struck rich gold ore near the head of the Roaring Fork on July 4, 1879. They called the claim Independence in honor of the holiday. When word got back of their success they were joined by enough other men to set up a tent town also called Independence.

Most sources credit B. Clark Wheeler with lighting the fuse of development in Pitkin County. Wheeler, who represented a group of eastern investors, surveyed the townsite upon his arrival in 1880, although he had to wade through almost three feet of snow. He organized the Aspen Town and Land Company of Philadelphia to build the town. Wheeler returned to civilization to spread the word of the new land of plenty. He recruited Charles A. Hallam, a Cincinnati lawyer, who represented capitalist David M. Hyman who also bought into the baby town.

On February 23, 1881, Governor Frederick W. Pitkin signed a bill establishing a county named for himself, carving it from the northern part of Gunnison County, designating Aspen as county seat. Pitkin, a two-term Colorado governor, was born in Connecticut in 1837. He graduated from Wesleyan University and an Albany, New York, law school. After coming to Colorado for health reasons in 1874, he invested in mining properties in Hinsdale and Ouray counties, as well as in livestock, sheep and real estate around Colorado Springs. While living in Ouray in 1878, he was chosen as the Republican candidate for governor, running against popular pioneer and newspaper owner W.A.H. Loveland. Pitkin won, becoming the second elected governor of Colorado.

Pitkin faced labor problems in May 1880 after Leadville miners struck, demanding eight-hour shifts, \$3 per day and recognition of their right to unionize. Governor Pitkin sent in the militia to crush the strike.

Ashcroft

Prospectors chasing gold along Castle Creek in the summer of 1879 founded the settlement originally known as Castle Forks City. The following spring a townsite was laid out and lots sold. The town's originator sold his rights to land promoter T.E. Ashcraft, for whom the town was named even though the spelling was different.

A railroad link to nearby Aspen never got beyond the talking stage. During the summer of 1881, the 500-person town had daily mail and stage service, and the town was incorporated and officials elected. A post office was secured under the name Chloride, but no one liked the name so it was changed officially to Ashcroft.

Horace A.W. Tabor headed a group investing in Ashcroft and created quite a stir, according to Len Shoemaker, in his book, *Roaring Fork Valley*:

There was some jubilation each time [Tabor] came to town. But on the day in 1883 when he arrived with his new wife, Baby Doe, a stupendous celebration was staged. Among other things there were a banquet and a ball, and no one slept for twenty-four hours; while at the thirteen saloons then existent all of the drinks were on Tabor.

Ashcroft reached its peak in 1885, with a population about 3,500 and another 1,500 or so transient prospectors. Without a branch rail line from Aspen, Ashcroft's big mine shut down. By 1890 most of the business houses had moved out. Ashcroft had two newspapers:

Pitkin County Herald July 1881-1882, Sun & Herald Publishing Co., Mackey, Mason and Giffney, founders and proprietors. They also published Aspen's *Rocky Mountain Sun*. The paper took pride in the town, changing the name to:

Ashcroft Herald 1882-1884. Some sources say Davis H. Waite and his son were publishers during the *Herald's* last two years, but it is likely there was confusion over Waite's presence and the *Herald's* absent owners, particularly since Waite's paper--the *Journal*--is seldom listed.

Ashcroft Journal June 2, 1882-1883, Davis H. Waite, founder and proprietor. It took a while to get the *Journal* off the press. On June 3, 1882, the Aspen Times reported:

*The first issue of the **Ashcroft Journal** appeared on the 2nd inst. It is a most excellent paper and is spoken of with words of praise on all sides. That success attend the Judge and his son Arthur is the hearty wish of the Times corps.*

No further mention is found of the *Ashcroft Journal*.

Aspen

Aspen is without question the most prosperous mining camp in Colorado, and its prosperity is based upon actual worth. The city is growing like a wonder dream and it is difficult to get lumber for the hundred new buildings now underway....Aspen is plainly a second edition of Leadville; but the prosperity is not of that wild sort which has become notorious. Aspen is peopled with business like, conservative men who do their work quietly and efficiently. There is refinement even in the hurriedly built cabins and there is little of the roughness of typical mining camps. Socially it is a product of the east.

Denver Inter-Ocean 10/25/1884

The two log cabins and dozen inhabitants of 1879 became a city that by 1893 was third-largest in the state, behind Denver and Leadville. Aspen boasted paved streets, gas street lamps, a municipal street car system two miles long, electric lights, a municipal water system, three banks, a post office, a luxury hotel, a hospital, a stable government, and three daily newspapers.

Aspen town fathers did not prohibit alcohol, but they did attempt to regulate it, along with idleness, confidence games and houses of ill repute, common to most frontier towns. Saloons, gambling and bawdy houses were accepted as a necessary evil to be controlled by taxation and used as a charity source for widows and orphans. There were saloon brawls, and crimes were committed, but not to the extent, said the *Sun*, of having to "Stay at home nights with wife and baby, or go out and get held up." But the *Sun* also suggested in November 1884 that prohibition "was bound to cut no inconsiderable figure in politics in the future." Indeed, the following spring Aspen passed a liquor control law aimed at habitual drunkards and miners, hoping to balance the town mores with prohibition morality. Aspen, in fact, was one of the fortunate towns which had its own brewery and didn't have to pack beer over the mountains in a supply wagon.

Almost as soon as the newspapers were founded, they acclaimed the Pitkin county mines as among the richest in the state. When Jerome B. Wheeler bought his first property, the *Times* was euphoric, trumpeting in bold headlines July 30, 1883:

The Most important Sale Ever Transacted For THE MATERIAL INTERESTS OF PITKIN CO.

The accompanying story noted that other transactions had involved more money, but "none which, under the circumstances of the case, is so advantageous to the prosperity and welfare of Aspen and all this portion of Pitkin Co. All thanks to J.B. Wheeler."

Wheeler, a director of the Colorado Midland, announced that Colorado Springs standard gauge railroad was building to Aspen. It raced the D&RG to see who could get to the lucrative silver city first. The *Rocky Mountain Sun* ecstatically followed its progress, reporting on October 28, 1887:

Today the iron horse stands on the banks of the Roaring Fork within the limits of our city, snorting with noise louder than our mighty and roaring stream. He will haul over our baby road the first carloads of minerals to the outer-world and return laden with the coin of the realm and the products of our brothers on the western slope....The D&RG is a benefactor not only to the citizens of this state, but to all the world.

Arriving on the first train were Governor Alva Adams and his staff, David H. Moffat and his officials, Senator Henry M. Teller, and those fortunate enough to get tickets for the inaugural ride. All were welcomed by the mayor and his committee, and some 5,000 exhilarated citizens. A brass band led an hour-long parade into the heart of town, cannons were fired, the best food and drink were served at a banquet lit by 2,000 Japanese lanterns, and marked by "witty speeches, toasts, and merriment." The Colorado Midland, which had been in the lead almost to the end--on a more difficult route--hobbled in from Glenwood Springs several weeks later, as a branch line.

Mining was at its height in 1891 and 1892. Just as Aspen finally overtook Leadville in the production of silver, the price for the ore began to drop. As the mines began shutting, the *Sun* said:

The difference in the price of silver between this time and a year ago is great enough in this camp to equal the expense now incurred in operating the producing mines.

Succor came on unexpected wings: Davis H. Waite and the newly organized Populist Party. Waite was the first chairman of the Populist Party in Pitkin County. The Populists were the least splintered and best organized party in Colorado in 1892, enlisting glum Democrats and Republicans who felt their parties had deserted them on the silver issue. In July 1892 the Populists merged with the State Silver League, an "awkward amalgamation of radical reformers and conservative businessmen with silver interests" that startled the state by nominating Waite for governor. Shortly thereafter the divided Democratic Party endorsed him.

Colorado was one of only two states to give its electoral vote to the Populist presidential candidate in 1892. Waite was elected Governor by a 47 percent plurality in a three-way race. Most of his votes came from the silver-producing areas of Colorado. The success of the Populists in 1892 put Aspen's pessimism on hold. Mining went on as usual, local affairs were tended to and people conducted their usual business. But the town, which had rejoiced in the Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890, was headed for despair.

The Silver Act was repealed November 1, 1893. Wrote the *Aspen Times*:

The curtain has fallen in the last act of the tragedy against silver at Washington. It is in the nature of a tragedy because it marks a mournful and fatal event. Wednesday, by a vote of 191 to 94, the House passed the [measure] forced through without giving the silver advocates the opportunity for amendment or debate. The bill was presented to President Cleveland at once and his official signature was attached. The money of the Constitution is dishonored, slaughtered in the land of its friends, and the curtain fell with loud applause from the goldbug galleries. British bouquets in great profusion lie at the feet of Grover, the chief actor in the conspiracy, and he does not hear the wail of distress and suffering that comes up from the people....

The *Sun's* slogan--"A Journal Devoted to the Growth and Prosperity of the City of Aspen and the Mining Interests of Pitkin County"--was being sorely tested. Some of the mines did reopen the next spring. Wages fell but at least there was some work. Production was down but everyone was calling for a massive effort to return "Aspen to its former greatness." Aspen, the queen mother, would survive but it would never be the same.

The early skiing for necessity was replaced by other transportation, but recreational skiing never disappeared. Forest Service officials tried to get the Aspen Chamber of Commerce interested in recreational possibilities as early as 1922, but the town was waiting for "just another mining boom." In the 1930s, old mining equipment was used to build the first tow for a second wave of ski enthusiasts. The National Alpine Championships were held in Aspen in 1941, the first of scores of such events in the state. The ski possibilities were better received when Walter Paepcke helped organize the Aspen Ski Corporation, which in 1946 equipped Aspen Mountain with ski runs and lifts. His investments in the town, along with the growing ski industry turned Aspen into a recreational and cultural mecca. The white rush was on.

The snow was great, but the rush had a downside: pollution, prices, people and civic problems. It was a mixed blessing, the old West and the new, an uncomfortable alliance. Jerome Wheeler brought elegance to Aspen, but not the glitz of today's celebrity visitors. The *Rocky Mountain Sun* worried about class distinctions. So does the current *Aspen Times* publisher, Loren Jenkins, who told a *Denver Post* reporter: "A caste system is what has been imposed by people from outside who just want servants; they don't want neighbors."

With the exception of a few years Aspen has always had at least two newspapers, and it has always had the *Times*, begun in April 1881. The following July the *Rocky Mountain Sun* appeared. The one thing they all had in common was what most frontier papers did: helping the growth of the camp and defending it against all odds. In 1900 Aspen was said to be the only city in the United States to have three morning dailies.

Aspen Journal 1880-1881. Sources suggest it was probably started early in 1880 when the first 500 tents were going up. No founder is given, but there were two newspapermen known to be there: B. Clark Wheeler, who was busy lining up investors and spreading the good word, and Leadville reporter Warner Root. The first lasting newspaper was right behind.

Aspen Times April 23, 1881-to present, Aspen Printing & Publishing Company, George F. Crosby, B. O'Connell, and Geoff Levelle. The first weekly *Times* ran to May 30, 1909. Davis H. Waite bought the *Times* March 17, 1883, and sold it to B. Clark Wheeler

the following August. Wheeler intended to use it specifically to promote and build Aspen. He began the:

Aspen Daily Times February 19, 1885-June 6, 1909. It was a companion paper to the weekly. Wheeler, a man of many talents and interests, was in charge. Frank Wentworth, who had a workshop adjoining the *Times* not only remembered the clunking of Wheeler's boots but the noise:

When the big press of the Aspen Daily Times went into action about 2 a.m. every morning, located as it was just the other side of a flimsy partition, I was treated to the unearthly din of a boiler factory, and the pounding and vibration of that mighty press swayed my humble cot like a leaf in a storm...when he came down the old plank sidewalk the clatter of his heavy boots was like the tramp of a detachment of cavalry.

During the last two years of Wheeler's ownership, there were two editors: W.S. Copeland, a school board member, 1908, and T.J. Murphy. B. Clark Wheeler sold the *Aspen Times* to Charles Dailey June 9, 1909, ending the first chapter of the 26-year-old voice of Aspen. Dailey merged the *Times* with his *Democrat*.

Aspen Democrat #2 1900-June 5, 1909, daily. Influential Democrats in Aspen, fed up with the *Aspen Times* and editor W.S. Copeland, whom they called "a staunch, rabid and vociferous Republican," offered Dailey the position of manager of the party-backed daily *Aspen Democrat*. The first issue, July 29, 1900, immediately launched a blistering attack on the Republicans. The paper did well from the beginning, thanks to the solid support of the Democrats, and it wasn't long before Dailey was able to repay his backers. He became sole owner of the paper January 1, 1903.

The *Democrat* had survived "a feeble and languishing existence, an insufficient patronage, a load of debt, and a rather low place in public estimation," a polite way of saying it was failing. Dailey, on his own without an editorial committee, was able to turn it into a successful and respected business. He did so, said one contemporary, "not by feeding popular vanity or catering to personal whims or yielding to public clamor; but by meeting the requirements of the people and showing a commendable independence of individual and class opinions, interests and ambitions."

Dailey ("that little tin soldier") and the *Times'* Copeland ("sister Copeland") as they called each other, began a small war. The tin soldier won, and in 1909 Dailey bought the *Aspen Times* and combined the two into the *Aspen Democrat-Times*, thus depriving readers of some colorful competitive commentary.

Aspen Democrat-Times June 6, 1909-May 29, 1926. The new paper was published daily. It was referred to as "The Little Humdinger." continued as *Aspen Daily Times* (see above). The name was shortened:

Aspen Daily Times June 1-December 28, 1926 to:

Aspen Times January 14, 1927-December 12, 1930, weekly. It was revived:

Aspen Times January 7, 1932-1994, weekly. A companion daily was added in 1988:

Aspen Times Weekly and Aspen Times Daily. The two merged:

Aspen Times 1994 to present, published Monday-Friday and Saturday/Sunday.

Colorado Congressman Edward T. Taylor secured an appointment for Dailey as chief filing clerk for the U.S. House of Representatives, so with much regret, Dailey sold the newspaper plant in 1934 to Hugh B. Thompson, a veteran newspaperman from Illinois. Thompson took over the *Times* January 18, 1934, but his health was not good, and he was compelled to sell his interest in the paper in June 1936 to Roger Nowviskie of Indiana. During his stint as publisher, Nowviskie, a bachelor, covered the first Rocky Mountain Ski Association downhill and slalom championships.

Hugh Thompson returned December 12, 1939, this time in partnership with Lawrence Kurtz. Thompson, who was working for Associated Press in Montana, was an absentee owner, leaving the *Times* management up to Kurtz. Thompson and Kurtz sold the *Times* to Roy A. Williams of Redlands, California on July 1, 1942. Mr. and Mrs. Verlin Ringle bought the *Times* in 1945. The Ringles ran into a small problem:

The town was so small everyone knew everything by word of mouth before we could get the paper out each week. There were only about 600 residents and it seems that we mainly wrote the news for the out-of-town subscribers...for all the Aspenites who had moved to California.

News gathering was more informal then. When we needed to fill up the paper we would go to the Post Office and hear everything that was happening in town."

Ringle wrote the articles and ran the Linotype and presses. His wife Ruth waited on the counter, did the bookkeeping, and wrote some articles. The Peterson sisters-- Pearl and Opal--answered the phone and gathered news. Verlin Ringle was a leader in promoting Aspen's cultural and fine arts interests, and an ardent ski enthusiast who assisted in leading the public subscription drive for additional ski tow facilities. The

Ringles sold the *Times* to William R. Dunaway just as "Aspen had begun to really take off as a ski resort and our newspaper business was getting bigger than we wanted," said Ringle. "Besides, we didn't have the capital to expand it."

William R. (Bill) Dunaway, like B. Clark Wheeler, skied into Aspen and, by a "stroke of luck," bought the *Times* and published it for 38 years. Dunaway first came to Colorado with the famed 10th Mountain Division ski troops during World War II. He served in the Italian campaign and after the war he was a ski racer in Europe, an editor of *Skiing Magazine*, and an Olympic hopeful.

The new town and Dunaway's new *Times* grew and succeeded together. He changed the paper to tabloid and designed a new masthead. As the financial situation improved, he bought a photo-offset press and modernized to the computer age. Dunaway and the *Times* crusaded for, among other things, an improved water supply, and for tolerance and fair treatment of the "hippies" clustering Aspen streets in the late 1960s. Both times he was boycotted by advertisers; both times the *Times* kept publishing and the advertisers eventually came back. Dunaway started the thrice-weekly tabloid:

Aspen Flyer in the summer of 1986. It was distributed free for businesses to give to tourists.

Dunaway also owned the radio station, and began branching out to invest in the *Glenwood Sage*, 1959-1967, and the *Rifle Telegram* in 1960. He was named Colorado Press Association Publisher of the Year in 1978.

Aspen Times editors under Dunaway include George Madson 1965-1972, Nick Pabst 1972-1974, and Mary Eshbaugh Hayes 1977-1994.

In 1988, the first serious competition in almost a century led Dunaway to restart the long-dormant *Aspen Times Daily*, as a sister to the weekly *Times*. Dunaway announced in 1992 that Pulitzer prize-winning Loren Jenkins would head the *Times Daily* and *Times* weekly, effective March 1. Dunaway remained as president of the *Times'* Mountain States Communications until June 1, 1994, when he sold the *Times* to Full Court Press, Ltd., "a corporation of local investors put together by *Times* publisher Loren Jenkins."

Jenkins added national columns, *New York Times* wire stories, and global news. Previous editors used local stories, not wire. He also merged the *Aspen Times Daily* with its weekend *Aspen Times Weekly* at the end of 1994. In late Fall 1995, Jenkins resigned as editor and publisher after "significant disagreements with the paper's local owners." Longtime employee Andy Stone was named Editor in Chief. John Colson, another longtime Colorado newspaperman, was named editor.

Rocky Mountain Sun July 8, 1881-1903, Mackey, Mason, and Giffney, founders. The trio also published the Ashcroft *Pitkin County Herald*, and the *Sun's* companion daily:

Aspen Morning Sun March 26, 1895-1897. Newspaper directories list it as published by the Sun & Herald Publishing Co., although the *Herald* part was later

dropped. The *Sun's* first issue was delayed a week because the wagon carrying the press from Buena Vista overturned, damaging the press. Said the new publishers:

We do not claim that we have come here "to fill a long felt need" nor to purify this camp from the evil influences of any man or set of men, but we have come here to assist in building up the town and district and with them ourselves, and to that end will leave no stone unturned to accomplish our object.

The *Sun* led a thoughtful and honorable, but short, life.

Aspen Daily Chronicle July 5, 1888-December 12, 1893, James Coughlin, founder. It was first published as a morning daily but switched to Evening Chronicle.

There was a companion:

Aspen Weekly Chronicle July 7, 1889-12/1893; James Coughlin, founder. The Aspen Publishing Company was publisher in 1892. B. Clark Wheeler bought the *Chronicle* and published it with the help of Davis Waite. It evidently was absorbed by the *Times* when the two men went into government service. Coughlin was publishing newspapers in Victor in the mid-1890s.

Aspen Union Era August 13, 1891-August 4, 1892, Davis H. Waite, George Rohde, founders. Rohde also published the *Crystal Silver Lance*. An impassioned voice for labor, the purpose of the *Union Era* was to emphasize union solidarity, the link between labor and politics, and the wages, strikes, and compensation issues. The slogan "OUR MOTTO: JUSTICE" was stated under the newspaper name.

Waite was said to have "an effective and trenchant style," and his writing showed force and "a wealth of evidence." The *Union Era* became the first leading

spokesman for Colorado Populism. The silver issue was what brought most people to the Populist Party. Silver was only one issue to Waite, who saw social and industrial reforms as more important to the Populist crusade. He viewed the existing political parties as corrupt, kept alive by a Wall Street monopoly of funds and corporate lawyers in the U.S. Senate (including Colorado's two senators).

Waite sincerely believed that the richest lands and resources in Colorado were controlled by eastern and foreign capital, who also bought legislatures and paid for preferential laws. In particular he contended that the railroads held Colorado captive; he called for government ownership of them, rejecting land grants to the railroad. He felt the same way about the sale or leasing of government lands to corporations. Said Waite in the *Union Era* in September 1892: "*Private ownership in land is legalized robbery. The earth belongs to all the people in usufruct.*"

The *Union Era* gave Populism the boost it needed to be successful in Colorado. Within a year the *Union Era* was focusing on the price of silver--a mine-owner's issue affecting employees--and Waite was heading for the governorship of Colorado. The campaign for governor took up Waite's time, and George Rohde was busy with his other paper. The *Union Era* ended, but both men continued to champion Populism with their pens for the rest of their lives. And Rohde kept in touch with his former partner while Waite was Governor, often offering opinions and advice.

Aspen Daily Press June 17, 1885-1886, merged with *Daily Democrat*.

Aspen Daily Democrat #1 July 1885-1886, and weekly companion:

Aspen Democrat October 16, 1885-1886, merged with *Press* to:

Aspen Democrat-Press 1886-1889, daily; Press Printing Co.

Aspen Mining Record 1889-1890, F.H. Ellis.

Aspen Daily Leader February 1, 1892-1894, J.M. McMichael, founder; Leader Publishing Company.

Aspen Tribune August 13, 1895-July 2, 1901, Tribune Publishing Co. The *Tribune* was a daily Populist newspaper. Price & McChesney were listed as publishers in 1897.

Bryan Democrat *October* 1897-1898, daily; Pitkin County Democrat Central Committee, publisher. B. Clark Wheeler's obituary states that he bought and merged the above three papers into the *Times*.

Evangel 1918-1919, Barry F. Ross, founder. This newspaper is listed by newspaper historian Wallace Rex.

Aspen News 1931-1932, C.A. Stewart, founder. Stewart, who owned the *DeBeque News*, started the *Aspen News* in May 1931, a few months after Dailey suspended the *Times*. When the *Times* resumed at the beginning of 1932, Stewart suspended the *News*; he suspended his DeBeque paper in May 1932.

Aspen Illustrated News 1964-1969, Harold Pabst, an Aspen mayor, and son, Nick Pabst.

Aspen Today 1970-June 1975, founded by the Aspen Today News Corp., publishers. Guy H. Wood was publisher from February 1971-September 9, 1973. Wood, and his wife Marcia, later published the *Canon City Fremont County Sun*, *Ouray Plaindealer* and newspapers in New Mexico. The Woods sold *Aspen Today* to Donald Tesitor, Carol J. Little & Tom Carter in September 1973.

Russ Campbell, former Aspen city manager, bought *Today* in January 1975, returning it to weekly publication. Campbell, also a CU graduate, was assistant city manager at Boulder before moving to Aspen in 1974. *Aspen Today* folded in June 1975.

Mountain Gazette Mentioned in an Aspen Times article about the towns "Quiet Years," journalist Gaylord Guenin, once an editor of the *Illustrated News*, returned to Aspen 1976 to work on the *Gazette*. The paper folded in 1979.

Aspen Daily News July 1, 1978-to date, David Danforth, founder. The company name was Ute City Tea Party Ltd. The first issue was one page and was passed out on the street. It grew to a sizeable paper published daily and Saturday. Danforth, a Yale graduate and former radio reporter, arrived in Aspen in the 1970s. He told a *Denver Post* reporter in 1993:

I guess I figured a couple of things out in Aspen....I come from an investigative background. I like uncovering sleaze. I get upset at the human condition. We're into tough reporting.

The *Times* and *News* are not as much competitors as they "coexist peacefully" according to an article in *Colorado Editor*, February 1992. Dunaway characterized the

Times as "less sensational" than the *News*, but people tend to "leaf through both daily papers because they are small and free and cover most local events."

Roaring Fork Sunday November 12, 1995 to present. Started by several veteran newspapermen, including Jim Pokrandt, John Duffy, and Kurt and Jackie Lewis. *Roaring Fork Sunday* precipitated a newspaper war almost immediately. *Daily News* publisher Dave Danforth accused his former employees--Pokrandt, Duffy and several others--of "stealing" Danforth's idea for a Sunday paper. Robinson claimed he pitched the idea to Danforth.

Independence

Four lucky prospectors struck gold near the head of the Roaring Fork River on July 4, 1879. They celebrated the nation's independence--and what they hoped was theirs--by calling the spot Independence. Within days men were streaming across the divide from Leadville and a tent city emerged. Independence was the most promising of the new group of camps in 1880, and at its peak may have had as many as 2,000 residents.

Independence was a town of many names, starting with the one given July 4, 1879. Land promoters surveying the townsite in 1880, with "consent of a majority of residents" renamed the town Chipeta, recognized in her own right, not just as the wife of Chief Ouray. The post office, however, approved a post office under the name Sidney, January 4, 1881. The Farwell Consolidated Mining Company, a group from Leadville which owned claims in the area, objected to the town promoters' actions and

also applied for a post office. It was granted July 14, 1881 for the name Farwell. None of the names seemed to stick, because about the same time the *Aspen Times* reported:

The Post Office Department has asked the people of Independence to change the name of their camp, there being a number of post offices of that name in the country.

Again, in February 1882, the *Times* reported.

News and gossip from the golden corner of Pitkin County. Once more the name of Independence has been changed. Let us hope that this will stick. The Post Office Department in Washington has christened it Sparkhill. (sic)

The first two post offices were abolished a short time later. Later the name was changed twice more, to Mammoth and Mount Hope, before reverting to the original Independence. In 1885 Independence had a population of 350, but when the stages stopped running, the people began leaving, and in 1887 there were only about 100 people left. The Sparkill post office was closed in 1887, but the town lasted a little longer. Some mines were worked as late as 1908, but were not worth the effort. The once-sprightly town is now preserved as a ghost town and the name remains on nearby Independence Pass, the second highest pass on the Divide.

The one newspaper kept one name despite the town's many.

Independence Miner 1881-1883, George C. Hickey, publisher.

Snowmass Village

Snowmass Village is the second to use the name. The first Snowmass, established in 1889, is northwest, almost on the Eagle County border. The name Snowmass-at-Aspen was given the ski resort founded in 1967.

Snowmass Villager October 1967--?, a tabloid-sized newspaper launched by Bil Dunaway, publisher of the *Aspen Times*. The editorial office was in Snowmass-at-Aspen but the printing was done at the *Times* plant in Aspen.

Snowmass Village Sun June 22, 1978 to present, Betty Slaughter, Ruth Kevan, Betty Schuss and Betsy Chaffin, founders. In October 1983 the paper was sold to Richard N. Hammell, president of Hammell Newspapers, Inc. A husband-wife team, Bob Hollingsworth and Abby Rand, bought the *Sun* late in 1990. Hollingsworth had spent 30 years with *Long Island Newsday* and was the first editorial writer for *New York Newsday*. Rand was a free-lance columnist for several major national magazines, and was resorts editor of *Snow Country* magazine.

Kurt and Jackie Lewis of Bell, Mo., purchased the *Snowmass Sun* at the end of 1994. The Lewises own three Missouri newspapers. Kurt Lewis earned national fame as the youngest publisher of a newspaper chain at the age of 19. In addition to the newspapers, the family owns a full-service printing company, a business-forms manufacturing company, and a cable television company, among other ventures.

Special Sources: *Aspen Times* Centennial Edition 4/23/1981.

"A Populist Newspaper of the Nineties," Leon W. Fuller, *The Colorado Magazine* 5/1932.

"Fiery and Feisty: Davis Waite," Richard D. Lamm and Duane A. Smith, *Pioneers and Politicians*, Pruett Publishing Co., Boulder 1984.

"Aspen, The History of Silver-Mining Town 1879-1893," Malcolm J. Rohrbough, Oxford University Press 1986.

"Pioneers of the Roaring Fork," Len Shoemaker, Sage Books, Denver, 1965.

"Roaring Fork Valley," Len Shoemaker, Sage Books 1958.

"Aspen On The Roaring Fork," Frank L. Wentworth, published by Francis B. Rissari, Denver, 1935.

Special Thanks to Bill Dunaway and Mary Eshbaugh Hayes.

CHAPTER LII

PROWERS COUNTY

John Wesley Prowers of Missouri first came to Colorado as a trader for William Bent. In 1861 he married Amache, daughter of the Cheyenne chief One Eye. Soon after he acquired a herd of cattle and worked as a rancher. In 1864 Colonel John Chivington imprisoned Prowers and his family for two days to prevent them from warning the Cheyennes of his impending attack on their village at Sand Creek.

Prowers became one of the great cattle barons of southeastern Colorado. Elected to the territorial legislature in 1873, he was honored when Bent County was split up in 1889 to create a new county named for him.

Albany

Advance 1887-1888, Herbert Brown, founder.

Amache

After the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 mandated the forcible internment of Japanese-American citizens living in California, Oregon and Washington. In August 1942, the Amache Relocation Camp opened to house up to 7,500 Japanese-Americans. For the

duration of World War II, Amache functioned as a medium-sized city, with its own government, school system, businesses, hospital, farms and newspapers.

Granada Pioneer 1942-1945, R. Yoshida, publisher. A relocation camp publication in Japanese and English.

Amache Hi It 1943. Published by the Amache senior high school journalism class.

Amity

The Salvation Army founded the town of Amity as an agricultural colony in 1898 to give underprivileged laborers from the crowded cities of the East a chance to start again as farmers.

Sentinel 1902-1903. Salvation Army, publisher; A.G. Glass, editor. In 1903 C.A. Brakeman bought the *Sentinel* and changed the name to:

Optimist 1903-1906, C.A. Brakeman, founder. John W. Dautrich was owner in 1906.

Bulletin 1906-1907.

Observer 1906, Steward Lewis, founder. It was sold to the *Holly Chieftain* the same year it was founded.

Bristol

Herald 1919-1929, Ben Craven, founder. In July 1921, F.B. Miller bought the *Herald*. J.E. Wood was editor in 1929.

Record 1910-1918, 1922. J.H. Starbuck was founder and Jay Mayfield held an interest, which was purchased by Emil R. Von Kielglass in May 1915. The paper was bogged down in a lawsuit and discontinued in 1918, but briefly revived in August 1922 by Charles A. Tenney with a Mr. Decker serving as editor.

Carlton

News 1887-1888, Judge C.H. Frybargen, founder.

Monthly Guest 1897-1905.

Granada

Bulletin 1942. Published at the Grenada Relocation Center established by the War Relocation Authority.

Exponent 1886-1890. Hamer Norris was the editor.

Graphic 1887-1888. Herbert Brown, founder.

Journal 1927-1949. A.L. McDonald, publisher.

Leader 1912-1924.

News 1924-1925.

Pioneer 1942-1945.

Sentinel 1888-1890. W.G. Calhoun, founder. The *Sentinel* favored the Democratic Party.

Times 1887-1888. C.B. Stewart, publisher.

Times #2 1898-1914.

Hartman

Hartman was home to a sugar beet factory and a grain co-operative. It thrived in the 1920s and 1930s.

Enterprise 1908-1927.

Progressive 1914 (?)

Holly

Holly was established as a ranching community in 1896. The town incorporated in 1903.

Arkansas Valley Call 1909-1915, weekly, A. Townsley, publisher.

Chieftain 1897-1982. H.W. Milford, who was publishing a newspaper in Kansas, moved his plant to the new town and published the first edition of the *Chieftain* February 11, 1897. In 1905 he sold the *Chieftain* to J.M. Miner, who also established the *Amity Observer*. L.N. Zalinger purchased both papers from Miner in 1910. In April 1917,

Lee Meadows of Kansas bought the *Chieftain*, selling it eight months later to W.H. Woodhouse. Woodhouse dealt the paper to C. Clinton Page in August of 1918. R.E. Wood bought the *Chieftain* in 1920, but sold it January 1, 1922 to Charles A. Tenney.

Dewey O. Linder was owner from 1924-1928. T.J. Garnder published the paper from 1928-1930, followed by D. Maynard Wood, 1931-1937; Thomas Dugan & Maxine Dugan, 1938-1949; and Holly Publishing, which was owned in part by Fred Betz of the Lamar *Daily News*. In 1951, Fred Pottorf bought the *Chieftain* and became its editor/publisher. Pottorf and his wife Helen Pottorf sold the paper back to the Betz family-specifically Tom and Ava Betz-in 1975. It was merged into the *News* in 1982.

Holly News 1902-1904. Frank Crowley, publisher; W.H. Ham, editor.

Lamar

The town of Lamar was incorporated May 22 1886 by the Lamar Town & Land Co., led by John E. Godding and I.R. Holmes. A rush of settlers came to the new town through 1888. Lamar was known to be friendly to saloons; the first conviction for violation of liquor laws in Lamar did not take place until the late twentieth century. The town is named for Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Lamar, U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

Bent County Register 1886-1889. It was a Republican paper. The name changed to:

Prowers County Register 1889-1892. B.B. Brown bought the *Register* in March 1890 and sold it to George B. Merrill and E.F. Seeberger in July 1891. C.D. Ford bought Seeberger's interest in 1892. The name changed again to:

Lamar Register 1892-1953. In 1895, George Merrill bought out Ford to become sole owner. His son John Merrill became owner upon his death in 1936. In March 1952, John Merrill sold the Lamar *Register* to Fred Pottorf of the Holly *Chieftain*.

Advocate 1887-1888. Charlie Ross, founder.

Leader 1886-1889, founded by G.M. McGill. Merged with the *Sparks*.

Prowers County News 1902-1920, weekly. C. Frost Liggett, founder.

Daily News 1907-1961, C. Frost Liggett, founder. It was a morning daily. Both the weekly and daily edition of the *News* were sold to R.E. Wood in December 1919. Fred M. Betz bought the *News* in 1920. His son, Fred M. Betz, Jr., joined the staff in 1950, gradually taking over editorial and other functions from his father. The younger Betz was president of the Colorado Press Association in 1956. The newspaper name underwent additional changes:

Lamar Tri-State Daily News 1961-1982 .

Lamar Daily News 1982-1987.

Lamar Daily News and Holly Chieftain 1987-present. Tim Betz was publisher in 1989; Sue Mizell from May 1997-2000. Jim Farmer took over in December 2000. Hew Hallock was editor from 1999 until June 29, 2001, when Michael Holzmeister took over.

Great Southwest News 1920-1924.

Sparks 1887-1944. Founded by Mrs. M.A. Metcalf. She sold in 1889 to Joe T. Lawless, who hired Metcalf's son, J.W. Metcalf, as editor. Lawless sold to George W. Butler in 1892 but was back in control by the following year. Lawless bought G.M. McGill's *Lamar Leader* and merged it into the *Sparks*.

Sparks & Leader 1889-1912. It was a Democratic paper. By 1912, it was again simply known as:

Sparks 1912-1944. Charles Maxwell bought the paper in 1925. Editors included Harry Gadsby, Louise A. Morgan, Ralph L. Williams, J.D. Blevins, and A.M. Mitchell.

Times 1888-1889

Times #2 1930-32

Times-Irrigator 1888-1890, weekly, founded by land magnate Festus Koen. Hamer Norris was editor beginning early in 1890.

Times-Graphic 1953 (?)

Mulvane

News 1888-1890. D.L. Egger, publisher.

Wiley

Settlers arrived in the late 1870s and early 1880s, but Wiley did not incorporate until 1907.

Booster 1940-?, Wiley Commercial Club, publisher.

Independent 1907-1908.

Journal 1907-1926.

Leader 1927-1931.

Record 1927-28.

CHAPTER LIII

PUEBLO COUNTY

For years the Arkansas River served as the northern-most extension of Spain and then Mexico. It was visited by French fur trappers in the 1700s, and a Mormon mission in the 1840s. A small settlement on the Northern flank of the river called El Pueblo, settled by a mix of Northern New Mexican and Anglos, was attacked by Ute Indians on Christmas Day, 1854, killing 54 people and putting a temporary halt to settlement in the area. However, the prime location at the junction of Fountain Creek and the Arkansas River continued to draw settlers especially after the 1858-59 gold rush. In 1870 Pueblo became a town under the Colorado Territory.

Anticipating the arrival of his Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, General William J. Palmer platted the new town of South Pueblo on the south side of the Arkansas River. He planned a railroad depot there, circumventing local taxes and fees in Pueblo. The town of Bessemer was platted in 1886 to house steel mills, workers and businesses. These steel mills transformed Pueblo into a regional smelting center. Railroad companies made Pueblo a hub, creating an immense rail yard below the bluff along the Arkansas River. North Pueblo became home to large numbers of railroad workers, while steel mill workers concentrated in Bessemer to the south. In East Pueblo, modest Victorian cottages sprang up for the thousands of smelter workers and a brewery opened in the 1880s.

The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company (C.F. & I.), the largest of Pueblo's steel mills, was purchased by the Rockefeller family in 1903. The new owners modernized the plant but faced significant labor difficulties. Italian and Southern Europeans immigrated in waves around 1900, dotting Pueblo with hundreds of benevolent associations and neighborhood grocery stores and saloons. Race relations were not always ideal, but access to jobs, affordable housing and recreation kept ethnic tensions lower than in many other industrialized cities.

In June 1921, heavy rains overwhelmed mountain reservoirs and swelled the Arkansas River. Despite recent improvements to a flood levee, the massive storm unleashed its fury on the area, and the reservoirs along the Arkansas River gave way. Whole neighborhoods were soon flooded out, including the commercial district. Union Avenue, the main businesses district in Pueblo, was under 10 feet of water. Exact figures are elusive but it has been speculated that some 200 were killed in what is still Colorado's deadliest natural disaster.

A new steel boom in the 1920s helped Pueblo rebound, but the Great Depression hit the city hard. Pueblo received a substantial portion of federal assistance funds from the Roosevelt administration's New Deal. Work programs constructed a beautiful Day Nursery building and several parks and improvements all across the city. World War II brought a new steel-producing boom in the 1940s. Since the war both the steel industry and Pueblo have struggled. Downtown has revived with the Pueblo River

Walk, a 1990s restoration of the original Arkansas River bed as a park like setting complete with riverboat rides.

Bessemer

Bessemer was a community distinct from Pueblo until about 1900 when it was incorporated into the city.

Bessemer Indicator 1889-1906, founded by J.W. Love. Patrick Byrnes became owner in 1893. It became the *Pueblo Indicator* in 1906 when the town was absorbed into the city. Byrnes was owner/editor until his death in January 1, 1950.

Iron Hand 1889-1891.

Bessemer Journal 1891-1892.

Bessemer Post 1891-1892.

Bessemer News 1892-1893.

Carlisle

A railroad station as early as 1879, Carlisle was known for its sulfur and iron spring.

Reporter 1887-1888.

Chico

Chico was a railroad station from 1883 to about 1906.

Chico Republican 1888-1889.

Dawkins/Pinon

Called Dawkins by the first post office but also known as Pinon, it was a railroad station from about 1874.

Altrurian 1895-1901.

Pueblo

Colorado Chieftain June 1, 1868, Michael Beshoar, founder. The *Chieftain* was the first newspaper in southern Colorado. Beshoar, a former Confederate Army surgeon, intended to make it a Democratic paper. He found enthusiasm among Democratic leaders, but not ready cash to support the endeavor. Without backers, Beshoar used the good credit of his drugstores to order a Washington hand press, equipment and paper stock from a Denver company, and announced the *Colorado Chieftain*. He recruited printer Sam McBride from the *Colorado Transcript* in Golden and made him co-proprietor.

Unable to do all the writing himself because of his business commitments, Beshoar assembled a “scholarly volunteer editorial board” to help. Some of the town’s most distinguished and educated citizens were happy to serve. They included Moses

Hallet, former Chief Justice of the Territorial Supreme Court; Dr. H.C. Miller, a surgeon at nearby Fort Reynolds; Henry C. Thatcher, lawyer, organizer of the Pueblo and Salt Lake Railroad, state Supreme Court Justice, and Pueblo County's representative to the Constitutional Convention in 1876; and Reverend F.S. Winslow, a young Episcopalian missionary recently appointed to build Pueblo's first church, St. Peter's.

The lead story in the *Chieftain's* first issue was Wilbur Stone's report of the "melancholy intelligence of Kit Carson's death." Beshoar had treated the famous scout for a cough and chest and neck pains just a month before.

By December 1868, the over-burdened Sam McBride, not in good health himself, wanted out of the long hours and short pay. The partnership was dissolved. Beshoar called upon the printer's union in Denver for a replacement and was soon joined by R.M. Stevenson. Under the pen name *Tite Barnacle* he speculated that Shakespeare would love the "Greasers, half-breeds and adventurers from every point of the compass who made up the floating population" of early Pueblo. Stevenson's off-hand slurs were unfortunately characteristic of racial attitudes expressed by many early frontier newspapers.

Sam McBride raised a down payment and returned as buyer of the *Chieftain*. Dr. Beshoar's valedictory, published March 10, 1869, expressed his "congratulations to the people of Southern Colorado upon having an organ fixed upon a permanent basis from a business point of view." But McBride ran out of money and found no help from potential backers. He sold the *Chieftain* in June 1870 to Captain John J. Lambert, who

sent his brother, Nicholas N. Lambert, to run the paper until the Captain got out of the army in 1872, when he changed the name to:

Pueblo Chieftain It became a four-page daily at the time of the name change in April 1872. The first issue featured national and international news conveyed by telegram. Local news included appointment of a new sheriff, bridge repairs, horse thieves, and efforts to create a Pueblo water system. In 1874, the name changed again, to:

Pueblo Daily Chieftain Like Dr. Bashoar before him, Captain Lambert kept his day job to support the paper. When he left the Army to run the *Daily Chieftain* in 1874, his brother Nicholas left to found the Del Norte *San Juan Prospector*. The *Chieftain* bought the *People*, founded in 1871 by George Hepburn, along with all its physical stock in 1875. Both names were carried for several years and the older paper was called the **Pueblo Daily Chieftain** a while.

In 1876, the paper had its first libel suit after it questioned the integrity and ability of a U.S. District Attorney, a not uncommon newspaper practice. Editor Stevenson admitted the man might have been libeled “about two bits worth” and offered to settle if the attorney would come to the newspaper office to collect. In the preliminary hearing all sixteen Southern Colorado District Attorneys told the judge they were “for the defense,” and the suit never went to trial.

Early *Cheiftain* editors included George S. Adams, E.G. Stroud, and C.J. Reed, the first to serve under Lambert. Major T.A. Bigny, editor in 1873, was a mineralogist and

poet. He wrote *A Frontier Life Story of Thrilling Adventures*, a biography of Dick Wooten. A.P. George was editor in 1874, followed by R.M. Stevenson, who held the post until 1880.

The *Chieftain* was sympathetic to the Santa Fe railroad's efforts to build westward, and disapproved of the "toughs" supporting the Denver & Rio Grande who were terrorizing rival South Pueblo. For the *Chieftain's* stance on the conflict, editor Stevenson was assaulted on the street by "four D&RG assassins." In the melee that ensued, Stevenson was knocked down and kicked in the head, but discharged his Derringer pistol into the stomach of one of the assailants. The man's fate was not recorded, but the *Chieftain* commented "it is to be sincerely hoped that one of the cowardly assailants has a ball in his bowels."

The Chieftain Publishing Company was organized in 1883 with Lambert as president and general manager. The paper went to a six-column, eight-page broadsheet. In January 1883, Lambert could proudly say that 23 newspapers had been started in Pueblo to drive the *Chieftain* out, but none had succeeded. In 1887 the *Pueblo Evening Star* graciously conceded that "The *Chieftain* has taken root in Pueblo soil the giant oak in a forest, and will remain here as long as Southern Colorado is inhabited." In October 1894, the *Chieftain* acquired four linotype machines, each of which would do the work of four compositors. That same year, the *Chieftain* noted that its 41st newspaper competitor, the *Pueblo Herald*, had gone under.

Captain Lambert retired in February 1903 and sold the *Chieftain* to Ike N. Stevens and G.V. Barton, former owners of the *Colorado Springs Gazette*. They added a morning carrier service and special correspondents in Denver and Colorado Springs, and in all southern and Western Colorado cities. Stevens and Barton sold the paper in March 1911 to a “very strong and influential group of Pueblo citizens” including T.H. Devine, B.B. Brown and J.A. Barclay. This group in turn dealt the *Chieftain* George T. Haubrich, Fred E. Marvin and Will R. Wright on June 1, 1913. Haubrich had published the *Eagle Valley Enterprise* since 1905 and was longtime secretary of the Colorado Press Association. The new owners of the *Chieftain* soon merged in the *Pueblo Leader*, a six year old daily.

Haubrich and Marvin lasted until November 30, 1914, when control reverted to the Chieftain Printing Company. Walter Wilder was named editor and Alva A. Swain, another longtime CPA secretary, associate editor. Ike Stevens was still president and principal owner. He sold his interest in December 1915 to Wilder, Swain and Granville “Gus” Withers, who had gotten his start in the business as a printer’s devil with the *Chieftain* at the age of 15, working his way up through typesetting, press operations, sales, reporting and editing.

Alva Adams was owner in 1925. He named George H. Sweeney manager of the paper. Sweeney became part owner and succeeded Wilder as editor in 1926. The *Chieftain* was sold February 1, 1933 to Frank S. Hoag Sr., publisher of the evening *Star-*

Journal. He continued both papers, putting out the *Chieftain* in the morning. A combined Sunday edition achieved circulation of 19,000.

The *Chieftain* has remained under Hoag family ownership ever since. The afternoon *Star-Journal* was folded in the mid-1980s after Frank Hoag Jr. had taken the helm at both papers. Today, The *Chieftain* is published by Robert H. Rawlings, grandson and nephew to the Hoag publishers. Rawlings' daughter, Jane Rawlings, is assistant publisher and vice president. Both have been active civic leaders regarding issues the paper has covered for generations of readers.

Great West 1870-1871.

People September 1871-1874, founded George Hepburn with Wilbur Stone and George A. Hinsdale, sold in 1874 to the *Chieftain*, where it was issued as the *Daily Chieftain and People* for two years when it reverted to *Colorado Chieftain*.

Daily People 1873.

Colorado Advocate September 1872-August 1873, James Rice, founder.

Sam McBride's Advertiser 1872-August 1873, monthly.

Anvil April 19, 1873-1874, Adams, Wilson & Co. (South Pueblo).

Pueblo Free Press August 14-21, 1875.

Pueblo Republican 1874-1876, founder J.M. Murphy, an active member of the local thespian company. Col. W.H.F. Hall, editor. J.S. Dormer and G.J. Reed served as

editors at one point. Missourians Dr. A.Y. Hull and his brother bought the *Republican* and changed the name to:

Pueblo Democrat 1877-1881, daily. N.A. and F.W. Hull, sons of Dr. Hull, were listed as publishers. J.S. Dormer and G.J. Reed took over management January 1877, but Dr. Hull bought the *Democrat* back March 1879. Eventually it was sold to a Judge Royal and renamed:

Sunday Morning News 1881-1882; new owners changed the name to:

Pueblo Evening News 1882-1884, daily.

Pueblo Bulletin July 1876-1877, founded by Col. W.H.F. Hall, later with the *Pueblo Republican* and founder of the *Gunnison News*, and a Mr. Wright. John Gibson was at the helm in 1877. The *Bulletin* billed itself the "Leading Republican paper in Southern Colorado."

South Pueblo Banner 1879-1881, founded by A.J. Patrick and sold to a Mr. Tibbets.

Sunday Morning News 1881-1882, Dr. T.J. Worrall, founder. It was a South Pueblo weekly printed with equipment shipped from the Carbonate Camp of Leadville.

Pueblo Welcome March 16, 1882-1884, published by Small, Fillmore & Co., real estate dealers.

Commercial Standard June, 1882-March 21, 1885; continued as

Colorado Live Stock Review April 4, 1885-1889, Charles W. Bowman. It was continued as:

Review and Standard 1890-1891, and

Pueblo Review and Farmer 1891-1892, Flory and Donahue, publishers. E. Brayton was editor.

Saturday Opinion (South Pueblo) June 1882-September 1885, J.A. Wayland and Lon Hoding, founders. They were bought out by E.H. Osgood and A.W Mahan. It was a politically independent paper, Osgood being “an ardent Republican while Mahan was an equally enthusiastic Democrat.” John Lockin bought Mahan’s interest and the name changed to:

Pueblo Sunday Opinion September 1885-1925. Osgood and Lockin were partners for twenty years; Lockin remained publisher until 1923. Hallet C. Galley (another source says Gallup) was owner 1923-1925.

Daily Evening Star and **Saturday Evening Star** January 6, 1884-May 31, 1901 with a dateline of South Pueblo. A.D. Westcott, founder; J.L. Lacy was editor and manager 1884-1887. H.K. Palmer was editor in 1894.

Pueblo Dispatch 1888-1889, a daily.

Pueblo Standard 1885-1889.

Double-Header February 20, 1886-1887.

Daily Pueblo Press May 5, 1886-1898, Col. John C. Moore, founder, John A. Hill, manager. Editors included W.B. McKinney, 1892; W.B. White, 1897; N.P. White, 1898. The *Pueblo Daily Press* merged with the *Star* in 1901.

Merry World November 27, 1887-December 1892. M.J. Smith and A.J. Lamareaux founded this illustrated paper for the family. Leon Hartigan from New Mexico was editor.

Coming Crisis 1889-1893.

Pueblo Democrat #2 1890-1891.

Real Estate Journal 1890-1891.

Pueblo World 1890-1892.

Thinkograph January 3, 1891-1892.

Ranch 1891-1894.

Pueblo Review and Farmer 1891-1892.

WCTU Bulletin 1892.

Stage Bulletin 1892-1893.

Pueblo Independent 1893-1895.

Pueblo Call 1894-1898, Sherman and Jennie Fosdick, founders.

Pueblo Evening Journal 1894-1895, merged with the *Star*.

Pueblo Record 1894-1895.

Pueblo Star-Herald 1894-1896.

State Guard 1894-1895.

Pueblo Evening Telegraph 1894-1895.

Pueblo Times #1 1894-1896, O.L. Boyd.

Pueblo Advisor 1895-1896, John Morton, publisher, Charles A. Galloway, editor.

Pueblo Spokesman 1895-1896, George D. Single.

American Free Press 1895-1896.

Bon Tom 1895-1896, Mrs. M.C. Chaddock.

Independent Reform Press 1895-1901, W.H. Howard, publisher, J.D. Chamberlain, editor.

Pueblo Oracle 1895-1897.

Pueblo Post 1895-1896-1911, founder S.D. Brosius.

Pueblo Republican #2 1895-1897.

Pueblo Courier 1896-1903, Otto Thu & Coates, F.A. Richardson, editor; continued
as:

Pueblo Labor Advocate August 6, 1903-June 10, 1904, H.A. McIntyre & Kirchner.

Saturday Mail 1896-1903, Webb M. Oungst, editor; in 1900, it was Oungst and S.D. Brosius; E.F. Gladwin in 1904.

Tribune-Press 1896-1905, O.L. Boyd, founder.

Individual 1896-1899, Alex and Mary Darley.

Commercial Press 1897-1899.

Pueblo Standard #2 1897-1898, Frank D. Bruce.

Western Statesman 1897-1902, W.J. and Victor Jackson.

Colorado Woman 1897-1900, Mrs. S.A. Porter.

Free Press 1897, Roege & Weber.

Colorado Times #1 1898-1900.

Rocky Mountain Advocate 1898-1899, William Jeltz, ed., African-American newspaper.

Pueblo Tribune 1898-1901, which became **Pueblo Tribune Press** 1901-1904. Charles F. Albert was publisher in 1902 and O.O. Boyd in 1904.

Colorado Clubwoman 1900, Mary Luqueer Strang.

Pueblo Evening Journal 1900-May, 1901, merged with *Star* to:

Pueblo Star-Journal June 1, 1901-1984, merged with the *Chieftain*.

Arkansas Valley Review 1901-1902.

Pueblo County Democrat January 1, 1902-1904, H.W. Pontius, editor.

Pueblo Standard #2 1902-1904.

Voice of Liberty 1902-1903.

Colorado Times #2 1904-1912; M.B. Brooks. This may have been an African-American paper.

Pueblo Mail 1904-1905.

Rocky Mountain Leader 1904-1905.

Colorado Democrat 1905-1907.

Pueblo Indicator (from Bessemer) 1906-1951, Patrick Byrnes 1891-1947; William A. Byrnes succeeded his father upon his death but soon suspended the paper. Patrick Byrnes often wrote his editorial commentaries in verse form.

Pueblo Sun September 1, 1906-December 3, 1910, Scripps-McRae Press Association, publishers, under the name Pueblo Sun Publishing Co. A.R. Hopkins was editor 1906-1908; J. Craig Ralston 1909-1911. The plant was bought by Andrew McClelland and a group of community leaders, who established:

Pueblo Leader 1910-1913, Edward Keating was president 1910-1913. Roy McClintock was editor. Sold to Fred Marvin and George T. Haubrich, editors/managers 1913; the merged it into the *Chieftain*.

Arkansas Valley Item 1908-1910.

Arkansas Valley Democrat 1910-1912.

Colorado Eagle 1910-1913.

Countryside 1915-1926.

Pueblo Spectator 1915-1917.

Megaphone 1916-1920.

Rising Sun 1919-1921, Thomas L. Cate; official organ for "Order of Twelve" of the NAACP; W.J. Jackson – formerly of the *Western Statesman* – bought it and probably changed the name to:

Western Ideal 1923-1960; M.O. Seymour publisher 1933-1960.

Pueblo County Democrat #2 1922-1923, Lois Allen, publisher.

Public Opinion #2 1923-1924.

Pueblo Times 1925-1949, G.E. Whitney was publisher until 1930. The *Times* was a labor union paper. W.H. Chrisman was publisher from 1931 to June 1939; Ray H. Talbot, June 1939 to March 1942; John F. Bicknell, March 1942 to June 1945; Jack Craddock, 1944 to 1949, when it was discontinued.

Colorado Tribune June 1, 1933 to present, founded in Canon City 1927 and moved to Pueblo in 1933. George J. Knapp, John R. MacLean and J.B. Parks were owners

by 1936. "Scotty" MacLaine was publisher from 1950 to 1959, followed by Vickie MacLaine 1959-1960. George S. Heaton bought the *Tribune* from the from the MacLaine estate in 1960 and ran it until his death in 1969. Heaton's widow and son took over and ran the paper, which is primarily published as a legal notice paper.

Catholic Crosswinds July 13, 1945 to present; founded as **Southern Colorado Register**, part of the nation-wide Register system of papers. The name changed to **Dateline Colorado** in 1967, then to **Catholic Crosswinds** in 1971.

Monitor March-July 1949, Jack Craddock, who had been *Times* publisher; free circulation.

High Country News 1963.

German Language

Freie Press 1887-1891.

Pueblo Anzeiger 1892-1896, John Michel and Smallfield. This was a continuation of *Freie Press*. George Harries was publisher in 1896.

Volksblatt 1887-1888.

Pueblo Freie Press #2 1897-1899.

Italian Language

Daily Vos Populi November 16, 1881-1882, Charles Baker and J.L. Lacy.

L'Unione November 1897-March 28, 1947. Hector Chiariglione was publisher until April 1947. Vincenzo (Vincent) Massari took over as publisher from 1922 until 1947, when it was sold to the Colorado Springs Printers Union. Massari then founded another paper:

Marsica Nuovo November 26, 1918-1926. It was the official organ of the Federazione-Marsicana. It was suspended and revived several times. Gaetano R. Venditti was owner or part owner in 1920. Massari resumed ownership in October 1921. Cesare A. Gerali bought the paper January 1, 1924.

Abruzzo-Molise January 1, 1924-1926, Vincent Massari, founder. It was published in Pueblo and Rochester, New York. It merged into *L'Unione* in December 1926.

Voce del Populi 1926-1937, Cesare Gerali. It too was merged into *L'Unione*.

Maschere 1904-1906, Serafino Nigro, editor.

Co-Operature 1918-1919.

Slavic/Serbian Language

Mir 1901-1902.

Glas Svobode October 1920-1904, Martin V. Konda, publisher, Frank M. Medica, editor.

Coloradoske Novice 1905-1907, Max Bruh. The name changed to:

Solvenski Narod 1907-1914, Rudolph Gregorich.

Pueblske Novice 1916-1917.

Sbrin 1909-1911, R.A. Porucovich.

Spanish Language

Hermanidad 1889-1907, Alex M. Darley, publisher.

Coloradeno 1919-1922.

Labor/Farm Newspapers

Mine, Stack & Rail 1886-1887.

The Iron Hand at Bessemer.

Colorado Ore and Metal Review 1890-1892, D.W. Osgood, Jr.

Colorado Workman & Farmer 1889-1892, E.S. Moore and Mrs. H.E. Loose,
publishers.

Coming Crisis 1889-1893, J.D. Chamberlain.

Workingmen's Journal 1889-1891.

Progressive Farmer 1890-1891.

Ranch 1891-1894, Mrs. Neva C. Child, and R.A. Southworth.

Industrial Advocate 1892-1896, L.W. Rogers.

Trades Assembly 1893-1894, Will C. Hyden.

Colorado Industrial Review 1906-1910.

Pueblo Labor Review 1909-1910.

Labor Press 1912-1915, Robert Tremaine, publisher. The name was changed to:

Industrial Sentinel 1916-1917.

Labor Advocate

CHAPTER LIV

RIO BLANCO COUNTY

The state bill creating Rio Blanco County from the northern portion of Garfield County was signed into law in March 1889. Meeker was designated county seat and became the focus of a prospecting craze a year later. The *Meeker Herald* reported that quite a number of citizens, armed with pick and shovel, had flown to the hills to seek their fortunes. How well they did was not known because “They are as a rule, very incommunicative and carry with them an air of mystery.” The *Herald* was less sanguine in August 1891, lamenting “Times have been hard throughout the length and breadth of the whole land during the past twelve months.” Cattle, not mining, came to dominate the county. Sheep and horses were also raised. Next in importance was farming, followed by coal and oil. The Rangely oil field opened in 1901 as the second oldest field in Colorado, and the largest.

In 1891, Congress set aside the White River Timberland Reserve as part of its new system of forest preserves in the public domain. Part of this district was carved from Rio Blanco County. This 2.3 million acre preserve ultimately became “a source of entertainment, pride and economic necessity to today’s citizens of Rio Blanco County.” But in the 1890’s the federal government’s move to set aside the area was deeply resented, due to the loss of taxable land to fuel the nascent county government and the fact that some of the preserve had been patented and cultivated by settlers.

Meeker

Ghosts are not often met on a bright summer morning. Yet in Meeker every July 4, spirits of the past walk the town. At dusk, they gather at the county area to re-enact the 1879 massacre of Indian agent Nathan C. Meeker, and the male employees of the White River Indian Agency...James Lyttle, newspaperman, often made the celebration plans front page news...Ironically, horseracing became a major part of the celebration [though Agent Meeker thought it a heathen pastime and had banned that form of entertainment for Indians.]

The Range Call section, Meeker Herald 7/4/1992

What remained of Nathan Meeker's Agency after the notorious massacre was rebuilt about three miles east and turned into a military post, Camp White River. It was abandoned in 1883, but on July 4, 1884, the post and its buildings were purchased at auction by The Meeker Town Company. The town was incorporated in November 1885.

Meeker Herald August 15, 1885 to present, James Lyttle and John V. Jack Houston, founders. Lyttle, a former printer's apprentice from Pittsburgh, migrated to Leadville in the early 1880s. There he met Houston, a fellow pressman, whom he persuaded to come along as his partner. A year later Houston was appointed postmaster by President Cleveland, and Lyttle bought out his interest to become sole proprietor. Lyttle ran the *Herald* for 40 years. The first hand-set issue was run off a George Washington hand press in a log cabin.

Hard times forced Lyttle to sell the plant and business to Henry A. Wildhack in September 1892. Wildhack was co-owner of the Meeker *Rio Blanco News*. When he bought the Herald, the two papers merged.

Rio Blanco News August 16, 1889-October 1, 1891. J.A. Burgett, founder. Burgett sold the paper in November 1889 to George W. Temple. Temple published the

News until July 16, 1892, with Delevan W. Gee as editor and Henry Wildhack, manager.

The combined papers were briefly known as

The Meeker Herald and Rio Blanco County News 1892, before reverting to *Meeker Herald*. Henry Hays was editor and owned an interest in the paper. By November Lyttle was back on the scene, having bought out Hays. Like Hays, Lyttle gave the paper a strongly Democratic political leaning. Lyttle guided the *Herald* through the economic turbulence that followed the Silver Crash of 1893. In August he wrote that the “path has not been paved with golden bricks (nor silver either)...but we are full of courage and hope”

James Lyttle passed away May 24, 1925. His son, Richard G. (Dick) Lyttle, took over and guided the *Herald* almost as long as his father did. He doubled the size of the plant and bought a modern Linotype press in the 1950s. The Lyttle family sold the *Herald* in May 1964 to K. James Cook.

Cook was born in Rifle and began his career on the *Rifle Telegram's* Linotype while he was still in high school. He had since worked on the Fort Collins Coloradoan, the Brush Tribune. In 1972, Cook's son, R. James Cook, joined the staff in 1972 and eventually became editor. Cook used the paper to promote an unusual plan to use a controlled nuclear explosion to free oil from shale deposits of the Piceane Basin in Rio Blanco County. The local economic boom that accompanied the build-up to the one-time nuclear “shot” on May 17, 1973 was short-lived. Both the coal and oil industries contracted in the area in the 1980s.

Cook sold the *Herald* in 1992 to Sureva Towler, a resident of Steamboat Springs for 20 years who was born in Washington, D.C. and attended the University of Colorado. She worked stints at the Washington Daily News, the National Endowment for the Arts, Democratic National Committee, and the Department of Urban Development. Despite her impressive resume, the *Herald* floundered. Circulation fell to less than half what it has been when Towler took over, businesses cut back on advertising, and people complained that Towler wouldn't run the basic local news items. On June 22, 1993, the *Herald* closed.

The Cook family stepped back in, negotiating with Towler for the rights to revive the *Herald*. Other Colorado newspapers stepped in to help. The *Denver Post* and the *Rocky Mountain News* took up the cause, publishing articles that put pressure on Towler, who had left her Meeker home. On July 1, ownership of the *Herald* was transferred back to the Cooks. Mike Cook, son of K. James and Leota Cook, was named publisher. He was "totally amazed by the rallying of support of the community to make this paper survive." Mike and Lisa Cook bought the paper from his parents and published it for 18 months before selling it to Glen R. and Donna L. Troester of Berthoud on January 1, 1995.

White River Review February 22, 1902-1934, James R. Riland, founder. Riland spent more than 50 years on Colorado newspapers. He started as a compositor on the *Colorado Springs Gazette* in 1877, but an interest in mining took him to Leadville. Riland was foreman and a reporter for the *Leadville Herald* and the *Leadville Democrat*, which had not yet merged. While in Leadville, he was said to have grubstaked prospectors on

shares, thus securing a number of mining claims, some good, some not. He collected mineral samples, and his collection was said to be amongst the finest in the state. The town of Meeker asked for it for a museum. After a stint in Glenwood Springs, he settled down in Meeker and began the *White River Review*.

A strong Republican, Riland's *Review* found a constituency in Meeker that was loyal enough to support him for 32 years. He did steady business in job printing in addition to publishing the paper. Riland once complained of two pests: those who cuss him for something he put in the paper and those who cuss him for something he left out. Riland suspended the *Review* in 1933, saying he didn't believe there was a need for his paper in light of the success of R.G. Lyttle's *Herald*, which he called "a very fine newspaper."

White River Press December 13, 1963-1966. Bob Sweeney, founder and publisher. Glynn Fraser was editor. Sweeney, based in Craig, was successful with a chain of several small newspapers, but not with the *Press*. The *Press*, like the *Review* before it, was overshadowed by the *Herald*.

Rangely

In one year the boom town of Rangely, Colorado, has grown from 50, to 5,000 people. Oil did it. Rangely now has 105 flowing wells. Like other boom towns, Rangely is full of mud, mugs, and bad whiskey—but it has a distinction all its own. Two women put out its only newspaper.

Time Magazine 9/9/1946

Rangely was settled as a trading post in 1885 and named after a town in Massachusetts. Once merely an outpost in a desolate area, Rangely was overrun after

1901 by oil equipment and money, which turned it into a prospering community. It got its first newspaper in 1945.

Rangely News – November 2, 1945-November 1949 E.L. Watson, founder. The paper was published every Friday evening, and printed at the *Craig Empire-Courier* plant. Lenore Kyner bought a half interest in the *News* in May 1946. Her sister, Irena Ingham, bought Watson's remaining half interest in July 1946. Ingham had been associated with the *Cripple Creek Times* and the *Durango Herald*, but had gained distinction as Colorado's first woman district judge when she was appointed to the bench by Governor Teller Ammons in 1938.

The *Time* article continued:

Recently Mrs. Kyner sniffed the excitement at Rangely, bought the news from an oil promoter. She and her 16-year-old daughter, Gloria, moved into a corrugated-iron shack office, while Mrs. Ingham stayed in Denver as capital correspondent.

During the day, Mrs. Kyner tramps through Rangely's muddy streets selling ads, gathering local news. She calls herself "Manager, editor, reporter, errand boy and devil."...At the capital, Mrs. Ingham, a one-time district judge, fights for proper housing, sanitation, roads, water supply and schools for the town. In Rangely, Mrs. Kyner campaigns against cheap and dangerous building construction, unsanitary sewage disposal.

In October 1946, another former *Cripple Creek Times* editor, retired Governor Ralph L. Carr, bought an interest in the paper and wrote editorials. But the *News* went downhill. By the summer of 1949, it was being mimeographed instead of printed. The *News* was suspended in November 1949.

Rangely Driller September 29, 1947-1955, William C. Lanham and Charles R. Baker, founders. The two were from Ohio. Lanham had a master's degree in public administration and Baker had worked on the *Toledo Blade* and the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

The Driller did not have its own printing equipment; it too was printed at the *Craig Empire-Courier*. The partners were the entire staff, although they had “stringers” to contribute columns from the oil field camps. The photographers also had day jobs. Another friend contributed petroleum industry stories.

I. W. Cox bought the *Driller* from Lahman in July 1951 and lasted until December, when he sold it to Cliff Mann and Larry Fuller. E. Hoyt Smith purchased Mann’s interest in April 1953, and about a month later Olen and Mary Bell bought the paper. The Bells dealt the *Driller* in December 1953 to the husband-wife team of Clifford and Rene Neuman. In August 1955, a group of Rangely people pooled their resources to purchase the *Driller*. They changed the name to

Rangely Times January 1956 to present. Bernard Yaeger bought out the other co-owners in March 1959, and for almost 40 years ran the bulk of the newspaper operation himself.

Born in Glasgow, Missouri in 1919, Yaeger served under General George Patton as a tank commander during World War II. He later wrote a history of the 6th Armored Division. He came to Rangely as a teacher and worked his way up to superintendent of schools, a position he held until 1965. Always devoted to education, Yaeger helped establish Colorado Northwestern Community College, and served on the Mesa College and Rangely College governing committees.

As Yaeger grew older, both Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases took their toll, and Peggy Rector along with other dedicated employees kept the paper going. Michael

Prewitt, an associate dean for the University of Missouri in Columbia and a relative of Yeager, bought the *Times* in December 1995.

Special Sources: *Colorado Prospector* 4/1976

Meeker Herald 100th Anniversary issue 8/15/1985

Meeker Herald "Yesterdays" column, various issues.

Range Call 1991, 1992.

CHAPTER LV

RIO GRANDE COUNTY

Nestling in the southernmost of the four great mountain parks of Colorado, those beds of long-lost lakes which are strung like great jewels under the shadow of the Continental Divide from the north to the very south of the state, lies Rio Grande County, her rich farm lands stretching on either side of the historic river from which she takes her name....

Gradually the settlers spread out along the streams...several Englishmen of means came adventuring into this western country....Special mention should be made of those Soldiers of Fortune of pioneer days, the scouts, who were the eyes and ears of the military authorities and performed remarkable feats of daring. Kit Carson, Tom Tobin, Jim Bridger, Parson Bill William....

Effie Aldrich Newcomb, "Who's Who" 1938

The Rio Grande del Norte--Grand River of the North--was traversed by Coronado in 1540. Indians found good hunting and fishing along its banks. Three hundred years later, its water irrigated the farm lands that put the county near the top in value of crops produced in Colorado.

It was not always a friendly area. Searching for a practical transcontinental railroad route, John Charles Fremont's ill-fated 1848 Fourth Expedition ended in disaster there, during one of Colorado's worst winters. Fremont had planned winter travel to determine how snow would affect a railroad, but his group was ill-prepared on how it affected man. The Fremont party was composed of 33 men--12 of them greenhorns, mostly scientists--more than 100 mules and \$10,000 worth of burdensome equipment and delicate scientific instruments. Trying to cross the Divide they struggled through

snow deeper than twice the height of a man, in 20-below-zero weather. The mules and 11 men died. The survivors retreated down the mountain, weak and frozen, carrying as much of the equipment as they could, only to abandon it when they were found weeks later by a relief party. Colonel Fremont was never given another chance to locate a railroad route.

The Spanish gold hunters found no riches in Rio Grande County. Early settlers were driven off by Indians but not all were discouraged. A group returned and put down roots near Monte Vista. They were followed by Newcomb's "Englishmen of means," who brought in long-horned cattle. These, together with sheep brought in from New Mexico, formed the base for the county's livestock industry. Mining also played a prominent role in the development of Rio Grande County, as it did in most of Colorado in one form or another, but agriculture would be the major industry. The county is famous for potatoes and a barley used by breweries.

Rio Grande County was established in March 1874 from the northern part of Conejos County. In 1877 the county was enlarged with a section from southern Saguache County. Del Norte was named county seat. Del Norte grew fairly rapidly and made a bid to become capital of Colorado. When that distinction stayed elsewhere, the towns in the San Luis Valley talked of seceding, a topic Southern Colorado brings up periodically.

It seemed to those in the Valley that Denver and northern Colorado dominated everything going on in the state, at the expense of the Southern Colorado. Del Norte,

the county seat, was the center of seething activity in the San Luis Valley. Thomas M. Bowen, a new lawyer in town, was on his way to becoming a wealthy mine owner, potent political factor, and noted poker player.

The object of the would-be revolt was to create a state called San Juan with Del Norte as the capital. The movement gained an ally when Pueblo, equally keen on cutting ties with Denver, and with an eye on becoming the capital, joined in. The rebellion collapsed when Pueblo's W.F. Stone was elected president pro tem of the Constitutional Convention, Del Norte's Alva Adams was elected to the state House of Representatives, and Bowen embarked on a political career. Stone was editor of the *Pueblo Chieftain*. Adams, who had a business in Pueblo, was a stockholder of the *Pueblo Star-Journal*. Pueblo, discovering it wasn't voiceless in Denver, backed down from secession, and San Juan settled for being a county.

Rio Grande County has had 22 newspapers in three towns. Two survive.

Del Norte

More towns die for the lack of confidence on the part of business men, and lack of public spirit, than for any other cause, truthfully remarks an exchange. When a man in search of a home or business location goes into a town and finds everybody full of hope and enthusiasm over the prospects of the place and all earnestly at work to build it up, he soon becomes imbued with the same spirit, and as a result he drives down his stake and goes to work with the same interest. When, however, he goes to a town where everyone expresses doubt and apprehension for the future prospects of the place, moving about indulging in mournful complaints, he naturally feels that it is not the place for him, and at once shakes the dust from off his feet and pulls out for some other town.

Del Norte San Juan Prospector, March 1, 1890

Zebulon Pike wrote in 1807 that "the most sublime and beautiful prospects ever presented to the eye of man" could be seen at the headwaters of the Rio Grande.

The town began as a small Spanish plaza called La Loma across the river from present-day Del Norte. It was originally in Conejos County, and had a post office from 1867 to 1872, when it was moved to Del Norte. Gold was discovered at Summitville in June 1870 and La Loma became both a trading center and wintering point for miners, who suspended mining for the winter and floundered through waist-deep snow for three days to get to town. They would return to their claims in the spring with their families.

The new settlement, called Del Norte, held its first town meeting in November 1871, and voted to allow anyone who built before May 1, 1872 to become a stockholder. Eighteen cabins immediately sprang up. The town plat was filed late in 1872 and a town company formed. Del Norte was first to finish a road going to Silverton, and to build a bridge across the Rio Grande. La Loma, along with the post office, moved over the bridge to Del Norte. It was not an easy move--Loma had nearly 400 homes, two mills and a number of other buildings. Historian Virginia McConnell Simmons states there were several towns named La Loma, and that a "new town called Loma was platted across the river from Del Norte, and it too had a post office from 1873-1875."

By 1874, Del Norte had the reputation of being a "rip-snortin', hell-raisin', gold-mad frontier town." On the road to town, hold-ups were not uncommon. One daring, unarmed robber decorated bushes with hats under which six shooters appeared to protrude. He stopped a coach at dusk and robbed the passengers as he barked orders to his "gang," a sturdy collection of broomsticks. He and the brooms were soon apprehended.

The Denver & Rio Grande railroad arrived in Del Norte in 1881. Some \$300,000 in gold was shipped to Denver from local mines in the first three months of train service. Even so, the railroad did not expand operations at Del Norte, but built west on another route. Part of Del Norte's population and business continued the practice of packing up and following the new track. When mining declined, agriculture once more sprang to the front.

The San Juan "Prospector" has the credit and prestige, ably verified by its earnest work in behalf of the community, of being the oldest paper in the county.

Frank Hall, "*History of Colorado*" 1889

The *Prospector* is not only the oldest local newspaper, it is the 11th-oldest newspaper in Colorado and is Del Norte's oldest continuous business. Two families were connected with the newspaper for more than 40 years.

San Juan Prospector February 7, 1874 to present, Nicholas N. Lambert, founder. The paper was set by hand and run on a Washington handpress, which had been hauled over La Veta Pass from Pueblo. The outfit had arrived in December and was set up in an unhewn log cabin. Lambert was the brother of John J. Lambert, longtime publisher of

the *Pueblo Chieftain*. Nicholas Lambert was trained on the *Chieftain*. Assisting him as editor of the *Prospector* was Adair Wilson.

In 1874, Wilson left the *Prospector* to concentrate on a private law practice and, in 1875, was elected to the territorial legislature's Upper House, serving as its president. He was a Democrat. His replacement was Colonel D.C. Russell, "of the Southern Army." The population began declining, but the *Prospector* hung on, with a new publisher, new mechanical outfit and new focus: agriculture. To attract the new market, the *Prospector* offered a trade:

To Ranchers

Every ranchman in the country should take the PROSPECTOR, but many claim they are unable to do so. In order that the PROSPECTOR'S influence may be felt at every fireside, we will take a few loads of wood on subscription account. This, it will readily be seen, is a better offer than a chromo premium. We propose to take baled hay, steel-traps, hoop-poles and pumpkins "in trade," but first of all, we want wood. Grangers, here's your chance.

Lambert succumbed to "the siren song of the gold seekers" and sold the paper March 6, 1875 to Messrs. Howard & Co., according to the American Newspaper Reporter. The Rowell directory lists the publisher as the Prospect Publishing Co., with M.R. Moore, editor. Frank Hall says J.C. Howard was manager. The *Denver Mirror* in March 1875 simply said that Lambert had "transferred his title to a party of four gentlemen who are largely interested in the town and the mines of that section." Editor Milton R. Moore was later editor for the *Silverton Miner* and *Lake City Silver World*, and established the *Salida Mountain Mail*. He was a postmaster in Salida.

Abe Roberts and W.H. Cochran bought the paper on February 5, 1876. Cochran acquired Roberts' interest and became sole owner of the paper in May 1876; he would spend almost 40 years publishing the *Prospector*. W.S. Alexander, later with a Leadville paper and the *Denver Republican*, bought an interest in the *Prospector* in June 1877, but sold it May 31, 1879 to W.H. Cochran's brother, J.M. Cochran, and the firm name was changed to Cochran Bros. The brothers remained as editors/publishers until April 1884; during this time another Del Norte newspaper, the *Cactus*, was absorbed. The Cochran family was associated with the *Prospector* for almost 50 years. The *Prospector's* local news during the first years included such items as:

The editor apologizes for lack of news in the paper this week. It is just before the 4th and then there is that keg of cold beer and thirsty hand-typesetters.

A popular miner was severely burned when a keg of black powder, used as a chair, blew up under him.

If someone will be kind enough to procure a large dog and attach a can of stones to his caudal appendage, and head him down Grand Avenue some evening, he will oblige most of our citizens. We are dying for excitement of some kind.

George A. Scibird and John G. Glover purchased the *Prospector* from the Cochran Brothers in April 1884. Glover bought Scibird's interest in December, but the latter stayed on as editor until 1907. W.M. Maguire owned an interest with Glover. W.H. Cochran, Jr. was named editor of the *Prospector* in 1911 and may have bought the paper then. In March 1921, the paper was sold to Milt R. McLaughlin, who had published the paper under lease from Cochran and son for the past year. McLaughlin was formerly editor of the *Creede Candle* "and is thoroughly familiar with affairs in the valley."

The *Prospector* celebrated its 50th anniversary in February, 1924, with an announcement titled "Under New Management":

Having taken over the interest of Milton R. McLaughlin...I am again owner of the paper and printing plant.

Not having time to devote to the business, the management and direction of its affairs will be under Mr. Harry R. Cochran, as manager, who has been in the employ of Mr. McLaughlin for sometime past and who has had considerable experience in the newspaper game...

W.H. Cochran, Jr.

In August 1925, M.E. Lewis bought the *Prospector*. Lewis sold the paper to John Keller in June 1926. Keller, in turn, sold the paper to Harry Wilson of Monte Vista, and Vancil Smith of Del Norte early in 1927, prompting *Colorado Editor* to remark: "This makes about the third change in the past year."

More changes were to come. Lewis apparently returned to join Wilson and Smith as a partner in October 1927. He bought the paper back from them in June 1928. Harvey F. Jones, formerly of Long Beach, Calif., purchased the *Prospector* in March 1929 from Lewis, who remained as editor for a short time. In the first issue of 1930 the name of the paper was changed from *San Luis Prospector* to:

Del Norte Prospector January 3, 1930 to present. Late in December, Jones bought and merged in the 38-year-old Creede *Candle*, which was dying of hard times along with much of its town. Joe M. Stoddard, an experienced newsman, bought the *Del Norte Prospector* in October, 1931. Stoddard was killed in a tragic automobile accident early in 1934, less than a year after selling the *Prospector*.

Then came one of Colorado's most respected newspapermen: Dean Edward Hammond, who would be publisher for 42 years. Born December 4, 1907, the son of a newspaperman in Cambridge, Nebraska, Hammond worked for his father's newspaper, edited the student paper at the University of Nebraska, filled in for country editors who need a vacation and worked for United Press in Lincoln. When he came to Colorado he worked briefly for the *Rocky Mountain News*. He later owned the *Mancos Times-Tribune* (1941-1943).

On June 1, 1933, Hammond walked into the *Del Norte Prospector* with \$17 in his pocket and "a compelling drive to serve his community." He asked for a job and he got one. The *Prospector* told how "For 42 years he started each week walking up and down the main street of Del Norte, finding out what every business person had done over the weekend." Hammond's successor, Bill Skains, said of him: "Dean Hammond hasn't just owned the *Prospector*, he has been the *Prospector* for 42 years, and he will certainly be a tough act to follow."

The San Luis Publishing Company--George and Ethel Oyler and William Skains--bought the *Prospector* from Hammond July 1, 1975. SLV Publishing also owned the *Center Post-Dispatch*, *Monte Vista Journal* and *Salida Mountain Mail*. SLV Publishing was purchased in July 1978 by two Californians, Roland Rebele and Lowell Blankfort, and by Billy V. Cunningham, who was associated with SLV under the Oylers and Skains.

Steve and Cynthia Haynes became partners in and publishers of the SLV papers January 1, 1987. The Haynes brought in the papers they owned--*Creede Mineral County*

Miner, South Fork Times, and La Jara Conejos County Citizen--and SLV Publishing doubled its holdings. SLV Publishing sold again in May 1993 to the Alamosa Valley Publishing, a subsidiary of News Media Corp., an Illinois chain. Douglas Knight, a Sterling native who had worked on Sterling and Julesburg papers, was named publisher.

San Juan Mining Reporter May 1877-1878; absorbed by the *Prospector*.

Cactus 1882-1883, Stivers & Hill (Chas. W. Hill & Co.), founders. It, too, was absorbed by the *Prospector*.

Rio Grande Sentinel #1 1882-1884.

Democrat. Both M.R. Moore and Wilbur Stone mention this paper without giving a starting date or publisher; Stone said it ended before 1885.

Anciano 1884-1885, Spanish language. Papers with the same name were published in Alamosa, La Jara, La Junta and Akron at the same time.

Del Norte Independent 1886-1887.

Del Norte Enquirer 1892-1900, John H. Bloom, founder. It was Del Norte's only daily newspaper. Stone and Rowell 1894 list it as *Del Norte Enquirer and Saturday News*. John Bloom, who was referred to as "Colonel," was a friend of Governor Davis Waite's and active in Waite's Populist campaigns. He was connected briefly to the beginning days of the *Monte Vista Journal*.

Saturday News 1893-1899, founder unknown. Burt B. Bloom was editor in 1896, and Harry E. Wells was editor in 1900. The *Saturday News* was evidently the weekly sister of the *Enquirer*.

Rio Grand Sentinel #2 1892-1900, Sentinel Publishing, O.O. Larson, editor.

Del Norte Courier 1895-1896, John W. Dantrech, publisher, F.E. Carringer, editor.

Commercial Eagle 1900-1904, William H. Cochran Sr., founder. Cochran had opened a real estate and surveying office in 1900, and offered the *Commercial Eagle*, an illustrated weekly "in the interest of the San Luis Valley," in conjunction with that enterprise. The *Eagle* consolidated with the *San Juan Prospector*, but Cochran and his son bought the *Eagle* back and published it again.

Monte Vista

Monte Vista began with a water tank erected about 1881 on a Denver & Rio Grande branch line being laid to Del Norte. The tiny hamlet, originally known as Lariat, had a store and a post office run by a red-haired widow who stepped off the train and saw opportunity waiting. Three years later, T.C. Henry, newspaperman and flamboyant promoter of land schemes, irrigation projects and canals, brought in a party of investors who were given the royal tour through the valley. Henry impressed the group, which decided to invest in his project. Henry did not return to his job as editor/publisher of the *Denver Republican*.

Henry, who once had a grandiose plan for a circular railroad around Denver that would help him sell suburban property, came to Rio Grande County with a plan to build a system of canals. He successfully negotiated with the State Land Board for the deed to certain lands for his canal company. In another deal with Lariat townsite owner C.S. Aldrich, Henry became president of the Town Company and Aldrich, vice president and manager. The town was renamed Henry and incorporated May 1, 1884. The U.S. post office made it official a few weeks later.

Henry's aspirations were larger than his achievement. To finance his canals and schemes, he borrowed money from the Travelers' Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut, and couldn't repay it. Travelers' foreclosed and Henry was deposed. C.S. Aldrich and a Travelers' representative divvied up the unsold lots and quickly changed the name of the town to Monte Vista in February 1886.

Though the town had restrictions against liquor saloons, gambling and bawdy houses--usually good newspaper advertisers--the town had a newspaper by the fall of 1884. Apparently the saloons found a way. The *Graphic* commented in October 1885:

The "booze" dispensed at Whiskeyville does not seem to have improved in quality, as it gave one of our good citizens a dizzy head, a chattering silly tongue, and a bruised and battered face last Monday.

By 1905 things were changing. The *Monte Vista Journal* reported that "The bleat of the sheep is abroad in the land" and the country was "fired by the sheep raising enthusiasm."

J.B. King of the "*Gazette*" was included in a list of people attending the Monte Vista town organizational meeting. No "*Gazette*" has been found in Rio Grande or adjoining counties although a 1986 *Monte Vista Journal* story states that the *Gazette* was the first paper in town.

San Luis Valley Graphic October 11, 1884-1900, C.S. Aldrich and E.C. Brooks, founders; weekly and semi-weekly. E.C. Brooks was editor for less than a month. Aldrich was editor until 1897 and publisher until 1900. Charles S. Conant was editor 1897-1898. H.W. Green was editor in 1900. From 1898 to 1899 the paper was a daily. Late in 1900 Aldrich bought the *Monte Vista Reporter*.

Monte Vista Reporter 1900-1901, J.C. Brothers, founder. Wallace Rex states his name was Jesse, but Stewart says James. Newspaper directories give only initials, J.C. The papers merged as:

San Luis Valley Graphic & Monte Vista Reporter 1900-September 1921. Brothers was editor, but Aldrich severed his connection with the paper. C.A. Whittier and J.S. Tohill were editors/publishers in 1907. Clarence Whittier disposed of his interest in the paper the first part of 1916 and retired from the newspaper game. Tohill stayed until 1919, assisted by Miss Alta Tohill, Lawrence Tohill and Harold Knight.

The *Graphic-Reporter* was purchased in 1919 by W.E. (Bud) Furrow and his wife Florence. Furrow had been publisher of the *Pagosa Springs Sun* and was serving his second term in the Colorado House of Representatives, where, according to *Colorado Press*, he was "on the job to see that nothing is put over on the newspaper boys...." The

Furrows divorced, and Mrs. Furrow sold the paper to James Maxwell, a Monte Vista newspaperman in May 1921. In August IMP reported:

James Maxwell, who was in charge of the Monte Vista Graphic-Reporter, which was purchased recently by a number of Rio Grande county Democrats from Mrs. Florence Furrow, has been relieved of his position after a strenuous incumbency in the course of which he apparently alienated most of the paper's friends and accumulated a series of debts which he could not meet. After his connection with the paper had been severed Maxwell was arrested on a charge of assault preferred by an advertiser who refused to pay his bill.

IMP concluded the saga of the *Graphic-Reporter* in the October 1921 issue:

The Monte Vista Graphic-Reporter, which he sold to Mrs. Florence Furrow and later sold under mortgage, has been sold to the Journal, with which it has been consolidated....

Monte Vista Journal December 16, 1888 to present, Charles S. Conant, and John H. Bloom, founders. Conant's sons, James S. and Palmer, who went to work for their father setting type before and after school, succeeded their founding father and kept the paper in the family for 56 years. Colonel Bloom, who founded the *Del Norte Enquirer* in 1892, did not remain long with the *Journal*. Charles Conant was sole owner and "actively and efficiently conducted his newspaper business up to his 75th birthday" according to *Colorado Press*.

The paper's slogan in 1888 was "Peas, Pigs, Potatoes and Prosperity." Subscriptions in 1888 were a dollar per year, paid in advance--produce accepted in lieu of cash. Ads cost 15 cents a column inch. There was a daily *Journal* 1894-1896, the Populist years. Conant was a staunch supporter of the Populist Party and a political "colonel" in Governor Waite's Populist cause.

Like the *Graphic*, the *Journal* trumpeted agricultural events. In January 1915 it reported:

The state veterinarian took occasion to compliment the Monte Vista people for their progressiveness, declaring that our Hog Growers' association has gained a reputation as an example of what a determined and enterprising community may do in the way of fostering and safeguarding their industries.

Charles Staples Conant died December 28, 1918, at his Monte Vista home. With the death of the founder, the *Journal* management passed to his sons, James W. and Palmer C. Conant. James was publisher of the *Journal* from 1904 to 1908 and again from 1919 to 1945. Palmer was co-publisher/editor from 1919-1925.

James Conant was born in Lewiston, Maine, in 1877, and was 11 years old when the family moved to Monte Vista. He became editor of the *Journal* in 1908, and was a member of the Colorado Press Association board of directors and on the executive board of the Republican Press Association of Colorado. He was appointed postmaster for four years by President Hoover.

In September 1921, the *Journal* bought the Monte Vista *Graphic-Reporter*. The *Journal* nameplate apparently carried the *Graphic-Reporter* name for a time. Max Hardy, who was publishing the *Monte Vista Tribune*, leased the *Monte Vista Journal* from the Conants in 1929. Hardy consolidated the two plants but issued the papers separately. The *Tribune* was issued on Tuesdays and the *Journal* on Fridays. James Conant took back the lease in 1933 and merged the *Journal* and *Tribune* into one paper.

During World War II there was a prisoner-of-war camp near Monte Vista. The *Monte Vista Journal* became the first newspaper in the United States to be published by German POWs on December 22, 1944. *Colorado Editor* explained:

When Publisher James W. Conant and three printers became ill an emergency call was sent by Lonnie Pippin, the newspaper's manager, to Capt. James L. Monson, in charge of the temporary war prisoner camp. Capt. Monson polled the Nazis and asked "Have you ever had any newspaper experience?"

The poll produced a typesetter, a sterotyper and a press feeder. They were rushed to the Journal plant and with Pippin directing the trio the newspaper came out on time.

Lonnie Pippin, who had been manager of the paper from 1932 to 1944, bought the *Journal* the latter part of May, 1945. The sale terminated the ownership of the *Journal* by the Conant family, which had operated the paper for more than 57 years. Pippin got rid of the dust and bought almost entirely new equipment for the plant--Bill Long called it "an equipment salesman's dream."

Under Pippin, the *Journal* gave strong support to such municipal necessities as a city water system, street paving and a community hospital, despite "influential opposition." The editor wrote "the paper's common-sense editorials, mostly on local topics, and the well-read personal column, "The Water Hole." He took care of most of the advertising, and made out statements. Pippin also was editor and publisher of the *San Luis Valley Farmer* magazine (which debuted on October 1, 1945) and served as a president of the Chamber of Commerce, as a Colorado Game, Fish and Parks commissioner, and was president of Colorado Press Association in 1955. CPA named him Outstanding Colorado Editor in 1959.

Pippin sold the *Monte Vista Journal* in 1965. The McKinney Newspaper group (Merrill Stacy, president) bought the *Journal* June 30, 1965. Kirby Ward was general manager/publisher to November 1966. Glenn Prosser, formerly of the *Estes Park Trail*, managed the *Journal* on a temporary basis until September 1, 1968, when it was sold to the San Luis Valley Publishing Company by Stephen E. Watkins, president of Monte Vista Journal Inc.

Principal stockholders in the new SLV Publishing corporation were William E. (Bill) Skains, formerly managing editor of the *Salida Daily Mountain Mail*, and George E. and Ethel P. Oyler, publishers of the *Salida Mail* and *Center Post-Dispatch*. The *Journal* was sold again July 1, 1978 to Roland Rebele, Lowell Blankfort of California, and Billy V. Cunningham, ad manager for the SLV papers, who also bought the Del Norte paper.

In 1986, Steve and Cynthia Haynes, who owned several smaller valley papers, were offered the three SLV Publishing papers--Monte Vista, Del Norte and Center. They accepted, moved to Monte Vista and continued to expand. They founded the *Alamosa News* in 1991 as a weekly but it went daily late in 1992 before folding in 1993. The free-distribution *SLV Trader* was started about the same time. Steve and Cynthia Haynes were active in the Colorado Press Association from the time they arrived in Colorado. Both served on, and chaired, several committees. Steve was president in 1988, and Newspaper Person of the Year in 1992.

SLV Publishing broke up in the spring of 1993 when the two California partners wanted to accept the bid for the seven SLV papers from Valley Publishing of Rochelle,

Illinois, owners of the *Alamosa Valley Courier*. The Haynes reluctantly complied. Douglas Knight, formerly with Sterling and Julesburg papers, returned to Colorado "to take over the reins" of the SLV papers for the new owners.

Monte Vista Tribune March 10, 1915-1933, Erl Bigelow, founder. Bigelow, formerly of the *Telluride Journal* and *La Jara Chronicle*, brought his printing plant from La Jara to start the *Tribune*. Mrs. Bigelow died in Monte Vista in 1922, and Bigelow sold the *Tribune* to O.E. Meyer, a veteran western slope newspaperman.

Orah E. Meyer, born in Illinois in 1873, was a longtime Colorado newspaperman. He came to Colorado in 1905 and worked with Judge L.W. Cunningham on the *Colorado Springs Democrat*. From there he went to Fort Collins, Glenwood Springs and Montrose. In 1918 he bought the *Alamosa Journal*, selling it in 1923 after he bought the *Monte Vista Tribune*. Returning to Alamosa in 1926, Meyer bought the *Alamosa Courier*, and hired Roy A. Williams to manage the Alamosa paper, while Meyer devoted all his time to the Monte Vista paper.

Lawrence (Bill) and J. Statton Tohill bought the *Monte Vista Tribune* from Meyer in the spring of 1928. They sold it November 11, 1928 to R.B. Cooley, owner and editor of the *Otis Independent*. The deal was made several months earlier but Cooley didn't take charge until he was able to dispose of his Otis plant. It turned out to be a trade: J.S. Tohill became owner of the *Otis Independent*. Cooley sold the *Tribune* in February 1929 to Max Hardy, son of Congressman Guy U. Hardy, who published the *Canon City Daily Record*. Young Hardy gained experience on his father's and other papers. In addition to

the *Tribune*, Hardy leased the *Monte Vista Journal* and consolidated both newspaper plants in the summer of 1931, issuing the *Tribune* on Tuesday and the *Journal* on Friday.

In December 1933, James Conant, then postmaster, took back the *Journal*. He also purchased the *Tribune* and "a modern and well equipped plant." The *Tribune* was absorbed into the *Journal*. Conant's two sons and his brother, Palmer, joined him in the new venture. The business management was turned over to Lonnie Pippin, "a very competent newspaper man [whose] progressive ideas will be embodied in an improved publication of the paper." The consolidation brought to four the number of papers taken over by the *Journal*: the *Monte Vista*, *Sun*, *Monte Vista Reporter*, *San Luis Valley Graphic* and *Tribune*.

Rio Grand Citizen 1888-1889.

Monte Vista Sun 1889-1890, a man named Colthar, 1889, and G.M. Magill, 1889-1890. It is not certain if Magill was a co-founder or the next owner.

Monte Vista Call March 13, 1936-June 1, 1936, Robert E. Hartman. Hartman was an incurable optimist and the bad luck boy of Colorado newspapers. He had no luck with the *Call*, so he folded it, saying Monte Vista "didn't need another paper," and moved to Alamosa to start the *Morning News*. His luck was no better there. As *Colorado Editor* put it, "He was unsuccessful in interesting merchants" to advertise. The Alamosa paper had a shorter life than the Monte Vista one. In September Hartman disappeared, leaving behind an anxious wife. *Colorado Editor* never mentioned him again.

Telegraph News, mid-1936-June 11, 1937, Paul Miller founder; free circulation.

Monte Vista News Fall 1930, J.S. Tohill, founder. Tohill, who had moved to Virginia, returned to Monte Vista to start the *News* as a Democratic paper. *Colorado Editor* said:

It has been stated that the paper was begun purely for political purposes and that it would be discontinued after election or the first of the year, because Monte Vista is already served by the Tribune and the Journal.

South Fork

South Fork Grande was established about 1880 where the South Fork of the Rio Grande joins the mainstream. The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad arrived in 1881. Today the highway to Pagosa Springs, Durango and west goes through South Fork. The only newspaper is the:

South Fork Times August 21, 1975 to present, Steve and Beverly O'Rourke, founders. The O'Rourkes founded the Creede *Mineral County Miner* simultaneously. Steven and Cynthia Haynes bought the two papers in January 1981. The *Times* became part of the SLV Publishing Co. in 1981, and was sold with the group in 1993 to the Valley Publishing Co., owner of the *Alamosa Valley Courier*.

Summitville

The first discovery of gold was made in Wightman's Gulch about the last of June, 1870....In the spring of 1871 a large number of people flocked into Summit, hundreds arriving while the snow was still very deep and work utterly impracticable. A general disgust followed, and by the last of August only three men [remained; they shared a profit of \$170 for the season.] In 1872 a few locations were made, but in 1873 there came a new immigration and it was in that year the richest mines were located....[In

1874] a large number of locations were made and the mine owners turned their attention to getting in machinery for reducing the ores....

The owners of the Little Annie, Del Norte, Margareta, Golden Queen and Golden Star, in the winter of 1874-75, contracted with capitalists to erect mills....

Rocky Mountain News 1877

The town was established in 1872 and by 1883 the district was one of the state's largest gold producers and had a population of 600 at times. Like any respectable camp, Summitville had a newspaper:

Summitville Nugget May 1, 1883-1884, Elmer Thompson, founder. The *Red Mountain Pilot*, on June 9, 1883, called the *Nugget* "one of the best patronized little papers we get. The boys have evidently 'struck it rich.'"

Sources: *Many More Mountains*, Allen Nossaman, volumes 1 and 2; 1889, Sundance Publications Ltd, Denver.

The San Luis Valley, Land of the Six-Armed Cross, Virginia McConnell Simmons; Pruett Publishing Co., Boulder, 1979.

CHAPTER LVI

ROUTT COUNTY

Ute Indians camped in what is now Routt County for hundreds of years. They made seasonal migrations to hunt, fish and soak in the healing waters of the area's hot springs. Trappers had passed through earlier, but the discovery of gold at Hahn's Peak in 1861 drew settlers. Fertile valleys and large coal deposits offered economic opportunities when the gold mines were played out.

The state legislature carved Routt County from the western portion of Grand County in January, 1877. The name honors John Long Routt, the last territorial governor and first state governor of Colorado. The first freight train arrived in Steamboat Springs in 1909, allowing Routt County's coal fields and ranches to ship their products. The western portion of Routt County was split off to create Moffat County in 1911. Outdoor tourism became an important part of the local economy in the twentieth century, with hot springs and skiing as major draws.

Craig

Craig belonged to Routt County until 1911, when it was carved away as part of the newly formed Moffat County.

Pantagraph March 1891-1895; Clarence H. Bronaugh, founder, and Murray Schick, managing editor. In March 1894 Hiddlestone and McKeever bought the paper and changed the name to:

Craig Courier 1895-1899 Humphrey Jones, publisher. The *Courier* supported “free silver” candidates in the late 1890s. The name changed to:

Routt County Courier 1899-1911. In 1902 Walter Spencer became editor, and in 1904 he bought the *Courier* and added publisher to his title. The paper changed with the county in 1911, becoming the **Moffat County Courier**.

Hayden

The area around Hayden was first settled in 1875. The town was established in 1894, incorporated in 1906 and named for Ferdinand F.V. Hayden, head of a survey party for the U.S. Geological & Geographic Survey that explored western Colorado in the late 1860s.

Routt County Republican 1903-1955, weekly; William R. Gillespie, founding publisher, and Will J. Matthews, editor. True to its name, it was Republican in its political orientation. H.C. Wood bought the paper in late 1903. Subsequent owner/publishers included: Fred J. Watrous, 1907-1908; George W. Smith, 1908-1931; Ralph L. Sommers, 1931-1937; George R. Giboney and Arnold “Zeke” Zabel, 1937-1947; Otis T. Bourns and Agnes Bourns, 1947-1955. The paper was continued as *Northwest Colorado Press* in Craig beginning in 1955.

Hayden Valley Times 1964, weekly; William E. Alcock, editor/publisher.

Hayden Valley Press 1965 to present; Robert Sweeney, Nick De Luca and Ruby De Luca, founders. Sweeney bought out the De Lucas in 1973. Steve Flowers and Ed Brewer served as editors.

Oak Creek

Oak Creek Times 1908-1942, weekly; H.C. Woods and W.W. Morgan, publishers. Carl Van Dorn bought the *Times* in January 1910, but sold back to Woods and Morgan the following year. Herman H. Knabe bought the paper in January 1913, but lost it to a foreclosure later that year. George W. Wagner became manager. Allen J. Hoar became owner in 1918 and apparently sold to Russell J. Graves in 1919. In 1920, the *Times* absorbed the *Oak Creek Herald*, resulting in a merged paper with a new name:

Oak Creek Times and Oak Creek Herald, 1920-1924, weekly; Tom D. Caverly and Ray N. Ellickson, publishers. By 1924, Maurice Leckenby and Charles Leckenby were owners. In 1924, the paper bought and absorbed another competitor, the:

Yampa Leader 1903-1924, weekly; H.C. Wood and W.W. Morgan, publishers. The new combined paper was known as:

Oak Creek Times & Yampa Leader 1924-1925, weekly. Shortly after the merger, Eugene Harland Godfrey bought the paper from the Leckenbys. The name reverted to the simpler:

Oak Creek Times 1925-1944, weekly. In 1937, Godfrey either sold or leased the *Times* to his daughter and son-in-law, Virginia Godfrey McConnell and Charles M. McConnell. Dick Goldsworthy purchased the paper in February 1937, then sold to Donald M. Spencer in October, 1940. Spencer discontinued the *Times* in July 1944.

Yampa Valley Tribune 1951, weekly; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Saunders, publishers.

Steamboat Springs

The name of Steamboat Springs originated with French trappers who thought the hot springs geysers operating then resembled the chugging sound of a steamboat's engine coming down the river. The sound in fact came from one of the area's natural hot springs, which were named for the steam engine sound.

In 1874, James Crawford and his family settled in the Yampa Valley. After the native Utes were forcibly removed in 1879, more settlers arrived. The establishment of a sawmill in 1883 helped boost development. The town was incorporated in 1900 with James Crawford as the first mayor. The arrival of the railroad in 1909 sparked a boom for agriculture and mining but disrupted the geology silencing the hot springs which once burst more rambunctiously – and noisily..

Routt Intermountain 1889-1894, weekly; J.R. Godsmark and a Mr. Phillips were the founders, but Godsmark quickly bought out Phillips. In 1890, Daniel H. Hillman and Charles Robinson bought the *Intermountain*. They changed the name to:

Yampa Valley Democrat 1894-1896. Hillman and Robinson sold out to Charles H. Leckenby of the *Pilot* in 1896.

Steamboat Pilot 1885-present, weekly; James H. Hoyle, founder. It was the first paper to start in northwestern Colorado. The early *Pilot* was “intensely partisan Republican.” John Weiskopf bought the paper in December 1894 after Hoyle died. In summer 1895, Charles H. Leckenby bought the paper and served as editor/publisher until March, 1950. In spring 1896, the *Pilot* purchased and absorbed the *Yampa Valley Democrat*. The local Ladies’ Aid Society was invited to serve as editors for a single issue in August 1904, resulting from a bet on the outcome of a *Pilot* vs. *Routt County Sentinel* baseball game. Delavan W. Gee bought a half interest in the *Pilot* in 1918, and served as co-editor/publisher. Leckenby remained the driving force of the paper. He was known as a crusading editor, and was active in civic affairs, later serving on the state commission for the Moffat Tunnel. In 1927, the *Pilot* took out its last competitor when it bought the *Routt County Sentinel*.

Charles Leckenby’s son Maurice W. Leckenby was part owner by 1945. When the elder Leckneby died in 1950, the paper was owned collectively by several members of the family. Maurice Leckenby bought out the other heirs to become sole owner in 1956. When he left to join the staff of Senator John A. Carroll in 1958, Leckenbey’s son, Charles J. Leckenby, took over and was owner by 1961.

Routt County Sentinel 1900-1927, weekly; John Weiskopf, founder. Ray Robinson and Victor S. Wilson were editors. Harry C. Wood and W.W. Morgan bought

the *Sentinel* in 1914; Wood bought Morgan's interest in 1922. In 1927 the *Sentinel* met the same fate as other Steamboat Springs pretenders when it was purchased and absorbed into the *Pilot*.

Yampa

Yampa Leader 1903-1926, weekly; V.S. Wilson, publisher.

Chapter LVII:

Saguache County

Saguache (Sa-watch), has been a tongue-twister through the ages. The Ute Indians, who camped here before settlement of the Whites, called it Sa-gua-gua-chi-pa,-- which means blue earth or water at the blue earth. There was blue clay found at the large spring at the campsite. When trappers and fur traders from New Mexico began to frequent the place they could not pronounce the Indian name and shortened it to Saguache.

Saguache Crescent 4/4/1991

Juan De Oñate, governor of New Mexico and a relative by marriage to Montezuma and Cortez, brought in Spanish settlers with families in 1599. The Indians did not welcome them and the small, discouraged group departed. A century later, another Spanish expedition in these parts was attacked by the natives, and a legend was born. According to Annie Marold Woodard, writing in the 1938 *Who's Who of Colorado*:

A young Priest was fatally wound in the fray. They transported their wounded companion in a boat; as he lay there, he raised up his elbow and looking across the East Range, which the low sinking sun painted a gorgeous red, with his last breath exclaimed: "Sangre de Cristo" and died. Thus was the most beautiful chain of mountains named; in our language it means "The Blood of Christ."

As the flood of American settlers put increasing pressure on the area's original inhabitants, the federal government started pushing for treaties that would cede Indian lands to the United States. The first attempt at a treaty in the San Luis Valley was in 1863, when land acquirer and ex-officio Superintendent of Indian Affairs Alexander C. Hunt, Kit Carson, along with Chief Ouray and six other chiefs, went to Washington to

parley. But not until 1868 was a treaty was adopted. The Meeker Massacre in 1879 led to the removal of the Utes.

The first Anglo settlement in the region was on Kerber Creek, a short distance from Villa Grove, in 1865. Most of the settlers were Civil War veterans of Company I, 1st Regiment Colorado Volunteers. Capt. Charles Kerber, one of the veterans, was commander of the garrison at Fort Garland. A second group, prodded by Fred Walsen of Huerfano County, settled on the Saguache River, close to the present townsite of Saguache town. The third settlement was headed by Otto Mears, who by this time was expanding from Conejos County.

Mears found a way to build just about everything that was needed in the San Luis Valley, and improve on what was already there. He arrived in Saguache via Santa Fe, Conejos and the Union Army. As he had done in Conejos, Mears built a grist mill, hoping the Saguache farmers would raise more wheat than those around Conejos. In an effort to speed up the process and make it easier, he brought in a mower, reaper and threshing machine, the first such farm machinery in the San Luis Valley. He built a road over Poncha Pass to haul his wheat to the Arkansas Valley. Mears' toll roads fanned out in all directions to carry his supply and merchandise wagons throughout the two valleys and into the Gunnison and San Juan country. Mears was awarded a mail contract, added railroads, and earned the title of "Pathfinder of the San Juans." Not surprisingly, Mears founded two newspapers to protect his investments and to advertise the region, which he could keep well-stocked with items from his general mercantile store. The *Saguache*

Chronicle was begun in 1872, and a year later Mears built a toll road to Lake City and began the *Lake City Silver World*.

After the Meeker Massacre of September 19, 1879, Mears induced the remaining Utes to cede to the state of Colorado more than 12,000,000 acres by awarding two silver dollars to each of several thousand Indians. Mears was accused of bribery and charges were filed. Accompanied by Colorado's two senators, Nathaniel P. Hill and Henry M. Teller, Mears appeared before the Secretary of the Interior, who listened to their explanation, and then told Mears to bill the government for his out-of-pocket expense. The Secretary promised to send troops to help in the relocation--but Mears firmly requested that no members of the U.S. Indian Commission, who might further antagonize the Indians, be sent out.

Saguache County was created by the territorial legislature at the end of 1866, and formed from the northern part of Costilla County. The town of Saguache was named county seat. Otto Mears was the first county treasurer. County land includes parts of what became the Rio Grande, Gunnison, and San Isabel National Forests. The county has prime agricultural and stock-raising lands, with timber and minerals also part of the economy. Saguache County has had 32 newspapers, most of them weeklies; two survive. Surprisingly, some of the small camps managed to support dailies, though very briefly.

Bellevue

Bellevue--"beautiful view" in French--was one of the smaller mining camps in Saguache County. It lasted about a year, but it had a newspaper:

Crystal Hill Pilot June 9-July 7, 1883, John Nelson and George Miles of Saguache, founders and publishers.

Bonanza

Bonanza, the hopeful exclamation of prospectors, is a Spanish word for "prosperity." The town was founded in 1880, at the same time as several other camps sprouted around mines in Saguache County. Bonanza City was closest to the chief mines and became the center of the district, eventually absorbing the other camps. In 1881 it was called "the new Leadville." In the long run, however, it did not live up to its name.

Lead and silver were mined for two decades, but much of the ore was low grade, and the costs of production and transporting left little profit. After the devaluation of silver in 1893, the town declined. There was a small revival in mining in the early 1900 when one mine was developed to include an aerial tram, with electric lines from Alamosa, which was 90 miles away. The town was destroyed by fire a few years later and never rebuilt. A few people hung on to work the old mines, and in 1955 two mines reopened because of the uranium boom, when about 70 people could be counted.

Daily Enterprise 1881-1885. W.B. McKinney, editor / publisher. McKinney was

with the *Silver Cliff Prospect* during its better days, and would later found the *Salida News*.

Bonanza Enterprise was the weekly sister paper 1881-1885, also with McKinney. N.P. White was manager in 1885. Some say the *Enterprises* were founded by Otto Mears.

Bonanza News dates not found, but this may have been Mears' paper if the *Enterprises* weren't. Author Anne Ellis, who lived in booming Bonanza, said that on the Fourth of July, the Bonanza bunch "usually got liquored up early in the day and, led by the editor of the *Bonanza News*, marched down to Sedgwick to clean up on the boys there."

Bonanza Bee April 1901-September 6, 1902; O.D, Bryan, founder.

Bonita

Over the hill from Bonanza, Bonita (Bonite in the Colorado Directory), was a silver mining camp near Sedgwick. It did not last long, but long enough to have a newspaper:

Bonita Index. A news note in the April 13, 1890 *Silverton Standard*, mentions Frank Tuttle, "former proprietor of the *Bonita Index*, now with the *Silver Cliff Rustler*" in Westcliffe. No other mention of the *Index* has been found.

Center

Center was platted in 1898 as Center View (or Centerview), although the first settlers had arrived in 1885. The name was shortened by the post office in 1899. In the early 1900s extensive vegetable-raising and truck-farming turned Center into a busy market town. The town was known as the "Capital of the Red McClure Potato," and school children got "potato vacations" to help harvest the crops. A short-line railroad, the San Luis Central (called the "Peavine") was built in 1913 to haul the produce from the Center of the valley agriculture to the D&RG tracks at Monte Vista.

Center was a good newspaper town, with a total of nine papers over the years, more than any other town in the county. The first Center paper was:

Centerview Reporter 1898-1899. It followed the town's lead and the name was shortened to:

Center Reporter 1899-1900. The name was changed to:

Center Star February 2-May 18, 1900, H.R. Walker, publisher, and Maud Ickes, editor.

Center Dispatch May 31, 1901-March 10, 1911, William A. Bixler, founder. Bixler sold the paper in 1903 to Jute N. Lawrence and C.H. Mathis, who sold it a year later to Fred W. Webster. A.A. Ash bought an interest in the paper in January 1905 and became editor-manager in April, when Webster apparently sold his share.

S. Frost Hickman and W.E. Sumpter purchased the paper in June 1906, but Sumpter either sold his interest almost immediately or did not take an active part in the management. The Ayer directory lists Hickman as editor in 1909. Walter Stewart says H.M. Williams bought or was editor of the *Dispatch* from October 1907 to March 1908, followed by Fred C. Rockfellow 1908-1911.

Alvis Sutherland bought the *Dispatch* from Rockfellow in December 1910, but sold it February 3, 1911, to C.W. Clark who in turn sold it March 15, 1911 to Charles W. Ogden and John D. Wehrle, owners of the *Post*. The two papers were merged.

Center Post July 1908-March 10, 1911, John D. Wehrle, founder. He and Charles Ogden merged the *Post* and *Dispatch* in 1911 and the name reflected the merger:

Center Post-Dispatch March 16, 1911 to present. Ogden was editor through January 1912, and publisher to April 12, 1913, when he sold his interest to his partner. John D. Wehrle owned the paper off and on until 1947, although he often left the management and editing to his wife, Jessie. Jessie Wehrle was officially listed as editor or publisher, or both, from 1922-1930 and 1936-1938.

Ray Madison joined the staff as editor in 1926, and was co-publisher from 1928-1930 and 1938-1947. L.R. Scott leased the paper from 1932 to 1936. J. Dorris Conant, son of James W. Conant of the *Monte Vista Journal*, bought the *Center Post-Dispatch* in March 1937. Dorris Conant had been working on the Monte Vista paper with his father and was "a seasoned newspaperman," said *Colorado Editor*. The Wehrles and Madison bought the paper back, or repossessed it, in July 1938. Madison managed the

newspaper until 1947, although the paper was leased to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Miller from May 1, 1945 to May 1, 1947.

Lonnie Pippin and Dean Hammond bought the paper from the Wehrles in May 1947. At the time, Pippin owned the *Monte Vista Journal* and Hammond, the *Del Norte Prospector*. Robert and Loren (Dusty) Rhodes managed the paper for the two owners until it was sold three months later to Marion R. Krehbiel and W.W. Morford, who was editor until 1951. Early in 1951 Fred Budy, who had been working on the *Ovid Record* was listed as editor/publisher. Dewayne Ogalsbee bought the *Post-Dispatch* in 1953, selling it in July 1957 to Mr. and Mrs. Ross B. Campbell. Campbell, a Kansan, and his wife, Muriel, operated the paper until 1964. Another husband and wife team, Walter and Pat Miller, owned the paper from September 1964 until May 1967, when still another married couple team bought the paper.

George and Ethel Oyler were publishers of the *Salida Mountain Mail*. They bought the *Center Post-Dispatch* in May 1967, the *Monte Vista Journal* in September 1968, and the *Del Norte Prospector* in July 1975. The Oylers formed the Center Publishing Co. for the *Post-Dispatch*, and in 1971, joined by William B. (Bill) Skains, they formed the San Luis Valley Publishing Co. The Oylers were associate publishers until July 1978, and Skains was editor/general manager. Skains had been managing editor of the *Salida Mountain Mail* under the Oylers.

SLV Publishing was sold July 1, 1978 to Lowell Blankfort, Rowland Rebele, and Billy V. Cunningham. Blankfort and Rebele lived in California, where they owned several

newspapers. Cunningham had been advertising manager of the SLV papers for more than seven years, and was named general manager the previous spring. Cunningham retired for health reasons in 1985. Dwight Jurgens succeeded him as publisher and president of SVL Publishing.

Steve and Cynthia Haynes succeeded Jurgens in 1987. Both of the Haynes were active in the Colorado Press Association, serving on and as chairman for several committees. Steve was president in 1988. They left SLV Publishing in the spring of 1993 and bought a newspaper in Kansas.

Rio Grande Echo 1908-1911, Echo Publishing Co. Eugene B. Beck was editor 1908-1910, and Jesse C. Brothers, 1911, according to Wallace Rex's newspaper bibliography. Walter Stewart says John Wehrle bought the *Echo* December 8, 1910 and renamed it the *Post*. The dates of the two papers overlap, but Wehrle quite possibly did buy the *Echo* and merge it into the *Post*.

Farm and Livestock Review 1918-1924, a monthly.

Pen and Pencil September 2, 1926-1928. It was a weekly printed in Spanish and English and owned by "the Samuel Feast interests." J.A. Gallegos was editor and manager.

Crestone

Crestone was once a pleasant Ute Indian campground. Before that, it was part of a land grant the Don Luis Maria Cabeza de Baca family received in exchange for another

valuable 1823 grant from the King of Spain. As early as 1862 Territorial Governor William Gilpin tried to buy the land, but ended up with another grant instead. The land fell into the hands of eastern financier associates of General William Palmer of Colorado Springs. The group ran into financial difficulties in 1877 and sold the Baca grant to Gilpin in 1877. Gilpin leased the grant to others to work, and a number of improvements were made on the land, which is still used for stock-raising as well as for mining.

Located on the northern edge of Baca Grant #4, Cristonie--later anglicized--had a post office in 1872. Squatters moved in and changed the hit-and-miss settlement into a more orderly one, with farming the main business. Gold was discovered on the west side of the Sangre de Cristos in 1880 and a boom was on. Gilpin sold the Baca Grant at a profit in 1886. The new owners evicted the squatters and miners under the provision that mining districts were legal only if the owners organized them. When the grant was sold again, new owners were more tolerant, and Crestone underwent a second boom in 1890. Most of the town was built then, and mail, passenger and freight lines ran from it.

Crestone Miner November 1900--1904, C.D. Coleman.

Crestone Eagle 1901-1902, W.H. Cochran Jr., founder; semi-weekly.

Colorado Editor reported another newspaper in July 1990:

The Needles 1990-?, Gary and Joanna Boyce, founders. The publication "will focus on conservation of natural resources, with special emphasis on water," Boyce said. He was owner of Rancho Rosado. Its slogan was: "A Voice in the Sangre de Cristos,"

Duncan

The Spanish first mined the Duncan area, but the first American to see the potential was William Gilpin, who found gold on his trip to the area with John Fremont in 1843. Gilpin returned to start development, but neither he nor anyone else struck it rich before it was deserted. Duncan was located in the southeastern corner of Baca Land Grant No. 4 and therefore outside the government's land and mining laws.

A new and richer strike was made in 1890, and the town was reborn. The camp, rapidly turning into a town, was named for early-pro prospector John Duncan. After the silver crash--when gold was back in favor--the camp grew again, although the location had been in litigation for years. In 1900, half interest in the townsite and all the mineral rights were sold to an eastern company. The miners at Duncan were evicted and didn't return, but instead founded the town of Liberty just outside the boundaries of the grant. When the part of the Baca grant on which Duncan was located became a fenced cattle ranch in 1900, the few remaining miners moved to Liberty on the other side of the fence, taking their cabins with them.

Duncan is now a ranger station.

Camp News 1892-1894, Charles M. Danford, founder. Charles W. Danford came to Colorado in 1891 from his native Ohio. The *Camp News* may have been his first paper in the state, although his obituary says he was also with the *San Luis Valley Times*, *Plateau Valley Herald*, *Debeque Era*, *Grand Junction Star-Times*, and *Grand Junction Sentinel* before buying the *Arvada Sun* in 1911.

Duncan Eagle 1896-1897.

Golden Eagle 1896-1897, a daily companion to the *Duncan Eagle*.

Iris

The camp is but a year old but it is a very healthy youngster. The camp is going forward with lusty strides. There are many promising claims and syndicates from abroad have representatives in camp watching its progress.

Cochetopa Gold Belt 8/23/1895

Iris and Chance, two short-lived mining camps, were founded in 1894. Iris was named after the abundant wild flowers growing there, Chance after what prospectors took. The two towns, in the northwestern part of Saguache County, were almost more a part of the Gunnison Country, which included the Cochetopa among its mining districts. The towns got off to such a good start, with heavy investments in mining properties and so many new houses, that the camp was said to resemble Leadville. By 1897, however, the *Saguache Crescent* noted:

Times are hard. The wave of prosperity not yet having arrived...but people always seem to have a little money with which to pay the fiddler and the social dance at the hotel last week was well attended.

There was some activity at the turn of the century, but it didn't last and within a few years the miners moved on. Iris had one newspaper:

Cochetopa Gold Belt June 1895-1896, Bryan & Jones, proprietors. Bryan could be the Oscar D. Bryan who was publisher of the *Saguache Crescent* in 1895. Jones could be the R.C. Jones who was associated with the *Crescent* and other Saguache papers.

Liberty

Liberty was founded in February 1901 by mining refugees from Duncan, who moved their cabins and belongings over the fence when they were evicted from the Baca Grant. The town flourished for a while but faded after 1908. Southwest of Saguache, Liberty was located on a D&RG railroad spur. The railroad called it Cottonwood.

The Duncan newspapers didn't move to the new town. The first newspaper was the: **Liberty Independent** 1902, E.D. Lane, publisher. Rowell has this listing in 1904. In 1905, the listing is:

Liberty News Distributor May 1902-1905, E.D. Lane, founder.

Liberty Chieftain 1903-1904.

Moffat

Moffat was laid out in 1890 when the narrow gauge Denver & Rio Grande Railroad built into the region, and named for David H. Moffat, president of the railroad. Otto Mears was another of the town's promoters. The town was a livestock loading center.

Moffat Ledger 1891-1892, J.D. Frazey, founder. Frazey came to the San Luis Valley in 1887 and published the *Fort Garland Republican*. He moved to Antonito in 1892 and founded the *Antonito Ledger*. He was the Antonito postmaster from 1900-1919, one of the few GOP postmasters of that time.

Moffat News 1910-1911, J.D. Wehrle, founder.

Moffat Times 1910-February 1913, Charles Ogden, founder (see Saguache).

Moffat Home & Farm 1913-January 24, 1918. Ralph E Littler was publisher from 1916 to 1918.

Farmers Exchange Bulletin 1916-1917, Ralph Littler. There was also a *Farmers Exchange Bulletin* in Montrose 1920-1925.

Saguache

The town of Saguache was founded in 1867, at the same time as the county, and designated county seat. One of the early accounts of the settlement was written by the Reverend John L. Dyer, the circuit-riding Methodist minister to many flocks. The San Luis Valley was predominantly Roman Catholic, but it didn't deter the Reverend, who held two days of services in Saguache. He wrote:

On Sunday the power of God came down, and nearly all were in tears. The lady of the house broke out in a grand shout, the first ever raised in the San Luis Valley....We had there a foreigner, I think of Jewish descent. He sat near the door, and looked first at the door, then at me, and then at the scene among the seekers....[Otto Mears was Jewish.]

A severe hail storm beat their crops into the ground. Indians were more numerous than white men. Old Chief San Juan came along, and expressed great sorrow at their loss. For him it means no biscuits this year."

Saguache was in a location to be a major supply town, with accommodations for teamsters and travelers heading into the adjacent Gunnison region. Within ten years the town grew into a busy and prosperous point largely because of Mears, who had opened a mill and general mercantile store, built toll roads to and from the town, and created innumerable opportunities. Mears founded the *Saguache Chronicle* in 1872 to advertise the San Luis Valley, particularly Saguache, which was his home.

Mears' store attracted Indians who wanted to trade for tobacco and whiskey. Another customer was the fugitive Alfred Packer, the only survivor of a prospecting party that disappeared in the mountains in 1873. Packer resurfaced the following spring at the Los Pinos Indian Agency, asking for whiskey. He spun several seemingly plausible tales about the fate of his companions, and "caroused and spent considerable money," according to the *Saguache Advance*, which observed him in Saguache. But Packer made a mistake: He went shopping at Mears' store, where he bought a horse for \$70. The proprietor noticed that Packer was carrying Wells Fargo drafts. Mears remembered that Packer allegedly counterfeited bank notes, and that the lost companions had some of the Wells Fargo drafts. Mears notified authorities. Packer was arrested, but escaped from the Saguache jail and was not seen again until 1883, when he was recognized in Wyoming. Packer was brought back to Colorado and stood trial in Lake City for killing and then eating his companions. He was found guilty. It is the only cannibalism case in Colorado.

Saguache has had eight newspapers, one of them still printing at well over 100 years.

Saguache Chronicle October 10, 1874-July 30, 1886, Otto Mears, founder; David Downer, editor and publisher. Saguache's location caused some problems, as stated in a late 1875 apology:

Our remote situation, the long distance to the railroad and delay of paper en route from Chicago, explains our contracted appearance this week.

Downer, it is assumed, was one of the Downer Guards, composed of the Downer Brothers and headed by Capt. James Downer. Isaac N. Peyton followed Downer as editor in 1875. Peyton, whose brother, Clark, owned the *Lake City Silver World*, was later a state representative.

Willard B. Felton, who may have been one of the paper's original company, assumed the editorship in 1876. Felton was born in Massachusetts in 1837 and moved to Lake City in 1862, where he organized a mining company and built a fifteen-stamp mill. Elected to the 1864 Constitutional Convention, he served as Enrolling Clerk. Moving to Saguache County in 1870, he took up farming and stock-raising, and was Superintendent of Schools in 1871, County Assessor in 1872, and Saguache County Judge 1873-1881. Again a member of a Constitutional Convention in 1875, he discovered an oversight in the final document: There was no provision for presidential electors for 1876. He was able to get this amended to allow the legislature to appoint electors to represent Colorado, thus assuring the election of Rutherford B. Hayes. Felton

served as Chief Clerk for the Colorado House of Representatives the first two terms of the legislature.

From 1876 to 1881 Felton was publisher and proprietor of the *Saguache Chronicle*. Judge Felton was one of the founders of the Colorado Press Association in 1878 and was chosen chairman of the organizational committee. He served as the first First Vice President in 1878, and as CPA orator in 1879.

In December 1880, a new owner was announced:

The Saguache CHRONICLE was started in October, 1874, by a company composed of several gentlemen. Of late years, Otto Mears had been purchasing the interests of other owners until he had all but two or three hundred dollars of the stock. This week he sold his interest to Dr. Heimberger. We understand that same person from New York will be here shortly to manage and edit the paper.

Dr. D. Heimberger, the first doctor in town, built a small hospital and had a small house nearby for people with contagious diseases. It may have been due to Dr. Heimberger's background that the *Chronicle* ran a stern message in July 1883:

The foul rubbish in the back yards and alleys of town should be removed. It is a great source of disease, and should claim the immediate attention of those vested with the power to keep the air of Saguache undefiled by this rotting putrid matter, which may be seen on every hand.

By the time the *Chronicle* folded in July 1886 it had strong competition:

Saguache Advance January 12, 1882-October 1, 1885, John E, Nelson and Charles E. Hill, founders. The *Advance* was a seven-column weekly. Hill left after six months, but Nelson stayed on as editor until February 1884, and was publisher to January 1886, although he sold the *Advance* in November 1882 to George W. Miles.

W.E. White replaced Nelson as editor from February 1884 to June 1884. R.H. Jones became co-owner, editor and publisher with Nelson in January 1885, but left in July. In September Henry M. Mingay joined the paper as editor and publisher. The newspaper name was changed to:

Saguache Democrat October 8, 1885-July 25, 1889, reflecting "prevailing Democratic political philosophy." Mingay, a mayor of Saguache, bought out Nelson's interest in January 1886. On August 1, 1889 the name was changed again, to its present name:

Saguache Crescent August 1, 1889 to present. In 1892 a Mr. Lyons bought an interest from Mingay and became co-publisher. Oscar D. Bryan bought the remaining Mingay interest in February 1895. Bryan was co-publisher until September 1901. Lee Fairbanks, a former town treasurer, was editor/publisher from October 1901 to 1903. He was followed by John W. Cook 1904-1907; S.M. Ludwick 1908-1909; John L. Bryan 1910 and W.H. Ham 1911-1917. Ham sold the paper to Charles Ogden. Bryan continued working for the paper.

Charles W. Ogden and his wife Mary bought the *Crescent* in August 1917, thus starting a three-generation association that is still active. Charles Ogden published the *Crescent* from 1917 until his death December 15, 1935, although the paper was leased to Harry B. Sherman from 1924 to 1927. After Charles Ogden's death, his widow Mary took over as publisher and his daughter Marie became editor. Another daughter, Irene, was the Linotype expert. Marie married Robert Ivan Coombs in 1938, bringing him into

the family publishing business. The couple became owners in October 1954, after Mrs. Ogden retired. Ivan Coombs' died in 1978; Marie and their son Dean carried on the business. Both are still publishers. Mrs. Coombs was honored with the Colorado Press Association Golden Makeup Rule in 1986.

The *Saguache Crescent* is the last paper in Colorado to accurately claim to be "hot off the press." It is the only one left using molten lead to produce molds with the letters placed in forms for the press. Marie Coombs operates the Linotype. Dean Coombs runs off approximately 720 copies of the *Crescent* each week on the same hand-fed press cranked by his father and grandfather.

"We try to make our money on the good things in life, things that make people happy," Mrs. Coombs once said. "I've had people tell me ours is the only newspaper they can read and still sleep at night."

Saguache Journal 1885-1888.

Saguache Sentinel 1888-1889, Hill Brothers, founders. The name changed to:

Colorado Herald 1889-1897, R.H. Jones. (Historians Hall and Stone, and the Rowell directory have R.C. Jones 1892; the Saguache history has R.H.) Skinner & Palmer were publishers in 1896, and in 1898 the publishers was L.R.H. Durham.

Saguache Independent 1895-1896, W.A. Bronaugh, editor.

Sedgwick

Sedgwick was the first of several towns to be laid out along Kerber Creek in the summer of 1880, followed by Bonanza, Kerber City and Exchequerville. Former President U.S. Grant camped at Sedgwick on one of his Colorado jaunts, and offered to buy two of the mines. The offer was refused. Bonanza was the camp that grew, eventually absorbing Sedgwick, Kerber City and Exchequerville. Sedgwick had one newspaper:

Kerber Pick Handle 1881-1882.

Villa Grove

At Villa Grove, a prosperous little village...merchants seem to be doing a substantial business. Two daily stage lines run from this point to Saguache and Bonanza and the branch railroad runs up to the iron mines at Orient, nine miles distant.

Salida Mail 6/26/1891

Villa Grove was a supply center for the Kerber camps and a small farming town in the northern part of the county. It was founded in 1870 and was the end of the line for a Denver & Rio Grande narrow-gauge train from Poncha Pass in 1881. Originally called Garibaldi, the name was changed in 1872 to reflect the location--a village surrounded by trees.

The mining promise in Villa Grove was slow to develop. The first serious mining was done after the Colorado Coal and Fuel Company bought land north of Villa Grove about 1880. There were several satellite camps that contributed to the growth of Villa

Grove, and a hot springs resort attracted residents. It is now the center of a ranching area.

Villa Grove Dispatch 1882-1883.

Villa Grove Independent 1889-1890.

Headlight 1890-1892, S.E. Van Noorden, publisher. Van Noorden was a local attorney, and may also have had a connection with the *Independent*.

Villa Grove Record 1892-1894, L.R.H. Durham, publisher.

Special Sources: "*Early Life on the Colorado Western Frontier*," Sidney Jocknick; The Carson-Harper Co., Denver, 1913.

"*The San Luis Valley--Land of the Six-Armed Cross*," Virginia McConnell Simmons; Pruett Publishing, Boulder, 1979.

Saguache Chronicle and *Saguache Crescent*, various issues.

Colorado Prospector, April 1982.

Special thanks to Marie Ogden Coombs.

CHAPTER LVIII

SAN JUAN COUNTY

San Juan is the least populous of Colorado's sixty-four counties, and its newspaper history is relatively brief. The county was formed out of La Plata County in 1876. San Juan takes its name from that given to a river in the area by Spanish Explorers. The area was once a hot-bed of mining activity, but now relies more on tourism. The county boasts four National Historic Sites and several National Forests and wilderness areas.

Animas Forks

The first log cabin at Animas Forks was built in 1873. By 1876 the town was a bustling mining community. At 11,200 feet, the town's harsh weather tended to drive residents to Silverton each winter. Abandonment of the short lived Silverton Northern Railroad and the declining mining industry reduced Animas Forks to a ghost town by the 1920s. It has been stabilized by the San Juan County Historical Society as one of Colorado's most picturesque ghosts.

Animas Forks Pioneer June 17, 1882-October 2, 1886, George N. Raymond, publisher/editor.

Chattanooga

Located at the south foot of Red Mountain Pass, Chattanooga became a key stop on the route from Silverton to Ouray. Silver was discovered in the area in the 1870s. The Chattanooga Post Office was established in 1883 but an avalanche destroyed most of the town six years later.

Chattanooga Enterprise 1883, John R. Curry, publisher. It was printed in Silverton, at Curry's *Miner* plant.

Eureka

The mining camp at Eureka gained a post office in 1875. The town with its two large mills to process precious metals was connected to the outside world by the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. After the Sunnyside Mill closed in 1939, Eureka shrank into a ghost town.

San Juan Expositor 1880, Theodore B. Comstock, publisher. A monthly.

Gold Run

Gold Run Silvertip 1893-? Candle Publishing Co. A weekly.

Red Mountain City

Red Mountain Pilot 1883-? John R. Curry, publisher. Like Curry's *Chattanooga Enterprise*, the *Pilot* was printed in Silverton.

Silverton

Charles Baker and his gold and silver prospecting party camped on the present site of Silverton in 1860. Failing to strike it rich, the group became discouraged and left the area. Another group had better luck in 1870, making several high-grade strikes. Silverton was organized as a town in 1873 and served as seat of LaPlata County. In 1876, the county of San Juan was formed out of La Plata, and Silverton retained its position as county seat. The Denver & Rio Grande arrived in 1882 bringing in settlers came from the eastern United States and Europe.

The decline of mining meant tough times for Silverton, but in the 1950s it was discovered by Hollywood and its authentic 1880s look served as a backdrop for many Western movies. The famous narrow gauge train, which has operated ever since 1882, brings as many as 200,000 visitors to Silverton in the summer months, making tourism the major pillar of the town economy.

La Plata Miner July 10, 1875-1893, John R. Curry, publisher. A Civil War veteran from New York, Curry founded and operated the most newspapers of any Coloradan in the 1800s. While Curry was running Iowa newspapers in the 1870s, a friend enticed him to come to Silverton with the promise of legal publications, no competition, and the chance to be first in a new land. Traveling to remote Silverton with his printing equipment proved challenging. Curry boarded the Denver & Rio Grande railroad to Canon City, where he changed to a Barlow & Sanderson stagecoach for a 28-hour trip to Del Norte. He hired a mule to ride up the Rio Grande River, but man and beast parted

ways out of mutual dislike at the Wagon Wheel Gap. After three more days on foot he reached Silverton on June 19, 1875. The first issue of the paper was produced on a hand-cranked press in a log cabin and issued July 10, 1875. James H. Mountain purchased the *Miner* June 16, 1883 and ran it for over a year, until Curry reclaimed it in a foreclosure action in September 1884. For a time the paper was known as the:

Silverton Daily Miner 1886-1888. Alfred Isles bought the *Miner* in October 1884 and owned it until 1893, when he sold to John T. Barnett. 1893 also saw the *Miner* absorb the *Red Mountain Journal*, resulting in the temporary new name:

Silverton Miner & Red Mountain Journal 1893-1895. The name was simplified to:

Silverton Weekly Miner 1895-1919. J.T. Whitelaw was the owner briefly in 1895 before Thomas H. Tulley took over in May of that year and ran the paper until 1901. Clarence O. Finch bought the *Miner* on June 7, 1901, and remained as owner until 1909. Subsequent publishers included W.H. J. Bowey, 1909-1913; D.B. McGue, 1916-1917; Edward S. Tate, 1917; Richard H. Brown, 1917-1920. Brown again simplified the name:

Silverton Miner 1919-1920, Richard H. Brown was publisher when the *Miner* was absorbed into:

Silverton Standard 1889-1934. The *Standard* was a weekly started by Harry Smith and Charles M. Snowden in the basement of Silverton's Grand Imperial Hotel.

Smith and Snowden sold out to the Klinger brothers –Olie.W. Klinger and L.A. Klinger-in 1896. They in turn dealt the *Standard* to John J. Joyce, who ran it until 1919, when he sold to Ed Hillman. Hillman purchased the *Miner* the following year and merged it into the *Standard*, making it the only newspaper in San Juan County at that time. Lloyd S. Jones of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma bought the paper in 1934. He purchased a modern Linotype for the *Standard* plant in 1938.

Ross C. Beaber bought the paper April 5, 1946, and stayed until January, 1963, when he sold to Alan Nossaman and Tommy Neal. Nossaman bought out Neal in June 1964, and remained sole owner until 1972, when Larry and Rosalind Duthie bought the *Standard* from him. George and Karen Chapman became owners in Colorado's centennial year of 1976. They ran the *Sentinel* until selling to John and Sharon Denious July 1, 1990. The *Standard* is still published by the San Juan County Historical Society.

San Juan Herald 1881-1885, weekly, published by Raymond & Everingham.

San Juan 1886-1887, George N. Raymond, publisher. It may have been a continuation of Raymond's *Animas Forks Pioneer*.

Daily Herald July 2, 1883-April, 1885. George Slaymaker, publisher. Merged with *Silverton Democrat*.

Silverton Democrat April 1883-April 1885, weekly, A.M. Read, publisher. It continued as:

Silverton-Democrat-Herald April-October 1885. Gill & Conduct, publishers. The name reverted to:

Silverton Democrat November 1885-December 1887. It continued as:

San Juan Democrat December 1887-1888, Harry Smith, publisher. Apparently absorbed by the *Silverton Miner*.

Silverton Industry 1895-1896.

San Juan Herald #2 1895-1898, Charles A. Day, a weekly.

Special Sources:

Lucille Hastings, "Newspapering on the Great Divide," *Colorado Editor*, June 1967.

Frank Hartman, "Pioneer Newspapers of the Pioneer District," *Inter-Mountain Press and Printer*, October 1921.

CHAPTER LIX

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY

In 1875 prospectors came to the wild canyon of the San Miguel River in search of minerals. Soon after, rich gold mines were discovered in Ouray and Lake City. By 1877, 300 men worked placers on the margins and bars of the river. But the big yield would eventually come from mines such as the Tomboy and Smuggler-Union. San Miguel County produced \$1,500,000 worth of gold in 1898 from these and other big digs. Besides gold and silver, the area has yielded antimony, arsenic, barium, bismuth, iron, platinum, radium, uranium, vanadium, tungsten and zinc.

Ames

Ames was a mining camp established about 1884 at the confluence of the Lake and Howard's forks of the San Miguel River, four miles south of Telluride on the Denver and Rio Grande line. Ames makes the history books as the home of the first generating plant to provide alternating current for industrial use from a plant still in operation.

Ames Argus 1883-1884 weekly.

Columbia

Columbia was platted on 80 acres in 1878 and incorporated the following year.

San Miguel Journal 1882-1883, weekly. J.R. and F.E. Curry, publishers.

Continued as *San Miguel Journal*.

Norwood

Norwood was a stock raising community founded 34 miles northwest of Telluride in 1885 by L.M. Copp, who named it for his home town in Missouri.

Norwood Tribune 1891-1893, weekly, J.H. Brandenberry, founder.

Norwood Leader 1898-1901.

Rural Rube 1900-1901, weekly.

Norwood Record 1907-1910, weekly. Founded by Frank Stearns; suspended by Lisle Wilson.

Norwood Post 1912-December 28, 1928, weekly. Charles Spillman, publisher 1912-1914. Frederick Rice was at the helm from in 1915; George M. Hutt, 1916-1922; Wilton T. Hutt, 1923-1926. M.O. Ballard took over in 1926, eventually changing the name to:

Norwood Post-Independent January 1929-1937, weekly. M.O. Ballard was publisher until 1931, followed by Walter Roberts, 1932-1937; and Pat Cline, 1937-1938. Paul Vohs bought the paper and merged it into the *Telluride Journal* in 1938.

Norwood Star 1941-December 1955. Walter W. Roberts, founder and publisher July 1941-1944. Arnold Kretzmann bought the paper in 1944 but ran aground in 1948.

Mr. and Mrs. Milford Lien, owners of the *Telluride Tribune*, bought the rights to the *Star* and ran it until 1955. That year they sold the *Star* to Jack Gilmore, who consolidated it into his new *San Miguel Forum* (see below).

San Miguel Forum 1971-present, Forum Newspapers, publisher. This weekly began as the *Nucla Forum* (see Montrose County).

Wright's Mesa Review 1982-? Grace Herudon and Cindy Chapin-Hubbard, publishers. A bi-monthly paper.

Norwood Post #2 May 4, 1994-present, Peter Spencer, founder. In August 1996, Spencer accepted a down payment for the sale of the *Post* from Robert and Marge Chickering. The Chickerings reneged on the sales contract by failing to make any of their scheduled subsequent payments to Spencer. Contentious litigation followed. Spencer died in 1999, but ownership of the *Post* was regained by Spencer's estate that same year. His former wife, Linda Lamkin Spencer, became editor/publisher.

Norwood Chroincle May 1999-January 2000. Robert Chickering and Marge Chickering. After losing the *Post* in litigation, the Chickerings started the *Chronicle*, but it was short-lived.

Ophir

Ophir, three miles southeast of Ames, grew up around an 1875 mineral strike. It had a post office by April 1880. It is named for the legendary site of King Solomon's mines.

Ophir Mail 1894-1905, weekly. Charles G. Sumner, publisher.

San Miguel

In August 1876, placer miners Thomas Lowthian, F.P. Brown, and J.H. Mitchell laid out San Miguel City in a pine and cottonwood grove. When its placer mines played out, most of the population shifted to Columbia.

San Miguel Journal July 1881-1882, weekly. John Curry and F.E. Curry, founders. It was moved to Telluride in 1882.

San Miguel Messenger 1886-1888, weekly.

Sawpit

First called Fall Creek, then Seymore, it was a thriving placer camp in 1888. In 1896, the Sawmill mines were discovered, the post office was moved closer to the mines, and the town took its new name.

Sawpit Hummer January 29, 1896-1897, weekly. C.A. Woodmansee, publisher.

Telluride

Telluride began as Folsom, when it gained a post office under that name in July 1880. In December it changed its name to Telluride for the minerals found in the area. A toll road built by Otto Mears helped the town grow quickly. It incorporated as Telluride City in 1887. It claimed the largest gold-bearing quartz vein ever discovered and at one time was one of Colorado's busiest gold camps. Telluride suffered major

reversals when fires in 1930 and 1940 each destroyed an important mill, hampering mineral production and the local economy. After establishment of a ski resort and an airport it has roared back to life as a popular, glamorous resort town.

San Miguel Journal 1882-1889, weekly. Originally founded by Curry and Curry in San Miguel in 1881, it was moved to Telluride the following year. Charles York was publisher in 1886.

Telluride Journal 1889-1927, weekly. F.E. Curry & E.D. McKown, publishers. It continued as the *San Miguel County Journal* (below) There was also a daily version:

Telluride Daily Journal 1894-August 31, 1929, daily. Harry L. Starvis. It became a weekly:

Telluride Weekly Journal September 7, 1929-May 27, 1938. Continued as *San Miguel County Journal*.

San Miguel Examiner 1897-August 1929, weekly. It may also have published as the *Telluride Examiner*. H.D. McKown was editor and publisher until he died in 1923; his association with the paper began in 1905. Purchased by Charles E. Adams and consolidated into the *Telluride Journal* in 1929.

San Miguel County Journal June 3, 1938-1945. In 1938, Paul Vohs bought and consolidated the *Telluride Journal*, the *Norwood Post-Independent*, the *Nucla Independent*, and the *San Miguel Examiner* into his new *County Journal*. Vohs

suspended the paper in November of the same year and enlisted in the Navy as a reserve officer.

Evening News May 1884-1885, daily, Propper & Howard, publishers.

Mining News September 1884-1885, weekly.

Telluride News August 1885-1886, daily.

Telluride Republican July 3, 1886-1896, weekly, Republican Publishing Company.

An S.B. Graham was associated with the paper until 1892.

San Miguel Democrat 1896-1897, weekly.

Daily Tribune 1941-1955, Ray Buzan, publisher; Harry Hone, editor and manager.

The new *Tribune* began as a daily eight-page tabloid but later became a weekly. In August 1943 Mr. and Mrs. Milford Lien bought the *Tribune*. Milford Lien had worked for the *Cortez Sentinel* in the early 1940s and leased and managed the *Olathe Criterion* in 1942. In 1948 Lien purchased the *Norwood Star*. At the end of 1955 the Liens sold both papers to Jack Gilmore, publisher of the *Nucla Forum*. Gilmore combined the two into:

. **San Miguel Forum** 1956-1970 (?), weekly. Gilmore published the *Forum* until January 1, 1959, when he sold out to a corporation of local investors headed by Marvin Hearnberger, the *Forum's* printing manager and later publisher.

San Miguel County Progress 1962-? Marjorie Spencer Darling, publisher. Darling was the daughter of Charles R. Spencer, publisher of the *Ouray County Herald*.

Telluride Times December 14, 1962-1988, weekly. John C. McPhee and Bettye McPhee, founders. As editor, John McPhee used his “Gold Bricks” column to champion a range of strategies to revitalize Telluride: obtaining a bigger slice of the state highway budget, increasing tourism, and re-opening mines. Bettye McPhee carried on as sole publisher after her spouse’s death in 1968. Louis and Helen Newell took over the publishing reigns in December 1969. Denver attorney Robert Davison bought the *Times* in August 1975 and soon absorbed the competition by acquiring the short-lived **Telluride Examiner** (1975-1976, Steve Suloway, publisher). Karen and Scott Brown published the *Times* from 1981 until July 1988, when they sold to the owner of the upstart *Telluride Mountain Journal*, which was originally:

San Miguel Journal March 1986-May 1987, Jim Davidson, founder and publisher.

He changed the name to:

Telluride Mountain Journal May 1987-July-1988. Davidson merged in the *Times*, creating the:

Telluride Times-Journal 1988-1998, weekly, Timberline Publishing.

Telluride Today 1992 (?), Mike Ritchey, founder. Tom Slocum was publisher in 1992 but sold the *Today* back to Ritchey.

Telluride Planet 1993-present, Mike Ritchey and Tony Daranyi, founders. A free morning daily.

Special Sources: Lucille Hastings, "Extraordinary Journalism in Telluride," *Colorado Editor*, June 1969.

CHAPTER LX

SEDGWICK COUNTY

Sedgwick County, the northeastern corner of Colorado, began as a natural entry point for explorers and traders following the South Platte River into the area. Spain made the first non-native claim to the land in 1540, though it did not explore the area for almost two centuries. Don Pedro de Villasur, accompanied by a party of more than 100. Most of the men were slain by Pawnee Indians armed with French weapons. The French also claimed the area. In 1739 two French traders passed what is now Julesburg on their way to Santa Fe. They named the Platte River with the French word for shallow or flat.

Late in the fall of 1824, an energetic businessman, with perhaps more imagination and courage than good sense, set off to make a fortune in the uncharted west. General William Henry Ashley, a former lieutenant governor and militia man of Missouri, reached the forks of the North and South Platte just before Christmas. A few cold, windy, snowy days later he reached northeastern Colorado with some 25 men, 50 pack horses and headed up the river, charting a new and valuable route west.

Between 1824 and 1854, the Platte was a main channel for the fur trade, for explorers such as Captains Fremont and Gunnison, and the home of several Indian tribes. Major John Sedgwick, for whom the county would be named, led several Cavalry

and Infantry units into the area in 1857 on a punitive expedition against the roaming Indians. One of the Army guides returned to Kansas with a goose quill full of gold nuggets. The gold rush to Colorado was about to begin. Indians vigorously objected to newcomers going through the Platte Valley, but the incoming horde paid little attention until the Indians paid distinctly unfriendly calls on trading posts, ranches and emigrant trains.

Near where Lodgepole Creek flows into the South Platte, a natural crossing of the river is known as Upper California Crossing. There travelers went west or turned southwest to head into Colorado. At the crossing an astute French trader and trapper named Jules Beni opened a trading post for the Army and travelers. That post came to be called Overland City or Julesburg and had a trading post, a telegraph office, a coach house, and a stable. Beni's eating station for stage passengers had a "very neat kitchen and dining room" with \$1 meals that included bacon, eggs, hot biscuits, tea, coffee, dried fruit and pie, canned fruit and vegetables, and beef and bison.

The telegraph had reached Julesburg by the end of 1861 but was cut during the Indian Wars on the plains of Colorado in 1864. The U.S. Army bought a ranch on the south bank of the Platte in May 1864, about three miles from the original Julesburg. The new military installation was named for John Rankin, a cavalry officer prominent in plains warfare.

Camp Rankin's cavalry went to battle in January 1865 when the Indians attacked the Camp in retaliation for the Sand Creek Massacre the previous November. The

soldiers were enticed from the Camp by a coalition of Cheyenne, Sioux and Arapaho. The soldiers went after the Indians, leaving the immediate area open to assaults, but the military lost the trail. Camp Rankin's name was changed in September 27, 1865, to Fort Sedgwick, honoring Major General John Sedgwick, who had been killed at the Battle of Spottsylvania Court House in 1864. Prior to the Civil War, Gen. Sedgwick served in the Indian wars and in the Mexican War, and established Fort Wise (later Fort Lyon).

Today the site of Fort Sedgwick is marked by a flagpole, and its cemetery by a red flag. Eventually the area became a vast cattle range with large ranches dotting the landscape. The ranches became smaller as other agriculture pursuits arrived. When Colorado became a state in 1876, Sedgwick County was part of Weld County; in 1887 it was part of Logan County, and, finally, in April 1889 the legislature authorized Sedgwick County with Julesburg as the county seat.

Julesburg

At noon we arrived at the "Crossing of the South Platte," alias "Julesburg." alias "Overland City," four hundred and seventy miles from St. Joseph--the strangest, quaintest, and funniest frontier town that our traveled eyes had ever stared at and been astonished with. It did seem strange to see a town again after what appeared to us such a long acquaintance with deep, still, almost lifeless and homeless solitude [along the trail.]

Samuel Clemens 1862

Julesburg is the most historical town of northeastern Colorado. Its fame dates back to the period of overland emigration to California. Remote from the settlements in the mountains or the trading posts of St. Vrain, Lupton and Latham, but nearer their base...it was frequently exposed to raids of hostile Indians. It was the scene of numerous attacks in the early immigrant and staging days, when it was an important point. It was noted

also as the place where, in summer, the most terrific thunder storms expended their fury....

Frank Hall, History of Colorado 1890

Several events gave the town named for Jules Beni a particular place in Colorado history. The original town was burned down by Indians, and what was left was packed up and loaded on wagons for a move to the next town--three times. Julesburg was the only Colorado stop on the Pony Express, and a paper *The Frontier Index*--"The Press on Wheels"--was published there.

Julesburg #1 (Jules Station/Old Julesburg) was founded by Jules Beni as a trading post to service the Overland wagon, stage and mail traffic in the late 1850s. It was here that 27-year-old Sam Clemens stopped to transfer from a stage to an "affair called a mud wagon" and continue on his way to Nevada where he was better known as Mark Twain who remembered Julesburg in *Roughing It* published in 1872.

Another noted humorist of the day, Artemus Ward, arrived in Julesburg on March 1, 1864. Julesburg, wrote Ward, "is the country of the Sioux Indians now and [we] encounter them by the hundred. A Chief offers to sell me his daughter (a fair young Indian maiden) for six dollars and two quarts of whiskey. I declined to trade." But he found meals cheaper than at previous stops, and was glad to see an occasional egg on his plate. He did not buy buffalo skins or tongues, which were for sale at most of the stations. He was "longing to set foot on shore....An overland journey in winter is a better thing to have done than to do." Indians burned Old Julesburg to the ground in February 1865.

Julesburg #2 was said to be laid out February 7, 1866, by Edward L. Berthoud and W.F. Wilder, two miles east of Old Julesburg. It was outside the boundaries of Fort Sedgwick purposely so businesses in town could sell whiskey to the soldiers. When the Union Pacific Railroad built tracks to the north side of the Platte, Julesburg #2 moved to welcome it.

Julesburg #3 was a U. P. end-of-track town when the first train arrived June 25, 1867. The railroad turned north out of Colorado at Julesburg. Train passengers and freight going to Denver transferred to stages to finish the trip. From a few tents, the newest Julesburg rapidly turned into a town of more than a thousand structures with a shifting population from two to three thousand. Historian Frank Hall described the tent and shanty town as housing "the most notorious and reckless gang of outlaws, thieves, thugs and assassins ever congregated at any one point on the western frontier. Gambling, drinking, rioting, murders, robberies and confusion marked both night and day." Within six months the Union Pacific had reached Cheyenne. Most of the people and businesses in Julesburg #3 picked up and moved to Cheyenne, which was next in line for the moveable feast.

In the spring of 1880, the Union Pacific wanted to run a branch from Julesburg to Denver. When it couldn't acquire a right-of-way, it built a new town, Denver Junction. The railroad renamed Julesburg #3 after James Weir, one of their longtime construction men, who had been named foreman at Julesburg.

Julesburg # 4 Most of the residents of Julesburg #3 moved to Denver Junction, bringing the name Julesburg with them. The name change from Denver Junction to Julesburg became official in September 1886, the same year the town incorporated. Frank Hall noted the contrast between the third and fourth Julesburgs when he described the new town in 1890 as "a quiet, peaceful and wholly respectable village, occupied by industrious and law-abiding people."

The Frontier Index June-September 1867, Freeman and Ainsworth, publishers; semiweekly (Julesburg #3.) *The Frontier Index* was founded as the *Fort Kearny Herald* in 1862. It was issued sporadically until acquired by the post's telegraph operator and a soldier in the Seventh Iowa Cavalry, Leigh Freeman and his brother, Frederick K. Freeman. They were Virginians who settled at Fort Kearny, Nebraska Territory, after release from a Union prison camp. The Freemans changed the name to *The Frontier Index*. As former Confederates they were not popular, but they found a kindred spirit at Kearny: Dr. Michael Beshoar. Like the Freemans, Dr. Beshoar was a former Confederate soldier, who had been a Union prisoner, a Democrat and a newspaperman, and was a "good drinker, and more alert and knowledgeable than most of the other people round the fort." He gave the Freemans a hand with the *Index*. As the Union Pacific began building west, *The Frontier Index* became a camp follower, going with the construction crews. Leigh Freeman issued the somewhat erratic little sheet from tents, rail cars log huts, and any other available shelter along the U.P. route. Cramped quarters barely held the Army press, but Freeman managed. He made additional money doing job printing.

There were several publishing problems, often the result of moving around. Freeman's big advantage was access to telegraph news, which kept his paper up-to-date.

Once the Union Pacific had finished in Julesburg, it moved on to Cheyenne, and Leigh Freeman packed up *The Frontier Index* and rode along. From Cheyenne the paper rolled with the Union Pacific line through Wyoming and Utah where it ended because of reaction to the red-headed Freeman's fiery editorials. Freeman was anti-Mormon, and his plant in Bear River City, Utah, was burned after the *Index* exposed the scandalous Credit Mobilier frauds. A Wyoming newspaper history described the famous wheeled newspaper:

The Index is the most colorful pioneer newspaper and the best chronicle of life in frontier Wyoming. Uninhibited in its approach to reporting, the newspaper freely mixed a vigorous editorial policy with news reporting. Every issue was drama-packed and its end at the hands of rioters was probably not surprising, given its penchant for detailing the lawlessness of the west.

Julesberg waited 18 years for another newspaper.

Denver Junction Gazette 1885-1886, Charles Callahan, founder. Callahan had been with the *Cheyenne Leader*. The *Gazette* soon fell into the hands of Michael McGinnis, one of the first town trustees. As such it was logical that he changed the name:

Julesburg Gazette in 1886, and just as logical that he would be interested in building up the town's future when he changed the name again later that year:

Julesburg Champion 1886-1890, M.A. McGinnis, founder. E.E. Moore bought the paper in 1888, selling it in 1890 to W.F. Kiester, who evidently folded it.

Julesburg Republican 1886-1887, F.A. Smith, founder. The name was expanded under new owners:

Julesburg Tribune-Republican 1887-1888. H.C. McNew and a Mr. Town were the publishers. McNew changed the name to:

Sedgwick County Sentinel 1889-1895. McNew published the *Sentinel* until 1892 when he sold the paper to T.W. Acklin. The name of the newspaper was changed again:

Julesburg Sentinel 1895-1900. T.W. Acklin published the paper until it ended.

New Era 1893-1895.

Julesburg Grit 1893-November 9, 1899. The name of the founder is unknown, but the busy H.C. McNew was owner by August 4, 1898, and may have been connected with it earlier, since he had sold his *Sentinel* in 1892. A four-page, small-size newspaper, the *Grit* went to a six-column intermediate size in February 1899. McNew sold the paper to his competitor on November 9, 1899.

Julesburg Advocate 1896-November 10, 1899, L.E. Loveland, founder. Loveland, who had platted the town, was a banker and the first city treasurer. J.E. Lucas bought the paper early in January 1899, but sold it to George M. Braxton on July 25, 1899. It was Braxton who bought and merged the *Grit* into:

Julesburg Grit-Advocate November 17, 1899-February 1972. The name was shortened to:

Julesburg Advocate February 1972 to present. Braxton was editor/publisher until July 20, 1906. Neither the *Grit* nor the *Advocate* had a newspaper press. The combined sheet was a 4-column tabloid size printed on a job press. Braxton promised his readers he would "buy a press that would produce a full-sized newspaper within a short time." It would be six years before Braxton had enough money to buy the larger press. In 1905 Braxton bought another competitor:

Julesburg Tidings 1904-April 21, 1905, merged into the *Grit-Advocate*, which went to seven columns. Braxton had finally gotten his "full-sized newspaper press." Ed A Fry bought the *Grit-Advocate* in July 1906 and reduced it back to six columns. Fry published the paper until July 3, 1908, when H.C. McNew again became publisher for a few issues.

R.J. Dobell was publisher from about August 1908 until June 1, 1916. Like his predecessors, he bought out the competition:

Julesburg News 1908-1914. Fay Printery was the publisher of the *News* from 1908-1910. Mrs. Fred L. Cox was publisher in 1911. Clarence O. Finch, owner of more than a dozen Colorado papers from 1891 to the early 1920s, bought the *News* in 1913. The February 1915 *Colorado Press* announced that Clarence Finch had sold the *Julesburg News* to R.J. Dobell, "who will consolidate the *News* with the *Grit-Advocate*." In August 1916, Dobell leased it the *News* to Richard E. Law. Law evidently had a very brief stay at

the paper, because the *Colorado Press* reported in November 1916 that P.R. McDowell, previously business manager and editor, bought out his partner, Charles J. Redfern and became sole owner. McDowell acquired a new partner in 1920. Fred B. Wilson became half-owner and secretary-treasurer of the Grit-Advocate Printing Company.

McDowell reportedly sold his interest in the *Grit-Advocate* in March 1920 to F.M. Richard. R.D. Showalter, who was in charge of the mechanical department, had bought an interest the previous September. The publishing firm became Richard & Showalter, both new owners having "extensive experience on Nebraska newspapers," according to *Inter-Mountain Press [IMP]*, the successor to *Colorado Press*. Whether McDowell actually sold his entire interest in the *Grit-Advocate* is unclear. Walter Stewart's "Colorado Newspapers" does not list Richard and Showalter with the *Grit-Advocate*, but lists McDowell as editor/publisher from 1916 to 1925. Richards and Showalter appear to have been owners for only a short time. *Inter-Mountain Press* quoted a *Grit-Advocate* story in its September 1924 issue about Wilson's retirement, and "the accession of P.R. McDowell to full command of the destinies of that paper."

The McDowell-Wilson partnership, however, was not over. They started the *Ovid Advocate* in September 1925. (See Ovid below.) And, according to *Inter-Mountain-Press*, McDowell and Wilson sold both the *Julesburg Grit-Advocate* and the *Ovid Advocate* on January 18, 1926 to H.M. and J.P. Sydney of Anthony, Kan. McDowell was elected to the Press Association's Board of Directors in January 1924, moving up to vice president in

1925. In the normal course of events he would have been elected president at the next annual meeting on January 16, 1926. But he wasn't.

The 1920s in Colorado were marked by the rise of the Ku Klux Klan throughout the state. Most Colorado editors courageously stood up to Klan demands, often to the detriment of their business. Percy McDowell was an exception. McDowell cast his lot with the Klan, or, more specifically, with the Minute Men, a splinter group which had seceded from the Klan in 1925. McDowell was elected a division inspector of the Minute Men by its executive committee at the first annual encampment. As a result, he was passed over due to backlash against the KKK. A number of other editors and publishers objected to his Minute Men activities. When the nominating committee presented the slate of new officers, McDowell's name was not on it.

Harold H. Smith, T.Z. Smith and Cora B. Smith purchased the *Grit-Advocate* in September 1928. Harold and his brother, Theodore Z., came from a newspaper family, too. Their parents had been in the country newspaper business for 30 years, the past 12 at Elkhart, Kan., where T.Z. and their mother, Cora, "edited the *Elkhart Tri-state News* for the past ten years." Harold Smith became active in the association and was elected CPA president in 1937.

Another of Smith's brothers, Donald Smith, who seems to have replaced T.Z., was listed as associate editor from 1928 to 1934, taking over from Harold a year later. Cora Belle Smith still owned an interest in the paper. Donald Smith went into military service in 1942, and sold the paper on August 16, 1942, to Eugene T. Hogue, former

owner of the *Eaton Herald*. The Hogues moved the paper to a two-story building, formerly a barber shop, using the ground floor for the newspaper and the second floor for an apartment. Ten years later they moved to a "commodious newly-constructed building," which had plenty of room for future expansion.

The Hogues sold the *Grit-Advocate* to Mr. and Mrs. Walter R. (Bud) McKinstry, Jr, on December 1, 1958. Walt and Mary McKinstry published the *Grit-Advocate* until February 1972. The McKinstry children grew up in the newspaper business. It was a natural, said *Colorado Editor*, "since both lived in a cardboard box cradle at the weekly newspaper's shop and [their mother] warmed bottles on the Linotype pot." There was one drawback: Lillian wrote sentences backward--she learned to read from typeset pages, just as the Cooley boys did.

The McKinstrys sold the paper for health reasons in 1972 to Bryce Wilkins. The Wilkins were another newspaper family, with papers in Colorado and Nebraska. Bryce had owned the *Hugo Eastern Colorado Plainsman*. He put his son Ronald, who began his newspaper career while in high school working for his father's Nebraska paper, in charge of the *Grit-Advocate*. A third-generation newspaperman, the younger Wilkins had worked for several publications before Julesburg. Wilkins dropping the "*Grit*" part of the name plate:

Julesburg Advocate May 1989 to present. Late in May 1989, Wilkins sold the *Advocate* to the American Publishing Company, an Illinois-based subsidiary of Hollinger, Inc. of Canada. American Publishing worked out a purchase/trade agreement with

MediaNews Group, a subsidiary of the *Denver Post*, in April 1996. The *Julesburg Advocate*, as well as American Publishing's papers in Sterling, Fort Morgan, Lamar, Akron and Brush, became part of MediaNews.

Ovid

Ovid was the location where the southern range men of Texas delivered cattle to the northern range men in the early 1880s. Located near where Lodgepole Creek enters the South Platte, it was an ideal spot to cross and drive the cattle north. The big cattle herds disappeared in the rapid settlement of agricultural land. Sugar beets, first planted in 1901, grew into a major industry. The town was platted in 1908 and incorporated in 1925. The town was named by railroad section hands for Newton Ovid, "a bachelor."

The sugar beet industry required many hand laborers. Japanese immigrants, followed by Germans who were experienced in the beet fields, moved to Sedgwick County. The manpower shortage for harvesting during World War II was eased by using German Prisoners of War who were being held in the area.

Ovid Advocate October 29, 1925-February 1, 1926, P.R. McDowell and Fred B. Wilson, founders. McDowell and Wilson also owned the *Julesburg Advocate*. The announcement of the new paper in *Inter-Mountain Press* said that "Ovid recently attained a position on the map by annexing a Great Western sugar factory, and now having a newspaper it has made a good start toward fame and prosperity."

On February 1, 1926, however, the *Ovid Advocate* and *Julesburg Advocate* were sold to H.M. and J.P. Sydney. They kept the Julesburg paper but promptly sold the Ovid one to E.R. Kielgass of Sedgwick. Kielgass, who had founded the *Ovid Oracle* two months earlier, evidently merged the *Advocate* into the *Oracle*.

Ovid Oracle December 19, 1925-1926, E.R. Kielgass, founder. Early in 1926 Kielgass bought the equipment of the *Akron Pioneer Press* to use in publishing the *Oracle*. W. Paul Zerbe of the Mellette, S.D., *Tribune* purchased the *Oracle* the latter part of September, 1926. Zerbe changed the name of the *Oracle* to:

Ovid Record early 1927-July 27, 1950. *Colorado Editor* said the "enterprising editor" had been contemplating the change for several months. C.N. Brust, editor and owner of the *Mead Messenger*, purchased the *Ovid Record* from Zerbe on December 1, 1927. Charles "Breezy" Brust previously owned the Lyons newspaper. Assisting his father with the *Record* was Joseph Brust.

An avid collector of keepsakes, Brust filled the *Record* front window with "a mere handful of old relics which he had." People began to bring in more relics and curiosities until the display window "looks like a room in the state museum," said *Colorado Editor*. Many relics were from old Fort Sedgwick.

Brust sold the *Record* to E.W. Varner in July 1931. Joseph Brust remained as editor of the *Record* until June 1934. E.W. Varner, publisher of the Adams (Nebraska) Globe since 1903, brought his sons up in the newspaper business. In the late 1920s and

early '30s, the families purchased several Colorado newspapers. The sons--Keith, Ted, Lawrence, and Clark--ran the Colorado papers.

On December 1, 1940, the Rev. John F. (Jack) Lunsford, the longtime publisher of the *Sedgwick Sun*, leased the *Ovid Record* from the Varners. E.W. Varner took the paper back to run it in 1942, but in April 1946 he sold the *Record* to Glen Edmonds, who sold it to Jack Lunsford in June 1948. Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Hogue bought the *Ovid Record* and *Sedgwick Independent* in August 1950, and merged them into:

Platte Valley News August 3, 1950-August 30, 1956. Jack Lunsford ran the paper for the Hogues until some time in 1951. Mr. and Mrs. Dick Ray bought the paper from the Hogues in January 1951, but apparently defaulted because the Hogues sold the *News* again in June 1, 1952, to Earl L. Marlatt, Jr. *Colorado Editor* ran the obituary of the *Platte Valley News* in September 1956, recounting the paper's founding in 1925 as the *Ovid Advocate* by P.R. McDowell and Fred Wilson.

Sedgwick Town

John Casey laid out the town of Sedgwick on his land in 1887 borrowing the name from Fort Sedgwick. Early Sedgwick had few buildings, but did have a train depot and was incorporated in 1918.. The town's school, organized in 1887, was located in the upstairs room of the depot. Sedgwick had a longer newspaper history than Ovid.

Sedgwick Sun 1910-1926 Earl C. Hamilton, founder. Clarence O. Finch, who owned the *Julesburg News* and *Sterling Enterprise*, bought the paper from Hamilton in 1914. Ed Fry, a former publisher of the *Grit-Advocate*, succeeded Finch early in 1916.

Loren D. Root became editor/publisher in 1920, but he sold the paper to E.R. Kielgass in 1922. Previously Kielgass had owned the *Bristol Record* and *Granada Leader*. At that time *Colorado Editor* called him Emil R. Von Kielgass. He may have shortened his name during World War II, when German names were not popular. He would later found the *Ovid Oracle*. While in Sedgwick, Kielgass got into "a windy newspaper battle" with the *Haxtun Herald*. As *IMP* explained it:

[The battle] is over the merits of their respective subscription lists, the net result to date being a forfeit wager, the proceeds to go to the Ladies Aid societies of communities in their neighborhood. Under the agreement each is to post \$100, the publisher who loses in a circulation count being obliged to divide his forfeit between the societies agreed upon.

IMP did not say who won.

Reverend J.F. Lunsford purchased the *Sun* in January 1926, and changed the name to:

Sedgwick Independent 1926-August 1950. Rev. Lunsford suspended the *Independent* the last of June 1945 because he was "suffering from an illness which made it impossible for him to continue the paper." There were other factors in the decision, notably World War II and the shortage of help. The subscription list was taken over by the *Julesburg Grit-Advocate*. Lunsford recovered, and on March 4, 1948, he revived the *Independent*. Eugene Hogue purchased the *Sedgwick Independent* on September 1,

1949, from Lunsford, and consolidated it with the *Ovid Record* into the *Platte Valley News*. (See Ovid.)

Platte Valley Telegram 1923-1924, Mrs. T.L. Kielgass, founder and publisher. E.R. Kielgass was editor.

Sources: *The Pony Express: A Thrilling and Truthful History* by William Lightfoot Visscher, 1908.

Julesburg Grit-Advocate June 11, 1925; Sept. 3, 1925.

Colorado Editor, "Many Papers, Many Homes of the Grit-Advocate," February 1956.

CHAPTER LXI

SUMMIT COUNTY

Located in Utah territory along with most of the western slope until Colorado Territory was formed in 1861, Summit County was one of the 17 original Colorado counties. It covered all of northwest Colorado, a sparsely settled section of the new territory. Summit County's eastern boundary was the "the summit of the snowy range" from the Wyoming line south to Fremont and Hoosier passes on the Lake County border. Utah bordered the county on the west. Over the years, the counties of Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Moffat, Rio Blanco and Routt were carved out of Summit, until only 616 of the original 17,527 square miles remain.

The mountainous terrain, with elevations from 8,500 to 14,267 feet, was rich with minerals, lumber and agricultural land. Summit County grew with the mining of gold and silver, the introduction of sheep and cattle, lumber mills and water projects, and the development of prime summer and winter recreation areas. Mining camps were built along the Blue River and its tributaries, Snake River and Tenmile Creek.

John Charles Fremont crossed the county guided by Kit Carson and future territorial Governor William Gilpin in June 1844. Sir George Gore, the wealthy Irishman, visited to hunt in 1855. The first permanent pioneer settlement was made at Blue River on August 10, 1859, led by 23-year-old New York-born lawyer George E. Spencer. The

new-comers panned for gold, built fortifications, and had friendly relations with the Arapaho and Cheyenne, who saw them as a shield against the Ute. The settlement reached a population of 8,000 by June 1860. Soon the Blue River had been fouled by mining byproducts, and by the end of 1861, many of the richer deposits were exhausted.

Parkville, founded in 1859, was the first county seat. Residents of Breckinridge were unhappy that Parkville was granted this designation, and legend has it that some citizens of Breckinridge made a moonlight raid on the Parkville courthouse to commandeer the county records in 1862. The records were temporarily housed in the Silverthorn Hotel when Breckinridge usurped the county seat. Dillon made a serious challenge to Breckinridge for county seat in 1882, but failed to win the two-thirds of the electorate required.

Breckenridge

George Eliphaz Spencer surveyed and platted the town in 1859. Spencer was assured by a congressional lobbyist that he could secure a post office for his town if he named it after Vice President John Breckinridge. It worked, and Breckinridge became the first post office on the Western Slope. After Senator Breckinridge joined the Confederates, the indignant town Unionists changed the spelling of Breckenridge, by turning an "i" into a third "e." Breckenridge plugged along until the spring of 1880, when it was revived by "new and remarkable discoveries of gold." The town incorporated that same year.

Daily Journal July 22, 1880-August 1888, Jonathan Cooper Fincher, founder.

Three years later Fincher added a sister weekly:

Summit County Journal August 4, 1883 to present. Fisher was 51 years old when he left Berwick, Pennsylvania, for the west, with type cases, a printing press and other newspaper necessities. Breckenridge looked like a good place to set up shop. For one thing, there was no competition. But a week after Fincher's *Journal* hit the streets, there was: the *Summit County Leader*. Fincher would outlast all of his competitors, none of whom he particularly liked, either in Breckenridge or in other Summit County towns.

The *Leader* was barely on the street a week when Fincher unloaded both barrels on his rival, claiming it "was established to fleece the people of Summit County and it did its work well. It knifed its friends worse than its enemies." And he declared the *Leader* "the cesspool on Lincoln Avenue...run by a fool and a liar, both cowards."

Like many early newspapers, the *Journal* carried a two-column business directory on the front page. The right-hand column featured local news, and state, national, and international items filled the middle. Occasionally the whole front page was taken up with "Mining Notes." In the third issue, Fincher mentioned his justifiable pride that "we have already secured a club of subscribers in every town in the county. This work has not been accomplished without an effort on our part." Fincher assured his readers that he would not relax until the *Journal's* circulation reached a number "never before attained" in the county.

In 1891, the *Journal* publisher was H.A. Fincher and Company. J.W. Swisher was editor 1893-1898. O.K. Gaymon, publisher of the *Dillon Enterprise*, bought the *Summit County Journal* in May 1898, merging the *Enterprise* into the *Journal*. S.S. Fry was editor in 1908. In 1909, Gaymon sold to J.W. Swisher. Swisher owned the *Breckenridge Bulletin*, and he merged the two papers in October 1909.

Breckenridge Bulletin March 5, 1898-October 2, 1909, George W. Wagner and R.V. Richardson are said to be the founders. The *Bulletin* may have been begun under another name, which has been lost to history. For a time, the *Bulletin* was the official newspaper for Summit County. As such, it ran taxpayer notices, Legal notices, financial statements, delinquent tax lists and the official proceedings of the County Board.

Arthur V. Grace assumed the duties of editor/publisher in 1900, followed by William McCabe in 1901 and James Kibbee in 1902. J.W. Swisher bought the *Bulletin* in 1904. Albert Wood was the Associate editor of the *Bulletin* in May 1908. S.R. Clement held the position in November 1908. The *Breckenridge Bulletin* and *Summit County Journal* merged under the ownership of J. W. Swisher.

Summit County Journal & Breckenridge Bulletin October 9, 1909-January 1, 1916. Mary Swisher was listed as publisher from August to December 1910, when the *Journal* was sold to George W. Wagner. Wagner, formerly with the *Breckenridge Bulletin*, sold the paper to Robert J. Stewart sometime in 1911. Stuart sold the *Journal* in July 1911 to D. H. Tobey, formerly of the *Fairplay Flume*. In the fall of 1914, Tobey

bought the *Dillon Times* (see Dillon), merging it into the *Summit County Journal*. Summit County was back to one newspaper. J. Forest Lewis was editor 1916-1917.

Tobey sold the *Journal* July 21, 1917 to J.A. Theobald, who had started the *Breckenridge Herald* on January 1. Theobald consolidated the two newspapers and put John L. Leuthold in charge as editor and manager. During the flu epidemic of 1918, the *Journal* often printed an entire front page of nothing but victims' obituaries. G.A. Waitland leased the *Journal* from Theobald in 1921. J.A. Kuhn, who had "been in the employ of J.A. Theobald since the first of the year and is a capable newspaper man," leased the *Journal* in 1925. Kuhn left in August 1926 to start the *Summit County Gazette*.

Twyman Guard leased the *Journal* in 1929 and was editor/publisher until 1931. Flora Coltman, owner of a Breckenridge drug store, took over the lease early in 1931. Bert O. Benson leased the *Journal* in the summer of 1931. William Herdlicka of Walden was named editor in September 1935. Ronald D. Johnson, formerly editor of the *Overbrook (Kansas) Journal*, purchased the *Summit County Journal* mid-1936, but sold it in February 1938 to J.E. Jacobson, who was "well experienced" in the newspaper business himself, having run a paper in Attica, Kansas.

Lloyd and Lorine Talbott bought the *Journal* in June 1942. The business was a family affair, with daughters Shirley and Rogene pitching in. Lloyd Talbot had been foreman at newspapers in Fort Lupton and Golden. When he died in November 1944, Lorine Talbot edited and published the paper until she remarried and sold the paper to

Robert and Lois Theobald on May 1, 1951. Robert was the son of previous owner J.A. Theobald. Bob Theobald was also an attorney and Democratic officeholder during much of the time he owned the *Journal*.

The Theobalds sold the paper in 1959 to Continental Divide Press, Inc. of Leadville. In August 1965, Warrior's Mark Press (Frank Brown, Jr. and Breckenridge Lands) bought the *Summit County Journal* – the “High Country’s oldest business, and one of the oldest businesses in the great West generally.” Brown bought out Breckenridge Lands in July 1967 to become sole owner. In December he doubled down on his investment by purchasing a new printing plant, housed in a completely remodeled 1865 building.

Brown sold the *Journal* to Robert Sweeney March 15, 1968. Sweeney, who grew a small Colorado newspaper empire, served as President of the Colorado Press Association in 1979. Based in Craig, Sweeney named Darrell Knuffle, 32, as managing editor. Sweeney sold the *Summit County Journal* in 1974 to John Lannon, who in turn sold it in August 1878 to brothers Jeffrey and Rennie Adams, both of whom had newspaper backgrounds. Among the editors who worked for Lannon were Peter J. Cook and Ed Quillen. The latter, formerly of the Kremmling *Middle Park Times*, would later be associated with the Salida *Mountain Mail*. He also writes a column for the *Denver Post*.

The *Summit County Journal* won best overall in its weekly category in the 1982 Colorado Press Association newspaper contests. The Adams brothers sold the *Journal* in the summer of 1983 to a company of stockholders headed by Rob Piggott and his wife

Cindy. Other stockholders included Rowland Rebele, Lowell Blankfort and Bob Lombardi, also stockholders in the Dillon *Summit Sentinel*. The *Sentinel* had a printing plant, which was used to print both papers.

Andrew Bigford, a Michigan native with newspaper experience in that state, started working at the *Summit County Journal* in 1982 as a reporter. He was promoted to editor in 1984. Two months later he bought the interest of the Piggots, who had trouble adjusting to the high country. Jim Jacobs, formerly ad manager for the Grand Junction *Daily Sentinel*, succeeded Bigford as general manager in early fall 1986. Bigford in turn was followed by Gary Dutmers, a free-lancer for "Summit Magazine."

In September 1987, Virginia-based Worrell Enterprises, owner of the Sterling *Journal-Advocate* and more than 60 other papers throughout the United States, bought the *Summit County Journal* and the Frisco *Summit Sentinel*, bringing both papers under the same ownership. Dutmers was replaced in 1988 by Will Petrovics, a director and ad rep with Worrell. In October Rick Noffsinger, former publisher of a Virginia newspaper, became publisher of the *Journal* and *Sentinel*. Texas publisher Donald P. Moore followed Noffsinger in 1990.

Leslie Forst was editor in 1989, and Perry Patrick 1990-1991. Dutmers was back at the *Journal* in 1991 as general manager and editor. Swift Newspapers of Reno, Nevada purchased the *Summit County Journal* and Frisco *Summit County Sentinel* from Worrell Enterprises March 1, 1994. The acquisition gave Swift, which renamed itself Eagle-Summit Publishing, more than 20 Colorado newspapers in its portfolio. Robert

Brown was named publisher, and Allison Smith became editor. In 1992 or 1993, the newspaper's name was shortened to:

Breckenridge Journal In May 1995, the *Journal* moved back to Frisco, and reverted to the *Summit County Journal* name. Alex T. Miller, a University of Colorado at Boulder graduate, became managing editor of the *Journal* and editor of the *Summit Sentinel* after the formation of Eagle-Summit Newspapers. In July 1998, the Summit County papers were spun off from eagle-Summit as a new division, "The Journal Group."

Summit County Leader July 31, 1880-1892, Bishop [J.A.] Caswell, founders; Frank W. Smith, editor. Caswell and Smith were members of the Colorado State Press Association. The four-page *Leader* was the largest of the Breckenridge newspapers in size at 24 inches by 34 inches. Politically it was Independent. L.C. McKenney was editor/publisher in 1883. Charles E. Hardy was editor/publisher from 1884 to 1892.

Summit County Democrat January 1888-1889, W.S. Montgomery, founder. Montgomery, a Red Cliff lawyer, had previously edited the *Silver Cliff Prospector*.

Bi-Metallic 1892-1893, Sam W. Jones, publisher, George H. Clark, editor. The hard times leading up to the silver crash had brought the issue of bi-metalism—the use of gold and silver in the world's monetary system—to the forefront. Unfortunately, Mr. Jones' newspaper did not survive long enough to be part of the major political battles over the issue in 1896, or the excitement of William Jennings Bryant's campaign.

Summit County Miner 1902-1903.

Breckenridge Herald #1 January 1-July 1917, J.A. Theobald, founder. He consolidated it with the *Summit County Journal* after buying the senior paper.

Summit County Star February 1918-1921, John Leuthold, founder. Leuthold later published the Dillon *Blue Valley Times*.

Summit Gazette August 18, 1926-1927, J.A. Kuhn, founder. Kuhn had been with the *Summit County Journal*.

Keystone News October 17, 1985, *Summit County Journal*, publisher; Kathy Gauss, editor. It was a monthly newspaper for residents and tourists clustered in the Loveland Pass ski area. Gauss was a former *Journal* editor.

Quandary Times February 1988-late 1990, Gary Dutmers and Kathleen Thomas [Gauss], founders. It was a free circulation paper started by former employees of the *Summit County Journal*. The *Quandary Times* was sold in 1990 to Summit Newspapers.

Breckenridge News August 1988-? Karen Contino, founder. Celebrating the paper's sixth birthday, Contino recalled the reason the *News* was born:

Six years ago the local paper (which shall remain nameless), published an infamous article about the women who lived in Breckenridge. Breckenridge women, according to the article, didn't own high heels or skirts, and for them to get dates, they had to have drugs with which to attract men. I was outraged!

How could a newspaper publish such trash. But most important, how could we present visitors to our community with such a twisted perception of life in our beautiful Breckenridge!

Contino, a realtor, wanted to convey the "real community," and how special it was to live and work in Breckenridge.

Breckenridge Herald #2 March 1991, another paper with the same philosophy, was published by BreckWest Real Estate, Inc. It apparently was an insert in some area papers, and also was mailed under bulk rate postage.

Dillon

A trinity of rivers, a triangle of mountains...[The three rivers] all meet and mingle here, each a strong hearty stream, from its own independent circle of mountains; and while the waters unresisting swam together, the hills stood apart and away, frowning in dark forests and black rock, and cold, with great snowfields overlooking the scene, which green meadows, and blue sky, and warm sun mellowed and brightened...a magnificent camping ground...a spot to settle down upon and keep house...[We] desire all future travelers to make a note of our route and follow it.

Samuel Bowles, "Switzerland of America," 1869

Ten Mile Creek "overflowed" with trout; one member of the Bowles party caught a ten-pounder in only a few minutes. The town was named for young goldseeker Tom Dillon, who reportedly left Golden with a prospecting party from whom he got separated. Returning to Golden months later, he told of the valley where three rivers meet. Later prospectors at the spot chose the name in his honor.

A camp sprang up in 1873. The government granted the settlement a post office in 1879. A mining company got a patent on a 320-acre townsite in 1881, and a year later the Denver & Rio Grande arrived, followed by the Denver, South Park & Pacific in 1883. The town was incorporated that same year.

The end of 1955 brought bad news to Dillon. The area was to be flooded by the creation of the Dillon Dam, as part of the Blue River Transmountain Water Diversion Project, which would provide much-needed water to Denver. Denver and 150 Dillon

homeowners came to an agreement, and the whole town was relocated on a site about a mile north of the dam. The Dillon Dam was completed in 1962.

Dillon Enterprise April 14, 1882-1889, O.K. Gaymon and C.W. Craighead, founders. Gaymon bought out Craighead almost immediately. M.J. Spalding was a partner at some point.

The *Enterprise* was Dillon's main line of defense when the *Summit County Journal's* Jonathon Cooper Fincher persisted in making "snide territorial attacks" about the town, labeling it "a nonresident townsite," and calling the *Enterprise* the "Dillon Crossing Foghorn." Gaymon, Dillon's first clerk and recorder, stoked the rivalry by challenging Breckenridge for county seat designation. In response to the *Journal's* assertion that Breckenridge was a superior business center, Gaymon pointed out tartly that Dillon had a railroad connection while Breckenridge did not. Fincher labeled Gaymon variously, "a pestiferous little cus [sic]...an asinine editor...an irresponsible idiot, who should be spanked and put to bed until he learns to open his mouth without putting his foot in it."

Despite Fincher's insults, Gaymon represented Summit County in the Colorado State Senate from 1896-1900. Taking the 1893 silver crash in stride, he began promoting tourism and agriculture instead of mining.

Blue Valley Times April 26, 1912-October 31, 1914, John Leuthold, founder. The *Blue Valley Times* published every Friday. The four-page *Times* was three pages of

“home print” news and one “ready-print” already made up with syndicated material. The *Times* had a circulation comparable to the *Enterprise*, between 500 and 1,000.

Disappointed and dismayed by worsening railroad service to Dillon, Leuthold campaigned for improved roads. Leuthold, himself a county judge, also promoted the 1912 Republican ticket in the *Times*. The *Blue Valley Times* was purchased by the *Summit County Journal* in November 1914. Its building would later be remodeled and moved to the second Dillon.

Summit Sentinel August 29, 1968-1975, Barbara Furlong Sloan, founder. The first issue had abundant typographical errors, as well as “crooked copy, pieces of advertisements stuck to stories, and crude layout design,” according to later editor T. Alex Miller.

Bill King and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gero purchased the *Sentinel* December 1, 1970. King, who owned several other Colorado papers, was with the *Sentinel* until 1981, but the Geros left late in 1971. James Oppenheimer was managing editor from January 1972 to July 5, 1973, when Stephen O’Rourke took over until 1975. O’Rourke was a medical officer in World War II and editor of the Lawrence (Kansas) *Outlook* before coming to Colorado.

The name of the paper was changed to:

Summit County Sentinel February 7, 1975-June 17, 1994.

In October 1975, publisher King started the *Frisco News* as a weekly sister paper to the *Sentinel*. Chris Owen was editor in 1976, with Allen Portner as general manager. The *Sentinel* transitioned from tabloid size to a broad sheet format, bragging that the transition was “like trading in your nine-inch television for one with a 21-inch screen.”

In 1979 Bruce Pleskett was named editor and David E. Carter was managing editor. In 1980 King and Bob Lombardi, who had worked his way up through the advertising department, were co-publishers. In the spring of 1981, Rowland Rebele, Lowell Blankfort and Bob Lombardi bought the *Sentinel*. The paper moved to Frisco in 1985.

Frisco

Henry Recen, one of two brothers who founded the camp of Recen next to Kokomo, built the first cabin at what would become Frisco City in 1873. The name eventually became simply Frisco. It is said to have evolved from the name San Francisco and was given to the new camp by Captain Henry Learned, “a prominent Frisco community leader, who served as mayor, school board member, notary public, justice of the peace, postmaster, and grocery-notion store proprietor,” according to historian Mary Ellen Gilliland of the Summit County Historical Society.

Frisco benefited from the second wave of prospectors in Summit County, who made remarkable silver strikes in 1878. Daily stagecoach service was initiated in 1879, and the Denver & Rio Grande railroad arrived in the summer of 1882. The silver crash of

1893 took its toll on Frisco, but improved mechanization revived gold mining in the first years of the twentieth century. Frisco got its first newspaper:

Successful Miner November 1907-1908. No publisher, editor or personnel names have been found. Historian Gilliland said the *Successful Miner* “shone among its competitors as a model of fair, objective reporting. It published informative reports devoid of invective or slander.”

Frisco News October 1975-April 23, 1978, William King, founder and publisher; Al Portner was general manager. The *Frisco News* was started and published by the Dillon *Summit County Sentinel*, also owned by King and managed by Portner. The paper was discontinued in 1978.

The *Summit County Sentinel* moved from Dillon to Frisco in 1985. The *Sentinel* started another paper:

Silverthorne Sun May 1986-? The biweekly *Sun* was mailed directly to Silverthorne boxholders, as well as being distributed free at several locations in Dillon, Wildernest, and Dillon Valley.

In September 1987, Worrell Enterprises, Inc. purchased Summit County Publishing, publishers of the Breckenridge *Summit County Journal* and Frisco *Summit Sentinel*. Rick Noffsinger was named publisher of both papers. A daily paper was inaugurated:

Morning Summit November 1989-June 1994. The *Summit* was free distribution on news racks and published Tuesday through Saturday.

Joe Blonigen was named editor of the *Summit Sentinel* in October 1993. Publication of the *Summit Sentinel* ended in June 1994 in a merger with the *Summit County Journal*.

Altitudes June 17, 1994-May 1995, T. Alex Miller, editor. It was a “state-of-the-art” weekly publication concentrating on arts, entertainment, and recreation. Miller felt that “with the exception of a few lame attempts here and there, nobody’s ever tried to fill this niche” in Summit County. But the paper folded in less than a year.

Ten Mile TIMES Mid-June 1983 to present, Miles F. Porter, Porter-Staby, Publishing, Inc., founders. Porter worked on newspapers in Alamosa, Denver, Craig, LaSalle and Ft. Lupton, as well as the *Summit County Journal*, before starting the *Ten Mile TIMES*. The 24-page paper contains local news, personality profiles, a variety of columns, an entertainment guide with critiques, real estate listings, service directory, and regular and classified ads.

Porter sold the *TIMES* August 2, 1999 to Sun Publications LLC headed by Kurt and Jackie Lewis of Glenwood Springs and Belle, Missouri, and Jim and Rachel Pokrandt of Snowmass Village.

Summit County Daily News August 21, 1989-present, James S. Pavelich, founder; Curtis Robinson, editor. Robinson went on to become managing editor of the *Glenwood*

Post. Swift newspapers bought the *Daily News* in the fall of 1993 from Worrell. It then bought the *Frisco Summit County Sentinel* and *Breckenridge Summit County Journal* in March 1994, bringing all the papers under the same ownership.

Copper Mountain

Though it's now one of Colorado's major ski areas, Copper Mountain started out as a mining and logging town. In 1879, John S. Wheeler, a well-known Weld County rancher and judge, bought land at the base of the mountain, at the juncture of West Ten Mile and Ten Mile creeks. Wheeler and his family established a hay ranch. The following spring, optimistic miners appeared in droves. Judge Wheeler secured a post office in April 1880, and built a sawmill in Ten Mile Canyon. The Judge also produced his own brand of liquor.

The town was hit hard by state and national economic crises and all but faded away. The rebirth began after World War II, when recreational skiing provided the spark. The Copper Mountain Ski Resort was formed, and a new town, Copper Mountain Village, sprouted in 1972.

The Copper Cable January 1974, Pooh Bishop, Penny Lewis and Sarah Jones, co-founders. Bishop was a two-year resident and English teacher. Originally a crudely mimeographed sheet with "crudely printed" ads, the *Cable* found enough support and encouragement to become a "real newspaper." Getting permission to use the resort logo was a boost. "The *Cable* did a lot of positive PR for Copper," wrote Jones, "sold a few condominiums, sold a lot of pizza."

Barbara Faber and Julie McCabe became the new owners of *Copper Cable* in late summer 1978. Miles F. Porter IV and Mary E. Staby, owners of the *Ten Mile Times*, bought the paper in 1983, publishing it bimonthly. They sold it on August 2, 1999, to Sun Publications, LLC.

Kokomo

Located at the junction of Kokomo and Ten Mile Creeks, Kokomo was founded February 8, 1879. The camp was named by residents who came from Kokomo, Indiana. They believed the name to be an Indian word meaning “young grandmother.” When it incorporated on June 3, 1879, Kokomo was the highest incorporated town in the state. The post office opened in May 1879 and the first newspaper rolled off the press in the fall. It was a thriving mini-metropolis that year, boasting 30 cigar emporiums, 23 liquor establishments, 19 restaurants and 17 grocery stores.

A fire gutted the town in 1881, but it was rebuilt and rebounded. The silver crash of 1893 and big snows in the winter of 1898-1899, which cut Kokomo off from the outer world for months, sent the town into decline. The railroad ended service for good in 1937. The town survived during World War II because several mines reopened to supply the need for base metals. The post office closed in 1965, and the abandoned townsite was eventually buried in mine tailings from the Climax Mine.

Summit County Times September 27, 1879-1881, Coe & McCreedy, founders. It was Summit County’s first newspaper, and it had a Kokomo dateline. By April 1882, Thomas Gowenlock was publisher. The *Times* published every Saturday. Its nameplate

made the bold claim “Published at a Greater Altitude than Any Other Paper In the World.” Gowenlock warned Kokomo’s merchants and potential subscribers that if they didn’t support the paper, the town faced “stagnation and death.” Newspaper competition was not long in coming.

Summit County Circular December 1880-?, published by the Summit County Circular Company. Most directories list the *Circular* under Robinson, but newspaper datelines in 1881 and 1882 give the location as Kokomo-Recene. Editors were not listed.

Ten Mile News 1880-1883. Historian Gilliland names Colonel Jenkins as editor, and suggests the *Ten Mile News* may have begun in Carbonateville. Bibliographer Rex lists W.S. Alexander as publisher, without mentioning Jenkins. Alexander was also associated with two Leadville newspapers.

The *Ten Mile News* billed itself as “The Mining Circular of the Carbonate District.” It boasted that “It is the Recognized Authority on Mining Matters” and “The *News* is the Paper to send to Your Friends Back East.”

Summit County Herald 1882-1884. W.S. Alexander may also have been associated with the *Herald*. It was a four-page broadsheet with Republican politics and a circulation of 250.

Montezuma

Montezuma claims the first discovery of silver in Colorado. As early as 1863 a prospector by the name of Coley living in Empire made prospecting trips over Kenosha Pass...and on Glazier Mountain made the discovery of silver.

Montezuma Millrun 6/24/1883

Prospector John Coley founded a crude camp called Coleyville, which processed low-grade silver and never gave him a fortune. But his strike drew the attention of D.C. Collier, influential publisher of the Georgetown *Colorado Miner*, along with future U.S. Senator and free silver advocate Henry M. Teller.

Montezuma, nestled at the foot of the mountain, was founded in 1865 and was the center of the mining district. Collier chose the name Montezuma, hoping the riches of the last Aztec empire would carry over to Summit County. Collier was instrumental in laying out the town, and a nearby mountain is named for him.

Montezuma Millrun June 24, 1882-May 26, 1888, James R. Oliver, founder. Oliver expressed “confidence in the true fissure veins in Decatur, Chihuahua and this district.” The *Millrun* was Democratic and published on Saturdays.

Oliver had been an Indian fighter and was an officer in the Colorado militia. As a publisher, he was an early organizer of what is now the Colorado Press Association. Oliver sold the *Millrun* in September 1887 to J.W. Swisher, who had begun working for the paper several years earlier. He declared the *Millrun* “The Leading Democratic Newspaper in Summit County,” but the paper folded May 26, 1888.

Montezuma Prospector April 14, 1906-1909, L.D. Hart, founder. The *Prospector* ran an unusual amount of pre-printed feature material, including a column from the nation's capital. But it also ran "Frisco Notes," county-wide news, and a column of local briefs entitled "Montezuma Concentrates." Like many other newspapers in early mining towns, the *Prospector* was at pains to proclaim its objectivity and truthfulness in mining matters.

Former Confederate Colonel James H. Myers was editor 1906-1909. He castigated "unscrupulous mine-stock peddlers with his published 'Sermon to Promoters.'" Myers also wrote a book entitled "Rudiments of Geology and Prospector's Guide," published in 1905.

Robinson

The town of Robinson was the result of a merger of Robinson's Camp, Ten Mile City, Summit City and Sheldon City, all in the Ten Mile District. George Robinson, one of the town founders in 1881, planned the town and its features carefully, and was rewarded when it became a "hub city of Summit County." Robinson was elected lieutenant governor in 1880, but was killed at his mine by one of his own men before he could take office.

Robinson was a serious rival of Kokomo until mining operations slowed down and there weren't enough people to support either camp. Most people consolidated into Kokomo. Like Kokomo, Robinson is now buried under tailing from the Climax Mine.

Robinson Tribune December 1880-1884, Hennessy & McCollum, publishers.

Summit County Circular See Kokomo.

Special Sources:

“Blasted, Beloved, Breckenridge,” Mark Fiester, Pruett Publishing Co., Boulder, 1973.

“Echoes of the Past: Copper Mountain Colorado,” Janet Marie Clawson, Copper Mountain Resort, publishers, 1986.

“Frisco! A Colorful Colorado Community,” Mary Ellen Gilliland, Frisco Historical Society, Alpenrose Press, Silverthorne, 1984.

History of the State of Colorado, Frank Hall, Blakely Printing Company, Chicago, 1895.

“SUMMIT: A Gold Rush History of Summit County, Colorado,” Mary Ellen Gilliland, 1987.

Colorado Prospector, various issues.

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Special thanks to Bob Lombardi and Tim Mills.

CHAPTER LXII

TELLER COUNTY

Teller County's Cripple Creek mining district was once the most lucrative gold producer in the world. It sprang from Robert Womack's October 1890 strike in Poverty Gulch. The Cripple Creek District would produce \$65 million in gold in the next ten years. An early wave of independent miners was soon replaced by industrial extraction on a large scale, and a proliferation of camps to house the miners. The town of Fremont was incorporated January 19, 1892; Cripple Creek incorporated May 31, 1892. The two consolidated in February of the following year as tremendous amounts of outside capital and labor flowed into the area. "Between 1893-1897, 3,057 new mining companies incorporated...each capitalized at more than more than \$1 million," reports historian Elizabeth Jameson in her study *All That Glitters: Class, Conflict and Community in Cripple Creek*.

The area saw a major success for striking workers in 1894, when Populist Governor Davis Hanson Waite called out the militia to keep the peace between workers and owners, ushering in a relatively short-lived era of union power at the Cripple Creek mines. Lingering differences between area miners and mine owners, many of whom lived in Colorado Springs, resulted in the creation of Teller County in 1899, when it was carved out of El Paso County on the western slope of Pikes Peak. The new county was

named for a U.S. Senator and Secretary of the Interior from Colorado, Henry M. Teller, a champion of the mining industry. Cripple Creek became county seat.

As mining declined in the twentieth century, Teller County's post office town sank from 39 to 5. Although gold mining has returned with the giant Cripple Creek & Victor Mining Operation at the Cresson Mine, most towns and newspapers never came back to life.

Altman

Much of Altman was destroyed by fire in 1903 and it has become one of Colorado's many ghost towns.

Altman Champion 1897-1899, weekly. H.L. Barter, publisher.

Altman Eagle 1897-1898, weekly. H.L. Barter, publisher.

Anaconda

Anaconda resulted from the consolidation of three other mining camps: Squaw Gulch, Mound City and Barry. Founded in 1894, the town peaked by the end of the decade.

Anaconda Herald June, 1893.

Mining Journal 1894-1895, weekly. Captain William A. Bray, a mining engineer, was publisher.

Mining Standard 1894-1895, weekly. W.A. Bray, publisher and editor.

Anaconda Assayer May 1895-1903, weekly. John M. Stuart, founder.

Anaconda Examiner 1898-1899, weekly. Will H. Harbech, founder.

Anaconda Tribune 1898-1899, weekly. George Blakely, founder.

Anaconda Journal 1900-1902, weekly.

Barry

Write Up the Camp March 1892-1893, weekly. Ernest Chapin Gard and W.S. Neal, founders. They later sold to Clarence A. Finch.

Squaw Gulch Nugget 1892-1893, weekly. It too was initially published on a hand press by Ernest Chapin Gard and W.S. Neal, then sold to Clarence A. Finch. He changed the name to:

Gold Bug February 1893-1894, weekly. Clarence A. Finch, publisher.

Anaconda Herald June 1893-1894, weekly.

Mining Standard 1893-1894, weekly. Continued as *Mining Standard*.

Cameron

In 1901, the Colorado Springs & Cripple Creek District Railroad (CS&CCDR) built a railroad terminal in Cameron, connecting it with Colorado Springs. Vice President Theodore Roosevelt traveled this scenic line in 1901 and declared it "the ride that bankrupts the English language!"

Cameron Golden Crescent 1899-1901, weekly. L.R. Dickinson, publisher. He shortened the name to:

Cameron Crescent 1901-1904, weekly. L.R. Dickinson, publisher.

Cripple Creek (aka Fremont)

Womack's strike in 1890 transformed Cripple Creek from a quiet cattle pasture to the center of intensive mining activity. W.S. Stratton's discovery of the Independence Lode drew yet more interest, and by 1893, Cripple Creek's population had skyrocketed from five hundred to over ten thousand. Its mining heyday long past, Cripple Creek was transformed again by the arrival of legalized gambling in 1991.

Cripple Creek Crusher December 4, 1891-January 3, 1895, daily and weekly. Ernest Chapin Gard and Burt Pottinger, publishers. They rushed a press from Palmer Lake to become the Cripple Creek district's first newspaper, beating the nearest competition by only days. The first issue was printed with gilded ink – a layer of gold over the regular ink. Ernest Chapin Gard took control in April 1882 and moved the plant from Fremont to Cripple Creek, before being “forced to retire by some disgruntled citizens,” according to scholar Edith Stuart Jackson. William McCrea and Anthony Bott of Colorado City took over but soon relinquished control to Charles S. Sprague of Colorado Springs. He installed Clarence O. Finch as managing editor and reduced the paper to a weekly about August 1, 1892. Finch purchased the paper in December, 1892. Frank Ish bought the *Crusher* in February, 1894.

Cripple Creek Prospector December 8, 1891-December 1899, weekly. Continued as *Cripple Creek-Star Prospector*. Publisher William R. McCrea is said to have printed the first edition in gold ink just as his competitors at the *Crusher* did. Clarence O. Finch was in charge from 1893-1895. For a time in 1896, the *Prospector* published daily under H.A. Andrews and C.J. Todd. Elmer E. Wheatley was at the helm in 1887; Clinton Eylar in 1899.

Evening Miner March 1892-1894, daily. J. Donahue and Samuel D. Bollinger, founders. It also had a weekly edition:

Weekly Miner March 1892-August 24, 1895.

Cripple Creek Gold Pan March 20, 1892-1893.

Cripple Creek Times 1892-February, 1900, weekly. Continued as *Cripple Creek Times-Citizen*.

Morning Journal November 1893-May 14, 1895, daily, Dean Burgess, publisher. A.R. Kennedy, A.A. McKnight and George Collier were also connected with the morning and weekly editions of the *Journal*.

Weekly Journal December 10, 1893-April 4, 1896, weekly.

Republican 1896 (?)

Sunday Herald April 1894-1901, weekly. John Shoreten and C.J. Todd, publishers. It was a pro-labor, Populist paper.

Daily Advertiser 1894-1897, daily. George B. Henderson, publisher.

Times February 1892-1895, weekly. John Irby bought the paper in 1892. The daily version lasted longer:

Morning Times 1894-Feb 18, 1900, daily, Thomas Howell, publisher. J.P. Riley served as president and manager in 1897. Continued as *Morning Times-Citizen* (below).

Guide 1896-1897, moved to Colorado Springs.

Weekly Output June 8, 1895-1896, weekly.

Cripple Creek Mail August 17, 1895-July 2, 1898, weekly. William Barber, publisher.

Gold Belt 1895-1896, weekly. George J. Blakely, publisher.

Cripple Creek News 1895-1897, weekly. H.L. Barter, founder.

Cripple Creek Press 1895-1896. C.R. Young, managing editor.

Ledger 1896.

Cripple Creek Sun 1896-1897, daily. Samuel Vidler, editor.

Daily Tribune 1896-1899, daily.

Weekly Tribune 1896-January 20, 1900. Henderson, Howe & Henderson, publishers; Charles H. Berry, editor.

Cripple Creek Citizen March 1897-February 20, 1900, daily. Charles H. Berry, editor/publisher.

Evening Breeze 1898-1899, daily.

Cripple Creek Mirror 1898-1899, weekly.

Evening Star 1898-December 31, 1904, daily. Philip Knowlton was publisher but lost the *Star* in 1903. It was “rejuvenated by a professional rescuer of ailing newspapers, C.E. Wood.” Wood sold it early in 1904 to newsmen from Denver backed by the Mine Owner’s Association. They used it to propagandize against miners’ unions during the strike that shook the area that year.

Cripple Creek Gold 1899-1905, weekly. Newton, Addenbrooke & Alexander, publishers.

Cripple Creek Star 1899-1901, weekly. George E. Kyner, and Philip Knowlton, publishers. By 1900 the *Star* was a well-established Republican organ. Kyner elected to try the Victor field and sold his interest in the *Star* to Kyner.

Svenska Posten 1899-1900, weekly. In Swedish.

Teller County Union 1899-1901, weekly; 1900-1901, daily. H.L. Barter, founder.

Daily Press December 8, 1899-May, 1903. J.J. Callahan, editor. A newspaper operated by miners’ unions during the heyday of their power in Cripple Creek. Though a staunch supporter of the workingman’s battles, the *Press* resisted the Socialist ideology

that some miners embraced, asserting in 1901 that the paper could be of “much more aid to organized labor by the support of Democratic principles than by any other course.” It folded in 1903, stating that “in trying to stay by the principles of the Federation [the Western Federation of Miners] it had lost business and was in debt.” Journalists Roy Young, H.N. Andrews, A.R. Runyan and Damon Runyan also worked on the *Press*.

Cripple Creek Citizen 1897-1900, daily. Charles H. Berry, editor/publisher. It was absorbed into:

Cripple Creek Times-Citizen February 20, 1900-March 30, 1902, daily. Continued as *Cripple Creek Times*. It came about from a consolidation of the *Cripple Creek Morning Times* and the *Cripple Creek Morning Citizen* and was considered the official newspaper of Cripple Creek and Teller County. There was also a weekly:

Cripple-Creek Times-Citizen February 1900-March, 1902, weekly, continued as *Cripple Creek Times*.

Cripple Creek Times April 1, 1902-July 27, 1918, daily. W.H. Griffith, publisher and C.V. Woodward, editor until 1904. George E. Kyner was publisher in 1914. Continued as *Cripple Creek Times-Record* after consolidating with the *Victor Record* in 1909.

Teller County Daily Union 1900-1901, daily.

Teller County Democrat November 1900-1903, weekly. E.D. McDougall, publisher.

Teller County News 1903-1910, weekly.

Teller County Star 1903-1914, weekly.

Daily Trader 1903-1904, daily.

Cripple Creek Forum 1905-1907, weekly.

Cripple Creek Republican #2 1916-1917, weekly, C.A. Howland, publisher.

Cripple Creek Times-Record July 28, 1918-December 28, 1951, daily and weekly.

Ralph Carr, editor 1912-1914. From 1914-1936, the paper was run by George Kyner's brother, William A. Kyner. William Kyner shared management duties from 1936-1941 with his wife Lenore Kyner and her sister, Irena S. Ingham. Kenneth Geddes bought the paper and ran it from April, 1941 to January, 1951. Blevins Davis & Margaret Giddings purchased the *Times-Record* in 1951 and changed the name to *Cripple Creek Gold Rush*.

Cripple Creek Gold Rush January 4, 1952-present, weekly. Davis and Giddings gave way to Roy Robinson, who owned the paper from 1961-1965. Subsequent publishers included: Charles Mattson 1965-1983; Anthony Pagnotta, 1984-1985; Park Publications (Charles Albrecht & Lucille Hessong), 1985-1987; Douglas Hirsh and Allen Cramer, 1987-1989; Westward Communications from 1989 to date.

Miners Digest July 14, 1961- weekly.

Divide

Nestled on the north slope of Pikes Peak, Divide got its name from settlers who observed major water run-offs divided to the north, south, east and west from the site. It was originally called Hayden's Divide after Ferdinand Vandever Hayden, a surveyor, geologist and paleontologist who helped to map the region.

Divide Dividend 1900-1901, weekly.

Elkton

Elkton came to life in 1894 when three brothers--George, Douglas and Sam Bernard--struck a vein of gold that produced \$40,000 within a week. In 1899, their mine merged with an adjacent dig, making Elkton one of the biggest in the Cripple Creek district.

Elkton Herald 1898-1899, weekly.

Florissant

Florissant was a trading post named after Florissant, Missouri, the hometown of founder James Castello. The word florissant comes from the French, meaning to flourish, to flower, or to blossom.

Crystal Peak Beacon 1889-October 1894. It moved to Colorado Springs as the *Democrat Eagle* (1900-1909).

Florissant Eagle 1900-1909, weekly.

Gillett

Gillett hosted a heavily promoted bull fight in the year 1895. Featuring bulls and bullfighters imported from Mexico, the event drew a massive crowd reported to be nearly 50,000. Celebrities from throughout the United States and Mexico joined miners and workers of the Cripple Creek district to see the spectacle. Perhaps exhausted from their long journey, the bulls proved too lethargic to fight. Disappointed ticket-buyers rioted. The bulls were later slaughtered and fed to the poor.

Gillett Forum March 10, 1895-1905, weekly.

Gillett Advertiser 1895-1896, weekly.

Sunday Chronicle 1896-1897, weekly.

Gillett Gazette 1896-1897, weekly.

Gillett Leader 1900-1902, weekly.

Goldfield / Independence

Originally called Independence, Goldfield was established by the owners of the Portland Mine in 1895.

Goldfield Gazette April 26, 1895-1896, weekly.

Goldfield Times 1895-1904, weekly.

Gold Belt 1897-1898, weekly.

Goldfield Daily Leader 1900-1903, weekly.

Goldfield Leader 1899-1900, daily.

Goldfield News 1903-1904, weekly.

Goldfield Crescent 1904-1909, weekly.

Goldfield Daily Reporter 1906-1907, daily.

Lawrence

Lawrence Miner 1892-1893, weekly. Established by Ernest Chapin Gard and W.S. Neal, who sold out to Clarence A. Finch after the fall 1892 elections.

Macon

Bull Hill Single Jack 1899-1900, weekly.

Victor

Ohio brothers Frank and Harry Woods arrived at what is now Victor in 1892. By the time they platted and sold lots in the new town in 1893, Victor was already known as the “City of Mines” for the rich diggings just above the town on Battle Mountain. As owners of the Woods Investment Company, which held a broad portfolio of mines and related businesses in the district, the Woods earned the fondness of workers by investing profits back into the well-being of the community. Among other amenities, they built the Gold Coin Club for workers in Victor. The two-story Club House hosted dances and banquets and had a fine library with six hundred books, athletic and bathing

facilities, and a billiard hall and chess tables. The WFM *Miner's Magazine* "regretted that other mining companies and wealthy corporations [were] not so generously disposed as the Woods Investment Company." The town name of Victor was reputedly chosen by being drawn out of a hat containing the names of the town's earliest settlers.

Victor News January, 1894-1895, weekly and daily. C.F. Grell, publisher. W. A. Bray was either publisher, editor or both at one point. It combined with the *Victor Gold Record* in 1895.

Victor Gold Record October 5, 1894-January 1895, weekly, James Coughlin, publisher. Combined with the *Victor News* and continued as *Victor News-Record*.

Victor News-Record February 2-August 3, 1895, James Coughlin and W.A. Bray, publishers. It began as a daily for a brief time, then became a weekly. Continued as *Mining Record*.

Mining Record August 10, 1895-1896. Halsey M. Rhoads, editor and publisher. Continued as *Victor Weekly Record*.

Victor Weekly Record 1896-1913, weekly. A pro-union paper.

Victor Record September 1895-1914, daily. Halsey M. Rhoads, editor and publisher. George E. Kyner was owner during labor troubles in 1903-1904. When anti-union Governor Peabody sent strike-breaking troops to the area and imposed martial law in 1904, the *Record* was censored and the pro-union Kyner briefly arrested.

Victor Daily Review February 9, 1895-1897. Will C. Hydon, editor. It was suspended at the end of 1896 but revived in the spring of 1897 by county Democrats, who used it to promote their candidates in municipal elections. The *Review* was suspended again in August 1897.

Victor Daily Times October 15, 1897-December 29, 1902, Frank Mannix, publisher. George E. Kyner bought a half interest in the paper in 1900. Editor Will C. Hydon purchased an interest and published the *Times* until his death in December of that year.

Victor Press June 27, 1899-1903, J.J. Callaghan, founding editor. The Western Federation of Miners in the Cripple Creek District published the paper and elected a board to manage it. It was burned out in a Victor fire in August 1899. Afterwards it published in both Victor and Cripple Creek. (See *Daily Press* at Cripple Creek).

Teller County Banner August 30, 1902-December, 1908, weekly. James R. Wilson, editor and publisher. It supported the Republican Party and served as a federal patent notice publication organ.

Victor Daily Banner December 1902-1908, daily. James R. Wilson of the *Teller County Banner* launched this daily, a Republican paper.

Victor News 1911-1912, daily. Founded by a group of Victor and Teller County business people headed by an A. Carlton and a Mrs. Sam Rankin. They hired a Denver newsman, A.W. Daughtry, as editor. Editor Lowell Thomas and publisher John H. White,

both local men previously with the *Victor Record*, took over in June 1912. The paper came to an end later that year.

The Evangel 1915-? Addison Lansdell, publisher.

Teller County Star 1914-1918, weekly. John J. Winterbourne and his sons, Dale and Frank, publishers. They moved the *Star* from Cripple Creek, where it had been published since about 1907. E.R. Cline was publisher in 1916; Sam W. Vidler in 1917.

Victor Star 1914-1915, daily. A short-lived daily expansion of the *Teller County Star*, Winterbourne and Sons, publishers.

Victor Times-Record 1920-1923, daily.

Victor Nugget 1921-1922, weekly. D.F. Floor, publisher/editor.

Victor Herald October 18, 1935-January 1937, bi-weekly. T.G. Thompson and Harry Hone, publishers.

Woodland Park

Woodland Park News 1890-1891, weekly.

Woodland Park Miner 1896-1897, weekly.

Woodland Park Times 1896-1905, weekly.

Woodland Park View 1949-December 1951, weekly. Merged into *Cripple Creek Times*.

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CHAPTER LXIII

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Named for George Washington, Washington County was established in 1887 from the southeastern part of Weld County. The earliest white settlement in the county was along the South Platte River. The first house was built in 1871 on the "22" ranch. Great herds of Texas longhorns grazed on the land in the early 1870s. After completion of the Johnson-Edwards irrigation ditch and opening of a U.S. Land Office in Akron in the late 1880s, agriculture thrived.

The financial panic of 1893 and a severe drought the following year temporarily affected the county, but it recovered after 1900. In 1907 a United States Dry Land Experiment Station located near Akron developed several crop varieties especially suited to the region, and encouraged stock feeding, dairy farms, and poultry raising. Two railroads served the county in the early days: The Union Pacific and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. Railroads were the major source of taxation for local governments. The Lincoln Land Company, one of the most active town builders on the plains, platted several Washington County towns.

In the beginning Washington County included areas that would be chopped off for Yuma County in 1889. There was a fight between Akron and the town of Yuma for

the county seat designation. Akron lost the first round, but won the next one after Yuma County was formed. Akron has been county seat since then.

Despite the loss of acreage from Yuma County, Washington County more than doubled in size in 1903 when it acquired part of the division of Arapahoe County. Among the first county officials were newspapermen F.C. Brobst of the *Yuma Pioneer* and, later, the *Akron Democrat*, and Dr. W.D. Otis, founder of the *Otis Enterprise*. Brobst was county clerk and recorder, and Dr. Otis was superintendent of schools.

Livestock raising and farming are the major industries, though oil production has also contributed to the economy. By the mid-1960s Washington County oil wells accounted for 19 percent of the state's oil production.

Abbott

Abbott was along the proposed rail extension heading south from Akron. Abbott disappeared, but it had three newspapers during its brief life:

Abbott Homesteader 1887-1889, Homestead Publishing Company.

New Eden 1888-1889, J.A. Stewart, founder.

Abbott Mail 1888-1889.

Arickaree City

Arickaree City, founded in 1877, was also planned on the rail extension south of Akron. It grew into a small settlement, with a grocery store, livery stable, church, school,

and "a limited number of homes, and unlimited hopes of becoming a railroad shipping point and center," according to Griswold's "Century of Cities." The railroad, however, never got there, and the town was deserted by the mid-1890s.

There was a newspaper with the Arickaree name published in Meadowville, Arapahoe County. (Arapahoe County bordered Washington County at the time.)

Arickaree Tribune January 27, 1888 was Vol. 1, No. 22. Who the publisher was and how long the paper lasted are unknown. The paper had local, state, national, and international news.

Arickaree Hub February 1889-1891, a Mr. Barclay and W.M. Yard, founders.

Akron

One of the older towns in Eastern Colorado, Akron was surveyed in May 1882 for the Lincoln Land Company. The town was laid out in June and the plat filed in July, but there wasn't much more done until 1885, a year of heavy immigration from Midwestern states. Akron was named by the wife of a railroad official for her hometown, Akron, Ohio, and because it was the highest point on the Chicago Burlington Railroad in Colorado. The name Akron is Greek for "summit." Akron was the first division station on the railroad east of Denver, and was a changing point for railroad crews from east and west. The CB&Q built railroad equipment houses and a two-story eating house in Akron.

Several of the earliest residents were not only active in civic affairs, but also in establishing newspaper. D.W. Irwin, founder of the *Pioneer Press* was on the first school

board and was postmaster. H.G. (Horace Greeley) Pickett, editor of the *Press*, was the first mayor.

Akron Pioneer Press November 1, 1885-April/May 1925, D.W. Irwin, founder and publisher. H.G. Pickett was editor. In 1894 Pickett was publisher and Irwin, editor. Pickett was still there in 1909.

Born in Peoria, Ill., in 1844, Pickett served in the Union Army for five years, worked in his father's printing office, then owned and published a Nebraska newspaper. Pickett homesteaded in Colorado in 1886, and went to work for the *Pioneer Press* in 1887. In 1892 he bought the *Akron Pioneer Press*, publishing it until 1912 when he sold it and retired.

Chalkley A. Wilson bought the paper. George E. Brewer, formerly with the *Broadwater (Nebraska) News*, purchased an interest in the *Pioneer Press* in the fall of 1923. In December 1923, *Inter-Mountain Press* announced that George Brewer had disposed of his interest in the paper to accept a position in Chicago. Wilson discontinued the *Pioneer-Press* in the spring of 1925, after "almost 40 years of service to Washington County," reported the May 1925 *Inter-Mountain Press*.

Akron News October 13, 1910-February 28, 1929, F.C. Pinch, founder. Pinch used the *News* to promote the Democratic Party of the county and its views. Pinch sold the *News* on August 14, 1911, to F.W. McIntyre, who sold it the following May to Isaac Pelton. Pelton, Frank T. Hawks and T.A. Erb were listed as editors and publishers in the

1915 Ayer newspaper directory. The *News* continued as a Democratic counterpoint to the Republican *Pioneer Press*.

Hawks also owned the *Wray Gazette*, was editor of the *Wray Rattler*, and founded the *Colorado Patriot*, located in Wray. Pelton, a lawyer, owned the *News* until 1923, but left the paper in charge of others. D.C. Thomas was in charge from December 1916 to November of December 1917, followed by John S. Evans. Newspaper historian Walter Stewart lists both Thomas and Evans as editors-publishers. Ayer 1920 lists Evans and Eva L. Gough, editors and publishers.

Pelton sold the *News* to Charles M. Cockrum around April 1923. Cockrum was assisted by Worth Miller and his wife Anna M. Miller. Miller was editor-publisher of the *News* until February 28, 1929, when R.B. Cooley purchased the paper and merged it with the *Reporter*. Miller began issuing the *News* semiweekly at the beginning of 1928. The *News* merged with the *Reporter* in 1929.

Akron Reporter summer 1916-February 28, 1929, F.C. and R.M. Wester, founders. The Westers were from Oklahoma. Robert A. Shook bought the paper in December 1921 or January 1922, and installed Presley Pool as editor/manager. Pool succeeded Shook as publisher in 1927. Steen M. Johnson, formerly editor of the *Strasburg News*, purchased the *Reporter* from Pool in the summer of 1927.

Johnson began issuing the **Akron Semi-Weekly News** on December 29, 1928. On March 7, 1929, the *Reporter* consolidated with the *News* into the *Akron News-Reporter*.

Akron News-Reporter March 7, 1929 to present, R.B. Cooley. Cooley turned the *News-Reporter* over to two other of his five sons on March 1, 1955. M.B. and Coyne Cooley published the paper until July 1979. The Cooley brothers published the paper until July 1979 when they sold it to Danny Reneau.

Reneau sold the *News-Reporter* in May 1989 to American Publishing, an Illinois-based subsidiary of Hollinger Inc. of Canada. The *Julesburg Advocate*, published by Jan Reneau's brother, was purchased by American at the same time, bringing the company's total Colorado newspaper ownership to six. Doug Knight and Charles Ashby were named editor-managers of the two papers. Both previously were on another American Publishing newspaper, the *Sterling Journal-Advocate*, where Knight was an ad rep and Ashby a reporter. Karen Ashley was named editor in 1990, along with Bonnie Miller, general manager, and Anita Kraich, ad director.

There was another change of ownership in April 1996, when the *Akron News-Reporter* and other Colorado newspapers owned by American Publishing were sold to NewsMedia of Denver, parent company of the Denver Post. Sue Mizell was named publisher of the *News-Reporter* in October 1996. Formerly she was advertising director at the Sidney, Nebr., *Telegraph*. Anita Kraich, former *News-Reporter* ad director, was chosen publisher in June 1997.

Colorado Beetle 1886-1887. Newspaper bibliographer says the name was changed to:

Akron Star 1886-1892, C.W. Ballard and Edwin A. Eaton, publishers. Eaton, one of the county's early settlers, left before 1892. His obituary in *Colorado Editor* said that he founded the *Akron Star* "with the building of the Burlington through that town." Wallace Rex states that the *Star* became:

Washington County Republican 1892-1896, W.E. Smith, publisher. Smith was later editor of the *Brush Mirror*.

Akron Herald 1886-1889.

Anciano 1886. Rev. J.J. Gilchrist, founder. *Anciano* was a semimonthly Spanish-language newspaper. (*Anciano* also published editions in Alamosa, Del Norte, and La Junta.)

Akron Tribune 1888-1889.

Washington County Democrat 1888-1889.

Akron Advance 1893-1895.

Washington County Leader September 30, 1897-May 24, 1912, D.F. Foor, founder. Foor was later with the *Florence Ex Parte* and the *Victor Nugget*.

Burdette

Burdette was one of the railroad towns planned for the railroad extension going north from Akron. Like most of the other similar communities it had a newspaper.

Colorado Topics June 1889-?, E.H. Forbes and a Mr. Powers, founded the paper in Hyde in 1886. They sold it to Mark Little, who moved it to Burdette. Little previously had founded the Leslie *Colorado Cactus*.

Cope

Johnathan Calvin Cope, for whom the town was named, arrived in Colorado in 1886. The Chicago Burlington & Quincy, which had surveyed a road through northeastern Colorado, named Cope as its "Road Blazer" and sent him to what is now the southeastern corner of Washington County. The railroad intended to make the place a division point and terminal, as well as a town.

Providentially, the Arickaree was full of water that year--"one of the few times in history"--and the real estate man Mr. Cope talked to assured him there were "natural lakes." Cope went to Denver and filed a claim on a large section of land, including what would be the town named for him.

Mr. Cope, his son-in-law, and their families moved to Colorado and settled on his claim. They immediately dug a well and put up a windmill for irrigation. The Copes planted an orchard, which was cultivated by hand. Other families soon joined them, including the Elders, Ingrahams, Millers, and Scheideggers, names that would be associated with the town and its newspapers.

The Great American Cattle Company had been using the area for pasture land and was bitterly opposed to settlers breaking up the range. When the company heard of

a settler facing hard times it would pay for the family to move away. A severe winter and drought in 1894 resulted in an exodus of settlers.

A former state representative once said that "Cope is 120 miles out on East Colfax," a main street through Denver, which branches into a highway leading to Cope.

Diamond Telescope 1888-1890, a Mr. Gray, founder. It was produced at "George Ingraham's place, two and a half miles south of town." D.D. Hayne and a partner took the paper over and published it in town in their store. The next owner was Frank Colvin, but the paper was gone in 1890. It would be 37 years before Cope had another paper.

Cope Courier January 21, 1927-1929, J. Edwin Elder and C.S. Scheidegger, founders. The subscription price was \$1 per year. Published in a wooden building behind the Cope Garage, the *Courier* ended when the building burned down.

There was a poem in the first issue:

To The New Paper

Yes, they are editing a paper

In the little town of Cope.

In it you will find much learning,

Along with advertising dope.

We all need a heap of learning.

For knowledge, it is great;

If you want the latest news, Boy,

They have got it up to date.

Walk right into the office;

Get acquainted with the boss;

Take out a year's subscription,

In so doing there's no loss.

Read one of the latest issues;

You will find it is the dope.

Hurrah for the little paper

And the publishers of Cope.

Worth M. Miller, editor of the *Akron News*, bought the paper September 10, 1928, from Scheidegger. *Colorado Editor* said that the *Courier* "had hard sledding and editor Scheidegger felt the field was too small. The *Courier* will be issued from Akron."

Harrisburg

Harrisburg was on the proposed railroad extension going south from Akron. It had one newspaper:

Harrisburg Pioneer 1889-1892, Mrs. T.B. Garmire, founder and publisher. L.A. Blackman was editor 1889-1890. From 1891-1892, Garmire and Crooks were listed as publishers.

Hyde

Hyde was one of the two principal points on the Burlington railroad east of Akron. Near the Yuma County line, it was surveyed and the plat filed in March 1886 by the Lincoln Land Company.

Colorado Topics April 9, 1886-June 21, 1889, E.H. Forbes and a Mr. Powers, founders. They sold the paper to Mark Little, who moved it to Burdette, continuing it under the same name.

Hyde Weld County Argus 1886-February 1887. (Hyde was in Weld County at the time.)

Hyde Republican 1903, W.R. Gillespie, publisher, Will J. Mathews, editor.

The paper did not last the year. Gillespie and Mathews founded the *Hayden Routt County Republican* later in 1903.

Leslie

Leslie was on the proposed railroad extension going north of Akron. It was in the far northeastern part of the county on the Washington and Yuma county line. It had two newspapers:

Colorado Cactus 1881 - November 12, 1889, Mark Little, founder. The *Cactus* was sold to W.T. Michel, according to historian Frank Hall, and the name changed to

Leslie Republican November 1889-1891, W.T. Michel, publisher. The Oehlerts newspaper guide gives an 1888 beginning date; the Rex bibliography says 1889.

Lindon

Another of the towns on the railroad's southern extension, Lindon had three newspapers:

Lindon Leader 1888-1891, J.L. Cummins, founder.

Lindon Rustler 1888-1889.

Lindon Sun January 1890-1891, Will M. Dunn, founder.

Otis

Otis began with the building of the section house and water tank for the Burlington Railroad in 1883, not quite a mile from the present town. The original town thrived from 1886 to 1888, but by 1897 it was deserted except for one business, which stayed on until the new townsite was established. Otis was revived by 1920.

Otis Independent 1912-1985, Robert B. Cooley (Bert), founder; he and his wife, Carrie Louella (Lou), publishers. The Cooleys came to Colorado in 1910 to take a homestead near Flagler. Cooley went to Otis with a threshing crew one day, and discovered homesteaders were having a problem publishing notices to prove their

claims. He borrowed \$100 to start the *Independent* and found himself in the newspaper business for the next 50 years.

A former teacher, the new newspaperman didn't know anything about running a newspaper, so he hired someone to do it, according to one of his sons. When money was short Bert and Lou Cooley taught in a country school. At one time the newspaper office was in the front of the newspaper building, and the family lived in the back rooms.

Cooley sold the *Independent* to A.B. Alexander in 1915, but in November 1916 he bought it back from Alexander. *Colorado Press* reported in November 1926 that "the son of C.R. Graves is to be the publisher of the *Otis Independent*. That paper has been edited by J.S Tohill." Tohill had been with the Monte Vista *San Luis Valley Graphic*. Tohill and his brother Lawrence bought the *Monte Vista Tribune* in March 1928. In November the Tohills traded the *Tribune* for Cooley's *Otis Independent* and a small amount of cash. Tohill sold the *Otis Independent* to John Graves in September 1929.

The Graves became an Eastern Slope institution in their 53 years with the *Independent*. Born September 30, 1901 in Osage, Iowa, John Graves began hand-setting type for his father's newspaper at the age of 13. When his father was elected to the Colorado legislature, the younger Graves had to take over while his Dad was in Denver. It was good training for John's later work on papers in Fort Morgan, Fort Collins, Longmont, and in Nebraska, before buying the *Otis Independent*. He bought the *Wray*

Gazette in 1941 and published it until 1976. Graves was awarded the Colorado Press Association Golden Make-up Rule for 50 years of newspaper work in 1973.

John Warner Graves died February 22, 1982. The *Otis Independent* was sold to the Akron Publishing Company, Inc. in the summer of 1982 by Essie Graves. By February 1985, the *Otis Independent* was being printed as part of the *Akron News-Reporter* and "consistently lost money." The two papers were combined.

Otis Enterprise 1886-1891, Pruyn, Sims & Co., founders. J.W, Pruyn was one of the early settlers, and founded the Bank of Otis. Dr. W.O. Otis, the Superintendent of Schools, was editor 1888-1891.

Colorado Clipper November 4, 1887-1888, the Clute Brothers, founders.

Otis Pebbles Gathered By the Wayside, 1872. The Rowell newspaper directory says it was a semi-monthly literary newspaper.

Thurman

Thurman was another of the railroad towns on the southern extension from Akron. (Only one town on the route, Windsor Springs, did not have a newspaper.)

Thurman had three newspapers:

Thurman Times 1888-1894, W.B. Colvin, founder. Colvin, who was co-founder of the Bank of Akron in 1886, was publisher until 1891. He was succeeded in 1892 by B.T. Reed, who discontinued the *Times*.

Thurman Beacon 1892-1893.

Cottage Home 1893-1894.

CHAPTER LXIV

WELD COUNTY

In 1835, a U.S. government expedition traversed what would become Weld County. The following year, a member of that expedition, Lt. Lancaster Lupton, returned and built a trading post near the present-day site of the town of Fort Lupton. Two other South Platte River forts soon sprouted up nearby. Colonel Ceran St. Vrain established Fort St. Vrain in 1837 and Fort Vasquez went up south of Platteville in 1840.

Weld County originally lay in the southwestern portion of the Nebraska Territory, created by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. Weld was among Colorado's original seventeen counties when the new territory was created in 1861. During its first sixteen years, Weld saw its county seat repeatedly shuffled: from St. Vrain to Latham, to Evans, to Greeley, back to Evans, and finally in 1877, back to Greeley, where it remains.

Cattlemen came to Weld in the 1860s, followed by farmers in the 1870s. Many ethnic Germans who emigrated from Russia came to Weld County in the early 1900s as railroad workers. Some stayed to work the successful dryland farming boom in sugar beets and Russian winter wheat. They were joined by Spanish-surnamed immigrants in the 1920s. Weld's agricultural base survived downturns after the crash of 1893 and between the two World Wars to thrive after the conclusion of World War II. It continues to be among the top five agricultural producing counties in the United States.

Abbott

Abbot became part of Washington County in 1888.

Homesteader 1887-1888, weekly.

Akron

Akron was also lost to Washington County in 1888.

Akron Pioneer Press November, 1885-November 1923. H. G. Pickett was publisher with D. W. Irwin serving as editor. For a time it published as *Akron Weekly Pioneer Press*.

Colorado Beetle 1886-1887, weekly. C. W. Ballard and a Mr. Eaton were co-founders. In 1887 the Colorado Beetle became the *Akron Star*.

Akron Star 1886-1892, weekly.

Akron Herald 1886-1889, weekly.

Atwood

(until Feb 1887, now in Logan County)

Atwood Advocate Oct 3, 1885-Feb 1887. Continued as *Logan County Advocate* (Sterling).

Ault

Ault was originally known as High Land, before gaining its present name in 1897. Alexander Ault, owner and operator of a flour mill, bought an entire grain harvest during a period of hardship, averting disaster for the area's farmers and fledgling businesses. Grateful residents honored Ault by renaming the town for him. Ault incorporated in 1904.

Ault Record October 1903 to November 1904, weekly; H.E. Stone, founder. In September 1904, Stone sold to W.G. Butler. Butler in turn dealt the *Record* to Annie Parrot, who was publisher in October 1904. The following month, Howard E. Hogue was publisher. On November 24, 1904, G.H. Bradfield of the *Ault Advertiser* bought the *Record*.

Ault Advertiser October-November 1904, G.H. Bradfield, founder. Bradfield merged in the *Record*, creating the:

Ault Advertiser and Ault Record Nov 21, 1904-1927, weekly. G.H. Bradfield, publisher. In January 1906, Ely P. Hubbell bought the paper from Bradfield. Mr. & Mrs. G.A. Hill bought the paper in 1911, publishing it as a four-column tabloid with Republican leanings. Fred and Edna Walling took over on October 22, 1926 and changed the name to *Ault Booster*.

Ault Booster. 1927-1935, weekly. Fred and Edna Walling, publishers. Unlike its predecessor, the *Ault Booster* claimed an independent political stance. T. Lawrence Varner bought the *Booster* from the Wallings in 1935 and renamed it:

Ault Progress 1935-1972, weekly. In May 1938, Harry M. Kurtz bought the *Progress* and went on to serve as publisher until 1962. He merged in the *Grover Crow Valley News* in 1953. Roy Van Dyke was editor for Kurtz. In July 1962, Ed & Gladys Kummer bought the *Progress* from Kurtz. In 1972 they changed the newspaper name to:

Highland Today.1972-1979. Aubrey Larson became publisher in 1978. She sold the paper in 1979 to the Standard Corp. of Ogden, Utah. *Highland Today* was merged into the *Eaton Herald*, which went on to become the *North Weld Herald*.

Briggsdale

The town of Briggsdale, established in 1909, was named for Frank N. Briggs, a farmer and town founder.

Briggsdale Banner 1911-Jan 26, 1939, weekly. Founded by W.F. Shelton, editor-publisher until he suspended the *Banner* in 1932. Harry E. Green bought the rights and revived it in late 1933. W.N. "Tailspin Tommy" Thompson purchased the paper in 1936. It merged with the *Grover Crow Valley News* in 1942.

Briggsdale Booster 1950-1953 (?), Harry E. Green, founder. It may have been suspended in 1953.

Brush

Brush Lariat 1884-1885, weekly. Holmes and Magee, publishers.

Denver Junction

(became Julesburg, and became part of Sedgwick County in 1887)

Frontier Index July 1867-March 1868, monthly. The short duration of this newspaper owes to its being a unique “press on wheels.” The owner-publishers were Legh R. Freeman, a Confederate veteran, and his brother Fred Freeman. Their monthly paper followed the westward course of the railroad as it was being built. The Freemans published first in Fort Kearney, Nebraska Territory in May 1866. They continued on to publish in North Platte, Nebraska Territory, and at the Union Pacific site now known as Julesburg. These enterprising booster-journalists became “transient editors, settling their newspaper temporarily at a rail station so as to boom it and participate in the harvest of settlers who would read their newspaper.” Hauling a full complement of press and printing equipment, they eventually published at eleven locations between Ft. Kearney and Ogden, Utah.

Denver Junction Gazette 1885-1886, weekly.

Eaton

Eaton incorporated in 1892. Its name honors Benjamin Harrison Eaton, an irrigation pioneer who brought water from the Rocky Mountains to the arid prairies east

of the Front Range, helping convert them into a thriving agricultural region. Eaton served as governor of Colorado from 1885 to 1887.

Eaton Free Press 1891-June 1894, weekly; W.W. Wirt, founder.

Eaton Herald June 1894-present, weekly and semi-weekly; John A. Gooden, founder. The first issues of the *Herald* were produced on a Washington hand press. James A. Snook bought the paper in late 1896, then dealt it to Howard E. Hogue in 1898. Snook returned in November 1898 and continued as editor-publisher to December 1911. He claimed the *Herald* was the largest paper in Weld County with 24 pages of “home print” (stories produced by the paper itself rather than purchased from syndicates). In January 1912, Howard Hogue bought out Snook again. Hogue’s son, Eugene T. Hogue, joined his mother Annabelle Hogue as co-editor-publishers when Howard died in 1930. The mother-son team ran the paper until June 1942, when they sold to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kurtz. They managed the *Herald* for twenty years. In 1962, Ed and Gladys Kummer bought the paper and published it until May 1978, when they sold to Aubrey Larson. The *Eaton Herald* merged into the *North Weld Herald* when it was purchased by the Standard Corp. of Ogden, Utah in 1979.

North Weld Herald April 27, 1979- to present, weekly. Keith Hansen bought the paper in September 1991 and sold it in March 1992 to Bruce and Brenda Bormann.

Erie

Erie was platted in 1871, following the establishment of the Briggs Mine, Weld County's first commercial coal mine. The town incorporated in 1874. Erie's name came from Reverend Van Valkenburg, a civic leader and town founder who had spent many years in the eastern coal town of Erie, Pennsylvania and thought the moniker fit its western counterpart.

Erie-Canfield Independent 1884-1894, weekly. Walter MacAnnaly may have been founder. A.I. Wilson was publisher in 1881; R.J. Van Valkenberg, 1892; and Charles O. Bell, 1894. Bell continued the paper as:

Erie Independent 1894-1896, weekly. Charles O. Bell, publisher.

Erie Review 1900-1902, weekly. F. H. Davis was owner-publisher/editor in 1901. Jack A. Aurell was publisher when the *Review* folded in 1902.

Erie News June 1903-1905, weekly. C.L. Bowman and Clyde.L. Stanley, founders. J. Wayne Hoffman of Ohio purchased the *News* and renamed it:

Western Mirror June 1904-1908, weekly. Frederick Allen took over from Hoffman and in 1908 renamed the paper again:

Erie Herald 1908-1915, weekly. Frederick Allen, publisher. Allen sold to Wallace Olin in 1911.

Erie Herald #2 September 9, 1933-1951, Newman R. Hays, founder. Roy W. Hays published the new *Herald* from 1933 to 1948, when he sold to Wayne Hunsaker. Hunsaker suspended the paper in May 1950. A.B. Withers revived the *Herald* in August 1950, but suspended it again 1951.

Erie News #2 1930-1937. Blanche Farmer was founder, editor and publisher throughout its run. The *News* discontinued in 1937.

Erie Echo Dec 8, 1977-1980, weekly. Dick Easton and Marge Easton, publishers. Roy Van Dyke served as editor until June 1978, followed by Bryan T. Nolan. Ed & Ruth Lehman bought the *Echo* and merged it into the *Frederick Farmer and Miner*.

Evans

The town of Evans was established in 1867 and incorporated 1885. Named for John Evans, the second territorial governor of Colorado, President of the Denver Pacific Railway which put Evans on the map. The town served as Weld county seat for two brief intervals before finally losing the honor to Greeley.

Evans Express November 1869-1870, weekly. S. Woodbury, founder. It may have continued as the *Evans Journal*:

Evans Journal July 1871-1889, weekly. Calvin Hartman and Co., founders. Andrew C. Todd was editor-publisher from 1871-1875. Stewart and Todd were listed as publishers 1876-1877; Pace and Torrens, 1878; S.J. McAfee, 1882; Torrens and John Cheeley, editor, 1883; John H. Farrar, and Co., 1888. The newspaper name changed to:

Evans Courier 1889-Dec 8, 1916, weekly. Charles Huffsmith was publisher in 1901. Lang and Marley were at the helm in 1906. Continued as *Evans Courier-Messenger*.

Evans Messenger 1913-1914, weekly; James A. Torrens, publisher. Merged with *Evans Courier*.

Evans Courier-Messenger December 22, 1916-August 31, 1917, weekly. J.C. Downes was publisher in 1917 when the *Courier-Messenger* was absorbed by the *Greeley Messenger*.

Evans Star Express 1983-1987, Paul and Liz Massey, founders. In 1987, they sold to Terry Gogerty, who simplified the name to:

Evans Press 1987-1989; 1990-1995, Terry Gogerty, publisher.

Firestone

Firestone Torch 1925-1930, weekly.

Fort Lupton

The city was named for Lieutenant Lancaster Lupton, who built a trading post on the Adobe Creek in 1840.

Fort Lupton Cyclone 1889-1892, weekly; John Farrar, publisher.

Fort Lupton Fact 1893-1896, weekly.

Platte Valley Post 1897-1899, weekly.

Platte Valley Advertiser 1898-1899, weekly.

Fort Lupton Advertiser 1899-1903, weekly.

Fort Lupton Spirit December 1901-1906, weekly; John Farrar, publisher. It became:

Fort Lupton Press 1906-present. F. L. Falkenburg was editor-publisher to 1907. William H. Moran took over as editor-publisher to February 1909. Marguerite Frink helmed the *Press* after Moran until February 1910. Ruby Frink Davis was the next owner, followed W.G. Hubbell and F.F. Davis in February 1911. Hubbell bought Davis' interest, and was sole publisher to December 1918. Harry R. Waring owned the *Press* from 1918 to 1928. W.L. Kirk bought the paper from Waring in 1928 and stayed until 1930. C.A. Haney was editor-publisher from early 1931 to 1933. Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Lederer took over and stayed until May 1, 1947. Leroy and Virginia Carter succeeded the Lederers. They merged in the *Hudson Headlight* in 1953 and ran the *Press* until 1975.

Fort Lupton Farm Herald 1918-1922, founded by Charles F. Baker. Baker was editor-publisher until June 1920. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Walling and a Mrs. Atterbury, sister to one of the Wallings, bought the paper from Baker. In February 1921, R.B. McDermott bought Mrs. Atterbury's interest, and served as editor-publisher until the Wallings bought him out in November. They changed the name to:

Fort Lupton Booster 1922-1927, weekly. Fred Walling was editor-publisher until October 22, 1926, when the *Booster* merged with the Ault Advertiser.

Fort Lupton Shopping News Founded January 30, 1976 by B.G. Bennet, Harry Battson, and Al Wagner. The *Shopping News* discontinued by May 1976.

Platte Valley News March 31, 1976-Jul 21, 1976, Harry Battson editor-publisher.

Weld County Advertiser Apr 7, 1977-Jun 16, 1977. Founded by Frank H. Newell publisher with M. Gary Keen, editor. A free distribution paper, it was absorbed by the *Adams-Weld Market Place* (Brighton).

Fort Morgan

(until Feb 1889, now in Morgan County)

Fort Morgan Times September 4, 1884-May 1, 1931, founded by Lyma.C. Baker and George.W. Warner.

Frederick

The daughters of Frederick A. Clark, an area landholder, laid out the town site in 1907 and named it for their father. Frederick was a mining town, attracting immigrants from Italy, France, Greece, Turkey and several Slavic and South American countries.

Frederick Press 1908-1909, weekly.

Carbon Star 1915-1917, weekly. Wallace Olin, founder.

Coal Ridge News 1921-1925, weekly.

Farmer and Miner 1932-present, founded by Allen Risley. Risley served as editor-publisher to December 1932, when H.H. Pease bought the newspaper. In March 1936, A.H. Lansdowne became publisher. He sold to Mr. and Mrs. F.L. and Helen Behymer in August 1937. The Behymeyers published the *Farmer and Miner* until June 1946. William and Melba Workman bought them out in July 1946 and stayed until July 1955. They were succeeded by Wayne and Geraldine Blanchard, who dealt the paper on January 1, 1961 to Andrew and Jan Meyer. J.R. and Elaine Freeman bought out the Meyers. J.R. Freeman was harassed and shot at for his hard-hitting editorial campaign against what he called the "oil shale grab." He won Southern Illinois University's Elijah P. Lovejoy Award for courage in journalism for his efforts. In April 1968, Dick and Marjorie Easton bought the *Farmer and Miner* and served as editor-publishers until September, 1978.

Gilcrest

Gilcrest Advertiser 1909-1913, weekly; C. P. Martin, publisher-editor. Martin suspended publication because of lack of advertising and circulation, but M. B. Royer revived it on December 9, 1911.

Gilcrest Globe 1914.

Greeley

As agricultural editor of the New York *Tribune* in the 1860s, Nathan Meeker toured and reported on the West. A former resident of the utopian Trumbull Phalanx agricultural cooperative at Braceville, Ohio, Meeker became convinced that Colorado could be settled with just such a colony. With the blessing of his publisher and editor, Horace Greeley, Meeker called a public meeting for December 29, 1869 at New York's Cooper institute where the Union Colony was organized and Meeker chosen as its president. The new town was settled in 1870 on a site near the confluence of the Cache la Poudre and the South Platte Rivers. Meeker honored his mentor Greeley with the name of the new town. The straight-laced, religious, industrious colonists succeeded and their town flourished. Greeley saw the construction of the State Normal School for the training of teachers, begun in 1890, which has grown into the University of Northern Colorado. The town opened a new high school in 1895 to relieve overcrowding in the original 1873 Meeker School. Factories to process agricultural products were built in the early 1900s. They drew immigrant laborers who changed the homogenous demographics of Greeley's population. Thanks to the Monfort Family, feedlots and meat packing became the town's major industry.

Greeley Tribune – 1870-present, weekly. Meeker, a storied figure of Colorado pioneer history, founded the *Tribune* to serve his new agricultural community. The masthead proudly proclaimed that the bed-plate of the *Tribune's* press rested at 4,788 74/100 feet above sea level. Meeker's son, Ralph C. Meeker, and Edwin J. Carver

bought a half interest in the paper in 1872; Carver served as publisher to 1882, when William Packard took over. E.J. Carver was back by May 1885 and stayed as publisher to December 1900. In January 1890, the Greeley Tribune Publishing Co. headed by J.J. Stephens became owners. J. Max Clark was editor to December 1900. Charles A. Wolfe bought a controlling interest in March 1901, became editor, and then in 1908, publisher until March 1913. Charles H. Hansen was editor by 1903 and served in that capacity until 1909. He was followed as editor by Alfred H. Davis from November 1909 to October 1910 and then Morris M. Rathburn to Feb 1913. The name changed when the paper became a daily:

Greeley Daily Tribune Feb 1, 1913-present. The *Greeley Republican* and *Greeley Tribune* consolidated with Charles H. Hansen as editor to September 1914 and owner-publisher to May 1953. Curtis C. Swanwich was editor until 1917. He was followed by Floyd E. Merrill, who held the editor's chair for a remarkable forty-three years, from April 1917 to July 1960. When publisher Charles Hansen died in 1953, his daughter Mildred S. Hansen took over and served as publisher for twenty-four years. In October 1977, she sold the *Tribune* to Swift Newspapers, who installed Richard K. Larson as publisher. Larson was followed by Dave Trussell, 1990-1997; Jim Elsbury-1997-2006; Steve Weaver, 2006-2007; and Bart Smith, 2007-present.

Colorado Sun Nov 7, 1872-1891, weekly. Founded by W.B. Vickers and E.R. Painter. H.A. French bought Painter's interest in Nov 1873. By July 1874, French was the sole owner. James Torrens and George B. Graham bought the *Sun* in 1884 or 1885.

Edward D. Donnell bought the paper in November 1889. The name became *Greeley Sun* in 1891:

Greeley Sun 1891-1909, daily, semiweekly, weekly. J.B. Patton bought the paper and served as publisher to January 1904. Patton was also editor, but sporadically leased the *Sun* to interim editor-publishers. Clyde R. Weber bought the paper in January 1904 and stayed until August of 1905, when he sold to Thomas T. Wilson. Wilson was editor-publisher to July 1909, when the *Sun* was bought by the *Weld County Republican*.

Greeley Chronicle 1881-1882, weekly; J. F. Stillwell, publisher.

Democratic Eye 1881-1882, weekly; founded by Ed House and Charles P. Brooks.

Rocky Mountain Howitzer Feb 1882-1886, weekly; F. C. Messinger, founder.
Continued as *Greeley Howitzer*.

Howitzer 1886-1889, weekly. T. T. Wilson was publisher-editor in 1889.

Colorado Horticulturist 1875-1876, J. H. Foster, founder-publisher.

Greeley Morning Spokesman 1880-1881.

Greeley Exponent 1888-1889, weekly; D. W. Elliott and E. Bethel, founders.

Weld County Democrat 1887-1893, weekly. The *Democrat* was founded by Ward D. Harrington. In 1891, A.M. Hubert bought the *Democrat* and served as editor-publisher until 1892. The *Democrat* became the *Greeley Times*:

Greeley Times November 1893-Sep 18, 1897. L.H. Gross was editor in 1894; George M. Jacobs editor in 1895. In 1896 the *Times* was bought by the Thompson Brothers, Lorin Thompson and D.G. Thompson. The *Times* continued as the *Weld County Republican*.

Weld County Republican 1897-1913. Lorin Thompson worked as editor and D.G. Thompson as publisher until June 1906. Charles C. Townsend and Clyde R. Weber leased the paper for two years, but did not renew the lease in 1908. Lorin A. Thompson bought out his brother D.G. to become sole owner.

Greeley Republican July 1, 1909 Charles Hansen and E.F. Wiedmann of the *Weld County Republican* bought the *Greeley Sun* and the *Greeley Pioneer* and merged them as the *Greeley Republican* (daily) and the *Weekly Republican*.

Greeley Herald 1895-1898, weekly, semi-weekly. Loretta E. Hubert, founder-editor.

Greeley Home Journal 1900-1901, monthly.

Greeley Country 1908-1911, weekly.

Daily Pioneer 1908-Jul 1,1909. C.R. Weber, publisher. It may have been absorbed into the *Weld County Daily Republican*.

Greeley Insurgent 1910-1911, weekly; John T. Norsworthy, founder.

Weld County Progressive December 1912-1930/1931 (?), founded by C.W. Williams. Williams was editor-publisher to March 1916. Edward D. Foster and George T. Haubrich succeeded Williams as publishers. In September 1923, Arthur L. Craig bought Haubrich's interest and served as manager. Craig in turn sold his share to William L. Williams in 1928. The *Progressive* Continued as *The News Publishing Co.*

The News Publishing Co. 1930/1931-Jul 6, 1933. George T. Haubrich returned as publisher around the time of the name change. In 1932, Homer F. Bedford and F.L. Behymer bought out Haubrich. They in turn sold the newspaper in July 1933 to Fred M. and Edna Walling & Loren A. and Dorothy Walling, with each couple as half owners. They renamed the paper again:

Greeley Booster 1933-1984. Loren & Dorothy Walling bought out Fred & Edna Walling in 1940 and went on to publish the *Booster* for several decades.

Greeley Spokesman 1916-1917, daily.

Greeley Standard 1916-1917, weekly.

Central Farm News 1918-1920, weekly.

Greeley Coloradoan 1929-Jan 11, 1935, weekly; Lacy L. Wilkinson, founder. The first editor was Billy Quinn. When he died in an accident in late 1933, his wife Pat Quinn stepped in as editor. The *Coloradoan* assumed a new identity in January 1935:

Greeley Ad-Journal January, 1935, Richard L. Tatman, publisher and manager until April 1941. The first issue had no masthead because of a “name the newspaper” contest. The name was soon shortened to simply:

Greeley Journal Richard L. Tatman, publisher and manager until April 1941. William V. Mason served as editor to March 1936, followed briefly by Harry Heinecke. Gene H. Vervalin, *Journal* editor from August 1936 to September 1939, began the popular “Town Stroller” column, which ran for 40 years. Harold Adcock followed as editor from September 1939 to January 1941. Leslie V. Ward held the editor’s chair for most of 1941. That same year, Lynn Spindler bought an interest, becoming a partner with Tatman. In April 1942, the *Journal* absorbed the *Nunn News*.

Louise Westover filled in as editor-publisher during 1943-1944 while Tatman and Spindler served in World War II. She was followed by stints from Truman C. Hall (1944) and Josephine Miller (October 1944-June 25, 1945). Tatman returned in December 1944, and eventually resumed editorial duties until May 1948. In 1948, Tatman bought Spindler’s interest and remained as sole owner and publisher until 1977. Editors under Tatman’s long tenure included Edward A. Olsen, January 1949-March 1951; Doris Whitbeck, 1951; Jule “Red” Edgerton, Nov 1951-Jan 1972; Robert Scales, January-August 1972; Barbara Tatman, March 1973-Feb 1977 and co-publisher, January 1975-February 1977. In January 1977, Stephen D. Eastin bought the *Journal* from Richard and Barbara Tatman, but discontinued it in February, 1978.

Farm Journal February 1935-1942.

Town and Country News December 1970-2004, founded by James Schwieger, editor and James Johnson, publisher. It was a weekly (Thursday) 6-column tabloid free circulation newspaper. Schwieger bought out Johnson's interest in 1974. It continued as:

Trib-Extra.2004-, James Schwieger, publisher.

The News of Colorado Centennial Country 1985-(?), weekly; Old Wellpress, Inc., publisher.

Green City

Green City Herald April-May 1874, weekly.

Grover

The town of Grover was immortalized in Willa Cather's 1900 short story *The Affair at Grover Station*. "Grover," she wrote, was "a red box of a station, section house barricaded by coal sheds and a little group of dwellings at the end of everything, with the desert running out on every side to the sky line."

Grover Pioneer 1888-1889, weekly; Bartus Wilson, founder.

Tri-City Press 1906-1915, weekly; Edwin Erle Lewis, founder. In 1910, the *Press* was bought by D.H. Williamson, who served as editor-publisher to 1916. He changed the paper's name to *Pawnee Press*.

Pawnee Press 1915-Jan 26, 1939, weekly; D.H. Williamson, publisher. Ralph Jordan was editor-publisher in 1920, but the next year D.H. Williamson was back at the helm. C. Andrus served as editor-publisher in 1929-1930. In 1931, a Mrs. McHale bought the *Press* and became publisher with W. Charles Hopper as editor. By 1936, D. H. Williamson was back again, and stayed until February 1937. He sold that month to George Bowman. In November 1937, Richard L. Tatman bought the *Press and* merged it with the *Briggsdale Banner* under the name *Crow Valley News*.

Crow Valley News 1938-Apr 16, 1953, weekly; Richard L. Tatman, founder. W.N. "Tommy" Thompson bought out Tatman and served as the editor-publisher of the *News from* January 1939 to 1953, when the paper was suspended.

Hereford

Crow Creek News 1919-1920, weekly.

Hoyt

(until Feb 1889, now in Morgan County)

Hoyt Free Press 1887-1888, weekly.

Hudson

Hudson was built on land purchased from the Union Pacific Railroad Company by the Hudson Land and Improvement Company in 1887. The arrival of irrigation in 1913 allowed agriculture to flourish.

Hudson Headlight 1908-1921, weekly; founded by J.A. Diggerness.

Hudson News and Headlight 1921-1924, weekly. This newspaper resulted from merger of the *Roggen News* and the *Hudson Headlight* under publisher H. M. Woolman. S.R> Smith bought the paper in 1924 and simplified the name:

Hudson News 1924-Apr 3, 1953, weekly; S.R. Smith, publisher to 1934. In 1934, Clyde Ferris bought the paper. It was suspended April 1953.

Hudson Herald 1910-1911, weekly.

Westoff Record 1911-1912, weekly.

The Primrose and Gentlemen's Gazette 1980-1981 (?). R.F. Elliott, publisher.

Hyde

(until Feb 1887, now in Washington County)

Colorado Topics Apr 9, 1886-Jun 21, 1889, weekly; Forbes and Powers, founders.

Weld County Argus 1886-Feb 1887, weekly.

Johnstown

Platted in 1902 and incorporated in 1907, Johnstown was named for the son of founder Harvey J. Parish.

Johnstown Breeze April 21, 1905 to present, weekly; founded by John Gordon Smith. Herbert Steele took over from Smith in 1907. Charles L. Widmann bought the

Breeze in December 1909, and worked as editor-publisher until August 1914. R.B. McDermott was the next owner, staying until 1919. That year he sold the newspaper to Edward E. Enberg. Enberg sold to Charles N. "Breezy" Brust in March 1947. The next owners were Mr. and Mrs. Otho Franklin. Otho Franklin served as publisher until he had a heart attack in June 1949. Mr. and Mrs. Norman P. Scott acquired the paper shortly thereafter and together published the *Breeze* until August 1956, when they dealt it to Paul and Joyce Williams. The Williams had a long tenure, staying until 1975. Dale Noffsinger bought them out in September 1975, and published the *Breeze* with Rebecca Healy until September 1977. Noffsinger sold to the brothers Thomas - Eugene Thomas and Curtis Thomas. Eugene Thomas bought out his brother Curtis in 1978.

Julesburg

(until Feb 1887, now in Sedgwick County)

Frontier Index June-September 1867, weekly.

Julesburg Champion 1886-1890, weekly.

Julesburg Gazette 1886-1887, weekly.

Julesburg Republican 1886-1887, weekly.

Julesburg Republican-Tribune 1887-1888.

Keenesburg

Keenesburg was named for settler Les Keene. The town was a railroad stop for livestock along the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad in the early 1900s. It gained a post office in 1907.

Keene Valley Tribune 1914-1920, weekly; founded by A.Z. Stirling. Stirling sold the newspaper in 1916 to H.M. Wolman, who later changed the name to *Keenesburg News*.

Keenesburg News 1920-1925, weekly; H.M. Woolman, editor-publisher. Woolman sold to L.P. Kennedy in March 1925. Kennedy renamed the newspaper:

Keene Valley Sun March 12, 1925-1983. L.P. Kennedy, publisher. Will R. Burr bought the *Sun* in November 1927 and stayed until June 1929. The Sun Printing Co., headed by George C. Lewis, bought the paper that year, and Lewis served as editor-publisher until September 1948. Subsequent publishers of the *Sun* included Carl Lederer and Edyth Lederer, September 1948- November 1951; Welden Ball and Geneva Ball, November 1951-October 1971; Walter and Sandra Rae Mickelson, October 1971-May 1974; and Blair Macy and Genevieve Macy, 1974 to present. In 1976, Blair Macy received the first Eugene Cervi Award for courage in policy and editorial excellence for a weekly newspaper from the International Conference of Weekly Newspaper Editors.

The New News June 22, 1985-June 1996, weekly; David B. Reynolds, publisher. Continued as *South Weld Sun*.

South Weld Sun June 1996 to 2008 (?); Ruth Pelton-Roby, publisher.

Keota

Keota News May 26, 1911-1923, weekly; Clyde L. Stanley, publisher. The name changed to:

Pawnee Herald 1923-1926, weekly; Clyde L. Stanley, publisher.

Kersey

Kersey sat along the Union Pacific Railroad between Julesburg and LaSalle. Originally called Ore, it was named in 1896 by John Kersey Painter after his grandfather. The town incorporated in 1908.

Kersey Courier 1902-(?), weekly, Courier Publishing Co.

Kersey Enterprise August 1904-1914, weekly. T.J. Holmes, publisher. The name changed to:

Kersey Midget 1914-1916, weekly; Elmer E. Woods, publisher. The name changed again to:

Kersey News 1916-1933, B. F. and L. C. McMillen, publishers. Martin E. Chample was publisher in 1924; Ed and Bea Baylis; 1926-1932. Morgan Powell bought the paper in 1932, but was forced to suspend it in 1933.

Kersey Surprise 1912-1914, weekly; Marshall DeWolfe, publisher.

Platte Valley Voice 1979-1989; James P. Noel and Idella M. Noel, and publishers.

Continued as *The Voice in Central Weld County*.

The Voice in Central Weld County September 1989 to 2011, weekly; James P. and Idella M. "Del" Noel, publishers.

Lansing

(until Feb 1887, now in Yuma County)

Kingston Lariat 1886-1889, weekly.

La Salle

La Salle was a railroad and farming center that incorporated in 1910.

Weld County Farm 1909-1910, weekly; C. P. Martin, publisher.

La Salle Observer 1910-1911, weekly; Phillip E. Smith, publisher in 1910. It became:

La Salle Optimist 1911-1918. A. Delbert Hardy bought the newspaper in 1911 and renamed the *Optimist*. E. Erle and Margaret Lewis purchased the weekly in 1914. They in turn dealt the newspaper to E. A. Rhodes in 1915.

La Salle Record 1923-1947, weekly; C.J. Shephardson, founder. Ainslie L. Davis bought the *Record* and served as editor-publisher until November 1931, when he installed his son Ainslie R. Davis as editor-publisher. The younger Davis helmed the paper until the September 1935 sale of the *Record* to Edwin F. Spittler. Spittler stayed

until June 1944, when he sold out to Ralph Lee. Lee died of a heart attack in the back office of the *Record* in August 1944. Frank W. Smith bought the paper in September 1944, and discontinued it in 1946.

La Salle Leader March 17, 1948 to present, founded by James P. Noel and Idella Noel. The Noels sold the *Leader* in November 1978.

Mead

Mead Messenger May 1907-Dec 30, 1927, weekly; T.J. Holmes, publisher.

Mead Gazette 1931-1942, founded by Katherine E. Martin. Martin served as editor-publisher to 1933 or later. By 1937 C.N. "Breezy" Brust of the *Johnstown Breeze* had bought the *Gazette*. It folded in 1942.

Milliken

Milliken Mail Nov 1909-1949, weekly; Herman M. Porter, founder. Porter sold the *Mail* to Elmer Woods, who published the paper from 1913 to 1916. Otto L. Altavater bought the newspaper in 1916 and stayed until 1925. F.L. Humphrey was editor-publisher in 1926-1927, followed by C.E. Graisham in 1928-1929. Otto L. Altavater returned as publisher in 1930 and remained until 1946. His son Adrian Altavater was editor from 1933 to 1936. Sam P. Hunt bought the *Mail* in 1946, but the paper had suspended by October of that year.

New Raymer

Raymer Ranger 1888; H. C. Armitage, publisher.

Raymer Herald 1888-1891, weekly; "a Mr. Meeker," founder. In 1889 a Mr. Shoemaker served as publisher. Samuel J. Shirley and Mr. Abbott were owner-editors in 1891.

Raymer Enterprise May 1910-March 1939, weekly; S. P. Majors, publisher.

New Windsor

(Changed to Windsor, Apr 1890)

New Windsor Bulletin Oct 9, 1886-1887, weekly.

New Windsor Star 1889-1890, weekly.

Nunn

Nunn News Nov 12, 1907-Apr 17, 1942, weekly; Ray Clark and C.L. Weidman, founders. Ulich E. and Cosy Madden took over in 1908. Cleo Thompson bought the *News* in 1938. In March of 1942, Richard L. Tatman bought the *News* from Thompson and merged it into his *Greeley Farm Journal*.

Otis

(until Feb 1887, now in Washington County)

Colorado Clipper 1877-1888; brothers A. J. Clute, Jr., and William A. Clute, publishers.

Otis Enterprise 1886-1891, weekly; Mr. Sims and Mr. Pruyn, publishers.

Peckham

Peckham News 1906-1907.

Pierce

Pierce Record 1908-1914.

Pierce Leader 1918-1924 and 1939 (?), weekly; founded by Charles H. Reed. The paper suspended publication in 1924. Cleo Thompson reportedly revived the *Leader* July 14, 1939, but no further information is available.

Platteville

Platteville lies adjacent to the Platte River, between Fort Lupton and Greeley. The town was founded in 1871 and incorporated in 1887. Platteville now hosts the Fort Vasquez Museum showcasing the restored 1830s fur-trading outpost.

Platteville Record 1885-1890, weekly.

Platteville Progress 1888-1891, weekly.

Platteville Star 1890-1892, weekly.

Silverwheel 1892-1896, weekly; founded by John A. Cheeley.

Platteville Advertiser 1900-1903, weekly.

Platteville Call 1901-1902, weekly.

Platteville News 1903-1913, weekly; M. B. Royer, founder.

Platteville Herald July 1908 to present, weekly; founded by Mr. and Mrs. Homer F. Bedford. In 1914 they sold to E.S. Bayles, who served as editor-publisher until 1924. Subsequent publishers included: Ainslie L. Davis, November 1924-1931; Edwin Spittler, September 1935 to June 1944; Ralph Lee, June-August 1944; Frank W. Smith, September 1946-July 1947; and James P. Noel and Idella Noel, July 1947 to 1978. Paul Massey became owner in 1978.

Raymer

Raymer Herald 1889-1891, weekly.

Raymer Enterprise and Stoneham News 1910-(?), weekly; S.P. Majors, publisher.

Roggen

Roggen Record 1914-1915, weekly.

Roggen News 1920-1924, weekly; H.M. Woolman, editor-publisher. The *News* merged with the *Hudson Headlight* to become *Hudson News & Headlight*.

Sligo

Sligo became a popular destination for settlers between 1909-1912 when the Proctor & Wilson Land Co promoted land there, offering a quarter section at \$1.25 an acre.

Sligo Sentinel 1910-1911; Edwin Erle and Margaret Lewis, publishers.

Sterling

(until Feb 1887, now in Logan County)

Sterling Record 1881-1884, weekly; .William A. Connell, founder. The *Record* was taken over by W. C. Packard in May 1882.

Sterling News 1884-1886, weekly; W. C. Packard, founder.

Sterling Times 1885-1888, founded by W. S. and H. J. Jenkins.

Platte Valley Record 1884-1889, weekly; A.P. Gordon, founder.

Windsor

Windsor was platted in 1882, the same year it got the railroad. The town incorporated in 1890. Its name honors the Rev. Samuel Asa Windsor.

New Windsor or **Windsor Bulletin** October. 16, 1886-1888; Ward D. Harrington, founder. William M. Forgy and J. T. Pyles may have turned the *New Windsor* into:

Windsor Leader Jan 7, 1898-November 1902. Founded by William M. Forgy and J.T. Pyles. Roy Ray bought the *Leader* and changed the name to:

Poudre Valley at Windsor 1902-1947, Roy Ray and Ethel Ray, publishers. Ethel Ray ran the paper alone after her husband Ray died. By July 1946, O.L. Bistine was owner. He changed the name to:

Windsor Beacon April 3, 1947 to present. In June 1948, Roscoe Macy and son his Blair Macy purchased the *Beacon*. By January 1958, Blair and Genevieve Macy were sole owners. The Standard Corp headed by Mrs. W. Gene Hatch bought the *Beacon* in 1970. Editors in the 1970s included Suzanne Rosener, Marjorie Kadlub, and Pam Norman.

Windsor Optimist December 1904-September 2, 1910, weekly; Clarence A. Brakeman, publisher.

Windsor Tribune Sep 2003-(?)

Wray

(until Feb 1887, now in Yuma County)

Wray Rattler 1886-Apr 30, 1949, weekly; founded by Byron (or Barney) Condon. Merged into the *Wray Gazette*.

Yuma

(until Feb 1887, now in Yuma County)

Yuma Sun 1886-1888, weekly; Fred C. Probst, publisher.

Yuma Pioneer Dec 25, 1886 to 1964, founded by Fred C. Probst.

Special Sources:

Carol Pepin, *Guide to the Weld County Newspapers: An alphabetical listing of Weld County town newspapers and their sources* City of Greeley Museums, Greeley, Colorado, 2013. Available online:
<http://greeleygov.com/Museums/Documents/Guide%20to%20Weld%20County%20Newspapers.pdf>

CHAPTER LXV

YUMA COUNTY

The early settlers came in as the buffalo were disappearing, and these and later homesteaders almost annihilated the gentler forms of wild life, both beasts and birds...The first white settlers sought the running waters, so that we find the first attempts were made by men interested in exploitation of the rich grasses for cattle pasturage, who pitched their cow camps by the lush little meadows of the Republican river and its sparkling tributary, Chief Creek, in the vicinity of the now thriving town of Wray...

Senator John G. Abbot, *Who's Who in Colorado*, 1938

The Cheyenne, the Araphos, Kiowas, and Sioux had long hunted on the high plains. A small force of 48 settlers under Major George Alexander Forsyth of the 9th Cavalry engaged a much larger force of several hundred Indians in the Battle of Beecher Island in September 1868. They were relieved by African-American "Buffalo Soldiers" of the 10th Cavalry Regiment. But Indian raids persisted until 1881.

As the Native Americans and bison disappeared, ranchers moved in. In 1876, J.W. Bowles located a ranch near the head of the North Fork of the Republican River. Other ranchers soon joined him. The arrival of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad in 1882 bolstered the budding agricultural communities of Laird, Wray, Robb, Eckley, and Yuma. Yuma became a county in 1889 when it was sliced off from eastern Washington County. The town of Yuma originally beat out Wray for county seat, but lost it to Wray in 1902. Yuma County doubled in size in 1903 at the expense of Arapahoe County.

Eckley

Eckley was a railroad town laid out by the Lincoln Land Company, halfway between Yuma and Wray. It was established in 1890 and incorporated 1920. The town's name was adapted from Adams Eckles, a cattle foreman for early rancher J.W. Bowles.

Eckley Bee 1888-1889.

Eckley Republican 1890-1892. Griffin and Harmon, founders.

Prairie Farmer 1891-1892, R. Von Horrum Shraum. The paper was moved to Yuma.

Eckley Record July 1, 1916-1919, John and George Winterbourne, founders. By 1918, C.E. McKimson was the owner and E.L. Palmer was editor. McKimson sold in November 1918 to W.L. Shannon, who changed the name to:

Eckley Tribune 1919-September 17, 1942. The paper and its early owners faced their share of misfortune. According to an *Inter-Mountain Press* article, Shannon was compelled to put the plant and business up for sale early in 1920 due to an accident in which "his hand was caught in a press and badly crushed." C.C. Davenport purchased the paper in early 1921, but "suffered a total loss of plant, subscription lists and accounts" in a fire, according to a July 7, 1921 *IMP* article. The *Tribune* carried on, publishing temporarily from the office of the *Wray Gazette*. By December 1923, an R.P.

Mathews was at the helm, and sold to the *Tribune* to Albert Whitney of Eckley. On February 16, 1924, Albert Whitney committed suicide.

Dallas Cox and his wife took over after Whitney's death. In April 1926, Kansas City cartoonist R.M. Wilson bought the *Tribune* and turned it into a "signal success." An S. Nash bought the paper on May 12, 1928. He discontinued the paper in September 1942, selling the subscription list to the *Wray Gazette*.

Friend

Friend was named for a town in Nebraska from which some of the early settlers came. The name was later changed to Idalia (see below).

Friend Herald 1887-1888, A.R. Ames, founder.

Friend Republican 1889-1891, F.W. Scribner, founder.

Idalia

Established in 1887, Idalia was named for Mrs. Edaliah Helmick, member of one of the original settler families. The evolution of the spelling is obscure.

Idalia Sentinel 1878-1888.

Idalia Times 1889-1890.

Idalia Republican 1892-1903. Thomas Kelly was publisher in 1896, followed by Fritz Beck in 1898. Kelly was back in 1900. L.R. Scott was editor throughout. It may have been the relocated and renamed *Friend Republican*.

Lansing

Kingston Lariat 1886-1889.

Logan

Logan Sentinel 1887-1888, Longfellow and Mauck, founders.

Logan Republic 1894-1896.

Vernon

The town was originally named Condon's Corners for Barney Condon, founder of the *Wray Rattler*. When the townsite was laid out in 1892, the name was changed to honor a Free Methodist preacher who was an early settler.

Vernon Bugle 1917-1919, C.E. McKimson, founder. McKimson also owned the *Wray Gazette* and the *Eckley Record*. The *Vernon Bugle* was consolidated with the *Eckley Tribune* in January 1919.

Wray

Wray was founded in 1886 and named after John Wray, foreman for I.P. Olive, one of the earliest ranchers in the county. Wray got a direct phone connection to Denver in 1904, and electricity followed in 1907.

Wray Rattler March 9, 1886-April 30, 1949, Byron L. (Barney) Condon, founder. James Nicholas Counter bought the paper in the summer of 1886 and remained publisher until 1901. Otto Derr was editor/publisher 1901-1903. Cary Will bought the *Rattler* in 1903 and leased or sold to H.C. Wood in 1907. Will J. Mathews was editor for Wood. Cary Will returned as editor/publisher in 1908. The Wray Publishing Company published the paper in 1912 with Frank T. Hawks as editor.

In May 1916, W.D. Stencil became editor. *Colorado Press* quoted an associate as saying “the initials ‘W.D.’ stand for ‘Wilson Democrat’ and the paper will be conducted along that political line.” Kansas newspaperman Willam M. Scott leased the *Rattler* in the fall of 1917. Herbert Gelford Gee had a stint in early 1919, before the paper sold to Frank La Shelle, who brought some stability to the *Rattler*. LaShelle guided the *Rattler* until he died in August 1942.

Arthur E. Weber, who had married LaShelle’s only child, Luthera, took over the *Rattler* after LaShelle died. Weber died unexpectedly September 30, 1947. Nickie Weber was the next owner; research failed to reveal his relationship to Arthur, whose obituary does not mention children or grandchildren. Nickie Weber published the *Rattler* until April 30, 1949, when the paper was sold to Roscoe Bullard and John Graves, owners of the *Wray Gazette*.

Wray Gazette March 6, 1903 to present, J.W. Cloyd, founder. Frank T. Hawks was editor. In December 1908, the paper’s stockholders sold to Simon S. Dow, a local schoolteacher, who took over as editor and publisher in January 1909. Dow had also

been publishing the *Laird Leader*, but he discontinued it in 1910 and combined its subscriber list with that of the *Gazette*. C.E. McKimson bought the *Gazette* from Dow in December 1916. He sold it in March 1921 to a trio of Wray businessmen including John Dalrymple, William M. Scott, and Henry Hitchcock, who became editor and seems to have outlasted his partners. In June of 1922, Charles Hay of Sterling took possession but was unable to meet terms, so ownership reverted to Hitchcock.

In October 1925, Hitchcock sold again, this time to druggist Leo Simpson. Simpson published the *Gazette* until 1935. Editors under his watch included R.M. Wilson (who may have leased the *Gazette* in 1926), Charles O. Amy, and Roscoe Bullard. On December 1, 1935, Simpson sold the *Gazette* to his brother-in-law, Jerry McGinnis, who had worked for a printing business in Denver for several years. Former editor Roscoe Bullard, who had taken a job as advertising manager of the *Delta Tribune*, formed a partnership with John W. Graves of Otis and bought the *Gazette* from McGinnis on September 1, 1941. The partners bought the *Wray Rattler* in April 1949, consolidating it into the *Gazette*.

Bullard and Graves co-published the *Gazette* for 25 years, with Bullard as editor and his wife Nell as associate editor. Bullard described himself cheerfully as “just a country newspaperman...interested in every cat and dog and human in his county and city.” His philosophy was a successful one; the CPA Rate and Data Book showed that the circulation of the *Gazette* (2,393) exceeded the population of Wray (2,100). Bullard was

active in the Colorado Press Association and served as its president in 1947. Ill health forced Bullard to retire and sell his interest in the *Gazette* to Ronald Rieb in 1966.

Rieb and his wife Jeanette Rieb bought Grave's half-interest in 1975, and were sole publishers until 1986. They sold the paper to Neb-Col Papers in November of that year, but the Riebs grew bored in retirement and repurchased the paper in 1994.

Wray Republican 1888-1889. J.E. Pettingill, founder. Pettingill sold the paper to W.C. Emmons, who in turn sold it to John Griffin. Griffin moved it to Eckley as the *Eckley Republican*.

Cottage Home 1895-1896.

Wray Times June 24, 1898-September 1, 1901, W.P. Bittman, founder. A.G. Sechrist was publisher 1900-1901, when the paper was suspended.

Inter-State Farm Journal 1911-1912.

Colorado Patriot 1919-1927, Frank T. Hawks, founder. Hawks had been editor of the *Wray Gazette* from 1903-1908. He also served stints as editor of the *Akron News* and *Wray Rattler* before founding his own newspaper.

Yuma

Yuma was established by the Lincoln Land Company in 1886 and prospered until the weather, insects and the financial panic of the 1890s caused an exodus – and the loss of county seat to Wray in 1902.

Yuma Sun 1885-1888, Fred Brobst, founder. Brobst sold the *Sun* in 1886 to three local Yuma businessmen: Thomas W. Williams who had been with the *Logan County News*, M.L. Thomas, and W.J. Goodspeed. M.L. Thomas was listed as editor 1886-1888. W.J. Goodpseed was publisher in 1887, and he changed the political bent of the paper from Democrat to Republican. The new name reflected the change:

Yuma Republican 1889-July 12, 1890. The *Republican* was purchased by and merged into the *Pioneer*.

Yuma Pioneer December 25, 1886 to present. Fred Brobst, founder. Some say Democrat Brobst was so angered at the new direction of the *Sun* after he sold it that he launched the *Pioneer* in "retaliation." Brobst sold the *Pioneer* just before its first birthday to Jesse Williams and a Mr. Heath, who bought the *Republican* and merged it in. Subsequent owners included Edmund J. Pickard (1900), J.B. Campbell (1906), M.L. Grissell (1907-1910) and Burt Jessup (1911). Henry Brown owned the paper from 1911-1914.

Henry J. Woodbury and his son Theodore H. Woodbury purchased the *Pioneer* in the fall of 1914. They took production from the days of one-letter-at-a-time hand-set type to the modern Linotype, which molded entire lines from hot lead. They also gave the paper an air of "legitimacy." When the elder Henry Woodbury died in 1936, son Theodore took over and ran the paper until he "decided he'd had enough" and sold the *Pioneer* in 1944.

Leo Chance bought the *Yuma Pioneer* on August 1, 1944. Chance had run a paper in Philipsburg, Kansas with the help of his wife Vera chance, who assisted him with the new venture as well. When Leo Chance died in 1960, his sons Roger and Rodney stepped in to help their mother run the paper as co-publishers and Roger as editor. By 1977, Roger's name alone appeared as publisher. Rodney became a printer out of state.

Prairie Farmer 1892-1894, R. Von Horrur-Schramm, founder.

Spooktown Fixen November 29-December 12, 1899, Granville Pendleton, founder. The name was changed to:

Republican Mail December 21, 1899-1900. Pendleton changed the name again:

Republican News 1900-1903. H. Kish was publisher 1901-1903.

Yuma County Times spring 1916-1921, George Winterbourne, founder. Bruce Coffman was publisher 1918-1919. F.C. Wester, formerly of the Akron Reporter, was publisher 1920-1922. The *Times* was apparently suspended late in 1921, and its plant purchased by C.E. McKimson. McKimson used the plant to produce a new paper:

Yuma County Republican #2 fall 1921-summer 1922, C.E. McKimson, founder. McKimson disposed of his interest in the paper in July 1922, and J.C. Burton of Denver became editor, according to the *Wray Rattler*. No further information on the *Yuma County Republican* has been found.

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