



○COLORADO○

• We Call It Home •



Mary June Miller

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WE CALL IT HOME

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For Annette

.....of flesh and blood
and grim reality
and deeds of love
that first made me aware.....



Annette Anderson Christensen
Daughter of the 'Little Norwegian Mother'

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WHY A HISTORY OF SANFORD?

Many are the times I asked myself this question as I became involved with the compilation of the record. There were, of course, two answers. The first stemmed from a desire to combine all my hitherto scattered and disorganized bits of information into one record, lest it eventually fall the lot of less interested persons to dispose of what, to them, might appear to be "trash." And second, I care and hope there are others who share my interest.

I was warmed by the memory of Uncle Fred T. Christensen, with whom I shared much nostalgia. I knew he would be pleased that our trips down memory lane were not in vain.

Appreciated were the encouraging words of Ray Heiselt, Bernice Thomas, Mabel Christensen, Frank Johnson, and William May Christensen, now departed, as well as Annie Smith, Arzella Gylling, Ruth Marie Colville, Madge Perko, Jim McIntire, Maxine Poulson, Arnold Mortensen, Voris Cornum, Orin Reed, Clayton Peterson, Jeanne Eagan, La Monte Morgan, Edna Nielson, Jennie Mortensen, Mabel and Ted Reynolds, Howard and Marvelle Shawcroft, Kata M. Peterson, Olive Christensen, J.G. Lucero, Lela Bailey, Jane Anderson, Jake and Lucy Martinez, Amarante Martinez, Mary Creel, Edith Christensen, Francis Whitney, William and Alice Canty, Clea Espinosa, Emily and Solomon Martinez, and many others too numerous to mention individually.

My very special thanks to that wonderful gentleman, Harry Thomas, without whose brilliant mind, keen insight, interest in events and people, the early school history and a great deal of other information may have been lost forever.

I am indebted to Rex Lindsey for the cover design, Winnona Hutchins for the sketch of the Sanford foothills, Robert Poulson for copyright advice, and my Mother, Jennie Peterson, who came through with much-needed moral support as well as research assistance.

Last, but by no means least, love and appreciation to my own personal cheering section - Herman, Kim, Vaughn, Kay, and Glen.

There will, of course, be omissions in the record, and this I regret for it was not my wish to leave anyone out. I requested information several times through the La Jara Gazette, Valley Courier, public postings, and public announcements. The lack of response was hard for me to understand. To those of you who find the history lacking in regard to your accomplishments or those of your relatives, I can only say that I am sorry you did not see fit to share your records and memories. I also suggest that you do not despair, for the book may be updated sometime in the future.

Because most of our pioneers are now gone, and each year finds fewer really knowledgeable persons who remember early day happenings, you will find the account considerably less than perfect. Please accept it for what it is - an effort to record information as presented, confirmed when possible, but mostly taken from the memories of those who lived it and those who remember hearing of it. It may well be categorized as twice told tales.

Old Chinese Proverb:

*To forget one's ancestors is to be a tree
without a root, a brook without a source.*

Y.M.

I

The San Luis Valley of the 1870's was like the proverbial plum - ripe and ready to be picked. The harvest was at hand. Civilization was squeezing in from all directions.

And what a prize the valley was - with its fertile soil spread in an almost-flat plateau, ringed by spectacular mountain ranges and skirted by foothills. Blessed with blue skies, the morning sun appears over the Sangre de Cristos (Blood of Christ) on the east and goes home amid a blaze of glory behind the San Juan Mountains of the west. On the north is the Rocky Mountain cordillera of Colorado, while the San Antonio and Ute Mountains guard the gateway to New Mexico on the south.

Massive Mount Blanca (White Mountain) rises majestically to a height of 14,317 feet and is known as the "Sacred Mountain of the East" by the Navajo people of the four corners area.

In the valley, a one-hundred-mile long strip of land in southern Colorado, are found the headwaters of the third longest river in the United States - the Rio Grande del Norte, or "Great River of the North," as it was called by the early Indian and Spanish inhabitants of the southwest. Lesser rivers, high lakes, and tumbling streams of the Continental Divide enrich the valley and points south.

This is the land of the evergreen forest, the "quaking" or "trembling" aspen, the sage and chico brush, as well as the lavender blue Columbine that eventually became the Colorado state flower.

It is, of course, impossible to say who first set foot on San Luis Valley soil. Archaeologists have considerable evidence that the Folsom man visited the region, and possibly the Yuma was here even earlier. Artifacts found on both sides of the Rio Grande Canyon furnish proof of the presence of the Cliff Dweller and the Basket Maker long before the modern American Indian arrived upon the scene. These early people probably came to the valley more for the purpose of securing specific needs than out of a desire to reside in the region, and it must be remembered that, prior to the coming of the Spanish who introduced the horse, the wanderings of the Indian were considerably limited.

When the white man came to Colorado, there were seven tribes that occupied or at least frequently visited the area - the Apache, Utah, Kiowa, Cheyenne, Navajo, Arapahoe, and Comanche. The Utahs (Utes) were in possession of the San Luis Valley at the time. They were a branch of the great Shoshoni family, being short, stocky, and so dark skinned that the white men referred to them as the Black Indians. To the other Indian tribes, they were known as the Blue Sky People.

Historically, there were in the Colorado Region seven branches of the Utah Tribe. They were the Monache, Uintah, Yampa, Grand River, Capote, Weeminuche, and Tabeguache. These people were wise in the ways of their part of the world, knowing well the habits of the birds and animals, the patterns of climate and the growing conditions. Though they were nomadic, they planned for their future needs. Wild berries, fruits, and willows were factors to consider in the location of their summer campgrounds, while they sought winter retreat where large groves of cottonwoods offered protection for their families.

Buffalo and secondary game animals such as antelope, deer, elk, rabbits, and even dogs made up their basic diet, and it was supplemented with wild berries, fruits, and roots gathered in season and dried for future use. Pemmican was a favorite food; it was made from dried fruits pounded to a fine powder and then mixed with buffalo fat and dried meat, heated, and poured into skin bags that preserved the mixture for several months.

The women of the tribes had expert knowledge of plants and utilized them to the utmost for their nutritional and medicinal properties. Among the varieties that found their way into the diet and treatment of the Indian people were wild onions, dandelions, marsh marigold leaves, watercress, wild violets, stinging nettle, milkweed, plantain, lambs quarter, willow shoots, strawberry blite, pussy willow buds, pokeweed, sunflowers, sage stone crop, mariposa lillies, purselane, and cottonwood berries.

As for other early people, we can only speculate about how many of the explorers actually came to the valley. De Vaca (The Wanderer)? Coronado? Onate? Juan de Zaldevar?

Diego de Vargas' march through the valley in 1694 offers the first written evidence of Spanish entry. In 1740, the Mallet Brothers visited the area, and in 1779, Governor Anza of New Mexico lead an expedition into the valley to punish the Utahs for making raids on New Mexico settlements.

James Purcell came and went, as did John C. Fremont (The Pathfinder) on his fourth and fifth expeditions, and, of course, the scouts, Kit Carson, Parson Bill Williams, Jim Bridger, Jim Baker and others knew the region.

It was in 1803 that the U.S. Government made an unbelievably fantastic bargain with Napoleon of France. This was the Louisiana Purchase! Lewis and Clark were sent to explore the northern territory, while Montgomery Zebulon Pike was asked to take a look at the southern portion, find out what that part of the grab-bag purchase contained, and hopefully discover the source of the Red River.

Pike left Saint Louis in July of 1806 with twenty-two men. It was not until November that he sighted Pike's Peak, which he attempted to scale. His effort to do so failed, but his name remained.

Pike made base camp near Pueblo, setting out in the dead of winter to cross the Sangre de Cristos in search of the Red River.

His party experienced extremely caustic weather conditions, battling deep snow in Wet Mountain Valley. They were forced to leave three exhausted members of their party behind in a temporary shelter. Pike and the remainder of his group made their way across Medano Pass, came in view of the Sand Dunes, which they flanked, and crossed the Rio Grande River somewhere south of the present town of Alamosa. From that point, they made their way approximately five miles south, where a campsite was established and a fort built.

On January 31, 1807, at this location east of what is now Sanford, the Stars and Stripes were unfurled for the first time to the Colorado breezes.



REPLICA OF PIKE'S STOCKADE
East of Sanford

Pike's party was in Spanish territory. The Spanish, of course, were well aware of the trespass, and a company of Spanish dragoons promptly appeared and conducted Pike and his men to Santa Fe. They were treated quite well, but their status as prisoners was well known by all concerned.

Although Pike's expedition did not accomplish the exact purpose for which it was intended, it was successful in that it provided a great deal of information about the newly acquired land.

There was considerable disagreement over the location of the boundary

line of the Louisiana Purchase; it was eventually set at the Rio Grande River. The San Luis Valley had, therefore, been part of Mexico until 1848, the date of the Mexican Cession, being assigned to the Kansas Territory at that time. It was later included in the Colorado Territory, and finally made part of the great State of Colorado when that region achieved statehood in 1876.

Many years later, Arthur Flynn, upon viewing the beauty of the valley, was inspired to write the words that were adopted into the Colorado State Song:

*Where the snowy peaks gleam in the moonlight
Above the dark forests of pine
And the wild foaming waters dash onward
Toward the land where the tropic stars shine
Where the scream of the bold mountain eagle
Responds to the note of the dove
Is the purple-robed west, the land that is best
The pioneer land that we love*

*The bison is gone from the upland
The deer from the canyon have fled
The home of the wolf is deserted
The antelope mourns for his dead
The war-whoop re-echoes no longer
The Indian's only a name
And the nymphs of the grove in their loneliness rove
But the columbines bloom just the same*

*Let the violets brighten the brookside
In the sunlight of earlier spring
Let the clover bedeck the green meadow
In days when the orioles sing
Let the goldenrod herald the autumn
But, under the midsummer sky
In its far western home, may the columbine bloom
'Till our great mountain rivers run dry*

*'Tis the land where the columbines grow
Overlooking the plains far below
While the cool summer breeze in the evergreen trees
Softly sings where the columbines grow*

The first Mormons to penetrate the San Luis Valley came in response to the invitation of John Morgan, one of the outstanding men of his generation. Morgan was a soldier, statesman, and colonizer. Morgan was the President of the Southern States Mission, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Morgan was the man of the hour!

The southern states had but recently passed through a devastating war. It was paradoxical that John M. Morgan, the elder who had more to do with the conversion of the southern people to Mormonism, was one of Sherman's officers, a man ardently devoted to the Union cause and one which took a very active part in the destruction of the Confederacy. When the war was over, this same man, now a convert to Mormonism, as a missionary for the church went among the very people he had so vigorously fought, converted many, and as their leader, led them as the first sizeable body of anglo saxons to the Conejos and San Antonio Rivers of the San Luis Valley.¹

The decision to accept Mormonism was usually followed by drastic changes in the life pattern of the converts, for these people had been the victims of persecution from the time the church was organized in 1830. Being forced to leave their homes and flee from one location to another had become a way of life for them. They had been burned, plundered, and subjected to numerous acts of violence wherever they went, this culminating in the murder of their beloved Prophet, Joseph Smith, Jr., and his brother, Hyram, at Carthage Jail in Illinois. The burning of their temple at Nauvoo, Illinois, followed, and a mass exodus to the untamed western portion of the country was begun in the hope that they could there live in peace under the leadership of their President, Brigham Young.

The beliefs of the Mormons resulted in a clash of social orders that contributed to the ill feeling toward them. One of the causes was found in the fact that Mormonism was not a passive religion. These people claimed to have the gospel in its fullness; they were enthusiastic to the point of wanting to share what they had with others. Their proselytizing activity soon invoked the wrath of ministers who feared losing their congregations to the new religion.

The solidarity of the "Saints," as they called themselves, was also a

¹Morgan, Nicholas G., MORMON COLONIZATION IN THE SAN LUIS VALLEY, The Colorado Magazine, Vol. XXVII, Oct. 1950

factor to consider, being felt especially at the polls, where the Mormon vote carried considerable weight in political affairs of the day.

One doctrine in particular contributed heavily to the persecution of the Mormons. This, of course, was the doctrine of plural marriage by divine sanction.

In the early period of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, an unusual condition prevailed. More women than men joined the church. This was true of the period at Nauvoo, and it remained true so long as converts made up the mass of church membership. The Saints were as isolated a people as if they had been on an island of the sea. Marriage outside the church was discouraged. There were not enough men to go around. Many women must live and die singly, deprived of the opportunities for development which marriage brings. The alternative was plural marriage. . . . The men and women who entered into plural marriage were among the most moral people the world has ever known.

Plural marriage was never at any time practiced by over two percent of the adult male population. The President held the keys to its practice and only those supposedly able to live the law in righteousness were permitted to enter into such relationships. That the surplus women of the church were absorbed into family life is an undeniable fact. That some of the finest people in the church and of the world came from such plural households is equally undeniable.²

It must be understood that polygamy was not contrary to national or state laws of the time. When the law of the land later forbade the practice, the President of the church, Wilford Woodruff, issued the famous Manifesto, which declared an end to the contracting of plural marriages within the church.³

²William Edwin Berrett, THE RESTORED CHURCH, 7th Edition, 1953, pp 250-251.

³Imagine the complexities that ensued. The law was abolished, but no special consideration was given to the flesh-and-blood product of marriages previously contracted. Having entered the covenant in good faith, these families were not accustomed to behaving as criminals. They must now defy the law if they wished to continue any sort of family relationship. There was constant fear; a mere visit to a plural family could place a man in prison - repeated offenses could put him there for life!

Although the relationship between polygamist families had been a difficult one to say the least, it was lived to the best of the ability of those concerned. A good report of plural marriage is contained in the biography of Dr. Ellis R. Shipp, herself a polygamist wife.

The decision to leave home was often a heartbreaking one. Lela Bailey recalls an incident concerning her mother, Ada Bryan:

Ada's father was a Methodist minister, a Georgian plantation owner who loved his beautiful daughter very much. It was her desire to have a piano and so he went by spring wagon a distance of over 300 miles to the nearest large city, returning with a piano that became her most prized possession. It was the only piano in the county!

Some years later, Ada met and married Angus Malloy, taking to her new home the piano and a treadle sewing machine as part of her dowery. When the Malloys joined the Mormon Church, their friends turned against them; Ada was disowned by her parents. The young couple were forced to dispose of their farm for but a small part of its value. There was no market for their belongings; people just didn't want to buy "Mormon stuff."

Fearing for their lives, the Malloys made the necessary sacrifices. Being unable to find a home for her piano, Ada summoned all the courage she could muster as she turned it toward the wall, covered it with a beautiful hand-made quilt, and said, "Goodbye, my beloved piano. I'm going to Colorado to join the saints." Without looking back, she left her home and joined a group of converts heading west.

Another incident is remembered by Mrs. Bailey:

John Bailey, a convert of John Morgan, found himself the victim of former friends who became bitter toward him due to his conversion to Mormonism. These people assembled in front of his home with threats and vile language. Bailey, unintimidated, stood tall and straight on the piazza of his home, civil war shotgun loaded and ready for use. "If any of you set foot on my land, I'll shoot. I'll give you three minutes to get going," he said, "And the time's half up now." Knowing him to be a man of his word, the mob dispersed.

On November 24, 1877, the first group of southerners arrived at Pueblo, Colorado, after having spent five nights in a railroad car.⁴

⁴This was the second body of Mormons to winter near Pueblo, the first having left Mississippi at the time Brigham Young was enroute to the Salt Lake Valley in the hope of a rendezvous with his party. At Fort Laramie, it was discovered that Young was not ahead. The group then traveled on to Pueblo, where they were joined by a detachment of ailing soldiers from the Mormon Battalion. Two hundred and seventy five Mormons spent the winter of 1846-47 at that location. Nine deaths occurred, one marriage took place, and seven babies (including the first anglo saxon child to be born in Colorado) first saw the light of day.

"Although these people came as wayfarers and their winter quarters were temporary, theirs were the first American families that sojourned and their cabins the first structures that sheltered American family life within the bounds of Colorado," reports historian, J.C. Smiley (Semi-Centennial History of the State of Colorado, p. 177).

Daniel R. Sellers was chosen President of the converts, and the following amounts of money were contributed to a fund to be used for the subsistence of one and all:

Daniel R. Sellers	\$161.15
William Jones	8.00
Hugh Lee Sellers	33.00
Milton H. Evans	10.00
Thomas W. Chandler	1.25
Francis M. Weldon	4.35
Patrick C. Haynie	13.36
James A. Cox	30.00
Bird A. Kirtland	89.00
A.G. Bagwell	10.00
George W. Wilson	50.00
W.L. Marshall	7.65
Samuel R. Sellers	1.28 ⁵
William R. Sellers	.55 ⁵

John Morgan, powerful in speech as he was in action, gave instructions to the people, stressing the fact that they must be absolutely unified, enjoying the spirit of brotherly love and good fellowship if they were to live in such a situation. He also counseled them strongly about the rules of order, cleanliness, and other requirements for living together in harmony.

Morgan then headed south to organize other groups and assist them with their westward migration. Upon his return in the spring, he found that those left behind had wintered well in their secluded spot near the Arkansas River.

⁵Morgan, Hemming La Monte, THE LATTER DAY SAINT MIGRATION TO COLORADO AND THEIR COLONIZATION PERIOD, Historical Research, Paper to Dr. Green, Adams State College, Unpublished.

As spring approached, it was time to move on - to look for a permanent home. Governor Hunt met with John Morgan and Daniel R. Sellers, highly recommending lands in the southern part of the San Luis Valley, near the Conejos and San Antonio Rivers. Morgan then wrote to John Taylor, who had become President of the church following the death of Brigham Young:

The country is well recommended and if land is in a position to be obtained it will be a desirable location for a settlement. It is near the mouth of the Conejos and San Antonio Rivers in Conejos County immediately on the line of the extension of the D&RG Railroad south to Santa Fe and Wingate.¹

James Z. Stewart had arrived in Pueblo in the spring of 1878. Stewart had previously filled two missions for the church in Mexico and was now appointed by President Taylor to preside over the Saints, whom it had been decided would settle in southern Colorado. Taking with him three of the men from Pueblo, Elder Stewart journeyed to the San Luis Valley. There, they leased and purchased acreage for the Pueblo party.

In May of 1878, the settlers began arriving from Pueblo, coming by train to Fort Garland, which was the end of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad line. Many walked from there to Los Cerritos, taking two or three days to make the journey. Mr. William Stewart had a ferry boat on his stock ranch just above the junction of the Conejos and Rio Grande Rivers. This ferry was used by the colonists, as it was by freighters during high water periods.

L. M. Peterson had come into the country earlier, either from northern New Mexico or from the Little Colorado. Peterson was a brother of Bishop Hans Jensen, who was later appointed to be in charge of the Conejos Mission.

Erastus Snow made the following report concerning the man, Peterson:

There is a bit of romance connected with this man Peterson not altogether devoid of interest. He was a Scandanavian by birth but Spanish American by education. When eleven years old, in the summer of 1854, he strayed from an emigration camp of the Saints near Kansas City, Missouri, while they were waiting for Elder William Emoy, emigration agent for that year, to procure their teams and outfits for Utah. His father and mother had both died on the voyage to America. The rest of the family and friends, after a fruitless search, gave up young Peterson as lost to them forever and wended their way to Utah. The boy fell in with some Spanish traders from New Mexico who enticed

¹ Morgan, Nicholas G., MORMON COLONIZATION IN THE SAN LUIS VALLEY, The Colorado Magazine, Vol. XXVII, Oct. 1950.

him with them home, where he subsequently became quite proficient as an English and Spanish scholar, married a Spanish girl, was elected County Recorder. While serving in this capacity, he began corresponding with the recorders of Utah, which resulted in finding his brother, Hans Jensen, from Hals, Denmark, now residing in Manti, Utah. With his family, Peterson later paid his brother a visit and while in Utah he embraced the gospel and provided himself with the church works. He was ordained an Elder and returned to his home to commence a quiet missionary work among his friends, the Catholics. He translated into Spanish some choice selections from the Book of Mormon, succeeded in baptizing about 40 persons, and thus invoked the wrath of the Spanish Priests and editors. He writes from Los Tijeras, April 14, 1877, to his brother in Manti that he expects to start with his new converts in twelve or thirteen wagons for the Little Colorado, where they intend locating with the new colonists.

It was the opinion of Fred T. Christensen that instead of going to the Little Colorado, Mr. Peterson became interested in the proposed settlement of a colony in the San Luis Valley, as his writings and activities later indicated.

Peterson was a fine penman and served as scribe for the early settlers, drawing up contracts and agreements pertaining to the purchase of land. He wrote the minutes of the meeting when the first school district was organized in Manassa, served several times as Conejos County Judge, and was known as "Judge Peterson."

LOS CERRITOS ("THE HILLS")

The settlement at Los Cerritos was made under great hardship in the high altitude of more than 7,500 feet above sea level. The summers were short, the winters long and cold. Food and clothing were scarce, and life was very difficult for the southerners so recently from the deep, warm south. It took a great deal of faith to get them through those first trying years, but only one family became discouraged to the point of returning.

Although the Spanish were already in the Valley, they had attempted little in the way of settlement north of the river, for it was thought that the flat terrain would render irrigation impossible. The Mormons, however, pushed on, and a settlement was made.

Among those who settled temporarily in Los Cerritos were the William Robert Jack family from Dekalb County, Alabama. Their first home was a tent "made of Grandma's quilts." They had been in the valley only nineteen days when their oldest child, Ellie, died of pneumonia, and her grave is reported as having been the first Mormon grave in the valley.

Arrangements were made to rent a building from the Mexican settlers. This building served temporarily for the purpose of holding church, school, and civic meetings.

Leadership was appointed by church officials in Utah when, at a quarterly conference held in Manti on August 18, 1879, Bishop Hans Jensen was appointed to take charge of the Conejos Mission. Several missionaries were also called to assist him in the establishment of a colony.

Upon Jensen's arrival in Colorado, a meeting was held in the L.M. Peterson home about one-half mile south of Los Cerritos. A branch organization was effected with John Allen and S.C. Berthelsen named as counselors to Bishop Jensen. L.M. Peterson was chosen clerk and recorder, while Daniel R. Sellers was named Presiding Elder.

The settlement was part of the San Juan Mission, comprised of Bluff and Montezuma in Utah, Berhman in New Mexico, Mancos, and later on by Manassa, in Colorado.

When Elder Andrew Jensen visited the San Luis Valley during the fall of 1893 in the interest of church history, he reported that the Los Cerritos Branch of the Manassa Ward was "rather disorganized" and that Elder L.M. Peterson was the Presiding Elder.

MANASSA

The settlers were anxious to locate close together on a large tract of land where they could build a town, church, and school. Lawrence M. Peterson, John Allen, and S.H. Jensen were appointed as a committee to find a suitable area. State lands lying on the north branch of the Conejos River, three miles northwest of the villiage of Los Cerritos, were selected, and President John Taylor, Trustee in Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, sent \$300.00 to assist with the purchase.

Two sections of land were bought from the State Land Board at a cost of about eighty cents an acre, and John H. Hougard, of Manti, Utah, assisted with the survey. The west section was used to build the townsite while the eastern part was set aside as farming lots.

It was on February 3, 1879, that the town of Manassa was organized, with the biblical name indicative of the religious background of the settlers.

A brush arbor, located on what was called the Ellredge Lot just east of the church block, was the first place of worship. The pioneers witnessed some extremely spiritual meetings under this old bowery.

A conference was held with general authorities from Salt Lake City in attendance. It was August of 1879 when Elder Hans Jensen, along with his counselors, was released from office and Elder Soren C. Berthelsen was named Presiding Elder; John Allen and Samuel E. Sellers were counselors, and Lawrence M. Peterson served as Clerk.

Under the direction of the new leaders, a log meeting house was constructed on the south-east corner of the church block. This structure was also the scene of early day social gatherings and was remembered by old timers as having been the place where many of the best things of life came their way.



San Luis stake Academy, Manassa, Colorado



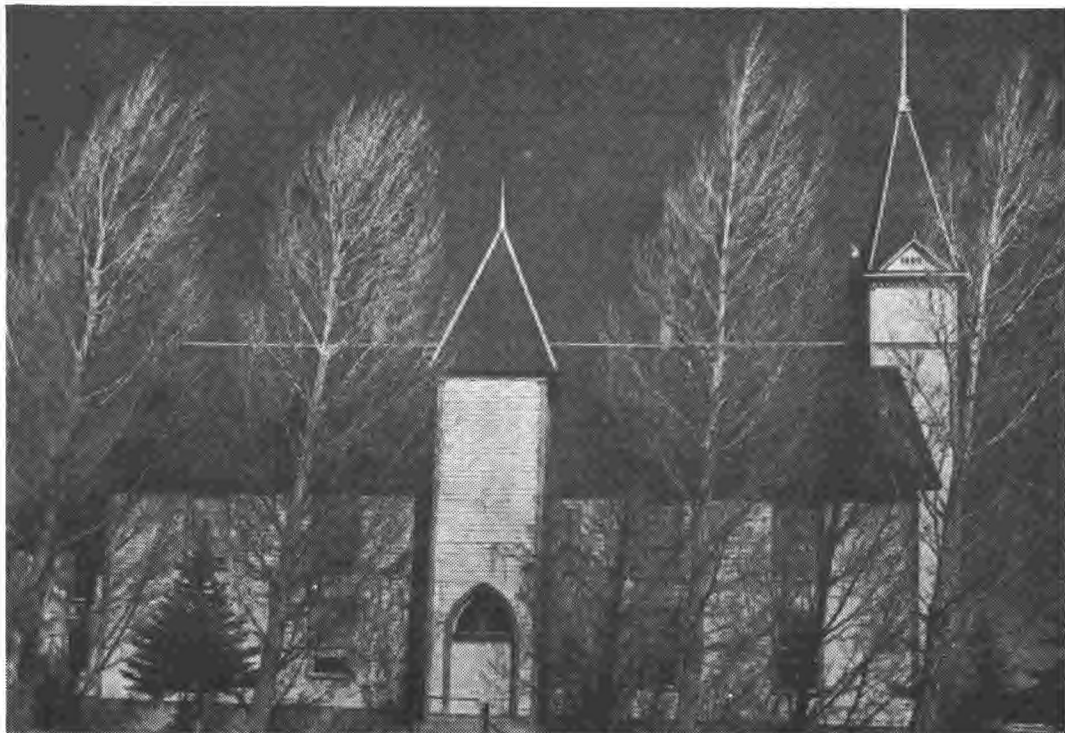
San Luis Stake Academy, Manassa, Colorado

Families of several very prominent men in the Church made their homes in Manassa during those early years. The Heber J. Grants, Francis M. Lymans, B.H. Robertses, and John Morgans added considerably to the spiritual atmosphere of the colony.

Postal services were established in 1880, with the postmaster receiving for his wages sixty percent of the stamp collections. Mail was received and dispatched three times a week, and the mail carrier made the six mile journey to Conejos on foot.

Organization of the San Luis Stake took place on June 10, 1883, with Silas S. Smith as President, Richard G. Camp and William Christensen, counselors. Martin Christensen, W.F.O. Behrmann, S.C. Berthelsen, Albian Haggard, John A. Smith, David Boice, John D. Hawkins, Dillingham H. Elledge, Hans C. Heiselt, James H. Jack, Daniel R. Sellers, and John B. Daniels were named to the High Council.

In the spring of 1887, in cooperation with the Sanford and Richfield Wards and the several branches of the stake, a drive for subscriptions was made in an effort to construct a stake building. Early in the spring of 1888, ground was broken and a foundation laid. By fall, the frame was up and the roof shingled. The builders wasted no time, and it was soon completed to the extent that ward and stake meetings could be held there. In the spring of 1895, under the direction of Edward Dalton, father of Bishop Dalton of the Manassa Ward, the Stake House was finished and dedicated.



SAN LUIS STAKE HOUSE - Dedicated in 1895



P.O. BOX B.

Salt Lake City, Mar. 18, 1882

Rep. E. H. McDintire,
Paragonah

Dear ~~Brother~~: Will you please notify ~~William Schofield~~ of your ward that he has been called by the authorities of the Church to take his family and settle in San Luis Valley, Colorado, under the direction of Pres. Silas S. Smith. The land route lies east through Emery County to Green River, crossing in Gunnison Valley, thence to Grand Valley, thence by the southwestern base of Elk Mountain to Coyote Creek and on to Mancos, Colorado, and thence eastward over Continental divide to Conejos, San Luis Valley on the Rio Grande Del Norte

Respectfully,

Your Brother,
W. Woodruff

EPHRIAM

Manassa's kindred villiage of Ephriam was settled about 1880, also taking its name from a son of Joseph. The townsite was located on a quarter section of land purchased from the state and divided into ten acre blocks that were later subdivided into two-and-one-half acre lots, including streets.

The land around the town was opened for grazing, with pole fences dotting the landscape since there was no wire available. Lumber products for homes and other buildings had to be hauled by horse drawn wagon from the west mountains.

Church officials were interested in promoting the settlement, and they realized that these people needed help if they were to succeed in their endeavor. They feared that Ephriam, and possibly not even Manassa, could make it without agricultural assistance since the settlers were almost entirely from the South and were completely unfamiliar with high altitude farming; they knew nothing about irrigation, and the soil itself was new to them. So it was that a call went out to the people of Utah. This was directed principally to the members in San Pete County (Fountain Green and Moroni), with others from southern Utah also being called.

Hardship was not new to the Utah converts. They had previously made other pioneer journeys, having come first from the "old country" (England, Norway, Denmark, and Sweeden) to America, then, after considerable persecution, the burning of their temple and the murder of their Prophet, they had sacrificed their belongings and suffered a difficult journey across country to Utah. Some had pushed hand carts all the way, burying their dead aside the trail as they took comfort in the words of the pioneer hymn, "Come, Come, Ye Saints."

*Come, Come ye Saints, no toil nor labor fear
But with joy wend your way
Though hard to you this journey may appear,
Grace shall be as your day
'Tis better far for us to strive
Our useless cares from us to drive
Do this, and joy, your hearts will swell
All is well, all is well!*

*And should we die before our journey's through
Happy day! All is well!
We then are free from toil and sorrow too
With the just we shall dwell!
But if our lives are spared again
To see the Saints their rest obtain,
O how we'll make this chorus swell
All is well! All is well!*

William Clayton

The Mortensen history, written by Anders Mortensen, is filled with tales of hardship suffered by this family as they traveled to the Salt Lake Valley as members of the ill-fated Willie Company:

After leaving the Platte River and getting into the mountains, severe snow storms came upon them. Having open handcarts, the problem of carrying the supplies was a very great one. The flour was rationed out to each individual each day. My Grandmother had brought an old relic, a pin cushion, from her old home. It was filled with bran. Food became so scarce that this cushion was torn apart, and the bran mixed into dough and baked and eaten. Rawhide was taken from the carts, boiled and used as seasoning for soup. While enroute to Salt Lake City, seventy six persons died, most of them from exposure and hunger. One morning, fourteen were found dead in my grandfather's division. My father and his brother, Hans, dug one grave where all fourteen were buried together.

Being of such well-seasoned stock, the converts accepted the fact that Utah was just the first stop for them. Call after call followed as the Mormons settled various parts of the country. Religion was the dominating factor in the lives of these people; they put a great deal of emphasis upon being able to sustain themselves economically and providing the proper environment in which to raise their families. Accepting the call of authorities was included in their twelfth Article of Faith:

We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.

With this thought in mind, the members accepted calls as indicated in the Heiselt family history by Anders Mortensen:

In the year 1872, Brother Heiselt and family moved to Fountain Green, San Pete County, Utah, and made their home there, building a nice brick house for their residence with their names engraved in a stone plate over the door. They made their home there until 1879. Some time in 1879, President John Taylor was anxious to have the Saints get a foothold in some neighboring states and territories and made calls for some of the people that were able to go to parts of the country. In 1879, Brother Heiselt, along with others, received a call from Apostle Erastus Snow to go to Castle Valley, Utah, and help settle up that part of the country and redeem the waste places. In the spring of 1880, another call came from Apostle Snow asking Brother Heiselt to move to the San Luis Valley, Colorado. When he asked why so many calls came so often, he was so informed that the brethren then in the San Luis Valley had recommended him as a very suitable man to be called to that high, cold climate. Upon this recommendation, Apostle Snow had called him to help colonize in Colorado, forgetting that he had previously called him to Castle Valley. Accordingly, Brother Heiselt and family moved to the San Luis Valley in the fall of 1880, where they settled on a quarter section of land as a homestead.

Carl Fredrickson was typical of the men called on missions to Colorado as he willingly shared his knowledge of farming methods with his friends. He was especially adept in the art of stacking grain, and it was an amazing sight just to watch him work, as he made a little shock of grain in the middle of a fifteen foot circle, then, as each bundle was thrown to him, it was piled with the head inside, slightly up, and the butt end toward the outside. Fredrickson would then get in the middle of the stack on his knees, placing the bundles in the proper position as he pressed down and hopped around the stack on his knees hour-after-hour. The task was extremely arduous, and it seemed that the man was untiring in his strength. His stacks were rainproof, and this was a very important factor since threshing was frequently not accomplished until the middle of the winter.

The settlements at Manassa and Ephriam flourished under the support of the Utah families, and, when word of the expected arrival of more Mormons reached Alamosa, twenty miles to the north, the Alamosa Independent published in that city reported:

The Mormon colony at Manassa is expecting an addition of some 35 families. If they are of the same honest, industrious class as our friends who have lived there for the past year or two, they are welcome in the country. This colony has taken an apparent barren section of the country, and with irrigation and hard work have raised good crops making a garden spot of the place. There is room for a large number of them at Manassa and Ephriam and they will make the southern part of the San Luis Valley as flourishing as their predecessors did the then unpromising Salt Lake Valley of Utah.

It is said that soon after the settlers had planted their crops and were looking forward to a good harvest, word got around the state that there was a Mormon colony doing quite well with irrigated lands etc. This land had possibly been taken without proper title, and it was to be held for sale at public auction sometime in August of the first season.

A representative from a land company in Denver had reportedly made the statement, "If the land's good enough for the Mormons, it's good enough for us." He thought he could probably purchase it at a very cheap price after the Mormons had improved it with fences, ditches, etc. The colonists were quite worried about it. Silas S. Smith was aware of the effort that had gone into the establishment of the colony, and he knew it would mean complete ruination if someone bought the land "out from under" them. He feared that, in competitive bidding, there was no way the settlers could raise sufficient money to out-bid the Denver firm.

Taking all things into consideration, Smith arose one bright sunny morning in early August, looked at the promising crops and said, "I wish there'd come a right good freeze. If we could just have a right good freeze in the next few days, I'd be satisfied to have twenty five good years."

The sixth day of August dawned with a cold chill in the air. By evening it was obvious that there was going to be frost! The wheat, just going into the milk, was practically ruined. The place was a sad looking sight indeed.

It just happened that this was the night before the train stopped at The Tank (La Jara) with the land agent on board for an inspection of the valley. He got off, took a short drive around the area, and returned with the statement that the season was too short for it to be a practical investment for his company.

Not given to a great deal of preaching, Smith was a man of action. Like other great men of his generation, he labored under inspiration, but had to be pretty tough to have even existed. There was no way a timid, mealy mouthed man could face the problems of colonization; the job required a good deal of "iron" in the system. Smith was not only responsible for purchasing the land, but it was also his job to see that proper use was made of it and, especially, that it was paid for according to promise.

The settlement of Ephriam was made up of a number of converts from the south, as well as some from Utah, and a small villiage of tents and dug-outs soon sprang up. Life in this colony was particularly rugged as Mary (A.P. Poulson) Heiselt's history indicates:

On the morning of November 1, 1880, Father (Hans Heiselt), James Otteson, my brother-in-law, and Chris Cornum, my cousin, started to the west mountains. When they left, the sun was shining, but by afternoon a terrible blizzard had come up. Mother, sister Anna, and the two babies, sister Sina, and myself were alone in the tent. While Mother was wondering how we would get by the storm, two young men came to the door seeking shelter from the storm. Mother reluctantly allowed them to stay. They stayed up all night and kept fire. These two young men stayed all winter, building themselves a dug-out. Toward spring, one night they disappeared. We never heard of them again. When Father returned, they realized they would not be able to build houses so they made a dug-out four feet underground and four feet above ground, put in a good floor and boarded up to the surface, had one window on each side of the entrance. Thus we lived all winter. During the winter, sister Anna's baby took whooping cough and died, and in the spring Father homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land. He was only allowed to retain sixty acres.

Log cabins were built in Ephriam the following spring, and the villiage housed about twenty families. A one-room log building was constructed; here, Sunday church services were conducted, school was held, and the residents gathered for entertainment purposes.

A dance was being held in the log building one winter night when it was discovered that the gentle snowfall of early evening had changed to a heavy storm accompanied by chilling wind. An eastern blizzard blew in with all its fury. The gaiety of the crowd changed rapidly to fear as they faced the grim realization that they could not return to their homes in safety. Horses and wagons that had delivered the young folks

merrily to the dance were ill-equipped to face such a storm. Tragedy was averted as the benches and furnishings in the building were burned in order to keep the crowd from freezing to death.

John Harrison opened a store with total assets amounting to three dozen eggs and a five dollar bill. Real "cash money" was practically non-existent; butter, eggs, and grain were exchanged for the necessities of life with the change being given in debills that were acceptable for occasional dance tickets or other services that could not be bought at the store.

Harrison kept books on his business, and on one occasion a customer came into the store to settle his account only to find that he was charged with the purchase of a cheese. This was done by marking a circle in the charge side of the day book. The customer remarked, "I never bought a cheese from you in my life." "Well," asked the storekeeper, "Did you buy a whetstone?" "Yes," was the answer. "I see," returned Harrison, "I forgot to put the square hole in the middle of it."²

Because the people of Ephriam were mostly of Scandanavian origin, a few meetings were held in the Danish tongue. Danish was nearly enough like the Norweigan and even the Sweedish that everyone could get by with it. However, they never pushed the old language; everyone made an effort to learn English as soon as possible, and second generation children grew up knowing but little, if any, of the old language. Herman Miller remembers of having heard his father use one Danish phrase repeatedly in conversation with his mother. When he asked the meaning of *jeg elsker dig*, he was told that it was Danish for "I love you."

There was no way for the settlers to buy a load of hay or straw. Many made trips to the La Jara Creek bottoms with borrowed mowers to cut grass and cattails on the ice.

Food was barely adequate; the people ate bread and salt side when they had it. In the spring, they cooked greasewood for greens. Thickened milk was frequently the entire noon or evening meal, and for breakfast, stale bread steamed in a skillit with water and a little grease was sometimes accompanied by fried pork. On the rare occasion when a few prunes or plums could be packed on burrows from Espanola, New Mexico, families feasted on the Danish delicacy, "Sweet Soup."

Families were frequently without kerosene for their lamps. At such times, a twisted rag laid in a saucer of pork grease offered a dim light known, quite fittingly, as a "witches light."

The cry of the newborn brought cheer to the community. Maggie Poulson was the first child born at the settlement, having come into the world on September 29, 1881. She was joined by Rose Reed, who arrived the following day.

²Fred T. Christensen, The La Jara Gazette, December 16, 1926.



*Savage Field
P. Rasmussen*

Crop of Grain, Ephriam, Colorado



Bishop Rasmussen

As has always been the case, young people sought the companionship of others their age. They delighted in getting together at a private home and calling in a fiddler to play for a square dance on the bare wooden floor of the best room of the house. Old Mr. Thomas could do a clever impersonation of a "cacklin' hen" and was much in demand as an entertainer.

A large house was built on the Joe Poulson ranch, and two wells flowed in the big center room. This unique setting offered an excellent place for couples to dance the Trolley Hopsey, Rochester Scottish, and the Versovian.

Martin Christensen owned a portion of what is now the V-Heart Ranch. This section of the river had growing on it some of the very few trees in the area. These trees were a source of great pleasure to the youngsters, and Sunday afternoons found them heading for the Christensen place, where they made swings in the trees, went swimming in the river, and played other outdoor games.

It was about this time that the Mormons introduced a new crop to the region. It was called Alfalfa. Many were uncertain of its success because of the heavy winter kill, roots that were too heavy to plow, and the fact that only one cutting could be obtained as a result of the short growing season. It was considered to be a high risk crop!

Little but precious history is available concerning the days of the church in Ephriam. Even though the sojourn of the Saints there was short, it is extremely vital to this history for it was from the settlements at Ephriam and Richfield that the main body of people relocated in Sanford.

Peter Rasmussen is known to have served as Bishop of the ward. Having been born in Denmark, the bald and bearded gentleman had many of the strong characteristics that went into the molding of the early day membership of the church. A little on the short side, he stood tall in leadership. A former Bishop of the Salina Ward in Utah, he was called by Apostle Francis M. Lyman to take a much-needed skill to the settlers in Colorado. He was, by trade, a cobbler, and his services were greatly needed in the pioneer settlement.

Rasmussen was kind, honest, and patient. He offered wise words of council to those over whom he was appointed leader, and he was much loved by his congregation. His granddaughter, Clara Johnson, recalls especially his handwriting. She says that his hand was quite trembly, it being necessary for him to use his left hand to support his right as he wrote, but the result was a penmanship of unbelievable clarity and beauty.

Rasmussens counselors were Jordan Brady and ?

One record book was available, and from it comes the only information about the activities of the residents. Minutes of meetings held there provide names of some of the people as well as a bit of insight into their lives. Excerpts from the book follow:

Minutes recorded at the organization meeting of the Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association, Ephriam Ward, San Luis Stake, Conejos County, Colorado. August 26, 1884

Funds: 70 cents in paper

Officers: Mary A. Heiselt, Presidentess; Annie Cornum and Sina C. Heiselt, Counselors; Rene Christensen, Secretary; Lettita Thomas, Assistant Secretary; Sarah Rasmussen, Treasurer

Jordan Brady, Sidney Peeples, Howard Coray, and President Silas S. Smith performed necessary ordinances for these officers.

The meeting was called to order by Presidentess, Mary Heiselt. Singing, "We Thank Thee O God For A Prophet," Prayer by Sister Rasmussen. Sister Rasmussen was called on to speak; she said she thought we should retrench pride and practice home industry - said we should learn all that was good and should also be obedient to our parents. She also said a few words about learning hard work, said to work like sisters together. Sister Sarah Rasmussen spake a few words of encouragement. Sister Albertha Brady said she had belonged to these meetings since she was ten years old and felt benefited thereby. Sister Heiselt and Annie Cornum also spake a few words. The Presidentess said she had not attended these meetings but felt like going ahead. Grandma Poulson said she thought it was good for us to come together and be united in all we do. Programme was made out for next meeting. Singing, "Where The Voice Of Friendship's Heard," Benediction by Rene Christensen, Secretary.

Donations were: 10 cents Annie Cornum, Bishop Rasmussen 50 cents, Amelia Christensen 5 cents in paper.

Members enrolled: Mary A. Heiselt, Annie Cornum, Sina Heiselt, Rene Christensen, Lettitia Thomas, Sarah Rasmussen, Albertha Brady, Martha Brady, Mary Brady, Amelia Christensen, Mary Heiselt, Mary Reed, Lillie Wilson, Mary Christensen, Hannah Thomas, Mellisa Reed, Ellis Cornum, Kesiah Cheney, Josephine Reed, Edna Coray, Annie Otteson, Lucy Pendegrass, Elmira Harrison, Annettie Christensen, Mary A. Rasmussen.

The Ephriam Primary Association was organized August 23, 1884, with Sister Annette Christensen as President, Sister Boletta Block as First Counselor, and Sister Kesiah Cheney as Second Counselor. Miss Martha Brady was Secretary and Amelia Christensen Assistant Secretary. Miss Albertha Brady served as Treasurer.

These sisters were all faithful workers, holding Primary meetings each week. In these meetings, there were opening exercises of prayer, roll call, a short program by the children consisting of song, recitations, and dialogues. Stories from the Bible and Book of Mormon were told to the children. The officers also told faith promoting stories and taught the children the principles of the gospel and the importance of prayer. They taught by example - love, kindness, cheerfulness, and obedience to the Priesthood.

Conjoint meetings began in 1885. Minutes of one of the meetings:

President C.J. Block called the meeting to order, Prayer by L.E. Brady; Address by J.E. Rasmussen and Resitation by Letitia Thomas. A Select Reading was given by J.C. Thomas and an Essay by Annie Otteson. H.K. Coray, assisted by Mary E. Coray, sang a song and a Poetry Reading was given by Mary A. Heiselt. Essay by Andrew Rasmussen, Dialogue by Emelia Christensen, Mary Heiselt, and Sina Heiselt, Select Reading by David Christensen entitled "Hints On Courtship." Song by Martha Brady and Arthusia Wilson, Resitation by W.W. Thomas and Prose Reading by Sina Heiselt. Clarence Christensen gave a Resitation, and an Address was given by Kesiah Cheney. J.C. Block sang a song, Mary Reed gave a Resitation, Jordan Brady offered Remarks and an Essay was by Annie Cornum. Then, a resitation by J.L. Reed, song by Edna Coray, and W. Knight from Richfield and Ephriam Mortensen spoke. Group singing followed and Benediction was by N.H. Heiselt. Minutes by Letitia Thomas, Secretary.

Other Conjoint Meetings included Stump Speeches, Comic Songs, Juvenile Readings, and Blank Verse.

The Ephriam Relief Society was organized on August 11, 1884

President, Margaret Rasmussen; Mary Corey and Mena Cornum, Counselors; Annie Otteson, Secretary; Annie Cornum, Assistant Secretary, Larsena (Sena) Heiselt, Treasurer.

Relief Society meetings were held in the little log building, with fast meetings at 10:00 a.m. on two Thursday mornings. Testimony meetings were held during the afternoons of the same days. Teacher's Meetings and Work Meetings were scheduled on alternating Thursdays, and the ladies combined culture with industry as they sewed and wove carpet rags, participated in the lessons, and enjoyed each other's company. Donations to the Society were items such as eggs, carpet rags, bars of homemade soap, spools of thread, or whatever items of value the members could donate.

From the Manuscript History of The Church comes the following information:

When President John Taylor and his party visited the San Luis Valley in 1885, they traveled through the country in different smaller companies, but the members of each squad were inspired, as they journeyed through, to point out the ground upon which Sanford now stands as the most suitable and consistent place for the people of Richfield and Ephriam to concentrate their efforts. Consequently, a number of brethren who had formerly located in the places named, as well as elsewhere, decided to move to Sanford and a townsite was accordingly surveyed in 1885.

The move from Ephriam to Sanford was begun in 1886, taking several years to accomplish; so it was that the settlement of Ephriam ceased to be and Sanford was born!

Since Sanford is the focal point of this history, its record is treated separately in Part II of the book.

RICHFIELD

When Thor N. Peterson received his call from President John Taylor asking him to move to Colorado, he did not realize that this mission would consume the remainder of his lifetime. In his journal, he stated, "Went on a mission to Colorado on September 11, 1880." The return date is left blank.

Of rugged Scandanavian stock, Peterson had been born in Denmark. Upon embracing the LDS Gospel, he made the trip to America, and from the eastern coast, the family headed to Utah to join the Mormons there. Their mode of transportation was a hand cart, which Peterson pushed all the way, while his wife, Maren, walked along beside him carrying their six month old child in her arms in typical Mormon pioneer fashion. Such stamina as these people had!

Peterson was a rugged man, over six feet tall, with dark brown hair, grey eyes, and a bearded face. His strong shoulders were equal to the task, while his character was staunch and unbending; as far as he was concerned, everything was either black or white, right or wrong; there were no grey areas. His word was his bond.

Always an early riser, his motto seemed to be to get up early-so he could get to work early-so he could get to bed early-so he could get up early-and repeat the process.

A man of many skills and great ingenuity, Peterson had studied medicine in the old country. It was his intention to continue this line of work when he reached the land of promise. Fate, however, had not decreed that he was to be a medical man. He did, however, perform throughout his lifetime those services that he had been required to do, being especially skilled in the setting of bones. Veterinary medicine also fell his lot, and he was, in addition, a farmer, stockman, self-made lawyer, surveyor, hunter, leader, friend and neighbor. Among his outstanding characteristics was generosity, and he placed high on his list of priorities looking after the needs of the poor, ailing, orphans, widows, and whoever else was in need.

His family remember that he knew what it was to be thankful for food. No matter how much of his own effort went into providing the needs of his family, he always considered these things to be gifts from God.

His daughter, Jennie Mortensen, recalls that he once worked one entire summer for a cow hide, from which he made each of his family a pair of shoes, and it is interesting to note that, although he prospered over the years, the last pair of shoes he ever wore were of his own making.

He was named wagon master of the twenty-nine wagon party that made its way to Colorado in 1880, and like Peterson, the other members of the party had found the good life in Utah, disposing of their property there at considerably less than its actual value in order to fulfill the assignment they had been given to settle in Colorado.

T.A. Crowther, who had been working in southern Utah, received a communication from Peterson stating that he was going to Colorado and planned to take his daughter, Mary, with him. "If you want her,

you had better come get her," Peterson advised Mary's suitor. Crowther was prompt to appear upon the scene, the lovers were married, and the trip to Colorado was all the honeymoon they ever had.

Among those in the wagon train were Martin Christensen, Hans Heiselt, and William C. Christensen. Arriving in Manassa in the fall of 1880, they spent the winter there.

Peterson found work putting up hay about fourteen miles north and a little east of Manassa. In going through that territory, he was attracted to a piece of land about 3/4 miles east and 1/2 mile north of the present town of La Jara.

In the fall of 1881, he, along with his wife and their two sons, Peter and Swen, his step-son, Erastus Beck, and his son-in-law and daughter, T.A. and Mary Crowther, moved to this location east of the Tank, which was to later become La Jara. The Wallace Young family came soon after, and these families lived at that location for about a year prior to the coming of other pioneers.

After the construction of a dug-out for temporary shelter, the big job at hand was the building of a ditch to get water from the Conejos River.

In spite of derisive comments that the Mormons thought they could make water run up hill, Peterson set about to accomplish the feat. Using a transit of his own making, he made the survey. The ditch was completed with work being performed by T.N. Peterson, W.F.O. Berhmann, Wallace Young, Erastus Beck, and T.A. Crowther. Water was available for crop irrigation in the spring of 1882.¹

The first coop of wheat did not fully mature due to an early frost, but the settlers were not disheartened. They simply put their shoulders to the wheel and tried again.

It was in 1882 that others from Utah joined these first pioneers at their location near Richfield. President John Taylor issued calls to several other Utah Mormons, and John Shawcroft was one who was called.

Shawcroft also received a letter from his friend, Thor N. Peterson, telling him that cattle would do very well in the San Luis Valley of Colorado and advising John to bring with him what cattle he could. Consequently, all of Shawcroft's surplus funds went for the purchase of cattle, and of the forty head that were driven to Colorado in that particular train, John owned about twenty-five.

There were ten wagons in the train, owned by the John Shawcrofts, Jens Jensens, Jim Nielsons, James Berthelsens, John Guymons, Carl Fredricksons, Jim Watsons, Chris Cornums, Peter Cornums, and John Morgans. Sena Jensen then only fourteen years of age, drove one of the wagons.

Parting with friends and loved ones in Utah was sad indeed, and many of the friends never saw each other again even though the distance is short

¹Kate B. Carter, HEARTTHROBS OF THE WEST, 2nd Volume, Daughters Utah Pioneers, 1940.

by present day standards. They had the hope that, as soon as their missions were completed, they would return to Utah to live. For most of them, however, this was not the case.

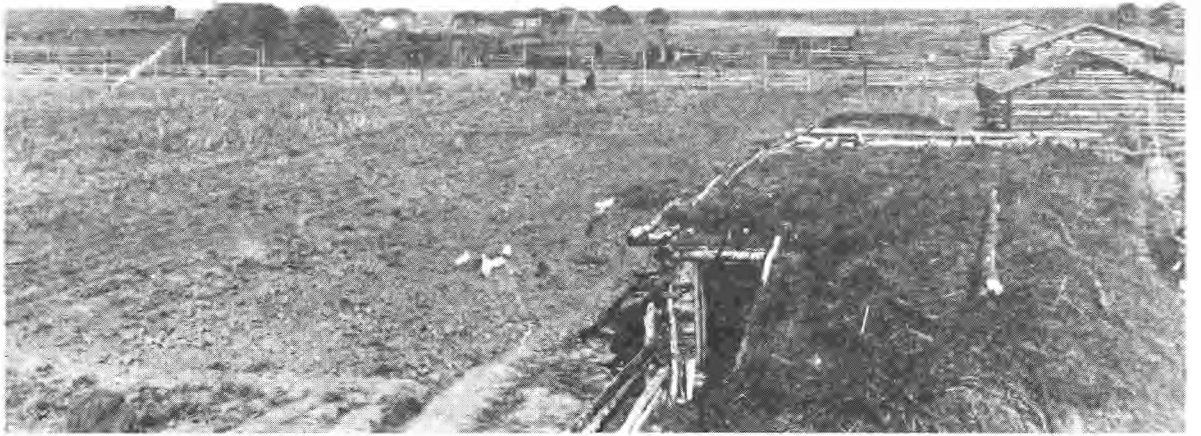
Gladys Shawcroft, who has done a considerable amount of historical and genealogical research, tells of the journey to Colorado:

The route traveled was by way of Castle Valley, across the Green River and the Grand River. If those who travel across that country now find it a bleak and desolate country, they can sympathize with anyone starting out by wagon to make the trip. There were no bridges over the two large rivers they crossed and the most dreaded thing about the entire trip was fording these rivers and getting the cattle safely across. Nathan Shawcroft, then three years old, told in later years of riding in the back of a wagon and seeing the ears of the little mules that were tied to the back of the wagon sticking out of the water as they bobbed up and down. The place where they crossed the Green River was south a considerable distance from where the railroad crosses the River now. They crossed the Grand River below Moab, just before the River goes into the box canyon. Sometimes when they found a place where the feed and water were good, they would stop for a day or two and let the cattle rest. There were several milk cows in the herd and these supplied milk and butter. It was a simple matter to churn the butter by placing the cream in a container in the early morning and opening it at noon to find that the jolt of the wagon had churned the butter.

The first important place that they came to in Colorado was Durango, and the children were impressed with the railroad train, which they saw there for the first time. From there, they went to Pagosa Springs, then to Chama by way of Cumbres Pass (not the present route). From Chama, they traveled by way of the Los Pinos Creek to Bighorn Mountain, then to the San Luis Valley on the Conejos River above San Rafael. They followed the river down to Conejos and, as they came through "Stringtown," they saw Mexican settlers cutting badly frozen wheat with cycles and cradles. It was early September and the air was cool. What a discouraging sight it was for John Shawcroft who then little realized that he would live out his remaining days in the big valley now spread out before him.

Traveling through the old Spanish fort at Guadalupe and noticing that there was a flour mill at Conejos, the party made its way to Manassa. Having been settled in 1877, Manassa was now a thriving community by pioneer standards. They camped there on the Little Conejos River for several days before going on to Richfield, where they would make their homes. The Cornum family did not remain in Richfield, but went on to Ephriam, where the Heiselt family and others from San Pete County had already settled. There were already three families living in Richfield, having come there in 1880-- the Thor N. Peterson family, the T.A. Crowther family, and the Wallace Young family.

The country was very flat and barren. There were no houses nor fences and very few trees between Guadalupe and Alamosa. The land was



Early Settlement Of Richfield



Bishop Peterson

covered with brush and greasewood, and the early frost was evident in the vegetation. In 1880, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad had been built from Alamosa to Antonito and about one mile west of Richfield stood a water tank and a section house used by the railroad. This place was called "The Tank" by Richfield settlers.

Temporary tent-camp was set up at Richfield while the town was platted and lots selected by the various families. A spirit of urgency prevailed in regard to providing shelter before winter set in. It took about three days for a wagon and team to get a load of logs from the west mountains, but the trips were accomplished, and one trip was made especially to get material to build a place of worship. The church was completed in 1883.

The winter months were spent grubbing brush and clearing the land for spring planting. Cattle were turned out to graze in the open country, and ditches were dug, pole fences built, etc.

What a busy place the farming community of Richfield was! Although it never had a post office or store, it did have a very active community life centered around its church and school.

The first public meeting in Richfield was held at the home of John Shawcroft in 1882, with Apostles Joseph F. Smith, Wilford Woodruff, and Brigham Young Jr. in attendance. These men had come to organize the San Luis Stake and the wards from Manassa, Ephriam, and Richfield. Selected to lead the Richfield Ward were Thor N. Peterson, Bishop, Milton H. Evans, First Counselor, and Jens Jensen, Second Counselor.

Maria Guymon had come from Utah in advance of her husband, John William Guymon, and lived with the Peterson family for a short time. While there, she gave birth to a daughter, Agnes, in the fall of 1882. Agnes was the first girl born in the community. The second child, and first boy, was Lewis Edward Shawcroft, who first saw the light of day on May 10, 1883. Lewis ("Lew") was a cattleman right from the start, and the story is told of one Christmas during his early childhood when he received from his good English Santa Claus a child-size pitchfork. What a joy it was to the lad, who grew to know a great deal about the business-end of a pitchfork, as did all of the cattle-raising Shawcroft boys!

Long hours of work called for some recreation. Dances were arranged with Jordan Brady, Will Thomas, and Joseph Mott providing dance music for young and old alike. Brother Mott, with his large harp, was a familiar sight to the dancers.

In the spring of 1884, more Utah families came, including the David Reinbolts, and in the fall of that same year others came - Fred Shawcroft, George Morgan, Charles White, Ephriam Coombs, and Mary Haggard included.

From 1884-85, there was more grain grown in the vicinity of Richfield than in the rest of the San Luis Valley, and George Morgan was a champion grain cradler, with the cradling of five acres a day not uncommon for him. Morgan also rendered another valuable service by butchering of livestock, for which he took the head and the heart as pay.

Several Mortensen families were welcomed in the community in 1885, as was Will Morris. These people were musicians, and they added greatly to the morale of the community.

Surface wells supplied domestic water in the beginning, but these were alkaline and water for drinking purposes became a problem. By 1887, this situation very nearly caused abandonment of the village. There was, however, a spring in the north part of town and it supplied good water. Then, when it was discovered that artesian wells could be dug, John Shawcroft drilled the first well in town.

Gladys Shawcroft remembers that well:

What wonderful memories we have of the old well house at Grandpa's place. How nice it was to go into its damp coolness on a hot day and get a drink of water where the well ran into the water box, and besides that, there was always a rich tangy aroma from the big crocks and pans of milk, cream, buttermilk, clabber, and freshly made butter that crowded the water box.

Of course, romance blossomed in Richfield as it does the world around, and the first wedding took place uniting Angeline Evans and Nick Miller in the early spring of 1884.

The first death to occur in Richfield was that of the mother of S.W. Hunt, followed by the wife of Albert Coleman.

In 1884, a Relief Society was organized with Mary A. Berthelsen as President, Mary Haggard, Maria Shawcroft, Counselors, Martha Guymon, Secretary, and Mary Crowther, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer.

A Primary was organized in 1886. Christiana Mortensen was the President, Christiana Jensen and Mary Berthelsen, Counselors, Emma A. Mortensen, Secretary, and Margarite Evans, Treasurer.

That same year, an MIA was begun with Martha Shawcroft, President. Mary A. Crowther and Polly A. Shawcroft served as counselors, Mary Agard was Secretary and Mary Peterson, Treasurer.

Sunday School officers were Soren C. Berthelsen, Superintendent. His counselors were Carl C. Fredrickson and James C. Berthelsen, with Ephriam Coombs as Secretary.

In the year of 1887, Bishop Thor N. Peterson relocated in Sanford, as did a number of other families, upon the advice of church leaders. As a result, the Richfield Ward was disorganized for several years.

On August 13, 1891, a special meeting was called for the purpose of once again organizing a ward at Richfield. Apostle Francis M. Lyman and Stake President Silas S. Smith were on hand, as were John Henry Smith, George Goddard, B.H. Roberts, S.C. Berthelsen, and J.B. Forbes.

The men of the Richfield community were asked to express their feelings regarding such reorganization and, of course, all were in favor. Chosen to lead the Ward were Ephriam Coombs, Bishop; W.F.O. Berhmann and Peter N. Guymon, Counselors. When Peter N. Guymon left for a foreign mission in 1894, Jens Jensen acted as Counselor to Bishop Coombs during his absence.

As always, the Relief Society sisters were the first to donate to a worthy cause, and when a building fund was started for a new church in January of 1894, these ladies gave Sunday egg money to get the fund going.

The new chapel was completed in 1903, and it was dedicated by President Albert R. Smith. Cost of construction had been \$2464.25 - hard earned money from a devout congregation! In 1929, a Relief Society room was built on the north end of the chapel.

The melodious tones of a church bell beckoned church goers to the meetings. This bell was donated by John W. Shawcroft and hung grandly in the belfry tower for a number of years.

By 1900, forty-six families resided in Richfield, with a total population of 294.

Ephriam Coombs was extremely prominent in church and civic affairs. He served as Secretary when the first school district was organized in the San Luis Stake, and he was active in the establishment of the San Luis Drainage District No. 1.

On January 11, 1900, a meeting was called to elect trustees to hold title to real estate property for the Ecclesiastical Ward in the San Luis Stake, in trust for the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Ephriam Coombs, W.F.O. Berhmann, and Peter N. Guymon were named to the board.

On November 3, 1901, David J. Coombs was sustained Ward Clerk and Peter N. Guymon was released as Second Counselor to Bishop Coombs.

Songs of praise were sung by a ward choir with Robert N. Guymon, Ephriam Coombs, Polly A. Shawcroft, and Sara Coombs in charge.

The records show that in December of 1906 the Bishopric selected Julia A. Martin as Janitor of the church house at a salary of \$3.00 a month, with 50¢ extra when dances were held. Added to the regular janitor work was the cleaning and filling of the coal oil lamps.

Of course, the May Day celebration was big on the agenda of things to look forward to, as spring struggled to make its appearance in the San Luis Valley.

The community of Richfield, like other places around, also celebrated the Fourth-of-July in grand fashion. Committees were called to oversee the festivities, and there is record of one dance committee having as its members James P. Jensen, Frank B. Orton, James N. Shawcroft, and Peter N. Guymon.

As was the case in many rural communities, the children from Richfield eventually attended school in La Hara, which town boasted the first consolidated school in the State of Colorado.

Richfield did not develop into a municipality, but has remained a farming district on the rural route from La Hara, and many of those who reside there today are descendents of the original pioneers.

Other Bishops of the Richfield Ward were:

1905-1908	John W. Shawcroft
1908-1912	Henry W. Valentine
1912-1932	David E. Shawcroft
1932-1935	James Nathan Shawcroft
1935-1939	O.W. Gylling
1939-1941	J. Howard Shawcroft
1941	Merlin R. Manning

In 1939, the Ward was planning for a new chapel, and they were ready to begin construction when the suggestion came from the first presidency of the church that Richfield combine its money with that of La Hara and move to that location in a larger building that would also house the San Luis Stake.

It was a tough decision for Richfield. Manassa also found it difficult to see the Stake headquarters changed after so many years.

The membership of the Stake complied, however, and on June 10, 1949 a contract was let to the Oakland Construction Company of Salt Lake City, Utah. The Morgan Branch joined the Richfield Ward in their whole-hearted support of the project.

From Richfield, came donations amounting to \$70,000, plus donated labor and materials - proof positive of their faith and dedication to the Gospel.



Old Folks Party, Richfield

Elder Andrew Jensen visited the San Luis Valley in the fall of 1893 in the interest of church history. He reported on the Manassa Ward with branches at Los Cerritos, Mountain View, and Fox Creek; the Sanford Ward with Eastdale Branch attached; the Richfield Ward with Blanco Branch, and the Beulah Ward.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

The body of Saints of Mountain View Branch consisted of members living in a scattered condition west of Manassa, across the railroad track, and also those living in and around the towns of Antonito and Conejos. The group held meetings in a small house about 5 miles west of Manassa, and Elihu H. Ball was the Branch President.

FOX CREEK

Fox Creek Branch was made up of 17 families living on Fox Creek, near the Conejos River. Jensen stated that the people there had erected a "nice respectable log meeting house not far from the point where Fox Creek puts into the Conejos River" about 12 miles due west of Antonito.

Meetings, including Sunday School, were being held regularly under the direction of Branch President, David Vance.

EASTDALE

Eastdale, a branch of the Sanford Ward, was made up of a few families who were trying to establish a settlement on Costilla Creek in Costilla County, about 25 miles southeast of Sanford and across the Rio Grande River. The townsite was located about 1½ mile north of the boundary line between Colorado and New Mexico, approximately 4 miles northeast of the foot of Ute Mountain.

A reservoir was being built, and settlement of the town was dependent upon the success of that project, with the men of the town busily engaged in its construction.

The only well in the settlement was the property of Christain Jensen, and on this well all the people and domestic animals of the villiage were dependent for their supply of water. Elder Jensen described the situation:

At every hour of the day, the villiage is the scene of people, buckets in hand, wending their way to and from the faithful well, which so far has not failed to furnish the requisite. Beasts are not always liberally supplied - all day long horses and cattle loiter around the well anxiously watching their chance for a drink which can only be obtained when some kind hearted person draws more water than his own animals need. The well is sixty feet deep, and hoisting of water for so many living beings is not a slight task.

Purchase of the Eastdale property had been made from the U.S. Freehold and

Emmigration Company, with Anders and Ephriam Mortensen instrumental in the transaction that took place in 1889. The townsite was surveyed the following year, 1890.

The Eastdale Branch was organized on August 23, 1891, with Simeon Dunn as Presiding Elder. A church building was built, and it also served as a school house.

By 1893, there were 13 families (70 souls) residing in the settlement, and on January 29, 1894, the Eastdale Ward was organized with Marcus O. Funk as Bishop. When Funk moved away, he was succeeded by Christain Jensen, who held the office until 1900, at which time, due to difficulty in obtaining water and other problems, the settlement was broken up.

BLANCO

Members of the Blanco Branch resided on and around the Zapato Ranch immediately northwest of Mt. Blanca. Several small creeks gushed from the base of the mountain, and the population resided in the creekbed areas.

The Church purchased a portion of the Zapato Ranch, and it was known as the "Smith Ranch," under the management at one time of "Haze" Haskell and members of his family. A surveyor was hired to run a ditch; it was an uphill proposition and the moisture seemed to disappear into the sand.

The settlement was called Uracca, and it had a postoffice that was operated out of first one home and then another. An early day post master was Mr. Rumsey, while Wiley F. King operated a store.

Lumber products, wood, posts, and poles, were used extensively by the settlers, and some sawmilling took place. The grand old mountain was generous in its supply of timber.

There was an early day meeting house and a school that operated until it was consolidated with Hooper and Mosca Districts about 1936. Annie Eliza Caldwell Denton, Emma ("Em") Clark, and Nettie Calkins were school teachers there.

Other religious groups also resided in Uracca, and a cemetery was set aside many years ago, which is still in use today.

Branch President of the Blanco Branch was Wiley F. King.

BEULAH

The Chama River area in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, was the home of the members of the Beulah Ward, located about 100 miles southwest of Manassa and about 18 miles west of the village of Chamita, the nearest railroad station on the D&RG Railroad.

The settlement was made at an altitude of 6,000 feet and on southern slopes, which made it a good fruit country, but the river was hard to control, with quicksands and floods occurring frequently.

The Mormon people purchased the land from the Mexican residents in 1889 and struggled to make it a pleasant place in which to live. The ward was, however, eventually abandoned.

In 1891, Eschel Fuller was made Bishop of the ward, and it was fully organized a year later, functioning for several years prior to its demise.

MORGAN

Situated about 10 miles northeast of La Jara and named out of love and respect for John Morgan, was the Morgan Community.

Among the first settlers at Morgan, were John Whitefield Hunt, J.D. Westbrook, and Joseph Samples, with others joining them later.

It was in 1886 that an irrigation ditch was made to water the crops, and artesian wells were dug with nearly every family having its own well.

A log meeting house, built in 1890 by freewill donation, served for church meetings, school, and as a voting place for the Logan precinct.

The Morgan story is typical of the rural community, with facilities that were adequate in the beginning but eventually became hopelessly outdated. Passing years saw the consolidation of the small schools, and the Morgan area, along with Richfield, was eventually absorbed by La Jara. The members of the church then voted to join Richfield and La Jara in the building of a new La Jara Ward and San Luis Stake house in La Jara; branch members (approximately 121) willingly contributed of their means, their time, and their talents to the upbuilding of their new headquarters.

Several people kept records of the Morgan settlement and some statistics are available:

Sunday School was organized in 1887, with Joseph Samples as Superintendent, John Hunt and Leander Teams, Assistants. This organization operated under direction of the Richfield Ward.

A Relief Society was organized prior to 1895 with Margaret Hamil presiding. It was later reorganized, and Mary M. Kelly served as President with Sarah J. Linebaugh, Mary K. Rumsey, and Myrtle Brown her officers.

An MIA was started in November of 1889, under the direction of Martin Goodge Price. J.D. Westbrook was named President, with Thomas Brown and J. Rutledge as Counselors. Nettie Dyer acted as Treasurer and Myrtle Kelly was Music Director.

From 1893 to 1912, Martin G. Price served as Branch President, and then followed a period of time when the branch was disorganized. When it was reorganized at a later date, under direction of the Richfield Ward, the superintendent was John Wood. Edwin O. Coleman and J. Elmer Mott were his Counselors.

Morgan became a branch in 1925; J. David Coombs served as Presiding Elder; Ephriam Coombs, Superintendent; Edwin O. Coleman and James Reid, Counselors.

Branch Primary President was Ada Coleman, and Elizabeth Coombs and Myrtle Brown were her counselors. Prudence Mott was secretary-treasurer.

Ephriam W. Coombs was named Presiding Elder in 1926, with James Reid and Alfred Price as counselors. Ralph Wood, Wallace Coleman, and Eugene Mott were the Sunday School Superintendency, and Delsie Langston, Elizabeth Coombs, Myrtle Brown, and Leona Summers were the Relief Society officers. Estella Reid served as Primary President, with Magruda Brown as secretary.

Alfred Price became President in 1942, with James Reid, Hanmer Kelly, Harold Brown, R. Warren Coombs, and Glen G. Knight assisting him. Price was the Bishop at the time the branch was incorporated with La Jara.

ROMEO

Romeo was first organized as a Sunday School in July of 1918, with Nathaniel P. Culler as Superintendent, Robert B. Edwards and William Walter Huffaker as assistants.

Some years later, the Romeo Branch of the Manassa Ward was organized with N.P. Culler as Presiding Elder and Sanford Hawkins as Branch Clerk.

The Presbyterian building in Romeo was purchased in 1930, and renovated for use by the Romeo group. An independent Branch was established March 1936, with Ray Hawkins as Branch President and Robert Elmer Edward and Christain N. Harmsen as counselors and Horace N. Rumsey ward clerk.

At this time, the Bountiful District, which also belonged to the Manassa Ward, was added to the Romeo Branch. Boundaries were set at the Garcia Lane west to the foothills, and the Meinzer Lane was the north boundary; the Conejos River was the south line.

On September 16, 1939, Romeo became a Ward with Albert R. Hawkins as Bishop, Robert E. Edwards and Christain N. Harmsen counselors, and Edwin T. Christensen ward clerk.

Martin B. Mickelsen and Christain Harmsen also served as Bishops.

On November 2, 1959, at a special stake meeting in Manassa, the members of the Spanish American Mission of that portion of the San Luis Stake were added to the ward.

The Romeo Ward now meets in the Manassa-Romeo Ward Chapel at Manassa.

ALAMOSAS

From 1905 to 1911, Alamosa was a branch of the Sanford Ward. James W. Dyer presided over the Branch, which was made up of three or four families with about twelve members. Meetings were held in the Dyer home.

In 1911, Alamosa became a branch of the Western States Mission, with James W. Dyer President, William T. Kirby and Josiah Alexander Harris as counselors.

The membership had grown to about eleven families of forty members. Meetings were held in a building on eighth street, as well as the Dyer and Harris homes.

The first chapel was built at the corner of Tenth and State Streets, in 1914. This property had been purchased for \$600.00, and the building was constructed under President John L. Herrick. Peter Mortensen was the contractor. Cost of construction was \$1500.00, with the members paying 25% of the cost.

Eric Johnson, Eulys Guthrie, and Frank Barton served as Branch Presidents, with Beulah Dyer as the first Relief Society President.

On April 22, 1939, the Alamosa Branch became a Ward. Eulys Guthrie was the first Bishop, Horace Clyde Crowther and Willard Franklin Payne were counselors, and Alma Que Cunningham was the ward clerk. The membership of 337 was, at that time, transferred from the Alamosa Branch of the Western States Mission to the Alamosa Ward of the San Luis Stake.

Membership has grown to a point where Alamosa now has a beautiful chapel near the Adams State College Campus, with two wards worshipping in the building and an LDS Institute located nearby.



San Luis Stake Singing Mothers

Twelve Stake Presidents have served the San Luis and La Jara Stakes:

1878-1891 Silas S. Smith, President; Platte D. Lyman, Richard G. Camp, Soren C. Berthelsen, Edward Dalton, William Christensen, Thomas Alma Crowther, Counselors; Albert R. Smith, Clerk.

1892-1904 Albert R. Smith, President; Oevi P. Helm, William Christensen, Joseph Francis Thomas, Thomas Alma Crowther, Counselors; Lawrence M. Peterson, Nelson G. Sowards, Marcus O. Funk, Stephen A. Smith, Clerks.

1905-1908 Levi P. Helm, President; Thomas A. Crowther, Erastus S. Christensen, Counselors; Stephen A. Smith, Clerk.

1908-1913 Erastus S. Christensen, President; Erastus A. Nielson, William O. Crowther, Thomas D. Rees, Samuel Jackson, Jun., Counselors; Stephen A. Smith, Clerk.

1914-1918 Hyrum S. Harris, President, William O. Crowther, Samuel Jackson Jun., Counselors; Stephen A. Smith, Clerk.

1919-1924 William O. Crowther, President; Samuel Jackson, John W. Shawcroft, Counselors; Stephen A. Smith, Clerk.

1924-1931 James P. Jensen, President; John B. Reed, John Jefferson Brady, Counselors; Stephen A. Smith, James A. Holman, Counselors.

1931-1944 John B. Reed, President, William Jackson, David E. Shawcroft, Luther N. Bagwell, Counselors; James A. Holman, Clerk.

1944-1952 Howard J. Shawcroft, President; Vernal J. Anderson, Ivan L. Hansen, Ivan M. Thomas, Joseph C. Mortensen, Counselors; James A. Holman, Wayne Rogers, Clerks.

1952-1959 Walter Fredrick Haynie, President; Ivan M. Thomas, Joseph C. Mortensen, Counselors; Wayne Rogers, Clerk.

1959-1971 La Vere Bagwell, President, Martin B. Mickelsen, E. Decker Haynie, Counselors; Norris Anderson, Clerk; Jay Campbell, Assistant Clerk.

1971-Present Robert Warren Garris, President; Alfred Reese Jackson, John Chester Flavin, Jr. Cletus "M" Gilleland, Counselors; Ralph A. Nielson, Alan W. Reynolds, Clerks; Alan W. Reynolds, Preston L. Stanley, Harold Ealey, Louis E. Mott, Assistant Clerks.

EPILOGUE

Alfred Jackson, Robert Garris, Cletus Gilleland
La Jara Stake Presidency

August 11, 1974, dawned gloriously on the prosperous San Luis Valley of Colorado. Summer's fragrances permeated the air; the people looked forward to a bountiful harvest.

Adams State College, Alamosa, Colorado, was the scene that day of a very large gathering of people, as a crowd of over 5,000 filled Plachy Hall and overflowed into the adjoining fieldhouse that they might hear the voice of Spencer W. Kimball, twelfth President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a man revered by them as Prophet, Seer, and Revelator.

The meeting climaxed a three-day youth conference sponsored by the La Jara Stake of Zion for young people from that stake as well as from two Denver stakes.

The old saying, "All is well in Zion," seemed to be fulfilled. The congregation appeared to be enjoying the comforts of life. They were well dressed, well fed, and in no apparent physical distress.

The President turned his remarks to the needs of people everywhere if they are to fulfill their missions upon the earth. He stressed the fact that, in these times of moral decay, marriage is honorable and parents are held accountable for the upbringing of their children. He recognized a need for people to place less value on personal pleasure, more value on things of lasting worth, emphasizing the family unit, with the father bearing the Priesthood of God, at the head of the household. His words seemed to endorse those of the late President David O. McKay, who had said, "No other success can compensate for failure in the home."

Seated in the building were members of the recently re-named La Jara Stake, which had long been the San Luis Stake, the name change having taken place on January 28, 1974, in conformation with church policy of naming the stake for the city or town in which it is located.

The La Jara Stake, an ecclesiastical division comprising eight wards and branches of the church, was under the following leadership:

Stake President, Robert Warren Garris	Assistant Clerk, Preston Stanley
First Counselor, Alfred Reese Jackson	Assistant Clerk, Harold Ealey
Second Counselor, Cletus M. Gilleland	Assistant Clerk, Louis E. Mott
Stake Clerk, Alan W. Reynolds	

Ward Leadership:

Alamosa First Ward (450 Members)

John Kelly Schofield, Bishop
Rondall Van Phillips, First Counselor
Jerrold Dale Meyers, Second Counselor
Neil J. Hammer, Clerk
Roy S. McDaniel, Assistant Clerk
Stanley K. Carter, Assistant Clerk
Joel Anderson, Assistant Clerk
Eldon F. Morgan, Executive Secretary

Alamosa Second Ward (581 Members)

Edward Raymond Burger, Jr., Bishop
Victor Edwin Jackson, First Counselor
Calvin Grant Crawford, Second Counselor
Carl H. Workman, Clerk
Jimmy D. Hansen, Assistant Clerk
Jessee R. Booth, Assistant Clerk
Robert N. Gray, Assistant Clerk
James F. Holman, Executive Secretary

La Jara Ward (444 Members)

Harold Dale Thomas, Bishop
Thomas Howard Timmons, First Counselor
John Gregory Bahr, Second Counselor
Gerald Jay Rasmussen, Clerk
Roy Leland Coombs, Assistant Clerk
Larry Anthony Buhr, Executive Secretary

(This Bishop was reorganized Jan. 1, 1976,
as follows:

Gary Reese Shawcroft, Bishop
Thomas Howard Timmons, First Counselor
Gregory John Bahr, Second Counselor)

Manassa Ward (419 Members)

Robert Bagwell, Bishop
Larry Darrel Smith, First Counselor
James Albert Claunch, Second Counselor
Judson H. Flower, Clerk
Hubert J. Smith, Assistant Clerk
Fred J. Koehler, Assistant Clerk
Wayne Rogers, Assistant Clerk
Kelly Sowards, Executive Secretary

Rio Grande Ward (359 Members)

Hubert Fred Mortensen, Bishop
Roy Berneil Van Horn, First Counselor
Val Ryse Lowder, Second Counselor
John Wesley Miller, Clerk
Kenneth L. Shepherd, Assistant Clerk
Dennis Valentine, Executive Secretary

Romeo Ward (435 Members)

Dennis F. Harmsen, Bishop
Ray Jackson, First Counselor
Frank A. Culler, Second Counselor
Alfred G. Christensen, Clerk
Norman L. Wilkensen, Assistant Clerk
Joseph P. Sutherland, Executive
Secretary

(This Bishopric was reorganized
August, 1974, as follows:

Ray Jackson, Bishop
Frank A. Culler, First Counselor
Kelvin J. Huffaker, Second Counselor

Sanford Ward (621 Members)

Jay Jackson, Bishop
Donald G. Larsen, First Counselor
Arnold T. Mortensen, Second Counselor
Quinten R. Crowther, Clerk
Robert G. Crowther, Assistant Clerk
Gene M. Poulson, Executive Secretary
Clayton O. Peterson, Assistant Clerk
Mark Crowther, Assistant Clerk

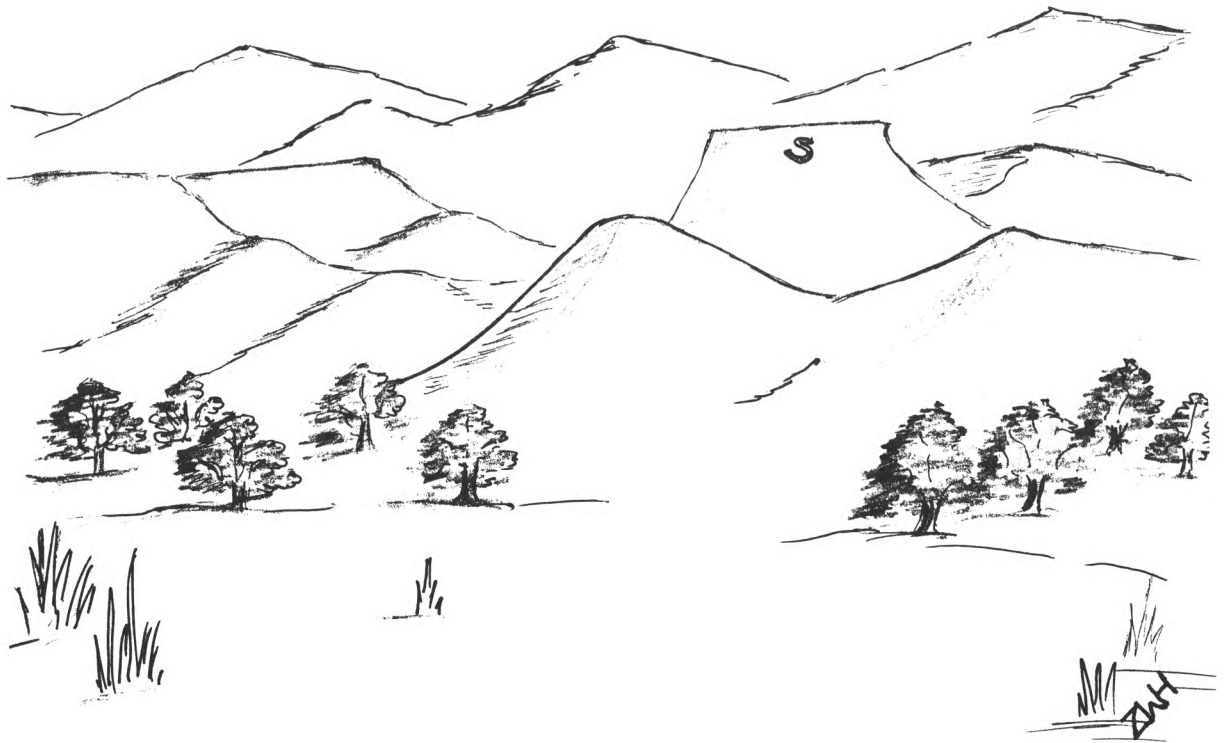
(This Bishopric was reorganized in
1976, as follows:

Clarence L. Martin, Bishop
Clyde Mortensen, First Counselor
Kirt Valentine, Second Counselor
Lowell Morgan, Clerk
Mark Crowther, Assistant Clerk
Jack Signs, Assistant Clerk
Dennis Mortensen, Financial Secretary
Gaylon Mortensen, Executive Secretary

Taos Branch (260 Members)

Steven L. Reed, President
Clyde E. Woodward, First Counselor
Eddie E. Padilla, Second Counselor
William S. Stahman, Clerk
Roderick Thomas, Assistant Clerk
Larry C. Labrum, Executive Secretary
(This Bishopric was reorganized, 1976,
as follows:
Eddie E. Padilla, First Counselor
William S. Stahman, Second Counselor
William Hawes, Clerk

PART II



Sketch



L-48

I

The town of Alma, later to become Sanford, was established in the N $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 29, T35N, R10E, New Mexico Principal Meridian; S.20, T35N, R25E, New Mexico Principal Meridian, while a fraction of Sec. 20, T35N, R10E, New Mexico Principal Meridian, comprised the fields north of town. The first selection of the name Alma was given in honor of Thomas Alma Crowther. When it was later discovered that there was already a small Colorado town by the name of Alma, the name was changed to Sanford, for Silas Sanford Smith, President of the San Luis Stake of the LDS Church.

An eyewitness account of the Sanford flat gave a very unpromising pic-

*We, Fred Christensen and I, rode the Sanford flat when there was nothing but prairie dogs, rattle snakes, jack rabbits - before the town was moved there. We chased horses in the east hills, swum the river together. The soil hardly looked like soil; it was so dry, and it had always been dry. It was even too dry for brush to do good. The pasture up and down the river had literally been sheeped to death. The very few trees had their leaves and branches eaten off by sheep and goats so that the trunk was bare for a long way up the tree.*¹

Total blocks commencing at the northeast corner of town were 117 blocks, with property being set aside for school, church tithing lots, and others assigned as church property. An entire block was designated and reserved for temple purposes, with a log church being erected on Lot #1 in the fall of 1886.

Thor N. Peterson, with his homemade transit, surveyed the town in October of 1885.² He was assisted by his sons, Pete and Swen Peterson, T.A. Crowther, Erastus Beck and several others. Governor Albert McIntire is believed to have done some surveying of property east of Sanford.

Bishop Thor N. Peterson of the Richfield Ward was given the first choice of all lots of entire townsite, plated and filed in the Conejos County Recorder's Office. Bishop Peter Rasmussen, Bishop of Ephriam, was given first choice of all lots on the south side, which in 1889 was included in the Sanford Land Company. The remainder of lots were drawn from a hat by other pioneers, who immediately began to make settlement upon their property.

¹William May Christensen, Personal Interview, Manassa, Colorado, May, 1974.

²Chart-map drawn by Swen Peterson, now in possession of granddaughter, Mary June Miller.

Business lots were also designated, with a coop merchantile building built on block #2. This store opened in 1880, with James F. Crowther as manager.

Log cabins were moved from Ephriam. A home was being built in Richfield by Peter Mortensen; this home was moved to Sanford and completed there. Andrew Paulson built the first house in the new townsite. This building still stands and it is located on the property now belonging to Willie Naranjo. The home had a pitched roof of shingles, two doors, two windows, and two rooms. The logs were carefully chosen to size and laid with precision which speaks for itself in the way the building has withstood the test of time. The Paulsons lived in this house for two years, while Mr. Paulson and Mr. Timms built a red brick house on the corner of the same block.

Elizabeth Young, a longtime resident of Sanford, told the following story:

She and her husband arrived in Sanford in 1885, with two babies and \$15.00. Their first home was a granary that was loaned to them until they could get a better home. The only meat they had was jack rabbit. On moonlight nights, the men would hide by small hay stacks and kill the rabbits with clubs as they came out to eat the hay.

Alkali served as a leavening agent for their breads. Alkali was scooped up and put into wagon boxes and hauled to livestock to serve the need of salt. Any small livestock had to be very carefully guarded from coyotes, who showed very little fear of the new settlers. Many times, a pack of four or five coyotes would make trails close to the cabins.

In August of 1885, the wheat froze. Having nothing else to make bread of, they had to use it anyway. The bread was sticky and black, but it served to supplement the meager diet of the saints through the long hard winter.³

The valley was rich in wildlife, and the pioneers depended heavily upon this source of supply to provide meat for their table. Deer, elk, and antelope were stalked by the hunter, and the most important game animal in the county was the little *conejo* (rabbit) - cottontail and jack. It was often a matter of beating the lean, scraggy, carnivorous coyote to his prey, and when rabbit drives were held, it was not uncommon for the men circling an area of rabbit habitat to turn up a couple of wiley coyotes in the center of the ring.

³Morgan, Hemming La Monte, THE LATTER DAY SAINT MIGRATION TO COLORADO AND THEIR COLONIZATION PERIOD, Historical Research, Paper to Dr. Green, Adams State College, Unpublished. (From a personal interview with Elizabeth Young, age 92, Vanderpool Home, Monte Vista, Colorado)



RESIDENCE OF W. CORAY SANFORD COLO.

O. T. DAVIS PHOTO SEPT. 27, 1896

The cottontail was a tender morsel, while the jack was tough and stringy, but it was soon discovered that ground jackrabbit could be added to pork sausage to stretch that product considerably.

Roy Martin's autobiography is filled with fishing stories, and he would often return from the river with hundreds of fish. This cannot be considered unsportsmanlike, as it would be today, for it must be remembered that the pioneer men fished and hunted from necessity. The game was never wasted. Martin told of having brought the fish home in gunny sacks, then "salting them down" for future use. Colorado trout was then, as now, hard to beat!

The prairie chicken (grouse) was hunted, while waterfowl, ducks and geese, provided welcome variety. The bagging of an occasional wild turkey called for a big feast.

The Martins and the Hostetters were logging people from Wisconsin. They had helped cut timber for the Nauvoo Temple, floating the logs down the Black River Falls to Nauvoo. With this kind of experience behind them, they were naturals to tackle the job of building bridges and headgates in Conejos County. Roy cut the timber for the piling and drove piles for the Conejos River Bridge east of Sanford, as well as numerous others in the locality.

Nephi Hutchins, also from Wisconsin, was a sawmiller, and his son, Jess, joined him in the business.

There were many skilled carpenters and builders in Sanford. It would be impossible to name all of them, but a partial list includes Mr. Timms, Peter Gylling, S.C. Berthelsen, Pete Mortensen, Jim Nielson, Leonard Neilson, Mr. Patterson, the Canties, Holm Mortensen, Jim Hutchins, Ernest Wright, Jim Daniels, Chester Reynolds, Ed Morgan, Joe Holman, Dan Daniels, Niels Jepperson, Francis Whitney, Larry Whitney, Derrill Mickelsen, and Francis Whitney.

Well drilling was a high priority job, with first flow water being located at about 40-60 feet and the next flow at 80-120. The first well in town was drilled on the corner of the block where Richard Westbrook now lives.

Roy Martin and members of his family drilled many of the early wells. A.R. Martin ("Duff") and Dorrell Cornum were on hand to dig wells, and Dorrell was also a plumber.

Sanford, like Manassa, erected a bowery patterned after the one in Salt Lake City, with poles supporting a roof of timbers covered with brush. Meetings and entertainments were held there.

All work and no play would have been a dull diet indeed, and these hard working people needed recreation in order to balance their lives. Holidays were said to have been a great deal of fun for young and old. Jennie Peterson reports:



May day Celebration in Sanford , Colo , On the Church Block,
 May 1900. Morris Dancers Jack in Green & Voco Phone Band .
 Held at the Bowery ,Bowery is seen Back of dancers , May Pole ;
 Peter Mortensen and wife Hannah Smith Mortensen in their Buggy.

From Left , Jessie Hutchins-Sherman Valentine -Nephi Hostette
 James Jensen -Holm Mortensen, With Voco Phone , Francis Marion
 Mortensen , VocoPhone -Hammer Mortensen -Voco Phone -Wm Crowthe
 Voco Phone -James White Beesum - Francis Mortensen -Jack in
 Green-with Phone - John White Beesum - Horace Kortensen , Phone
 Fredric Bentley , Phone,Wm T Morris , VocoPhone Leader- Chester
 Heatletter -James Hutchins -Wilken Fausett- Robert Dean .



Early Day Float, 24th of July Parade

Our holidays were all of our own making. Everyone joined in and helped. May Day was a big day, with a queen crowned with flowers, a Jack-In-The-Green, and a may pole, which was braided by the younger children, usually under the direction of the Primary officers. A program featured the crowning of the queen and, in the afternoon, a children's dance was held in the old red brick hall. Of course there was a ball game - Sanford had a very excellent ball team and everyone turned out to cheer for the team. The game was played in the old ball park, where a grandstand had been built. Later in the afternoon, there were foot races and novelty races, with things winding up in the evening with a dance in the red brick social hall.

The Fourth-Of-July was also a big day. Early in the morning, (at daybreak), we would hear the cannons go off. Mr. Jess Hutchins was usually the one to do this, and it was a thrill to hear and know the celebration was underway.

Many preparations were made for the holidays, as they were community affairs and took the cooperation of everyone. Richfield and La Jara joined in with Sanford. We had a very fine brass band, and at nine o'clock they started going from house to house serenading. They were all seated on a hay rack with a fine pair of horses pulling it. At each house where they stopped, they were treated to something special - usually a glass of cold lemonade, Danish beer, cookies, cake, etc. I often wondered how they could hold all the treats; I guess they didn't have any breakfast before they left home.

I can well remember my Mother making the beer, cake, cookies, ice cream, and fixing a big dinner as several of our relatives lived on ranches and planned to spend the day in town with us. My parents would also sell homemade cake, ice cream, and lemonade out of the back door of my Father's store, which faced the ball park. These were big days for "us kids," but I don't know how my parents survived the holidays.

Men looked for employment wherever they could find it. Many cut ties for the railroad, worked in the mines at Summitville, worked on reservoir or road projects, or whatever. Often times, this meant that they must walk from Sanford to their place of employment, spend the week there, and walk back on the weekend.

Life was hard, but life was good, and for the most part the people of Sanford were looking anxiously to the future, when they would reap the fruits of their labor. Most of them were accustomed to hard work and sacrifice, so life in Colorado was not, in that way, different from the life they left behind.

Families were very close to one another, and people seemed to have time for friendship, visiting, and enjoying each day as it came along.

Sanford was incorporated in 1907, with Swen Peterson, Mayor, and F.M. Mortensen, Clerk & Recorder.

ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF SANFORD, COLORADO

Ordinance I - An Ordinance providing a Town Seal.

ORDINANCE II - An Ordinance concerning the election of Board Of Trustees of the town of Sanford, Colorado.

ORDINANCE III - An Ordinance defining the duties and powers of the Board of Trustees. (Ten Sections)

ORDINANCE IV - An Ordinance regarding the appointment of officers by the Board of Trustees. (Seven Sections)

ORDINANCE V - An Ordinance prescribing the duties of town officers and fixing their compensation.

Article #1 - Town Marshall (Six Sections)

Article #2 - Street Commissioners (Three Sections)

Article #3 - Town Treasurer (Nine Sections)

Article #4 - Police Magistrate

Article #5 - Town Clerk (Three Sections)

ORDINANCE VI - An Ordinance concerning licenses.

Article #1 Licenses (Six Sections)

Article #2 - Saloons and Liquor Dealers (Eight Sections)

Article #3 - Auctioneers (Three Sections)

Article #4 - Peddlers (Four Sections)

Article #5 - Exhibitions (Two Sections)

ORDINANCE VII - An Ordinance concerning Poll Tax for streets & Bridges. (Nine Sections)

ORDINANCE VIII - An Ordinance relating to Misdemeanors:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF SANFORD:

Section 1 Any person or persons who shall, within the limits of the town of Sanford, carry upon or about his or her person any pistol, revolver, bowie knife, dirk raiisor, sling shot, sand bag, brass knucks, or knucks made of other material, or who shall carry concealed upon or about his or her person any other deadly weapon, shall be deemed

guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not to exceed Three Hundred Dollars - provided, however, that this shall not apply to any sheriff, constable, policeman, or other peace officer while on duty.

Section 2 It is hereby made the duty of the Marshall and Policeman of the town to search with or without a warrant all persons who are suspected of violating this ordinance and take any and all persons so violating this ordinance before the Police Magistrate of the town for trial.

Section 3 All concealed weapons taken from parties violating this ordinance shall be forfeited to the town and be confiscated and sold at auction by the Town Marshall and the proceeds of such sale to go to the benefit of the Town of Sanford.

Section 4 If any person shall aid or assist or attempt to aid or assist any person confined in the town jail or lock-up to escape from such confinement or shall without the consent of the person in charge of such place of confinement introduce any spiritous, vinous or malt liquors to any inmate, he shall upon conviction be fined in a sum not exceeding Three Hundred Dollars.

Section 5 That any prostitute, courtesan, or lewd woman who shall by word, gesture, or action, play or attempt to play her vocations upon the streets, highways, or alleys; or from the door or window of any house, or in any public place within the limits of the town of Sanford, shall upon conviction be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and fined in a sum not less than Three Hundred Dollars.

Section 6 Any person who shall make or assist in making any improper noise, riot, disturbance of the peace, or who shall use profane, obscene, indecent, vulgar, or offensive language, to any person, or in any public place in the Town of Sanford, shall upon conviction be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and fined in a sum not more than Three Hundred Dollars nor less than One Hundred Dollars.

Section 7 That any person or persons who shall within the town limits of the Town of Sanford unlawfully personate a policeman or any town, state, or federal officer by wearing a badge or star or by any acts or words which may lead others to believe that such person is such officer; any such person shall upon conviction be fined in any sum not less than Twenty Five Dollars nor more than Three Hunded Dollars for each offence together with costs of prosecution and in default of the payment of said costs and fine such party or parties shall be committed to the common jail of said town until such fines and costs are fully paid as provided by Ordinance.

Section 8 Any person who shall within the limits of the Town of Sanford fire or discharge any cannon, gun, (?) piece, or firearm of any description or other thing containing gun powder or other combustible or explosive material; every such person or persons shall on

conviction be fined in a sum not exceeding One Hundred Dollars.

Section 9 If two or more persons shall quarrel in a boisterous manner, or fight in any place within the limits of the Town of Sanford they shall be deemed guilty of a breach of the peace and on conviction be fined in a sum not exceeding One Hundred Dollars.

Section 10 Every person or persons convicted of assault or assault and battery shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and be fined in a sum not exceeding Three Hundred Dollars.

Section 11 Any person or persons who shall disturb any lawful assemblies of people within the limits of the Town of Sanford by rude or indecent behavior, shall upon conviction be fined in a sum not exceeding One Hundred Dollars.

Section 12 Any person or persons who shall be drunk or shall be found in a state of intoxication on any highway, street or alley or other public place within the Town of Sanford or shall create any disturbance by loud, angry, boisterous, or blasphemous language or make indecent exposure of person in any public place, highway, street, or alley within said town, every such person shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in a sum not exceeding One Hundred Dollars for each offence.

Section 13 It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to place or cause to be placed any dead animals, fowls, fish, or any decayed matter or filth that is liable to cause disease or become offensive in any streets, alleys, lots occupied or unoccupied, or on any other ground within the corporate limits of the Town of Sanford and every person shall upon conviction be fined in a sum not exceeding Twenty Five Dollars.

Section 14 If any shade or ornamental tree standing or growing within the corporate limits of the Town of Sanford and not on private grounds shall be impaired or destroyed by any horse or horses or other animals or persons claiming the right or possession by persons shall hitch or fasten any horse or horses or any other animal to any ornamental or shade trees, such person shall on conviction thereof be fined in a sum not less than Fifty Dollars nor more than Three Hundred Dollars.

SPECIAL ORDINANCE NUMBER 1 June 14, 1910

Attest: C.O. Poulson, Clerk & Recorder - T.A. Crowther, Mayor

An Ordinance concerning taxes for special purposes for the year ending March 31, AD 1911:

Section 1 Be it ordained by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Sanford that a tax of twelve mills be levied upon the assessed valuation of all property in the corporate limits of the Town of Sanford to be applied toward the liquidation of the indebtedness and current expenses of said Town.

Section 2 Amendment to Section 7 Ordinance #11 is hereby made the duty of the Marshall to take up and confine in a secure place or pen provided for the purpose every hog, shoat, pig, goat, mule, horse, mare, gelding, stallion, jack, jenny, sheep, ram, steer, or bull, cow or any other animal, except calves under six months of age running at large within the corporate limits of the Town of Sanford, and no such animal taken up and confined as aforesaid shall be released until the owner or some person for him or them shall pay to such officer having said animal in charge, the sum of fifty cents and his fee for taking up and receiving and discharging each and every animal taken up and confined as aforesaid and the sum of thirty cents for the suitable and proper sustenance for each and every animal for every twenty four hours the same shall be kept.

Passed and Approved this 5th day of September, 1911

Fred Bentley
Clerk and Recorder

T.A. Crowther
Mayor

(There is no record of these ordinances ever having been repealed.)

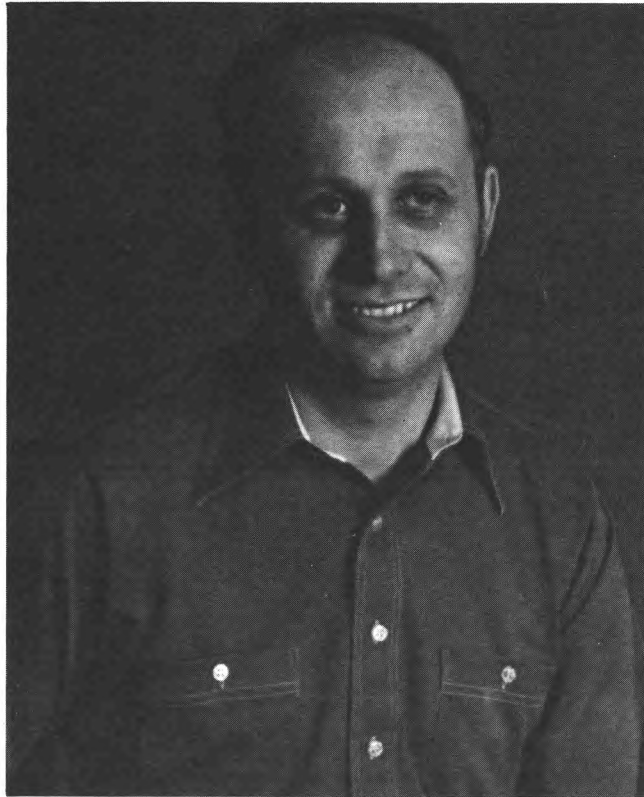
On October 27, 1930, a special meeting was called during which a letter was read from the county assessor, stating that the valuation of the town of Sanford had been placed at \$137,930.00.

In 1932, Fred Bentley, George Bowling, William Carter were appointed to investigate campers in the ball park and sanitary conditions there. A petition, signed by a number of tax payers, asked for police protection at night.

In 1933, the town board met with B.S. Reynolds and Harry Thomas of the Relief Committee and discussed the proposal of a drainage ditch to be dug. This would benefit the unemployed, as well as the town.

It was in 1936 that a resolution was made and passed for the town to sponsor a town hall building project. Reese Faucette also met with the board and asked for support of a tennis court. The board agreed to contribute \$10.00 to the court.

In October, 1937, it was reported that school children were playing pool. The marshall was instructed to post notices on the pool hall prohibiting children under sixteen years of age from entering the pool hall and children under eighteen from playing pool or cards.



Preston Stanley, Mayor of Sanford

Town records are incomplete, and it was possible to obtain only a partial listing of those who have served on the town board since the time of incorporation:

Mayors: Swen Peterson, Chris Block, T.A. Crowther, J.D. Westbrook, Fred Bentley, Roy Christensen, Mable Mickelson, Albert Smith, Lyle Valentine, Swen Peterson (second term of office), Frank Poulson, Duwayne Cornum, Harry Morgan, Phil Reynolds, and Preston Stanley.

Magistrates: George W. Irvin, Glen White, George Shawcroft, Gene Poulson, Diane Roy, Myrna Koonz, Andrew Rasmussen, H.V. Morgan, Birl Reed.

Clerks: F.M. Mortensen, C.O. Poulson, Fred Bentley, L.A. Nielson, H.J. Brown, Henry Valentine, Mildred Cornum, Leah Kirby, George Bowling, A. Dale Smith, Cherri Mortensen, Birl Reed, Arlene O. Reed.

Law Enforcement Officers: J. Douglas Westbrook, Roy Kirby, Ellis Nielson, Wilford Canty, Bill Clark, Clem Phillips, Jim Mullins, Edker Wilson, Felix Gallegos, Ralph Vance, Kenneth Kreps, Harry Broyles, Okie Wyatt, and Harry Larsen.

Councilmen: Fred Bentley, George Bowling, Stanley Bailey, Charlie Cunningham, William Canty, William Carter, Orson Crowther, Ed Canty, Walter Crowther, Willis Crowther, Alma Canty, Duwayne Cornum, Quinten Crowther, Kenneth Faucette, Nephi Hostetter, Joe Hutchins, Smith Holman, Don Larsen, Quin Morgan, W.R. Morgan, Joe Mortensen, Clifford Mickelson, Bill Miller, Harry Morgan, Nelson Mickelson, Derril Mickelson, Ardith Mortensen, Andrew Paulson, Pete Peterson, Clayton Peterson, B.S. Reynolds, Floyd Reed, Birl Reed, Walter Rogers, Phil Reynolds, Allan Reynolds, Jerry Rasmussen, Calvin Reed, Albert Smith, Kirt Valentine, Dan Varos, Lyle Valentine, Douglas Westbrook, Glen White, Richard Westbrook, Edker Wilson, Herb Weissenfels.

It seemed that the town had no problems that they could not solve. The town board has taken care of all matters with no particular difficulty.

In the early days, most of the women stayed at home with their children and their household duties. For them, Monday (EARLY) was washday, and their lives seemed to follow a routine pattern of iron on Tuesday, sew on Wednesday, bake on Thursday, shop on Friday, clean on Saturday, and rest on Sunday. In retrospect, it would appear to have been a rather peaceful life.

For each generation, there was its own particular form of amusement, and Maxine Poulson has shared her memories of her days and times:

School days in the late 20's and 30's was quite different from the 60's and 70's.

The main classes then were reading, writing and arithmetic, along with some history and English. A special emphasis was on penmanship. Among the girls, there was lots of competition to see who could make the nicest "ovals and push and pulls" on two lines of

paper. It was important to use wrist and arm action, not your fingers. Spelling bees were a lot of fun; everyone wanted to be the last person to stand up. Sides were chosen, with the best spellers being chosen first by the captains. The main sports or recess recreation for the kids was playing jacks, hop scotch, and roller skating from one end of the walk to the other. The walk was in a Y shape. Two people would start on either end and meet in the middle.

We had a lot of fun in the 7th and 8th grades with the musical abilities of Mrs. Stewart and Lazelle Jones. We did a lot of singing. Some of our best talent came from Kenneth Jones and Gale Martin; to our young group they were quite a pair of Elvis Presleys.

Very often, in our church gathering, they would sing, "I Am A Mormon Boy." Kenneth and his sister, Florence Jones were good singers too. We especially liked their rendition of "Freckles." In some part of the lyric were the words "Freckles was his name, he always used to get the blame, for every broken window pane. And how he'd tease the girls, When at school he'd pull their curls, etc.

Maxine and Ruth Peterson also did some singing. Their favorite song was "The Prisoner's Song." Gladys Nielson and Deane Christensen always had a good reading or some jokes for the crowd.

A real thrill came to the upper grade school kids when Vernell and Quin Morgan got new bicycles. (Bicycles were few and far between in those days.) These boys were very generous with the use of their bicycles, and many of the students learned to ride them.

After our grade school days were over, we felt very grown-up going to high school in the small building on the north end of our school. We entered the building on the east side and felt that our education would be very full and complete under the fine teachers and the guidance of Miss Iva Reynolds, Harry Thomas, and Darrell Strong. Our subjects were English, General Science, Algebra, Citizenship, Typing, and Colorado History.

We had little time for extra cirricular activities. There was no pep club, student council, annual, FBLA, FHA or special organizations. No lunch rooms to provide hot lunches each day - we usually took our lunch in a five pound bucket or a Delicious brand jam bucket. The lunches were simple - no potato chips, fritos, pop, or boughten cup cakes, fruit or goodies. The sandwiches were from delicious home made bread, with a scrambled egg or some simple sandwich mixture, home made cake or cookies and a small jar of milk that managed to get pretty warm by noon. But the noon hour was fun! What could be more fun than to sit around the room or on the front steps and visit while we ate our lunches together, then gather in the north end of the small main room and hear Thell Bailey or Allen Kirby play the piano? A good ragtime number was Lazy Bones, Deep Purple, Spring Time in the Rockies, Ramona, etc. Some of our favorite dance tunes were Love Letters in the Sand, Save the Last Dance for Me, Good Night Sweetheart; this last song always made us know a wonderful evening of dancing was over, as that was the last number, the "theme song."

Brother Stanley Best and his family came to live here and teach Seminary. They were very musical people and we really enjoyed hearing them sing. My favorite was Somewhere in Old Wyoming and When Its Nighttime in Nevada. Brother Best had an orchestra that played for most of the dances around this area. Others in the orchestra were Gene Poulson, Jr., Allan Kirby, and Thell Bailey.

On special occasions, the high school would have an assembly program. We were highly entertained when Luther Bean would bring some of his talent down from Adams State College. His talks or travel logs, along with some special musical numbers from the Tripp Sisters, made us feel very grown up.

Sometimes we would have high school parties. The two rooms on the west side of the building had double doors, and these two rooms were opened together, giving us plenty of room for dancing and games. Girls usually danced the first dance, a couple in between, and the last dance with their date. This gave a chance to flirt (just a little) and dance with some of the other guys awhile. This worked just the same for the boys, and a good time was had by all.

The refreshments were locked in the office. One night at a party, someone came through the office window and took the goodies. We were very upset, and Mr. Thomas told us not to be so concerned with our refreshments, but to have a good time anyway. If the boys didn't have cars, they would walk home.

On Sunday afternoons, the young people found a central place to meet. This would often be the wall fence of the old post office that Alice Reed ran, and we hoped that someone interesting would come along. If we were lucky, we would have a dime to spend at Nielson's confectionery or the Tivoli ice cream parlor. There was nothing as good as an ice cream soda or a twin mint candy bar. The old style ice cream fountain had such a bit of magic in it. Everytime you pushed a spout, something delicious came out. There were also some slot machines where you could sometimes win a quarter.

Favorite neighborhood games were run-sheep-run and hide and seek, while honey candy was always a good treat for the neighborhood gang to make.

And so it is plain to see that every generation looks back upon fond memories of the little old town they call home.

Fred T. Christensen once made the statement that what the town needs is a more-used paint brush, a broader and keener civic pride, more pushers and fewer leaners. Perhaps this is just as true today as it was fifty years ago, when he made the challenge.

Water and sewer problems have faced the community in recent years, and we now have both facilities plus a new government-financed recreation complex that includes a nice swimming pool. Still lacking, are sidewalks, good street lighting, and other improvements. Hopefully, they are to come in the not too distant future.

It was in the 20's that the first body of Catholics moved to Sanford. These people, of Spanish-Mexican descent, came to work in the planting and harvest of farm crops, and they rendered a very valuable service by their labor.

The economic condition of the country was not very good at the time; the nation was heading for a depression. Some of the farm laborers, like the farmers themselves, found it pretty rough going. Being industrious and thrifty, they managed to get along.

Narcisco Martinez may have been the first to come, about 1924 or 1925. Gerardo Lucero was next, moving over from Las Sauses in 1926.

A native of Las Sauses, Gerardo was born there on March 26, 1896. He spent a little time in Amalia, New Mexico, and San Luis, Colorado, then came back to Las Sauses to settle down. About that time, Orval Peterson came to town looking for help; Gerardo moved to Sanford, where he spent the remainder of his lifetime.

The other Lucero brothers, Lorenzo and Henry, soon joined Gerardo.

Don Chavez moved in from New Mexico, and he was followed by some of the Gardunias, Jaramillos, Ruybals, Medinas, Archuletas, Olguins, Lopezes, Gallegoses, Rendons, Montoyas, Arellanos, Garcias, and others.

These people had quite a problem attending church since there was no place for them to worship in Sanford, and it was a long way over to Las Sauses in those days. They were forced to miss out on many of the meetings that they wished to attend. How they longed for a Catholic Church closeby!

Manuel Olguin came from Walsenburg and married a Las Sauses girl prior to coming to Sanford. Their marriage was arranged by their parents and Mrs. Olguin always felt that marriages were happier then than they are now. There were celebrations to honor the bride and groom; one of them being that the couple were transported by a little mule-drawn buggy down the street while musicians and friends followed the procession.

Amarante and Beranda Martinez moved from Nortonville in 1926. Amarante had helped clear the land at Nortonville, as had many of the Las Sauses and Sanford people.

Time passed by, and the older generation never gave up their dream of having a Catholic Church in Sanford. By the time this became a possibility, many of the younger people felt that it was too late - they could easily attend church in La Jara now that they had automobiles.

For Gerardo Lucero, Amarante Martinez, Marciano Jaramillo, and others of the older generation, it was still a dream to work for. They got busy and donated labor and money, held raffles, and soon had enough money for a church.

Their dream came true in 1952, when the new building was used for the first time.

Due to a shortage of Priests, as well as the proximity of the large and beautiful new church at La Jara, services are no longer held in Sanford.



Catholic Church at Sanford



Maria D. and Gerardo Lucero



Beranda and Amarante Martinez



Narcisco Martinez

It was the intent of church officials that Sanford would eventually absorb the Ephriam and Richfield Wards. This wish was only partly fulfilled, however, for a number of settlers remained in Richfield.

From the Manuscript History of the Church:

A townsite was accordingly surveyed in 1885, and three dwellings were erected on the townsite in the fall of 1885 and during the following winter. Peter Andrew Mortensen and Rial Owens were the first settlers who moved onto the townsite and Peter A. Mortensen built the first house on the town survey.

In 1886, Andrew Rasmussen, Lindsay E. Brady, Lars Mortensen, George David Morgan, Ephriam Mortensen, W.O. Crowther, William Thomas Morris, Peter Cheney, Albion Haggard, and others settled at Sanford.

Also moving to Sanford were Bishop Thor N. Peterson of the Richfield Ward and Bishop Peter Rasmussen of the Ephriam Ward. These gentlemen were placed in charge of the settlement until such time as a Presiding Elder was named. Bishop Peterson had jurisdiction over the north part of town, while Bishop Rasmussen was in command of the southern portion.

Like Manassa, Sanford erected a bowery similar to but smaller than that built earlier in Salt Lake City. This structure was located where the Seminary Building now stands, and it was used as a place for worship, entertainment, etc. Sunday schools and MIA meetings were held there.

In September of 1886, Apostle John Henry Smith visited Sanford and, under his direction, Albion Haggard was named Presiding Elder of the settlement. The membership of the Ward, though deprived of many of the necessities of life, immediately gave thought and action to the construction of a permanent place of worship; a foundation was laid for the white sandstone chapel that was twenty years under construction.

In 1886, the Sanford Ward was organized, with Soren C. Berthelsen, a splendid colonizer, named to the office of Bishop. George W. Irvin, Peter Rasmussen, William O. Crowther, and Marion D. Malloy were his counselors.

The log meeting house was moved from Ephriam in the fall of 1888, and in 1900 a new meeting house was built of logs hauled from the west mountains. By 1893, there were 124 families of 687 souls residing in the Ward.

Bishop Berthelson, an expert builder, had constructed a large red brick home that was extremely comfortable for the day. This home provided a place for early meetings, with an upstairs room being set aside for use by Church officials. Furnishings in the room included an altar, which was used for prayer meetings. The hospitality of the Berthelsens was enjoyed by visiting authorities and others who were in need of such facilities.

Bishop Berthelsen reported the condition of the ward at a Stake Conference



Sanford Ward Choir, About 1898

Women (Seated left to right) Julia Whitney, Golda Mortensen, Minnie Johnson, Bird Faucette, Til Funk, Willie Morris (boy), Laurette Peterson. (2nd row) Laura Morgan, Dixie Faucette Mattie Irvin, Ella Rasmussen, Julia Corey, Emma White, (3rd row) ?, ?, Maud Johnson, Mary Brady Cornum, Nellie Johnson
 Men (Front row left to right) Will Morris (Conductor) Lars Mortensen, Main Mortensen, Will Corey, Orlando Funk (2nd row) Bernard Bailey, Alfonso Faucette, George Rasmussen, Fred Christensen, John Rasmussen, Holm Mortensen (3rd row) Jess Mortensen, Harvey Timms, Charlie Bailey, Will Crowther. Pat Luster in the door - Arthur Jones, Charlie Luster, Wilford Peterson (little boy in the white shirt).

held in Manassa and made mention of the Sanford Ward with its three branches, Jarosa, Richfield, and Morgan. Very little is known of the Jarosa Branch. It was noted that:

Jarosa settlement was probably broken up before the Seventh Day Adventist settlement of that place was begun.

Early baptisms for the Sanford Ward were performed in "Brothers' Pond." This was a hand-dug reservoir of water located on the William Brothers property at the northwest corner of town. Clara Johnson remembers of having been baptized there early in the month of November. The ice had to be broken in order for her to go into the water. She also tells of having then been taken over to Sister Brothers' home on the hillside across from the pond, where a cozy fire was waiting to warm the new little members of the church. The Sanford Canal was later used for baptisms, until such time as a Stake Baptismal font was constructed in Manassa.

Bishop Berthelsen served the ward for eleven years, and then new officers were installed. William Orson Crowther became Bishop, with Marcus O. Funk, William C. Christensen, John W. Taylor, Herman K. Christensen, Swen Peterson serving as his counselors, and Peter Rasmussen, James P. Jensen, and Job Whitney as Ward Clerks.

Highlighting Bishop Crowther's eleven years in office was the construction and completion of the stone Chapel.



The beloved old church was truly a monument to the pioneer builders who labored for twenty years on its construction. It has been said that there was not a man or woman who lived in Sanford during those years whose name was not found as a donor to this substantial edifice.

Under the direction of the Bishop, Soren C. Berthelsen, ground was broken in 1887. William Brothers took the lead by digging the foundation with a hand shovel.

Huge stones, quarried on Hot Creek, were hauled by horse teams a distance of twenty-two miles to Sanford. As can be imagined, the job of handling the stone was immense, especially since it was done without the use of heavy equipment of any kind. Most of the stone was chisled into shape by Sol Lloyd, Jacob Piercy, and Sam Carter. Jess Hutchins remembered of having hauled rock from Haggard Mountain east of Sanford, and it is thought that this stone was used in the foundation of the building.

Old timers have fond memories of the days when the construction site was an ant bed of activity. Most of the work was done in the winter, when the farmers were not busy in the fields. Women labored wherever possible, also contributing Sunday egg money and whatever else they could to the financing.

Children played on and near the construction, and some still recall the fun they had climbing on the scaffolding. The story is told of an exciting time when the walls were up about 15 feet high, and young Dorrell Cornum managed to get a bicycle to the top, where he rode around the partially completed walls to the delight of a very excited audience.

There is little recorded history of the building. Church records provide only the statement by Andrew Jensen, Church Historian, who visited Sanford in the fall of 1893 and wrote that "A foundation for a new meeting house is laid." No exact date of dedication is available, nor is the name of the person who offered the dedicatory prayer.

Twenty thousand dollars is an approximate cost, and no doubt it was a source of great satisfaction to those who accomplished its construction, as it was done during a time when the members of the church were experiencing extreme hardship as they struggled to survive in a new location. Their faith was truly evidenced by the fine building they provided for worship.

Many will remember the church, with the double doors at the east entrance that were never locked. Inside was the little vestibule, with bare wooden floors and a ladder on the south wall that went all the way to the steeple. At one time or another, nearly every child in town dangerously scaled the ladder and took a bird's eye view of the town. Fortunately, no accidents were ever reported, and only the pigeons nesting in the steeple knew who the visitors were.

The view below was quiet and peaceful, befitting that of a church yard. Wild grass grew uncultivated, while dandelions popped courageous heads above ground with no fear of being unwelcome or despised; some even ended up in cherished bouquets. Wild morning glory clung for life to the wire

fence in front of the grass, its small lavender-pink blooms greeting each day with a smile and closing at sunset to get ready for the next day's performance.

There were north, east, and south walks all leading to a double water fountain that gushed cold, clear artesian well water in front of the building. By the north gate, was a large blue-grey rock on which was chisled "Holiness To The Lord" with the name of Silas Sanford Smith, for whom the town was named, and other bits of historical information.

Inside the church proper was a large room where three rows of benches east and west were crisscrossed midway by aisles. This large assembly room could be divided into classrooms by green curtains pulled along division wires. Double doors on the north were used by the janitor for access to the coal house on the northwest side of the building. The matching double doors on the south accommodated caskets and pall bearers; in the early days, the horse-drawn wagon unloaded and loaded its sad burden at this entrance and, in more recent times, the big black hearse parked ominously alongside.

Two large black coal burning stoves radiated heat as the janitor (Andrew Rasmussen is one that many remember) rattled the coal bucket and adjusted dampers on the black stove pipes that extended all the way to the ceiling. At the time the church was built, it was the plan that a second story would be put in. This was never done, however, resulting in an extremely high ceiling with considerable heat loss. On cold nights, the crowd gathered around the stoves prior to commencement of the meetings.

Of course, there were bare wooden floors throughout, except for the official's stage, where a 'carpet runner' was provided through the courtesy of the Relief Society Sisters. Coal oil lamps furnished the early lighting, followed by the carbide light, and finally the miracle of electricity.

There was a platform the width of the center aisle on which was located a desk for the ward clerk as well as a sacrament service table. This platform was enclosed by a white and gold railing, as was the stage proper, where was located seating arrangements for the bishopric and other officials. This stage extended the width of the building and was large enough to accommodate a piano and benches on the north and south ends, as well as seating space for graduation classes and others who participated in various programs.

Elevated above the second stage was the choir alcove, with a pump organ in the center. Laurette Peterson, Bernard Bailey, Holm Mortensen, Lettie Jensen, Eugene Mortensen and others beat time to the music of Leila Messervey, Leah Kirby, Ellen Smith and others.

Back of the choir alcove, was an entrance to the spiral staircase that circled around to the single classroom over the back part of the building. Children liked to peek into the little door alongside the staircase and speculate about the unfinished space within.

There was also a cloak room and music shelves back of the choir space, and entrance to the back of the church was gained by climbing a series of large cement steps. Children enjoyed the resting place these steps provided when church was not in session, as the afternoon sunshine poured generously upon groups of girls having a heart-to-heart talk or sharing a treat from the store across the way.

The old church served the ward for forty-one years, under the direction of eight bishoprics.

Bishop W.O. Crowther's persistent self-education more than compensated for the lack of formal education that he, and others of his generation, found wanting. He often expounded words of great wisdom, as he lead the ward from 1899 to 1911.

A devoted family man, he called his family together each morning in what was a forerunner of today's "home evening." They would have family prayer, read the scriptures and, of course, sing a few songs. Crowther was extremely talented musically, and his strong bass voice was heard on many occasions along with his sisters, Laura Morgan and Rozilla Mortensen, and a brother-in-law, Holm Mortensen, as they performed for social gatherings, funerals, etc.

In May of 1911, James P. Jensen was called to the office of Bishop, and he served for twelve years. Bishop Jensen's counselors were Erastus Beck, Lars H. Mortensen, and his clerks were Peter Marion Mortensen and Henry W. Valentine.

In those days, the handling of tithes and offerings was a big job. More produce than cash was paid into the church, such as hay, grain, livestock butter, eggs, chickens, vegetables, and even dubills. This required the keeping of an exchange record, shrinkage, etc. The annual reports were very difficult, and Bishop Jensen's wife, Lettie, was invaluable in the help she gave her husband.

Those who remember Bishop Jensen say that he was a powerful orator, given to pounding the pulpit and using arm and hand gestures that awoke the congregation to the message of the gospel. Many people today lament the loss of such speakers and the vigor and fire of their spoken word.

During Bishop Jensen's term of office, the Tivoli was purchased and put to use as a ward recreation facility.

John B. Reed became Bishop in 1922, and served until such time as he became a member of the San Luis Stake Presidency. Bishop Reed's counselors were Fred T. Christensen and William Alma Crowther, with Henry W. Valentine as Ward Clerk.

It was during the term of office of Bishop Reed that the practice of receiving produce as payment of tithing was discontinued and the old tithing granary was abandoned.

The welfare of his fellow men was of deep concern to Bishop Reed, and he was always there to look after the needy of the ward.

As Bishop, he was involved in what became known as the "dark days" of the San Luis Stake - a period of time during which the question of continuing the San Luis Stake Academy as opposed to building public high schools generated a great deal of ill feeling among the members of the Stake.¹

In 1929, Henry W. Valentine was sustained Bishop of the Ward, with William C. Christensen, William Alma Crowther, S. Orval Peterson, B. Edgar Berhman, and Stanley E. Best serving as counselors. Roy P. Christensen was Ward Clerk.

Bishop Valentine was a highly spiritual man, credited with having a very special gift for healing. He was relied on to a great extent in times of sickness and other need.

The red brick seminary building was built on the southwest corner of the church block during Bishop Valentine's term of office, and the religious education of young Latter Day Saints was encouraged.

William Alma Crowther took office in 1930, with Hemming V. Morgan, Stanley E. Best, and Wilford G. Peterson as his counselors. Roy P. Christensen and Merlin R. Manning served as clerks.

This was a period of great financial distress for the ward. Bishop Crowther supervised the re-painting of the stone chapel, renovation and improvement of the Tivoli, and the payment of an indebtedness on the Seminary Building.

Discussion of possibilities for construction of a new chapel took place, as ward members recognized the need for a larger place in which to worship. It was the decision of Bishop Crowther that the time was not ripe to begin such a project. (It is interesting to note that the stone church was the same age at that time as the present 'new' chapel is today - 1976).

It was in 1936 that Wilford G. Peterson was appointed Bishop, with Renold C. Johnson and Orin E. Beck as counselors. J. Douglas Westbrook was the new Ward Clerk.

The financial affairs of the ward were still critical, but a building fund for a new chapel was begun. The first drive was quite disheartening, however the Bishopric was not discouraged and the effort continued over a two year period with \$87.00 being collected - a start, at least, toward a new chapel for the ward.

Bishop Peterson was a talented musician, and he was extremely interested in the Ward Choir. In spite of the tight financial situation, a new piano was purchased for the ward.

¹The Academy-High School situation is recorded in the chapter on the school.

Bishop Peterson was also greatly concerned with the aging members of the ward, and he expended considerable effort to provide for their physical comfort and spiritual uplift.

In those days, annual "old Folks" parties were held. People over fifty classified as "old," and a part of the ward organization was the "Old Folks Committee," who were responsible for looking after the recreational needs of members in the over-fifty age group.

The next Bishop was Renold C. Johnson, who was appointed in 1938. Orin E. Beck, H. Eugene Mortensen, and Stanley E. Best worked with him as counselors, and Theodore Reynolds was the Ward Clerk.

Those were the days of World War II with its heartbreak and suffering. Six young Latter Day Saint men from Sanford lost their lives - James Crowther, Ned Christensen, Nyle Reed, Lyle Martin, Ross Bailey, and Curtis Lennington.

Under the leadership of Bishop Johnson, the Relief Society Building was enlarged, an electric organ was bought, and the building fund drive continued; it grew to \$4600!

On December 3, 1944, Wilford R. Morgan became Bishop of the Ward. Those who served as counselors were Joseph C. Mortensen, Harvey L. Deem, and Eugene F. Barr. Theodore Reynolds continued as Ward Clerk with Quinten Crowther as Assistant.

One of Bishop Morgan's first official acts was a trip to Salt Lake City to present a plan to the Presiding Bishopric. His proposal of a \$90,000 chapel for Sanford was met with the comment that a sum that size would build a substantial building - one comparable to those in Salt Lake City. "That's exactly what we want," he said, "We're as good 'a people as they are, and we want as good 'a building."

The authorities agreed to provide matching funds with those collected in the ward, and things were underway at last. Morgan appeared before those authorities several times during the next few years, accompanied on one occasion by his counselor, Eugene Barr. Each time, the appropriation was increased to meet rising building costs.

Fund raising was still the immediate problem, and a building committee was appointed; Inez Deem, James A. Reed, and S. Orval Peterson were the members.

The great depression was over; the country's economy was on the upswing. The building fund had grown considerably since the initial efforts were made in 1936. In 1943, \$940.90 in cash and \$316.59 in bonds had been donated, while an additional \$3,899.46 was collected in 1944.

Nineteen forty five was the big year, however, with \$17,310.14 swelling the fund, while the 1946 donations amounted to \$6,717.50.

Two banquets were held, with the Relief Society taking over the job of

preparing and serving the food. Almina Lennington, President of that organization, with her officers, Stella Crowther, Edith Hutchins, Thelma Crowther, and Luella Reynolds, worked right along with the men in the business of fund raising. Bishop Morgan also credits Nora Hansen as being an extremely devoted worker, as were all of the Relief Society members, as they prepared hot rolls, creamed chicken, cakes and pies, along with other food items that made the dinners very profitable. Professional entertainers, Shorty, Sue, and Sally, from Denver, added zest to the programs that accompanied the banquets.

Farm sales were also held; farmers donated livestock, machinery, and other items of farm interest to the tune of \$7,500.

It was a traumatic experience for young and old when the stone church was destroyed to make way for the new chapel. Carl Westbrook, then a first grader at Sanford Grade School, tells of his class' reaction:

We were looking out the window when Albert pulled in with his big machinery to start knocking the walls down. Everytime the big old ball swung around to the wall and another section crumbled, our faces got a little longer. Some of the girls cried.

There are many who felt that the old building should have been left to stand as a monument to the industry and faith of the pioneers. Eugene Barr reports that a group of older people met at his grocery store across the street from the church at the time demolition was begun. They strongly protested the destruction of the building.

Perhaps the structure would have been preserved had the new chapel been constructed today, for antiquities are much more highly valued now than then, with interested groups fighting to preserve the old landmarks for the benefit of future generations.

One lady, in a biography of her father, spoke dramatically of the situation:

It was torn down and replaced with a beautiful new modern chapel. Yes, torn down and scattered, and forgotten by a new generation that knew nothing of the love, the labor, the sweat, and the sacrifice that went into every stone and inch of the materials of that old building.

Many have speculated as to the fate of the large stone that stood beside the north gate, on which local history was inscribed. It was learned that this rock was pushed to the side, where a hole was dug and the rock buried.

Ground for the new edifice was broken on April 7, 1948, with appropriate ceremonies to mark the occasion.

Members of the ward were anxious to help with the hauling of sand, gravel, brick, and other building materials that were to be piled on the south church lawn, where a straw house was built for the purpose of drying and



Congregation of Sanford Ward
Last Meeting Before The Stone Church Was Torn Down



PIONEERS OF SANFORD WARD

storing the hand-made bricks that were used for the inner construction of the walls (it was agreed that the ward could credit their portion of the building fund with the value of the cement bricks thus made). A fire was built in the straw house in order to speed the drying process; it got out of hand, causing the shelter to burn to the ground. So it was that the entire operation was moved to the interior of the Tivoli, from which the famous spring floor was removed to facilitate the project.

Bishop Morgan bought a ton of coal, fired up the two stoves in the dance hall, hired several men to help out at the brick mold that made eight bricks at a time. These workers also volunteered part of their labor, as did members of the ward who came and went on a donation basis to off-bear bricks and assist at the cement mixer.

The bricks were stacked on the floor to dry, with the Bishop making many nocturnal visits to the Tivoli to ascertain that the coal stoves were doing their duty. In about two months time, 200,000 bricks had been made, and a crew of men hauled them to the church yard.

Architects from Salt Lake City drew the blue prints, and Bishop Morgan said he felt inspired when he hired Charles Schofield as building foreman. Schofield had constructed a number of buildings in the valley, including Sanford's school house, as well as numerous public buildings in New Mexico. He was highly qualified for the job and accepted a wage of \$2.00 an hour for his services.

Morgan had complete responsibility for handling funds, paying bills, hiring, directing, etc. He was allowed to sign as building contractor, resulting in a considerable monetary saving to the ward.

For eighteen months the construction site was busy - busy! A great deal of the work was done by donated labor, both skilled and unskilled. The skills of Sanford's own carpenters, painters, plaster men, and other builders were utilized to the fullest.

On September 18, 1949, following a quarterly conference in Manassa, the building was dedicated. Antone R. Ivans of the First Council of Seventies, offered the dedicatory prayer.

At that time, Inez Deem was called upon to report as a member of the building committee. She called attention to the fact that the largest single donation was from one man who gave \$2000 in cash and then donated venetian blinds that were installed throughout the building.² The smallest donation was from a child who had 5¢ to give to the building of the chapel. Sister Deem emphasized that "ALL WERE APPRECIATED."

Bishop Morgan served the ward for seven years, and many feel that it was

²There were several father and son or 'family' donations in similar amounts, but this was the largest single donation.

his special calling to get the church built.

Harvey L. Deem was then called to be Bishop of the Ward in 1951. He chose for his counselors William F. Canty and Clarence L. Martin. Theodore Reynolds remained as Ward Clerk.

Bishop Deem recalls with pleasure the harvesting of a church grain crop when thirteen combines and a number of trucks were in the field at one time.

Landscaping of the area around the recently erected Monument to the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers was also accomplished with the Bishop supervising hauling of top soil and Douglas Westbrook, who had done the job of landscaping the church grounds, taking over the job of planting grass, hedge, etc.

In 1952, S. Orval Peterson became Bishop, with Earl Lennington and William F. Canty as counselors. Clarence L. Martin was named Ward Clerk, and Assistant Clerks were Quinten Crowther and Harold G. Christensen.

The Stake was in the process of purchasing a farm, and a drive for funds to assist this project was held.

Bishop Peterson loved music, and choir members will recall his devotion to the ward music program. In spite of several disabling farm accidents, he was always on time to sing and support the choir.

Albert Mortensen was named Bishop in 1959. Counselors who served with him were Kenneth Jones, Quinten R. Crowther, with Keith Morch as Ward Clerk. Assistant Clerks were Franklin R. Johnson, Ray D. Hutchins, and Robert O. Bailey.

An increase in attendance from 30% to 48% called for an addition to the new chapel, and a Junior Sunday School addition was constructed. At this time, Church headquarters in Salt Lake were furnishing 70% of the financing, with the ward being assessed for the remaining 30%.

A new chapel was under construction at Manassa with a church architect providing services for that ward. He was enlisted to do the same for Sanford, and Kenneth Jones, a member of the Bishopric who was also a builder by occupation, was put in charge of the work. William Canty provided able assistance, as did Pete and Ed Canty, Frank Johnson, Ted Reynolds, Evert Crowther, Bob Johnson and others.

In less than three months time, the new portion of the building was put to use. Ward members then combined forces to repaint the entire building.

Bishop Mortensen was keenly interested in Project Temple, and approximately thirty families were sealed in the House of the Lord during his years of supervision, while over 50% of the young people who married did so in the Temple.

From 1966-1971, John Chester Flavin, Mr. served as Bishop, with Jay Jackson and Phillip B. Reynolds as counselors. Ralph A. Nielson was Ward Clerk, and his assistants were Donald G. Larsen, Robert G. Crowther, Clive L. Edgar, and Vernell H. Morgan.

Project Temple was also high on Bishop Flavin's priorities, as was missionary work. There were fourteen missionaries in the field during his term of office.

The community wished to build a recreation center, and Bishop Flavin was instrumental in getting church property approved and donated to the county for that purpose.

Jay Jackson became Bishop on May 16, 1971, with Donald G. Larsen and Phillip B. Reynolds as counselors and Quinten Crowther as Ward Clerk. Assistant clerks were Raymond O. Crowther, Robert G. Crowther, O. Clayton Peterson, Calvin B. Reed, Derrill E. Mickelsen, and Mark H. Crowther. Gene M. Poulson served as Executive Secretary.

The young people of the ward were very active - there were 36 priests in Sanford. Sixteen missionaries were in the field at one time, including three married couples who received special calls to serve for 18 months. They were Harry and June Morgan, Raymond and Verla Crowther, and Walter and Vera Rogers.

There was a considerable increase in attendance, with 55% of the ward out to Sacrament Meeting. It became necessary to divide the Elder's Quorum, and serious consideration was given to dividing the ward itself.

Plans were made and the ground work laid for an addition and remodeling of the building to include ten new classrooms, a new library, improved kitchen facilities, and a multi-purpose room.

About this time, there was a change in church policy. There was to be no more remodeling of one-ward chapels. Sanford's plans were shelved. Assessments had been made, and ward members were beginning to pay their contributions to the fund. (It was estimated that cost of the construction would have been in the neighborhood of \$175,000.00.)

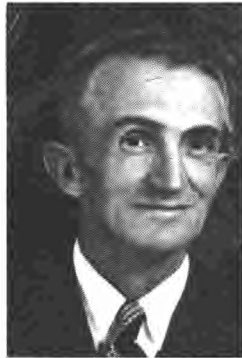
Bishop Jackson was released and Clarence L. Martin sustained as Bishop in 1976. Martin's counselors are Clyde Mortensen and Kirt Valentine, with Lowell Morgan serving as Ward Clerk. Assistant Clerks are Jack Signs and Mark Crowther; Dennis Mortensen is Financial Clerk and Gaylon Mortensen holds the office of Executive Secretary.

The new bishopric is stressing the missionary program; goals have been set and the young men and women of the ward are being encouraged to live worthy to receive a call.

A beautification committee has been appointed, and an extensive rejuvenating project is now underway at the Sanford Church. It is hard to realize that our "new" church is no longer new.



Bishop Berthelsen



Bishop Wilford G. Peterson



Bishop Jensen



Bishop W.O. Crowther



Bishop W.A. Crowther



Bishop Valentine



Bishop Reed



Bishop Jackson



Bishop Flavin



Bishop Orval S. Peterson



Bishop Mortensen



Bishop Morgan



Bishop Johnson



Bishop Deem

OFFICERS WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE SANFORD RELIEF SOCIETY

April 15, 1888

President, Cornelia Mortensen; Counselors, Margarite Rasmussen, Laura Morgan; Secretary, Mary (Frank) Crowther; Assistant Secretary, Adella Mickelsen.

1893

President, Mary A. Berthelsen; Counselors, Mary Crowther, Sidney Irvin, Annie Otteson; Secretary, Julia Whitney.

1903

President, Mary P. Crowther; Counselors, Eliza Westover, Elizabeth Decker; Secretary, Fortilda Funk; Treasurer, Julia Whitney.

1908

President, Lettie S. Jensen; Counselors, Boletta Block, Laura Morgan; Secretary, Fannie B. Mortensen, Lena Heiselt; Assistant Secretary, Mary Beck, Maggie Christensen.

1912

President, Lena Heiselt; Counselors, Laura Nielson, Mary Jane Carter; Secretary, Della Rasmussen, Irene McIntire; Assistant Secretary, Mae Larsen, Treasurer, Emma Smith.

1915

President, Lena Heiselt; Counselors, Anna Messervey, Emma Smith; Secretary, Sadie Mortensen; Assistant Secretary, Naomi Valentine; Treasurer, Mary Crowther.

1922

President, Dixie Christensen; Counselors, Sadie Mortensen, Mayme Johnson; Secretary and Treasurer, Vera Brothers, Almina Lennington; Assistant Secretary, Adella Gylling.

1927

President, Amy Jones; Counselors, Emma Smith, Ella Peterson; Secretary and Treasurer, Almina Lennington, Bernice Thomas.

1930

President, Mabel Christensen; Counselors, Nora Hansen, Annie Smith, Nellie J. Hutchins; Secretary and Treasurer, Marba White, Assistant Secretary, Bernice Thomas.

1933

President, Agnes Reed, Counselors, Edna Nielson, Sylvia Cunningham; Secretary and Treasurer, Bessie Christensen, Marba White.

1936

President, Lettie S. Jensen; Counselors, Birdie Jackson, Etta Martin, Ella Peterson, Stella Crowther; Secretary, Theresa Paulson, June Morgan.

1943

President, Eva Martin; Counselors, Nora Hansen, Iva Crowther; Secretary, Verla Crowther, Almina Lennington.

1947

President, Almina Lennington; Counselors, Edith Hutchins, Estella Crowther; Secretary, Thelma Crowther, Luella Reynolds.

1951

President, Ida Westbrook; Counselors, Bitha Grantham, Alice Canty; Secretary, Marba White, Luella Reynolds.

1954

President, Jennie Peterson; Counselors, Leola Reynolds, Dee Reed; Secretary, Marba White.

1956

President, Gladys Barr; Counselors, Leola Reynolds, Dee Reed, Lois Peterson; Secretary and Treasurer, Luella Reynolds.

1959

President, Marcella Crowther; Counselors, Thelma Crowther, Phoebe Reed, Mary Martin; Secretary and Treasurer, Luella Reynolds.

1962

President, Phoebe Reed; Counselors, Doris Valentine, Dee Reed, Kathleen Mortensen; Secretary, Luella Reynolds.

1964

President, Louise Mortensen; Counselors, Louise Dyer, Mary Lou Crowther, Maude Hartung, Olive Reed; Secretary, Hazel Ganus, Luella Reynolds.

1969

President, Sally Mortensen; Counselors, Mary Lou Crowther, Mary Leone Johnson, Secretary and Treasurer, Bessie Terrell, Ramona Martin.

1972

President, Janeen Canty; Counselors, Karen Morgan, Donna Meek; Secretary, Ramona Martin.

1973

President, Helen Reed; Counselors, Ramona Martin, Mary Leone Johnson; Secretary, Bertha Mullins, Evelyn Jackson.

1976

President, Mary Leone Johnson; Counselors, Thelma Crowther, Kathleen Reed, Maxine Poulson; Secretary, Bertha Mullins.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The splendid memory of Harry Thomas was the source of information for most of the early school history. He said it was not his intention to write a chapter of my book. He did, however, generously give me permission to use any or all of his research as I saw fit. This I have done, interlacing my own records with his, the result being what I feel is a rather accurate record.



Mary June Peterson was once a student in the classroom of Harry Thomas. His presence filled her with apprehension even though she had not committed a breach of conduct and was not in line to be punished. She just knew that he meant business; times were tough and a school master had to be firm to cope with the situation. It was toe the mark or else!

I am extremely fortunate to have known this man again - this time to see him through adult eyes. I have enjoyed the process of becoming acquainted with a person previously known to me chiefly as a stern disciplinarian.

I am now able to more fully appreciate the problems he encountered in a period of time when school teaching and administration was an extremely difficult, and sometimes thankless, job that required the educator to spread his efforts over a broad field of endeavor for which he was but poorly compensated. I can now better appreciate his sacrifice, his intelligence, his perseverance, and, most of all, his dedication.

If it were left to me to evaluate his personality and name one trait with which I am most impressed, I would surely have to place high on the list his totally candid humor. How refreshing it is to visit with a person who has the courage to tell it the way it is and let the chips fall where they may. Oftimes, he enjoys the best laugh at his own expense.

My deep appreciation to one who has indeed left footprints in the sands of time.

Mary June Miller

September is
 School days
 Apple butter
 Indian summer

Asters
 Nostalgia
 Dreams mellow

Nature's abundance
 Crisp
 Yellow

Summer's postscript
 Anticipation
 Soul's prayer

Rededication

MJM

A makeshift school house was used in Sanford until the old log school house was erected. This building stood on the approximate location of the present Monument to the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. It was later moved and joined to the Relief Society hall, directly west of its original location (this building is now used as a meeting place for LDS Seminary students).

George Irvin, who had taught school at Ephriam, took charge once more. Irvin was an outstanding man in the community, extremely active in civic affairs, and he held the office of Conejos County Superintendent of Schools for several terms.

As soon as possible, a new red brick school building, with four rooms, was erected in the north center section of the old ball park where the recreation center now stands. It bore the inscription, "ERECTED IN 1896." Two upstairs classrooms were separated by a partition made up largely of folding doors, making a large room available for assemblies or special community meetings. Each room had its own stove.

In the fall of 1906, William Jones became school principal, with Hannah Thomas teaching the first grade.

Frank Soule became principal of the school in 1907. Soule was a convert to Mormonism, having come to the valley from Wisconsin. A brilliant man and a truly great teacher, he was in charge of the Sanford school for

three years before leaving to serve as principal of the San Luis Stake Academy at Manassa. Other teachers during that period included Agnes Beck, Miss Lehman, Margarite McDonald, and Mable Hansen.

Mr. Soule was succeeded in Sanford by Alfred Carmean, who taught for three years, 1910-1913. Other teachers were Myrna G. Ball, Miss Lyons, Leah Block, and Edna Paulson.

A new school house was ready for use in the fall of 1913. It stood on the site of the present school building and had six classrooms on the main floor, storage rooms, rest rooms, and a furnace room in the basement, as well as a large attic-like room upstairs. This room was later divided into two classrooms by means of folding doors.

Students lined up on the Y-shaped walk outside the building when the bell rang. At a signal from the teacher, they were to enter the building by means of an orderly march. A drinking fountain was situated in the center of the inside hall, and it seemed that the students became extremely thirsty immediately after the bell rang, often trying to sneak a last minute drink even though the act was punishable by staying in at recess.

Mr. A.B. Bettis, a genuine scholar and old-fashioned disciplinarian from Arkansas, was the new principal. Bettis, looking somewhat like the picture of Abraham Lincoln, was a bit unusual in speech and manner, but through him the students gained a true appreciation of scholarship.

An epidemic closed the school that spring, and most of the eighth grade class did not graduate until the following year.

In 1914-1915, Mr. Soule was once again in charge of the school with his wife, Margarite, also teaching. The return of the eighth grade class of the previous year made that grade's enrollment about twice its normal size. In addition, the reputation of Mr. Soule caused drop-outs from several previous years to go back to school. Some who had already completed the eighth grade but were unable to go to the Academy at Manassa also came back to school to repeat the eighth grade. A few of the pupils received their second eighth grade diplomas and some their third.

The large size and the enthusiasm for education shown by this class stimulated a movement for a high school in Sanford. Only a relatively small number of families owned automobiles, bus service was unknown, and the expense of boarding away from home was prohibitive. The Sanford School Board, B.S. Reynolds, Andrew Paulson, and Fred T. Christensen, considered the problem, and in the fall of 1916 Mr. Soule offered some ninth grade classes in the upstairs room of the school house. The eighth grade was, at that time, taught by Eugene Poulson.

On November 25, 1916, from some unknown source, fire broke out on the roof of the school house about 10:00 P.M., and entirely destroyed all of the wooden part of the building. Only a few pieces of furniture were rescued from two of the classrooms.



Old School House in Ball Park, about 1910



Old School House, about 1913

Fortunately, the building was insured, and the District collected the full amount of the policy - \$7500.00.

The Bishop offered the meeting house and the library building for use as classrooms, the Relief Society offered their hall, Swen Peterson offered the meat market building, and these were gladly accepted. In addition, the District rented Irene McIntire's hat shop for \$5.00 a month, and it was used by the Kindergarten class.

The new school house was built on the old foundation, and was ready for use in the fall of 1917. The old and new buildings were so nearly identical that only an expert could tell one from another.

It was about that time that the great Influenza epidemic swept the nation, and Sanford was not spared. All public meetings were discontinued, and people who went to town for any reason were expected to wear gauze masks. A few students did some work at home, checking their efforts with Mr. Soule at intervals.

This one-man high school continued in 1918-19, although Mr. Soule was given a little help that year. Arrangements were made for King Driggs to teach music in the school. He taught a class for boys in the high school; these boys had never sung before and never expected that they could sing. Driggs gave individual voice tests and succeeded in convincing people that they could sing if they had the desire. Under his direction, several students discovered that they actually had fine voices.

Mr. Soule was attempting to give some tenth grade classes and even some eleventh grade classes in order to hold everybody who was willing to attend school.

In the fall of 1919, the Academy provided a bus for Sanford students, and most of Mr. Soule's advanced students were able to go to Manassa for completion of their work. Curtis Paulson, Aaron Mortensen, Hemming Morgan, and Harry Thomas went to La Jara by means of a car pool, graduating there in 1920. The Sanford High School continued to offer ninth and tenth grade classes with some additional work for more advanced students during 1919-23. Those who were able to graduate in an additional year usually went to the Academy.

The agitation for the establishment of a regular four-year high school increased until the school board called for a bond election in the fall of 1922 for the purpose of authorizing bonds for the construction of a high school building. The endeavor failed. The community was badly divided on the issue, and feelings ran very high.

Stake and Ward leaders were strongly opposed to the move as they felt that it would indicate a lack of support for the Academy, which would probably result in its discontinuance by the church. An agreement was finally reached by the two parties to submit the question to a visiting church authority and to abide by his decision. So it was that Melvin J. Ballard, one of the most beloved and respected men within the church, came from



First Graduating Class, Sanford High School

Irwin Hise, Bruce Reynolds, Don Paulson, Clifford Mortensen, LaVere Soule, Lorraine Young, Iva Reynolds, Frank O. Soule, Mabel Paulson, Della Jack, Melva Wilkensen, Bernice Carter, Blanche Thomas

Utah and listened to the arguments.

The following day, at a church meeting, Elder Ballard explained that it was the policy of the church to discontinue the academies in all areas where public high schools were maintained. He pointed out that the San Luis Stake Academy was one of the very few being allowed to continue because there were no other high school facilities available. The people were advised to vote for the bond issue and go ahead with plans for the Sanford High School. Elder Ballard promised that the Academy would continue for one more year in order to give Manassa time to establish a public high school. He also announced that religious instruction would be provided in both districts by the establishment of seminaries.

Thus, the question was settled, but the ill feeling generated by the controversy remained to divide the community for many years and is still spoken of in Sanford as the "old school trouble."

In keeping with Ballard's promise, Owen and Vivian Romney were sent to the Valley to teach seminary classes in Sanford and Manassa.

A gentleman from the Excelsior District (Nortonville) was now teaching eighth grade and assisting Mr. Soule with the high school classes. He replaced Eugene Poulson, who discontinued teaching after several years of excellent service to the District.

Harry Thomas came on board in the fall of 1922 after having completed his first year's experience in Capulin. He was assigned to the seventh and eighth grades, having an enrollment of fifty-one pupils including Dale Smith, James Jensen, George Brothers, Frank Reynolds, Nelson Mickelsen, Reid Gylling, Vera Mortensen, Hubert Young, Stanley Bailey, Clea Bailey, Clifford Olsen, Maude Guymon, Carlos Ruybal, Lazelle Jones, Ferrell Guymon, Lottie Wilkinson, Charlie Morgan, and others.

The new high school was ready for use in the fall of 1923. In addition to Mr. Soule, two other teachers were hired - Mr. L.H. Mortensen taught English and Spanish, while Mr. George W. Irvin was in charge of History and Social Studies.

Although the high school was actually begun in 1916, the first students were graduated in the spring of 1924. Those who had enrolled during the first four years of the school's existence were required to finish at least one year in some other place. There were twelve graduates in the first senior class: Erwin Hise, Bruce Reynolds, La Vere Soule, Melva Wilkinson, Clifford Mortensen, Loaraine Young, Don Paulson, Mable Poulson, Bernice Carter, Blanche Thomas, Iva Reynolds, and Della Jack.

In 1924-25, Mr. Irvin transferred to teach in the eighth grade and serve as principal of the elementary school. Thomas returned to Greeley to complete his second year of college work. Before the end of the school term, Mr. Soule and two members of the School Board were having difficulty. Soule quarreled openly with Mr. Christensen and worked actively and openly to defeat him for re-election in May of 1925. Mr. Christensen won the election, and Mr. Soule resigned,

being replaced by Theras O. Allred. Irvin discontinued teaching.

Harry Thomas returned at that time as principal of the elementary school and also taught a geometry class in the high school. Other teachers in the high school were Mr. Clark and Miss Jacobucci. The student body had been loyal to Mr. Soule and showed a definite resentment for Mr. Allred. Neither Allred nor Clark were strong in the discipline department; school morale was very low, placing Allred in an almost impossible situation. To add to his problem, the President of the School Board refused to sign his salary warrants on the grounds that he did not hold a proper Colorado certificate.

Several months later, Mr. Reynolds resigned from the School Board after having given many years of dedicated service.

Lynn Ordway became superintendent and high school principal in 1926. He was a competent teacher and an excellent athletic coach (his high school basketball team is given recognition in the chapter on sports).

There were, at this time, twenty-nine school districts in Conejos County, employing 109 school teachers.

The La Jara Gazette listed the following:

District #1 (La Jara) Supt. P.E. Sheppard, Alva L. Pearsall, Grace H. Waters, Pauline Van Eman, Mildred Davis, Marie C. Lynch, Floy Milligan, Adelaide Krum, Hazel Bandt, Gertrude Egly, Mrs. Torrey, Ruth Stabler, Elizabeth Smith, Iva Stoltz.

District #2 (Lobatos) W.M. Thomas, Marcus Jaramillo, Helen Gallegos.

District #3 (San Antone) Mabel Thomas, Mary Rivera.

District #4 (Las Mesitas) Luis E. Bernal, Harold Wissmath, Minnie Hicks, Raymond Irvin, Esther Ruybal.

District #5 (Morgan) Alice Coombs.

District #6 (Sanford) Supt. Lynn Ordway, Angeline Ordway, Harry Thomas, Mrs. R.C. Shellenbarger, Amy Stewart, Mildred Greenamyre, Paoma Dyer, Mabel Poulson, Vera Brothers, Lena Mickelsen.

District #7 (Conejos) Nea Garcia, Alcario Jiron, Elena Gallegos, Evelyn DuBor.

District #8 (La Sauses) George W. Irvin, Zita Saxon, Otilia Gallegos.

District #10 (Antonito) Supt. Harry E. Green, Mary V. Dillon, Alice Fleming, A.J. Perko, Bernice Udick, Lura Bennett, Catherine McKee, Ella Pothoff, Elizabeth Scott, Marguerite Thomas, Marguerite Soule, Pauline Jensen.



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KINDERGARTEN SANFORD, COLO

- District #11 (Los Cerritos) Placida C. Lucero.
- District #12 (El Brazos) Sofia Chacon.
- District #13 (Capulin) Robert Valdez, Cedula Valdez, Isabel Marquez, Agatha Valdez, Carlotta Torres.
- District #14 (Ortiz) James A. Thomas, Mae Thomas,
- District #15 (Excelsior) Charles E. Emery, Ruth Johnson, Ghasky Donnelly.
- District #16 (La Isla) F.O. Soule, Bonnie Soule.
- District #17 (Carmel) Esther Lake, Margery Harris.
- District #18 (Gomez) Rebecca Valdez, Rosura Chavez, Estafinita Valdez.
- District #22 (Antonio) William Garcia.
- District #24 (Joint-Starr) Principal H.H. Brown, Marion X. Smith, Dorothy E. Morris.
- District #25 (Espinoza) Maxine Cornum.
- District #26 (San Rafael) Hazel Hise, Genevieve Guymon, Ethel Helms.
- District #27 (Mogote) Ada M. Vernard.
- District #28 (Romeo) Gertrude H. Reine, Mrs. F.D. McBride, Clara Kruse Taylor, Evelyn Aydelotte, Carrie Packard.
- District #29 (Hot Creek) Frank E. Thomas, Marie Rivera.
- District #30 (Manassa) Supt. L.H. Mortensen, Edison Mason, Elvera Jackson, Estella Kirkpatrick, Lola K. Beck, Emily J. Dunn, Vera E. Bishop, Armande R. Chourry, Hastings Harrison, Janie DePriest, Marva Weiner, Bertha Thomas, Mary A. Van Fradenburg, Josephine Holman.
- District #32 (N. Terrace) Lydia K. Sylvester.
- District #35 (S. Terrace) Katherine Sylvester.
- District #36 (La Florida) Eliseo Lucero, John Lobato.

Those were truly the days of the little red school and often the one-room school house. Only four of the districts, Sanford, Manassa, La Jara, and Antonito, had high schools.

In Sanford, Ed Jones replaced Mr. Christensen on the school board in 1929, and when Mr. Paulson declined to run again, his position was filled by W.A. Crowther.

John Keller became superintendent and high school principal in 1929.

Harry Thomas had received his B.A. degree in the summer of 1930 and was appointed to fill the vacancy that occurred when Keller decided to accept a better position elsewhere. Mr. Stanley was also employed; he lived alone and was an extreme food faddist who couldn't refrain from bringing the subject of food to his English class.

In 1931, Miss Iva Reynolds took Mr. Stanley's position and remained to strengthen the high school staff for many years. Darrell R. Strong also accepted a position in the high school, and Lazelle Jones replaced Thomas in the elementary school. This position was later held by Lola Beck.

During the summer of 1932, Harry Thomas did graduate work at Stanford University, returning in the fall full of plans and high hopes.

The great depression was supposed to have begun in 1929, but Sanford did not feel the full effect until the summer and fall of 1932. Farm produce and livestock became almost worthless on the market. Mortgage foreclosures were common practices. Banks had no money to lend, and they pushed their creditors into desperation by their efforts to collect outstanding loans.

Sanford school warrants became completely unsaleable. During the previous two years, banks had bought these warrants at 10% discount. The inability of the people to pay their taxes, coupled with the practice by the County Commissioners of selling tax certificates to the delinquent tax payers or their agents for a small fraction of the amount actually due, had put the District so far in arrears that financial circles questioned whether the taxes could or would ever be paid. Many other districts in the state were in even worse condition than Sanford. One district in Costilla County was more than eight years in arrears in the payment of their warrants.

"Scalpers" would occasionally buy warrants at 40% discount, but even this market eventually disappeared. Few of the teachers could afford to keep their warrants, and most of them were sacrificed for very little return.

Harry Thomas tells of borrowing money from a Denver concern at 36% interest and repaying the loan with warrants on the basis of \$2.00 in warrants for each \$1.00 owed in principal and interest.

The school budget was trimmed in every possible way, but the District went further in the red each year. Mr. C.O. Poulson had replaced Mr. Crowther on the school board by "write-in" vote. He had never favored a high school on the grounds that the District could not afford to maintain it. At that particular time, it appeared that he was dead right. The District could not afford to maintain any sort of school.

Bruce Reynolds, who had replaced Mr. Jones in 1931, and Mr. Carter were determined to keep the school going if at all possible. When Kit Carson became a member of the Board in place of Mr. Carter (1932), he took the same stand.

It was a losing battle! Some of the teachers were forced to accept federal relief commodities. Others were able to go more deeply in debt and still hang on.

At the close of school in 1934, it was obvious to the School Board and most of the teachers that this could not go on another year. Some of the teachers proposed the operation of a subscription school. The Board Members consented to the plan, with the District agreeing to furnish the building, heat, lights, and perhaps the janitorial services. The teachers were to charge a fixed amount of \$3.00 per pupil each month. The school officially became a private rather than a public school.

The plan, however, was not very successful. Three dollars a month could not easily be found in cash at the time, and many families had a number of children. The teachers did receive plenty of flour, potatoes, carrots, and other commodities, which at the time had very little market value. Harry Thomas recalls:

I remember that Mr. Ed Jones gave me one-half of a dressed hog, which was a welcome contribution indeed. We could not bring ourselves to exclude children from school simply because their parents could not or would not pay their assessments.

By the close of the calendar year 1934, the teachers were ready to abandon the plan. Public school was reopened after the holidays. The twelfth grade class consisted of six girls and one boy, who had acquired enough credits to graduate at the end of the semester. Three additional weeks of public school after Christmas enabled them to graduate, as the public school granted full credit for the work done in the private high school. One or two boys had previously dropped out of class in order to enlist in the CCC Program. The high school was then discontinued entirely.

Mr. Strong went away to dental school. Some of the elementary teachers gave up the struggle. Mr. Thomas, Miss Reynolds, and several others started work again. All were paid in unsaleable warrants.

In March of 1935, Thomas had the opportunity to teach in the Fox Creek School, and the summer school term was just beginning. At Fox Creek, he received a salary in warrants marketable without discount, plus a cabin, fuelwood, etc. He recalls:

We really lived well, and after three years on a diet of carrots and potatoes we fully appreciated all of the little special items such as watermelons, oranges, and an occasional candy bar that could be bought for a very small amount of 'real cash money.'

The local Raleigh salesman, Mr. Emory D. Hoyle, was employed to take the place of Thomas. He began offering some ninth and tenth grade classes once more. Glen Justus was hired to assist Mr. Hoyle in the high school along with Miss Reynolds and, by 1937-38, the full four-year high school program was again in operation.



In spite of the financial problems at hand, the seventh, eighth, and ninth grade pupils had, for several years, enjoyed the honor of being 'upper classmen.' They look back on many pleasant experiences at the school.

Mr. Hoyle introduced the 'dutch rub,' and the students were merciless in the tricks they played on him at Halloween and on other occasions. School teachers were often the victims of not-so-funny jokes, and this gentleman could certainly bear witness to the fact that he was on the receiving end of many of them.

The boys discovered the basement of the old high school building and would go underneath the floor during class periods and pound loudly, drill holes into the girls rest room, and whatever else they could think of to do. It was not uncommon for the teacher to report for class to find the bust of Abraham Lincoln puffing away at a cigarette, or the radiators steaming with the odor of limburger cheese.

In spite of the pranks, Justus sponsored many class activities. The double doors of the assembly room were opened and the teacher, himself, lead the upper classmen to the dancing of "Jolly Is The Miller," "Oh Johnny," etc. Dean Bailey and his high school dance band usually furnished the music.

Refreshments were locked in the office to await intermission, and sometime during the evening, the lights would be turned off at the outside meter, while pranksters gained entrance through the office window and made off with the freezer of home-made ice cream and the cookies. What an exciting chase followed, as those who had cars piled them full of kids and took out in hot pursuit. Sometimes the goodies were recovered, and sometimes they were not - but it was all part of the fun!

The elementary school house burned for the second time in the spring of 1937. The W.P.A. Program was operating nationwide at the time, and the School Board had little difficulty getting approval of a project to build a new school. Sanford had never owned a gymnasium, being dependent on the church-owned Tivoli for athletic events, and everyone was extremely excited over the prospect of a real high school gymnasium.

Charles Schofield was hired as foreman of the building, with the Canties, Frank Johnson, Bob Jack, Joe Holman, and others of the local builders supplying the skilled labor. The Town Hall had recently been completed as a WPA Project, and it was available for use as a temporary school house. Also used during the emergency was the LDS Seminary Building on the southwest corner of the church block, as well as the Relief Society Hall.

Harry Thomas was back in Sanford as superintendent and high school principal in the fall of 1938. A few months after school commenced, the new building was ready for use.

George Schilthius was hired to teach in the high school as well as to coach basketball.

Things seemed to be running smoothly, however the condition of the school district was still critical. Warrants could usually be sold at some price, but salaries were very low and discount rates excessive.

There was no state system for financing education that was worthy of the name. Rank inequality existed among the school districts of each county with respect to their ability to finance a school program. Still greater inequalities were found among the various counties. The expenditure per pupil varied from about eighteen dollars per year for some districts in Conejos and Costilla Counties to seven hundred dollars or more in other districts of other counties. The State political leadership seemed completely insensitive to the problem. For years, the Colorado Education Association had worked for an income tax for school support to partly replace the property tax on which education was entirely dependent. The law was finally passed, but the 1940 Legislature diverted the income tax money into the State General Fund. Many felt that this was the last straw!

The Colorado Education Association, in 1940, postponed its regular meeting until January of 1941, when the State Legislature would be in session. In typical 1977 fashion, a protest march of eight or nine thousand teachers invaded the Legislature and demanded action. The Governor no longer dominated the Legislature, and the 1941 session finally came through with a revision of the school laws, providing much better financial support.

Thomas had resigned before leaving for Stanford University in the summer of 1940, where he earned his M.S. Degree. George Schilthius replaced him as superintendent, and his career in the Sanford School System was ended.

Several attempts were made to develop a school band during those early years, but none succeeded for any length of time. King Driggs had a band doing very well, but it seemed to die out after he left town. A considerable amount of volunteer work was done by Eugene Mortensen, who directed bands for special occasions.

It was about 1930 when Mr. Carter, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Crowther, of the School Board, resolved to promote the organization of a permanent school band. Some larger instruments were purchased and plans were made to employ a director. The onset of the depression and the accompanying financial problems discouraged the band movement. When these three Board Members were replaced, the new board was not particularly interested in this aspect of the school program, and efforts were abandoned. In general, the school prior to 1940 was never committed to a program in music education and, despite the valiant efforts of the directors, a program in music has always been, and still is, a sort of 'red-headed step child' in the family of school subjects.

In summing up the school history through 1940, mention must be made of the janitors. John Carter served at the ball park school house, followed by Jacob Piercy. Sanitary toilets did not exist at the time. Just imagine trying to cut wood, build six or seven individual fires, haul coal, sweep rough wooden floors, and keep outdoor privies clean and useable for 150 to 200 people!

Piercy had the round face and the little round belly that would have made him the classic Santa Claus had his beard been just a wee bit longer. This man was an Englishman direct from the old country and deeply steeped in English tradition. Harry Thomas tells of an incident that happened many years ago:

When, as a boy, I delivered his newspaper, I went on the first occasion to his front door. He opened the door, but reminded me that tradesmen, paper carriers, etc. were expected to use the back door. He then closed the door and went to the back door to receive me after I went around the house.

Piercy was said to have been a very kind person, especially to small children, and some of them still recall the occasion of his death and how it saddened them as his casket was taken from the house by way of a double window being removed to allow for the oversize coffin.

Fred Bentley was the first janitor to work in the 1913 school house where, for the first time, sanitary indoor toilets were available. Parl Holman followed Bentley, and it is reported that he attacked each room like a cyclone, sweat streaming down his face as he swept and straightened each room in an unbelievably short time. Mrs. William Carter was janitor for a short period of time followed by Frank (Peg) Woodward, Frank Johnson, and Alfonso Rasmussen.

At least two other persons, in addition to Eugene Mortensen, are deserving of credit for services rendered the school district, and there may have been others for Mr. Soule was always ready to go out into the community and enlist the help of any specialized person who would help out in the school program. Mr. James A. Daniels taught woodwork in the very early days of the high school, while Naomi Valentine taught sewing and home-making to the girls. It is very unlikely that these people ever received any pay for their services.

Some of the teachers who served in the district prior to 1940 are:

Theras O. Allred	Ethel W. Chesley	Lois Jackson
Irene Bachus	Cleone Christensen	Miss Jacobucci
Myrna G. Ball	Heber Clark	Ellen Jones
Owen Beach	Linda T. Coombs	Lazelle Jones
Agnes Beck	Jane Crowther	Glen Justus
Winnie Bernard	Mildred G. Cornum	Mary Johnson
Lola K. Beck	Paloma Dyer	Bertha King
Austin B. Bettis	Hellen (Hurley) Dalla	Leah Block Kirby
Mae Block	Clea B. Espinosa	Mr. Knowles
Bertha Bodine	Wallace Forbes	George Larsen
Vera S. Brothers	Orlando Funk	Agnes Langston
Alfred Carmean	Mary Heiselt	Miss Lehman
Bernice Carter	John Holly	Miss Lewis
George W. Irvin	Mrs. Hollar	Almina Lennington

Anna B. Lyons
Marguerite McDonald
Leila J. Messervey
Mabel M. Mickelsen
L.H. Mortensen
Harry Thomas
Faye Neal
Edna Paulson Nielson
Cleona Olsen
Lynn Ordway
Ella Otteson
Mrs. Ordway
Hilda P. Phelps

Eugene Poulson
Miss Radford
Della R. Rasmussen
Mr. Reed
Mrs. Reed
Iva Reynolds
Mable Poulson Reynolds
Velma Reed Reynolds
George Shellenbarger
Ellen Jones Smith
Harry Scarff
Frank O. Soule

E.D. Hoyle
Lester Stanley
Nellie Woodward
Eunice White
Delsie Warnock
Bruce Warnock
Nellie Smith
Amy Stewart
Darrell Strong
Mildred Sumner

There was a void of several years in the school records, however the Chieftain was published in 1949 and records are quite complete from that time on with nearly every home in Sanford having some, or all, of the year books.

The book first came out under the sponsorship of Miss La Donne Morgan, with staff members including Lee Oma Martin, David Peterson, La Von Cunningham, Bob Crowther, and John Canty.

At that time, there were only 12 seniors, with a high school faculty of 5 members:

Francis Dahm, Superintendent and Coach
La Donne Morgan, Social Studies
Lola Beck, English
Roberta Dahm, Commercial Classes
Linda Coombs, Home Economics

The school had a glee club, pep club, student council, and a band. The football boys were district champions, and the grade school teachers were Clea Espinosa, Leah Kirby, Edna Nielson, Mary Johnson, Mable Reynolds, Hazel Ganus, Ellen Smith, and Clara Johnson.

For the purpose of this record, it seems suffice to list teachers, board members, custodians, cooks and secretaries as far as possible, with omissions unintentional.

Superintendents: Mr. McClarity, Lola Beck, M.F.C. Smith, George Schilthus, Emil Goimaric, John Canty, and Warren Reed.

Junior High Principal: Arnold Mortensen.

Elementary Superintendent: La Monte Morgan.

Board Members: Harry Morgan (President), Bruce Reynolds (Secretary), Clayton Peterson (Treasurer), Troy Hutchins (Secretary), Clad Christensen (Treasurer), Howard Crowther (Treasurer), Smith Holman (Secretary), Oreland H. Reed (President), Jerry Rasmussen (President), Ray Stewart (Vice President), Joe Mortensen (Secretary), Bob Crowther (Treasurer),

Ralph Hawkins (Vice President), Ray Stewart (President), Bob Crowther (Vice President), Richard Garris (Secretary), Ralph Hawkins (Treasurer).

Cooks: Jennie Wright, Maxine Poulson, Ella Mickelsen, Alice Canty, Millie Faucette, Tina Martinez, Coleen Crowther.

Office Secretary: Maxine Poulson, Marlene Crowther, Judy Holland.

Teacher's Aids: Nellie Otteson, Arlene Reed, Maxine Poulson, Bernice Betenbough, Kay Ragsdale, Clorinda Gardunia, Linda Mortensen, Emily Martinez, Theresa Martinez, Mercy Salazar, Lois Peterson.

Teachers: John Anderson, Mr. Adams, Richard Dawson, Mr. Davenport, Francis Dahm, Charles Derfler, Cynthia De Priest, Roberta Dahm, E.D. Hoyle, Hazel Ganus, Charles Graves, Emil Goimaric, Wilma Jackson, Mary Johnson, Clara Johnson, La Monte Morgan, Lew Meek, Arnold Mortensen, William Mortensen, John Mc Farland, Kim Miller, Ella Mestas, Karen Meek, Pressie Medina, Chester Mischkiel, Louis Means, Leland Marsh, Mrs. Medina, Mrs. Jim Mullings, Alice Rae Mortensen, Mrs. Medina, Larry Martinez, Jim Mullings, Adah Morgan, Mrs. Morgan, Margie Mortensen, Mr. McBride, Marge Martin, Elmer Parker, Phil Peterson, Albert Pruitt, Sally Payne, Hunter Patrick, Mrs. Patrick, Lois Peterson, John Pierce, Shirley Paine, Dennis Valentine, Cynthia Valentine, Robert Simpson, Ellen Smith, Marcus Sigmon, Jack Signs, Mrs. Stokes, Mary Schofield, Steven Brom, Lola Beck, Ernest Balloti, George Bouthelette, Don Bushnell, Kenneth Berggren, Mildred Brink, Irma Bailey, Mrs. Betenbough, Clea Espinosa, Mildred Edgmond, Ann Huffaker, Rosalie Hutchins, Chris Hale, La Donne Haynie, Bill Handshaw, Maude Hartung, Helen Hutchins, Mr. Hoff, Mr. Haeche, Dave Krempley, Leah Kirby, George Kezele, Mrs. Kinker, Edna Nielson, Sibyl Tucker, Clinton Tucker, Joyce Waters, Herb Weissenfels, Twila Wood, Don Chandler, Janeen Canty, Charles Cassio, Marlene Crowther, John Canty, Linda Coombs, Clark Coover, Lena Cunningham, Thelma Crowther, Zelma Coombs, Helen Carlton, Mrs. Chapman, Greg Christensen, Ron Fritts, Fay Fishwood, Charles Florian, Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Fredrick, Edgar Lohrey, Ida Lohrey, Sally Lucero, Bridget Olguin, Mabel Reynolds, Warren Reed, Alan Reynolds, Mr. Rucker, Mack Reynolds, Calvin Reed, Arlene Reed, Duane Roberts, Robert Roy, Iva Reynolds, Dave Robertson, Stanton Roberts, Mrs. Roberts, Charles Ulrey, Gertrude Wyant, Christain Wyant, LaRue Young.

It was in the early 50's that a reorganization committee was set up to study consolidation of some of the smaller schools. Clayton Peterson, from Sanford, was a member of this board, as were others from the county. High school students from Las Sauces were, at the time, attending the Sanford School under special arrangement.

It was decided that Las Sauces would consolidate with Sanford, while the Excelsior District was divided, with a portion of the area to go to Alamosa and the remainder to Sanford. The majority of the students from Excelsior happened to be living in the Sanford section, and the school enrollment was increased considerably; larger facilities were needed.

Considerable remodeling has taken place over the years, with the school now having a special band room, improved home economics facility, industrial arts complex, wrestling room, as well as a new mini-gymnasium to go along with the larger one.

In 1952, under the direction of Hunter Patrick, the school became accredited, and it is now subject to an annual review by the Accreditation Committee. The school is also vocationally certified.

According to Superintendent Warren Reed, the school is financially sound, being current in payment of its bills. Education is of a high quality for dollar invested.

There is occasional legislation on a state basis to incorporate laws abolishing schools with less than 500 student enrollment and thus obtain better distribution of funding. To fully understand all the factors involved, one would need a knowledge of economics. Such matters are sometimes mere matters of opinion; at any rate, most of the people from Sanford are anxious to keep their school. They are proud of it. They feel that the town needs it.

Education in Sanford has come a long way since the little log church was moved from Ephriam and its doors were opened to the pioneer children of the settlement of Sanford.

Sub Chapter 2

To the north and east of Sanford lies a large tract of land which, along with its neighboring ranches, has been known by various names - "Excelsior," "Nortonville," "Rathbuns," and somewhere along the line it even got dubbed with the nickname of "Punkin' Center." This area has played an important part in the history of Sanford and is now incorporated in the Sanford School District.

Its history dates back to 1884, when Mr. T.C. Henry brought to the valley a party of investors from Broomfield, Illinois, and organized the Colorado Loan and Trust Company to sell land that they planned to develop. This ranch was a portion of his vast land promotion. Henry was the first man who attempted to farm the land, and it was he who was responsible for many of the original ditches.

It was about 1905-1907 when the Norton Brothers from Canada visited the beautiful San Luis Valley. It is said that the senior Norton literally fell in love with the climate, fresh air, and sunlight, resulting in their purchase of the property. Ironically, they never lived in the valley, and they visited it only about six times during the many years that it was in their possession.

The Nortons paid a price of from two to three dollars an acre, with parcels being bought at intervals until 10,832 acres comprised the ranch under the Norton ownership. The property was eventually inherited by Harry A. Norton and his sister, Helen M. Norton, from Boston, Massachusetts.

Although the purchase price was small, the ranch originally operated at a loss due to high costs of land development.

An intricate system of ditches was built over the years, with about 32 miles of underground drainage constructed of wood and tile. The original drainage system was built at a cost of \$153,000.03. Various people contracted sections of the job, using their own machinery and crews. Bert Johnson and Ed Bettinger were among the many who worked on the project.

Over the years, more than 100 miles of fence was built, and the first breaking of the sagebrush was accomplished. An immense job of land clearing was done with picks and shovels and the resulting sweat of the laborer's brow. Alfonso Rasmussen, Jim Reed, Gene Poulson Sr. and countless others worked on the job, as did a large number of men from La Sauses, including Manuel Olguin and Amarante Martinez.

One of the place's prime assets was its artesian well water, with about 50 wells dug to a depth of 50-500 feet, resulting in an abundance of water of even temperature. The eternal snows of the Continental Divide provided a

water supply through the Commonwealth Canal, which was soon equipped with check gates and head gates. A bridge over the Rio Grande River was built at Alamosa and said to be strong as the hills.

The first foreman for the Norton Co. was Tom Snelling, followed by J.A. Magee, and later by Charles Seaver. Jim Reed took command in March of 1922 and remained as foreman for 23 years.

The ranch consisted of 1400 acres of farm land at the time and was developed into 3880 acres. Crops included barley, field peas, garden peas, alfalfa, oats, and sweet clover. One year, eleven car loads of sweet clover seed were shipped from the railroad station at Estrella, bringing 11¢ a pound.

Two hundred and seventy five cows arrived at the ranch soon after Reed took over. He pronounced 225 of them "no good," keeping only 50 and selling the remainder. Fifty more were purchased, and the herd eventually grew to 1200; they were kept on the ranch the year around.

In the beginning , there were no tractors. The ranch operated with a force of 132 Kansas mules bought from sales at Mora, New Mexico. There were only six saddle horses on the ranch.

Hogs were raised in large numbers. One year, the ranch produced 3500 hogs worth 2¢ to 9¢ a pound. Cattle were selling for 7½¢ on the Denver market, and they were shipped from Alamosa, handled through commission firms of John Clay, Prey Brothers, and the Knuckles Packing Company. Some of the pork was shipped to Los Angeles, California, and Ogden, Utah.

Bull rakes were used in the hay operation, with four stacking outfits of four men on the stack, four bull rakes, and two overshot stackers. Great quantities of hay were sold; one year, 3000 tons in 60 pound bales was hauled by ten four-horse teams to Estrella, from which point it was shipped to Marshall, Texas.

The ranch had four 4-room houses, all alike, and six large frame houses with identical floor plans of four rooms downstairs and the upstairs not completed. An apartment at the rear of the company store provided housing for the store operators, while the King and Seaver homes were part of the ranch, as was the headquarters house and four others. The Reeds, Jim, Phoebe, and Othelle, resided at headquarters.

Sixteen families lived on the ranch at one time, forming a close-knit group. Some of those who resided there were the Alphonso Rasmussens, Dan Barelans, Joe Hunts, Ben Maestases, Claude Wilkinsons, Gills, Ben Irvins, Danielses, Charlie Tripps, Jess De Priests, Jim Haggards, Jack Hamiltons, Orin Becks, Vernal Andersons, Miltons, Arthur Faucette, Ralph Reynoldses, Al Vancils, Ray Nielsons, Ditmores. Neighboring ranchers included the Simpsons, Andersons, Rays, Masons, Gilbert Reeds, John B. Reeds, Orin Reeds, Ras Pursleys, Morrisons, Will Millers, Frank Shawcrofts, Andersons, Frank Reeds, William Stewarts, Greenwalts, Magees, Platts, Kings, Jacks, Martinez, Burnhams, Espinozas, Richardsons, Tom King, Al Smith, Shockeyes, Hards, the Austin Ranch and Norland Ranch people, and the Headlees.

Phoebe Reed cooked for the ranch crew the year around, and what a busy place the cook house was, with meals being served at 6:00 A.M., 12 Noon, and 6:00 P.M. Assisting Mrs. Reed were Mattie Irvin, Violet Davlon, Jane Anderson, Tillie Anderson, and four negroes whose names are not recalled at this time. There may have been others.

A Delco power plant provided electricity at the headquarters house, and there was a Servel gas refrigerator to handle leftovers.

Foods were bought in quantity. One fall Jim traded two or three truck loads of potatoes to Bill Daniels in Alamosa for 3600 pounds of sugar, including 500 pounds of brown sugar. Phoebe used the brown sugar for pies, cinnamon rolls, pancake syrup, etc. When Joe Quintana stopped at the house selling beans, she purchased 700 pounds at one time, paying 3¢ a pound for them.

School was first held in the Nortonville Store, with Nada Magee and Kate Newcomb two of the first school teachers. A building was built (about 1911) at the end of the road west of headquarters. Some who taught there were Professor Frank Knowles, Roberta Pushnell, Miss Blaisdell, Belva Snodgrass, Ella Koontz, Amy Stewart, Professor Walker, the Wayne Brutons, Carl Davidson, Leila Messervey, Frances Bolger, Josephine Thomas, Ada Rasmussen, Lazelle Jones, Gentry Stewart, Mr. Kennedy, P.R. Davidson, Mrs. McLaughlin, Marvelle and Lura Reed, Mary Johnson, and Alice Russell.

Children rode horses to school in the early days, and there was a stable back of the school house. Occasionally, parents drove their children to school in buggies, later on in the automobile, and eventually bussing served the school.

Classes were held for grades one through ten, and some of the eleventh and twelfth grade students attended school at Estrella (Star), while several students from Sanford pursued their studies at the Nortonville school when the Sanford school closed temporarily during the depression.

This was a typical rural school, with children of various grades housed in one room. It was necessary for them to learn to concentrate on their studies while other classes were being taught in the same room simultaneously.

There was basketball for the girls as well as the boys, with the girls playing rather rough since they practiced with the boys and played on an outdoor court, using boys rules. Regular games were scheduled in competition with other rural schools.

Playing on the girl's team in 1933-35 were La Vee Beck, Josephine Hunt, Vera Simpson, Jane Anderson, Voris Miller, Lee Ola Reed, Clara Maude Hunt, Bessie and Norma De Priest, Donna Beck, and Doris Rasmussen.

Among the boys who played basketball were the Hamilton brothers - Lee, Claude, Hugh, and James, the Shawcrofts - George and Amos, the Haggards - Ray, Jay, and Winfred, the Esponozas - Armando and Ben, the Reynoldses - Ray and Ferrell, Earl Ditmore, Winston Nielson, Shelton Ray, Johnny Platt, Nyle Reed, Jack Simpson, Herman Miller, Othelle Reed, Maurice DePriest, and Norman Milton.

There was also a community basketball team, and games were scheduled with such teams as Sanford's well-known Giants. Some of the team members were Curt, Roy, and Jerry Morrison, Willis Rasmussen, Norvel Kirby, Floyd Mortensen, P.R. Davidson. Willis Rasmussen recalls having played a game with the Giants by the light of gasoline lanterns that hung from the ceiling.

The husky farm boys of the country school presented quite a problem to the young school teachers and others in supervisory positions.

On one occasion, the school bus was turning the corner east of the headquarters house. As was his custom, one of the older fellows had been teasing a young girl. There was a large mirror in the front of the bus from which the driver could view the activity in the back of the vehicle. The girl saw him looking into the mirror, and she gave out a loud yell when the young man pinched her. This caused the driver to stop the bus and order the boy to get off. To the man's chagrin, the fellow looked him straight in the eye and said, "I'd ruther be put off."

Attempting to do just that, the driver sprang to the back of the bus, tripping over lunch buckets and books that were lying in the aisle and making quite a commotion. Grabbing the offender, he wrestled him to the door of the bus and was about to throw him out when the boy ducked under his arm and, much to the driver's surprise, he found himself pushed through the door and locked out of his own bus.

Full of merriment, the passengers screamed with joy as the irate man pounded the door, demanding that he be allowed inside. Holding his ground, the student extracted a promise from the driver that he would not be threatened again, and the man was once again permitted under the wheel.

Such were the days of the country school!

Excitement ran high the day that a student was leaning against the rail of the school porch entertaining his friends with jokes about the tough school master. Of course he was not aware that the teacher was standing in the doorway listening to every word that was said. With a few choice words of his own, the teacher threw himself toward the student, meaning to catch him by the shoulder. The boy, however, saw the two-hundred-pound teacher coming, stepped aside, and the teacher went over the porch rail, landing in a cement watering trough in the school yard below. Water cushioned the fall but, even so, the man received some painful injuries and, to add insult to injury, the other pupils gathered round, cheering the student on. The two fighters rolled around in the dust and dirt until both were completely exhausted, at which time the teacher pulled himself together, arose from the ground, and managed to inform his sparring partner that he was expelled from school. The lad promptly mounted his horse and rode triumphant from the school yard. He, of course, had to meet with the school board and make amends before he was reinstated as a student at the Nortonville School.

Word got around the country that small schools were hard to cope with, and so it was that one teacher came to school prepared to get his bluff in at the start. Entering the classroom for the first time, he sat at the long table with the students and inquired, "Which one of you boys is _____?" This fellow was seated midway along the table and promptly raised his hand.

The teacher then said, "I want you to sit right here," and the student complied, taking a position next to the teacher. Much to his surprise, the teacher rolled his hand into a fist and made the statement, "I want you right here so if anything goes wrong I can catch you with my right." At this point, he made a gesture with his right fist, barely missing the lad's chin. He may as well have threatened a grizzly bear, for the fellow sprang from his seat and the fight that ensued was something to witness!

This teacher resigned about a week later, and his replacement was a small fellow with a very slight limp, who looked like an easy push-over to the boys. This, however, was not the case. Perhaps the teacher had studied a little psychology; at any rate, his approach was entirely new and it didn't take him long to make friends of the students, earning their respect and getting along very well.

The Nortonville students usually did amazingly well in the state examinations held each year at Gunnison. Several pupils rated extremely high, with Johnny Platt taking the State Oratorical Contest one year.

The heart of Nortonville society was the school, and the big event of the year was the school picnic, for which the entire community turned out. Programs, socials, entertainments, and dances held at the school brought large crowds. On dance nights, the desks were removed from the two larger rooms and the double doors folded back to make a dance floor. Occasionally, the dances got a little rough, but for the most part they were well controlled and people from all the surrounding area danced to the music of the Stewart group - Amy and Josephine on the piano, Paul and Gentry with wind instruments, and Bill on the drums. Sometimes, orchestras from Sanford, Manassa, La Jara, and Alamosa entertained.

Those were the "Good Old Days" to the younger set as Voris Cornum's first person report shows:

We had lots of parties for young people. I especially recall the parties in the Beck home, the Simpson, the Hamilton, and the Reed homes, as well as our home. I really remember one party because it was my 14th birthday - 1931 and the days of the depression. I remember that some of the boys got playing a little rough and fell into our new RCA radio and smashed the fancy front part of it. My Dad was so unhappy!

We probably had more parties at the Joe Hunt home than any other. Mrs. Hunt was one of the best and most fun-loving women I ever remember, and her home was always open to everyone. I spent many nights there and pulled taffy and beat divinity with a fork. We played records and danced in their living room.

Any time our gang wanted to go to a show in Alamosa or to Hooper swimming, we knew we could always count on Mrs. Hunt to take us.

Not having close neighbors, my brothers and sisters and I played together a lot. We swam in the old La jara Creek fished for Carp. On the cold winter nights, we would sit around the old coal stove and listen to our new RCA radio, pop popcorn, and study by the old Rayo kerosene lamp, as we didn't have electricity then. Of course, we, like all our neighbors, had outdoor plumbing.

I'll never forget the big well box that set right by the well just a few steps from the kitchen door and the good cold water that gushed out in a big flow with no pump either. I also remember the little cold bedroom in the winter time. Mama would iron the blankets before we went to bed and always put a warm iron at the foot of her bed.

An extension club was organized in August of 1919 at the home of Mrs. Phoebe Reed on the John Russell ranch. It still meets today and is the oldest continuous extension club in the State of Colorado. Minutes recorded at the organization meeting show that Mrs. Maude Reed was named President, Phoebe Reed - Vice President, and Mrs. George Seaver - Secretary, with Mrs. Frank Knowles as Treasurer. Members present were Mrs. John B. Reed, Mrs. Lyle Magee, Mrs. Vesta Knowles, Mrs. Joe Hunt, Mrs. Rufus Mullins, Mrs. George Seaver, Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Chester Shockey, Mrs. Millis, Mrs. Jackson, Mae White, Mrs. Bettinger, Mrs. Gottlieb Fredricks. An assessment of ten cents a year was made for club dues, and money making projects planned included cleaning of the school house.

The community boasted its own glee club with Grace Nielson, Clara Beck, Maggie Miller, Phoebe Reed, Mrs. Seaver, Mrs. Tingle, Amy Stewart, and Agnes McClanahan among the members.

The Nortonville Store was operated first by pioneer merchants, The Millises, later by the Hillard McClanahans, Harry Turners, Frank Reeds, Orin Becks, and Smith Holmans. Wages at the ranch were quite poor, and the workers felt that the grocery bill at the company store was about all they had to show for their labor.

Kids enjoyed a zoo at the headquarters ranch. Five coyotes had been purchased from the Haggard boys, who arrived there one morning with the animals in a sack, saying that they had dug them out of a hole and would sell them for a dollar each. Jim Reed bought them, had them penned, and they were fed meat scraps. They were not, however, to be tamed, and no amount of good treatment ever brought them to the point where they became real pets. They always snapped at the hand that fed them. The children liked to observe them - keeping a respectful distance, of course. On one occasion, two of the coyotes escaped. Clinton Haggard roped one of them, while someone else rode the other down with a horse. The two escapees were returned to captivity and later donated to a zoo in Pueblo.

The failing health of Norton's wife caused him to sell the ranch, and it was purchased for a lock-stock-and-barrel price of \$400 000.00 by Floyd Rathbun in . Jim Reed, at this time, turned to private ranching.

Rathbun plowed up most of the alfalfa and planted beer barley, farming the place for about two years. During this time, some white deer were imported and brought to the ranch, causing a great deal of interest in the area.

Time took a heavy toll on the farming operation, and the drainage system was in the process of collapsing at the time it was sold to Mr. Stanley Jones, who in turn sold it to Banker's Life Insurance Company, with John McArthur, Perry Johnson, and Amos Shawcroft as foremen for the very limited operations.

Among the factors that contributed to the decline of the Excelsior Community was the loss of its school when the district was consolidated with Sanford. The change of ranch ownership, with resulting uprooting of some of the older established families also had its effect, as many people moved to neighboring towns and other jobs. Also to be considered was the advent of television, with people no longer depending upon each other for entertainment.

The ranch deteriorated rapidly. The buildings were in the crumbling process; broken window panes allowed wind and sand to sift through the empty houses. Weeds replaced vegetables and flowers in the garden spots. There was an appearance of desertion as alkali blew from field to field during the relentless spring winds.

It was hard to imagine that the place had once been an ant bed of activity. Passers-by wondered what would become of the once prosperous land holding.

THEN CAME THE WEISBARTS!

In 1970, the ranch with additional property bringing the total to 12,000 acres was purchased by Weisbart and Weisbart, an uncle (Irvin) and nephew (Gary) relationship. The Weisbarts are part of a large holding company with feed lots in the states of Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. Operating out of Denver, Colorado, the Sigmon Meat firm is but one of the company's holdings.

Costly and long term reclamation projects were begun with extensive work on the drainage system. The drainage had been deliberately plugged by a former owner in an effort to raise the water level, and the result was that salts rose to the surface of the land. This, rather than the pursuit of the single crop (beer barley), was the big factor that rendered the land unproductive.

Reclamation work has included land leveling, fertilizing, spraying, and new water projects, as well as renovation of the underground water system and additional surface drainage construction.

Although the new owners were originally attracted to the land because of

the possibilities for development of warm artesian well water to be used in experimental fish culture, the place became known essentially as a feed lot for cattle when the fish operations met with near disaster the first year. Nearly one half million cat fish were lost through the error of an outside contractor who installed a pump that restricted the flow of water and resulted in the loss of the fish. The system was reconstructed in 1975, and fish production began anew, with the product marketed through an extension of the Sigman Meat Company.

The cattle feed lot, with facilities to feed 25,000 cattle a year, has been active during the economic crisis of the 70's, when many feeders have gone into bankruptcy due to high feed costs, high wages, and cattle prices that don't quite meet the expenses. Asked how the Weisbarts have managed to survive, Gary simply says, "It's the nature of the business - you just have to ride it out."

Operating under a division manager system, the ranch is divided into five categories: farming, cattle, hogs, fish, and building.

Husband and wife teams are utilized wherever possible. Hog farrowing is one of the cases where this works very well, and about 40,000 to 45,000 hogs are shipped yearly to Sigmon's own processing plant at Brush, Colorado. The hog market has been extremely lucrative during the 70's, compensating to some extent for the squeeze in the cattle economy. Cattle are sold to various packers in several states. Occasionally, it may work out that Sigmons buy their own cattle back from the packers.

Because the old homes were out of date, difficult to heat, and not practical to restore, several of them have been destroyed. The remainder are used as housing for summer crews, with numerous mobile homes dotting the landscape. Headquarters, once again, is the center of management.

Most of the families on the ranch are from New Mexico and Texas, with some locals. Due to the large turn-over of jobs, there has been a feeling of impermanency among the workers, as is to be expected of new people in new surroundings. It is the hope of the owners that increased employment will result in families eventually establishing roots in the community. Hopefully, there will be a return to neighborliness and lasting friendship as the school children are bussed to the Sanford school, parents drive to the Post Office and grocery store in town. There are new names and new faces, as the Excelsior Colony, by whatever name it may be called, again thrives and makes its contribution to the Nation's economy.

Sub Chapter I

Nine miles to the sunrise side of Sanford and snuggled amid the foothills of the valley floor, is the Spanish-American village of Las Sauses, serviced by Sanford's rural mail route and incorporated into the Sanford School District in 1955.

The Rio Grande River wends its way through the narrow strip of fertile soil, and the main road that winds through the settlement is flanked by homes, most of them constructed of earth's basic building material, *adobe*.

According to the San Luis Valley Historical Magazine, the first families to settle in Las Sauses were those of Jose Rodriguez, Antonio Marquez, and Fernando Borrego, who went there in 1863.

The Spanish were, of course, the first white men to live in the San Luis Valley. Following several unsuccessful attempts at settlement, the Rincones colony was established by a group of people from El Rito, New Mexico. This was the first settlement in the San Luis Valley, and many of today's Hispanic citizens trace their lineage to those early people.

The open range was a factor that attracted the first settlers to Las Sauses, and they grazed their sheep and cattle, raised good crops, and seemed to have plenty of water with which to irrigate.

Free roaming horses were plentiful, and these "wild" animals were used in the farming operation. At threshing time, the horses were rounded up to trample the beans and grain in order that the wind could separate the chaff from the crop. (This was before the day of the steam thresher.) Wild horses were also caught and sold at considerable profit.

The devout Catholic population combined efforts toward the construction of the beautiful Saint Anthony Chapel, which was finished and put to use on January 16, 1880. The membership of the church donated labor and funds for the building. The multi-colored windows that add so much to the beauty of the chapel were paid for by donations from various families and organizations.

Once a month, the Priest from Antonito drove his little buggy over the rocky road to Las Sauses, where he held a Rosary Service in the evening, slept overnight in a bed at the church, and then held Mass the next morning.

Fire partially destroyed the church in the early 20's, and it was rebuilt and enlarged in 1928. At the present time, weekly services are held, with the Priest from Capulin driving over to Las Sauses, and the Patron Saint Celebration takes the weekend of June 13th, as it has for many years.

In days past, colorful parades were staged, baseball games were played (with competition from Sanford and other neighboring towns), dances, horse races, and other festivities marked the occasion. Hamburger and ice cream stands were set up and people came from a wide area to have a good time with the folks from Las Sauses. Matched horse races were run - Silverio Mascaranes owned several champion horses, as did Abe Salazar from Manassa, and Charlie Wellington from Sanford.

There were three stores in town - the hardware owned by Manuel Gallegos, and grocery stores belonging to Charlota Cordova and Moises Large. The postoffice was in the home of Jose Andres Martinez, and Mr. Naranjo drove to Sanford for the mail. A constable looked after law enforcement problems, and the town had a small jail.

The Las Sauses basketball team competed with other athletes, and they hosted their own games when a gymnasium was built in one end of one of the dance halls. Some of the fellows who played on the town team were Ignacio Martinez, Albert Salazar, Edmond Martinez, Ernest and Porfio Naranjo, and Ruben Salazar.

Emily Martinez has kept careful records of the town's activities, and she reports that Juan B. Naranjo, from Ocate, New Mexico, was the first mayor of Las Sauses. This same gentleman was one of three commissioners who organized the Las Sauses Ditch Company in 1883, and it was also he who was responsible for the organization of the Las Sauses School District in 1888.

There was an elementary school only, and some of the teachers were Felix Garcia, Ruby Jack, Amy Stewart, Eliseo Lucero, Clea Bailey, Mr. Knowles, Porfio Jiron, Mary Jane Duran, Ruth and Connie Espinoza, Rebecca Martinez, Otilia Gallegos, George Irvin, and Zita Saxon.

In Las Sauses, as in all schools, the kids were full of pranks. Solomon Martinez remembers a dull day at school when things got livened up a bit. It seems that Mr. Knowles fell asleep, and the youngsters immediately set fire to his wastebasket. Needless to say, the teacher's nap was over and the students were in a jam!

The Las Sauses School was consolidated with Sanford in 1955, and the students are now bussed to Sanford morning and evening.

There is no use in being afraid of snakes if you live in Las Sauses - you just have to get used to them and watch out! Over the years, many of the poisonous rattlers have been killed but, as far as anyone knows, there have been no human fatalities in spite of the fact that a number of people have been bitten. Dennis Martinez knows all about that, as he was on the receiving end of a snake bite one summer day in the hay field. Then there was the youngster who put his hand into a hen's nest to gather her eggs only to receive a bite on the end of his finger. After a few days in the hospital, he returned home - none the worse, but considerably wiser. And so it goes - people have been almost "scared to death" by snakes, but not quite! A snake bite kit is a nice thing to have around the house.

For the Solomon Martinez family, horse racing has been more than a hobby, it is a profession. Solomon has entered winners in many races, and his son, Danny, went from jockey to school teacher and then to horse trainer before he decided which he really liked best. At present, he and his wife are horse trainers at Downs Santa Fe, where Solomon frequently enters his race horses. Danny has brought in some first place prize money in futurity races in several states. His career goes back to the age of five, when his Dad gave him a wild horse for his birthday. With a little help from Solomon, Danny broke the horse.

The Martinezes also recall times past, when Danny raised a little calf "on the bucket." The calf eventually grew to be a cow, and it was quite a sight to see Danny bring the cows home from the pasture. Very often he would be riding the cow!

Driving west from Las Sauses, one notes on the hillside a plain adobe structure, which is known as a *morada*. This dark and unadorned building is used by the Penitentes, a high order of men of the Catholic faith who practice extreme penance during Holy Week. Membership in this group is obtained only by approval of a board of governing officials, and only the most sincere and devout male members are accepted. Although the Penitentes have been known chiefly for the physical punishment of their bodies, the fact is that their main ritual is concerned with long hours of sincere prayer. To be a Penitente is a very sacred obligation, and the order is highly respected among the Catholics of New Mexico and southern Colorado.

The Las Sauses area is an extremely picturesque place, and just to drive through the villiage is a pleasant and relaxing experience, as Spanish customs intermingle with those of the anglo, and friendly people greet their neighbors with *hola* and *adios*.



Adobe Ruins

Judging from Sanford's business scene today, one would not realize the activity that was the going thing in the days of long ago, when most of the local folks had to depend on the town's merchants for the necessities of life.

The local picture has been one of constant change, with numerous businesses waxing and waning according to the needs of the people.

Carrying the mail has always been a rain or shine job, and the earliest known carrier was Frank Crowther, who had a contract to transport mail from the railroad at La Jara. His son, Arthur Franklin, told of making the trip morning and night as he also hauled produce, freight, and passengers along with the mail. John Westbrook is believed to have been the second carrier.

Mail underwent a further distribution at Sanford, as it was then delivered to Las Sauses on the East Rural Route. Jack Luster, with his little buggy, jogged along the narrow and bumpy dirt road for some time, as did Mr. Naranjo, who routinely stopped at the Paulson store to purchase crackers and sardines to be eaten on the return journey.

Holm Mortensen drove first class in a well-equipped buggy with a homemade box-cab that had small glass windows in front to enable him to see out. There was a little opening about the size of a letter slot that permitted the horse reigns to pass through allowing the driver to control the buggy team. Mortensen used hot bricks to warm his feet during cold weather, and an occasional passenger climbed in beside him and enjoyed the visit that took place on the drive to and from Sanford.

Carl Vandruff carried the mail in the early thirties, with Francis Whitney as his deputy. Penn B. Mortensen took over from Vandruff, and R.A. Freeburg from Mortensen. Jerome Johnson substituted for Freeburg, with Gaylon Mortensen assuming the duties when Johnson left the valley. Then, for a short time, Harold Ealey ran the route, followed by Ralph Nielson who took over the job in 1973 and worked until the time of his death in 1975. The appointment then went to Gaylon Mortensen with Jerry Mathes as substitute carrier and Mary Lou Crowther and Olive Reed acting as substitutes on the 128 mile route to the Sanford ranches, Las Sauses, and San Acacio.

As for the Sanford Post Office, history reveals that a very unlikely-looking structure in the north part of town housed the first establishment. This rough wagon box, with only a crude canvas cover, was the point from which Mrs. Frank ("Mary Frank") Crowther handed out letters and other pieces of

mail to the early residents of town. When time and finances permitted, the Crowthers built a one-room cabin, and Mrs. Crowther kept the mail in one end of the room while the family lived in the other. Her appointment was on a very unofficial basis, with it being noted that T.N. Peterson and Soren Berthelsen "asked" her to handle the job.

There are records to indicate that Swen Peterson was Sanford's first official postmaster, however it is known that Mrs. Crowther and her husband both handled mail prior to his appointment. Mrs. Crowther filled the position until 1890, at which time Frank moved the post office to the Coop Store across the street east of the present Daughters of The Utah Pioneers Monument and Crowther, himself, served as postmaster for eight years.

Peterson very likely followed Crowther at the job, and Julia Coray then became the town's second postmistress. She was located in the back part of the Harrison building. Alice Reed assisted Mrs. Coray and, when Julia left town, Alice became postmistress. She, in turn, moved the office to the home of her father, James Warren Reed, a block to the east of the Harrison building. Sometime later, Miss Reed again changed locations, this time to her new home on the corner of Center and Main, where the office remained for many years.

In addition to taking care of the mail, Alice sold a few drug items at the Post Office, as well as some sewing needs, jewelry, and other trinkets. The really BIG attraction, however, was the Saturday Denver Post that cost 10¢ at the Post Office. Reading the funnies consumed a good portion of Saturday afternoon and evening, and it was often a well-earned reward for doing housework and chores during the week and on Saturday mornings. The colored pages were spread out on the floor while young and old enjoyed the experiences of Andy Gump, Moon Mullins, Skee-zix, Harold Teen, Tillie The Toiler, Toots and Caspar, The Katzenjammer Kids, Barney Google, Dick Tracy, Little Orphan Annie, and even the utterly impossible adventures of Buck Rogers, whose author had the nerve to portray trips to the moon, rocket ships, ray weapons, and other ridiculous things that EVERYONE knew were much too far fetched to ever come true!

Several ladies assisted Miss Alice, including Dixie Faucette, Relva Reynolds, Lizzie, Gwendolyn, and Shirley Cornum.

Upon her retirement, a temporary appointment was awarded La Rue Young, until such time as Ralph Nielson became Postmaster of Sanford. Lizzie Cornum assisted Ralph for a short time.

Nielson moved the Post Office to his own building at the corner of Main and 1st South which, incidentally, was the same location where Julia Coray had worked many years earlier.

Edna Nielson, Fern Nielson, and Olive Reed worked for Ralph until such time as he took over the rural carrier's job. The appointment then went to his wife, Fern Nielson, who is assisted by Olive Reed and Mary Lou Crowther. These ladies are now responsible for mail distribution in Sanford.

Among the town's earliest businessmen were the blacksmiths, who plied their trade through the 1940's. Faithful work horses were shod by these skilled workmen, as was the proud buggy team that pranced on well shod hoofs, and even the old grey mare was a regular customer of the smithy, as he fired his forge, pounded and clanged upon his anvil, shaping metal for whatever purpose it was needed. Wagon wheels and farm machinery were made and repaired, and the coming of the Model T and Overland touring car did not do away with the need for the blacksmith.

One of the town's oldest buildings is the Barthelson building, which was once the blacksmith shop of Seth Hunt, assisted and superceeded by his son, Sam. The men about town enjoyed warming by Hunt's fire as he talked about the signs of the times, predicting death and destruction to the morbid delight of his listeners.

Across the street north was the shop of Job Whitney, who also worked at the trade. His business was taken over by Guy Wilson. Ellis Neilson and Alfonso Rasmussen worked as blacksmiths, and Chester "Chub" Hutchins operated a blacksmith shop until the time of his death in the early forties. Blacksmithing then phased out, with today's farmers having repairs done by a welding shop in La Jara. Several farriers continued to shoe horses, the most recent were Okie Wyatt and Harry Larsen.

The blacksmith looms large in the memory of the people as he was well immortalized by Henry W. Longfellow:

*Under the spreading chestnut tree
The villiage smithy stands
The smith, a mighty man was he
With large and sinewy hands
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Are strong as iron bands*

Mr. and Mrs. Chris J. Block established a rooming house and livery stable in Sanford's very early days. The Blocks were extremely hospitable, and the latch string was truly hanging out on their door for young and old to enjoy.

Merchandising began with the Crowther store in the first post office and the Harrison store located on the corner of Main and 1st South. Harrison had been a pioneer merchant at Ephriam, moving his business to Sanford when Ephriam was abandoned. The Harrison building, as it was known, had one large room with several smaller ones downstairs and a single large room in the upper story. A two-flight zig zag stairway provided the only entrance to the upper room, where Leo Jackson showed "flicks" and local theatre groups presented their productions. The Harrison building was eventually destroyed by fire.

A coop merchantile store was built across the street east from the present monument to the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, and it was managed by Frank Crowther. Swen Peterson later purchased the building and operated it until such time as he was elected to the office of Conejos County Treasurer, at which time he sold it to Chris Poulson. John B. Reed and Guy Wilson ran the store for a few years, and it was a meeting place for the men of the town.



Peterson-Gylling Merchandise Store
Wilford Peterson & Walter Gylling



Paulson Store
Amelia, Jennie, Andrew, Fred,
and Edith Paulson

The red brick social hall was constructed about a hundred feet south of the store, and it served as a recreational center for dances, plays, basketball games, box suppers, etc. It was in this building that the San Luis Stake Academy had its beginning. After the Academy was moved to Manassa and the Tivoli built, the hall was used as a garage by Bill Brothers and Glen Hostetter. When it was finally dismantled, the brick from its walls went into the construction of a seminary building for LDS students where the Church baseball field is now located.

To the south of the red brick hall was the town carbide pit. Prior to the coming of electricity, various types of lighting were used. Considered to be the best, was the carbide light. A deep pit was dug and filled with carbide and water. The resulting gas was then piped to the social hall and the stone church across the way. The lights hung down from the ceiling with Y-shaped burners that had small jets on each side, and the janitor used a long wooden pole to reach up and start the light that made a sizzle and hum as it illuminated the room. It was considered quite a modern convenience, and it was a big improvement over the unsteady yellow flicker of the kerosene lamp.

Job Whitney and his wife, Julia, served oysters and other food in the Whitney home north of the old Warnock Store. At dancetime intermission, Whitney would stand on the corner and sing out the advertisement:

*Oysters, Oysters, Oysters on the corner
Goody - Goody, all the way down!*

It was in 1904 that Andrew Paulson and his brother-in-law, Fred T. Christensen, built a new adobe mercantile store on the southeast corner of Main and 1st Streets. This business was operated for a number of years by the partnership, then by the Paulsons, and eventually by other merchants.

On the southeast corner of Center and Main, Walt Gylling constructed a meat market and confectionary with ice house attached to the east end. Gylling was joined by Swen Peterson, and the two transacted business there for several years as Peterson-Gylling, with Rozella Warnock as clerk. The partners later purchased the building that Peterson had sold to Chris Poulson; Mrs. Warnock took over the smaller store, which she managed for many years with the help of her son, Tom, who ran the cafe and pool hall on the north end.

When the new stone church was completed in 1907, the log church was converted to a library, and town meetings, elections, etc. were held there.

Meanwhile, a block to the south, grand things were going on. The entire valley was highly excited about Pete Mortensen's brain child, the Tivoli!

THE TIVOLI

Grandiose! Magnificent! Splendid! These are but a few of the superlatives used to describe the once-proud dance hall, famed for a spring floor construction that made it the entertainment palace of southern Colorado.

Erected in an era when people were forced to seek entertainment outside their own living rooms, the building was the dream of Peter Andrew Mortensen, a building contractor by trade as well as an accomplished violinist. Peter's brother, Marian, had served as a missionary to the Scandanavian countries and there he had seen a house of amusement named the "Tivoli," hence the name.

Scuffed as a visionary, Mortensen was destined to see the realization of his dream. Although many termed the venture "Pete's Folly" and catagorized the undertaking much as the building of the pyramids, Mortensen went full speed ahead, and construction was begun. Tools were not very sophisticated back then, and a one-cylinder engine sparked the small circular saw, while the cement mixer used for the slab-on-slab construction was fed by a hand-operated wheel barrow.

Large coil springs formed the basis for the famous floor. Each spring was anchored to a cement foundation, and a gleaming hard-wood floor topped all. This was the drawing card that served to entice big bands, well known basketball teams, and theatre groups from all over the country to the small town of Sanford.

Although it took several years to complete the building, and Mortensen was plagued by financial problems, he never once considered abandoning his project. At last the big day came; the townspeople gazed in admiration, the valley thrilled to the promise of things to come. "Pete's Folly" was a reality - a monument to a man and his dream!

The La Jara Gazette reported that over a hundred and fifty couples took part in the grand march on Mortensen's new spring floor in Sanford. Refreshments were served in the basement with Mortensen's wife, Hannah, and his daughter, Eva, preparing delicious homemade cake, pie, and ice cream.

A few years later, Swen Peterson purchased the building and added to it a barber shop, soda fountain, and a two-lane bowling alley - this a tribute to his son-in-law, Carl Gylling, a champion bowler. The moon and stars twinkled from the huge dome ceiling in the ballroom. Elaborate finishing touches included hand painted murals, the handiwork of master musician and artist, King Driggs.

That there was magic in the building, there is no denying, for it had the power to make the old feel young, the young feel a wonderful sophistication, a rare enchantment. Worries were cast aside and mundane tasks forgotten when it came time to don dandy duds and step out for an evening of entertainment Tivoli Style.

The Tivoli flourished under the ownership of Swen Peterson and the management of Carl Gylling, who moved his family into the upstairs apartment. Several years later, Peterson "swapped" the building to his business partner, Walter Gylling, for his interest in the Peterson-Gylling Merchantile store.

Gylling, a retired rancher in 1973, would get a little twinkle in his eye as he reminisced about the dances, with two or three hundred couples swaying on the spring floor. "O, it was just the niciest feeling," he said dreamily, as he closed his eyes and again became one of the carefree crowd of bygone days.

Gylling remembered freezing ice cream in a hand-cranked freezer with ice carefully preserved in sawdust. "One Fourth-Of-July, I made forty gallons of ice cream and ran out before the day was over," he reported.

The receipts from the refreshments usually about equaled the "gate" from the dance, and everyone looked forward to intermission when several of the dancers, who had been given free dance tickets in exchange for their service as waiters, would slip into aprons and help serve hamburgers, julip, and the ever-popular homemade ice cream.

Was the Tivoli a financial success? "You bet your bottom dollar it was," said Gylling.

He replaced the old gas lamps with a new carbide plant and put in modern dressing rooms at stageside, although some of the townsfolk protested the idea of having toilets inside the building - such a thing was thought to be quite unsanitary! Two huge pot bellied stoves glowed red hot as they spread their warmth throughout the building on cold winter nights.

On some occasions, the services of two orchestras were engaged in order that Sanford's neighboring town, Manassa, would not feel left out of the entertainment scene. When the crowd overflowed the dance floor, alternate groups were permitted to dance.

Many a youngster, not yet old enough to attend the dance, pressed his nose against the window pane to view the spectacle within. Others stationed themselves down the block away to listen to the strains of Beautiful Ohio, Missouri Waltz, and I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles. A not uncommon sight was a row of baby buggies along the sidelines, where slept the babes of parents who couldn't resist the dance but had no one to look after the little ones. The circular seating arrangement beneath the windows provided sleeping space for kiddies who fell asleep and were covered by their parents wraps.

Built to accommodate a variety of functions, the building served various recreational needs - basketball and bowling teams competed, traveling magicians and theatre groups performed, socials and box suppers were held, and oh, those fiddling contests with Floyd Claunch winning the groceries and Mary Cooper (Mudd) stepdancing her way to the prize. Dancing contests were held with first one couple then another being eliminated by the judges until only the winning couple remained to perform to the applause of the crowd. Many a boy and girl braided the maypole in the center of the circular floor, and Christmas time was likely to see a huge Christmas tree erected there. Ragging, a popular dance style of the day, could easily get out of hand. At such times, it was up to the strong armed dance manager to call the offending couple to task.

It was about 1919 that Gylling sold the building to the Mormon Church. The Church not only "frowned upon" but strongly prohibited the use of alcoholic beverages and thus faced the problem of dealing with many a young man from out of town, and even some of the local roust-about, who felt it necessary to imbibe a little before going to the dance. Those were prohibition days, and offenders brought a pint of bootleg along, hiding it under the buggy seat or in the vegetation back of the building in order to have a little nip at intermission.

If you danced there during the thirties, you remember the big bands of The Wickham Family, Gage Brewer, and Charlie Quaranta. Then there were the sweet sounds of the local boys, Dean Bailey, his trumpet and his band - Calvin Johnson on the sax, Fred Kirby with the slide trombone, Charlie Jones manipulating the ivories, and Bob Whitney bringing it all together with his drums.

Close your eyes.....you are in the arms of an old flame, swinging to the strains of such music as Mexicalli Rose, So Rare, Stardust, In The Mood, Roses In December, and I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm.

Shortly before the demise of the building, movies were shown and the floor was used for roller skating. The Sanford High School Junior-Senior Prom of 1939 proved to be the grand finale for ballroom events, and the building submitted to a final curtain call soon after that. A new High School gymnasium and Church recreation hall filled the needs of the community, and the Tivoli reverted again to private interests.

Suffering the pangs of senescence, it stands humbled, humiliated, and falling into decay. The heart strings of many an old timer tremble with pain when they view the remains. Gone is the spring floor; the stars, though still visible, no longer twinkle from the ceiling, and the moon has long since ceased to cast a reflection from the footlights it once knew so well. The hands of the painter rest in eternal sleep, as do many who shared his glory and enthusiasm. The only song heard in the building during the past three decades has been the sweet cooing of pigeons, accompanied by the whisper of winds in the empty chamber.

Outlived? Perhaps. But never to be forgotten by those who thrilled to its enchantment, dreamed to its magic, and even fell in love under its wonderful spell. Hollywood had its Palladium, New York its Carnegie Hall, but only in wonderful, wonderful Copenhagen was there a ballroom to match the grandeur and excellence of Sanford's Tivoli - Pete's Folly - the kind of excitement that dreams are made of!



THE TIVOLI



THE EL PATIO



La Von and La Rae Mortensen
(Downtown Sanford in background - (left to right) The
Peterson-Gylling Store, The El Patio, The Star Theater

Across the street east of the Tivoli, Edna and Ellis Nielson built a confectionery with several booths and soda-shop wrought iron tables and chairs that made it the traditional old time ice cream parlor. There was a lattice partition between the kitchen and one extra-large back booth, and the place was made even more attractive by a mirrored back bar and gleaming marble soda fountain. Mrs. Nielson was a wonderful cook and kept the shop immaculately clean.

The dances at the Tivoli drew crowds that overflowed the Tivoli Cafe, Nielson's Confectionery, and Warnock's Cafe a block-and-a-half ^{west} south, as people from far and near came to Sanford to be part of the jovial crowd.

It was in 1926 that Rulon Mortensen opened the amusement center known as the El Patio, and it was right in there as one of the valley's finest entertainment spots. Many noted dance bands played for large crowds; the Driggs Family of Entertainers performed there, as did Mr. McAden and the Tripp Sisters. On evenings when no dancing was scheduled, there would be roller skating that was much enjoyed by the younger set. In 1927, a heated swimming pool was built on the east end of the building. This pool was entirely enclosed, the south wall being constructed of glass to allow plenty of sunshine. A coal burning boiler, reclaimed from an abandoned threshing machine, provided steam heat. Professional swimming lessons were offered by Mr. Schusler. Also featured was a restaurant and confectionery, with lots of good food. New treats were introduced - the orange flavored Dixie Cup and the chocolate covered Eskimo Pie.

Attached to the El Patio, was a barber shop, where Ira Whitney, Carl Vandruff, Joe Hutchins, and others cut hair.

South of the barber shop, W.R. Morgan's Star Theatre beckoned excited crowds. Those were the days of the silent movie, with the faces of the heroes and the villains, the sweet maidens and the bad ladies flickering from the screen with the written words underneath. Gentlemen from Sanford joined others of the nation in their secret love for America's Sweetheart, the adorable Mary Pickford, and a real chiller was the presentation of King Kong starring Fay Wray. Other entertainment at the theatre was provided by a traditional player piano, as the building was filled to capacity (about 250) with tickets selling for 25¢ or more depending on the cost of the film.

This entire strip of buildings burned to the ground in 1930. There was no fire department at the time, and the feeble efforts of the townspeople to form a bucket brigade from the fire to the canal two blocks ^{west} east proved hopelessly inadequate.

Law enforcement problems brought about the construction of a rock jail, which did little business other than occasionally housing a drunk or tramp. The jail was located where the town hall now stands and was torn down partly because of the good conduct of the citizens and partly because there was a county jail at Conejos.



Miss Edith Paulson
wearing floppy-brimmed hat



Maxine, Jean, and Mary June Peterson
Organza bonnets from Mayme's Hat Shop

Though it is hard to believe, Sanford was once a town of several hat shops! A lady would, in fact, almost as soon have been seen naked as to appear in public without a hat. Well dressed ladies simply did not go out of the house "bare headed."

Bolene Poulson opened the first hat shop, followed by Mayme Johnson, who found business so good that her cousin, Irene McIntire, joined her. They moved the store from Mayme's home to Irene's property a little closer to town. The two, assisted by Miss Mary Lennington, procured braid frames, trimming them with ribbon, lace, feathers, flowers, and what-have-you. There was a virtual flower garden of bonnets made from colored straw and milan, along with little-girl delights fashioned of dainty organza. Gos-samer elegance guilded the lily as floppy brimmed picture hats in pastel colors aided many a flapper in her effort to charm the beau of her choice. Young marrieds and older ladies sometimes wore very severe felts, which offered little in the way of flattery.

Cella and Betha Smith traveled "back east" in order to study the millinery business, returning with a great deal of expertise in fashion design. Plumes, satin, brocade - all went into the fantastic creations of the experts, whose business also ran the course of the tam, the crocheted snood, and the dainty baby bonnet.

Nellie Hutchins also tried her hand at the hat business, using the large bay window of her living room to display her wares.

Also for the convenience of the fair sex, several beauty shops came and went. Very Whitney marcelled the ladies hair until the time of her tragic death (Mrs. Whitney was dry cleaning clothing in her yard, using gasoline as the cleaning fluid, when an explosion occurred and she was enveloped by flames).

Bessie Christensen set up her beauty shop in Mayme Johnson's old hat shop and soon gave dozens of curly, curly permanents with her electric machine equipped with sizzling hot curlers attached to a master unit by black cords. The process of getting a permanent was a little frightening, but certainly worth the risk.

Gladys Carter worked in the front room of the Will Carter home. Hers was the day of the "Pro-Curler" that made little rolls of curls up and down the side of the customer's head. Wave set, made from boiled flax seed, helped the curls hold in place.

Edith Paulson briefly finger-waved hair in one room of the Andrew Paulson home, and Oneita Reed operated a shop in the late 1930's. Then came the Kirby sisters, Helen and Virginia, with the last beauty shop in town having been operated by Mary June Miller about 1959.

For those who may wonder if Sanford ever had a newspaper, the answer is YES.

Sanford had a newspaper, however it was not printed in Sanford. The

Sanford Gazette was published as part of the La Jara Gazette, which advertised accordingly:

The Gazette is offering the local news of La Jara and Sanford, also the most prominent news of the San Luis Valley.

Frank Soule was Editor of the Sanford section, and L.H. Mortensen was the correspondent. The two interlaced their news items with a bit of advice, speculation, and homespun philosophy:

Items from the Sanford Gazette follow:

June 8, 1916

Nephi Hostetter sold a fine team to a man in Antonito last week for a consideration of four hundred and fifty dollars.

Ross Johnson recently purchased a new Ford. Ross says that mules had strength and endurance but were not up in speed.

A new baby arrived in Sanford the past week. This time it was a Baby Overland which came to gladden the home of A.C. Faucette. Congratulations, neighbor.

Ralph Reed and Zelma Rasmussen went to Alamosa last Saturday where Miss Zelma did some shopping. Some surmised that they were after some kind of a license. We venture that they will make a longer trip than that when the surmiser's surmises come true.

A large number of Sanford people attended the ball game in La Jara last Saturday and rooted for La Jara in their game against Alamosa. They express great confidence that La Jara will have a winning team this season.

An agreement to help gravel the Sanford La Jara road is being circulated and receiving substantial pledges of work with teams. This is one of the best road projects that has been proposed in the county. Probably no road in the country is traveled more. Now is the time to join forces and make it the kind of highway it should be. We hear considerable talk about what ought to be done on roads. Here is a chance to do something more effective than talking.

*Lest you forget, we say it yet
UNEEDACHEESEFACTORY
(Unscramble that one!)*

Vern Otteson and Arnold Rasmussen took a bunch of horses to their range in New Mexico last Monday.

D. E. Poulson and wife, B.W. Warnock and wife, and Phyllis Hamblein will attend the summer term of the State Teachers College in Greeley.

Martin Mickelsen, James Reed and wife, and Peter Mortensen started for Taos, New Mexico, Tuesday morning in Martin's new Chevrolet.

Burt Whitney left Tuesday for Creede where he expects to be employed during the summer. We expect Burt to make a stake and come back and marry some popular Sanford girl and settle down to a life of prosperity.

Glen Hostetter made a business trip to Mesita this week in the Overland.

Wilford Peterson returned home last Friday from a very pleasant and successful year at the B.V. University at Provo, Utah. He will take charge of the Gylling-Peterson store during Mr. Gylling's absence. Mr. Gylling leaves for an extended auto trip through Utah in a few days.

J.F. Thomas was down from Manassa to do some surveying on the new road past Oscar Jackson's ranch, where D.W. Holman is putting a bridge in.

Erle Smith returned Saturday morning from Fort Collins where he has been attending the State Agricultural College. From all reports, Erle has been making good in his studies along the line of veterinary science. We heartily encourage more of our young men to take advantage of their opportunities and spend their time in some good school rather than wear out the gable end of their trousers on some loafer's roost.

About the greatest number that ever made the trip to Salt Lake City at one time from the San Luis Stake left for that city this week. Among those going from Sanford this week are Mrs. S.C. Berthelsen, Mrs. Rozella Warnock, Mrs. H.C. Heiselt, Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Westbrook, Mr. and Mrs. S.O. Peterson, Alma Crowther, Jesse Morgan, Iva Brothers, Gheeta Martin, and Tom Warnock.

Advertisement: Puritan Tailoring Company - Penn Mortensen, Agent

Felix Hermann The Great, entertaining at the La Jara Opera House. A laugh every minute.

La Jara Cash Store - We will meet mail order competition. Can anything be fairer than that?

The San Luis Valley Motorcycle Club was organized.

La Jara Woman's Christian Temperance Union active and stating that the organized liquor traffic of the United States is the bane of our civilization, a trust the like of which the world has never known, with its tentacles reaching into every organized government in America for its own profit, debauching our citizenship and taking a toll of death that is appalling to every thoughtful man.

June 15, 1916

Hans Fredrickson recently purchased a Carter car from Mr. Everest of La Jara. Hans drives like an old hand at the business.

Word has been received from O.W. Gylling and party the first of the week stating that they were beyond Gunnison and had not had a particle of tire trouble yet.

Annie Warnock planted a lawn in her front yard.

Cornelia Mortensen is having ornamental fence put around her lot in the cemetery this week.

July 1, 1916

Sanford's Forth of July Program: EVERYTHING FREE AND EVERYONE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COME!

D.W. Holman, Marshall of the Day
Wm. C. Spencer, Captain of Artillery
Holm A. Mortensen, Flag Master
James H. Jensen, Orator of the Day
James Patterson, Chaplain
Alger Soule, Uncle Sam
Ada Block, Goddess of Liberty

Programme at 10:00 A.M.

Singing by Choir
Prayer by Chaplain
Reading the Declaration of Independence, Mrs. F.O. Soule
Oration, Orator of the Day
Singing "Star Spangled Banner," Miss Jennie Paulson
Speech, Uncle Sam
Quartet, Eugene Mortensen & Co.
Speech, Goddess of Liberty
Quartet, Mrs. Dixie Christensen and Sisters
Comic Speech, Joseph Thomas

Committee on sports, C.I. Decker, H.W. Valentine
John Morgan & Nephi Hostetter

THERE WILL BE ALL KINDS OF RACES AND A FIRST CLASS MATCHED GAME OF BASEBALL!

In the south part of town, Will Thomas operated the only watch repair in Conejos County, while, a few blocks north of the Thomas home, Bert Spotten did photography.

In 1927, the Frink Creamery Company opened a creamery and cheese factory on the hill immediately north west of the city limits. This business was a real boost to the town's economy, and dairy herds were increased to meet the demand. Three trucks picked up five gallon milk cans enroute, and the

milk check was, for many years, a vital part of the income of many farm families.

It was about 1933 when Kenneth Mortensen and Clad Christensen met with the town board to discuss the possibilities of securing land for an airport. The land in question was a small acreage owned in part by the Drainage Ditch Company and in part by Fred T. Christensen.

Mortensen and Christensen were associated with Faus Burns, a Kansas City pilot who was barnstorming the country, putting on airshows for county fairs and similar celebrations.

An airstrip was built, and Clad ("Pete") Christensen also built a hanger. These facilities were used later for a direct airmail route from the San Luis Valley to Pueblo via a double-winger Stearman plane.

Christensen was an aviator in the days when the event of a plane flying over town was enough to summons the entire family out of the house to view the strange bird in the atmosphere. Planes sometimes made emergency landings in alfalfa fields, on highways, or wherever they could, and Christensen was known to have cut a few didos himself.

Crop dusters later used the field, as did other early pilots. Many will remember the crash north of town in which Johnny Platt, Alden Westbrook, and Amel Shawcroft lost their lives.

It was at the Sanford airport that a 15 year old Sanford youth soloed his first plane - quite by accident. Kurt Cornum tells his own story:

This all took place during the summer of 1948. I was working for Frank Guymon as a flunky in his dusting business. The particular plane that I flew was owned by Pete Christensen, and it was an open cockpit cub that was used for dusting. Pete had sold the plane a few days before and he had installed a new engine in it. He asked me to wash the plane and clean the engine a bit. I figured I could do a better job if I taxied it up and down the runway. This worked out quite well for about 30 minutes. I was thoroughly enjoying the work and the engine was getting what it needed. I taxied down the runway, evidently a bit to fast for the airplane, but not too fast for me. I was busy checking oil pressure and temperatures when the ride seemed to get quite smooth. I looked up and I looked down - and sure enough, I was off the ground! Well, this called for a quick decision. Right or wrong, I decided the best thing for me to do was to add power and go around the airport and land. This presented no problem as I already had the 30 minutes experience on the ground and, in my mind, this qualified me to do the rest. I might add that, to this date, I have never met anyone that agreed with me.

Mr. Dan Goodwin, pilot for Frank Guymon. was at the airport at the time and he, especailly, thought that I had exceeded my ability. I'm not sure whether he was more worried about me or the airplane, but I found out later that he aged considerably in a few minutes.

Well, I circled the airport twice and landed the plane without incident. That was the end of my flying career for a few years. It is still a bit confusing to me how so many people could be so mad and so glad at the same time. I didn't think much about this incident until several years later, when I learned to fly. At that time, I began wondering just how I accomplished that first landing.

With the automobile came the need for gas stations and garages. A gasoline pump was installed at the Peterson store; it had a glass dome on the top that held five gallons of gas, and the store clerk pumped the container full while the customer watched as it registered one-two-three-four-five gallons of the strange smelling fluid. A garage was opened on the north end of the building with Herb Brown and Frank Poulson as mechanics.

On the more practical side, Joe Hutchins had a shoe shop, with a very good business repairing footwear of all kinds.

There was a shuffling around of businesses and businessmen over the years. In the heart of town, Claude Barthelsen extracted honey in the old Hunt blacksmith building.

Penn Mortensen conceived the idea of a miniature golf course, and large crowds spent warm summer evenings enjoying the new entertainment. The course was built north of Irene's old hat shop.

The Andrew Paulson building had been sold to Job Whitney, who operated it for a short time, with business failure causing it to revert to its former owner. Paulson, in turn, leased it to the Heurfano Company from Walsenberg. Fred and Hattie Daniels, assisted by Fred Bently, worked for them, as did Bob Tallman and Mr. Moss. When Kit Carson took over managership, he hired Clifford Mickelsen to assist him. After Carson moved to Swen Peterson's building, Al Smith took over the Paulson store. Later, the building housed the grocery business of Mr. Perry, and there may have been others.

North of the Tivoli, Kenneth Jack built a grocery store, and Floyd Reed opened a filling station. George Bowling had come to town from Mississippi, and he opened a garage where the Harrison building had once stood. Both the Harrison building and Bowling's garage were destroyed by fire and rebuilt on the same location.

Edna and Ellis Nielson turned their confectionery over to Stella Nielson and her son, Dallas, for a few years, and for a very brief period, Melvin Morgan tried merchandising in Irene McIntyre's old hat shop.

Kenneth Mortensen took over Mrs. Warnock's store with Thelma Jepperson clerking for him and Towner Hostetter operating the cafe and pool hall. The Randall Mortensens tried their hand at the grocery business there for awhile, as did Jim Dyer and Don Mortensen, after also having operated the Kenneth Jack store for a season.

The Moore Brothers, Keith and Courtney, joined the business scene at the



THE MIKADO

Cast of 1948 Production

1st row - left to right - William Canty, Russel Bindinger, Jim (?) Weston, Pauline & Vaughn Green (Directors), Josephine Eckols, Dorothy (McDaniel) Christensen, Merle Christensen. 2nd row - Charlie Jones, Ella Mickelsen, Winslow Christensen, Glenna (Anderson) Schofield, Howard Shawcroft, Margurite (Thomas) Christensen, Molly Rae (Mickelsen) Peterson, Kathleen (Haynie) Richardson, Reba Christensen, Zabelle Knight, Pauline (Guymon) Jackson. 3rd row- Ren Johnson, Kelland Jackson, Tommy Rogers, Elwin Christensen, Donald Christensen, Carlton Anderson, Jack Sowards, Martin B. Mickelsen, Wilford Peterson.

Warnock place and the younger crowd spent many happy hours there.

Charlie Jenkins and his wife, Mildred, were in the Warnock store for a few months, and then it went to Leonard and Zella Cunningham, who were the last to operate the cafe and pool hall. Gene Barr spent about two years at the store before the business was discontinued. One of the Explorer Groups used it as their post headquarters for a short time, and the building was then abandoned.

Teenagers loved the bakery that Al Lujan opened at the Nielson's confectionery. Al's creation, the fudgie, along with fresh fried donuts, drew the youngsters before and after school, during lunch hours, and on weekends, as the multi-lighted nickelodeon played such tunes as Green Eyes, Aurora, and San Antonio Rose. When Al's business outgrew the confectionery, he moved it to the Paulson building, which was considerably larger, and then, much to the regret of the townspeople, it was moved to Alamosa.

Bert Holden took over the Paulson building with a cafe and barber shop, and it was later operated by the Ben Poulsons, Gene Poulsons, Ellis Nielsons, Herman Millers, Jim Dyers, Gene Krepses, Katie Knight, Chris Valdez, and perhaps others.

The Walker family, from Texas, moved their honey operation to the old Jack store and the Nielson confectionery. On several occasions, the people of the town enjoyed watermelon busts at the ball park, the treat being supplied by the Walkers and Barthelsens, who brought the mellons from Texas.

The Crowther Dairy, originally owned by Alma and Cella Crowther, has been in business for many years. It began with the purchase of the Carwin Dairy in La Jara and later incorporated the "Evergreen Dairy" owned by the Vernal Andersons of Manassa.

In those days, pasteurization was not required and milking machines were a luxury that could not be afforded. The milk was hand-bottled prior to being delivered around the county in a Chevrolet coupe. The Crowthers' son, Robert, now serves Conejos County with the most modern equipment available.

It was in 1943 that Gene Barr began selling groceries in a small way with a six-month stint in the front of Floyd Reed's garage. From there, he moved to the Peterson place, where he bought out Kit Carson's business of seventeen years. The Barrs remained in that location for about twenty nine years, with the exception of 40 months at the Warnock store.

On November 6, 1973, the Barrs moved their stock to their new building on south Main Street. The success of their firm has depended on the efforts of the entire family, including Don and Richard Westbrook (brothers of Mrs. Barr), as well as several young people who have made their temporary home with the big hospitable Barr family - Elsa Lopez, from Monterey, Mexico; Derrell McKee, from Tahlequah, Oklahoma; Sachiko Yoneyama, from Yokasuka, Japan; Jose Escobar, from Tampico, Mexico. Another employee

who will be remembered is Mary Lucero, with her big smile and friendly greeting, who worked there for almost ten years.

Taking care of the store has meant long hours, hard work, and having to miss out on many of the town's activities, but the Barrs have prospered and the business is part of their way of life.

The rough and tumble game of RODEO has brought publicity to Sanford since 1949, when Edker Wilson, capitalizing on a rodeo background furnished by his mother's people (The Woods Family, from Estancia Valley, New Mexico), hit the road with his own rodeo show!

Ed's show entertains rodeo-goers with brahma bulls, Mexican steers, bucking broncs, roping calves, saddle and pick-up horses, as well as trick riders, announcers, secretaries, pick-up men, musicians, clowns, and specialty acts, all traveling in self contained housing.

As a member of the Colorado State Rodeo Association, Wilson books shows from one to five seasons in advance in the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Texas, and Oklahoma. It's GO-MAN-GO from March to November, and there is plenty to do when the season closes with the feeding and working of the stock, bookwork and contracting for the forty shows the company presents each year.

In 1975, Wilson had Colorado's champion bull, saddle bronc, and bareback bronc, as well as purchasing Arizona's champion saddle and bareback broncs that same year.

Ed has, himself, contested in several categories of rodeo, but he says he could never get rich at it. Calf roping is probably his best field. He has, of course, done considerable bareback riding, but never as a contestant. He knows how it feels to be thrown - 'has had his share of injuries along the way. He can drive a semi with crutches and even dance with them when the mood strikes.

Wilson is proud to run a clean show, not resorting to drugs or dope as have some in the business. He sums it all up by saying, "I've enjoyed it; it's been good to me. If I had it to do over again, I'd just do it bigger and better."

For many years, Cliff Mickelsen has had the only LDS bookstore in the valley. He also features other books, as well as gift items and novelties.

Duwayne Cornum added a new filling station and garage to the Main Street scene, and mechanics came and went at that location, as well as the old Bowling garage building. Bill Chambers, Heber Ganus, Ardith Otteson, Nick Norton, Dallas Norton, Ron Morch, and others worked as mechanics, and there were several filling station operators including Troy Hutchins, Joe Mortensen, Laban Garcia, Gene Poulson, and Towner Hostetter. At the present time, Hostetter remains to supply gas for each families many sets of "wheels."

An unexpected turn of good fortune brought a considerable financial stimulus to Sanford and Conejos County when the manufacture of silver and turquoise jewelry suddenly went what the modern generation would call "banannas."

The mining of turquoise had begun many years earlier; Pervine King, from Manassa, was a pioneer of the business with the discovery of the opaque mineral in the hills east of Manassa, and members of his family were subsequently in and out of the trade, having some especially lucrative years during World War II. The fad for the product then seemed to die down for awhile, only to become extremely popular again in the 60's and 70's.

In Sanford, King's grand-daughter, Vivian Flavin, and her husband, John Flavin, developed a home-operation that expanded to a large factory known as the "Conejos Jewelers." Mrs. Flavin's son, Clive Edgar, then went into business for himself, and soon his own "Silver Dunes" shop was also producing large quantities of rings, bracelets, earrings, belt buckles, watch bands, and other articles that utilized the blue-green gem usually associated with the craftsmanship of the American Indian of the southwest.

Before long, it seemed that everybody wanted in on the act - Dan Daniels, Jim Smith, Jim Dyer, and so many others that it would be an impossible task to name everyone who has interests in the turquoise profession. Jewelry molds have been contracted out on a piece basis, with many housewives earning considerable sums of money by spending long hours over the "wax pot."

The Flavins, who got the ball rolling in Sanford, have moved on to other interests in Arizona, while their son, Mike, carries on for the Conejos Jewelers with a considerable number of employees and a steady payroll for the town.

There are those who marvel at the success of the venture, as well as those who have continually proclaimed that it was all "too good to be true," "a boom that can't last," etc. At the present time, however, the richly ornate jewelry has been responsible for a tremendous boost to the economy of the entire San Luis Valley.

What the future holds in store for the jewelers, or for the town's other businessmen, nobody knows!

It is evident that most of the town's merchants are gone with the San Luis Valley wind. Sanford, as a farming community, has contributed heavily to the growth of La Jara, Alamosa, and other valley towns. This may continue to be the trend, as the automobile makes shopping and recreation areas readily available to one and all.

The San Luis Valley, with a growing season of only 90-110 days, is capable of producing crops of supreme quality. Although there is a possibility of a June 10th frost followed by another anytime after August 20th (usually around September 10th), the crops that are grown in this high altitude are of exceedingly high quality - the vegetables the most flavorful, the grains the most nutritious, the hay the highest in protein, etc. All are premium products!

Irrigation was developed early in the settlement of the area, and it was discovered that there were two types of soil in the irrigated lands: (1) moderately well to somewhat poorly drained with sandy loam surface and clay loam subsoil having depth to sand or gravel of 20-36 inches, and (2) poorly drained, weakly developed soil over sand or gravel at 20-36 inches with influence from high water tables and a certain concentration of salts.¹

The early settlers knew that they must produce as many of their own food needs as possible, and they set about to raise as much variety as the climate would tolerate. Several types of apple trees were planted, with nearly everyone having a few currants, raspberries, gooseberries, plums, rhubarb plants, etc. Each family had its own vegetable garden, milk cow, chickens, and pigs. The folks at Los Cerritos discovered that turnips were extremely prolific, and they planted lots of that vegetable in early gardens.

Farming depended largely upon horse power, with manpower also being required. Ditches were dug with shovels and scrapers. William Brothers, whose relatives had been miners prior to coming to Sanford, hand-dug a reservoir for water on his small ranch at the northwest corner of Sanford and did the land leveling in the same manner.

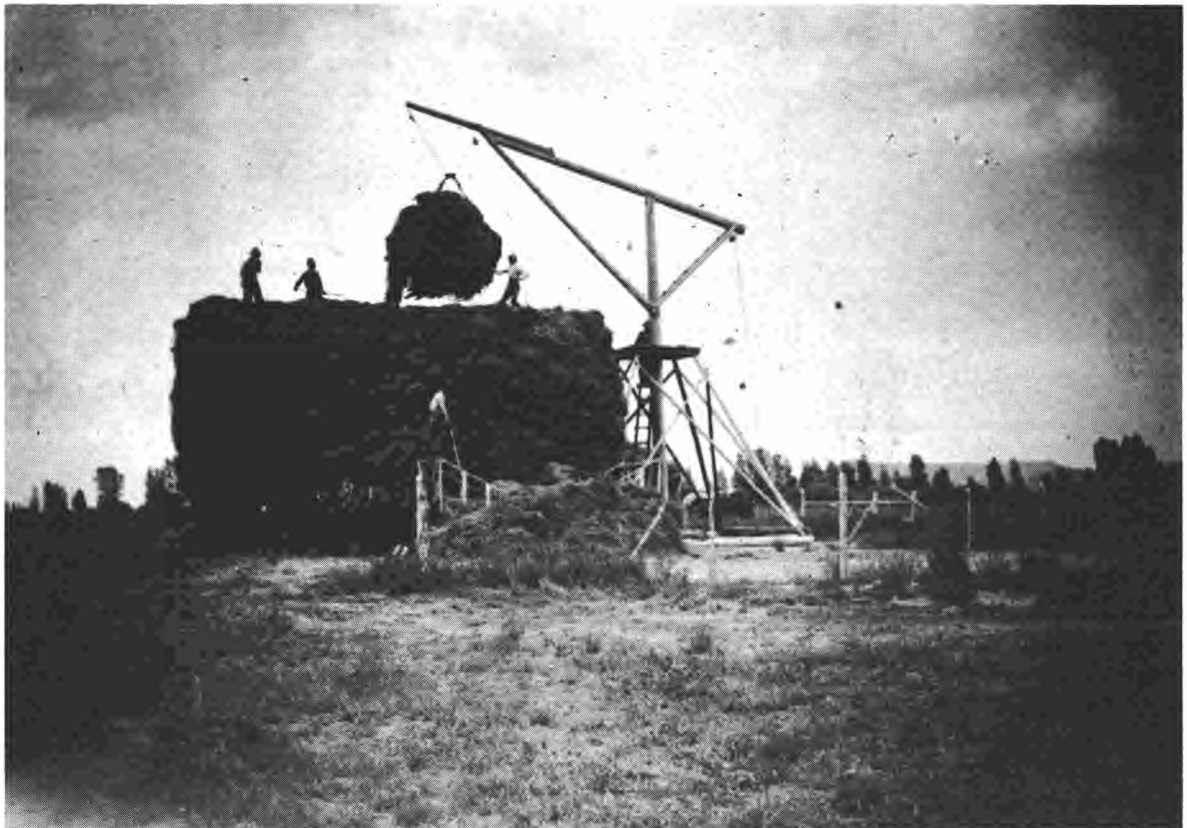
Seed for grain and alfalfa crops was hand-broadcast, and the walking plow, scythe, and the steam thresher were relied upon to plant and harvest the crops.

Thor N. Peterson, Andrew Rasmussen, the Morgans, and Roy Kirby were among the owners of steam threshers and did commercial threshing. It was quite a sight to watch the operation of the threshing crew, as the cook house, bunk house, and other necessary pieces of equipment rattled along on steel wheels, moving from field to field, where the grain had been stacked to await the thresher. Frequently, it was mid-winter when the machine got to the last of the grain.

¹Soil Conservation Service, La Jara, Colorado, April 9, 1976.



Steam Thresher



Hay Derrick

Andrew Rasmussen's wife, Martha, and his daughter, Dorothea, alternated with the cooking, Niels Jepperson ran the separator, William Canty, Bill Miller, and other men from Sanford pitched bundles.

Still extant in the southern part of the San Luis Valley are perhaps three or four dozen Mormon derricks, monuments to the ingenuity of the pioneers who conquered the land and brought it into productivity. Through these bony frameworks, now weathered and falling into various stages of decay, once pulsed the life of the hay field.

A working tool of considerable importance to the farmers of the area, the design was brought to the valley and improved upon by the Mormon pioneers.

Horse drawn machinery first mowed and raked the hay, after which it was pitched into small piles called shoks, carefully rounded on top to shed rain, and left to cure for several days.

A partner to the derrick was the hay rack or wagon especially equipped with a sling on the bottom of the rack, fashioned of wooden stays with two cables attached in the middle by a metal ring. From this ring hung a short trip-rope. The extreme ends of the cables were brought to the top of the front and back of the rack, each with a ring on the end.

Heavy timbers hauled from the west mountains made up the foundation of the derrick itself. These logs were approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter, and to them were bolted the four leg poles, one of which was equipped with a ladder reaching to the platform about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way to the top.

Brace poles supported the structure. The great center pole, possibly 30 feet high and 12 to 14 inches in diameter, was hauled by horse drawn wagon and wagon trailer. It required two teams of horses to pull the load. Raising the center pole was no small task, and a farmer running into trouble often had to call upon the expert experience of Brother Hansen. Huge guy wires were used to bring the pole into line.

Atop this center pole was a beam with pulleys attached to each end and fastened by eye bolts. Ladders reached from the platform to the ends of the beam for use in hand-threading the cable, a risky job to say the least. The cable was strung through the two beam pulleys and hooked to a third pulley at the bottom of the derrick. A team of horses, attached to the cable at the bottom pulley, powered the derrick into action.

Hanging from the ends of the main cable were two large hooks which the man on the load pulled down and secured to the hay rack rings. The derrick team then pulled forward, bringing the cable through the pulleys in the top of the derrick, thus causing the cable to swing around over the stack, and hoisting the load of hay off the rack. A man situated atop the stack would then pull the trip rope; the slings popped apart and dumped the hay.

The job accomplished, the stack man handed the trip rope to the wagon man, and the procedure was repeated. Unloading could be accomplished in two minutes as opposed to 30 minutes required to unload the hay by hand, if,

indeed, this were at all possible since a man could not pitch the hay to the top of the stack.

Five wagons and a hefty hay crew could clear a 40 acre field in half a day with the use of the derrick.

Mary June Miller's first person report tells of the job of cooking for the hay hands:

Cooking for the hay hands was a feat in itself and the repast prepared and served to these hard working men was often fit for a king. The meal, properly called, "dinner" and served at twelve-o'clock noon, was the highlight of the day. It was only common sense that men expending such vast amounts of energy were deserving of nothing but the best, and preparations were made well in advance of the hay season to make sure that there would be ample food on hand for the big occasion. Many an egg was destined from the day it was put to "set" beneath the mother hen to hatch and become fryer-size in time for the feeding of the hay men.

Grandpa Paulson, a merchant by trade, also operated a farm and cattle ranch north of town, on what is now part of the V-Heart Ranch. It was there, many years later, that I participated in the romance of the hay field.

Grandpa set the pace by rising well ahead of the July sun, doing the numerous chores about the place, breakfasting, and, as a final chore, cropping the heads off a couple of fine roosters for Grandma. Moving like lightning, she then replaced one of the stove lids on the big Majestic range in the kitchen with a black-bottomed tea kettle. The tea kettle, in direct contact with the flame, soon responded with great puffs of steam, and Grandma's work was cut out for her. Placing the roosters in a discarded milk bucket, she proceeded to pour the scalding water over them. This loosened the feathers, and with a great deal of speed she plucked the birds and followed with a good scrub in soapy water, after which they were rinsed, eviscerated, and placed in cold well water. An hour or so later, they were rolled in flour, fried in hot fat, and put to the back of the stove to simmer until noon.

Other preparations went on during the morning. Peas were picked fresh from the garden, shelled and put to boil; little new potatoes were dug, scraped, and cooked. Biscuits or hot rolls were rising for the second time when the roosters were set aside to simmer. Meanwhile, Grandma had 'stirred up' a layer cake that would be iced with whipped cream the last thing before leaving for the hay field. The second cutting crew could always count on corn-on-the-cob to go along with a similar feed.

It seemed to me that we were really taking the mountain to Mohammed as Grandma, with the help of whoever was available, packed the dinner, complete with current jelly preserved the summer before, mustard

pickles, and homemade butter fresh from her pantry cooler, ' the vat.'

Grandpa and the boys would be heading for the hay derrick as we turned in the gate. The huge derrick went to work and unloaded the hay while Grandma spread a clean checkered table cloth on the ground 'neath the old willow tree. The dinner was none the worse for having been whisked from the kitchen, and its fragrance brought Grandpa and the boys to the picnic circle in short order.

A good wash at the nearby artesian well had freshened them up, and Grandpa, looking much like an Indian Chief, arrived at the meal with his hair mashed flat where the sweat band of his old felt hat had pressed against his reddish-brown hair.

Pride in accomplishment was Grandma's reward, and she knew she had out-done herself when the men cleaned up every last scrap of her delicious meal.

I had the pleasure of watching Grandpa carve a willow whistle for me before he graciously thanked Grandma and called the boys back to work.

"Better get this hay in the stack before it rains," he would vow, although there was scarcely a cloud in the sky.

I always scrambled as far up the hay derrick ladder as Grandma would allow before leaving for home. It was my way of ending a perfect picnic in the hay field. "Someday," I said to myself, "I'm going to climb all the way to the top, past the platform and on to the very, very tip. From there, I can probably see all over the whole wide world."

Nephi Smith is credited with having brought what may have been the first buckskin horse in the valley. This mare was roped on the Utah desert.

The Spanish Americans in the southern part of the valley brought livestock into the area. Most of the Mormons were accompanied from Utah by a few cattle, sheep, etc.

Recognizing the need to obtain summer pasture for their livestock operation, a group of Valley men organized the Galvin Cattle Company, with range in New Mexico. Pete Peterson, Nephi Smith, T.A. (Al) Smith, and B.S. Reynolds were among the partners in the association. Some of the others were Billy Hansen, The Russell Brothers, Frank and Ben, and the Blair Brothers from Manassa. Relatives of these men still reap the benefits of the industry and effort of these pioneer forefathers.

George Morgan, Albion Haggard, Swen Peterson, W.O. Crowther, the Jacksons, Eugene Mortensen, Renold C. Johnson, and several others had sizeable sheep operations.

According to the Sanford Gazette:

Ivan Jackson of Antonito has been in the vicinity of Sanford for several days with his sheep shearing machine. He has sheared George Morgan's flock and is now shearing for Swen Peterson. It costs ten cents per fleece to have sheep sheared, but it saves more than enough wool to pay the difference.

The Gazette also reported:

Sweet Clover is hailed as a great soil builder. It produces crops and fertilizes them at the same time.

And:

Rumor has it that chico brush is excellent hog pasture.

Apparently, however, the farmer did not rely upon chico brush to nurture his hogs, for the Gazette, in the same issue, ran this news item:

You can hear the daily buzz of W.R. Martin's feed roller. This proves that people here at home can appreciate a good thing.

Shortly after the turn of the century, it was noted that weeds were becoming a serious problem, particularly the Russian Thistle, which was brought to the San Luis Valley by imported wheat.

In 1901, sugar beets were introduced as a valley crop, and field peas were discovered to be good hog feed, as well as beneficial for soil rotation. By 1906, Conejos County was well known for its production of pea-fed hogs, with California packers discovering the valley livestock.

Potatoes were the ever increasingly dominant crop when the railroad service became available to most valley towns in 1910. At that time, the valley had 2025 farms, with 1/3 of that number being in Conejos County. Farm valuation of the valley was placed at \$32,500.00. Wheat, oats and barley were grown extensively, and the valley was called the "Granary of Colorado."

The San Luis Valley Sugar Company, locally financed, opened a sugar refinery east of Monte Vista. Many farmers pledged themselves to raise a certain acreage of sugar beets, but the sugar beet industry eventually failed. The company went into receivership, with its machinery being purchased by a firm from Wyoming.

Stock beets continued to be a good crop, however.

The Valley was threatened by a big flood in 1911, following a 3-day rain that caused a great deal of damage in the San Juan Mountains and the San Luis Valley. Many bridges were washed out, towns were partially destroyed, as were roads, ranches, and homes. The courses of some of the rivers were actually changed as a result of the flood. Crews worked through the night to save the unfinished Farmer's Union Reservoir and Dam from washing out.

Water got to within a foot of the top of the dam and things looked to be mighty serious.

In 1916, the Gazette reported flood conditions in La Jara and Sanford:

The Richfield ditch broke bounds and flooded the Sanford-La Jara Road last week making it necessary for teams and cars to go around by Richfield. Officials of the Richfield ditch say that it was due to the overflow from Manassa country running into their ditch. There seems to be water to burn in the valley this summer.

Frost also threatened the crops, and again the Gazette was in there to report the story: (June 15, 1916)

Yes, frost nipped the alfalfa some. Killed the fruit. It damaged the early garden vegetables. But that is no reason for anyone to become dissatisfied. We didn't lose our main crop as they have done in other localities depending on the fruit. The cold weather was quite general and other localities have lost more seriously than we have. We will still have fine gardens. Alfalfa will come out of it.

At the close of World War I, the price of potatoes had dropped to 40¢, and the low price coupled with shipping problems, resulted in no potatoes being shipped from the valley.

Mules were, at that time, selling for about \$95.00 each, and were a large power on the farm. Horses brought \$76.00, and range cattle \$43.00.

The Railroad suffered large losses and it went into receivership, being bought by the Western Pacific. Following the transfer, it became the Denver and Rio Grande Western and the wheels rolled once more.

The San Luis Valley Historian listed the following figures concerning the number of farm tractors in the valley:

1919		1924	
Alamosa Cty.	1	Alamosa	2
Conejos Cty.	19	Conejos	51
Costilla Cty.	18	Costilla	18
Mineral Cty.	1	Mineral	No figure
Rio Grande Cty.	3	Rio Grande	No figure
Saguache	3	Saguache	10

Agriculture suffered considerably by the depression of 1920. Many of the banks closed.

The Iceberg Lettuce Industry, however, had gotten a start near Creede, and it was the beginning of a tremendous cash crop that was to be relied upon very heavily for years to come.

With the advent of the row-crop, came the need for farm laborers, and the result was the migratory worker. Some of these people came from northern New Mexico, some from further south. Most of them were Spanish speaking.

The Narcisco Martinez family was one of the first to come to Sanford. The Don Chavez and Ricardo Barela families followed. It was in 1926 that J.G. Lucero moved to town, followed by his brother, Henry, and then by Lorenzo.

As the years passed, Sanford's Spanish American population grew considerably.

Vegetable packing sheds were built along the railroad tracks in the early twenties, and in 1923 a large number of Japanese farmers were brought into the valley by the Costilla Estate Development Company to raise cauliflour, cabbage, lettuce, and garden peas.

To Sanford came the Lees and the Parkses. In the late 30's, the Aigaki family moved to town.

A group of Sanford boosters published a brochure encouraging people to settle in Sanford. Erastus Beck gave the following testimonial:

I have lived here 28 years and farmed 27 years, and never had a failure in crops. I never irrigate more than once a year. The last two years my crops went 5,000 bushels of oats each year. It averaged 52 bushels to the acre and weighed 40 pounds to the bushel. We have plenty of water to irrigate with. We have one of the best counties in which to raise cattle and horses, and there are good markets for everything we can produce.

Clover seed was a big cash crop during the 30's and 40's, and the clover huller was a familiar sight with its crews working day and night.

A pea cannery had been built in Monte Vista in 1924, and the spinach crop was on the increase. In Conejos County, there was a large honey bee operation, with people from Texas extracting high quality honey from the pea and clover crops.

Many ranch women paid their grocery bill by exchanging eggs and butter for goods at the store. Milk and cream checks bolstered the budget, and in Sanford, the Frink Creamery operated two milk routes to collect cans of milk along the way.

Chickens were raised by setting the hen on fertile eggs and watching carefully until they hatched. There were Buff Orphingtons, Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, Austria Whites and even some Leghorns. Actually, the heavier breeds of poultry were much preferred since they made a better bird for cooking after their laying days were over. As things got more modern, baby chicks were ordered from hatcheries around the country. Their arrival at the post office in early spring was no secret as their chirp was a happy sound to one and all. A real farm disaster was the occasional overheating of the oil chick brooder with the resulting fire in which considerable numbers of the baby chicks lost their lives. Predators also threatened the flock - weasels, skunks, coyotes, badgers, and even magpies took a fancy to the taste of chicken or at least the sport involved.

The valley was hard-hit by the great depression of the thirties, and in 1932, drought added insult to injury. Banks closed; many ranches were lost to foreclosure. Eggs sold two dozen for 15¢, hogs for \$3.00 each, wheat for 50¢ and potatoes for 28¢ a bushel. There was little profit in hay at \$5.00 a ton or cattle at \$13.00 a head.

President Roosevelt created an emergency job program to meet the emergency. It was known as the WPA, with workers being paid about \$57.00 a month in 1936. The Colorado Old Age Pension Plan was instituted, with \$45.00 a month being paid to older people, and a 2% sales tax imposed to cover the expenditure.

In 1937, the valley's highest potatoe yield to date increased their farm income considerably. Some of this money was invested in tractors to supplement horse power on farms.

By the time World War II began, the garden pea market was controlled by Conejos and Costilla Counties, with an acreage of 11,400.

The garden pea was King, and La Jara became known as THE PEA POD OF THE NATION.

The pea was a row crop that required considerable manual labor, and the financial boost was a great help to the county. It took a lot of workers to care for the planting, cultivating, harvest, and shipment of this vegetable.

The pea was a delicate crop, subject to the elements. Hail was ruinous, as was Mildew, and frost put an end to the harvest.

A tender white blossom preceeded the pod, and a few weeks later large crews of men, women, and children went into the fields to start the harvest. Pickers had to be very careful as they removed the peas from the vine in order that a second crop could later be harvested. A third picking was known as 'the gleaning.'

Peas were picked in buckets, then emptied into gunny sacks until the picker reached the end of the row, where the scales were located. The sack was then weighed and the weight recorded to the picker's name so that he could be paid at the end of the day; payment was about 1½¢ a pound. Later on, bushel baskets were used, and the picker was paid on a piece basis with 20 to 35¢ the going rate, depending on the price the grower, himself, was to receive for the peas. The sun was hot, and the work hard, bending over the vines for long hours at a time.

The peas were then taken to the sheds to be sorted and packed prior to shipment from the valley. Inside the sheds were long tables with canvas belts over which the peas moved in front of ten to twelve sorters, usually women, whose job it was to remove the cull peas as they passed along the belt.

A man at the top of the table poured the peas down while, at the end of the table, another man saw that the peas got into the basket and weighed. A group of women worked with the full baskets arranging a ring of peas at the top to give the baskets a finished appearance. This was known as 'ring facing.'

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A Mighty Good Paper in a Mighty Good Town

LA JARA GAZETTE

ALL THE NEWS OF THE COUNTY
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ONLY \$2 PER YEAR, BUT IS WORTH MORE

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La Jara, Colo.

BREAKFAST

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JUICES

Tomato Juice.....	10c	Grape Fruit Juice.....	10c
Orange Juice.....	10c	Pineapple Juice.....	10c
Stewed Prunes.....	15c		

CEREALS

Cereals with Cream.....	20c	Oat Meal with Cream.....	20c
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BREAKFAST SPECIALS

Ham and Eggs.....	35c	Plain Omelette.....	30c
Bacon and Eggs.....	35c	Ham Omelette.....	35c
Two Eggs, any style.....	30c	French Toast.....	25c

Order of Ham..... 25c

Potatoes, Toast, Coffee, Jelly, served with the above orders	
Hot Cakes.....	15c
Toast, Jelly and Coffee.....	15c
Stripped with Ham, Bacon or One Egg.....	10c extra
Doughnuts and Coffee.....	10c
Roll and Coffee.....	10c

DRINKS

Coffee, Milk, Buttermilk.....	5c	Lead Tea.....	5c
Tea, Green or Black.....	10c		

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OUR SPECIAL

Fried Chicken Dinner, with Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad, Dessert, Drink.....	50c
T-Bone Steak.....	50c
Grilled Pork Chops.....	45c
Hamburger Steak.....	35c
Mixed Ham and Bell Pepper Omelette.....	35c
Plain Omelette.....	30c
Assorted Cold Meats.....	35c
Cold Salmon and Potato Salad.....	35c
Spanish Omelette.....	35c

SANDWICHES

Our Leader—Special Hamburger.....	10c	Cold Beef and Fork.....	15c
Fried Egg.....	10c	Fried Ham.....	20c
Coney Island.....	10c	Bacon and Tomato.....	20c
Lettuce and Tomato.....	20c	Ham and Egg.....	20c
Toasted Cheese.....	15c	Bacon and Egg.....	20c
Liverwurst.....	15c	Deviled Egg.....	15c
Cold Ham.....	15c	Ham and Cheese.....	20c
Tuna Fish Salad Sandwich.....	20c	Pheasant Special.....	25c
Hot Roast Beef or Pork Sandwich, Potatoes and Gravy (Drink 5c extra).....	20c	Denver.....	25c

BEER, 3.2%

Tivoli, Budweiser, Old Heidelburg, Blatz.....	15c	Grain Belt Fany.....	10c
Ice Cream.....	10c	Malted Milk.....	15c
Ice Cream Cones.....	5c	Pie, a la mode.....	15c
Pop, assorted.....	5c	Pie.....	10c

All Milk Furnished by
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In assembly line fashion, the ladder applied the lid, passed the basket on to a member of the loading crew directly inside the iced railroad car adjacent to the platform near which the shed was built. The D&RGW Railroad then puffed and smoked its way out of town, as the peas were transported to markets throughout the land.

Floyd and Clad Reed operated a pea shed in Sanford, hauling the product by truck to the railroad in La Jara. The Reeds were partners with Doug Motz, Harry Reimer, Bill Thompson and others. Their Sanford operation, with Charlie Cunningham as floor manager, provided employment and excitement to the town as Sanford did its share to make La Jara boom.

There was a beehive of activity in La Jara, with people scurrying around subject to night call or whatever was necessary to get the pea to market in good condition.

Big men about town, of course, were the shippers - Armstrong, McDaniel, O.R. Gylling, Walt Gylling, Doug Motz, the San Pat Vegetable Shippers, and others.

Lettuce and cauliflour were packed simuntaneously, and crews also worked around the clock in their effort to market these crops at the peak of flavor. Crate makers situated their operations near the packing sheds, with crate tables, hatchets, and nail strippers to be used in their part of the process. Jim Creason, T.J. Carwin, Steve Mohica, Bob Whitney, Herman and Morris Miller, Lyle Barber, and others performed this service, and Lew Miller claimed something of a record with the making of 650 crates in a day.

The town of La jara was really hopping - Dallas Nielson and his crew were frying hamburgers galore, as were the employees of the Pheasant Cafe, Bryant's Place, and other restaurants. De Goyler's pool hall and bowling alley was a busy place, as was Tony Johns' store, the various barber shops, Brown's Hardware, The Bargain Store, Murphy's Hardware, McClanahans, McCarrolls or Warwicks as it was known then, and the Manning Insurance Agency. The First National Bank was there to rake in the money.

There was no lack of entertainment as the La Jara Theatre played to standing room only audiences in their location above the Highway Garage. Ned Newcomb ran the theatre and people made sure to be present on Friday night when Bank Night crowds gambled on winning amounts as great as \$100 for lucky tickets to be drawn.

A carnival came to town each season, setting up its rides in the vacant lot east of the bank. Fred G. Brunk's comedians also brought their tent show to town, and to top it all, the town celebrated a two-day event known as VEGETABLE DAYS. There were parades, with the pea cultivator cutting capers amid floats. It was even whispered about town that gambling tables were set up in several of the pea sheds, with cards shuffled and dealt and large amounts of money passing over and under the tables. An empty lot between the City Drug Store and Brown's Hardware was improved with a wooden platform, where open air dances were held, with tremendous crowds of people dancing each night. What a gay time it was for one and all, as the town's economy reached its peak!

Frost brought an end to the vegetable season, although it was often quite spotty - hitting one part of the area and missing another. Wheels then cranked to a stop and the young people counted the money they had been able to save after eating numerous hamburgers and taking in all the entertainment. The growers also counted their profit (or loss), and they knew that they would gamble again the coming year.

In 1939, the first acreage of Morvarian brewing barley was planted for the Coors Company from Golden, Colorado, by Fred Wright of Monte Vista and Fred Anderson from Jarosa. Less than thirty acres were planted, and the yield was about thirty bushels per acre of what was to become one of the valley's largest and most profitable cash crops.

By 1975, the country was hearing more and more about San Luis Valley alfalfa. Trucking became very big, with hay leaving the area in such quantity that people wondered where it all came from. The valley hay market became hotter than the proverbial firecracker.

Pioneering the hay haul from Sanford was the Faucette Trucking Company, owned by Paul Faucette, who had the foresight to anticipate the new market and gear up for it. His well-equipped trucks, with skilled drivers are on the road day and night - their 'Good Buddy' CB radios are on the airway as they move hay from Colorado to Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, and other states. During the winter of 1966-77, a new market was established in Michigan.

With the drought of 1977, there is talk of hundred-dollar-a-ton hay this coming winter, and nothing is impossible!

The Mortensen Farms are also big producers and shippers. It is amazing to count the number of loads that they move out of the valley each week.

In summing up the agricultural picture in the San Luis Valley, one would have to admit that great strides have been made. There is, however, one big factor that may make the difference in all this.

That resource is extremely vital, and it is known as "WATER."

Water seems to have been taken for granted in the early days. It appears that there was no shortage of it, and it may be a case of not missing the water 'till the well runs dry.

Before the turn of the century, Joe Thomas, an extremely cognizant gentleman from Manassa, warned the people that they would be wise to get their water rights in order or they would eventually lose them to Texas and New Mexico.

In 1894, the total run-off of the Rio Grande River had dropped to 765,900 feet of water, and as of 1896, the dry cycle continued. Engineers suggested huge reservoirs for water storage but, because of the agitation by states to the south, the Secretary of the Interior placed an embargo on all contemplated reservoir construction. It was called the Embargo of 1896.

Possibly the farmers were lulled into complacency by a wet cycle that continued over a period of several years. As has been stated, the local newspaper reported in 1916 that "There seems to be water to burn in the valley this year."

The San Luis Valley Historian tells of another development:

By 1929, the State of Colorado, the State of New Mexico, and the State of Texas, desiring to remove all causes of present and future controversy among these states and between citizens of one of these states and citizens of another state with respect to the use of the waters of the Rio Grande...have resolved to conclude a compact for the attainment of these purposes...

This document was signed at Santa Fe, New Mexico on February 12, 1929.

By 1931, the lowest run-off of the Rio Grande since 1902 was recorded - falling from 710,000 acre feet to 353,000. Things looked mighty serious.

It would thus appear that we were not sold down the river in one fell swoop, as there were many rumblings prior to signing of the lethal document.

What may well have been the beginning of the end took place in 1938, when a permanent Rio Grande Compact was drawn up by and between the States of Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado. The Compact, which went into effect on May 31st, was approved by the State Legislature and the Congress of the United States, and concerned the Rio Grande, Conejos, Los Pinos, and San Antonio Rivers. The San Antonio, Los Pinos, and Conejos all join before emptying into the Rio Grande River at Las Sauses, and the combined flow is treated as the "Discharge of the Conejos River" in the Compact.

The following table illustrates the amount of water that is to flow into the Rio Grande River at Las Sauses and on to New Mexico from the Conejos River under the terms of the Compact.

"DISCHARGE OF THE CONEJOS RIVER"
(Quantities in thousand of acre feet)

<u>Combined run-off of Conejos, Los Pinos, and San Antonio Rivers</u>	<u>Amount to run into the Rio Grande at Las Sauses</u>
100	0
150	20
200	45
250	75
300	109
350	147
400	188
450	121
500	178
550	326
600	376
650	426
700	476



Through this measuring station east of Antonito, Colorado, the life blood of the San Luis Valley rolls and tumbles its way to enrich the fields of the states to the south!

Farmers and ranchers have tried many means of obtaining relief from the terms of this Compact, but to no avail. A variety of irrigation systems have been used to alleviate the water problem. Private wells were dug; many of them were free flowing to start with, but eventually it became necessary to utilize pumps to keep the water coming. The initial cost of the well, plus the expense of the pumping process, makes this very expensive and, eventually, heavy regulations were placed on the use of such wells.

In 1949, Rulon E. Mortensen, and his son-in law, William Orchard from Grand Junction, Colorado, purchased about 500 acres of land located on the east side of the Rio Grande River, about twelve miles southeast of Sanford. The virgin land was broken up, cultivated, and planted in small grain and field peas. The crop was irrigated by a diesel-driven pump that brought water from the Rio Grande River, lifting it about 12-15 feet.

The crop was extremely abundant, and the following year a rock dam was constructed across the river in the Little Box Canyon. More land was broken up, a network of ditches, headgates, and culverts was built, and the dam held the water. It was constructed so that it formed a large reservoir with a very large capacity.

The State Game and Fish Department stocked the reservoir with Rainbow trout and cat fish, and it became a well-used recreation area.

Due to the tremendous amount of snow that fell in the surrounding mountains the next winter, the river had a record run-off the following year. The dam could not withstand the pressure. It was destroyed and never rebuilt, but many people considered it quite a remarkable feat of engineering and it is still spoken of as "Rule's Dam."

In recent years, sprinkler systems have been installed on valley farms, and they appear to be the coming thing. They will not be able to solve the problem and farmers are still looking for the answer.

As the valley enters its 1977 farming season, it faces what looks to be a severe drought. At this very critical point in time, influential outside groups are pressuring to tap the valley's underground water supply by drilling wells for use as a slurry line to transport coal from the Walsenberg area to points south. Valley people are strongly opposed to the plan, but the decision may not be theirs to make.

How long will such outrages continue?

Are we willing to allow the land of our forefathers to become a parched and barren wasteland?

WHO WILL BELL THE CAT?

In the answer to these questions may well lie the future of our beautiful San Luis Valley of Colorado.

HEAVEN BLESS THE WOMEN - They, too, fought the battle!

A great deal has been written about the valley and the men who conquered it. Less has been said about the women who stood at their sides, looked after their comfort and welfare, bore their sons and daughters, supported their labors, and, indeed, made the whole thing worthwhile. Though most of them basked only in the recognition heaped upon their husbands, they were certainly in there and working their hearts out all the way.

They served when:

.....THE STAFF OF LIFE was homemade bread, made from a formula of yeast, guarded on the pioneer journey and kept perpetual in a jar in the kitchen cupboard...

.....CHICKEN FOR DINNER involved raising the bird from egg to hen, beheading, plucking, eviscorating, cooking, serving, and washing up after the meal...

.....CLEANLINESS WAS NEXT TO GODLINESS, and it was with much effort that the old tin tub was brought from the shed, water hauled into the house and heated, homemade soap put to use, freshly laundered hand-made underwear hung beside the kitchen stove to warm - a Saturday night ritual with Mother in charge of the operation...

.....THE HAND THAT ROCKED THE CRADLE was also the hand that chopped the kindling wood, drove the plow team, administered to the family's medical needs, and even assisted in the laying out of the dead...

Chronicled within this section are the accomplishments of some of the women, representative of countless others, who gave their all to the winning of the west.

Although we live with the idea that the male role has always been that of family breadwinner, women have, in varying degrees, participated in this calling. Many have carried heavy responsibilities, being called upon to fulfill the dual role of wife and mother who was also partial or even sole support of the family.

There is something to think about in the five lines of wisdom penned by an unknown philosopher:

There are four things a lady should know

*How to look like a girl
Act like a lady
Think like a man
And work like a dog.*

A woman is usually the heart of the home. This position is hers regardless of what else may be her lot. Our changing society has altered the plan to some extent, but for most women it still holds true.

Through the efforts of the pioneer woman, the crude log cabin was made into a real home. Family histories paint vivid pictures, and excerpts are included here - this one from the records of Bernice Carter Thomas:

Grandfather and his three sons cut and hauled logs from the mountains to build a one room log cabin in Sanford. . . How happy the family was! They built a cabin and had a first flow artesian well dug. They had a cow, some chickens, and a few pigs, besides the garden, a few crab apple trees, some current bushes, and several hives of bees. The family was as comfortable as any of the other pioneers at that time. Their last child, Sarah Dell, was born in this log cabin on June 6, 1891. In later years, they built a lean-to on the log room. This was used for a kitchen and the log room was a front and bed room.

The front room was papered with bright wall paper. There was a rag carpet on the floor and lace curtains at the two windows. The furniture consisted of two iron beds and a chest of drawers. Grandfather made a large box to keep quilts in. It had a lid on top and was used to sit on as well as for storage. There was a heating stove and a mantle where the kerosene lamp sat. I remember the big black covered family bible always close by, probably on the chest or box. There were several chairs in the room and above Grandmother and Grandfather's bed hung an enlarged picture of John and Martha.

The kitchen had a wooden floor, which Grandmother always kept scrubbed and shiny. She would use lye soap and a broom to scrub it with. She would get clean water for every place she scrubbed. She would put papers down to protect it and keep it clean. Later on, she had woven rag rugs in front of the stove and around the room. The kitchen furniture consisted of a large coal cook stove, a bed in one side, and a

large kitchen table. I can see in my mind the table with an oil cloth on it and a large glass sugar bowl and glass which held the teaspoons. There was a homemade cupboard or "safe," as they called it. It had sides made of tin with stars or circles punched full of holes to let air in and keep flies out.

A large wooden box with a lid on was called the flour bin. There was a parital shelf inside the flour bin, where butter was kept. There were always several sacks of flour too. There was a wooden box back of the stove for wood and a wash stand on which stood the water bucket, wash basin, and soap dish. A small dipper with a handle hung on the wall as well as a small mirror and a cloth pocket to hold the brush and comb.

Above the door to the front room was hung a very small horse shoe. I think this was the shoe that was on the mule Grandfather had when he lived at Cat Creek and when he frightened the men who had stolen all the supplies they could find and hidden them in a cave.

Grandmother also had a sewing machine. One day a badge was found in one of the drawers. It was the badge Grandfather had when he was sheriff of Beaver County, Utah.

Grandmother was always neat and clean in person and was always very thrifty. If a garment had a hole in it, she would patch it. She always said, 'It is no disgrace to wear a patch but a tear or a hole shows how trashy a person is.' I guess I inherited some of that trait from Grandmother because I would rather see a patch than a hole. Grandmother made her calico dresses and gingham aprons. Her slips, or chemises as they were called, were made from flour sacks.

Some of the experiences I had with Grandmother were in the fall of the year after the farmers had cut their wheat and Grandmother would go gleaning. She would have a gunny sack and a long apron, and I would go with her. She would tuck the lower part of the apron in the band around her waist. We would pick the heads of the wheat along the ditchbanks, and put them in Grandmother's apron. When it was partly full, she would put the heads into the sack and start all over. It was not unusual for Grandmother to get several sacks of wheat for her chickens. My father or one of the boys would bring a buggy and take all the wheat to Grandmother's to be stored for winter.

Another memory I recall was in the fall when the sheep would be brought down from the mountains. Some of the sheep would crawl under the barbed wire fences looking for something to eat, and some of the wool would cling to the barbs. I have gone with my Grandmother and pulled the wool from the barbs. We would put the wool in the sack. When Grandmother had enough wool, she would take it home and card it into small bats the size of her hand.

When she had enough, she would put them into a quilt for the bed. These were warm and heavy.

I remember some of the things Grandmother would cook. She would make dumplings using baking powder, salt, and milk thickened with flour. She would put a small ball of this dough in hot chicken or beef broth. They were so different from the Danish dumplings my mother made. She also made the wild currant dumpling of flour, sugar, salt, and baking powder. She would put it in a thin cloth bag and boil it for two hours. Then she would remove it from the bag and put it on plates and slice it. Then it was eaten with cream and sugar. We always thought it was a great treat.

Grandmother always said, 'A person can tell what kind of house-keeper you are by the looks of your yard, your corral, and your elbows.' She always kept her door yard swept and fence around the chicken yard and the corral where the cows, horses, and pigs were kept. Grandmother really hated flies or bugs of any kind.

I remember one Thanksgiving when Papa killed a pig and Grandfather came to help him. Grandmother came too. Mother cooked a good dinner for everyone. After dinner, Mother became ill. On November 25, 1910, Mother gave birth to a baby boy. This was their second son. They named him John Oakly Carter, John being Grandfather's name.

Fond memories of home are also recorded by Olive Faucette Christensen:

I want to write a little about some of the floor coverings. They used to have rag carpets. The women would take all their old clothes, wash, and sometimes color some of them, then tear them in narrow strips about an inch wide and sew them together, then wind them in a large ball enough to weave strips of carpet about a yard wide. They would then sew the strips together until they got enough to cover their floors. They sometimes got straw in the fall after threshing and put it on the floor with carpet tacks. It made a nice covering. Sometimes they would just use paper to cover the floor. For throw rugs, they would fix rags and then braid them and start winding the braid around and sew them till they got the size they wanted. My Grandmother Huffaker used to make braided rugs.

Lye soap was made by the folks taking pork cracklings and pulp from the rendered lard and saving the suet, fat, and tallow from sheep. They would save until they had enough for a batch of soap. They would buy cans of lye and then cook the fat in the lye. The soap was very good and got the clothes very clean. We had to rub our clothes on the rub board, rubbing the lye soap into them. After this, we would boil our clothes in a large boiler on the coal stove. This would also have a bar of lye soap cut into it. After the clothes had been boiled for some time, we would take them out and scrub them more. After this, we would put them in bluing water. It was a lot of work but the clothes always looked good

and clean and for large washings it took nearly all day. The next day was ironing and we would heat our irons on a coal stove. We would iron until the iron got cold then change to a hot iron.

I am reminded of our beds in the fall after threshing time. After threshing time, folks would get their bed ticks ready and fill them with nice new straw and put their bedding on top of the straw ticks. It made a real nice bed. I have slept on straw beds a lot, and goose feather beds. Another thing people used to do for beds, they would go to the river and sloughs where there was lots of cattails growing. When they were ripe and started shedding, you could pull them off the stalks and fill your bed tick with them. I have never slept on them, but other people say they were Okay.

Mama would take her eggs to town. She would have more than she wanted to spend and the store would have a lot of dubbills, a piece of metal sometimes gold in color and sometimes silver with the name of the store on it and the amount - 5¢, 10¢, 15¢, 20¢ up to \$1.00. They always gave change from your eggs and butter or whatever you had to sell. There was a hitching post in front of the store to tie your horse to while trading at the store. It was very strong and would hold any kind of horses.

Mama had to have milk boxes to keep the milk and other things. She would put them in tight containers and put them in boxes with clear artesian water. Things kept good that way.

It would be difficult to name the town's outstanding woman for every woman is, in her own way, special, and fills a need in the lives of those with whom she comes in contact.

The women who are mentioned in this chapter were found to be representative of women in various phases of life. Their story could be similar to that of many other women - give or take a few changes.

Cella Crowther:

As the sons of Bishop W.O. Crowther reached courting age, the father offered this sound advice:

Find a right good mother and take any one of her daughters that you can get!

Proceeding to do just that, Alma chose for his bride Miss Cella Christensen, daughter of Wilhamenia and William E.O.T. Christensen of Manassa.

The business of life brought both joy and sorrow to this young couple. "Put Your Shoulder To The Wheel" may have been their theme song as they set about to raise a family of nine children - Oneita, Violet, Nadine, Richard, Alice Mae, Fern, Bob, and Janette. One daughter, Delsie, fell victim to a combination of Meningitis and Scarlet Fever at the age of sixteen. This was a great sorrow to the family.

The Crowthers farmed for many years, later operating a dairy business in Conejos County. Dairying being the hard work that it is, one can well imagine the effort Cella put forth as she worked shoulder-to-shoulder with her husband in addition to performing the duties of housewife, cook, seamstress, nurse, and mother. She also served her church and her community well, being President of the YWMIA, President of the Relief Society, Primary worker, President of the Sanarado Study Club, and President of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, which position she occupied at the time the monument to the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers was erected in Sanford.

Always coming through adversity with a smile, Cella brought sunshine into the hearts of many as she encouraged her husband during the years he served as Bishop of the Sanford Ward and in other capacities.

Failing health has not dimmed her pleasant outlook on life, and she is an active and useful person today, as she always has been.

Cella was, very deservedly, recognized as Colorado Mother of The Year in 1952.

Mabel Mickelsen:

A contract to teach school in the little town of Sanford, Colorado, was neatly packed among the possessions of Miss Mabel Alice Hansen as she stepped down from the buggy that golden autumn day in 1909. Having resigned a school teaching position in Nebraska, Miss Hansen accompanied Margarite McDonald and several other young ladies on a Colorado adventure that was to be of a more permanent nature than they realized.

Settling herself in a classroom at the old red brick ball park school house, Mabel made friends in town and soon caught the eye of several of the young men. Martin Mickelsen took a shine to her, swept her off her feet, and from that day on she belonged to the San Luis Valley.

Five children came along, Evelyn, Martin B., Pauline, Paul (Pauline's twin brother who died in infancy), and Joseph C. Mable was able to successfully combine the roles of mother and educator during a forty year career of teaching in the valley schools at Sanford, Fox Creek, Mogote, La Jara, Romeo, Conejos, Manassa, and Antonito.

She was thrice elected to the office of County Superintendent of Schools - twice in the 1920's and again in the early 40's.

Her leadership abilities were recognized by the citizens of Sanford, and she was elected to the office of Mayor, having been the only woman to serve in that capacity in the town's history.

Literally dying with her boots on, it may well be said that in this plucky lady was embodied the spirit of the words by an unknown author:

*While I live, God grant I show it
So when I'm dead, folks will know it*

Death came in the autumn of 1959, just fifty years after Mabel had arrived in Sanford. The Mickelsens were living in Romeo at the time, and Mabel, having made an appointment to have her hair done in Sanford, was driving her automobile between the towns when she was stricken by a cerebral hemorrhage. No doubt her active mind was filled with plans and hopes at the very moment the attack occurred. Pulling to the side of the road, she succumbed, active and going to the end - as she would have wished it!

A lady to remember.

Grace Crowther:

Widowhood was a very serious situation in the days prior to enactment of social security laws. Employment for women was limited, and the widow was often faced with extremely heavy burdens of responsibility.

Grace found this to be the case.

The cold grey of early morning gloom prevailed in the Crowther home that January dawn in 1935. Fatigued by a restless and anxious night during which neither of them had slept, Grace and Bob prepared to go to bed. Bob had suffered severe arm and chest pains during the night, with nausea and other symptoms. Grace, sympathizingly, had tried in vain to find a remedy for his discomfort, as he spent the night in a chair that he might breathe more easily.

"We didn't know about heart attacks in those days. We had no idea what was the matter," Grace reports.

As daylight broke, Bob fell exhausted onto the bed, only to be claimed by death a few minutes later. What tragedy befell the young mother who, at the age of 35, faced the world to provide for a family of eight children ranging in age from 16 years to 14 months. Another baby was due to arrive in August.

To compound the problem, those were depression days. Crowther had raised a beautiful crop of garden peas the summer prior to his death and was hopeful that the harvest would put the family on its feet once more. But this was not the case! A ruinous hail storm beat the tender young vines into the ground. "It looked like a herd of cattle had trampled the crop," Grace remembers. These worries, a possible cause of the untimely death, added to Grace's grief as her husband was buried two days later.

With no alternative but to tackle the problems ahead, Grace proceeded to roll up her sleeves and get to work. "I think this is when I first developed my high blood pressure problem," she says, "But I didn't say anything about it. What good would it have done? I don't know how I'd have made it without my garden, my sewing machine, and my brother, Wilbur."

The end of her trouble was nowhere in sight, however, and tragedy called

again the following August when the new infant daughter died at the age of two weeks.

By 1940, the oldest son, Clyde, had reached the age of 17. How proud the family was of this very special young man, as he was elected to the office of class president at school and achieved other honors. Grace felt that he was ready now to lift many of the burdens from her shoulders but, once again, this was not to be the case. The boy set out on foot full of youthful enthusiasm to fulfill an assignment he had been given to serve as Sanford Ward MIA Dance Director. He had been gone from home only a few minutes when his mother received the news of an automobile accident that claimed his young life.

Though her very soul was bowed down in sorrow, she faced the storm within her. Faith and prayer sustained her, and she found the courage to go on. She raised a fine family, being a constant source of inspiration to them as adversity made her strong.

Visiting with her in her comfortable home today, she is found to be a woman of diversified talents. Her creativity with floral arrangement was recognized by the Sanford Ward, and her bouquets added a touch of beauty to the chapel for many years.

She loves to write verse, and one of her poems was set to music and sung by the Hunts, local musicians, at the fiftieth wedding anniversary of her long-time neighbors, the Harry Morgans.

Grace began a new chapter in her life when she became Mrs. Harry Thomas in April of 1976.

Elizabeth Patterson:

From South Carolina came the Pattersons, James and Elizabeth. As converts to Mormonism, they had faced more than a few problems prior to reaching their new home.

Elizabeth was the mother of eleven children, raising eight daughters to maturity and burying three sons.

This courageous lady was destined to live a portion of her years in total darkness, for cataracts claimed her eyesight and there was no remedy in those days.

With uncomplaining cheerfulness, she continued her household duties, even doing the cooking for the family. Food and dishes were stacked neatly in the cupboard, where she could quickly find what she needed. As the years went by, she learned many little tricks to make her work easier, such as sewing a button on the open end of a pillow case so her fingers could tell her which end to put the pillow into.

Though her problems were many, she never lost her testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, attending church as she held tightly to her

husband's hand. On one occasion, when she was at a church conference in Manassa, she overheard a person remark that she was blind. Elizabeth quickly informed the speaker, "Blind? Yes! but not so blind that I cannot see the beauties of the gospel."

Her faith was a testimony to live by.

Ellen Smith:

"My father (Seth Jones) and his brothers relived their boyhood experiences in Sanford so many times that I learned to love the people before I ever met them," recalls Ellen Jones Smith, who arrived in Sanford in 1929 and remained to become one of the town's outstanding women.

Nearly forty years of Ellen's life went into the molding of character of Sanford's young people, as she taught them their ABC's of reading and writing, along with the ABC's of notes and music.

Ellen, armed with her Wyoming Teacher's Certificate and a contract to teach seventh grade in Sanford, arrived by train from Laramie, Wyoming. The upper story classroom of the brick school house was her first location, and among her first pupils were Duwayne Cornum, Thell Bailey, Bertha and Thelma Jeppersen, Gwendolyn Cornum, Raymond and Aletha Crowther, Allan Kirby, and the Christensen boys, Herman and Ralph.

One could not begin to count the hours of service that Ellen gave to her church and her community. It is little wonder that the question, "Who do you consider to be Sanford's outstanding woman?" so often produced the answer, "Ellen Smith."

Her home life was very busy as she offered love and compassion to her husband, Dale, who, though he remained cheerful and very productive, was afflicted with severe arthritis. When daughter, Mary Ellen, was stricken by Polio in 1954, her mother not only gave her physical therapy but continued to encourage the musical education the young girl had begun years earlier as her mother's piano student. The family was rewarded years later, when Mary Ellen became solo violinist for the Utah Symphony Orchestra. Also talented musicians were the other Smith children, Carla and Ross, who played piano and saxophone.

Ellen's service goes back to the 25¢ piano lesson, which consumed from three quarters to a full hour of her time, and she never turned a student down because it meant that the lesson must be given free. Beginners and early intermediate students were her specialty, and many of today's accomplished pianists began with Ellen Smith - Alice Rae Hutchins, Marsha and Charla Jones, and Eloise Reynolds.

Ellen's last classes at Sanford were in Special Education, but she loved all phases of teaching. Every fiber of her being went into her work and she reports that, even now, she still "quivers" when she thinks of it.

Several generations of young people loved to sing along with Mrs. Smith, and she surely earned a special place in their hearts as they did so!

Clea Espinosa

Clea radiates a special quality that makes her worthy of mention in the history of Sanford. The pep, the vigor, the "bounce" that is part of her tremendous personality is a very rare gift, and certainly one worthy of note.

Although she, like most of us, has had some rough spots on the road of life, she just doesn't let things get her down. A visit with her has the same results as taking a "happy pill." It's hard to be down-in-the-dumps when you are around Clea.

As a school teacher, many of her years were spent working with the youngsters - the "little people," and they loved her for her smiling face and her cheery song.

Music has been part of her life. How many times has she sat down at the piano to play request after request for fascinated listeners, as her fingers seemed to fly up and down the keyboard?

Since her retirement, she has cared for her aging mother, and always seems to find this a labor of love. There is a very special mother-daughter relationship there that is quite outstanding.

May Clea, herself, have many sun-splashed days in store; she deserves them!

Jennie Wright

For Jennie, the words "I don't know how," just did not exist as part of her vocabulary. Sometimes it took a little longer to do the "impossible" things, but once she set her mind to a task, it was as good as done.

Four little girls were her responsibility when their father died during the influenza epidemic of 1918. The baby was only four months old, and Jennie was untrained in the ways of making a living. This meant that she must explore all the possibilities. This she did, and she found that she was willing to work and work hard - going out in the pea fields to work, raising a garden, canning, cutting hair, applying "half-soles" to worn shoes, cooking, doing housework and home-nursing, and one time she even built a room to enlarge the family home.

Little wonder that her daughters looked upon her as their guiding light!

Beranda Martinez

Beranda's children grew up secure in the warmth of a mother's love. She was always there, and they could count on it.

Although times were hard and the family's income limited, she knew how to manage so that the youngsters could count on her when they needed a little extra money for something special.

She had kind words to help them out when they were hurt. She could give good advice when they needed it. She was all that a mother should be, and home was the best place on earth simply because she was there to fill the place with her love.

Olive Christensen

Devotion to duty has been a longtime commitment for Olive Christensen, as she has administered loving care to her invalid daughter, Wilma, for over a half-century, as well as raising four other children

To fill the long hours of being home-bound, she used her time well. Her memories were recorded in an autobiography written in 1957. In addition, she has done considerable genealogical work, and accumulated a large collection of newspaper and other clippings in which are found valuable historical information.

Olive has kept her chin up when many people would have crumbled under the load that was hers to bear. Olive is a lady of courage and stamina.

Iva Reynolds

Iva is a very talented lady, now retired from a career of over forty years of teaching, mostly in the Sanford High School, where several generations of families have learned proper English under her direction.

Drama, of course, is her specialty, and she recalls early day presentations when she worked with school, church, and civic groups - "Just anyone who felt like adding to the entertainment of the town."

In later years, Iva tried her hand at playwriting, with a very successful Book of Mormon play that was presented before large audiences on behalf of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Iva, herself, directed the play, and it will long be remembered in Sanford.

Adah Morgan

Adah is typical of the working mother of today. She finds herself in the following situation:

We are living in a world of swift change - a mobile world. The 20th century is characterized by some of the most rapid and profound changes in the social life of human beings. And as man's technology grows, much drudgery of the past vanishes. There is more time for creativity and learning than ever before. As our world shrinks, our universe expands. Man can now cross the continent in the time it took to go thirty miles with a team of horses. This is the day of instant breakfasts and permanent press. We, as women, have an obligation to refine and improve our minds and our skills.

Women have made great contributions in the fields of literature, art, and science. We find women holding public office, teaching, being medical doctors, lawyers, and in many other professions.

Though times have changed and our conveniences are many, the most important role of woman is still the same as in pioneer days. That role is "Motherhood." Her home and children should always come first. William Ross once said, "For the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world." It is in the home that children learn the lessons of life: truth, honor, virtue, self control, honest work, and the purpose and privilege of life. If we are to be successful in the role of motherhood, we must work diligently. Today, we will be competing with many forces for the time and interest of our children. Our homes need to be pleasant places where good humor abounds and courtesy is not saved for company. We need to be well informed on current issues so we can understand the problems facing our children today and help them meet the onslaught of conflicting ideas.

Today, when women have more time and many feel the necessity of earning to help the family financially due to the high cost of living, we will see the woman's role broadening and expanding. Her contributions to society will be even greater than before!



Ellen Smith



Cornelia Mortensen



Mabel Mickelson



Adah Morgan



Cella Crowther



Gladys Barr
Colorado Merit Mother
of The Year

The before-wonder-drug period was a tough time in which to raise a family, and life expectancy was low while infant mortality rates were high. One heartbroken Sanford lady made the statement that all she knew was to give birth to babies and bury them - she raised but four of the fifteen children born to her.

From an old 'doctor book,' copyright 1913, was obtained the following information: *The home medicine chest should contain syrup of rhubarb, hives syrup, laudanum, quinine, baking soda, whiskey, sherry wine, gin, chloroform, flaxseed meal, benzonated lard, and zinc ointment.* Even if so equipped, it would be possible not to have the necessary items to meet the day's emergency.

Home remedy for Malaria consisted of catnip, bone set, penny royal, and red pepper. For Psoriasis, it was five drops of Fowler's Solution of Aresnic, and Sage tea rubbed on the head was prescribed to grow hair as well as prevent its fallout. For Pyleonephritis, suggested treatment was hops and tobacco, along with pumpkin seed and horseradish. Salt peter was for Asthma, and for lung disease it was horehound candy and boiling water. In the event of lung hemorrhage, salt water or a tea made from equal parts of bugle weed and beth root was recommended. Diptheria treatment consisted of salt water and fat bacon, while the bite of a snake required that you *kill a chicken and while still warm open and lay upon the wound, entrials and all, and it will draw out the poison.*

The author of the book offered grim warnings:

I have seen children eat green apples and die within a short time. The minister and family mourn over the mysterious dispensation of providence - it was green apples! I once knew a two year old child who died from eating a blackish-over ripe banana. We reap what we sew whether we sew intentionally or otherwise.

Local people had their home remedies to add to the above. Mary Dave Holman made a salve that was relied on by many people; it did have a great deal of healing power. Roy Martin's liniment was also well used by residents of Conejos County, and the recipe is still made by his relatives today. Sylvia Cunningham's canker medicine was valuable spring tonic and was used until the time of her death in the 1970's.

Job Whitney pulled teeth, and Bishop Berthelsen unofficially practiced

dentistry. Stories are told of how Berthelsen, equipped with coarse tools, would hold the patient's head between his legs and go after the aching tooth with a pair of pinchers and no anesthetic.

Thor N. Peterson had studied medicine in the old country (Denmark) prior to coming to America, and he did a great deal of medical work. He was especially skilled in the setting of bones and is credited with having performed many successful procedures. His daughter, Jennie Mortensen, recalls that he never threw an old felt hat away - it was saved to be used in cases of bleeding wounds. He would first sterilize a piece of clean linen in the oven, place it upon the wound, and apply a pressure dressing made from the old felt hat.

Jack Luster will be remembered as having been a man of great courage when a severe injury necessitated amputation of his leg. The procedure was done with the help of friends and relatives who held the suffering man to the table while the operation took place. He then made his own artificial limb to replace the leg. The 'wooden leg' was strapped to his stump, and sometimes it would pain him to the extent that he would remove it during church and place the damaged leg on the bench to let it rest. The disability did not prevent him from living an active and useful life.

Midwives rendered valuable service to the community. "Aunt Cornelia" Mortensen, Martha Carter, and Margarite Rasmussen were much beloved for the kind and loving deeds they performed. These ladies received training from Dr. Ellis Reynolds Shipp, a female graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

From the biography of Martha Carter, written by her grand daughter, Bernice Thomas, comes this information:

In the spring of 1902, Dr. Shipp came to Sanford and gave a course in home nursing and obsetrics. Grandmother took the course and graduated and received her diploma. Her daughter, Della, accompanied her mother to the graduation class; Della was so proud of her mother as she wore a long white apron and a cap on her head. Grandmother delivered hundreds of babies during her lifetime. She always carried a small black bag which contained supplies necessary to deliver a a new baby. Some of the children thought that Grandmother brought the babies in her bag. Before Grandmother was married, she was staying with a woman who was expecting a child. When the time came for the baby to be born and Martha was alone, she delivered the baby and took care of the mother until other help arrived. Martha was only 14 years old and this was her first experience as a midwife. Grandmother would get \$5.00 for delivering a new baby and caring for the mother and baby for ten days or two weeks.

Clea Espinosa relates a story concerning Cornelia Mortensen:

One night late, Aunt Cornelia Mortensen heard someone knock on her door, which wasn't unusual with her being a midwife of Sanford. She

got up and went to the door and there stood a fellow who lived below the cemetery - about a mile south of there - and he said, "Can you come? My wife is in labor and she is all alone." "Yes," said Aunt Cornelia. He then said, "I don't have a horse, but I have a buggy, if you'll come." She dressed quickly, grabbed her little black bag and coat, and got in the little one-seat buggy. He got between the shafts and ran as fast as he could run, pulling Cornelia, and got her there in time to take care of his wife.

Another story is told wherein a woman suffered an extremely long and difficult labor. In desperation, the midwife administered a dose of gun powder tea. The results were that the woman soon blast forth a hale and hearty 15 pound son, and in short order both mother and baby were doing nicely.

The expectant mother often stocked a small supply of chloroform to assist her through the difficult home deliveries. What trust she put in the midwife, her husband and relatives, as water was boiled, clean sterilized cloth prepared, and the home made ready to serve as delivery room and nursery. She truly bore her children according to the Bible - in pain and suffering, actually going into the valley of the shadow of death that she might bring a new life into the world. Considerable numbers of mothers were lost in the process of childbirth.

Nell Hutchins also served as a midwife, and her daughter, Luella Reynolds, remembers that Mrs. Hutchins was called to assist on one occasion when the doctor gave the baby up for dead and turned his efforts to saving the life of the mother. Nell, however, was not willing to accept his decision concerning the child, and she worked with it for several hours. The baby lived to become one of Sanford's top athletes.

Babies were much larger then than now, 10 pound babies were not uncommon, and even 12 to 15 pound babies arrived regularly upon the scene. The mother, of course, was bedfast for two weeks. Any movement before the 10th day was considered almost suicidal, for that was the day on which "Everything" magically went "back in place."

The practice of medicine was not all by guess and by gosh as this report may make it sound. Few of us know the exact contents of the wonder drugs of today. It is entirely possible that some of the old remedies had sound reasoning behind them.

When Amelia Paulson's son, Max, was stricken with an undiagnosed illness, the mother devised a series of treatments that in later years were found to be very similar to the Kenney Treatments for Polio. It is now thought possible that the child may have suffered from that disease and that his life was saved by the skill of a loving mother.

Etta Pursley and Irene McIntyre studied nursing, and people relied very heavily upon their knowledge, consulting them with the same confidence and respect now given their physicians.



Nurse Irene McIntire (and others)

A look at the home-treatment process is provided in this first person experience from the family history of the author:

Visits from the doctor were rare in our part of the country as I was growing up, and someone was sent to bring the doctor from La Jara only in cases of real emergency.

Mama, like other women of her generation, knew that it would be her job to care for the family medical needs, so she and Aunt Edna invested in a Complete Home Medical Library early in their marriages. The two black volumes, one of which was devoted to veterinary medicine and the other to treatment of humal ills, coupled with some good common sense and a skill born of necessity, proved invaluable as they set about to raise their families.

Placing the big book on the oil-cloth-covered kitchen table, Mama referred to it very carefully as she diagnosed each illness. The book was frightening as well as fascinating. I enjoyed looking at the illustrations of Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, etc. I also liked to read about treatment of Fits, Bubonic Plague, Hydrophobia, Dropsy, Insanity, Rickets, Palpitation of the Heart, and Hysteria in Young Girls, with suggested treatment calling for such herbs as Blue Flag, Golden Seal, Flaxseed, Mandrake, Cranesbill, Milkweed, Bitter Tonic, etc. There was also a chapter on how to select a husband, which I planned to refer to later on, and the final chapter of the book dealt with the laying out of the dead. I could never bring myself to read that chapter.

Most common at our house was the cold, accompanied by sore throat. Although many of the townspeople had parted with their tonsils at the clinic in the Relief Society Hall, the throat germ still persisted in visiting the community quite often.

Missing school and being put to bed for treatment wasn't too bad, especially when Lee was also ill. We rested in the front bedroom, adjoining beds, where we told stories, played guessing games, built houses out of clothes pins, while Mama frequented the room with homemade remedies such as hot lemonade and a variety of gargles. I didn't mind the gargles, and even the nasty cough syrups and chest rubs were fairly tolerable. The worst part of all was the old sock-around-the-neck treatment. Small pieces of fat salted pork were placed on our necks, then came the clean sock pinned to hold the meat in place. As the throat improved, the fat was removed - o' blessed day! The sock, of course, was left on for a couple of days, finally to be replaced by a clean white handkerchief. How soft and cool the handkerchief felt after the irritating sock. Throat swabs with iodine were also a necessity and, as preventative medicine, a piece of yarn soaked in Kerosene or Turpentine was placed around our throats.

When it finally came time for Lee and I to part with our tonsils, we were taken to Alamosa, where Dr. Harriman performed the surgery

on Aunt Della's kitchen table.

One spring, the dreaded Diphtheria struck town. Some families had multiple deaths, and Mama used every means known to her in order to bring us through. Our coal oil lamp burned all night long for several weeks as she and Daddy kept vigil. This was one of the times when the doctor called on us and administered an "anti-toxin." We knew he was coming, and we were nearly scared to death. Those of us who were able scattered all over the place in the hope of avoiding the dreaded needle. I headed for the granary, but an arm reached out and caught me; I can still feel it! Jean hid under a tub, but her hiding place was soon discovered. When all were rounded up, the shots were given.

Several of us responded to the treatment and began to show signs of recovery. Not so with Olive, who grew daily more critical. We were beginning to fear that Mama would be called upon to refer to the final chapter of the doctor book, and it was during this time of terrible stress that she, having exhausted every known medical means, turned psychiatrist. Holding the feverish girl in her arms, Mama made a promise so startling that the rest of the family gasped in amazement. "You have to get better real soon, Olive," she said, "because the fairy is going to bring you a new doll buggy!"

We could hardly believe our ears. Doll buggies were strictly Santa Claus items, and it was then Mid-April. Surely Mama, herself, was a little shocked at what she had said.

There was no way, however that a child faced with a promise of such magnitude could bear to die. This was the turning point in Olive's battle for life, and one fine morning soon after, the fairy, just as promised, left a shiny new doll buggy for the pale but improving little girl. Our prayers were answered. Mama, our family psychiatrist, had helped cure another patient!

In those days, there were frequent deaths from undiagnosed and unoperated appendicitis. Kit Jackson and Maria Miller were two of those who fell victim to this problem that could easily have been taken care of today.

Probably the blackest days in the history of Sanford were those of the flu epidemic of 1918. This dreadful disease was no respecter of persons; it seemed to take its chief toll among young adults in the prime of life.

Olive Faucette Christensen speaks of it in her biography:

Across the waters, here in the states, cities, and everywhere, whole families could get down. For quite awhile around here, people would wear masks in public places. They finally stopped all of the gatherings, no dances, no church, everyone was trying to take care of their own. It was almost sure death for expectant mothers. We called it "flu" for short.

There was no need for official quarantine - people stayed at home out of fear for their lives! Fred Bentley was Sanford's health officer, and this kind-hearted gentleman took over the responsibility of looking after the people's needs. In cooperation with the local merchants, he would make daily rounds, stopping at each house to deliver drugs, groceries, mail, and other items of need. He would also pass along news items, and let the various families know how the epidemic was becoming less severe or whatever the case may have been.

There were no funerals, and burying the dead in the frozen ground of winter presented quite a problem. Each family simply had to care for its own members.

Several service men lost their lives as a result of the disease - Ross Smith had been in France only a very short time when he fell victim. Also stricken was Willie Reynolds, and he died while in the service. It is said that Bruce Warnock met the train that brought Reynolds' body home for burial. Warnock, himself, was then stricken by the disease, and very soon he, too, was buried.

Ernest Wright left a wife and four little girls behind. Mae (Block) Larsen, Mae (Warnock) Dyer, Vesta Martin, and many others also succumbed. Many motherless children were left behind.

The Jack family has this to say:

Anna (Sego) died of the flu after having given birth to her fifth boy. She was buried with her baby on her arm. Grandma Jack (Almira) took the four little boys home with her and they were a part of her family until they married or went away to work. Starlin was still in diapers and would cry for Coty Frank, who always consoled him.

Early day physicians were Schenck, Chambers, and Blissard from La Jara, Hurley, Davlin, and Morrison, from Alamosa, and Dr. Hamilton, from Manassa. One of the first hospitals was the Cornum Hospital at Alamosa, and the Alamosa Community Hospital was also used later on. Several Sanford youngsters were born at the Sheesley Maternity Home in Alamosa.

Regular clinics were held at the Relief Society Hall in Sanford, with minor surgeries, including tonsilectomies and circumcisions, being done there.

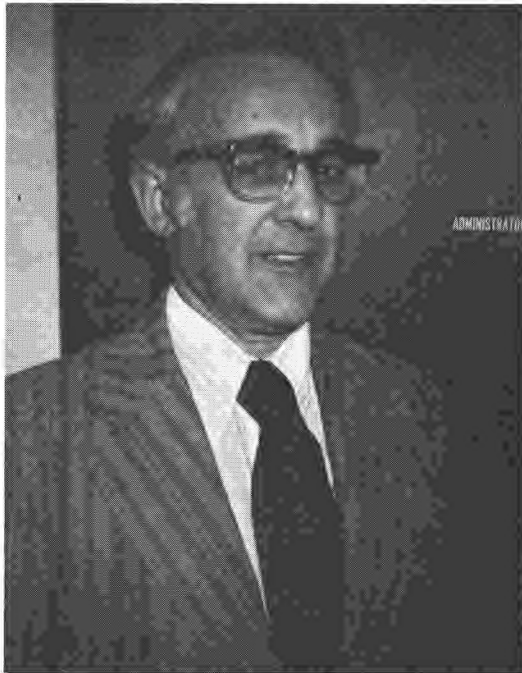
A visit from Dr. Schench was much anticipated by the people of Sanford, and his arrival was marked by residents lined up on the sidewalks in front of their homes. It was not the good man himself that the crowd awaited, however, it was the sight of him chugging magnificiently into town in an AUTO-MOBILE, one of the first in Conejos County and what a sight it was to behold!

On May 9, 1963, the Conejos County Hospital admitted its first patient. This was a long-anticipated occasion for citizens of Conejos, Costilla, Taos, and southern Alamosa Counties.

The District Hospital Board signed an agreement with the Mennonite Board of Missions for the management of the hospital. The ten-year agreement was renewed at the time of expiration.

Several additions and expansions have taken place since the hospital opened, and the institution now offers services that make it a very competent and up-to-date facility, prepared to look after the needs of the rural area it serves. This area, from southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico, has an approximate population of 12,000 residents.

These two men have been with the hospital since it first opened its doors.



Wayne Miller, Hospital Administrator



H. Dale Thomas, M.D.



Dr. Vaughn A. Johnson
A Sanford Man
Who was on the staff of the
Conejos County Hospital for
several years.

WAKE UP AND PLAY BALL

A town without a baseball team is dead when it comes to Saturday afternoons and holidays...Now it is a dead mortal cinch that we want a baseball team and a brass band.

The above challenge was taken from the Sanford Gazette under date of June 8, 1916.



SANFORD'S BRASS BAND

Photo taken May 1, 1893, at the T.A. Smith ranch east of Sanford

The occasion was a May Day Celebration

Left to right: (front row) Orlando Funk, James Frank Crowther, Lars Mortensen, W.O. Crowther. (Back row) Thomas A. Crowther, James Jensen, Swen Peterson, Peter Peterson, Ira B. Whitney with son, Bert, in drum.

Sanford has always loomed large on the San Luis Valley sports scene. It has, in fact, been said that every Sanford fan is a would-be coach, and there may be some truth in the thought for the townsfolk have long turned their excess energies to sports events, fielding teams that have brought well earned recognition to the community.

Baseball, probably the earliest team competition, began with a team of young men by the names of Nephi Hostetter, Chester Hostetter, Swen Peterson, Hi Shawcroft, Tommy Crowther, Ephriam Mortensen, Will Dean, Bates, Will Carter, Lime Carter, Frank Crowther, and Jess Mortensen.

Another early baseball team that played its way to considerable recognition had as members Nephi Hostetter, Al Crowther, Willard Faucette, Orval Peterson, Ross Johnson, A.B. Bailey, Carl Gylling, Hugh Morgan, Earl Faucette, Martin Mickelsen, Orin Faucette, Penn Mortensen, and others. Many people were convinced that Earl Faucette could have made the big leagues today.

An especially exciting game is still remembered - the banker, Rockefeller, while transacting business in Costilla County, became extremely impressed with San Acacio's fine team. He offered a purse of \$200 for a team that could beat them, and Sanford accepted the challenge.

Willard fanned the batters as fast as they came up to bat, with the fielders putting on a show by sitting on their mits while he performed. Sanford, however, found themselves in a tight spot at eighth inning; the score was 1-0 and something had to be done! Just in the nick of time, Willard got on base. Bernard knocked a home run, and the game ended with Sanford picking up the purse.

While serving as mascot for this team, a tow-headed boy who loved the game was dubbed with a nickname that was to be his for life. Stanley Bailey became "Ty" in honor of the great baseball man, Ty Cobb.

If there is a boy in the home, there is a basketball loop in the back yard, and this has always been the case in town. Basketball began on the outdoor court when Lazelle Smith organized a team that played outside the old Hunt blacksmith shop, later moving inside at the red brick social hall. Team members included Lazelle Smith, Bruce Warnock, Ellis Nielson, Byron Beck, Willie Reynolds, George Otteson, Penn Mortensen, and Earl Smith. Bert Johnson, Orin Beck, Jim Nielson, Juan Garcia, Ren Johnson, Earl Faucette, and June Mortensen played with this team at a later date, as did Price Smith.

Not to be outdone by the boys, the black-bloomered girls geared up for the sport. Edna Paulson, Bessie Smith, Leah Block, Dora Taylor, and Agnes Beck were in there winning their share of games. Mar Smith and Eva Beck also played with the girls team.

Sometime later, another team of girls played a fast game of basketball.



Dora Taylor, Edna Paulson, Leah Block
Agnes Beck, Bessie Smith



Basketball Girls

Queen Faucette
&
?

They were Hazel Mickelsen (forward), Leona Mortensen (center), Olive Faucette, Bessie Warnock, Ella Holman, Zilph Holman, and Edna Morgan.

Rules differed considerably from those of today, with the floor being divided into three courts and each group assigned to a respective position on court (center stayed in center, etc.). Six or seven players were on the floor at a time.

Coached by Frank Soule, the girls often played preliminary games for the boys game to follow. Their competition came from Alamosa, Monte Vista, La Jara, and Manassa. They also got in some good stiff practice by playing the boys team that later developed into the Sanford Giants.

In the fall of 1922, Harry Thomas began teaching school in Sanford, and this was the beginning of organized school basketball. Thomas coached an eighth grade team known as the Tigers, with Dale Smith, James Jensen, George Brothers, Frank Reynolds, Nelson Mickelsen, Reid Gylling, and Hubert Young among those who played. When Lynn Ordway took over in 1924, he built around the nucleus of Thomas' Tigers and produced what some feel was one of the best teams the school ever had. Players were Floyd Reed, Nelson Mickelsen, James Jensen, Frank Jergensen, Ferrell Christensen, Willis Rasmussen, Hubert Young, Clayton Peterson, Gentry Stewart, Frank Reynolds, Virgil Irvin, and possibly others. This team had new red and white suits.

Bruce Warnock is reported to have coached an early day school team, but there is no available information concerning them.

It was about 1927 when Sanford had its first football team under the direction of Lynn Ordway. The valley had a league at the time, but Sanford, not being an accredited school, was not a league member. They played at random whatever valley schools happened to be participating in the eleven man sports competition. Some of the players on that team were Clayton Peterson, Reid Gylling, Stanley Bailey, Lazelle Jones, Ernest Carter, Floyd Reed, Nelson Mickelsen, Hubert Young, Albert Garcia, Ferrell Christensen, Gentry Stewart, Paul Stewart, Stanley Carter, Willis Rasmussen, Virgil Irvin, and Frank Reynolds. When it came to power on the field, these boys took their hats off to nobody!

Basketball continued with a town team made up of Earl Smith, Francis Whitney, Penn Mortensen, George Otteson, Price Smith, and other players.

The BIG TEAM, of course, was the Sanford Giants, who had a long and successful history. This team developed from the Sanford High School team of 1923. Away back then, high school was a five year situation in order that husky farm boys could help their parents with the business of earning a living. Fellows attended school on an as-you-can basis, and some of them got to be pretty good sized before they earned enough credits to graduate.

When the team was organized, Harry Morgan and Orin Reed were freshmen students, while Bruce Reynolds, Irwin Hise, Evert Cornum, and Alva Reed were a little older. Hemming Morgan, who coached the boys, also filled in as a player when necessary.

Time passed, the boys grew past the six foot mark - appearing to be real "giants." Evert Cornum was the short one of the bunch at about six foot height.

From high school victories, the boys graduated to town team competition. Games were played with the Manassa, Aces, Rialto Theatre, Monte Vista, Alamosa, and Center town teams, and others. By 1927, they were calling themselves the Colorado Giants, with Jim Daniels joining them as manager and becoming known as "Mr. Basketball." They played Adams State College, Western State Teachers College from Gunnison, and the University of New Mexico. Returning to Sanford triumphant, they were challenged by the Denver Piggly Wiggly Team, the Iowa Roamers, the Fat Emmas from Minneapolis, and others.

Olsen's Terrible Sweeds, of Coffeville, Kansas, came to play the Giants and left town having signed one of the Sanford men to play with their team.¹

Reed jumped center for the Giants, and center jump was the rule of the day. Harry was a virtual terror with his long shot; it was not unusual for him to score as many points as the entire opposing team. Bruce was something to contend with under the basket, and the other players were equally ferocious. The Giants dominated the valley sports competition and became known nation wide.

It was a treat for the crowd when the Red Heads (a famous girls team) played in Sanford. The Harlem Globe Trotters also took on the Giants before a tremendous crowd.

¹Orin Reed turned professional at a salary of \$150 a month plus expenses. In one year's time, he played 67 games in 36 states. The Sweeds toured the country by automobile, starting out at Salina, Kansas, on Thanksgiving Day, and winding their season up in March. Games were booked with colleges or any other teams that they could get games with, having a guaranteed purse for each game.

This team had the distinction of being world champions at one time, having defeated the reigning champions, the New York Celtics, a professional team, in a game held in New York City. Because the Sweeds played by amateur and the Celtics by professional rules, the game was divided into two sections, the first half being played by amateur rules and the second by professional. Victorious in both contests were Olsen's Terrible Sweeds.

Reed stuck it out for two seasons, then returned home to marry Miss Dee Christensen and settle back to a long and successful career with the Sanford Giants. He always said that Dee and the other wives were the team's strongest supporters.



Sanford Giants

Orin Reed, Bruce Reynolds, Harry Morgan
Irwin Hise, and Evert Cornum.



Winters Oilers

The home team was usually entitled to the gate receipts to be used for travel, meals, suits, etc. Thirty-five cent tickets were sold to standing room only crowds, with the team raking in \$200.00 to \$300.00 a game. Each team was allowed to select a referee: Harron Haynie and Penn Mortensen were often chosen, along with Tony Johns, to do this job. Their pay was about \$5.00 a game.

Over the years, other players were added to the team. Clayton Peterson, Howard Westbrook, Kenneth Faucette, Floyd Mortensen, Nelson Mickelsen, _____ Martin (from Texas), and Joe Mortensen played with the team at one time, as did several others.

It was about 1940 when the Giants played their final game - a national AAU Tournament for town teams, held in Denver. Harry Morgan years of age, coached the team, and Orin Reed, at the age of 42, was manager.

There were other town teams. The Winters Oilers, under sponsorship of Frank Winters, played for several years and won their place in the memory of local sports fans.

Another team that played was Al's Bakers. They suited up during the 40's under the sponsorship of Al Lujan. Various town teams gave them good competition, as did the Pueblo Air Force Base and others. Eugene Barr, Gaylon Mortensen, Howard Crowther, Willard Crowther, Albert Mortensen, Clyde Mortensen, Quinten Crowther, Rex Christensen, Ed Crowther, and Jay Morgan were some of the team members.

The valley had a large number of independent teams, who were happy to take on all comers. They regularly challenged Trinidad, Walsenburg, Pueblo, the Army Base teams, Pueblo Air Force - one and all. There were some tough games played by the Manassa Aces, Sanford Giants, Sanford MIA, Rialto Theater, Bains, and other town teams. Many jam-packed tournaments were held in Pueblo and Sanford got more than its share of victories.

It was excitement all the way when the MIA team suited up. Hemming Morgan and Jim Daniels coached the boys - Dale Smith, Marvin Martin, Troy Hutchins, Grant Mortensen, Walter Jensen, Vernell Morgan, Quin Morgan, Dean Morgan, Duwayne Cornum, Willis Rasmussen, Merrill Crowther, Elwin Crowther, Floyd Mortensen, Gene Barr, Verden Mortensen, Duward Martin, Clarence Hoyle, Donald Morgan, Richard Crowther, Hillard Mortensen, Fred Mortensen.

Those MIA boys were mighty excited when they twice defeated the Giants - a feather in anybody's cap!

Family basketball also had its day, and Sanford had three teams in there making a good showing. For the Mortensens, Fred, Ralph, Donald, Floyd, Verden, Gaylon, Joe, Hillard, Clyde, Albert, and Jim Dyer played. Jim was not only a good ball handler as well as a brother in law of some of the boys - he also had a very valuable possession - a basketball (of his very own).



Al's Bakers

The Crowthers took off their hats to nobody when it came to basketball. They suited up James, Merril, Willard, Ed, Quinten, Elwin, and Raymond.

Morgans were not to be left out. Their team members were Donald, Grant, Dean, Quin, Vernell, Jay, and Harry.

Families from other towns gathered up their young men and sent them out to meet the competition. Not to be forgotten are the Owsleys, from Alamosa. Frank, Bill, Clarence, Gale, and Hartley suited up with good support from Bill Rowe, Ralph Byars, and George Schilthus.

From La Jara came the Wilsons, full of steam and ready to play that game. Their mother, Mrs. Wilson, was such a **loyal sports** fan that she was given a special award by the sports directors of Adams State College. Bill and George played for the honor of the family - the other players are not known to the author of this report.

Basketball was not the only sports event that was enjoyed by Sanford folks. A highly unusual competition was that of automobile racing. The story is still told of how Reid Gylling, in a '36 Ford, raced Bill Orchard, in a '36 Buick, to Denver. It is said that the time was two hours and fifty eight minutes from Alamosa to the Sears Hotel, with the Ford winning the race but burning up its engine.

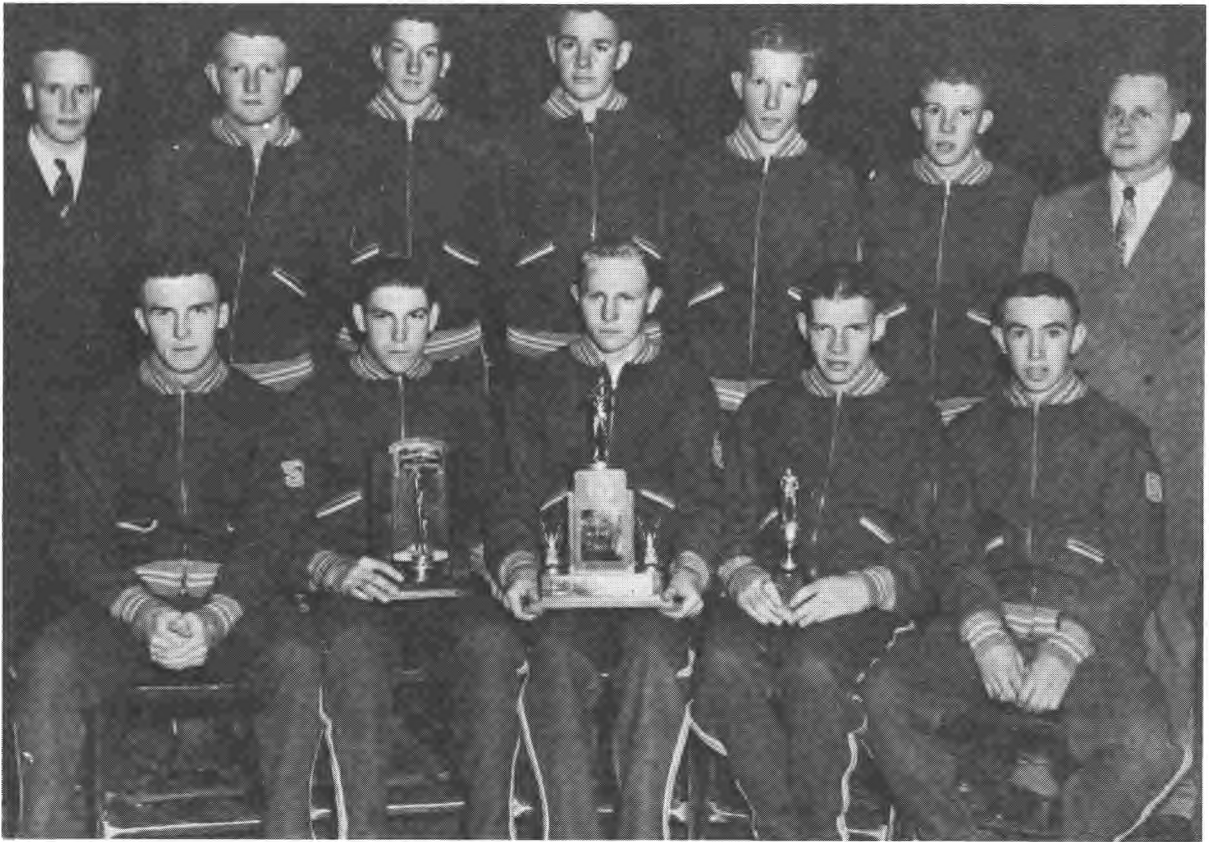
Another time, Penn Mortensen, in a new Pontiac, raced Tex Reynolds, in a Ford V8 from Sanford to Alamosa. Penn took the oiled road, Tex the back road, and Tex managed to make it into a cafe long enough to grab a bottle of pop and greet Penn with, "Where have you been? This is my second drink."

Bill Christensen was a well known wrestler. Jim Dyer and Hillard Mortensen boxed for the Golden Gloves, and "Buffalo Bill" Wilson wrestled in the days when the match was a real show with the wrestlers dressing the part, and developing "wrestling" personalities that were part of the entertainment.

How Howard Westbrook could handle that baseball! He had a chance to pitch for the Saint Louis Cardinals, but a quirk of fate prevented him from making the big time. It seems that he was pitching a game in Albuquerque when he accidentally hit a fellow in the ribs, putting him in the hospital. Wes was afraid of his own strength, got spooked, and gave it up.

Several people still recall his fast pitch when a carnival visited Sanford and set up a tent show with a row of dolls lined up to be hit with a baseball. Five times in a row, the dolls toppled over. Westbrook didn't know how to miss! Not accustomed to such markmanship, the vendor closed his tent until Howard left the carnival.

The Johnson boys had a reputation for being fleet of foot, and they usually took the prize money in the 24th of July foot races.



STATE CHAMPS
1959

Clyde Mortensen was only sixteen years old when he, Hillard, and Joe tried out for the Brooklyn Dodgers. They didn't quite make it, but it was a terrific experience.

High school basketball is the sport or sports in Sanford, with football gaining ground. Herb Weisenfels introduced wrestling, and it is also coming on strong, along with baseball and track.

The school, for many years, has been the smallest AA entry in the State of Colorado, with a student body of only 109, while the established bottom level for Class AA schools is 176. The top break-off point is fixed at 555, and it is plain to see that Sanford should be out-classed by any one of the other league schools.

This just does not happen, however, and of only four state championship trophies to be brought to the valley since 1918, Sanford garnered three. Neil Hammer, of Radio Station KGIW, reports that Alamosa defeated Haxton in 1939, Sanford walloped Palisade in 1949, Sanford took Bennett in 1950, and none of us have memories so short that we don't recall the big victory of 1977, when Sanford took the crown by virtue of a victory over Highland-Ault.

The Colorado Senate passed a resolution honoring the Sanford team for its excellence despite its small size.

How does Sanford do it? Many people would love to have the answer!

The school teams have won numerous trophies over the years:

Kelly Faucette lost the State wrestling competition only by a referee's decision, and Sanford's past two year record is typical of their record over the years:

1975-1976 League champions in both football and basketball; second place in league baseball (losing in the quarter-final state playoff); and second in state track.

1976-1977 Second place in league football; 1st place in league basketball, and STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS. According to Colorado Sidelines, Marti Reynolds was the Colorado State player of the year for AA league basketball, with Blaine Larsen also making the team and Todd Mortensen receiving honorable mention. Duane Roberts was named coach of the year, and Sanford also honored Dave Taylor, Herb Weisenfels, and Clinton Tucker.

You name it - whatever the sport, Sanford is sure to be in there winning the trophies. THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE SPORTS HISTORY OF THE TOWN.

It was a long way from Pennsylvania to the Governor's Office in the State of Colorado, but Albert Willis McIntire accomplished this feat before the turn of the century in the nation's Centennial State!

The Governor certainly had the education to do the job, having attended private schools in Pittsburg, then the Newhall Institute, and graduating from Yale University with a BA Degree in 1873. Two years later, he earned his degree in law and was admitted to the bar in the state of Connecticut.

When he came to Colorado in 1876, he was accompanied by his wife, the former Miss Florence Johnson, daughter of a New York manufacturer.

Settling first in Denver, the McIntires became interested in the San Luis Valley about 1880, and it was decided that they would purchase a rather large piece of land east of Sanford, stock it with some good cattle, and try the farming business.

The home that they built was very lovely for its day, and the ruins remained for many years after the house itself was destroyed.

Those were busy days for the McIntires, and politics entered the picture very soon, for in 1888 McIntire was nominated to the office of Conejos County Judge by both the Republican and Democratic parties. His civil accomplishments included adjudication of water rights for the Rio Grande River in Colorado in 1889, and in 1912 Governor Routt appointed him as Judge of the 12th Judicial District.

Meanwhile, three youngsters had come along - Joseph P., Polly (who died at an early age), and Dorothy. Florence was content to be at home with her husband and children; she was not especially impressed by society, being rather reserved by nature. She could, however, handle most situations, and so it was that she became Colorado's First Lady when her husband defeated David H. Waite, candidate of the Populist Party, in the race for the governorship of the state in 1894.

The rest is history!

McIntire was the state's 9th Governor, holding office from 1895-1897. A man of high principles and broad information, he was extremely consistent in all matters. A proficient linguist, he spoke English, German, French, and Spanish, as well as being able to read Latin and Greek.

Upon assuming the office of Governor, he was immediately confronted with two major situations - the Walsenburg Lynching and the Leadville Strike; both were settled satisfactorily, as were many important issues of the period.

When his political days were over and he went to his reward, his funeral

was attended by two Colorado Governors (Adams and Johnson), two State Senators (Fred T. Christensen and A.S. Headlee), and many other notable people. Governor McIntire was then buried in the La Jara Cemetery, a Loyal Republican at rest!

As for the old home place - the Los Ojos Ranch of about 3500 acres became quite a showplace, and it was enjoyed by many people as a favorite picnic spot, especially for school groups who used it for special events. Although the old home had been destroyed, the foundation and part of the walls remained, and young people liked to explore the ruins - the bay windows, the various fireplaces - and speculate about the activity that had been part of grander days for the Governor and his Lady.

The famous McIntire Springs were well known throughout the region and, along with the nearby Conejos River, they provided excellent scenic and fishing opportunities.

The ranch is now in private ownership, but many people still look back on it as part of the good old days gone by.



The Governor and His Lady

To the people of the world, Kit Carson III is the grandson of the famous scout, but to the people of Sanford he is much more than that. He is highly respected as "Mr. Carson," merchant, friend, and neighbor, while his wife, the former Eloisa Valdez, is the little lady who helped "run the store."

It was autumn of 1927 when the Carson family, Kit, Eloisa, Christopher, Billy, and Elaine moved to Sanford, where they entered into the life of the community. Carson managed the Huerfano Trading Post for several years, later accepting the position of Conejos County Clerk and Recorder. Still later, he became an independent merchant, operating his own merchantile store in the Swen Peterson building. His family moved into the apartment adjoining the store, and he was assisted by his wife, who clerked for him.

A man prominent in civic affairs, Carson became as much a part of the hometown scene as any of the other men. People quite forgot that his grandfather was the famous scout, Kit Carson, and many were unaware that his mother was the daughter of Tom Tobin. Kit's birth, quite fittingly, took place inside the fort at old Fort Garland.

Sanford folks were surprised when Hollywood discovered him and whisked him off to California to promote a movie about the life of his illustrious ancestor.

He is remembered in Sanford for the years of service he rendered as President of the Sanford School Board. Securing water rights for the school was but one of the matters in which he officiated. Countless students had their diplomas signed, "Kit Carson, President of the School Board," and it was usually Carson himself who handed them out.

Only one of the Carson children, the youngest daughter, Eleanor, was born in Sanford.

Christopher (Kit Carson IV) served his country in the Phillipines in World War II. He was taken prisoner, participated in the Bataan Death March, and later lost his life in a Japaneese prison camp.

Mrs. Carson was the owner of a large number of text books used in the Sanford School. These books were part of the inventory remaining from the old store, and are of interest to many people. She has generously donated them to the Adams State History Library, where they are to be displayed for the enjoyment of interested persons in the area.

Although the Carson family moved to Alamosa in 1944 and Kit passed away in 1974, they are affectionately remembered by their friends in Sanford.



Kit Carson



Mrs. Carson

Sanford received a large boost entertainment-wise with the arrival in town one windy day in February 1907 of a young school teacher from Utah, King Driggs, who counted as his biggest accomplishment the fathering of the King Family.

King met and married a local girl, Miss Pearl Mortensen, and set about to give piano lessons on one of the two pianos in town, fortunately the property of Pearl's sister, Laurette Peterson.

Spreading his genius generously about, the maestro awakened the talents of many who proved to be amply endowed. Local Jenny Linds were discovered. Artisans laid aside their plows in favor of set and scenery construction. The excitement of the theatre flowed through the veins of the community. The operetta reigned! Under the able direction of the King, such musicals as Down the Black Canyon, The Navajo Princess, and Gilbert & Sullivan's HMS Pinafore were presented and well received by large audiences. The group toured the area. King was out to make a name for himself, as well as becoming a legend to the people of the San Luis Valley.

Although Sanford was not to be the permanent home of the King Family, it was certainly home port for a number of years, and three shoots of the King Family Tree sprang from San Luis Valley soil - Karleton, Donna, and Maxine all having been born in Sanford, where the family headquartered with Pearl's parents, the Lars Mortensens.

When Driggs found his family growing faster than his salary, he organized the Driggs Family of Entertainers - himself, his wife, Pearl, and his children, who hit the road and barnstormed all over the west in the roaring twenties. The going was not always easy for the Driggs Family. They had their ups and downs; sometimes it seemed that the downs were more than the ups, but eventually they became big in the entertainment world, going all the way from vaudeville shows in prairie towns, through the Big Band Days of records and radio, to their own TV series in the rock era. By whatever name they have been called, "King Sisters," "King Family," "King Cousins," you may be sure that they are individually and collectively chalking up credits in the field of entertainment.

Valley people have followed the family through records, movies, and the TV years. A King Family Special is sure to find area TV's tuned in for audiences that are more than a little bit interested.

A letter from Donna to the author shares these memories:

As you know, Karleton (the oldest), Maxine (the second child), and I (the fifth child) were born in Sanford. Mother (Aunt Pearl) used to go home for Grandma Cornelia to help deliver her babies. Mother and Dad came back to Sanford to help with the war effort (by way of agriculture) at the time I was born there at the close of World War 1. (They had too many children for Dad to be drafted). Mother told me they used to bundle me up in a baby carriage and take me to the dances at the old dance hall with the spring dance



This photo of the family troupe was taken before baby sister Marilyn was born. Left to right (rear) are: Luise, Mama King, Daddy King, Karleton, Maxine and Alyce. In front are Yvonne, Billy and Donna.



King Driggs Production, "THE NAVAJO PRINCESS"

Left to Right
Jennie Paulson, Della Jackson, Zelma Rasmussen
Hazel Mortensen, Ada Block

floor, and the bouncing of the dance floor would lull me to sleep and I never caused them any trouble.

When I was ten (in 1928), Dad was asked to come back to Sanford and head up the music in the public school system. The family was living in Denver and, because we were all enrolled in dancing and music schools, Mother didn't want to move us all down to Sanford. However, I felt sorry for Dad going there all by himself, so I offered to go to Sanford with him and take care of him. It was a memorable year for me. I was in the fifth grade, and Vera Mortensen (my cousin) was my teacher, and your sister (Maxine Peterson) was in my class, as were several others of my second cousins.

Uncle Rule owned the skating rink, the swimming pool, and the ice cream parlor, and they let me go there all the time. Kenneth and Grant Mortensen taught me how to skate, and they'd let me have all the ice cream I wanted.

Mostly, I stayed with Grandma Mortensen, and I'll never forget her bed with two or three feather bed mattresses and dozens of quilts. I used to get lost in all the bed clothes. She'd wrap an iron or a rock, which had been heated on the stove, with flannel and put it in the bottom of her bed to make it warm. She was truly a wonderful woman, and her stories were priceless.

My youngest daughter is named Laurette after your Grandmother, and my oldest daughter, Candy, is named Cornelia (Candy is a nickname) after Grandma Cornelia.

From scrapbook clippings comes the following:

Karleton, an accountant by profession, serves a national restaurant chain based in Los Angeles, California. However, his first love has always been music. As a youth, he toured western America as a member of the Driggs Family of Entertainers. He then traveled around the world as pianist in a ship's orchestra. He was the original accompanist for the King Sisters during their broadcasts in San Francisco and Salt Lake City in the early days of radio and, with his family, appears on King Family telecasts. He is also in great demand as a concert organist for churches throughout southern California.

Maxine, one of the original King Sisters, participates in the family shows in addition to designing many of the gowns for the family's professional wardrobe. Her husband, La Varn Thomas, possesses a beautiful tenor voice that bolsters the family choir.

Luise, co-authored the King Family book. She was also one of the original King Sisters, marrying Alvino Rey, who rose to fame via his talking guitar. His orchestra was one of the top ten during the big band days.



The King Sisters

Alyce, the King Sister with the low velvety voice, is married to Robert Clarke, who has numerous movie and TV credits of his own, including appearances in *77 Sunset Strip*, *Hawaiian Eye*, *Ben Casey*, and the Kraft Theatre, as well as the Broadway stage production of *The Play's The Thing* and many others. Alyce's son, Lex, is an accomplished pianist, who has done, among other things, musical direction for the *Sonny and Cher TV Show*.

Donna, also sang and danced her way to fame, while her husband, James B. Conkling, started out in 1954 with the then infant Capitol Records Company and became a leader in the record industry. He was President of Columbia Records in New York, and more recently served as President of Warner Brothers Records. He was personally responsible for the discovery and development of many top recording artists and, since retiring from the record business, has served as President of the International Educational Broadcasting Corporation, a Church-owned organization that beams shortwave broadcasts to the rest of the world via WRUL in New York. He also manages the King Family recording activities. The family belongs to the Sherman Oaks Ward, LDS Church, where Conkling is a member of the Bishopric as well as a member of the Bonneville Corporation of the LDS Church.

The many talented, Yvonne is largely responsible for the King Family Specials. Her husband, Bill Burch, is Vice President of Universal Studios. Yvonne is the mother of Tina and Cathy Cole, their father being the late Buddy Cole, whose orchestra furnished the music for the Bing Crosby show for many years. Tina was on the *Hawaiian Eye TV Series* and is best known for her role of Katie in the *Fred MacMurray show, My Three Sons*.

Bill, next-to-the-youngest of the eight King brothers and sisters, is a full time art director and advertising consultant. Several of his songs were recorded on Capitol, while his "Every Man Has a Castle" is recorded in a King Family album on Warner Brothers records. Like the rest, his family performs on TV.

Marilyn, the baby of the King Sisters, literally worked her way to the top. At the age of six, she led the Horace Heidt Orchestra. At nine, she was singing at the Biltmore Hotel in New York City. When older sister, Alyce, had her first baby, 13-year-old Marilyn substituted for her in the quartet. When Yvonne's first baby came along, 14-year-old Marilyn substituted for her. When Luise had her first baby, 15-year-old Marilyn substituted once more, and when Donna had her fifth baby, Marilyn finally got a steady job. Vivacious and glamorous, she has a fine solo voice and a natural flair for comedy that has made her a star. She also does clever impersonations and has written numerous songs and commercial jingles.

Marilyn's husband, Kent Larsen, serves as the musical director for personal appearances by the family. This is only one side of his career as producer, musical director, manager, and trombonist. Best known for his long association with the Stan Kenton



THE KING FAMILY

orchestra, he was first trombonist, vocalist, and, later, road manager. The highlight of his career was winning the coveted Grammy Award by the recording industry for the "West Side Story" album produced for Capitol Records by Lee Gillette and Kent Larsen and featuring the Stan Kenton Orchestra. He has also been associated with tours by Johnny Mathias and the Young Americans as road manager.

And so the King Family grew and multiplied. It is difficult to say at any exact moment just how many they number. There are King Cousins galore, to say the least, and they have made the entertainment scene in many places throughout the world. For the most part, the entire family has show business blood, but there are also other professions and interests in their lives. Several of the sons have served as missionaries for the LDS Church. Their occupations include accounting, dentistry, and there is even one cattleman in the family.

The question has been posed: HOW DID SUCH AN INSECURE GYPSY-LIKE EXISTENCE RESULT IN SUCH A STRONG BOND OF FAMILY TOGETHERNESS?

Credit may well lie with the parents, Pearl and King, for instilling in their family an enduring love with strength that comes from doing things together - putting family first! Love At Home has always been and always will be the real theme song of this fabulous family.

A telegram from Jack Parr to the Family:

THE KING FAMILY
ABC-TV HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

FOR THE FIRST TIME I SAW THE KING FAMILY SHOW LAST SATURDAY. I THINK IT IS THE BEST PRODUCED, THE MOST GRACIOUS, AND THE FINEST PROGRAM I HAVE EVER SEEN IN YEARS. THE KING FAMILY SHOW SHOULD BE SENT ALL OVER THE WORLD AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BEST OF AMERICA. I AM NOT VERY PROUD OF THIS BUSINESS, BUT I AM PLEASED TO TELL ALL OF YOU THAT YOU RENEWED MY FAITH IN WHAT CAN BE DONE. IF THIS SOUNDS GUSHY, AND UNLIKE THE PARR YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT, IT MAY WELL BE. BLESS YOU ALL.

JACK PARR

FRED T. CHRISTENSEN

A pioneer lad whose boots were made for walkin' - that was Fred T. Christensen, who made the journey from Fountain Green, Utah, to the villiage of Ephriam, Colorado, mostly on foot. From there, it was a tough climb, as he achieved the high goals that he set for himself. But he knew what he wanted, and he had what it took to get it.

Many people remember him for his years of service to others as the Conejos County Superintendent of Schools, Counselor in the Sanford Ward Bishopric, Secretary of School District #6, Director and Vice-President of the First National Bank in La Jara, State Senator from 1932 to 1936, member of the Rationing Board during World War II, Agricultural Commissioner, Appeal Agent for the Selective Service, and member of the La Jara Town Board. And they are right - all of these offices were very capably filled by Fred T. Christensen.

The author of this history, however, remembers him for the warm and tender heart that was his ... for his smile ... for his love ... and just for being the very special person that he was.



Fred T. Christensen

A. B. BAILEY

A died-in-the-wool Republican, Bernard Bailey represented his party well in the Colorado House of Representatives, as he fought hard for such legislation as Educational Equalization Laws and whatever else was for the good of the folks in the San Luis Valley.

A southerner by birth, Bernard came to the valley from Georgia at the age of fourteen, and lost his heart to the beauty of the Colorado outdoors. Many of his spare hours were spent casting his line along the tumbling rivers and streams, and he was assigned to the Board of the Colorado Fish and Game Department.

Music was part of his life of service, as he directed the singing for the Sanford Ward and the San Luis Stake over a period of many years. Add to this the business of making a living for ten children, and you have a mighty busy man.



A.B. Bailey



ANOTHER CITY

sleep sweetly
untouched by gale or blast
or physical phenomena
untroubled, rest

To the south of town, in $E\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$, T35 North of Range 10, E.N.M.M., lies a 28 acre plot of ground dedicated as a resting place for the departed of Sanford and others who wish to be buried there.

It was in 1894 that the Sanford Church Cemetery and Relief Society, a non-profit organization, purchased the property at a cost of \$37.00. The deed was signed by Silas S. Smith, land agent for the Manassa Colony.

Burials were made prior to that date, with the earliest graves being located in the south part of the cemetery. There are numerous unmarked graves, and

many headstones with inscriptions that have faded from view, which makes it impossible to identify the first grave. The two earliest recorded dates are those of the Otteson children, Annie, who was buried in 1881, and Clara, buried in 1882.

Another early grave was that of Bodella K. Poulson, who died at Ephriam in December of 1886. Of her death, the following is reported:

*Sister Poulson's husband, Anders, preached his wife's funeral sermon. He made the statement, 'I know that woman better than anybody else knows her. I ought to be the one to preach her sermon.'*¹

There were many burials during the 1880's, and the cemetery has grown to the extent that the number of dead buried there far exceeds the number of people who live in Sanford.

Burial arrangements were made by the family of the deceased, with every detail being their responsibility. There was the grave to be dug with pick and shovel. Homemade caskets were used - the Canties, Jim Hutchins, Jim Daniels, Ira Whitney, and Holm Mortensen were among the carpenters who provided this service.

The lining of the coffin was taken care of by the casket maker, while the tailoring of burial clothing was left to the women of the Relief Society, which organization had directors for the various phases of the work. Laura Morgan embroidered temple aprons, Annie Warnock made many of the shoes, and the daughters of Jennie Wright recall that their mother stayed up until the wee hours of the morning on many occasions as she sewed and pressed articles of burial clothing. All of the Relief Society sisters assisted in one way or another.

*There weren't any mortuaries and when somebody died the Relief Society came to the home, washed and prepared the body, and then took the measurements for the clothing. They then went to the store with some members of the family and bought material to make the clothes. Materials and trimming for the casket lining were also bought. They were very pretty. Mama kept some pieces from all the trimmings and from the little pillow used when our little brother passed away. All these things were so close to her heart - these precious things she kept.*²

Death usually occurred at home, and the body was placed in the coldest part of the house to await burial. Jars of ice were packed around the corpse, and cold cloths sprinkled with formaldehyde were applied to the face and hands to prevent discoloration. Neighbors and friends volunteered to keep "wake," and loving townspeople brought food for the family.

¹William May Christensen, Personal Interview, Manassa, Co., May, 1974

²Olive E. Faucette Christensen, Autobiography, Unpublished

Finally, the funeral was held at the church, with the funeral procession heading south to the cemetery. In the early days, the coffin was transported by crude horse-drawn wagon. Later, the spring wagon or transfer buggy was used. Local flower gardens provided flowers in season, while a blossom from a geranium or other window flower garden bouquet was often used in winter. On Decoration Day in May, relatives visited the cemetery with bouquets of lilacs, apple blossoms, and the fragrant bloom from the wild currant bush. Occasionally, crepe paper flowers were made and used.

Sol Lloyd and other local masons were responsible for many of the early cement and sandstone markers.

When the people became desirous of planting a few flowers, shrubs, and asparagus, Thomas Alma Smith financed and donated the first well to the cemetery. Planting of lawns followed. Years later, it became necessary to pump the cemetery wells, and Ted Morch was instrumental in getting electricity to the cemetery.

It was in 1947 that the property was deeded to the Sanford Cemetery District under the jurisdiction of the Conejos County Commissioners. A.B. Bailey, J.D. Westbrook, and Roy Kirby were appointed to the first cemetery board in December of 1947.

The deed transferring the property was not signed until 1974, at which time the President of the Sanford Relief Society, Helen Reed, and the Secretary, Bertha Mullins, officially signed the transfer.

Clad Christensen, Ralph Vance, and Stanley Bailey are the present board members (1977). Ted Reynolds, a former board member, exerted considerable effort toward securing water well permits for the cemetery as well as contributing a great deal of time and effort to the mapping of the cemetery and the updating of the records.

As of September 1974, there were 1467 identified graves, in addition to the unidentified plots. Reynolds reported that 24 burials were made in 1974, with 29 in 1975.

The fellow who said "never look back" has good cause to blush, for Americans of the seventies are caught up as never before with the spirit of nostalgia. We love to look back!

Sometimes we laugh.

Sometimes we cry.

But always, we CARE!

Time has a way of catching up with us. One man's spring is another man's autumn, and sooner or later we all become a part of the ages.

Today's happenings

Are

Tomorrow's History!

Mary June Miller

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Letters:

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Interviews:

Lela Bailey, Clea Espinosa, William May Christensen, Jennie Mortensen, Bishop Jackson, Kata M. Peterson, Sara Holman, Gladys Shawcroft, Ed Morgan, Melvin Morgan, Pat Denton, Jeanne Eagan, Madge Perko, Voris and Duwayne Cornum, W.R. Morgan, Carl Westbrook, Gene and Gladys Barr, Kenneth Jones, Howard and Marvelle Shawcroft, Jim and Phoebe

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PHOTO CREDITS

Pikes Stockade, Ruth Marie Colville
Academy at Manassa, Cella Crowther
Stake House, Jane Anderson
Schofield's Call, Lynette DePreist
Grain at Ephriam, Mable Reynolds
Peter Rasmussen, Clara Johnson
Settlement at Richfield, Gladys Shawcroft
T.N. Peterson, Jennie Peterson
Old Folks Party at Richfield, Sarah Holman
Stake Presidency, President Garris
Corey's Home, Jim McIntire
Float, Jennie Peterson
Preston Stanley, Roxie Stanley
Narcisco Martinez, Mary Martinez
Amarante Martinez, Jake Martinez
Gerardo Lucero, Olive Brown
Catholic Church, Vaughn Miller
Old Choir, Jennie Peterson
Stone Church, Mable Christensen
Congregation at Church, Clayton Peterson
Early Pioneers, Clayton Peterson
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Bishop Crowther, Cella Crowther
Bishop Jensen, Melva Layton
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Old School 1910, Maggie Lane
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First Graduation Class, Iva Reynolds
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Adobe Ruins, Kim Miller
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Tivoli, Mabel Christensen
El Patio, La Rae Shawcroft
Mortensen girls & old buildings, La Rae Shawcroft
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Derrick, Clayton Peterson
Measuring Station, Kim Miller
Cornelia Mortensen, Olive Christensen
Mabel Mickelsen, Martin B. Mickelsen
Cella Crowther, Cella Crowther
Ellen Smith, Ellen Smith
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Basketball Girls, Hazel Mortensen Christensen
Sanford Giants, Iva Reynolds
Winter's Oilers, Clayton Peterson
Al's Bakers, Clyde Mortensen
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Governor and Mrs. McIntire, Elsie Simpson
Kit Carson, Eleanor Labouisse
Mrs. Carson, Eleanor Labouisse
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