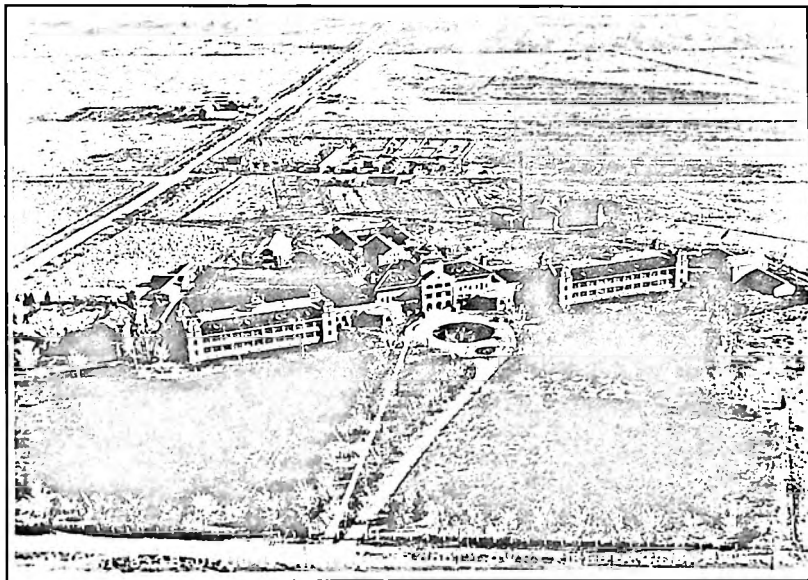




*The* DENVER WESTERNERS  
**ROUNDUP**

January - February 2016



In 1937, the Army Air Corps picked the Agnes Phipps Memorial Sanatorium, pictured here, as the site for a new Lowry Field. The availability of buildings for training classrooms and its location of the eastern edge of Denver and Aurora where a modern military airfield could be constructed proved attractive. A flag was raised at the Sanatorium on October 1, 1937, officially beginning the future Lowry Air Force Base.

**Lowry Air Force Base: A Short History**  
by Jack Ballard, C.M.  
(presented April 22, 2015)



## Our Author

Posse member Jack Ballard holds a doctorate of philosophy in American history from UCLA, served a career in the Air Force, taught history for five years at the Air Force Academy, and as a Lt. Colonel was Chief of the Plans and Requirements Division at Lowry Air Force Base from 1974-1980. He is the author of seven books and, more recently in October 2015, presented a paper on fixed-wing gunships in the Vietnam air war at the National Defense University in Washington, D. C. He has been a long-time member and past president of the Board of Directors of Friends of Historic Fort Logan and served eight years on the Littleton Board of Education.

# THE DENVER WESTERNERS ROUNDUP

VOL. LXXII NO. 1



January - February 2016

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## Lowry Air Force Base: A Short History

by Jack Ballard, C.M.

(presented April 22, 2015)

During the relatively brief history of Lowry Air Force Base, 1937-1994, this large and significant Air Force technical training center, located on Denver's eastern boundary with Aurora, served as a major U. S. military installation and pumped millions of dollars into Colorado's and Denver's economy. At one time it was Colorado's largest employer. Aviation and aviation-related activities, like Lowry, have long been important to the state historically and economically and Lowry Air Force Base surely ranks high on the list of noted Colorado aviation sites.<sup>1</sup>

The first airfield bearing the name Lowry actually began in 1924 at 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Dahlia Street just east of the present day Park Hill Golf Course.<sup>2</sup> The Colorado National Guard with its 120<sup>th</sup> Observation Squadron named the northeast prairie-grass airfield after Denver native Lt. Francis B. Lowry, nicknamed "Blondy," who as an aerial artillery observer was shot down in France in 1918. Lowry's World War I commander praised him as a good friend, always cheerful, strong of character, with a warm smile and a quiet humor. With great ceremony, his remains were returned from France and interred at Fairmount Cemetery in 1921.<sup>3</sup>

A number of aviation celebrities visited the old Lowry Field and one was Charles Lindbergh after his famous flight to Paris in 1927. On August 31 of that year, as part of a nationwide tour, Lindbergh landed with elaborate celebration. He praised the airport calling



Lowry Field, later Lowry Air Force Base, was named in honor of Lt. Francis B. Lowry, a World War I aerial observer. A Denver native, he was shot down and killed in aerial combat on September 26, 1918.

it "one of the finest equipped and maintained single-unit fields in the United States." The National Guard base also hosted some notable stops of various transcontinental flights, such as the 1932 Curtis Condor bombers in their pioneering air routes for the Department of Commerce.<sup>4</sup>

Miles to the south of 38<sup>th</sup> and Dahlia, a new Lowry Field, that would eventually evolve into Lowry Air Force Base, would develop at the location of the Agnes Memorial Sanatorium. The 150-bed tuberculosis sanatorium

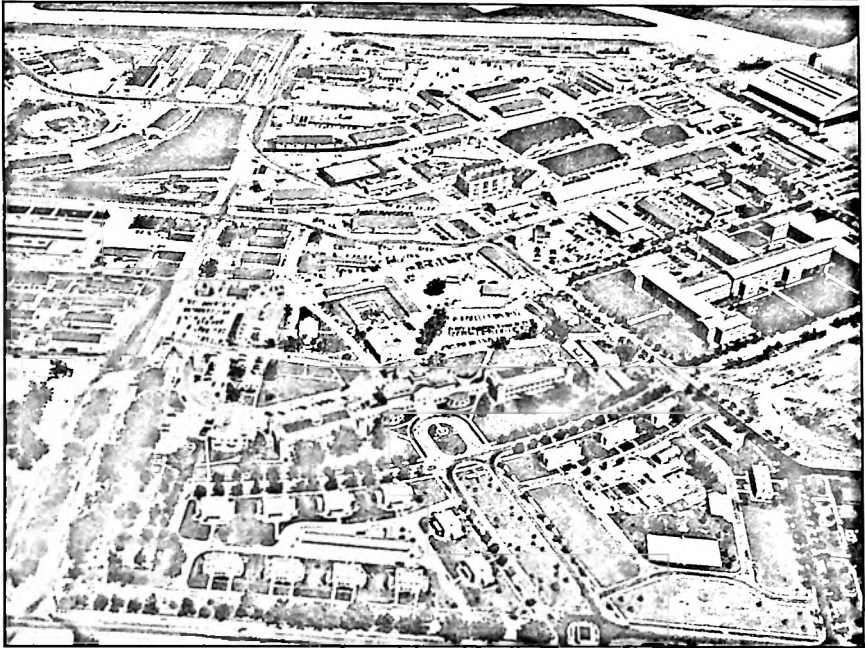


A large hangar utilized by the 120th Observation Squadron of the Colorado National Guard at the first Lowry Field, 38th Street and Dahlia, forms the backdrop during the visit of aviation celebrity Charles A. Lindbergh on August 31, 1927.

had been built in 1903 by prominent Denver citizen and later U. S. Senator, Lawrence C. Phipps, in memory of his TB-afflicted mother. The sanatorium structures reflected the treatment of tuberculosis during the era of open-building fresh-air-care. The sanatorium had closed in 1932 and leading Denver businessmen and citizens saw it as a possible candidate to lure the Army into moving its aerial photography and armament schools to Colorado from Chanute Field in Illinois. The Army had been considering a new location for its photo and armament training since 1934. Leaders were aware the Army believed Chanute Field could not provide a badly needed bombing range plus there was a desire for better weather conditions for photography

training. Following a favorable onsite visit by Army representatives, Denver voters approved a bond issue to buy the sanatorium land and buildings on May 21, 1935. The purchase of the Phipps property for \$200,000 progressed and leaders offered the site to the War Department. Congress approved the new technical school in August 1937 and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation authorizing funds for the transfer of the training schools to Denver on August 27, 1937.<sup>5</sup> This civic enterprise in obtaining this military installation was reminiscent of Denver citizens securing the across-town Fort Logan in 1887.<sup>6</sup>

On October 1, 1937, Captain Harold D. Stetson, an engineer from Fort Logan, raised the American



This aerial photograph of Lowry Air Force Base in 1949 shows the Agnes Phipps Sanatorium buildings in the center foreground, the huge 349 building barracks (Buckingham Palace) to the right, and the large flight line hangar in the upper right. Lowry's population peaked at 20,000 during World War II.

flag over the Phipps Sanatorium. The buildings then became classrooms and administrative offices with the new post first called the Denver Branch of the Air Corps Training School of Chanutte Field. This title had assumed importance as it represented a compromise in getting concurrence of the Illinois congressional delegation.<sup>7</sup>

Army students arrived in February 1938 and Lt. Col Junius W. Jones became the first commanding officer. A dust storm plagued the welcoming of the first students. Instruction in aerial photography and armament began February 28. Sixty students started in

photography and 170 in armament. Some classes were held in an attic and in other primitive conditions awaiting remodeling of the sanatorium buildings. Photography courses ranged from four to six months in length. Later in 1938 clerical training also moved to Lowry.<sup>8</sup>

The Colorado National Guard deactivated the old Lowry Field and hangars were dismantled, moved, and rebuilt at the sanatorium site. Shortly, an additional 960 acres were added to the sanatorium's 880. An auxiliary landing field, called Buckley, was established to the east and twenty miles farther to the southeast 64,000 acres for a bombing



The new Lowry Field began primarily as a center for aerial photography and armament training. This photograph on the Lowry flight line depicts photography trainees planning a photo mission with a pilot.

range were finally acquired at the close of 1938.<sup>9</sup> On the sanatorium acreage a furious construction program ensued with help from the Works Progress Administration, costing \$3.5 million. A large 850-man dormitory, often called "Buckingham Palace," officers' quarters, two big hangars, and runways rapidly began to take shape. The name "Lowry" was officially assigned to the new Air Corps location on March 21, 1938.<sup>10</sup> Meanwhile, military aircraft moved temporarily to Denver Municipal Airport awaiting the completion of runways, ramps, and hangars.

The Army Air Corps brought the first aircraft to the new technical

school location in 1938. Crews ferried some planes to Lowry Field on June 30, 1938, when the first unpaved runway became operational.<sup>11</sup> Lowry received its first new B-18A medium bomber on March 9, 1938, but it did not land at new Lowry Field until later in the year.<sup>12</sup> An interesting exercise occurred in August 1938 when Lowry bomber aircraft participated in a "practice attack" on Cheyenne. Planes dropped leaflets and simulated a bombing run on the rail yard. However, military air activity continued at the Denver Airport until December 1939 when the 8,000-foot north-south runway was completed. By January 1940 there were twenty-seven planes on the field and they utilized the concrete

runways and ramps. Two huge hangars had been completed in August and December 1939 respectively.<sup>13</sup> During the World War II years (1941-1945), Lowry's hangars and ramps were filled with famous wartime B-17s, B-24s, B-25s, and B-26s. The first B-29, the type of plane that dropped the atomic bomb, arrived on May 18, 1945.<sup>14</sup> The mostly bomber aircraft provided the required support for aerial photography and bombing training. Bombardier instruction employing the Sperry bombsights used the Lowry bombing range to hone targeting skills. Flying operations continued until June 30, 1966.<sup>15</sup> Flying ended at that time due to conflict with increasing air traffic at neighboring Stapleton International Airport, the fear of crashes into encroaching residential areas, and the inability to lengthen runways to accommodate jet air traffic.<sup>16</sup> While Lowry served as an operational

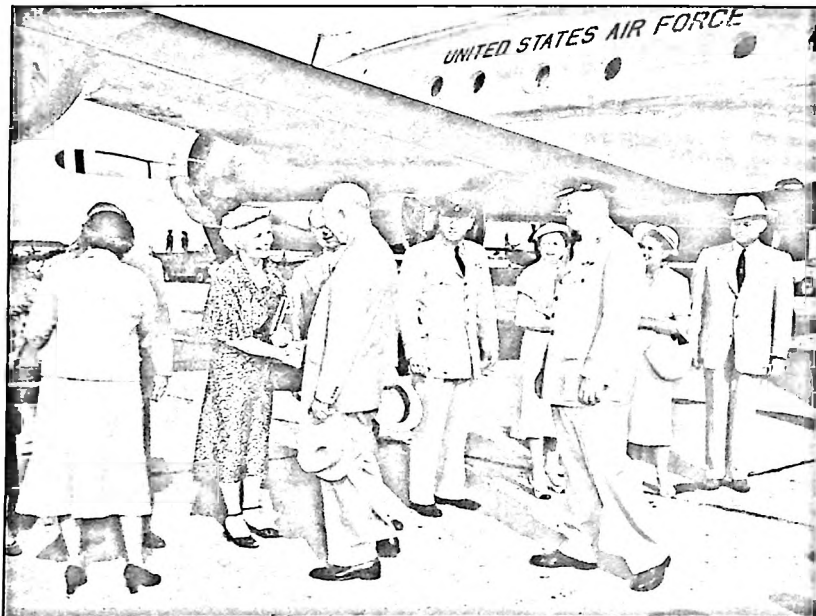


A Lowry Air Force Base Master Sergeant instructor explains operation and maintenance of an airborne Gatling gun to armament trainees. Armament was always a major focus of Lowry technical training.

air base, it primarily began and existed to its closing as an Army Air Corps (later Army Air Forces and Air Force)<sup>17</sup> technical school with special emphasis on photography and armament courses. MSgt. Grover B. Gilbert of Chanute Field played a major role in establishing the Lowry photo school and led it through the initial twelve graduates. By 1943, however, 200 students arrived weekly. Training included photographic lab work, camera repair, photo interpretation, taking aerial photographs (like Lt. Lowry), and production of training and orientation films. Eventually, the advent of remote control cameras on reconnaissance aircraft led to the close of aerial photography specialist training in 1956 but Lowry always remained the host of the Air Force photography school.

Armament training encompassed all weapons included on aircraft ranging from machine guns, remote control gun turrets, bombs, missiles, and eventually nuclear ordnance. Students learned safety, proper handling procedures, weapons repair, and practiced bombing and firing on the extensive Lowry bombing range. Armament training at both Lowry and Buckley peaked at 15,000 graduates annually. Bombardier training produced a core of instructors in that specialty for service throughout the world.<sup>18</sup>

During World War II the Lowry base population, counting military and civilian members, reached 20,000 with a production of 55,000 servicemen and servicewomen annually.<sup>19</sup> The tremendous influx of trainees resulted in men initially living in tents and then in



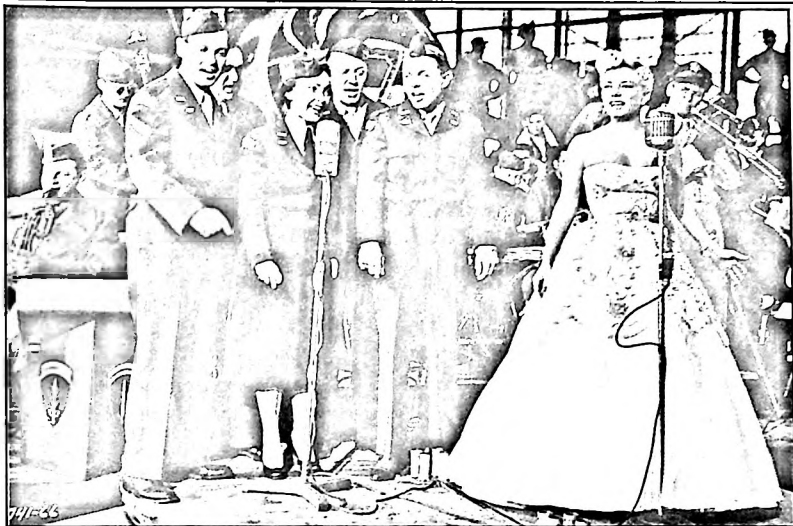
President Dwight D. Eisenhower and wife Mamie on August 8, 1953, have just stepped off the Presidential aircraft Columbine at Lowry and are being greeted by Governor and Mrs. Dan Thornton (far right) and close friends Mr. and Mrs. Aksel Nielsen. Colonel K. A. Cavenah, base commander, trails the President. This arrival began the first Summer White House period at Lowry Air Force Base.

unique eight-man huts.<sup>20</sup> Building 349, the 850-man barracks, had a crowded 3,000.<sup>21</sup> A subpost to house and train students was established at Fort Logan. Trainees came from Allied nations and all service branches. In June 1943, a brief program, called Camp Bizerte, located on a corner of the bombing range, began to ensure wartime trainees had in-the-field experience in addition to their classroom work. Some 20,000 spent time at the Camp in only the few summer months. The increasingly broad technical instruction took place on a seven-day-a-week schedule with three shifts daily. Construction of Lowry 2 with more housing and classrooms be-

gan on the northeast part of the base.<sup>22</sup> During the height of the war a typical student day included six class hours and two hours of physical exercise. When World War II ended in 1945, Lowry had some demobilization-personnel separation duties with as many as 300 discharges a day but the base gradually returned to a peacetime training schedule.<sup>23</sup> In the postwar period the National Security Act of July 26, 1947, created a Department of Defense and a separate Department of the Air Force and then Lowry Field became Lowry Air Force Base on June 13, 1948.<sup>24</sup>

In the 1950s, several events enriched Lowry's history. President





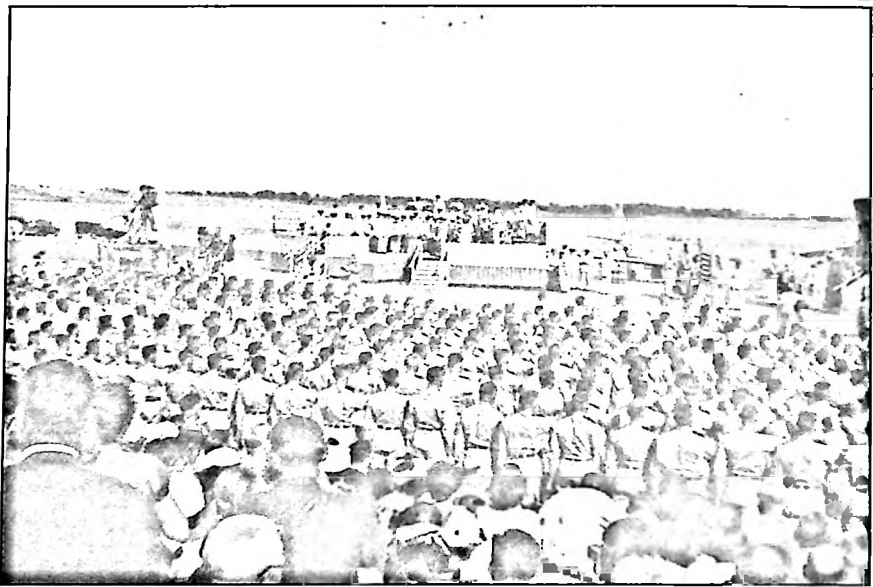
This 1953 photograph shows popular singer Frances Langford at the right microphone and Jimmy Stewart as Glenn Miller with his trombone in a Lowry hangar as part of the filming of the movie "The Glenn Miller Story." Lowry airmen got the opportunity to be movie extras.

Dwight D. Eisenhower and wife Mamie stepped off the Presidential aircraft *Columbine* on August 8, 1953, to an impressive welcoming, inaugurating the first "Summer White House" at the base. Lowry then hosted the President during the summers of 1954 and 1955.<sup>25</sup> These visits attracted a large press corps which occupied offices in the Agnes Memorial Sanatorium buildings. Many national and international leaders came to the base during the Presidential stay. On September 12, 1954, a historic meeting of the National Security Council occurred in the Eisenhower room of the officers' club. This was the first meeting of the Council outside Washington, D. C.<sup>26</sup> During Eisenhower's third Lowry visit, August 14 to November 11, 1955, he suffered a heart attack on September 24 and went to the

nearby Fitzsimmons Army Hospital for treatment and recovery.<sup>27</sup> His recovery progressed well and he waved goodbye to many well-wishers on November 11 as he boarded the *Columbine* for a return to Washington.

There had been a number of celebrity visits to Lowry during World War II but Hollywood arrived in 1953 in a special way with the filming of a portion of the movie "The Glenn Miller Story." Starring Jimmy Stewart, June Allyson, and singer Frances Langford, movie crews directed scenes on the Lowry flight line and in the big hangar. Lowry personnel became extras and enjoyed a brief respite from the normal routines.

In the years 1955 to 1958, Lowry became the temporary location of the newly authorized Air Force Academy. A



Lowry Air Force Base hosted the beginning of the Air Force Academy from 1955 to 1958 while its permanent home in Colorado Springs was constructed. This photograph in 1956 is a swearing-in ceremony for the class of 1960, the second year arrival of new cadets.

total of 306 young men became cadets on July 11, 1955.<sup>28</sup> Academy training and activities took place on Lowry 2 where the old World War II wooden barracks had been rehabilitated. The opening ceremonies attracted dignitaries from throughout the country. Air Force officers acted as first classmen during the beginning year. Colorado citizens enjoyed observing cadet retreat ceremonies and athletic events. Special units were established to support the Academy including T-29 aircraft to provide familiarization and training flights. In August 1958, the cadets departed for their new permanent home in Colorado Springs thus ending a very special period in the Lowry history.

During the 1950 and 1960 years, often termed the "Cold War"

period, actual combat in Korea and Vietnam pushed Lowry back to a six-day training week and sometimes three shifts daily.<sup>29</sup> Courses transitioned rapidly to rocket propulsion, missiles, missile guidance, and electronic and computer science. Lowry began a Department of Guided Missiles on June 7, 1951, which offered eighteen courses by 1962.<sup>30</sup> Instruction began on various aspects of space technology. Space tracking installations at Buckley were utilized with real-time space events. Joint service intelligence training became a reality with particular emphasis on aerial and space surveillance. A building called the "Black Hangar" remained a mystery to most personnel because of the very limited access to the structure. It housed the secret mainte-

nance and handling of nuclear weapons training.

Construction of a Titan I missile complex began in April 1959 on the bombing range. The massive excavation and earth movement led to a writer in the base newspaper to say the site construction looked as belonging "on some distant planet."<sup>31</sup> In October 1961, workers installed a Titan I intercontinental ballistic missile. Three Titans in silos became operational in 1962, armed with nuclear warheads. However, by 1965 the Titan Is were termed obsolete and they were removed, ending armed ICBMs at Lowry.<sup>32</sup> In that short period, little did Denver and Aurora area citizens realize they had nuclear missiles in their backyard.

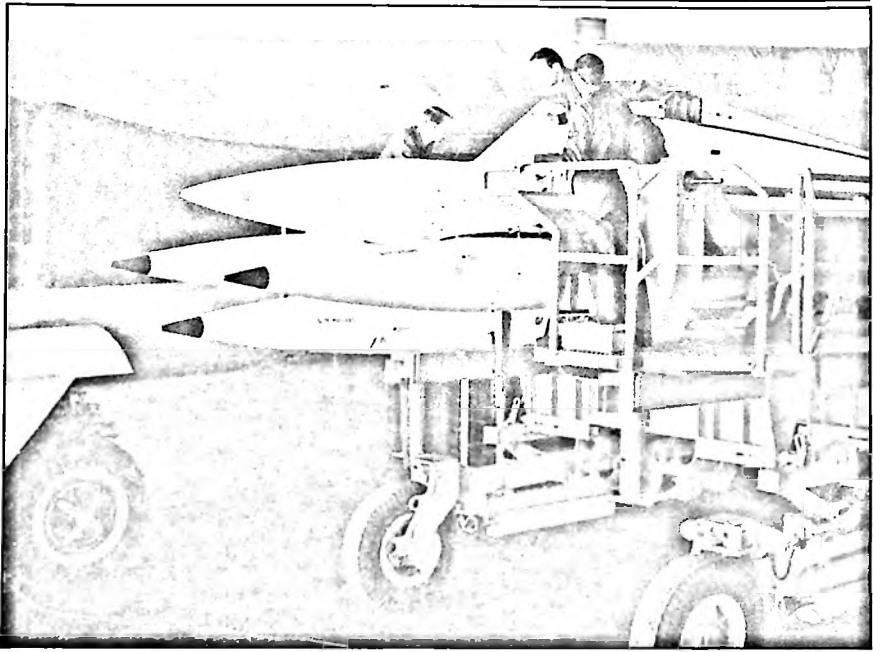
Beginning in 1967 and extending into the 1970s, Lowry also had a unique organization called the 3320<sup>th</sup> Retraining Group. Its mission was to restore to active service personnel who had been convicted of military crimes. The program required a special staff of psychologists and social workers.

In the decades stretching from 1970 to closure in 1994, Lowry technical courses would exceed 300 and graduate totals would reach as high as 20,000 each fiscal year. The Vietnam War spurred more intensive training in sophisticated electronics. Many students were required to receive instruction in electronic principles as a foundation for advanced courses. However, Lowry training remained diverse. A combined services intelligence training initiative had created The Armed Forces Air Intelligence Center at Lowry as early as July 1, 1965. By the 1970s it had \$2 million invested in computer equipment.<sup>33</sup> Besides ongoing train-

ing in photography, intelligence, and armament, Lowry hosted instruction in the fields of food service, supply management, and fire protection and aircraft rescue. The constant updating of curriculum, training aids, and skilled instructors dictated a large education staff. Instructors and staff included both military and civilians. Since military personnel would often rotate in and out of training, the civilian staff members were expected to provide a continuity element.

A building boom occurred in the 70s and 80s decidedly changing the physical appearance of Lowry. The last part of the Agnes Memorial Sanitorium had been demolished in April 1963 followed by the removal of many wooden, two-story World War II barracks buildings.<sup>34</sup> More modern permanent structures such as 1,000-men dormitories were then constructed. Huge building 349 became a base headquarters and housed most of the educational staff agencies. In 1976, the U. S. Air Force Accounting and Finance Center moved from York Street in Denver to Lowry. It occupied a new, large structure called the Gilchrist Building. It had up to 2400 military and civilian personnel with a payroll of \$64 million.<sup>35</sup> The Air Reserve Personnel Center also would occupy part of that building.<sup>36</sup> A new modernized shopping center replaced an old base exchange. It appeared that Lowry Air Force Base surely would become a permanent Air Force training center.

Despite all the new buildings, all U. S. defense agencies, including the Air Force, felt great pressure to economize and to reduce the number of military installations to meet shrink-



Lowry Air Force Base technical training changed rapidly with the advent of new aircraft, weapons, and technology. This photograph of trainees with the rotary launcher of Short Range Attack Missiles typified an evolution from guns and bombs to missiles. Lowry training remained very diverse from supply, intelligence, food service, nuclear, electronics, to space courses.

ing budgets. Even prior to 1978 the Air Force considered closing one of its major technical training bases with closure of Lowry and Chanute high on the list. Alarmed at the threat of losing Lowry, a state task force, including legislators, produced a 50-page report to support Lowry's retention. In March 1979, the Air Force elected to keep both Lowry and Chanute open.<sup>37</sup> Denver and Aurora leaders worried about continued Air Force reports that base closures were a high priority. In 1986, Aurora Mayor Dennis Champine said a closing of Lowry ". . . would have a very devastating effect on the community."

At the same time, *The Denver Post* reported "A shutdown of the training center at Lowry Air Force Base would send shock waves through metro Denver businesses, neighborhoods and schools."<sup>38</sup> However, budget problems persisted and a national Commission on Base Realignment and Closure recommended Lowry be closed in a 1991 report. The Commission cited Lowry's lack of active runways, the ease of transferring the technical training, and the base's high re-development potential as closure rationale. The Air Force accepted the recommendation and closure planning began. Owen Dignan,

a key civilian in the closing scheduled events, stated "Just the planning aspect is unbelievably complex. The actual process itself is going to be mind boggling."<sup>39</sup> Indeed, the transfer of training functions, reassignment of personnel, and closing of buildings took time. By April 1994, Colonel Jerry Wiseman, Commander of the 3400 Technical Training Group, remarked "It's a sad thing to watch this base go from its heyday down to zero."<sup>40</sup> Three years after the closing decision the flag came down on September 30, 1994, ending Lowry Air Force Base. Thus this historic technical training center closed exactly fifty-seven years after it began.

Despite Lowry's over fifty years, relatively few people recognized the significance of the technical training that occurred there. As the Air Force rapidly evolved, propelled by the several wars, ever new and more sophisticated aircraft, missiles, electronics, and space operations required trained personnel to operate and to maintain the planes, weapons, and systems. The pace in the planning of curriculum, instructional equipment, and skilled instructors became ever more challenging. Trained men and women needed to be in place as the new aircraft and weapons were fielded. Lowry established a remarkable record bringing together diverse and changing educational elements to produce large numbers of skilled technicians when they were urgently needed. Colonel Michael J. Wright, the last Lowry commander, said, "Over the years, Lowry changed to meet the demands of the times and was in the forefront of technology until it closed in 1994. Every man and woman, both military and civilian, who served at

Lowry can be proud of their contributions to the nation."<sup>41</sup>

Likely many more in Denver and Colorado knew and appreciated the economic impact that Lowry Air Force Base had on the metro area and the state. As indicated, the base pumped millions of dollars into the economy. This aspect of Lowry's history merits a study on its own.

True to the closure Commission's report, a successful civilian redevelopment did take place. Prominent base buildings were turned into apartments, offices, and commercial businesses. Fortunately, the two big hangars (today one houses the Wings Over the Rockies Museum) and the Eisenhower Chapel have been preserved serving as visual reminders of a once bustling air base.

## Endnotes

1. Currently, one can look at the Denver International Airport and note its role as an extremely important economic engine.
2. Frank Harper, "Colorado's Forgotten Airbase The Original Lowry Field: 1924-1938," *Colorado Heritage* (Autumn, 1994).
3. Michael H. Levy and SSgt. Patrick M. Scanlan, *Pursuit of Excellence: A History of Lowry Air Force Base 1937-1987* (Denver: Lowry Technical Training Center History Office, 1995), 7-8. Levy and Scanlan were assigned as historians for the air base and collected data from unit historical reports, newspapers, and documents. They produced this excellent, basic history of Lowry Air Force Base. This history is a rich source of key dates and statistics.
4. Harper, "Colorado's Forgotten

- Airbase," 8. Also, see Charles Whitley, *Colorado Pride: A Commemorative History of the Colorado Air National Guard: 1923-1988* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co., 1989) and Charles A. Lindbergh, *We* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1927).
5. Levy and Scanlan, *Pursuit of Excellence*, 9-10.
6. See Jack Stokes Ballard, "Colonel Henry C. Merriam and Fort Logan, 1889-1897, *Denver Westerners Roundup* (September-October 2013).
7. Levy and Scanlan, *Pursuit of Excellence*, 10. There were seventeen buildings in the sanitorium complex.
8. Ibid. 12. Some clerical training moved to Fort Logan.
9. Ibid. 10-12.
10. Ibid. 66.
11. Ibid. 16.
12. Ibid. A B-18 is on exhibit in the Wings Over the Rockies Museum.
13. Ibid. 17.
14. Ibid. 42.
15. Ibid.
16. The intensified flying operations during World War II had resulted in several crashes into Denver residential areas.
17. The Army Air Corps became the Army Air Forces on June 20, 1941.
18. Ibid. 21.
19. Ibid. 24-26.
20. See Jack Stokes Ballard, John Bond, and George Paxton, *Lowry Air Force Base* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2013), 48-49, for photographs of "Tent City" and the "Eight Man Barracks."
21. Levy and Scanlan, *Pursuit of Excellence*, 18.
22. Ibid. 24.
23. Ibid. 29.
24. Ibid. 31.
25. Mamie Eisenhower's family lived in Denver and that was a factor in the President's Summer White House visits as was Ike's love of Colorado fishing.
26. Ibid. 36.
27. Ibid. 40.
28. Ibid.
29. Ibid. 35.
30. Ibid. 36.
31. Ibid. 43.
32. Ibid.
33. Ibid.
34. About 200 World War II wooden barracks buildings were demolished.
35. Ibid. 54.
36. The Air Reserve Personnel Center had responsibilities for mobilization when needed. The Lowry Center experienced two notable mobilizations with the Kennedy-Cuban Missile Crisis and the Johnson-USS *Pueblo* Seizure.
37. Ibid. 52.
38. *The Denver Post*, February 13, 1986, 15A.
39. *Lowry Airman*, October 25, 1991, 5A.
40. *Rocky Mountain News*, April 26, 1994.
41. Ballard, Bond, and Paxton, *Lowry Air Force Base*, 6

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On September 30, 1994, a base-closing ceremony in front of building 349 headquarters brought an end to Lowry Air Force Base exactly fifty-seven years from its beginning.

tumn, 1994).

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Lowry Air Force Base Newspapers, *Rev-Meter* and *Lowry Airmen*. Copies of these newspapers can be found in the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum library.

# Over the Corral Rail

*Compiled by Ed Bathke, P.M. Please submit your items of news, etc. to Ed. Deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the first month in the date of publication.*

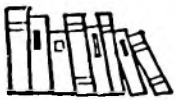
## February Westerner Programs

The February offering to the Boulder Corral of Westerners was "The Boulder Chautauqua" by Emily Zinn, of the Boulder History Museum. An impressive and historic building, on the high ground southwest of the University of Colorado campus, is the Texas-Colorado Chautauqua Auditorium. The Chautauqua is an adult education movement, named after Chautauqua Lake, in western New York, where it was organized in 1874. The summer programs were popular for decades, until modern devices such as the radio in the 1920s eroded their attendance. The Colorado Chautauqua, at one time referred to as the Texas-Colorado Chautauqua Association, was established in Boulder, the first summer sessions commencing on July 4, 1898. It is the only Chautauqua west of the Mississippi still in operation. On twenty-six acres leased from the city of Boulder an auditorium and dining hall were erected in 1898, and then other buildings, including ninety-eight cottages dating from 1899 to 1954. In the summer there were many tents. The entire forty-acre site, including Chautauqua Park, was declared a National Historic Landmark in 2006.

The Colorado Corral February presentation was "The Denver City Council: 1859 to 2016 -- The Inside Story" by Rebecca Hunt, Corral member and Associate Professor at the University of Colorado Denver. Although Denver's sometime flamboyant mayors have generally overshadowed the Denver City Council, the city councilors are still an important part of city government. Most have been ordinary citizens doing their civic duty as they saw it, but more than a few have been colorful figures in their own right, and still more have dwelled on the shady side of political life and strife. Rebecca is working on an exhibit on the Denver City Council, one that will open in the City and County Building later this year.

In February the Pikes Peak Posse of Westerners heard "A New Way to Cripple Creek," by Mel McFarland. In the 1930s the Midland Terminal was looking for a quicker, easier way to get mail, small freight items and people to and from Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek. This story presents the solution. Besides being a railroad historian, Mel McFarland is a Colorado Springs native, author, artist and retired middle school teacher. He is the author of four highly acclaimed Colorado railroad histories. Mel is a charter member of the Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners. This is his sixteenth presentation for the Westerners Posse. You can read Mel's history column in several of the region's newspapers.





## Westerners Bookshelf



**The Great Medicine Road. Narratives of the Oregon, California, and Mormon Trails. Part 2: 1849,** Michael L. Tate, Editor. American Trails Series Volume XXIV. The Arthur H. Clark Company, Norman, OK. 2015. 326 pages, index, footnotes, maps, bibliography, \$39.95.

For this volume, Michael Tate has selected seven accounts ranging from Sidney Roberts' treatise which was a strong Mormon promotion urging travelers to go through Salt Lake City; Benjamin Biddle's Letters and Journal Extracts as published in the *Daily Illinois State Journal*; Henry Ferguson's *Recollections*; *James Bandle's Diary*; Sherman Hawley's Two Letters; Samuel Rutherford Dundass's Journal; and John Evans Brown's Memoirs of a Forty-Niner.

These writings offer a very good view of what it took to cross the Great Plains and Rockies in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the same scenes are mentioned in most of them, with all the classic sites such as Chimney Rock, Independence Rock, Fort Kearney, Fort Laramie, and crossing the Green River at the Mormon Ferry. Generally they covered twelve to fifteen miles a day to begin with, and that increased to twenty to twenty-five miles as the journey progressed. Accounts of trading and meeting with Indians from the Cheyenne to the Shoshone, are recorded, usually very positively.

There was a considerable amount of cholera, especially in the early days on the plains. The Forty-niners died, or survived, but the way was littered with grave sites. As they progressed, they generally improved in health as one might suspect. Great care was taken to make sure the oxen or mules were watered and well-grassed whenever that was possible, though comments about the numbers of dead animals were frequently made.

The most detailed journal was that of Samuel Rutherford Dundass, who went in part because of his poor health, which did improve on the trip, but sadly deteriorated in California, and he died of typhoid on his way home. Most of the descriptions reflect the steadiness of the writers and their determination to get to Sacramento.

Tate provides a short introduction with background to each account which is useful. His footnotes could stand some editing, as they frequently refer to the same information on a particular location footnoted in a previous journal. Nevertheless, the information provided is useful and descriptive.

The book contains an excellent set of reproductions of William H. Jackson's illustrations, albeit in black and white. There are several maps which provide the basics needed for following the routes. All in all, this is a very good collection of first-person accounts that make for enjoyable reading, and add to one's knowledge of the pleasures and trials of being a Forty-niner.

--Alan Culpin, P.M.

**Life in a Corner: Cultural Episodes in Southeastern Utah, 1880-1950**, by Robert S. McPherson. University of Oklahoma Press, 2015. 304 pp. Map, photos, endnotes, bibliography, index. Paperback, \$24.95.

For many of those today, history "lacks relevance to the button-pushing, texting generation that now resides in America." Yet not long ago a culture of necessity and self-reliance flourished in the West without the safety nets and conveniences that are now the foundation of our society. For his cultural study, the author selected the southeastern corner of Utah, often referred to as the Great Sage Plain, that is characterized by a stark desert environment, spectacular rock features, deep canyons, and towering mountains where beauty is a resource. Unfortunately, beauty cannot sustain life and the scarcity of water, fertile soil, gentle topography, wood, and other essentials made daily life difficult. Settlement of this area came late and progress was slow.

It was not until 1880 that the Mormon Church sent 250 settlers into the area. With an eye for growing crops, the settlers found promising land in what later became the town of Bluff. After establishing an irrigation system and planting seeds, they tackled the problem of law and order. The four-corners area was a magnet for outlaws on the run. Topography, isolation, and the lack of people were in their favor. And should lawmen from one state show up, three other states were only a skip away. But the settlers were serious and soon appointed a tax collector, a prosecuting attorney, and a sheriff. With the tax revenue they purchased law books. Establishing the legal machinery was one thing, but enforcing the law in the harsh environment was something else. A vigilante committee soon formed and enforced the law for the next eight years.

Subsequent chapters focused on a gold rush that found almost no gold, the settler's response to World Wars I and II, the cowboy culture, decades of struggling with the "radical seesaw effect" to balance grazing with predator control and land conservation, logging, farming, and building an elaborate church or tabernacle as the Mormons called it. All this had to be done in one of the most isolated areas of the United States.

There is an entertaining chapter on bootlegging. Once the Volstead Act became law, it did not take long for the settlers to discover that brewing whiskey was not difficult in their remote area and very profitable. Although their religion prohibited the consumption of alcoholic beverages, religion was not a significant deterrent. There were many non-Mormons in the area that wanted a drink and even some of the Mormons were of the opinion that the alcohol rule only applied to Sundays. This chapter provided entertaining reading as brewers usually outsmarted the lawmen.

Another unusual chapter talked about midwifery. It took fifty years for the southeast corner of Utah to attract a physician, and that happened only because the residents guaranteed him a respectable income. In the meantime, this void was filled with women practitioners who found the time and means to dedicate themselves to helping the sick. They received no training, but the combination of skill and knowledge (provided by experience) and faith (provided by their religion) resulted in effective medical care for most situations. Midwifery was not restricted to assisting with the birth process, but to anyone, male or female, needing medical assistance. These women also provided dietary advice, such as eating meat sparingly and consuming wholesome foods such as grain, fruits, and vegetables.

Using oral history, period newspapers, and a variety of archival documents, the author tells how settlers used hard work, determination, faith, and ingenuity to establish permanent communities and a cultural mosaic in the harsh and unforgiving environment found in the southeast corner of Utah. This is an excellent book written about the past and helps us understand the present.

--Rick Barth, P.M.

**Colorado : A Historical Atlas**, by Thomas J. Noel. University of Oklahoma Press, 2015. 368 pp. Maps, Illustrations, Charts, Chapter Sources, Index, Hardback, \$39.95.

If you love books you know that every so often you will pick up a book and immediately know you want to own it. There is a certain look and feel to particular books that are just very satisfying. This is one of those books. It really is a hybrid book, one part coffee-table resident, one part invaluable research tool. This really is a beautiful book.

This is a completely revised edition of the *Historical Atlas of Colorado* of which Dr. Noel co-authored in 1994. This edition differs most notably from that previous effort in two ways. It is in color and even though it is the same size (12x9.5) it is formatted completely in landscape as opposed to the previous books combination of both portrait and landscape style. The format change makes this edition much easier to consult and read. The maps by Carol Zuber-Mallison are just beautifully rendered and the photographs used throughout are a wonderful addition

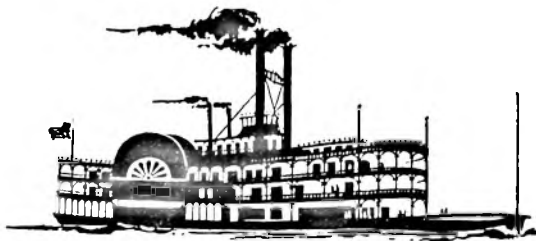
to this edition.

This is a rather difficult book to review in that it covers such a wide range of topics. There are eight different sections devoted to broad themes: natural Colorado, history to 1876, mining and manufacturing, agriculture, transportation, modern Colorado, recreation and tourism. Within the sections it is refined further into ninety chapters that examine, seemingly, everything a person would need to know about Colorado. There is a chapter on dinosaurs; did you know that Colorado is the only state with a town named Dinosaur? The great thing about many of the enclosed chapters is that not only will you find a map indicating significant sites and museums pertaining to the subject, you will also find a list of contact information for the museums. I did not realize that there is a dinosaur museum in Canon City. I also appreciated the fact that at the end of each chapter there is a list of sources.

I should point out that several of the chapters are not authored by Dr. Noel. He has chosen several of his colleagues for their expertise on particular subjects. One such person is Professor Stephen Leonard (from M.S.U.) who writes two fascinating chapters on the subjects of executions and prisons in Colorado. The maps that accompany the histories are fascinating in their own right. One wonders what crimes led to lynchings in forgotten locales such as Recen or Lake Station?

Whether or not you love exploring Colorado through history books or on its roadways you will find something of interest in this book. This is a must have for anyone who is curious about Colorado and its incredible story.

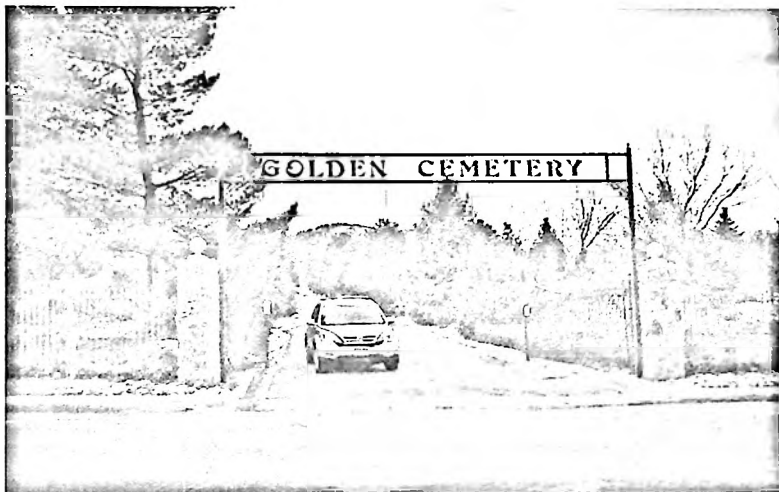
*--Ray Thal, P.M.*





*The* DENVER WESTERNERS  
**ROUNDUP**

March - April 2016



The Author deals with Roadblock Number Four

**Research, Roadblocks and Rewards**  
by LaVonne J. Perkins P.M.  
(presented February 24, 2016)



## Our Author

LaVonne (Vonnie) Van Horn Perkins was born on March 15, 1935. After graduating from Sebeka Minnesota High School in 1953 she went to Detroit, Michigan and worked at a pharmaceutical company in the office of the shipping department. In 1957 she married her childhood sweetheart and moved to Verndale, Minnesota, where her husband was in the lumber business. In 1966 they came to Denver, fell in love with Colorado and decided to spend the rest of their lives in this interesting and beautiful state. They will celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary on July 6, 2016.

Clyde Jones invited her to a meeting of the Denver Posse of Westerners and she became a corresponding member in 1997. She was made a posse member in 2000. Vonnie has served on several committees and was "Keeper of the Possible Bags" from 2000 through 2003. Her first program "Silas Soule, His Widow Hersa, and the rest of the story" was presented on May 26, 1999. Her second program "D.C. Oakes, Hoaxer or Hero" was given on April 28, 2010.

# THE DENVER WESTERNERS ROUNDUP

VOL. LXXII NO. 2



March - April 2016

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### Submissions for *The Roundup*

Rick Barth (303) 838-6687

4646 Park County Rd. 72  
 Bailey, CO 80421

### Book Reviews

Stan Moore (303) 929-7802

11259 W Ford Dr  
 Lakewood, CO 80226

### Dues and Other Payments

Bill Anderson (303) 973-2489

11168 W. Ontario Ave.  
 Littleton, CO 80217

### Reservations for meetings

Bob Lane (303) 751-2717

9103 E. Eastman Pl.  
 Denver, CO 80231

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## Research, Roadblocks and Rewards

by LaVonne J. Perkins P.M.

(presented February 24, 2016)

Twenty-five years ago I knew nothing about Colorado's history and had never heard of D. C. Oakes. I was a volunteer for CASA (court appointed special advocates for abused children). My assignment was especially stressful and I found that visiting flea markets was cheap therapy.

On March 23, 1991, I woke up early planning to spend the morning at our local market. After discovering that it was cold and cloudy with a thin mist in the air, I decided not to go. For some reason I couldn't settle down and kept getting up to check on the weather. I did this at least four times before I finally got dressed, grabbed a cup of coffee and took off for my weekly therapy treatment.

Anyone who attends these events knows that you have to get there early in order to find a treasure. By the time I arrived the vendors were packing up their merchandise. I raced around looking for something of interest. Finally in the very bottom of an old cardboard box I uncovered a small book and some letters that were dated in the 1870s and were beautifully scripted in lavender ink. I asked the vendor how much and he replied: "50 cents will do" and mentioned that I should have been there earlier as he had had a lot of really old books; wouldn't you know! My purchase contained Emma Oakes' composition book, a few letters, various envelopes, calling cards and a telegram. This 50-cent purchase started me on a journey that completely changed my life.

### Research

After examining my purchases I definitely wanted to learn about the life of the young lady who had grown up on the frontier, but I didn't have the faintest idea where to begin. Randy, our eldest son, offered to show me where and how to begin. Our first visit was to the Western History Department of the Denver Public Library. We began with the index cards. Emma Oakes wasn't listed. However there were extensive cards on a pioneer by the name of D.C. Oakes. One card mentioned that his daughter had died, and so it began.

I didn't know how to use a computer, much less how to operate the microfilm, microfiche and photocopy machines. Census records were only available at the National Archives at the Federal Center in Lakewood, Colorado. In order to locate the person of interest you had to use the Soundex Coding System. This system (replacing letters with numbers and disregarding certain letters) was developed in order to find a surname even though it was spelled differently. For example, Smith would be S53. Census records provided a great deal of information.

History Colorado (formerly Colorado Historical Society) had original letters in the Oakes file and information on Emma's school and classmates. Charges ranged from 25 cents for photocopies to several dollars for photos. When they announced that they would be moving and possibly closing the collections, photos were purchased and never used, which was a total waste of money.

Then the state had budget cuts and Governor Romer suggested closing the state archives. Instead they began charging \$3.00 to open a collection and an additional \$1.25 (per page) for a photocopy. Census records cost 25 cents and military and other records at the National Archives were \$1.25 per page. My experiences were shared with friends who suggested that I write a book. Seeing as I was accumulating a lot of material and spending a lot of money it seemed like a good idea.

I read every page of the *Rocky Mountain News* and discovered that the index cards were incomplete. Therefore I purchased microfilm of the *Rocky Mountain News* from 1858 to 1881. This allowed me to go to my local library at my convenience rather than driving downtown. Information was also obtained from out-of-state papers through inter-library loan. My notes were often confusing and forgetting to document my sources resulted in additional trips, redoing what I should have done the first time; these were hard lessons.

The finished book was focused on Emma but contained a great deal of information about her father's activities and historical events, which occurred during Emma's lifetime. The book was epic! Bob and Peggy Larson graciously read my proposal.<sup>1</sup> Both agreed that it was far too large to publish. Even so Bob took it to a conference and gave it to editors from the University of Iowa and the University of Oklahoma.

My first rejection letter was from the University of Iowa. Jean Hurtado (who was the Acquisitions Editor for the Oklahoma Press) looked it over and called me (which I have been told is

very unusual). First of all she agreed that it was far too large and explained that the material was also too regional for them to publish. She made suggestions, encouraged me to approach university presses in Colorado and sent a packet of guidelines and other information, which helped me tremendously. After this conversation I decided to divide the book in two. Although I really wanted to write about Emma, nothing extensive had been written about her father's life. I spent the next five years focusing the book on Emma's father. This resulted in my first book *D.C. Oakes, Family, Friends and Foe*.

D.C. Oakes contributed a great deal to the history of Colorado and yet he was only known for writing a guidebook, which led to his being buried in effigy. "Here lie the bones of D.C. Oakes the starter of this damn hoax" is quoted in almost every book on Colorado's Gold Rush. However there was so much more to his story. He was an Argonaut, and an entrepreneur. He served on the first legislature, was first postmaster of Douglas County, Indian agent for the northern Utes for five years and he surveyed most of Colorado. In 1868 he accompanied Kit Carson on his last journey after attending treaty negotiations in Washington D.C. He was related (by marriage) to Buffalo Bill Cody and Hiram Pitt Bennet, Colorado's first delegate, was his first cousin.<sup>2</sup> D.C. Oakes also worked along side Governors Evans, Hunt and McCook.

During this time query letters were sent to three or four publishers. The most memorable response basically stated that unless I neglected to tell them that I had "a PhD in history from



Harvard" I had no CREDENTIALS. This was so true. I had a high school education, was a wife, mother and grandmother and had spent most of my married life volunteering. Why would anyone be interested in buying my book?

Numerous pioneers are mentioned in *D.C. Oakes, Family, Friends & Foe*.<sup>3</sup> I was advised not to index all of them, which was a mistake as there are extensive quotes and footnotes that will benefit other historians.

Foremost I did not want my research to go to waste. After investigating books on demand I decided to self-publish. In 2008 I published limited-edition copies. My first book signing was done at the Colorado Historical Society. Those first editions were numbered from 1- 100. The next printing was in 2009 and a second printing was done in 2011. Later printings are not numbered.

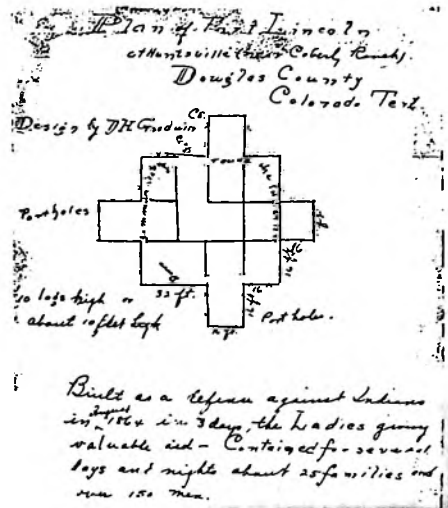
Self-publishing meant that it was up to me to promote the book. I contacted bookstores and museums and gave at least sixteen different programs in Colorado, two in Iowa and another in Nebraska. After promoting *D.C. Oakes, Family, Friends and Foe* I started working on Emma's story.

Because most of the research was completed I felt it would be a breeze. Boy, was I wrong! Roadblocks were present in every phase of Emma's life and there were no family diaries, or school records to fill in the gaps. The only things available were the names in Emma's practice letters, and compositions.

By this time technology had improved a great deal. New equipment at the Denver Public Library enabled me

to read papers that had previously been unreadable and I was now an experienced researcher or so I thought.

Although there were numerous roadblocks I have selected four of the most memorable events. Roadblock Number One was locating the site of Oakes cabin and fort in Douglas County. My first visit to the Phillip



S. Miller Library in Douglas County occurred on September 17, 1991. The archivist, Johanna Harden, knew of D.C. Oakes and the fort but its location was questionable.

Several months later I found two photos of an outing that Olive Oakes had taken with her family in 1914. These photos were in D.C. Oakes' granddaughter Hazel Bennet Kettle's manuscript file (instead of the photo collection) at the Denver Public Library.<sup>4</sup> Hazel identified the parties in the group photo and on the back of the photo of her father (the husband of Emma's sister Laura Oakes Bennet) she

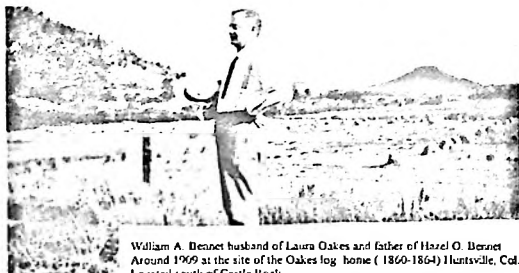
The land owner in 1914, Otis Shinn, Olive Oakes, Willie A. Bennet. August 1914 at the site of Oakes cabin fifty years ago.



wrote, "Papa on the spot where the cabin of grandpa Oakes stood fifty years ago. There is nothing left here except some old articles and rocks. We found an old coffee mill here in August 1914."

The buttes in the second photo were most interesting, as they were landmarks that most likely could be found if one was in the right location. I first showed the photos to Johanna Harden and others from Douglas County. Johanna had the group photo published in the *Castle Rock News* with a request for the identity of the landowner with no success. I also made several trips driving around the area south of Castle Rock looking for the buttes in the second photo.

Finally on June 14, 1995, I was rewarded with almost the identical view. This photo (photo of I-25) was taken at what was then the KOA campgrounds and is now Jelly Stone Campgrounds. The best view was actually on the east side of the highway



William A. Bennet husband of Laura Oakes and father of Hazel O. Bennet Around 1909 at the site of the Oakes log home ( 1860-1864) Huntville, Cal. Located south of Castle Rock



Ron Perkins on same site 100 years later.

on private property.

After sharing this photo with Johanna, she contacted the property owner and arranged for interested parties to join us for a field trip to the site where the original photos were taken.<sup>5</sup>



Roadblock Number Two was finding Bennet relatives. There were no descendants of D.C. Oakes' family. Emma had married Washington Thorpe Bennet, the son of John B. Bennet and brother of Hiram Pitt Bennet, Colorado's first delegate to Congress. Therefore the monograph *Hiram Pitt Bennet, Pioneer, Frontier Lawyer, Politician*, published by the Colorado Historical Society, was extremely helpful in researching D.C. Oakes' early life.

Charlotte Waters, Hiram Bennet's great-granddaughter, gave the manuscript (which was a carbon copy) to the Historical Society. The material had been dictated to Hiram's son Robert Ames Bennet who was a well-known twentieth-century novelist. Because of this they were concerned that the manuscript might be fiction.

In 1987 editor Professor Liston E. Leyendecker requested students (who were enrolled in a graduate seminar at the Colorado State University) to investigate the material and verify that

it was a true account of his life.<sup>6</sup> Every thing except "after dinner visits with President Lincoln" could not be documented.<sup>7</sup>

It was possible that family information (of a more personal nature) might have been left out and I thought that the original document, which the society no longer had, would provide useful information. On January 18, 1992, I phoned Mrs. Waters to see if it had been returned to her; it hadn't. I also asked if she had photos or information on John Bradbury Bennet's family. Unfortunately she did not.

My next call was to Professor Liston E. Leyendecker, who had edited the material, to see if he remembered working on the project and if material (of a personal nature) might have been left out.<sup>8</sup> He was somewhat surprised that the society no longer had the original but assured me that nothing had been left out.

Mrs. Waters had given me the phone number of Robert Ames Bennet's son, Geoffrey Bennet, who had done extensive research on his family. He graciously shared what information he had. We often talked on the phone but I never met him. Unfortunately he didn't know of any other relatives. Because of this I quit looking for John B. Bennet's family.

By this time I was aware that Emma and Wash had lived at Weissport (today Palmer Lake) and felt that a visit to the Lucretia Vaile Museum might be beneficial. The first items of interest were photos of D.C. and Olive Oakes, which I had previously seen at the Denver Public Library. The volunteer, who was on duty, stated that a relative of John B. Bennet had donated them but

she didn't know the name and wouldn't allow me to examine the photos.

I was desperate in my search and was pretty persistent. She finally suggested that I contact a former volunteer by the name of Grace Best. I called Mrs. Best and she confirmed that a great-granddaughter of John B. Bennet's had donated the photos but she couldn't remember her married name! I made periodic calls to Mrs. Best without success.

During this time I continued researching John Bradbury Bennet and had quite a nice file on his life. Then we visited the museum again. This time they let me look at the back of the photo. Mabel Korbitz, John B. Bennet's great-granddaughter, was clearly written on the photos as the donor.

I phoned Mrs. Korbitz, whose grandfather was Hamilton Bennet, Emma's husband's brother. I told her of my interest in the Bennet family and inquired about photos. She replied that she had a family photo album and was quite sure that there were photos of Emma and of Emma's daughter! Emma died a month after giving birth to a baby girl. If this was true it was truly an unexpected reward.

I was so excited; I wanted to call on her as soon as possible. She was a very busy lady and didn't appear to be all that interested in my project (until I shared a bit of information about her great-grandfather) after which she agreed to meet with me for a half hour. She was very explicit on the amount of time. This was understandable. After all she had no idea who I was. Ron (my husband) dropped me off and left to get a cup of coffee with explicit instructions to return in half an hour, as I did not

want to overstay my visit.

Mabel's family photo album was amazing! John B. Bennet's family was well represented. She had photos of everyone except Emma's husband. Mabel was delighted with the information, which I was able to give her, and I was thrilled with her family photos. By the time Ron returned we were both deeply into the Bennet family history. Instead of spending a half hour we went to lunch, made copies of some of the most important photos and have been friends ever since. Later Mabel contacted another relative who lived in Spokane, Washington and lo and behold he had the one and only photo of Washington T. Bennet.

VOLUME XXIX      JULY, 1952      NUMBER

## The COLORADO MAGAZINE


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of COLORADO

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Denver, an illustration from 1874, on the left and the State Capitol, under part of a street in  
THE STATE MUSEUM      14th and Sherman      DENVER, COLORADO



Roadblock Number Three was finding more information on Emma's husband and especially where he was



Hazel Bennet

buried. Geoffrey Bennet thought he was buried in an old cemetery outside of Savannah, Missouri near the family farm. Wash had remarried five years after Emma died and moved to Missouri. Our next experience was in Savannah, Andrew County, Missouri.

We searched early court records and visited the local library where I was given the name of a lady who was said to be an expert on local history. She allowed me to use their phone and after introducing myself I explained that I was writing a book on a pioneer family from Savannah. The response was not what I expected, she started screaming (I actually had to hold the phone away from my ear) about people who wrote books and wanted others to do their research! I could only surmise that she had had a bad experience. Needless to say, it was a short conversation. I thanked her and apologized for disturbing her, hung up the phone and we all started laughing. One never knows what you will encounter.

We then went to the newspaper office where we located two obituaries. Neither were W.T. Bennet's. One was a beautiful article about Emma's daughter's death and another of her half sister stating that she had died in Colorado. But the question remained: where?

I simply had to find out what had happened to Emma's husband. One day we were driving on 6th Avenue and I was expressing my frustration about the illusive Washington T. Bennet. My husband (who was most likely tired of hearing about the problem) mentioned that for all I knew he could have died a pauper and was buried in the very cemetery we were passing, which was the Golden Cemetery.

I had checked Riverside and Fairmont Cemeteries without any success and hadn't uncovered any information about Wash's second daughter's death. Eventually I took Ron's advice and visited the library in Golden. Cemetery records showed that Wash T. Bennet had been buried in his cousin's plot in the Golden Cemetery. They also had microfilm copies of early Golden papers. A number of these papers listed those who were paupers; Wash was among those listed.

Emma's niece Hazel Bennet Kettle wrote that Emma: "was a remarkable girl for her musical and artistic ability. At one art exhibit in Denver, sponsored by Jack Holland, Denver's first artist of note, of whom she was a pupil, she exhibited a landscape, a portrait, animal and still-life subjects, in crayon, oil, and water color."<sup>9</sup>

Roadblock Number Four was locating Emma's art teacher. I searched everywhere for an artist by the name of JACK HOLLAND but no one had



ever heard of him. Then one day when I was searching for something else in a *Colorado Magazine* I spotted an article: "Jack Howland, Pioneer Painter of the Old West." Hazel had misspelled the artists name "HOWLAND" not "HOLLAND." His birth name was John Dare Howland (friends called him Jack).

On February 11, 1992, I researched John D. Howland's manuscript collection at the Western History Department of the Denver Public Library. I was looking for information on his students and especially Emma. That information was never located. What I found was better than I could have ever imagined. It was a black and white photo of an oil painting of Emma by John Dare Howland.

If I could find the painting it would document Emma's coloring. I had to find Emma's portrait. Having been in the antique business I printed a copy of the photo with other information and

asked a few friends (who purchased entire estates and attended auctions) to notify me if they encountered Emma's portrait. Nothing came of this attempt.

On May 4, 1994, the day before we were leaving for a trip to Alaska, I received a catalog from Linda Lebsack and noticed a book on John Dare Howland by Nolie Mumey, a former Denver Westerners Posse member. It hadn't occurred to me to look for a book on the artist.

We were flying out of the old Stapleton airport and Linda's bookstore was still located on Colfax Avenue.<sup>10</sup> I had to have this book! Not only was it a wonderful book, it contained a color photograph of Emma's portrait and the name of its owner in 1973. When we returned I immediately looked up Esther Mallory who was the granddaughter of John Dare Howland.

Mrs. Mallory lived in Colorado Springs. After introducing myself, I

explained my interest in the portrait and asked if she still owned it. She replied "Oh my, yes. In fact I am standing here looking right at it." I could hardly breathe I was so excited. My next question was could we visit her and perhaps take a photo of the portrait? Esther responded that they weren't doing anything the next afternoon and would be delighted to have us visit them.

During the next three years we chatted on the phone, exchanged cards and went to lunch. Through the years Esther and I had discussed her grandfather's art collections, which were in so many museums the family (who owned various works) had lost track of where they were located. Uppermost Esther and I agreed that Emma's portrait shouldn't end up in a warehouse. On April 2, 1997, Esther phoned and said that because of her husband's health they were moving to Arizona and couldn't take Emma's portrait with them. Would I be interested? My response was affirmative. My only concern was, could I afford to purchase Emma's portrait?

When I asked the price I couldn't



believe my ears and replied: "Esther, the frame cost more than that." Esther and her husband had discussed it and felt that "art should be enjoyed and they knew that I would enjoy Emma's portrait."

Throughout the years I had envisioned the portrait displayed over our fireplace. I had gone full circle. We drove to Colorado Springs the very next day, picked up Emma's portrait and got the provenance for where it had been all those years.

D.C. Oakes had commissioned Emma's former teacher to paint her portrait from a small photo in 1884. Because Emma did not pose for the portrait it is unsigned. It had hung in Olive's home and on her death became the property of Hazel Bennet (who was then Mrs. Kettle). D.C. Oakes' sister Zelinda Shinn's relative, Edgar R. Huffsmith witnessed his father's signature. Why the Huffsmiths were involved is not known.

## Epilogue

Some rewards came out of the blue!

At the very beginning of my search for the life of Emma Oakes our son Randy had told me to ask the librarians for help. This was something I was reluctant to do until I absolutely needed their assistance. Eventually I took his advice and practically everyone in Western History knew that I was researching D.C. and Emma Oakes. One day Bruce Hanson was helping me locate a map without success. He eventually went to the backroom to ask if anyone might know where it was and returned with two pieces of paper, which Phil Panum had been holding to show me on my next visit.



Washington Thorpe Bennet

Phil had found Emma's report cards from Wolfe Hall in a box of ephemera. I had searched History Colorado and Western History as well as the Episcopal Church records for information on Wolfe Hall and was convinced that nothing more would be found. This was a fabulous find and I am forever grateful for his assistance.

One more event, which I would like to share, is regarding D.C. Oakes' family. D.C. had two sisters Zelinda Oakes Shinn and Rachel Solis Howard. Zelinda's family had moved to Colorado and I was able to contact a relative of the Shinns but nothing was ever learned about Rachel.

Several years ago I gave a program in DeWitt, Iowa where D.C. and his sisters had grown up. On October 7, 2015, I received the following email, "I am a descendant of Rachel Abigail Oakes Howard." This relative learned of my

interest in the Oakes family on her visit to DeWitt, Iowa. They showed her my book and gave her contact information. This was a wonderful surprise and a happy ending to a mystery that I felt was never to be resolved.

*"Gaining Knowledge is the first step to wisdom. Sharing it is the first step to humanity."*

Unknown

I wish to thank everyone who has assisted me over the past twenty-five years. This includes all of the librarians at the Denver Public Library and History Colorado, going back to 1991, especially Coi Drummond Gehrig, Phil Panum, Bruce Hanson, James Jefferies, Roger Dudley, Kellen Cutsforth, Dennis Hagan, Kay Wisnia, and Joan Harms.

Members of the Denver Posse of Westerners helped, starting with Clyde Jones, Johanna Harden, Robert Larson, Roger Hanson, Lee and Jane Whitley, Ed and Nancy Bathke, Cliff Dugal, Ray Thal and Gary O'Hara (who has read many manuscripts, was an honest critic and gave me tough advice). Hundreds of others too numerous to mention contributed to my locating information on Emma's life. Please know that your help was also greatly appreciated.

I especially want to thank my eldest son for his wonderful guidance and assistance and my husband who was ever patient and willing to take me wherever I had to go and waited sometimes hours as I searched in musty basements and interviewed countless people. Their assistance was priceless.



## References

*Hiram Pitt Bennet Pioneer, Frontier Lawyer, Politician*, the Colorado Historical Society  
*The Secret Service The Field, The Dungeon and The Escape* by Albert D. Richardson.  
*Dr. Nolie Mumey Centennial Catalogue No.5* Linda M. Lebsack Books  
 Denver Public Library Western History History Colorado, Denver Colorado  
 National Archives and Records Administration Bloomfield, Colorado "Getting Started Beginning Your Genealogical Research in the National Archives in Washington."  
 Lucretia Vaile Museum, Palmer Lake, Colorado  
 Rolling Hills Consolidated Library, Savannah, Missouri

## End Notes

1. Robert W. Larson author of *Gall: Lakota War Chief; Red Cloud : Warrior, Statesman of the Lakota Sioux; Ernest L. Blumenschein: The Life of an American Artist; New Mexico Populism: A Study of Radical Protest in a Western Territory; and Shaping Educational Change: the First Century of the University of Northern Colorado at Greeley.*
2. Emma married her second cousin Washington Thorpe Bennet who was Hiram's nephew.
3. This is now available in hardback and on eBook at Lulu.com.
4. Western History at DPL mss 432 Hazel Bennet Kettle.
5. Included was Clyde Jones, my sponsor in the Denver Posse of Westerners.
6. Seminar students were Diane Cole,

James Harris, Ann Hilfinger, Ramona Hutchinson, Halcyon Pa Point and Matthew Larson.

7. *Hiram Pitt Bennet Pioneer, Frontier Lawyer, Politician* Introduction page vi. In 2016 I purchased items at Geoffrey Bennet's estate sale. In an old book of Hiram's published in 1865, *The Secret Service The Field, The Dungeon and The Escape*" by Albert D. Richardson, the family had marked page 319: "One evening, with Mr. James M. Winchell, of *The New York Times*, and H. P. Bennett, Congressional Delegate from Colorado, I called upon the President to present the paper." Bennet was often spelled with two tt's which also complicated research as there were other Bennett's in Colorado who used the double tt.

8. Co-Editors were Conrad Woodall, Holley R. Lange and Susan L. Hoskinson.

9. Denver Public Library Western History M-579 Oakes. "My Grandfather D. C. Oakes" p4-5.

10. Linda Lebsack Books 7030 E. 46<sup>th</sup> Ave. Dr. Denver, Co. 80216, 303-832-7190 linlebbks@aol.com.



# Over the Corral Rail

*Compiled by Ed Bathke, P.M. Please submit your items of news, etc. to Ed. Deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the first month in the date of publication.*

## Springtime Programs in the Rockies

The Boulder Corral of Westerners March program, "Only in Boulder: the County's Colorful Characters," was presented by popular Boulder author Silvia Pettem. Her presentation is drawn from the history columns she writes for the *Boulder Daily Camera*. Silva is also the author of more than a dozen local history books.

In April the current Boulder deputy sheriff (and also an active Denver Westerner) Keith Fessenden told the Corral about "One Hundred Ten Years of the National Western Stock Show, Horse Show, and Rodeo." Keith, as the Archivist and Historian for the National Western, has collected and organized a great amount of information on not only the Show, but also the surrounding area, its stockyards, and packinghouses.

For the May program, The Boulder Westerners enjoyed another appearance by John Farr, as he discussed the life of Kit Carson. John is a Western historian with a wide range of accomplishments. He currently resides in Encampment, Wyoming, where he is the chairman of the Battle Pass Scenic Byway Alliance, and was president of the Grand Encampment Museum. For twenty years he wrote a column in the *Summit Daily*, Breckenridge, Colorado. John Farr's credentials on Kit Carson are supported by a previous term as president of the Kit Carson Home and Museum in Taos, New Mexico.

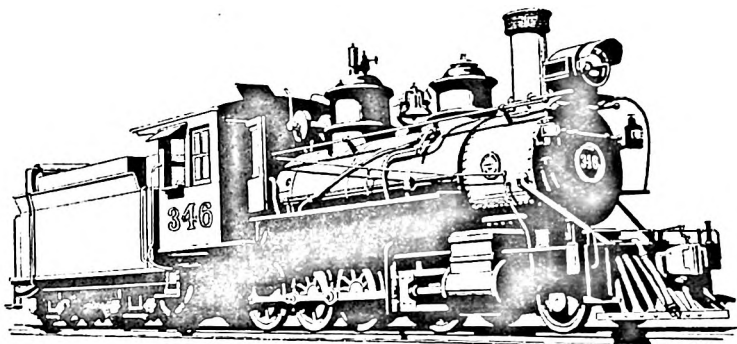
The Colorado Corral April presentation was "Lost Restaurants of Denver," by historians Robert and Kristen Autobee. They are specialists in the restaurant history of the Denver area, have published books on the subject, and have presented many programs related to Denver's eating habits, from mining camp bakeries to continental cuisine.

In May Jacqui Ainlay-Conley provided interesting railroad history: "No Cinders, No Smoke, No Dust: the Denver & Interurban." This early commuter rail whisked passengers from Denver to Broomfield, Boulder, and Eldorado Springs, on its famous Kite Route. Jacqui is the Museum Administrator for the City and County of Broomfield, and co-editor of the Colorado Book Review with Dr. Tom Noel.

For March, the Pikes Peak Posse heard the story of Sister Blandina, as portrayed by Chris Balitski. Sister Blandina Segale traveled solo at the age of twenty-two to Trinidad, where she founded and served in schools and hospitals for over two decades. Known as the “Frontier Nun” and the “Nun with Spurs,” she faced down swindlers, lynch mobs, and outlaws including Billy the Kid. The book of her life, *At the End of the Santa Fe Trail*, is recommended.

For April, Rick White provided the Posse with the story of “The Myron Stratton Home, an Iconic Colorado Springs Landmark.” Rick is the current Director of Maintenance for the Myron Stratton Home, and as his presentation aptly showed, he has a great passion for the Home’s history.

In May Posse member David Martinek told the Pikes Peak Posse about a forgotten Colorado railroad tycoon, “James John Hagerman: the Early Years from Port Hope to Colorado Springs.” David is Chairman of the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition, and Midland Days in Divide, organizations dedicating to preserving the legacy of the Colorado Midland Railroad that Hagerman has founded.





## Westerners Bookshelf



*A few thoughts from the Book Review Editor; As the new editor of book reviews I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Stan Moore for the great job he did in this position. I hope it won't take me many years to do as good a job as Stan did.*

*I also would like to invite any members who may not get the opportunity to attend the meetings, but who would like to get involved in the book review process to contact me. We are one of the few Posses or Corrals of the Westerners to publish anything. The book reviews are an important part of that effort. Different publishers supply us with review copies of their new books to have them reviewed by our members. It really is a tribute to the knowledge found within our membership. You get a free book and all that is asked in return is that you take the time to write 300-500 words on your impressions of the book, good or bad.*

*If you would like to get involved contact me and I can let you know what books are currently available. Also let me know if you have a particular interest that I can look for in the catalogues. Thank you, Ray Thal, 303-324-9483 or [coloraydo1@yahoo.com](mailto:coloraydo1@yahoo.com).*

**Colorado : A Historical Atlas**, by Thomas J. Noel. University of Oklahoma Press, 2015. 368 pp. Maps, illustrations, charts, chapter sources, index. Hardback, \$39.95.

If you love books you know that every so often you will pick up a book and immediately know you want to own it. There is a certain look and feel to particular books that are just very satisfying. This is one of those books. It really is a hybrid book, one part coffee-table resident, one part invaluable research tool. This really is a beautiful book.

This is a completely revised edition of the *Historical Atlas of Colorado* that Dr. Noel co-authored in 1994. This edition differs most notably from that previous effort in two ways. It is in color and even though it is the same size (12x9.5) it is formatted completely in landscape as opposed to the previous book's combination of both portrait and landscape style. The format change makes this edition much easier to consult and read. The maps by Carol Zuber-Mallison are just beautifully rendered and the photographs used throughout are a wonderful addition to this edition.

This is a rather difficult book to review in that it covers such a wide range of topics. There are eight different sections devoted to broad themes: Natural Colorado, History to 1876, Mining and Manufacturing, Agriculture, Transportation, Modern Colorado, Recreation and Tourism. Within the sections it is refined further into ninety chapters that examine, seemingly, everything a person would need to know about Colorado. There is a chapter on dinosaurs; did you know that Colorado is the only state with a town named Dinosaur? The great thing about many of the enclosed chapters is that not only will you find a map indicating significant sites and museums pertaining to the subject, you will also find a list of contact information for the museums. I did not realize that there is a dinosaur museum in Canon City. I also appreciated the fact that at the end of each chapter there is a list of sources.

I should point out that several of the chapters are not authored by Dr. Noel. He has chosen several of his colleagues for their expertise on particular subjects. One such person is Professor Stephen Leonard (from M.S.U.) who writes two fascinating chapters on the subjects of executions and prisons in Colorado. The maps that accompany the histories are fascinating in their own right. One wonders what crimes led to lynchings in forgotten locales such as Recen or Lake Station?

Whether or not you love exploring Colorado through history books or on its roadways you will find something of interest in this book. This is a must have for anyone who is curious about Colorado and its incredible story.

--Ray Thal, P.M.

**Pie Town Revisited**, by Arthur Drooker. University of New Mexico Press, 2015. 160 pp. One map, 64 color photos, 9x11. Paperback. \$34.95.

Pie Town is a remote New Mexico community made famous by the photographs that Farm Security Administration photographer Russell Lee took there during the Great Depression. Author-photographer Arthur Drooker, in *Pie Town Revisited*, documents his own travels to Pie Town, seventy years later, creating a modern historical record. It is a portrait, in words and pictures, of the remaining physical structures and the rugged individualists, in this tight-knit community, 100 miles from the nearest Walmart.

The book includes a dozen Russell Lee photos, rare color Kodachrome photos from the 1940s, as well as fifty-two modern images that capture the soul of the place and its people today. The author merges, in several images, the 1940s and modern photos, creating pictures as art and history.

This is a picture book, a photo essay, where the words delightfully enhance and complete the readers understanding of the photos - complete with an apple pie recipe.

The one map orients you - places you in Pie Town - which is still today "a long way from nowhere." It is a very basic map.

Drooker came to photograph "a slice of life" as well as a slice of New Mexican apple pie. Do enjoy the real pies and "the pioneer spirit" as it is presented to us in this visually pleasing revisit of a "not-so-typical" dustbowl town!

--Jane Whiteley, P.M.

**Herndon Davis, Painting Colorado History, 1901-1962**, by Craig W. Leavitt and Thomas J. Noel (Introduction), University Press of Colorado, 2016. List of illustrations, preface, introduction, notes, bibliography, index. Paperback. \$34.95.

I will begin this review with the obvious. Just about everyone who is either interested in the history of Colorado or who has been to Central City knows of the "famous face on the barroom floor," but this is where most individuals' knowledge of Herndon Davis begins and ends. I am more fortunate; when the subject would come up at a meeting of the Denver Westerners through the years I would invariably be reminded that Westerner Fred Mazzulla (and his wife Jo) had paintings by Herndon Davis on the walls of their basement. I was never fortunate enough to see them in person but on pages 270 and 271 there are some photos of some of the basement wall paintings. I am also familiar with Herndon Davis' illustration of Dr. Nolie Mumey's, another longtime mainstay of the Denver Westerners, book *History of Red Rocks Park and Theatre*. Both Westerners are mentioned in several places in the book.

*Painting Colorado History* is divided into several sections, People, Santos, Places, and Other Works. The People section contains drawings, paintings and watercolors of at least sixty-three individuals from mainstays of western United States history such as "Wild Bill" Hickok, "Kit" Carson, "Cattle Kate" Watson, and

"Buffalo Bill" Cody to prominent figures from Colorado history including "Soapy" Smith, a couple of the Tabors, Henry M. Teller, Ben Lindsey, Benjamin Stapleton, et al. and even includes a few presidents and other prominent American figures. There is even a drawing of Fred Mazzulla and one of the fifth president of the Western Stock Show Association (the nonprofit behind the National Western Stock Show), Wilson McCarthy. The Santos Section consists of sixteen paintings Davis did of Dr. Mumey's Santos Collection; if you like these, Dr. Mumey donated these sixteen and sixty-two more to the Denver Public Library.

The Places section includes sixty depictions of places in Colorado, the majority of them scenes from Denver and the metro area but a small number are from elsewhere in the West. These are predominately watercolor and gouache presentations. Each person's portrait is accompanied by a brief biography, each depiction of a Santos is accompanied by an explanation of the Santo and each Places illustration is accompanied by a description of both the location and its place in history.

This is a very enjoyable and readable book that was produced to coincide with and accompany the Denver Public Library's exhibition of Herndon Davis' work this year. It is an exhibition I know, just from reading *Herndon Davis, Painting Colorado History, 1901-1962*, I will not miss. Nor will you after you have the pleasure of reading this book.

--Keith Fessenden, P.M.

**Life in a Corner: Cultural Episodes in Southeastern Utah, 1880-1950**, by Robert S. McPherson. University of Oklahoma Press, 2015. 304 pp. Map, photos, endnotes, bibliography, index. Paperback. \$24.95.

For many of those today, history "lacks relevance to the button-pushing, texting generation that now resides in America." Yet not long ago a culture of necessity and self-reliance flourished in the West without the safety nets and conveniences that are now the foundation of our society. For his cultural study, the author selected the southeastern corner of Utah, often referred to as the Great Sage Plain, that is characterized by a stark desert environment, spectacular rock features, deep canyons, and towering mountains where beauty is a resource. Unfortunately, beauty cannot sustain life and the scarcity of water, fertile soil, gentle topography, wood, and other essentials made daily life difficult. Settlement of this area came late and progress was slow.

It was not until 1880 that the Mormon Church sent 250 settlers into the area. With an eye for growing crops, the settlers found promising land in what later became the town of Bluff. After establishing an irrigation system and planting seeds, they tackled the problem of law and order. The four-corners area was a magnet for outlaws on the run. Topography, isolation, and the lack of people were in their favor. And should lawmen from one state show up, three other states were only a skip away. But the settlers were serious and soon appointed a tax collector, a prosecuting attorney, and a sheriff. With the tax revenue they purchased law books. Establishing the legal machinery was one thing, but enforcing the law in the harsh environment

was something else. A vigilance committee soon formed and enforced the law for the next eight years.

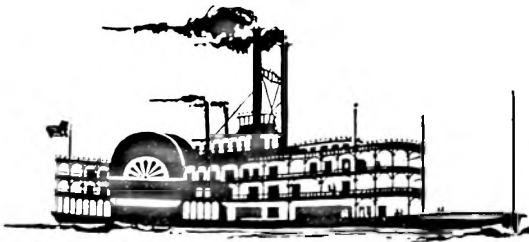
Subsequent chapters focused on a gold rush that found almost no gold, the settler's response to World Wars I and II, the cowboy culture, decades of struggling with the "radical seesaw effect" to balance grazing with predator control and land conservation, logging, farming, and building an elaborate church or Tabernacle as the Mormons called it. All this had to be done in one of the most isolated areas of the United States.

There is an entertaining chapter on bootlegging. Once the Volstead Act became law, it did not take long for the settlers to discover that brewing whiskey was not difficult in their remote area and very profitable. Although their religion prohibited the consumption of alcoholic beverages, religion was not a significant deterrent. There were many non-Mormons in the area that wanted a drink and even some of the Mormons were of the opinion that the alcohol rule only applied to Sundays. This chapter provided entertaining reading as brewers usually outsmarted the lawmen.

Another unusual chapter talked about midwifery. It took fifty years for the southeast corner of Utah to attract a physician, and that happened only because the residents guaranteed him a respectable income. In the meantime, this void was filled with women practitioners who found the time and means to dedicate themselves to helping the sick. They received no training, but the combination of skill and knowledge (provided by experience) and faith (provided by their religion) resulted in effective medical care for most situations. Midwifery was not restricted to assisting with the birth process, but to anyone, male or female, needing medical assistance. These women also provided dietary advice, such as eating meat sparingly and consuming wholesome foods such as grain, fruits, and vegetables.

Using oral history, period newspapers, and a variety of archival documents, the author tells how settlers used hard work, determination, faith, and ingenuity to establish permanent communities and a cultural mosaic in the harsh and unforgiving environment found in the southeast corner of Utah. This is an excellent book written about the past and helps us understand the present.

--Rick Barth, P.M.







*The* DENVER WESTERNERS  
**ROUNDUP**

May - June 2016



**The Civil War Underground: Riverside Cemetery**  
by Ray Thal, P.M.  
(presented January 27, 2016)

# THE DENVER WESTERNERS ROUNDUP

VOL. LXXII NO. 3



May - June 2016



## Our Author

Ray Thal has been a volunteer at Riverside Cemetery for ten years. He is known for his long-winded, but entertaining, tours of Denver's historic cemetery. Before his involvement with the cemetery he gave long-winded and entertaining tours at Denver's Four Mile Historic Park.

Ray is not a native of Colorado but has lived in Southeast Denver for more than fifty-five years. He and his wife Mary have recently moved back into the house that has been in the family since 1961. He spends his free time reading, writing and growing his beard.

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### Submissions for *The Roundup*

Rick Barth (303) 838-6687  
 4646 Park County Rd. 72  
 Bailey, CO 80421

### Book Reviews

Stan Moore (303) 929-7802  
 11259 W. Ford Dr.  
 Lakewood, CO 80226

### Dues and Other Payments

Bill Anderson (303) 973-2489  
 11168 W. Ontario Ave.  
 Littleton, CO 80217

### Reservations for meetings

Bob Lane (303) 751-2717  
 9103 E. Eastman Pl.  
 Denver, CO 80231

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# The Civil War Underground: Riverside Cemetery

by Ray Thal, P.M.

(presented January 27, 2016)

Denver's Riverside Cemetery is home to more veterans of the American Civil War than any other location in Colorado. There are more than 1,200 veterans of that terrible war interred within its boundaries. Many were members of one of the units that formed in Colorado during the war. Most of these men had come to Colorado after the war looking for a new beginning.

There are storekeepers, blacksmiths, and booksellers buried under a veteran's headstone in Riverside. There are also those that preferred to make their living with a deck of cards, or a gun, preying on the results of others' hard work. Working the other side of the street were the lawmen, lawyers and preachers; they are all represented at Riverside.

They found their way to Colorado for one reason or another after the war. Sadly, many came to ease the pain and discomfort that were the results of their service to their chosen cause. Colorado has always enjoyed a reputation of having a curative, healthful climate and it often was a desperate last chance to regain some vitality that brought many of these men to the West.

The majority of veterans at Riverside served in the Union Army; the number of identified Confederate is small. The men in gray are honored as a group by a marker and flagpole between blocks 16 and 17 on the west side of the cemetery. I have confirmed more than a dozen Confederate veterans buried at Riverside. Undoubtedly there

are many others that are waiting to be acknowledged. There are also veterans that were cremated at Riverside and their final resting places are unknown.

The following short biographies were chosen to give the reader a sense of the diversity of the Civil War Veterans that are part of the Riverside story. Much of what is known of these men comes from their pension files found at the National Archives in Washington D.C.

## James Davis

James Davis is one of approximately fifty-seven black veterans of the Civil War buried at Riverside. His story is unique in that he didn't serve with one of the black regiments, but with the First Colorado Cavalry, one of the only non-whites I believe to have done so. The only information about Davis that I have been able to locate comes from his pension file.

During his enlistment he served most of his time as a cook. He does state that he wasn't discharged until March 1866 as he was a "striker" for Major Smith, a physician at Fort Lyons. He also was stationed at Camp Weld and Fort Zarah (Zarah). In response to questions from the pension department he lists the officers who would remember him; they included Colonel Chivington and Captain Jacobs. He appears to have come through the war in pretty good health, "no battle, no sickness" he states on one form.

The personal information that is

found in his pension file reveals a man who couldn't read; he had to rely on a notary public for his correspondences. He was born in Andrea County, Missouri, December 16, 1844, 45 or even 46, all three years are used at one time or another. He was a farm hand, and there is no mention if he was born into slavery. A surgeon's certificate does note that he has scars on his back; I think it's safe to assume he had been born a slave. Another surgeon's report in the pension file notes two bullet wounds, "well healed." Davis admitted that he was, "accidentally shot with pistol in my own hands.". That only accounts for one of the wounds though, or did he accidentally shoot himself twice?

Davis died in Denver at Fitzsimons Army Hospital, August 13, 1933, cause of death was arteriosclerosis (hardening of the arteries). He was buried two days later in a GAR plot at Riverside.



Joseph G. Brown,  
1880, when he inter-  
viewed General  
Grant.

## Joseph Brown

Joseph Brown is interesting for a variety of reasons. He was a writer, first for the *Denver Tribune* newspaper, and then later of books and pamphlets. He was a ghost writer for William Byers for portions of the ambitious *Encyclopedia of Colorado Biographies*. It is his biography in that book that supplies much of what I have learned about the man. (He probably wrote it himself.) He also was responsible for 13 un-credited chapters in Frank Hall's four volume *History of Colorado*.

Brown was born in 1844 in Tennessee into a middle-class family. His father was a successful trader who operated throughout that state. When he was five years old the family relocated to Alabama. It was there that he, at age fourteen, began his career in journalism as a printer's apprentice.

On January 1, 1862, having finished his apprenticeship, he joined the Confederate army, enlisting in the 27th Alabama. During the course of the war he was involved in many battles including the engagements at Fort's Henry and Donelson. He was part of Hood's army as it fought to survive the final campaign of the war in battles at Franklin and Nashville.

After the end of the war, his biography states, ". . . believing that its results were righteous," he returned to Alabama to resume his career in journalism. After jobs in Nashville and Louisville he came to Denver in 1879 to write for the *Tribune*. In 1880 this rebel was given the assignment by the *Tribune* to interview General Ulysses S. Grant. At the Denver Public Library is a small collection of Brown's papers; included in it is a handwritten account

of that interview. It is a remembrance written forty-seven years after the meeting had taken place.

The primary focus of the interview was concerning President Grant's future plans, he had just been denied an opportunity to run for a third term. At the end of the interview Brown asked Grant a personal question, "Have you ever met and talked with any of the private rebel soldiers-the men behind the guns-who actually fought against you in any of the battles in which you were the commander on the field?" Grant answered that no, he hadn't, only to men that had been officers or ranking officials. Brown explained his question as, "... one of personal curiosity, that I might form some idea of how you felt toward the individual soldier, as well as toward the enemy as a whole." Grant's response is very lengthy as you would expect from a politician. I won't include his entire answer. The viewpoint is interesting though. "My feeling toward the people of the South was that of affection and sympathy.... Through all my campaigns and in every battle I realized more and more that I was contending against a misinformed and misguided people-every individual soldier of them fighting unwittingly against his own interests...."

Brown left the newspaper business for good in 1886 to devote his time to writing independently. Much of his work was uncredited as it was industry inspired. Titles such as *Colorado: Its Resources and Industries*, and the equally fascinating story of *The Resources and Industries of Colorado* were his bread and butter. These and other titles were done, in many cases, for the benefit of the railroads often to

convince them to build in Colorado, or for the companies own promotional use. His most important, and well known book was *The History of Equal Suffrage in Colorado*, published in 1898.

While working at the *Denver Tribune*, Brown had become friends with Eugene Field who was managing editor at the time. Field went on to become the "children's poet" most famous for his poem "Wynken, Blynken and Nod." Brown edited a number of books of Field's poems and was instrumental in the creation of the Eugene Field memorial in Denver.

Brown stayed active in his old age as secretary of the Colorado Pioneer Printers Society, which he had co-founded in 1912. He also was the superintendent of the newspaper room for the public library for the last fifteen years of his life. Joseph G. Brown was buried with his two wives and son in Riverside Cemetery on March 12, 1932.

### **Samuel T. Inman**

Inman enlisted at Georgetown, Missouri on February 22, 1862. He was not mustered into service until April 23. He was a thirty-one-year-old farmer when he was sworn in as a Corporal in the cavalry of the Missouri State Militia.

Apparently the Missouri Militia was raised by the state and then equipped and financed by special agreement with the Federal Government. It then stayed under the direct control of Missouri Governor Hamilton Gamble. They were then used within the boundaries of the state to combat the threat of rebel guerrilla fighters. I have read accounts of some militia units not being



allowed to cross state lines in order to operate in joint military campaigns. Inman's regiment did make excursions into both Kansas and Arkansas during the war. Missouri being a border state there was a constant gorilla-style war being waged. There were undoubtedly legitimate security issues that would make a governor want to keep military forces close to home.

One of the first things that is apparent from Inman's pension file is how long a process it was. He filed his initial request March 23, 1874, it was not approved until July 12, 1879. He was awarded \$6.00 a month for his war injuries payable from the time of his discharge, April 8, 1865. I am no math whiz but I think his check would have been for a little more than \$1,000. It appears to me that he may have used the money to finance his move to Colorado. By November 1879 his address was

Boulder, Colorado. According to his obituary in the *Rocky Mountain News* he was "...interested in mining, and also conducted a large livery stable" in Boulder. We know he was living in Boulder as by that October he filed for an increase in his pension. It was raised to \$8.00 a month in February 1881.

Inman had been awarded his pension because of wounds he received in a skirmish with "bushwackers" [*sic*] near Holden, Missouri in September 1864. The life of a cavalryman involved in fighting Confederate irregulars would have been a particularly hard life. They very often operated in small units rarely larger than an individual company. As a militia unit I would guess they also operated a little more independently than the regulars did. They undoubtedly spent a good part of their time looking over their shoulders or chasing shadows. Ten years later his Captain, William Baker, recounted what occurred,

"We were ordered out on a scout in quest of bushwhackers and my command had an engagement with them near a creek in Johnson County Mo. and during said engagement applicant was shot in the left knee by a musket ball from the enemy. He was disabled but at this time it did not cause him to dismount... soon afterwards we were engaged at a mire creek and his horse mired and fell and in falling fell upon the same leg that had been wounded. Claimant was never the man for service afterwards that he was before the injury."

For some reason the Captain submitted another affidavit less than a year later. In 1875 he emphasized the heroic nature of Inman's injury.

At the time claimant incurred the injury he was running after a bushwhacker in full pursuit, the latter run his horse in the mud in a creek and applicant followed close after and his horse plunged into the mud and fell and falling, fell upon claimant. I saw him struggling under his horse while the bushwhacker aforesaid was shooting at him. I fired shots at the bushwhacker whereupon the bushwhacker disappeared and I went to the relief of applicant Inman. He was withering in pain & wriggling in the mud....” The Captain went on to explain that they were a long way from a hospital and so they just returned to their headquarters. Inman, although in great pain, refused any hospital treatment and it was several months before he was able to return to duty. It sounds to me like Inman was a pretty tough guy who had maybe seen more than one friend go off to the hospital and never return.

The fact that he refused to go to the hospital explains why the examiners were not able to find any history of treatment. From everything I have seen, the Pension office went to extreme lengths to validate pension claims. The original application does include an affidavit from a physician. Dr. M.T. Chastain appears to have been Inman’s family physician and had known him before the war. He also had treated him in the closing months of the war and explained that what few records had existed were undoubtedly lost. He does state that the injuries were of a permeant nature and were very debilitating.

In many of the pension files there is a condensed review of the soldier’s service from the Adjutant

General’s office. It lists the important dates and often significant battles the soldier participated in. It also would be where any record of treatment would be recorded. It clearly states that there is no evidence to support Inmans injury claim. This is probably one reason the claim was a long time being approved, and why Captain Baker had to write more than one letter.

Inman’s last request for a increase in his pension was filed April 13, 1892. His physical states that he was just under six feet tall and weighed 250 pounds. He was now forty-nine years old and was with the Denver Police Department. The Doctor reported that because of his war wound, Inman’s left leg was measurably shorter than his right leg, and that he had limited movement in both the knee and the ankle. His previous increase was dated to September 19, 1882 and had raised his payment to \$12.00 per month. One of the interesting aspects of this process was that every time an increase was sought the pensioner filed through an attorney. In this case, in 1892, it cost Inman \$2.00 to have W.E. Moses file his claim. Just like today, the lawyers always get theirs.

One of the confusing aspects of many of these pension claims is the recording of the soldier’s rank. The last four documents involved with Inman’s final request list him as a Corporal on two pages, and then the other two list him as an Orderly Sergeant. This is not the only file I have examined that seems very inconsistent when it comes to the recording of rank. The Adjutant General’s report states he was discharged as a Sergeant. Why then do so many of the forms list him as a

Corporal? Many of these forms were filled out by Inman himself. It remains a mystery to me.

The final form in Inman's file is stamped "REJECTED," and then stamped again "DROPPED FROM ROLLS MAY 29 1896 FAILURE TO CLAIM PENSION." This was stamped four years after it had been submitted and three years after Samuel Inman had killed himself.

The headline for the story February 18, 1893 in the *Rocky Mountain News* read "ANOTHER DESPONDENT VICTIM ADDED TO THE ALLUREMENTS OF FARO BANK". Inman evidently had a weakness for gambling. The newspaper mentions it had "...been the cause of many embarrassments." There is an aspect of Inman's gambling addiction that I find very curious. He evidently would entrust a friend to actually play the games of chance for him. He would supply the money and the friend the luck. I have never heard of someone gambling in this fashion. I wonder if his gambling had cost him his livery business in Boulder?

There is no mention of a wife in the obituary; only two grown children are mentioned. It seems likely that if a wife had preceded him in death it would have been mentioned. I can't help but wonder if his wife may have left him because of his gambling problem? There is a four-year-old S.J. Inman who died in 1887 buried next to Samuel that I assume was his child. According to the pension file the Inmans would have been living in Denver at the time of the child's birth. What might have happened to the mother?

His daughter Emma was living with him at the time of his death and was awakened at 7:00 A.M. by the gunshot. She had evidently taken the gun away from him the previous night but somehow he was able to sneak into her room and retrieve it. His suicide note was addressed to her, "Emma- I am compelled to do this awful deed. My rent is due and I have not a dollar to my name...I am continually being harassed and dunned by collectors, so I can't see but one way out of troubles, and that is death. May God have mercy on my poor soul. Forgive me, for I am not responsible for this awful act. I love you and De Witt. (his son) Good-bye."

Inman was evidently very well liked and respected. His obituary ran almost two full columns and it included a drawing of him. He was remembered as "...genial, generous and had a heart as large as an ox." It was a sad end for a brave man. Samuel Inman was buried February 19, 1893, with full GAR honors, including a firing squad from the Sons Of Union Veterans organization.

### **Benjamin C. Lightfoot**

Benjamin Lightfoot was one of the many men that found himself unemployed in Denver in 1893. The price of silver had dropped from eighty-three to sixty-two cents an ounce in only four days. It was the beginning of the end of the huge fortunes of men such as H.A.W. Tabor, the Leadville silver king. Along with the mining downturn, Colorado's eastern plains were experiencing the most serious drought since the gold rush. In just a few days in July twelve banks closed in



Denver. In Washington D.C. Congress was preparing to repeal the Sherman Silver Purchase Act which had kept the price of silver propped up. The outlook for recovery was bleak. The city was filling up with the unemployed as the mines, smelters and mills closed.

Lightfoot was a brick layer by trade when he enlisted in the 11th Missouri Infantry. It was July 20, 1861 when the thirty-one-year-old Wenona, Illinois resident agreed to a three-year term of service. I found it interesting that he ended up in a Missouri regiment. Apparently recruitment was left up to the officers of the individual regiments and they often would cross state lines to fill their needs. Why he didn't join a Illinois regiment is a mystery to me. There may have been some sort of bounty or other financial enticement offered by the Missouri recruiters that wasn't matched by Illinois. Another possibility was that he was previously acquainted with some of the men of the Missouri regiment. I also wonder if maybe the local Illinois regiments had filled so quickly that Lightfoot had felt there would be more opportunity with the boys from Missouri. The general feeling of course at the time was that the war would be over very quickly and that there would be little time for a man to make his mark in the military.

Lightfoot's pension file also has no information as to why he moved to Colorado. He may have come to Colorado because of war-related ailments. The file indicates that he was living in Denver by late August 1888. He had originally returned to Illinois to live after the war and was still there as late as 1880. We are left to speculate on when and why he came to Colorado.

The majority of Lightfoot's pension file is devoted to his attempts to have his rate increased. He had been badly wounded at the battle of Corinth, Mississippi in 1862. The earliest document in the file is dated 7/10/1865 and is a "DECLARATION FOR INVALID PENSION." It explains that he had been transferred to the Invalid Corp, often referred to as the Veteran Reserve Corp (VRC), September 22, 1863. I assume that was when he had sufficiently recovered from his wounds to return to limited duties. It must have been while a member of the VRC that Lightfoot was made a Corporal. Both the Colorado State Archives and the GAR burial records list him as such. There is no indication in his pension file of him ever rising above the rank of Private. I have to believe that he either exaggerated his own rank, or the promotion while in the VRC, carried no permanent benefit. The information I have been able to find concerning the VRC is that the men assigned to it were unable to physically serve in combat units but were able to still contribute in other ways, such as guarding prisoners or serving in other non-combatant positions.

An unexplained action in the file is that he originally received \$8.00 a month, but by June 1873 it had been reduced to \$6.00. He apparently had a physical exam in which the disability was judged to have lessened. In 1875 after another exam it was raised back to \$8.00. Lightfoot's wounds were described in 1879,

'...musket ball which struck him in right shoulder where it lodged and cut out about two months afterwards. Also at same time by musket ball which

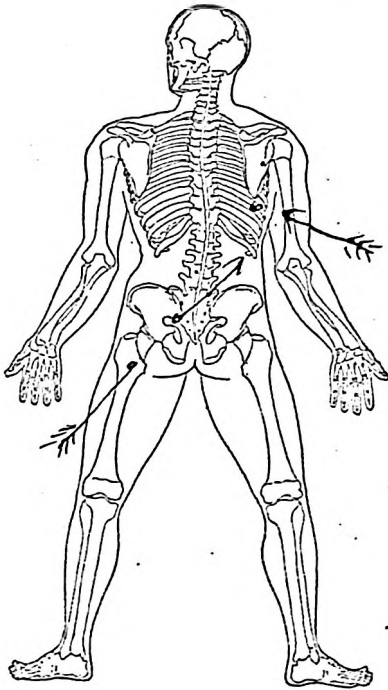


Diagram from Benjamin Lightfoot's pension file indicating the location of the musket balls that remained in his body

struck him on right side passing through right ear. Also at same time by a musket ball which struck on right side between 3rd+4th ribs entering lungs where it still remains. Also at same time by a musket ball which entered left hip lodging against or near spinal column where it yet remains."

I think it's remarkable that he survived these wounds. He obviously suffered from their effects the rest of his life. The musket ball that was still in his lung apparently made breathing difficult and may have inspired the move to Colorado.

On July 25, 1893 the sixty-three-year-old veteran was on his way home when he stopped at the Hotel D'Italia at 1545 Wewatta Street in Denver for a nickel beer. Accounts differ on what happened after he had finished his first beer. One version has the bartender, Daniel Arata, convincing Lightfoot into staying to have a second beer, as if it was on the house. Another version is that he ordered another beer knowing full well he was not able to pay for it. Still another was that Arata accused Lightfoot of not paying for his first beer. All accounts agree that Arata became enraged when Lightfoot would not, or could not pay for the beer. The *Denver Republican* of July 26, 1893 is particularly graphic in its description of what happened next;

"... After battering his aged victim's skull to pulp, Arata then dragged his bleeding body into a hallway at the rear of the bar-room and shot Lightfoot through the heart.

There the body was found by an officer. Several men who entered the saloon, attracted by the revolver shot, met Arata returning from the corpse of his victim. His hands were gory with the fresh blood of the old man... Without even washing his hands Arata went behind the bar, all ready to serve drinks to the probable customers he saw in the crowd his crime had attracted."

The crime, as horrible as it was, takes on a particularly vicious angle when Lightfoot's health is taken into consideration. His last medical exam had been performed September 7, 1892. He had requested an increase in his pension. "On account of an increased disability, and he thinks the rate of pension he is now receiving is

unjustly and unreasonably low, and disproportionate to the rate drawn by other pensioners for similar or equivalent disabilities." In addition to the previously mentioned gunshot wounds he was also now suffering from a "femoral hernia." His pension had subsequently been raised to \$12.00 a month for a 100% disability. The medical report paints a picture of an old man that hurt from the time he woke up in the morning. This old man had sacrificed his future for his country that day at the battle of Cornith. He had stopped on his way home, from where, the newspaper gives no clue, after a hot July day. The old veteran had gone into the bar looking for the comfort that comes from resting and enjoying a beer. All he found was eternal peace after being brutally murdered.

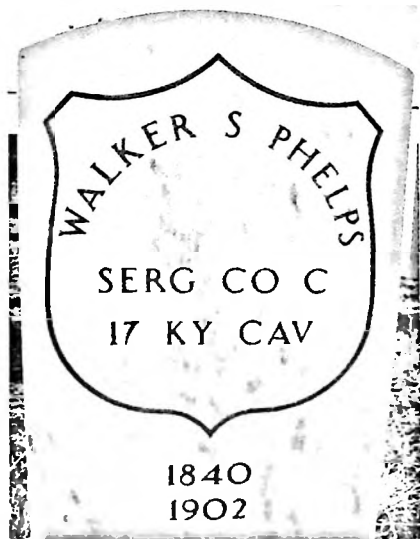
Arata was soon arrested and taken to the new Arapahoe County jail near the intersection of Santa Fe and Colfax in Denver. By eight o'clock that night a large crowd of mostly unemployed men had gathered at Eighteenth and Market Street. Speeches were given decrying the vicious murder. The fact that Arata was Italian and Lightfoot was a veteran added to the rhetoric. With the cry "Let the blood of an old soldier be avenged" the crowd, numbering now more than 10,000, marched on the jail. When they were refused the prisoner, the mob tore up a nearby street car track to use as a battering ram in order to gain entrance to the jail. Arata was soon dragged into the street and hung from the nearest cottonwood tree. While hanging there he was also shot several times. When the branch broke the crowd simply dragged the body down the street and

hung him again from a telegraph pole. It was to be the last lynching to occur in Denver.

Benjamin C. Lightfoot was buried at Riverside July 30, 1893.

### Waller Phelps

Waller Phelps' claim to fame at Riverside is that he managed to serve in both armies during the war. This was not terribly rare; many Southern soldiers changed sides. It was often after they had been taken prisoner that they would be offered the opportunity to join the Union Army. The term used in connection with these men was that they were "galvanized yankees." I suppose that the origin of the term comes from comparing the re-coating of a soldier, from gray to blue, to the re-coating of metal to galvanize it. There was six entire regiments that were composed entirely of ex Johnny Rebs. These men were generally used on the western frontier to fight Indians or for post duty far away from the war. They





were never trusted to actually fight against the Confederate army. Phelps had not been galvanized and there lies the problem for him.

His pension file does not have much background on him. He was born in 1844 in Smithland, Kentucky. He apparently enlisted as Scott Phelps in the 1st Kentucky Confederate Cavalry in 1861. It was sometimes referred to as the "orphan brigade," I assume because Kentucky never succeeded from the Union so they were orphans. The military information in this file is very confusing and I am really not sure I understand it, so bare with me. There is a deposition from Ben Terry who was

a Lieutenant when he enlisted Phelps into Captain Wilcox's Company. This company was intended to be part of the 1st Kentucky Cavalry but never joined that regiment. It was instead attached to Bedford Forrest's command. Lieutenant Terry's deposition claims that Phelps deserted from the 1st before the Battle at Fort Donelson. Another deposition from a James Pool states that he served with Phelps in the 1st, up until the battle at Fort Donelson in February of 1862, and when Pool was taken prisoner, he never saw Phelps again.

A deposition from James Greer, who had been a Major in the 11th CSA Kentucky Cavalry, states that in June 1864 he enlisted an entire company, including Scott Phelps, that was under the command of Charlton Duke into the 11th. Greer states he was not aware of Phelps serving in any other Confederate Regiment before joining the 11th. Greer also states that Phelps deserted with several other men a week before the battle at Grubbs Crossing, which would have been the middle of August 1864. He remembers hearing that this group of men later robbed several stores near Smithland, Kentucky, Phelps' hometown.

Among the different depositions, there is mention made of Phelps having killed a fellow soldier before, or soon after, his desertion. Greer and Terry felt that it was not one of his comrades that was killed. They had both heard that it was in a "neighborhood fight" that Phelps killed a man named Prince. Pension Bureau Special Examiner C.M. Butler in his report says, "I have for sometime been hearing of this man as having killed a couple of his Confederate comrades and

then enlisted in Co. C, 17, Ky. Cav.”

Regardless of the time and number of men he maybe killed, it appears to me that Mr. Phelps was not a very nice man. I wonder what he was doing in that time between deserting the 1st Kentucky in February 1862 and enlisting in the 11th in June 1864? I tend to imagine that he was not helping out at the local orphanage. Was he one of those nasty marauding deserters that terrorized the rural South that pop up in so many books and movies? Maybe there is another explanation. Could he have been a prisoner during that unexplained time? Might he have been wounded or sick and confined to a hospital bed for that time? I do think that any war wound would have been mentioned in his pension request.

Phelps' Yankee record is also a little confusing. According to a deposition by Allison Pollard, who had been a Lieutenant in the 17th Kentucky U.S. Cavalry, Phelps joined his regiment around October 1864 and served until the end of the war. That would be about a two-month gap between his last desertion from the Confederate Army. Interestingly Pollard had known Phelps since before the war. He also claims that Phelps had killed a comrade named Thompson Prince before he had deserted. If Pollard had known Phelps had served in the Confederate Army why was there no mention in his service record?

In November 1895 Phelps entered the Colorado Soldiers & Sailors Home, and his registration records there indicate that he enlisted 9/18/1864. This is what I can't figure out. The N.P.S. Soldiers and Sailors site as well as other web sites I have looked at all claim

that the 17th Kentucky Cavalry was not organized until April 1865, at the end of the war. It was mustered out just six months later. I really don't know how to explain this. There often is time between when a soldier enlisted and when he was actually mustered into the service, but this would have been six months, and seems too long of a time. This is another mystery I haven't been able to solve.

Phelps had first begun receiving a pension early in 1892. He had sent a personal letter to the Commissioner of Pensions on February 19, 1892 asking him to personally move along his pension request. He felt that “. . . it may be overlooked without your knowledge.” In this letter he referenced his application number. By April 1892 he was already applying for an increase. In this second application he was using his certificate number which indicated he had already been awarded a pension. He obviously thought \$6.00 per month was just not enough. It was the old standard reason, “. . . pension he is now receiving is unjustly and unreasonably low and disproportionate to the rate drawn by other pensioners for similar and equivalent disabilities.” His original pension had been awarded because of damage to his right hand, which he had hurt when a railroad tie dropped on it in 1887. He also was suffering from hemorrhoids. It was this request for an increase that I believe set in motion the appointment of a special investigator to look into his case. This investigation ultimately led to the uncovering of his dual military record.

Waller Phelps got his bad news by registered letter mailed September 28, 1901. The return receipt is in the file.

The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions found him living in Denver at the time.

“Sir:

You are informed that it is shown by a report from the records of the War Department, now on file in this Bureau, that you aided and abetted the rebellion against the authority of the United States by your voluntary service in Co. “G”, Holm’s 1 “Ky Cav., C.S.A.... such confederate[sic] service constitutes a bar to pension under the act of June 27, 1890.”

The information from the Soldiers and Sailors Home gives us a little more information about Phelps. It states that he had been in Colorado for eight years when he checked in, so he must have come about 1887. He lived at the home for only two years before he “left at his own request.” He had evidently been a miner in Cripple Creek before checking himself into the home. I guess that hand that he broke in 1887 wasn’t so bad. It wouldn’t prevent him from looking for gold, just bad enough for the government to pay him for the pain and suffering.

I also know that Phelps was married, twice, to the same woman. Lucinda J. Claypool, who also lost any claim to a widow’s pension because of her husband’s war record. I don’t know when they married or what time period they were divorced. I wonder if it corresponded to the time he was in the Soldiers Home?

I can only assume that the difference between Phelps and the “galvanized yankees” was possibly the desertions. I think it more likely it was his not disclosing his Confederate service when he enlisted in the Federal

Army. He was given thirty days to appeal the decision; there is nothing in the file to indicate that he tried. I assume he kept this information to himself as I don’t believe the GAR would have buried him had they known his true service record. He died less than a year after receiving notification of the loss of his pension. Waller Phelps died of heart disease and was buried in a GAR lot in block 27 July 7, 1902.

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10. *Rocky Mountain News* (Denver, Colo.)

# Over the Corral Rail

*Compiled by Ed Bathke, P.M. Please submit your items of news, etc. to Ed. Deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the first month in the date of publication.*

## The Loss of one of our Westerners, Robert Stull

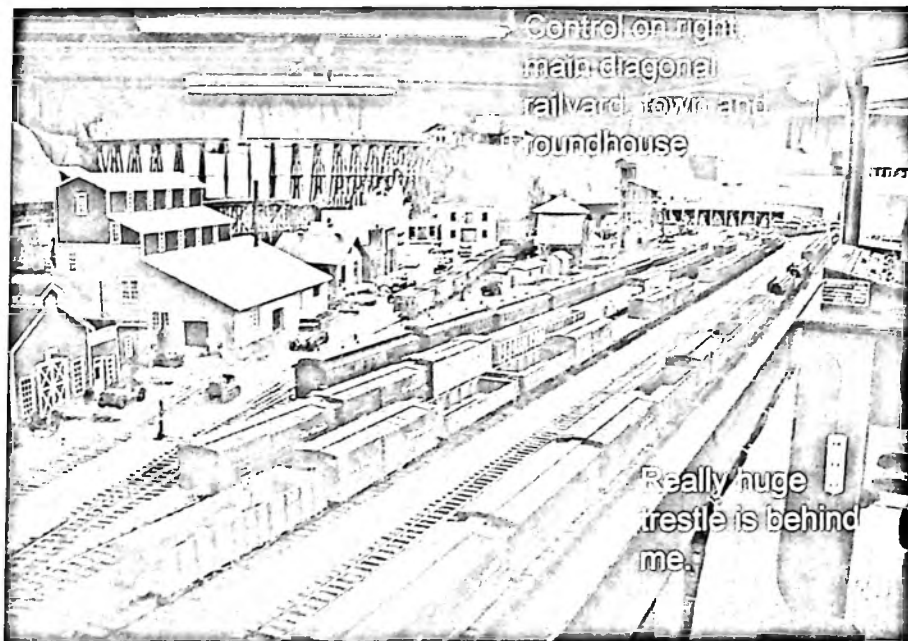
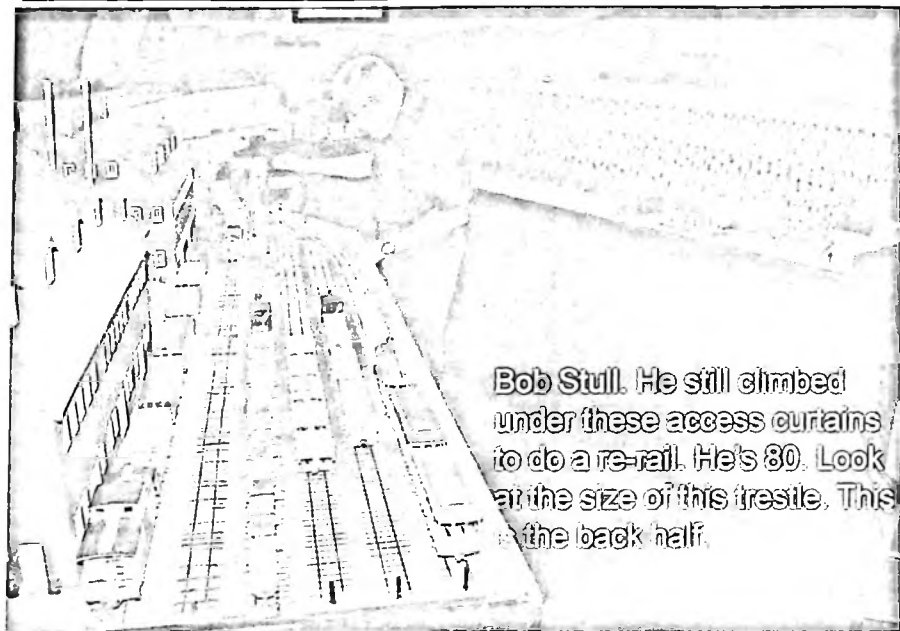
Long-time Denver Posse member Robert Stull passed away on July 16. Bob became a Corresponding member of the Denver Posse of the Westerners in 1974, and was elected to the Active Posse in 1979. He had served the Posse as the Tallyman and Trustee from 1990 to 1996, and was the Deputy Sheriff in 1983, and the Sheriff in 1984. Bob's wife Lynn has also been an active member of the Westerners, as a Corresponding Member of the Posse in 1993, and Active Posse member in 1997. In recent years they were elevated to Honorary Posse membership.

Indicating his interest in railroad history, in October 1980, Bob presented "Fading Rails and shining Mines, Mining and Railroadng in the Clear Creek County in the mid 30's," to the Denver Posse (*Roundup*, Vol. XXXVI, No. 5, Sept.-Oct. 1980). He came from a "railroad family" for four generations, and was an avid model railroad buff. He was a member of the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club and a Master Model Railroader. The "mining" reference in his article is supported by the Stulls' partnership in the Broken Handle Mining Co., and their activities in the Clear Creek Metal Mining Association.

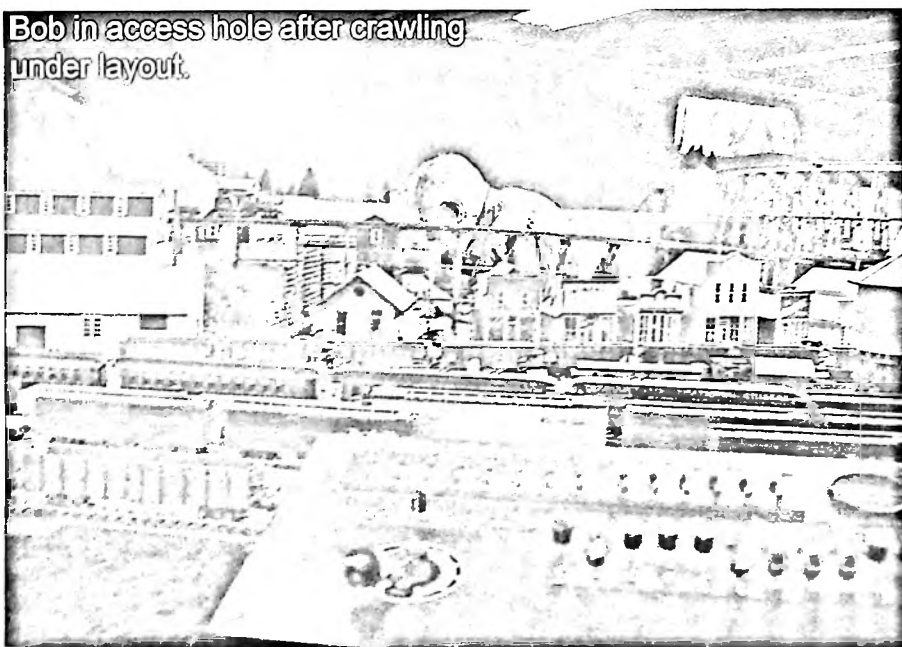
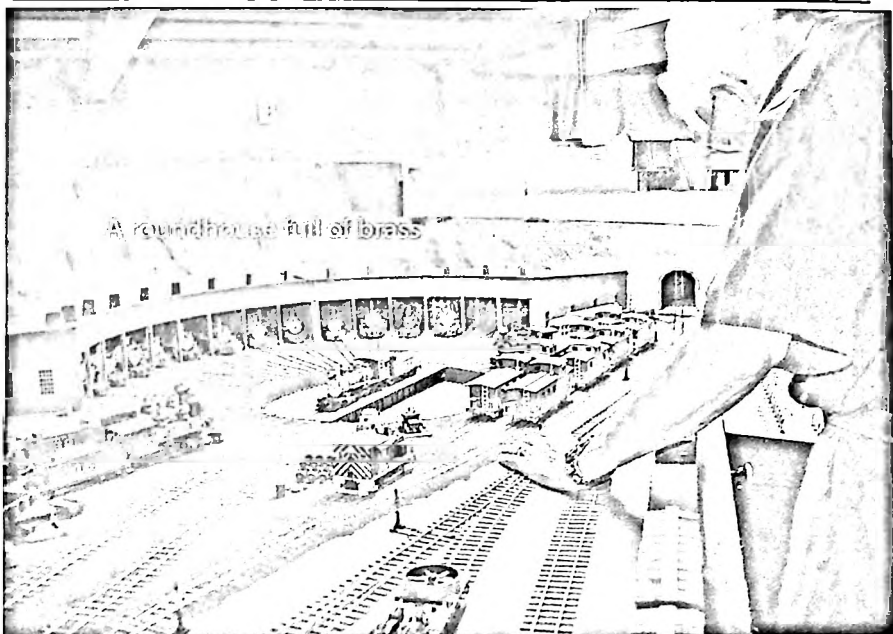
Bob and Lynn had joined the Ghost Town Club in 1966, and were members until 2009, when health problems prevented them from coming to the meetings regularly. Bob served as President in 1973 (and Lynn was President in 1981), and they had been very active in the club, leading many trips.

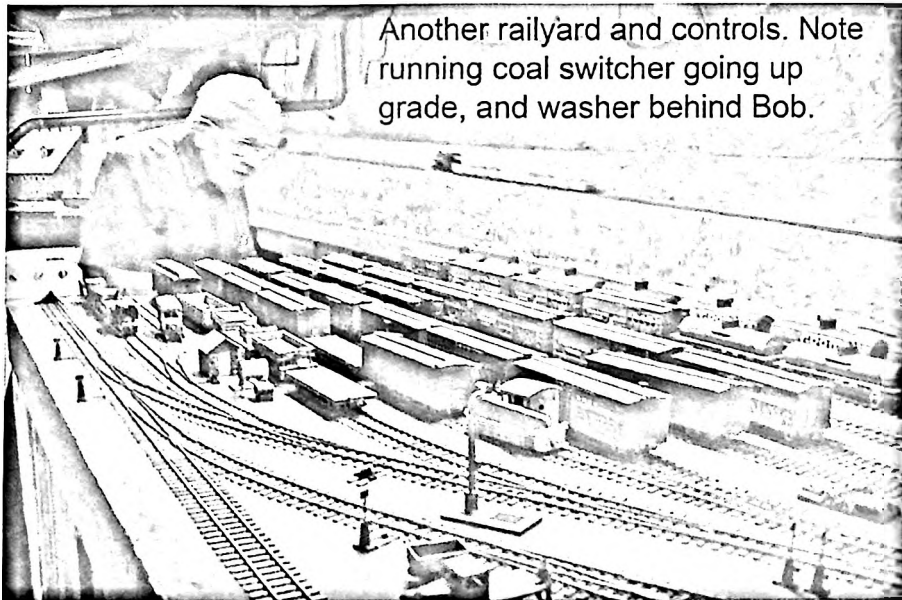
The Denver Posse of Westerners mourns the loss of a many-faceted Westerner, and we extend our heart-felt sympathies to our fellow Posse member, Lynn.

*Bob Stull was a Master Model Railroader. He spent many years building one of the most detailed model railroads in the entire state. It took up his entire basement, save room for a washer and dryer. There were trestles over 20 feet long, many switch yards, and a collection of over two-dozen brass locomotives. Please enjoy the pictures on the following pages of his basement creation.*









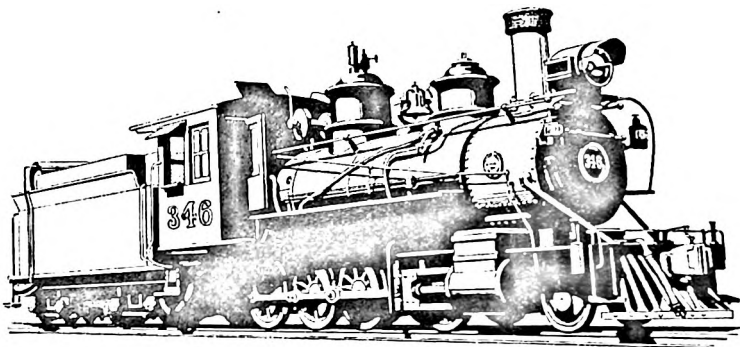
## June Westerner Programs

Summertime... and the programs come easy...as the Westerners along the Rockies take a break. The lone June program was presented by the Pikes Peak Posse, by member Dwight Haverkorn, "History of the Colorado Springs Police Department." As with the birth of any town, law enforcement is a vital part of its existence with citizens often dependent on it for survival. In Colorado Springs, the City's first constable came on board in 1872, followed by the Marshal's office. Eventually, in 1901 a police department was born.

Dwight Haverkorn, formerly with the CSPD, has spent nearly two decades researching homicides of the Pikes Peak Region and is also compiling a history of the department from 1872 to present. His talk included a discussion of the gangs coming to Colorado Springs and other historical notes.

## Posse Member Sandra Dallas wins second Western Spur Award

Sandra Dallas is the recipient of the Women Writing the West Willa Award and the two-time winner of the Western Writers of America Spur Award. Sandra's *The Last Midwife* won her second Spur Award in the Western Writers of America's traditional Western novel category for 2016.





## Westerners Bookshelf



**Manifest West: Western Weird**, ed. Mark Todd. Western Press Books (affiliated with Western State Colorado University), 2015. 166 pp. No photos or illustrations. Paperback.

This short book is the fourth in an annual series of *Manifest West* anthologies of (mostly) Western American writers. This collection of thirty-five entries includes eleven works of fiction, three examples of “creative nonfiction,” nineteen poems, and only one nonfiction work (which is an “essay” about present-day Utah).

The theme of this 2015 collection (as the name implies) is “Western weird,” short passages that are, in the words of editor Mark Todd, “discomfiting, rather than consoling.” Todd states in his foreword, “The tone of these works ranges from light - even campy - to chilling, but all allow readers to gaze straight into the many faces of what makes the West a weird place.” (I never thought of the West as a “weird place.”)

Michael Engelhard’s short story “Blacktop Cuisine” is a good example of the book’s “creative nonfiction.” It’s about eating roadkill: “Skinning the carcasses, Bart found that much of the meat was still good. A frugal guy who hates waste, he began to take these scraps home.” A more light-hearted example is Marlene Olin’s “Laughter Yoga,” about a woman who travels to Wyoming to see her former college roommate: “Years ago, in another life, ... [w]e were the epitome of cool.... Then life happened..... My life had become a *Good Housekeeping* cliché.” Her college friend, however, had kept her hippie lifestyle. This well-written and humorous story culminates in a strange yoga lesson after which the heroine realizes that her “normal” life is pretty good after all (“I’m the lucky one”). Her ex-roommate then breaks down: “‘You’re just perfect, aren’t you? I hate the way you’re perfect.’ She’s joking. Sort of. I get up, walk around the table, and give her a big hug.” Then there’s David J. Rothman’s “Tunnel of Love,” a twelve-page poem about a woman who tries to kill her lover. I recommend this poem to anyone who wants to be truly depressed.

If the chapters appear weird as you read this book, you have to keep telling yourself that the book’s subtitle is “Western Weird.” Almost all the passages pertain to the modern West, so there is not much here if you’re looking for historical information. The only entries that are historically based are the first two stories (about Doc Holliday and Soapy Smith), but these accounts are fictional.

--Garry O'Hara, C.M.

**A Companion to Custer and the Little Bighorn Campaign**, edited by Brad D. Lookingbill. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2015. 518 pp. Photos, end notes, bibliography, index. Hard cover.

Michael O'Keefe's, massive two-volume *Custer, the Seventh Cavalry, and the Little Big Horn: A Bibliography* lists more than 10,000 books and articles dealing with Custer and the Little Bighorn. Based on this, one might conclude that everything worthy of note regarding this relatively minor frontier engagement has already been published. Yet, Lookingbill's *Companion* actually does provide many significant new and valuable perspectives.

Lookingbill begins with an orientation to the battle in the form of an editor's introduction. He states that his objective is to provide a comprehensive work that is "accessible to the non-specialist, while also engaging experts seeking a concise but accurate accounting of the literature." In terms of these goals, the book succeeds rather well. Serious students of the battle, however, may find themselves occasionally cringing at some of the minor errors included in Lookingbill's introduction.

The *Companion* concentrates on five general areas related to the battle. *The Indians of the Northern Plains* includes five chapters that describe the principal Native American combatants on both sides, including the scouts and allies of the US forces. One must always keep in mind that the Little Bighorn Battle actually fits nicely into a long established pattern of intertribal warfare.

*The US Army in the Western Territories* looks not only at tactics but also at technology, weaponry, politics and policies. Forts, living conditions, dependents and military culture are also reviewed as are logistics and the nature of campaigning. This section includes a severe critique of military training of this period.

In *The making of George Armstrong Custer* four authors, including our own Jeff Broome, delve into Custer's personality and his experiences prior to the battle. A chapter also examines Libbie Custer's role in fashioning an image for her husband.

The section *Into the Valley* provides analyses of the actual battle. Finally, *The Last Stand of Myth and Memory* contains seven chapters covering such diverse topics as battlefield archaeology, reenactments, contemporary press, pop culture and various historical interpretations.

Each of the twenty-five authors that contributed to this volume brings solid credentials to the discussion. Most have PhDs in history or political science. Since many volumes have been written about each of these topics, each chapter can, of necessity, give only a brief synthesis. Nevertheless, most chapters contain new and controversial interpretations. As requested by the editor, a major strength lies in the bibliographic essays and the references that accompany each of the chapters. Serious Indian Wars students should find nearly every significant work mentioned. Each chapter also concludes with a solid summary of the author's conclusions.

The fact that twenty-five authors and twenty-five different topics were required to provide a comprehensive overview of the battle adds additional strength to the *Companion*. It serves to emphasize how incredibly complex the 1876 campaign really was.

--Dennis Hagen, P.M.

**Mesa of Sorrows: A History of the Awat'ovi Massacre** by James F. Brooks. 2015. 274 pages, hardcover, footnotes, bibliography, index. W. W. Norton & Company, \$26.95.

I never thought I would read such a book as *Mesa of Sorrows*, a history of perhaps the Hopi people's darkest and most painful moment—the Awat'ovi massacre. Anthropologist and historian James Brooks sifts through layers of ethnographic information, oral histories, Catholic Church history, archival research and past excavations of the site as an archaeologist might. What emerges in *Mesa of Sorrows* is a rich and provocative tapestry of the deep past.

Brooks approaches Awat'ovi thoughtfully, asking “how does one narrate the meaning of an event that many of the descendants of its perpetrators and victims might rather forget?” (p. 13-14) But, as Brooks points out, “even Hopis who may want to forget... find it a source of continuing conversation.” (p. 217)

*Mesa of Sorrows* opens with the massacre itself, taking the reader up on Antelope Mesa that autumn night in 1700. The village of Awat'ovi was observing the *wuwutcim wimi* ceremonies, with the sacred societies ensconced in kivas, initiating adolescent boys into tribal knowledge and manhood. In the predawn darkness, warriors from the neighboring Hopi villages crept through an open gate—a gate unlatched by the leader of Awat'ovi himself—and wreaked unspeakable carnage upon the village. They killed the young men in the kivas, struck down the old men, grandmothers and children as they fled, and set the kivas, the homes and the Franciscan mission aflame. Women and young girls were spirited away; later amidst disagreement as to who should claim these human spoils of war, most of the captives were butchered and dismembered. A few women were allowed to live when they, like Scheherazade, bartered for their lives by spinning tales of coveted clan knowledge and secrets of rainmaking. In the long tradition of women slaves in the Southwest, they married into and became a part of the fabric of their new communities.

The extreme violence at Awat'ovi was not unprecedented in Hopi society. Awat'ovi, its leader and neighboring villages believed, had become rife with witchcraft, and was not living in harmony, or *suanisquatsi*. To restore balance, the elements of *koyaanisqatsi*, or chaos and corruption, must be purged. Therefore, its own chief ordered the town utterly destroyed and abandoned, never to be occupied by the Hopi again. Similar measures had been taken at Sikyatki on First Mesa, when sorcerers were believed to have infected the village causing social chaos. Its chief invited warriors from Old Walpi to purify the people with fire and blood, and rewarded them with women and the rights to farm Sikyatki's corn fields. In 1700, the Southwest was swirling with change. Reverberations of the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 and Spanish reoccupation in the 1690s were keenly felt. People were on the move, a new religion had been introduced, and people of many ethnicities and languages were trying to navigate in a new world order. In several ways, the situation mirrored what had occurred in the region during the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when migration, integration and new religious beliefs upended social order.

Brooks shows how other societies have used extreme measures to achieve perceived social justice, including the nearly contemporaneous Salem witch panics. He also invites readers to draw uncomfortable parallels to current society. These shared stories give insights into the roles of women, their marginalization, suffering and ultimate resilience.

The story has it all: sorcery, sudden, savage violence, an ancient prophecy, power, betrayal, a remote landscape, clashing religions, the adventure of early archaeological expeditions, a mysterious burial of a European man, and the sense that the reader is somehow privy to information that should not be shared. Brooks handles these elements masterfully. *Mesa of Sorrows* is fast-paced with clear writing that pulls no punches while never sensationalizing events or practice. He delivers a solid, scholarly work that illuminates Hopi culture and sheds light on the deep past in the American Southwest.

--Kimberly Field, C.M.

**The Steamboat *Bertrand* and Missouri River Commerce**, by Ronald R. Switzer. University of Oklahoma Press, 2013. 374 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, index. Paperback, \$29.95.

Once in a while one comes across a book that provides a glimpse at a small intriguing thread of the miraculous cloth that is Western American history. Ronald Switzer's *The Steamboat Bertrand and Missouri River Commerce* is a well-crafted, enlightening and enjoyable example of such a glimpse.

The Missouri River steamboat era ran roughly from the 1840s through the 1860s, and played a larger role in opening the West than is widely recognized. Thousands of steamboats were constructed during this time and over 400 sank in the Missouri River. Carrying passengers and freight north from St. Louis to Fort Benton, Montana Territory was a risky business: seasonal, fraught with danger, and difficult to insure. The wooded banks upstream sent snags downstream. One of these submerged pointed trees holed the sternwheeler *Bertrand* about twenty miles north of Omaha on April 1, 1865. At the time, the vessel was carrying about 15,000 cubic feet of cargo headed for new communities in western Montana. The captain and pilot safely got the crew and twenty-five to forty passengers ashore and the steamboat's owners quickly launched a salvage operation, but called the workers off to another wreck before much of the cargo could be recovered. The *Bertrand* was soon mired in deep sand and silt. Over time, the Missouri River had at least five major channel shifts, and the remains were left buried in a cutoff meander. A pair of salvagers discovered the wreck in DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Nebraska in 1968.

Ronald Switzer wrote that he had three main purposes in mind for his book: 1) "Not simply to catalog & describe the artifacts, but to capture the invention, manufacturing, marketing, distribution and sale of these products and to trace something of the measures taken to get them to the frontier mining camps of Montana Territory," 2) "To capture new information about the private and social lives of the officers, crew, passengers and consignees... and to say something of the

passengers' motivations for traveling to the relatively uncivilized mining towns of Montana," and 3) To "Place *Bertrand* in the context of its time and to examine its intended use and some of the technology and industry used in its manufacture." He accomplishes all three with an engaging style that keeps the pages quickly turning.

Beyond Switzer's main purposes and behind his narrative lies the nearly two million individual artifacts, 300,000 of which initially appeared to warrant stabilization and restoration for future study and exhibition. The rapid covering of the hull with silt and sand that compressed to tightly-packed blue clay sealed the contents from oxygen and created this intriguing time capsule. As soon as the goods were exposed and cataloged, they were resealed in polyethylene and taken to a cool, moist storage room to await preservation and stabilization. A temporary field laboratory was quickly established in a garage bay at the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. With assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service design team, the first climate-controlled conservation laboratory was built on site. A staff was hired and trained for accessioning, cataloguing, photographing and preserving the rapidly deteriorating cargo. As of the 2013 publication date, this work continues at the laboratory. As a result of this project, research in conservation, preservation, and history of the era continues and a broad spectrum of experts continues to gain knowledge in their fields from the curation efforts for this collection. The preservation of artifacts that have been submerged in a fresh-water environment is complex, and techniques continue to evolve for preserving textiles, paper, leather and other items that lose stability when exposed to a free-oxygen atmosphere.

Switzer conveys his remarkable experience, which was one yearned for by many historians and scientists. He came into a large, complex project early in his career, under the guidance of a kindred spirit, Jerome Petsche, who was the principal archaeologist and historian responsible for the excavation of the boat and its cargo. They shared the journey of gathering material regarding the steamboat, and its officers, crew, passengers and cargo for the better part of forty years until they were separated by Petsche's death in 2008. Petsche's background included Korean War service, a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's in archaeology. Switzer came to work for him as a laboratory director and museum specialist. This broad range of skills they individually brought to the project gave the pair the ability to endure the inevitable setbacks and pitfalls associated with such a large project and to delve into all its aspects with comprehensive methodology.

With Petsche's death the author became more aware that it was time to assemble and present some of the voluminous material they had protectively gathered over the past four decades. The readers are fortunate that he shares with us their amazing project through this enlightening combination of archaeology, history and Switzer's writing craft.

If the steamboat *Bertrand* leaves the reader curious about earlier aspects of the project, Jerome Petsche's 1970 article in *Nebraska History* "Uncovering the Steamboat Bertrand" is available online. It includes additional pictures and details of the excavation.

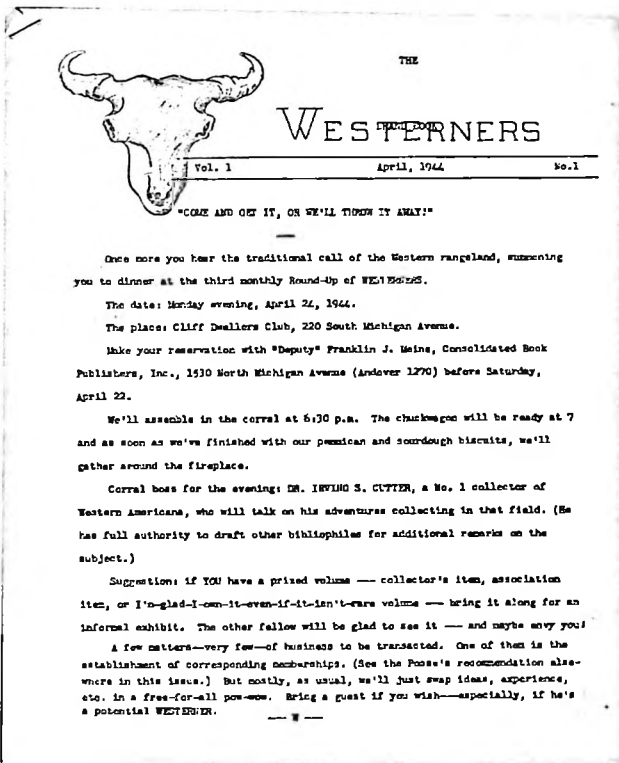
-- Corinne Lively, C.M.





# The DENVER WESTERNERS ROUNDUP

July - August 2016



The very first Westerners publication, the Chicago Corral's monthly *Brand Book*,  
Volume 1, No. 1, April 1944

**A Historical Perspective of the Westerners:  
Who, When, Where, How, Why**  
by Ed Bathke, P.M.  
(presented March 23, 2016)

# THE DENVER WESTERNERS ROUNDUP

VOL. LXXII NO. 4



July - August 2016

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Denver Westerners 1972 Sheriff

## Our Author

In 1965 Ed Bathke was supposedly studying for final exams for a master's degree in Applied Mathematics at the University of Colorado. The editor of the Denver Westerners *Brand Book* asked him to write an article for the 1964 edition. Following this welcome respite from school, he joined the Denver Westerners. Ed was elected to the Regular Posse in 1969, and served as its sheriff in 1972, as well as editor of the 1972 *Brand Book*. He has maintained a very active role in ensuing years, on various committees. Moving to Manitou Springs, 1977 Ed became the founding sheriff of the Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners. With a great love for the Westerners, Ed has also participated in the Boulder Corral and Colorado Corral.

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### Submissions for *The Roundup*

Rick Barth (303) 838-6687  
 4646 Park County Rd. 72  
 Bailey, CO 80421

### Book Reviews

Ray Thal (303) 324-9483  
 2301 S. Holly Pl.  
 Denver, CO 80222

### Dues and Other Payments

Bill Anderson (303) 973-2489  
 11168 W. Ontario Ave.  
 Littleton, CO 80217

### Reservations for meetings

Bob Lane (303) 751-2717  
 9103 E. Eastman Pl.  
 Denver, CO 80231

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## A Historical Perspective of the Westerners: Who, When, Where, How, Why

by Ed Bathke, P.M.

(presented March 23, 2016)

“Who are the ‘Westerners’?” is a frequent response when someone hears about our organization. Certainly the term “The West” brings a universal connotation of wide-open spaces and great natural beauty, and its development conjures visions of fur trappers, explorers, cowboys and Indians, and prospectors and miners. And sometimes, to add to the confusion, we encounter comments such as, “Oh, aren’t you those horse people?” and then we know that we have been confused with the riding group, the popular Westernaires. But just how do we justify calling ourselves “The Westerners” -- by what right or actions?

We are loosely associated with an international organization, the “Westerners Foundation, Inc.,” which describes itself as “an organization dedicated to increasing and disseminating factual knowledge about the Old West, thereby bringing to more people an enhanced enjoyment of its history and a deeper appreciation of its importance to our way of life in America.”

But how did all this get started? The path is obscure and starts with a dogleg. The father of the Westerners is universally recognized as Leland D. Case, editor of the *Rotarian* magazine, although he preferred to share the honor of founder with Elmo Scott Watson,

journalism professor at Northwestern University. Leland Case documented the “gleam-in-the-eye” phase of the Westerners as having occurred in 1937. Case had been in Nice, France, for the Rotary International convention, and had decided on a short vacation to Sweden. While there, he visited the great open-air museum in Stockholm, Sweden, called Skansen. It played a pivotal role in Sweden’s artistic and economic renaissance by making people aware of their own cultural and historical patrimony. The indigenous creativity in Sweden and the Emersonian self-reliance in America raised the question in Leland: Would an American version of Skansen help stanch the drooping spirits of the pioneers of the Upper Missouri Valley, who were just emerging from the Great Depression?

The following year, 1938, Leland Case needed a respite from overwork and journeyed to Santa Fe. Case visited with South Dakota native Clinton P. Andersen who was residing in Albuquerque. Anderson encouraged Case to pursue the idea in an attempt to inspire the residents of the Middle Border states.

Thus, dreams of a Skansen began to materialize in 1939 at Mitchell, South Dakota, when Dakota Wesleyan University welcomed a new organization called the Friends of the

# The Man from the Hills

A BIOGRAPHY OF

## Leland D. Case



Leland Case, co-founder of the Westerners

Middle Border and set aside land for a museum-art gallery. The heartland of America had been termed the "Middle Border" by Hamlin Garland. Among the organizers of the Friends of the Middle Border were Hamlin Garland, Mt Rushmore's sculptor Gutzon Borglum, native South Dakotan and eventual New Mexico Senator Clinton P. Anderson, Rotary International's founder Paul P. Harris, philosopher John Dewey, novelist Stewart Edward White, artist John Sloan, Nebraska's poet-laureate John Neihardt, historian James Truslow Adams, and Badger Clark.

What does this have to do with the Westerners? Middle Borderlanders everywhere would hold forth articulately and nostalgically for their homeland, including those in Chicago. On December 29, 1942, Elmo Scott Watson hosted a group at

his home in Evanston that included Dr. Will Frackleton, (author of *Sagebrush Dentist*), Herman Seely, Philip Danielson, Douglas McMurtrie, and Emil Holzhauser (professor of American culture at Dakota Wesleyan). A Chicago Chapter of the Friends of the Middle Border developed as a result. A "historical section of the Chicago Chapter of the Friends of the Middle Border" was Watson's suggestion. Both men and women were members, and little thought was given to forming a men-only club of Western history buffs until a January 30, 1944 meeting in Leland Case's "Kiva," his study in Evanston attended by Elmo Scott Watson and Paul Kleser. The outcome was the first monthly Roundup of The Westerners, when fourteen men met at the Watson "ranch" in Winnetka, Illinois, on February 25, 1944. Charter members of the Westerners



Elmo Scott Watson, co-founder of  
the Westerners.  
Professor at Northwestern University  
and the University of Denver

in Chicago included Everett Graff (Western Americana collector), Douglas McMurtrie (Western author), and Don Russell (*Chicago Daily News* writer), among a group of twenty-three men. Member Clarence Paine, librarian of Beloit College (Wisconsin), presented the program, "A Short and Unlearned Treatise of Calamity Jane."

The name of the new group came easily. Later Don Russell recalled that "to clinch the (first) election" Watson had noted that *The Westerners* had been written by Stewart Edward White of the Friends of the Middle Border. Clarence Paine had proposed the name "Vigilantes" as a reminder that Watson and Case had appointed themselves "acting sheriffs." Informality, fun and scholarship were the objectives. All business was to be transacted by the Posse, which was the

executive committee, and there were to be no minutes or business at the meetings, or any bylaws. Instead, "Old Traditions" would be established. The first monthly publication, *The Brand Book* (Volume I, Number I, April 1944), listed the twenty-three charter members. Dues were three dollars, which included one-dollar annual dues to the Friends of the Middle Border in Mitchell, South Dakota, plus fifty cents to the Chicago Chapter of FMB. The Westerners' relationship with the Friends of the Middle Border ended, however, about 1947.

From the beginning of the organization the buffalo skull was a Westerners symbol. While members gathered for serious scholarship, the atmosphere was informal, breezy, practically rambunctious. The purpose was to meet monthly, chat, chomp, and



Westerners buffalo skull, "Old Joe," being presented to the 1957 Sheriff, William S. Jackson, by posse member Nolie Murney

after a scholarly speech, praise and also haze the speaker. To quote Leland Case, "the objective was fun and scholarship," and though Westerners took their West seriously, they "rode with an easy rein." The Chicago "roundups" or meetings do not officially begin until two members uncover the bleached buffalo skull on the wall, and greet, "Hello, Joe, you old buffalo!" At the end of the meeting, the ritual is reversed, the skull is covered, and the parting words are, "Adios, Joe, you old buffalo!"

On August 1, 1946, The Westerners was incorporated under the Illinois Not-For-Profit-Corporation Act. Its Articles included as purposes the collection and preservation of documents and publications, the

stimulation of interest, the holding of meetings, and "To encourage, assist, and actively participate in the formation of groups and branches of this organization" for similar purposes. All dealt with the "history, tradition, social customs, literature, and culture of the American West."

The birth pangs were over, and the Westerners were on their way. The first opportunity for expansion was presented in Denver. Leland Case came to Denver and, with the assistance of fellow Rotarian and newspaperman Ed Bemis, and Colorado State Archivist Herb Brayer, a group of potential Westerners met at the Denver Club on July 25, 1944. The group of twelve included LeRoy Hafen, Fred

Rosenstock, Temple Buell, Levette Davidson, William MacLeod Raine, and Thomas Hornsby Ferril. After dinner, Leland Case explained the purpose and operation of the Chicago Westerners, and the connection with the Friends of the Middle Border. Consensus was that there was a real need for such an organization in Denver, but such a group in this region would be interested in the Rocky Mountains and not in the Middle Border area. With the motion of Edward Dunklee and the second by Temple Buell, organization of the Denver Westerners began.

Upon mail notice by Acting Sheriff Herb Brayer, sixteen men met at the Denver Club on January 26, 1945. Elmo Scott Watson, Sheriff of the Chicago Westerners, was the speaker of the evening. An additional ten men had indicated interest in joining. These twenty-six were automatically offered membership, and the size of the posse was set at thirty members. Of these prospective members, a total of twenty-one charter members was listed in Volume I, Numbers 1 & 2, the March 1945 issue of the *Brand Book* of the Denver Westerners. Well-known Western enthusiasts and authors included Ed Bemis, Herb Brayer, John Caine, Arthur Carhart, George Curfman, Levette Davidson, Robert Ellison, Tom Ferril, LeRoy Hafen, Nolie Mumey, Forbes Parkhill, William MacLeod Raine, and Charles Roth. Ed Bemis was elected the first sheriff of the Denver Westerners, with a slate of: Ed Dunklee, Deputy Sheriff; Herb Brayer, Registrar of Marks and Brands, and Virgil Peterson, Roundup Foreman. Showing a maverick spirit, the group

constituted a "Posse," distinct from the "Corral" of Chicago, and, contrary to the urgings of Leland Case, did not establish any formal affiliation with the parent Chicago Westerners.

The new group was feeling its way along in defining and developing itself. The Denver Posse followed the Chicago Corral very closely in establishing a structure. Both groups were kept small, making them friendly and manageable. The Chicago Corral had formed a corresponding membership, so Denver followed suit at its very first meeting.

*Brand Book* Issue number 3 (April 1945) reported that at the March meeting, two additional members were added to the Posse, Dabney O. Collins and Ralph Mayo, and four corresponding members were admitted. Posse annual dues were five dollars, and corresponding members paid three dollars. Denver voted to have no connections with the FMB. For an additional dollar members of Denver Posse or Chicago Corral would receive the *Brand Book* of the reciprocating organization. This relationship, unfortunately, was short-lived. The August issue that year listed twenty-nine posse members, nine corresponding Westerners, seven exchange Westerners of the Chicago Corral, one Institutional Westerner (the University of Wyoming), and one contributing member, Velma Linford (later State Historian of Wyoming).

This category of "contributing member" is not defined or explained anywhere in Denver Westerner

documents. However, Velma Linford was instrumental in administrative duties for the posse. One of Chicago's immediate "Old Traditions" was that the corral was a stag group. Denver did not question following Chicago in this "tradition." Denver eventually adopted bylaws and defined four categories of membership: regular posse, reserve (for posse members who wished to retire from active status, often because of age), corresponding (for men not elected to the posse, those living too distant to attend meetings and participate actively, women, and institutions), and honorary members. At one time there was also one member in an undefined category, honorary corresponding membership. She was Delores Renze, retired from the Colorado State Historical Society Museum. Again, this status was a small token of payment for administrative services she provided to the Westerners when the posse offices and mailing address were at the museum.

This basic structure of membership has been essentially stable since our formative years. There have been some small modifications, as the maximum number of Regular Posse members was increased to forty by the second meeting, and then to fifty in 1953. The truly significant change was made in 1992 when the cherished "old traditions" finally yielded to modern reason, and equality between the sexes was achieved in Posse membership. Since then, women have served the Posse in all officer positions, and produced many programs. All organizations traverse a life cycle, and as the Denver Westerner

Posse was aging, this appropriate way of increasing the membership has rejuvenated the organization. To accommodate more active members, the maximum size of the Regular Posse was increased to sixty-five members.

The formation of the Denver Posse set the format for expansion of the Westerners. First, not all Chicago members agreed with Watson and Case that satellite groups in other cities were desirable. One such isolationist demanded with appropriate adjectives, "What do you think we are, missionaries?" But the Denver experiment proved successful. Second, Denver established the principle of independence. That was all too apparent at the preliminary meeting when one influential prospective member announced, "I see no reason why a club in Denver should be a branch of an organization seated at (significant pause) a small town up in South Dakota." Third, Denver established the open range or non-territorial principle. Initially, Denver and Chicago had an agreement partitioning the country for corresponding members, somewhat in the manner of the papal division of the New World between Spain and Portugal. But social mobility soon nullified the plan, and now Westerner units have no territorial rights.

Slowly, but consistently, the Westerners grew. The third corral was formed in St. Louis on June 1, 1946. Los Angeles, number 4, officially met on December 19, 1946, following an organizational meeting on December 3. Organizing father Homer Britzman was elected the first sheriff. The fifth group,





BERT O. BEAVER, REGISTRAR OF MARKS AND BRANDS

# The BRAND BOOK

OFFICIAL ORGAN  
 THE WESTERNERS  
 300 STATE MUSEUM BLDG.  
 DENVER 3, COLO.

1

MARCH 1, 1945

No. 1 &amp; 2

Every once in a while an organization seems to arise out of sheer need for a medium whereby men of common interests can gather and exchange ideas and experiences. For a number of years such eminent Colorado men of letters as Dr. LeRoy R. Hafen, Colorado Historian, Professor Lewitte J. Davidson, nationally known folklore authority, and Thomas H. Ferrill, poet and writer, have recognized the need for an informal assembly of men interested in various aspects of western cultural history. Unfortunately, circumstances never seemed quite favorable until the summer of 1944, when Mr. Leland Case, editor of *The Rotarian* and a member of the Chicago group known as "The Westerners," visited Denver and suggested the organization of a Colorado affiliate of "The Westerners." The result was the organization of this chapter on January 26, 1945.

Our one and only purpose in this organization is to exchange information relative to the cultural background and evolution of the vast region referred to as the Rocky Mountains and "The West." Fortunately this geographical limitation is broad enough to encompass everything from the Mississippi River to California. And, strangely, this seemingly unlimited scope is thoroughly justified by history, for few regions in America have been so closely allied to their surrounding areas. Starting with the Spanish explorations emanating from New Mexico, the French explorations from the northeast, the fur traders, such noted expeditions as those of Lewis and Clarke, Pike, Long, and Fremont, the Santa Fe trail to the South and the California and Oregon trails to the North, Colorado has been crossed and recrossed north and

posse's first deputy sheriff), and authors Robert and Kathrene Pinkerton. The New York Posse published a fine quarterly magazine, and continued its publication program for twenty years. Sadly, the NY posse has disbanded, and the Westerners International now lists that posse as a "dry camp."

One of the primary functions of the corrals was the "publication of the facts and color relative to the historical, social, political, economic, and religious background of the West." Both the Chicago Corral and the Denver Posse initiated publishing

The first publication of the Denver Posse, the monthly *Brand Book*, Vol. 1, No.1, March, 1945

New York, was founded in April 1952. Breaking with the four prior corrals, the New York Posse was chartered by a group of men and women. James Horan had hosted a party for Homer Croy; someone said, "Why don't we make this a permanent thing?" "Vig" (Sylvester L. Vigilante) replied, "Let's do that!" With that, "Vig" became the first sheriff, and "the rest is history." The first publication of this posse, dated "Winter 1954", featured a photo on the back cover of the charter members at the first meeting. Present were: renowned Western author Mari Sandoz, author James D. Horan (the

programs at once. Both issued monthly newsletters, which evolved into magazines titled *The Brand Book*. Credit for the monthly by the Chicago Corral is due to Elmo Scott Watson. According to one tale in Denver, the Postmaster told the Posse that if the name of the publication was that of a "book," the book mailing rate would have to be paid. This prompted the name change of the monthly publication to the *Roundup*, and the first issue of the *Roundup* debuted in January 1954. A more likely reason is that the monthly was being confused with the Denver Posse's annually-published hardbound volume of the same name.

Starting in 1945, this annual book was published by the Denver Posse, and continuing through 1975, with the thirtieth book in the series, combined Volume 30-31, for the years 1974 and 1975. Each annual consisted of most of the papers presented at the monthly meetings for that year, plus additional editorial selections. Containing Western history generally unavailable from other sources, the volumes now command a premium in the antiquarian book market.

The Denver *Roundup* became a nine-times-a-year publication in 1973, and in 1976 changed to its current bimonthly publishing schedule. The Denver *Brand Books* had not been published since 1975, primarily due to high publishing costs for a limited edition, but the *Roundups* from 1982 through 1987 were bound annually, as a limited edition. Then, in 1995 the Posse produced a "Fiftieth Anniversary" *Brand Book*. This was followed by the 1999 *Brand Book*, *The Cherokee Trail*, by Lee Whiteley, as a memorial to prominent historian and longtime member Merrill Mattes. A 60<sup>th</sup>-anniversary *Brand Book* in 2005 is the last posse publication. Current plans call for a 75<sup>th</sup>-anniversary *Brand Book* in 2020.

Similarly, the Chicago Corral published both a monthly magazine, their *Brand Book*, as well as an annual, hardbound *Brand Book*. In recent years the Chicago Corral has been publishing a quarterly. Other corrals have had publishing programs, some of noted success. Hardbacks have been issued by the Potomac, Chicago,

Denver, Stockton, Los Angeles and San Diego Westerners. Notable magazines have been issued by the Kansas City Posse (*The Trail Guide*), the Potomac Corral (*Corral Dust*), the Yellowstone Corral (*Hoofprints*), and the English Westerners Society (*The English Westerners Brand Book*). Notable among the publications is the volume issued by the San Diego Corral in its first year (1967), a limited edition bearing original Olaf Wieghorst watercolors, and selling out at the original price of \$250 a copy. Dr. Llerena Friend of the University of Texas Library was quoted as saying "a book wrangler who wished to round up all the Westerner publications would have to sell his saddle to pay for them."

But maybe we are getting ahead. Following the initial five corrals, the Westerners continued their growth. By 1954 corrals had been formed in Tucson, Laramie, the Black Hills, Washington D. C., and then in London, making the organization truly international. The Denver Posse attempted some sort of national communication by hosting the first Westerners Inter-Posse Rendezvous, on July 31, 1954, at historic Colorow Cave, eighteen miles southwest of the city. Representatives from New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Tucson, the Black Hills, and Laramie were present. Inter-corral fellowship abounded in the best rendezvous traditions, the most vivid vignette being that of bearded Art Woodward, director of the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles, attending in trapper's buckskins, with possibles bag and Kentucky rifle, and punctuating his role as the traveling "rep" of the

Los Angeles Corral by providing a pungent black-powder demonstration. L. D. Bax was the gracious host to 150 members and guests at his ranch, on which Colorow Cave was located. In 1956, 220 attendees heard Stanley Vestal speak on Dodge City. Unfortunately, in the following years, as Denver continued hosting rendezvous at Colorow Cave, the out-of-town attendance diminished. Then the surrounding land was sold, and Denver, too, had to rendezvous elsewhere.

With this background, however, as an impetus, the Westerners Foundation was established in 1958. Under the leadership of Philip A. Danielson, Chicago Corral charter member, the foundation was formed as an affiliate of California's University of the Pacific at Stockton. Incorporated "to stimulate interest in the frontier history of Western America," its principal activity has been to help new corrals start and function. The *Buckskin Bulletin*, issued quarterly, seeks to fill the role of an all-corral house organ. Since the annual meeting of the Western History Association, first held in Santa Fe in 1961, an annual foundation-sponsored Westerners Breakfast has been held.

When Leland Case retired to Tucson, Arizona, Westerners International moved to the locale of its main spark plug. Following his death in 1988, Westerners International took up a new home at the Cowboy Hall of Fame (now known as the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum) in Oklahoma City. During these years following its inception,



Ed Bemis, Littleton newspaper publisher, the first Sheriff of the Denver Westerners

Westerners International has done yeoman duty in its efforts to foster new corrals. At least 151 corrals have been chartered, and eighty are still active (about seventy-five are listed as "dry camps," an euphemism for either a lack of information or a group that is no longer active). Worldwide membership numbers over 4,000. In addition to the Denver Posse, in Colorado there are Westerner corrals in Boulder, Durango, Ft. Collins, Loveland, the Colorado Corral in Denver, the West Elk Wranglers in Gunnison, and the Pikes Peak Posse in Colorado Springs. The international flavor is provided by corrals in Austria, Belgium, the Czech



Sheriff Fred Mazzulla, with Mrs. Elmo Scott Watson, presenting a check for winning the Westerners Scholarship contest to CU student Duane Smith

Republic, Denmark, England, Germany, Japan, and Sweden.

The question often arises concerning the Westerners as to the terms “corral” and “posse.” Most of the groups around the world are referred to as corrals. However, the term is not standard. There have been at least eight posses: Denver, Kansas City, New York, both the Indian Territory Posse and the Oklahoma Women’s Posse in Oklahoma City, the Indian Nation Posse in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, the Casper Posse (formed 2014), the Northwest Montana Posse in Kalispell (2014), and of course, the Pikes Peak Posse. Other individualists are the Remuda in El Paso, Texas, and the Redwoods Coast Outpost in Ukiah, California. London is

host to the English Westerners Society, and in Germany are located the German Western Society in Alpirsbach, and the German-American Westerners Association in Memmingen.

So much for a worldwide tour of the Westerners. Let’s return home, and take a closer look at the members of the Denver Posse of the Westerners. Since the organizational meeting in 1944, to this year, 2016, a span of seventy-two years, we have had seventy-two individuals serve as the Sheriff of the Posse. Surprisingly, there has never been a repeat, and it speaks well for the group that there have always been members that were both capable and willing to step forward to serve. From its inception the

Westerners membership contained a great number of authors, and historians with professional credentials. Among members of note are a Colorado Supreme Court justice, William S. Jackson, and a governor, Ralph Carr.

Although there is not a large archive of photos of early members, just one photo may provide an insight into the diverse backgrounds and the historical expertise, as well as displaying the humorous approach to their hobbies. There is no date on this photo, but it appears to be from the 1950s. Standing in the rear are Dr. Eric Douglas, Denver Art Museum executive (with an Indian mask), Charles B. Roth, sales analyst (holding the buffalo skull), and Dabney O. Collins, writer and advertising man (holding a rifle). In the middle row are John T. Caine, stock show manager (astride a Western saddle), and Nolie Mumey, M. D. (holding an aboriginal sculpture). In the front are Fred M. Mazzulla, attorney (holding rare photos), Forbes Parkhill, author (with the sculptured head from the "house" at 1942 Market St.), Dr. Leroy R. Hafen, state historian (holding a powder horn), and Fred A. Rosenstock, rare book dealer (with theater bills).

Telling about these men could evolve into many programs, and biographies have been published on at least three. Fred Rosenstock was known as the premier antiquarian book dealer in Western Americana, sold fine Western art as well, and was instrumental in finding and in publishing rare Americana. He could be termed a supporting angel of the

Denver Westerners in that he acquired the surplus *Brand Books* each year, and by default became the repository and prime marketeer in back issues. Today Fred remains present in the promotion of Western history, in the form of the Denver Westerners' Rosenstock Fund, and its annual recognition and awards of deserving Western organizations and individuals.

Fred Mazzulla provided the foundation for the operation of the Denver Westerners, especially in the 1960s and 1970s. Fred, as the secretary and treasurer, used his office on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of the Western Federal Savings Building, downtown Denver, and provided a mailing address, secretarial services, and storage space for the Posse. He managed the arrangement with the Denver Press Club for the monthly meetings and menus, although a Chuck Wrangler collected the meal payments. He kept things running smoothly, month after month --- he was truly "Mr. Westerner." Fred took a lot of ribbing but he could also hand it back. He not only was known for his phenomenal collection of antique Western photographs, but he used his Leica cameras to record each Westerners meeting. At one meeting he introduced his guest, a Japanese businessman, and then added, "I hate him -- he has four more Leicas than I do!" Fred was from Trinidad, and of Italian heritage. When Nancy and I presented the 1970 Rendezvous program, Fred announced that stuffed Cornish hen would be served, replacing the almost universal steaks. The comment was that the stuffing for the hens would be spaghetti. It wasn't, but

spaghetti was served as a side dish.

Nolie Mumey was a man of exceptional accomplishment, well documented in the biography written by his wife, Norma. He was foremost, a physician and surgeon. In 1956, during the Hungarian Revolution, he served there as a humanitarian physician. Attendance has been recorded at most of the Denver Posse's meetings. Rules stated that Posse members are expected to attend each regular meeting. Nolie missed three consecutive meetings during his Hungarian service, and he was summarily drummed out of the Posse. In the ensuing hubbub, he was reinstated. Subsequent membership chairmen have varied in applying attendance requirements. Before current attendees become uneasy, let it be known that membership chairmen in recent years have been very lax in enforcing attendance requirements.

Nolie Mumey was a prolific writer and publisher, and his works number well over 100. Primarily works on Western history, he also issued forty-two volumes of poetry. While he had no chance of being recognized as Poet Laureate of Colorado, the verses are interesting for other reasons, such as the topics, and for footnotes documenting creation, such as "2 AM, written while waiting for surgery." Herb Brayer and he were the only two members to ever edit two *Brand Books*, Herb in 1945 and 1946, and Nolie with two very artful volumes, in 1951 and 1958.

Nolie often did something extra, no matter the task. When he presented a Westerners program on

camels in the Southwest, he appeared in desert garb, and at each attendee's place there was a bronze camel that he had cast. When he presented a history of the Green River Knife, again he planned something special. Nolie and George Godfrey were accompanied by Nolie's secretary, Norma Flynn, and George's wife, Susan, to the meeting site, the Denver Press Club. Since the ladies were not welcome at the Westerners meeting, they ate dinner in the main dining room of the Press Club. That night Nancy had come from Colorado Springs with me, and was planning on going to the Denver Public Library for research. Nolie would have none of that; it simply was not proper and safe for a young lady to travel there alone. She must eat with Norma and Susan. Then, at the end of Nolie's talk, he went downstairs, got the ladies, and they handed out a Green River Knife to every Westerner present (a first for ladies at a regular meeting!).

Just one more brief biography of a Denver Posse member bears mentioning, that of Merrill Mattes, who was an outstanding historian for the National Park Service. His long career had many ties to the Westerners. Merrill presented a program to the Chicago Corral of Westerners in its first year, 1944. Then, in 1945 Merrill was visiting Denver, met Fred Rosenstock, and was invited to a Denver Westerners meeting. Thereupon he became a corresponding member of the Denver Posse. He was a founding member of the San Francisco Corral in 1967 when his NPS work stationed him there. In 1972 his NPS work brought him to Denver, he became a regular attendee

of our meetings, and was immediately elected to the regular posse. During member introductions, since Merrill had been a member of the Denver Posse since 1945, he would state with pride that he was the "oldest living member."

In the 1950s the Denver Posse of Westerners sponsored an annual Westerner's Scholarship Award of \$300.00. Billie Jensen, a graduate student at the University of Colorado, was the winner of the first award, in 1957, for her submittal on "Secession Sentiment in Colorado Territory during the Civil War." The 1959 winner was Duane Smith, CU graduate student (Duane has had a long academic career at Fort Lewis College, and has been the mainstay of the Durango Corral of Westerners for many years). Participation dwindled in ensuing years.

The Denver Press Club was the regular meeting place of the Denver Westerners as early as 1952, and this tradition continued to 1979. The Club had a true "Men's Club" atmosphere, dark wood paneling, large chairs, smoky atmosphere. In the basement the card-room had felted tables and wall murals of legendary Denver newspapermen. The Westerners climbed the steep stairs to the second-floor meeting room. Jimmy Fillas was the manager for many years, perhaps over thirty. He was everyone's favorite, and all hated to see him retire, leaving to operate his own Greek restaurant. He was succeeded by Barbara, and she also served the Westerners very well. When I started attending, the menu was seldom varied, consisting of a nice steak, probably sirloin, and in the

1960s it cost \$3.00. Once the entree was changed to chicken, and Francis Rizzari had advance notice. He notified the kitchen that he didn't eat chicken, and he was served the usual steak. Others didn't mind chicken – that is, if everyone had chicken – but one look at Francis' steak, and they all voiced their preference for steak ever after. There was always pie for dessert. The pie was on the table when we sat down, and certain Posse members (Dick Ronzio and Francis Rizzari) always ate the pie first.

When an attendee entered the meeting room, he would report to the Chuck Wrangler, who would check his name off the reservation list, collect his money, and issue him a brass check. As the meal was being finished, the Press Club manager would collect the brass check from each diner. Then the manager would present the checks to the Chuck Wrangler, who would pay the Club for the meals. When Jack Morison was Chuck Wrangler, he encountered a problem with missing brass checks. As the manager collected the checks from the diners, she got to Numa James, and he would claim that Jack failed to give him one. The second time this happened, Jack learned from the experience and solved the problem by delegating his cousin Norm Page, to watch where Numa secreted the check. Then, at collection time, Norm could report where to look for the forgotten chit.

When the Denver Westerners discontinued meeting at the Denver Press Club, the brass checks became surplus. But members were allowed



Early Denver Westerner members, with their Western memorabilia: Standing in the rear are Dr. Eric Douglas, Denver Art Museum executive (with an Indian mask), Charles B. Roth, sales analyst (holding the buffalo skull), and Dabney O. Collins, writer and advertising man (holding a rifle). In the middle row are John T. Caine, stock show manager (astride a Western saddle), and Nolie Mumey, M. D. (holding an aboriginal sculpture). In the front are Fred M. Mazzulla, attorney (holding rare photos), Forbes Parkhill, author (with the sculptured head from the "house" at 142 Market St.), Dr. Leroy R. Hafen, state historian (holding a powder horn), and Fred A. Rosenstock, rare book dealer (with theater bills).

to purchase one last brass check – as a souvenir.

Initially, when the group was small, active discussion was thoroughly encouraged. A vigorous question-and-answer session followed most talks. Remarks were often critical, almost a challenge, and even a form of hazing, and heckling, a "tradition from the Chicago Corral...." A reputation developed, and often prospective speakers, especially if they were non-members and had no previous

meeting experiences to allay their fears, approached the opportunity to present a paper before the Posse with quite some trepidation. Today, while we welcome comments and questions, we have significantly mollified the atmosphere.

Introductions following the meal are a long-standing tradition, and include announcements and comments for the good of the order. This has included a certain amount of jokes and story telling. When the group was a strictly male affair, these



stories could border on the risqué. Often wives quizzed their husbands on their return from the meetings for the latest “dirty stories.” Reasonable decorum was maintained, with the group policing itself from being too blue. Certain members were noted for their storytelling. I recall Gene Lindberg, veteran *Denver Post* writer and poet, whose work regularly graced the *Denver Sunday* magazine sections, was often good for a story.

Over its seventy-one years the Denver Westerners has had its ups and downs. At times the financial status has been shaky. There have been rumors of a rift among the members and a financial problem in 1972. Actually our financial picture then was quite rosy, and I will report, for the first time, what happened. I am able to make this report since I was the 1972 sheriff. Several posse members agitated for a review of the posse operation, so the sheriff conducted a survey, tabulating members' complaints and recommendations. The summary consisted of the usual topics, finances and the need for a budget, the publication program, and the duties of the officers. An Ad Hoc Committee of five was appointed, they met, and their report was presented to a business meeting of the posse on July 26, at the Holland House in Golden. Thirty-one posse members attended. Roundup Foreman Fred Mazzulla did not, objecting that it was his prerogative to call meetings. However the bylaws then (and now) state that seven or more posse members can call for a meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee's report was presented and acted upon. Business

was not completed so a second meeting was held at the Golden Ox on East Colfax on Aug. 30. Posse member Gene Rakosnik was the gracious host. In retrospect those meetings were the forerunners of what has become the current annual business meetings of the posse.

Attending meetings of the Denver Westerners in the early days, the first twenty years, produced opportunities to experience first-hand ties with the “Old West.” Bill Carlisle, reportedly the last of the West's train robbers, shared his experiences, including exhibiting his revolver, at a Westerners program September 27, 1946. I recall posse member Bernard Kelley telling, how as a cub reporter in Denver, being told to grab his camera and get on the train to Pueblo in 1921, to report on their great flood.

From the very first year there were corresponding members and then posse members from Colorado Springs. Starting in 1967, when I moved to Colorado Springs I joined the car pool to Denver meetings. There were longtime posse members Carl Mathews, Ray Colwell, and John Lipsey, and Dr. Les Williams would drive. Les was the Colorado Springs Fire Department surgeon (he volunteered for the job, without pay), and as part of the job, he always bought a car, a bright red Buick, with the obvious necessary “gumball machine” on the roof. It was always fun, during those days of light traffic on I-25 to Denver, to watch cars come up fast behind us, spot us, quickly slow down, slowly ease along side, and after assessing the situation, lean on the gas

pedal again.

In earlier times, Broadmoor book dealer John Lipsey would provide his car and Les would drive. Marshall Sprague was the speaker one month, so the Colorado Springs contingent was bringing him to the meeting. John had a new Lincoln Continental. Around Larkspur the drive shaft fell out. Les figured the primary task was to get Marshall to the meeting, so those two hitchhiked, catching the first available ride. The others strangled in during the evening. This episode was before my time, but I was present about a decade later when Marshall Sprague favored the Westerners with another program, he recounted the adventure, and I heard it then.

Now, after being a member of the Denver Westerners for over fifty years, and a posse member for nearly fifty years, there are probably many stories I've overlooked and more that I have forgotten. Unfortunately those early members I knew so well could add some better stories, or embellish upon the ones I recall. Being a member in the 60s allowed me to know those charter members, who were still active twenty years after the Denver Westerners was established. Those are the memories I cherish the most. It is great being a Westerner. In an officers' meeting, in which the bylaws were being reviewed, we commented on the bylaw stating that a member could be dismissed from the organization for "conduct unbecoming a Westerner." Someone asked Fred Mazzulla what that meant, and he calmly growled, "acting like a damned Easterner!"

And at this point, all I have to add is "Adios, Joe, you old Buffalo."

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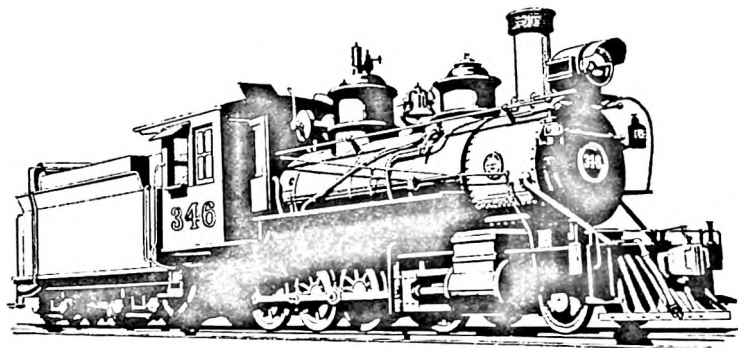
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# Over the Corral Rail

Compiled by Ed Bathke, P.M. Please submit your items of news, etc. to Ed. Deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the first month in the date of publication.

## Fall Kickoff of Westerner Programs

The September presentation for the Colorado Corral of Westerners is "All the City's a Stage: Denver's Historic Theatres," by Amy Zimmer. She will take the Corral on a tour of Denver's historic theatres, going behind the scenes, discovering hidden gems, lost architectural masterpieces, and the stories behind some of today's favorite venues. Amy has a Master's degree in U. S. History from the University of Colorado Denver, and specializes in historic preservation. Her newest book is *Lost Denver*. Amy Zimmer serves on the Denver Landmark Preservation Commission, and works for the Colorado State Library preserving Colorado government documents.

In September the Boulder County Corral will hear member Ed Bathke tell of "The Stereoviews of Ed Tangen, the Boulder Pictureman." Tangen opened a photo gallery in Boulder in 1903, and between 1906 and 1951 he took over 16,000 photos. From 1906 to 1918 he produced about 2,700 stereoviews, popular at that time when every home parlor had a viewer to look at the photos with their three-dimensional effect. He photographed not only the Boulder vicinity, but many other towns around, such as Louisville, Leyden, Lyons, Golden, and Morrison. As this business decreased, Tangen became the Identification Officer for the Boulder Police Department, and continued in that role for over 30 years, until his death in 1951.

The Pikes Peak Posse's September program is also presented by Ed Bathke, "The Works and Life of B. H. Gurnsey." He came to the new town of Colorado Springs in 1872, and established the first photograph gallery. The premier photographer in the town, an article in the *Colorado Springs Gazette* in 1875 revealed his business far exceeded that of all the other photographers in town combined – by a wide margin. The images he took provide us today with valuable historical information of life here 140 years ago. The record of his career until his death in 1880 will be accompanied by many examples of the stereoview photos he published.

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**"Tales of the Old Frontier," by Elmo Scott Watson**

(Note: Elmo Scott Watson, a co-founder of the Westerners, wrote this article for the Edina, Missouri *Sentinel* in Feb. 28, 1924. Posse member Bob Lane discovered this unusual bit of memorabilia.)

**THE SUDDEN CHANGE OF '36**

It was in December 1836. For days the weather had been mild, but the early settlers in the Mississippi valley shook their heads doubtfully. "It's a weather-breeder." They said ominously, "It was like this in December 1830, the winter of the deep snow. Look out for a change!"

Then the change came. First a light snow fell, then it turned to rain and the ground became ankle-deep in slush. Suddenly a cold wind began blowing from the west. Almost instantly the temperature dropped from 40 degrees above zero to 20 below, a change of 60 degrees in little more than that many seconds.

The whole face of the country was changed from water to ice and in some places the wind blew the water into a series of ripples which froze, making a stretch of ridges on the ice. In one settlement a group of boys, going home from school, came to a pond about fifty yards wide. The larger boys started to wade across and reached the opposite side only with difficulty for the water was freezing ahead of them. One little fellow held back for a few minutes and by the time he had started the ice was thick enough to support his weight the whole distance.

The "sudden change" wrought terrible havoc across a wide stretch of the country. Deer, elk and other wild animals perished in their tracks. The settlers' live stock seemed to be driven crazy by the sudden cold. Chickens curled up on their roosts and fell to the ground, frozen solid. Thousands of horses, cattle and hogs died before they could be brought into shelter.

A young boy who was riding home from a neighbor's cabin was thrown from his horse, which ran away. His boots were filled with water and by the time he reached home, only a short distance away, both boots were frozen fast to his feet. One man, riding across the prairie, realized he would not be able to reach the nearest settlement alive if he tried to push on. So he dismounted, killed his horse, dismembered it and crawled inside the warm body to escape the frigid wind. Weeks later passersby found his frozen body inside his icy tomb.

Later investigations of the "sudden change" showed that the icy blast had struck the Mississippi river settlements about ten o'clock in the morning. By three o'clock that afternoon it had reached central Illinois and by eleven o'clock Indianapolis was in its grip.



## Westerners Bookshelf



**The Size of the Risk**, by Leisl Carr Childers. University of Oklahoma Press, 2015. 314 pp. Maps, photos, notes, bibliography, index. Hardback with jacket, \$34.95.

This book is a history of the multiple uses of federal land in the Great Basin, primarily in Nevada. It documents the succession of disputes over who has priority use of the land.

The historical uses of the land were mining, timber harvesting, and grazing. But most of the disputes were caused by poorly defined grazing rights. The state originally controlled the allocation of water rights on the public land. These water rights sanctioned the ranchers' presence on the public lands. The locals preferred that the state manage the land, rather than Washington D.C. However, in the 1930s when the Great Depression caused a drop in livestock prices of fifty per cent and the drought devastated the grazing resources, many ranchers wanted and needed federal assistance. In 1934 the Taylor Grazing Act was passed which focused on regulating grazing. It was the first multiple-use tool for public land.

In the 1940s the nuclear testing program started and had a huge impact on the ranchers, due to the withdrawal of available grazing land and radiation fallout on them and their livestock. The military also established a large bombing range which eliminated more grazing land.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was formed in 1946 and would manage the majority of the land in the Great Basin. Any local control was lost.

The American public was becoming more environmentally aware and views were changing on how public land should be used. By the 1970s multiple use was a hectic and contested proposition. In addition to the historic use of the land, the public supported outdoor recreation, wildlife management, hunting, and wild horse preservation. The wild horse preservation law was passed in 1971 and a wild horse refuge was established which withdrew additional grazing land. Environmental laws were passed that impacted grazing rights and other uses. Additional laws were passed that conflicted with the Forest Service and BLM mandates to regulate public grazing land. There was much overlap and confusion and contention between the various federal agencies.

In 1986 Great Basin National Park was established which eliminated

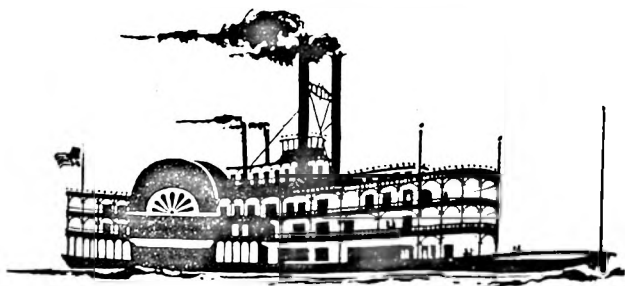
all multiple use of that land.

The author researched a multitude of documents and conducted oral family interviews. The very interesting family histories made me sympathetic to their situations. I found it difficult to follow the timeline for all the laws and understand who was in control of the resources. Also, a map of Nevada showing the counties would have been helpful in tracking the story.

The subject of multiple use is very complex and can be highly contested. The multiple uses are not always compatible; e.g., atomic bomb testing; but the use of the land is ultimately determined through political processes. I used to think multiple use was a good thing, but I'm not so sure now.

The book title was borrowed from a phrase used by atomic scientist Enrico Fermi who was instrumental in establishing the atomic test site in the Great Basin: the associated costs of multiple use constitute "The Size of the Risk."

*--Susie Morton, C.M.*



**Cass Hite, *The Life of an Old Prospector***, by James H. Knipmeyer, The University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2016, 269 pp, 161 illustrations, notes, bibliography, index, appendix "Trail of Sixty Snows." Cloth, \$36.95.

Cass Hite spent much of his life in the four corners area of the West. Over time he became associated with the Glen Canyon area of southwestern Utah where he would die in 1914. He became one of the colorful "characters" of the region. The "town" of Hite and its ferry crossing of the Colorado River in Utah were named for him. Hite is now a ghost town near the north end of Lake Powell and the ferry was replaced by a bridge a couple of miles downstream which carries UR 95 across the water. After Glen Canyon Dam was built and the town of Hite was flooded by Lake Powell Hite Marina would be built south of the former location of the ferry crossing.

*The Life of an Old Prospector* portrays the history of southwestern Utah over approximately thirty-five years from a refreshing perspective. It is a perspective this reviewer does not often see when reading histories of Southern Utah. Customarily histories of the region involve either a view of its early Native American inhabitants, river exploration and river runners, or a presentation of the heroic everyday activities of its Mormon colonists. *The Life of an Old Prospector* presents the regions history intertwined with and viewed through the travels, travails, experiences and everyday life of an itinerant non-Mormon prospector in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Cass Hite was an interesting individual. He was a classic opportunist of the late nineteenth century. He was a prospector who was also a postmaster and store keeper at Hite, Utah. He would engage in gunplay several times and was often referred to incorrectly as a hermit in his later years.

Whether you are interested in the history of southwestern Utah, mining, or the rivers of the West you will find *Cass Hite, The Life of an Old Prospector* to be of interest.

--Keith Fessenden, P. M.

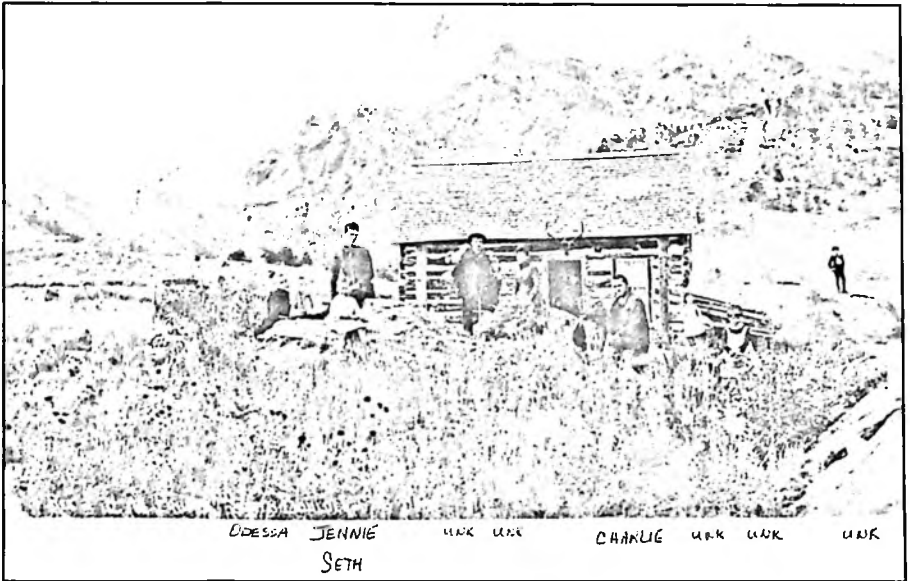






The DENVER WESTERNERS  
**ROUNDUP**

September - October 2016



The Pruden home, 1886

**The Pruden Family story, recounted by Cherry Moore, a  
Pruden great-granddaughter  
(presented May 25, 2016)**

# THE DENVER WESTERNERS ROUNDUP

VOL. LXXII NO. 5



September - October 2016

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## Submissions for *The Roundup*

Rick Barth (303) 838-6687  
 4646 Park County Rd. 72  
 Bailey, CO 80421

## Book Reviews

Ray Thal (303) 324-9483  
 2301 S. Holly Pl.  
 Denver, CO 80222

## Dues and Other Payments

Bill Anderson (303) 973-2489  
 11168 W. Ontario Ave.  
 Littleton, CO 80217

## Reservations for meetings

Bob Lane (303) 751-2717  
 9103 E. Eastman Pl.  
 Denver, CO 80231

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## Our Author

Cherry was born in Denver, Colorado and is a 3<sup>rd</sup>-generation Colorado native, thanks to her paternal Grandfather, Ted Moore, who was born on a sheep ranch in Byers, Colorado in 1881. Cherry graduated from CU Boulder in 1966, earned an MBA from Alabama A & M University in 1972, and spent most of her working career as a residential real estate appraiser in central Florida.

History was always a major interest of Cherry and her family and after her retirement and return to Colorado she volunteered to transcribe her paternal great grandmother Jennie Pruden's handwritten daily diaries which chronicled her life in Colorado from 1882 to 1945. Those diaries are the basis for the program presented.

The Eldorado ranch is still in family hands with one of Jennie's great-great-grandsons occupying the property.

## The Pruden Family story, recounted by Cherry Moore, a Pruden great-granddaughter (presented May 25, 2016)

This is the story of a pioneering family who came to Colorado in 1882. It's the story of my great-grandparents Jennie and Charlie Pruden and their life on a ranch near Eldorado Springs, in a cabin near Plainview, a few miles south, and finally in a home in San Diego, California during the Great Depression. Charlie was born in 1855 in Rapids City, Illinois and Jennie was born 200 miles west in 1858 in Avoca, Iowa. They married in 1881 and in 1882 Charlie and Jennie arrived in Colorado and settled initially in Golden. How did they meet, why did they come west and why Golden? We have to go back thirty years earlier in the family story to see the events and people that set the stage and background for the unfolding of this story.

We go back to 1851 and pick up the story of three families: the Prudens, the Barbers and the Rubys. two families, the David Prudens and the Jonas Barbers, move to Rapid City, Rock Island County, Illinois.

They go into the freight hauling business together as well as operating some grain mills. Rock Island County is on a curve of the Mississippi across the river from Buffalo (Davenport), Iowa. They meet the third family, the Rubys, who had moved to Buffalo, Iowa in 1840, ten years earlier, from New York to operate riverboats for the hauling of freight. The Rubys, Prudens and Barbers all start doing business together

moving freight. Prudens and Barbers moved the freight over land and the Rubys moved it on the river.

A look at the family trees shows David Pruden was Charlie Pruden's (our great grandfather) grandfather. He and his wife had ten children, two of which are important to us in our story: Lewis Seth and his sister Caroline. Warham Ruby was head of the Ruby family. He and his wife had six children and one of them is integral to our story, a daughter Amelia Maria. Jonas Barber is head of the Barber family and he and his wife had eight kids and he and one of his son's, Charles, are most important to our family story.

Fast forward to 1854 and we find that David Pruden's son, Lewis Seth, gets married to Amelia Maria Ruby of the riverboat Rubys and they settle in Rock Island near the rest of the family and concentrate on helping in the family businesses of operating grain and flour mills and hauling freight overland and on the river. All of the families prosper and business is good.

It is now 1860 and David Pruden passes away and his son Lewis Seth continues running the mills and hauling freight. Jonas Barber moves his family to Colorado, settles in Golden and helps found the city and also files pre-emption patents on land for cattle ranching in the Eldorado Springs area and encourages other relatives including his children



Jennie and Charlie

and cousins to settle there. Many do just that over the next twenty years.

In 1862 Jonas' son, Charles Barber, marries David Pruden's daughter and Lewis Seth's sister Caroline Pruden. They go to Colorado but don't stay and return to Illinois. So we now have the merger of the Prudens and the Rubys and the Barbers. The Barbers operate quite a few wagon trains (about 7) from Illinois to Colorado over the next twelve-to-fifteen years hauling freight and bringing settlers and other family members to the area. Incredibly there is reportedly no loss of life along the way and everyone arrives safely.

In 1868 Charles and Caroline Barber permanently move to Colorado and

settle near the other family members in Eldorado Springs. After they leave Lewis Seth moves his family 200 miles West to Macedonia, Iowa to operate a different mill and by 1879, his son Charlie has met and gets engaged to a local girl named Jennie Maude Hogan.

In 1880 Lewis Seth gets TB and comes to stay with his sister Caroline in Colorado to try and regain his health. He leaves his son, Charlie Pruden, in charge of running the mills. Charlie and Jennie get married in early 1881. Lewis Seth gets sicker and succumbs in April 1881, never having returned to Iowa.

In the spring of 1882 Charlie Pruden packs up his wife Jennie, infant daughter Odessa and widowed mother Amelia Ruby Pruden and they come to Colorado and settle in Golden so Charlie can work for his Dad's former business partner, Jonas Barber, in the freight-hauling business. They haul freight to the mining camps in the mountains, the farms and ranches along the front range and to and from many ranches and sheep ranches on the Eastern plains. In a side note it is sometime during this period that the Prudens and the Barbers start doing business with Charles Owens, a prominent sheep rancher east of Denver who will eventually employ Charlie's future son-in-law.

In 1884 Charlie Pruden scrapes some money together, executes three mortgages for a total of \$750 at 15% Interest, and purchases a 180-acre ranch near his Aunt Caroline Pruden Barber's home in Eldorado Springs. It had been homesteaded earlier by a Jonas Barber cousin. The improvements consisted of

a ditch crossing the property operated by Community Ditch Inc., some stone fences, a stone barn, three springs, hay fields and no house. Charlie and Jennie move into the stone barn (the equivalent of a rocky hillside soddy) and welcome a son Seth, and start building a small cabin to live in.



What was it like in the area at this time? There were still vestiges of Indian encampments on the mesa on the south side of the ranch where teepee rings are abundant and arrowheads and other remnants were frequently unearthed. They could have been left by the Cheyenne who most recently frequented this region or they could have been left by earlier visitors. There is no way to date these items but travelers along the Old North Trail, which ran from north of Calgary, Canada to Mexico City hugging the eastern edge of the Rockies, could easily have left the teepee rings and other items. The trail has been used for upwards of 15,000 years by indigenous peoples who traveled north and south and its use is found in the oral histories of many Indian tribes and in particular the stories recounted by the Blackfeet Tribes who populated western Montana and southern Canada near present day Glacier National Park.

According to legends the ONT "ran at a uniform distance from the mountains, keeping clear of the forest and just at the edge of the foothills". This conceivably puts the Old North Trail smack dab through and over Charlie's property.

### Teepee rings

Teepee rings, artifacts and other indicators have been found all along the path of the trail north and south of this location. A cache of prehistoric artifacts including about eighty tools, arrowheads, axes was found in 2007 in a backyard in the City of Boulder. One can easily envision these travelers camping on the mesa near Eldorado Springs. They could see for miles and easily view any hostiles coming their way. There are fresh-water springs halfway up the front of the mesa for water and the nearby springs in Eldorado were thought a sacred place by native peoples.

Back to our story: during the first two years at the ranch Charlie built a sturdy cabin near the old barn. They started ranching activities and since there was still a lot of fresh game including antelope, deer, elk and bighorn sheep who frequented the area they often went on hunting forays for fresh meat and they sunk an oil well in the east field. As can be seen from the photos the area had, by this time, been basically clear-cut to provide timber for all types of construction including homes, stores, mining



Hauling freight

interests and other uses with a lot of the timber being freighted out to the rapidly growing areas surrounding Denver.

All the neighbors got together and built a one-room schoolhouse for the local kids and around 1888 they begin work on the permanent ranch house, building it in stages. Charlie is hired to maintain the ditch and keep water flowing. He also starts working in photography with J.B. Sturdevant, a prominent local photographer. In 1890 they move into the permanent ranch house and he adds on a darkroom, and Amelia Maria, Charlie's mother, homesteads a cabin on 160 acres two miles North of the ranch which she lives in for the next seventeen years.

The family is involved in all the different activities necessary to run the ranch,

maintain the land and the buildings, provide food, barter their meat and produce, interact socially with the other residents and help build a school for the kids and board the teacher. They raise animals, grow a large garden, have milk cows and pigs and sheep and chickens. They continue to routinely hunt deer, elk and mountain sheep which are still common in the foothills nearby. One summer

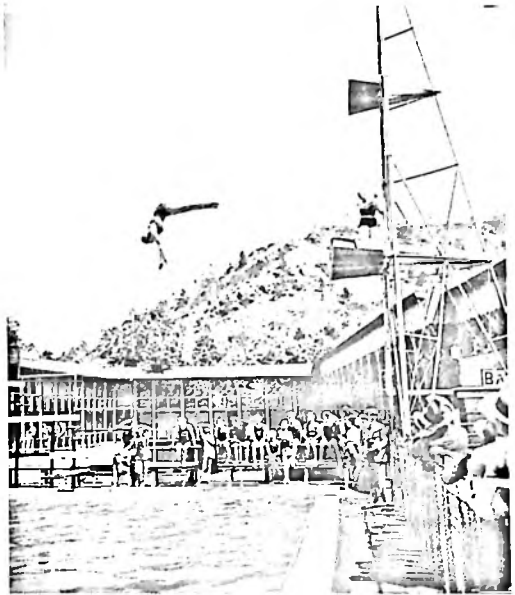
they plant about 120 fruit trees of various kinds near the house and barn. Jennie has a knack for beekeeping and hives natural colonies into domestic hives harvesting and selling the honey that was produced.

Besides all this in 1895 Charlie is hired as road overseer, he and eleven-year-old Seth work on road maintenance and go to Sunshine on mining forays. They work with the Kneale's, helping construct and operate a saw mill on South Boulder Creek which provides lumber all around the Boulder area. Most of the photos of the time show how denuded the area is of trees and they eventually move further up the canyon for sources of logs.

In 1896 the house burns to the ground, they lose all the contents but luckily no one is hurt. They start the rebuilding

process and move back in during 1898 after the house is rebuilt and ranching duties continue as does bartering of produce with neighbors and the store in town. Gardening, haying, mowing, milking, butter making, cutting ice for the ice house, slaughtering cattle and chicken and pigs, canning food, sewing and mending, repairing tools, collecting coal, chopping firewood, hauling freight all are on-going. Odessa graduates from high school and after a few years goes to work as domestic help at Charles Owens' ranch and meets future husband Ted Moore.

At the turn of the century a typical day for Jennie would consist of some or all of the following activities after getting up. She would milk the cows, churn the butter, collect eggs, cook breakfast, collect the honey then hitch up the wagon. She would go to Boulder and sell or trade the milk, butter, honey and produce at the general store and purchase the flour, sugar, coffee that they need, and return home to make lunch. Then she might tend the garden and the orchard, do the laundry by hand then cook dinner. In the evening she would sew or mend or darn socks and perhaps do some reading if there was some time before retiring for the night. She might accompany Charlie on one of his hunts for deer or elk or go to call on her neighbor ladies. She also had the house-cleaning duties and seeing her children off to school. She sometimes helped Charlie on his ditch maintenance duties and assisted in haying, mowing and harvesting the grain and other field crops.



Eldorado Resort

All of this was done with no electricity as there was only kerosene or oil for lighting. There was a wood stove for cooking and some heat in addition to the fireplace. All the water was hauled to the house from the springs up near the old stone barn. There was a privy as they had no indoor plumbing. All transportation was via foot, horseback, horse and wagon, or horse and sled in the winter.

Both Charlie and Jennie were well read and enjoyed classics as well as novels and nonfiction. I have not been able to determine if either Jennie or Charlie completed high school or any college but they certainly were educated. Some of the main social activities of the time were dances and picnics. They would be held at the school and were always well attended. At that time the school



Plainview Post Office

was a local affair, built by the community with the teacher being hired and paid for by the local ranchers and usually boarded by one of the families. The school term was about six months long at this point.

By January 1902, survey work is started for construction of the Moffat Road and eighteen-year-old Seth is hired as surveyor's assistant. One of the difficulties the builders of the road faced was how to supply food and materials to the workers. This provided a great entrepreneurial opportunity for Jennie and Charlie. The ranch was in close physical proximity to the construction sites, Charlie had access to wagons and knew how to haul freight and they had animals, garden stuffs, milk, eggs, butter, etc. They rose to the occasion and did a lot of business during the two-and-a-half years of surveying and construction.

While Charlie was hauling the freight Jennie turned the ranch into a boarding house for engineers and surveyors and other workers. In addition to all the activities we have already noted Jennie now had lots more meals to cook and lots more laundry to do.

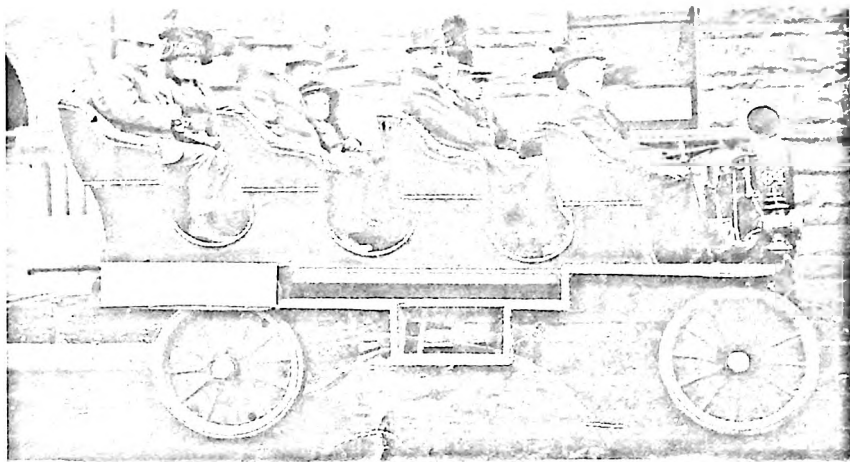
Charlie did run a water line from the upper springs to the ranch house and in 1903 they added a bathroom and installed a bathtub and the next year added a hot-water tank. Odessa returns to work at Owens Ranch and Jennie and Charlie hitch up the wagon to go to Byers to visit. While visiting there all the group goes by wagon back to Denver to attend a rally being held by Teddy Roosevelt on the topic of "Water in the West," a topic just as important then as now. They meet Ted Moore, one of Charles Owen's employees soon to become Odessa's fiancé.

A very sad event occurs in June 1903 when Seth suffers a fatal heart attack during his hike up the mountain to go to work. It seemed he had a congenital heart defect which was unknown and too late he was found slumped by the side of the trail.

In June of 1904 the first train runs on the Moffat Road from Utah Junction in Denver to Tolland. The boarding house business and hauling for the railroad winds down and life returns to the slower pace of preconstruction time. But a new business opportunity is looming on the horizon with plans for the Eldorado Resort being formulated. Telephone lines are being run and electric poles are going up around the area including near the Pruden's Ranch. Jennie cranks



20



### First car ride

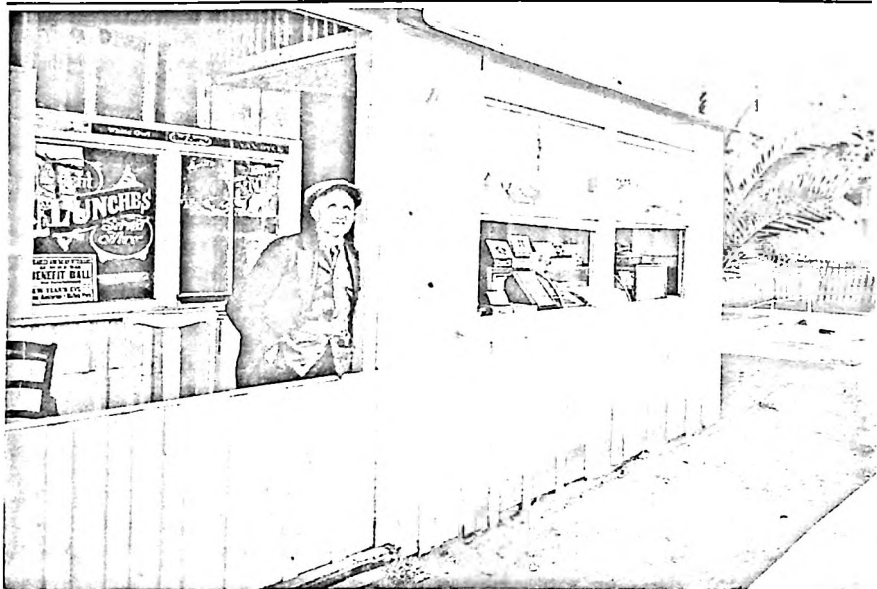
up her boarding house duties again to accommodate the telephone and electric workers.

They go to Eldorado Springs to attend the opening in July 1905 of the Eldorado Resort and Pool. There are a hotel and a tent city, and small cabins spring up to house the visitors during the summer months. Jennie starts a cabin and tent rental business at the resort where they own some and manage some for other owners. She is busy keeping them rented and cleaning between tenants again amongst her regular ranch duties. They maintain this rental business for about seven years.

In June 1906 Ted and Odessa marry at the ranch and settle in Byers where Ted is a ranch hand and Odessa a domestic. Mr. Owens divest himself of his land holdings at the end of the year so Ted

and Odessa move back to the ranch and pick up some of the ranch duties from Jennie and Charlie and in mid-1907 Charlie's Mother Amelia moves to San Diego and remarries.

Jennie and Charlie have been living in Eldorado Springs area for 24 years and have steadily been experiencing an improvement in the lifestyle from living in a barn to a house with running water, indoor plumbing, telephone and electricity, and in 1908 they install a furnace in the basement and close up the smoky fireplace (which never did draw properly). Charlie adds another activity to his jobs as he gets a Post Office Patent for the Hawthorne P.O. and opens a combo P.O. and convenience store next to the entry gate at the resort. The first trains on the Interurban start running from Denver to Boulder with a spur line to the Eldorado Resort. This greatly



Charlie's store, San Diego

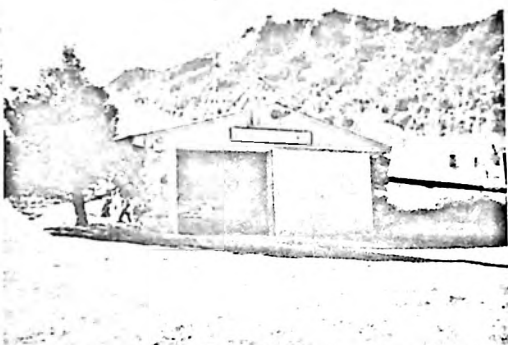
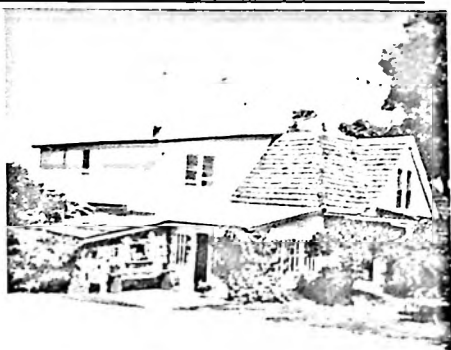
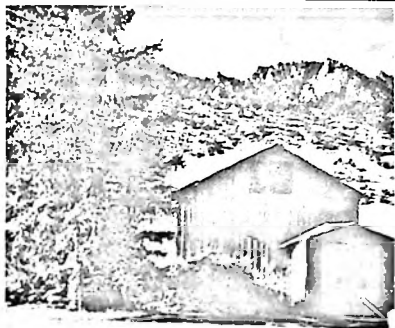
improves their trips to and from town as they can catch the streetcar rather than having to saddle a horse or hitch up the horse and wagon and going to Denver is a piece of cake. Even though it only runs in the summer it is a great time-saving improvement.

Since Ted and Odessa have taken over some of the ranching activities Jennie and Charlie take a trip to San Diego via train, to visit Charlie's mother. They take a side trip to the Grand Canyon and Jennie declares it to be "the grandest site she has ever seen."

In January 1909 Charlie and Jennie welcome their grand-daughter Katherine and Charlie files a homestead claim on a 160-acre parcel near Plainview and files for another Post Office patent for the Plainview stop on the Moffat

Railroad Road Line. Charlie laid out plans for an Eldorado-style resort to be located at the Plainview RR stop. He worked hard to get investors and sell lots but it never got off the ground. For the next five years Jennie and Charlie split their time between the Plainview Post Office, the "Subdivision," working on the homestead cabin, helping Ted and Odessa back at the ranch and running the Eldorado Post Office. grand-daughter Katherine routinely rides her horse "Punch" back and forth from the ranch to the homestead with no worries as he knew the trail very well.

A huge blizzard occurs in December 1913 with six-foot-deep snow drifts and they have to hitch up the horses and pull sleds to get hay to their stranded livestock. Their grandson Charles arrives at the height of this storm but



The ranch today

all goes well and he does just fine and sprouts quickly. Ted has started work as a lineman for the power company, patrolling the line from Boulder to Leyden. With a steady source of income coming in to run the ranch Jennie and Charlie begin to plan for a less strenuous life and begin to turn over ranching duties more and more to Ted and Odessa.

In 1915 Jennie describes her first ride in a machine, her name for a car, and Charlie soon after purchases their first Ford.

In 1916 Jennie and Charlie turn over the Plainview post office and store to

a new owner as well as the homestead property and let go of the subdivision and went back to the ranch full-time. They now have more leisure time and enjoy going to Denver to visit friends and family. They visit their daughter Odessa's mother-in-law in Denver, who is housekeeper to Mr. Owens. Charlie's two sisters live in Denver and two of Jennie's sisters and three of her brothers live near Colorado Springs. They make a trip back to Iowa to visit Jennie's other two sisters who never made the move west.

Charlie was a Mason and a member of IOOF and Jennie was in Eastern Star and they enjoy participating in these ac-

tivities and were active in local politics as well. "Moving pictures" have come on the scene and Jennie particularly enjoyed attending. Her favorite performer was Douglass Fairbanks whom she called "a fine specimen."

In 1917 Charlie comes home in the fall with a vehicle with a camping trailer in tow. We don't have a photo of this rig but it must have looked somewhat like a modified chuck-wagon-type arrangement and on October 1 Jennie and Charlie set out on their first automobile trip to San Diego in their camping rig. It took them four weeks to get there and thirty-three flat tires. They had to get out and push to get over the top of Raton Pass, broke an axle on the trailer near Wagon Mound and broke the springs near Needles. Luckily the weather cooperated and they didn't encounter snow.

World War I is cranked up and some of their neighbors and their kids are called on to serve but no one directly from Charlie and Jennie's family.

Jennie and Charlie were among some of the first "snowbirds" from Colorado to go back and forth between a warm climate in winter and a cool climate in summer. San Diego became a very popular place for these snowbirds and well over one-third of the population there in the 1920's and 1930's were snowbird transplants from all over the country. Quite a few of the folks from Eldorado Springs and Boulder who were friends and neighbors of Jennie and Charlie went to San Diego also and all these folks socialized frequently while in California. Jennie and Charlie

eventually moved to San Diego permanently in 1926, opened another store, and stayed there, with only yearly visits back to Colorado until 1940.

During the Depression years Jennie and Charlie and lots of their snowbird friends joined together to lobby Congress and President Roosevelt for the "Townsend Plan" which was a taxpayer funded old-age pension. The plan was to levy a national sales tax to provide all over sixty a \$200-a-month pension. A pretty princely sum at that time. Actually Townsend was running a Ponzi scheme on the old folks. He charged them a fee to join then they had to sell a certain number of newsletters a month and draft new people at a fee. The old folks were duped and no pension plan was passed. Eventually Social Security was implemented after Townsend was run out of town on a rail. Learning that "my great-grandfather was a socialist activist and a dupe was quite shocking." In mid-1940, at age eighty-five, Charlie succumbed to stomach cancer and Jennie then returned to the ranch only to find her daughter Odessa quite ill. Odessa passed away in December 1940 leaving Ted and Jennie to run the ranch which they do for five more years till Jennie passed in January 1946.

She was quite active physically up until just a few months before she died at age eighty-three. She continued to do a large part of the housekeeping and gardening and farm chores albeit at a slower pace. During World War II they had a Victory Garden and curiously had a visit from the "Garden Inspector" ensuring that the free seeds they had received were actually being "correctly

used." Ted, being a critical worker, got extra gas ration points and he became the defacto transportation service for all the neighbors as no one else had gas. Many of the local men went to war and Charlie's grand-nephew was taken POW in the Phillippines in 1942 and was captive until Spring 1945. Fortunately he survived and returned home.

All in all it was quite a life from being 1882 pioneers coming west to snowbird retirees in sunny California some sixty years later. The Eldorado Ranch is now occupied by one of Charlie's great-great grandsons, Gordon Johnson, Cherry's second cousin.

## Sources

Books, newspapers and other information studied in research for Moore-Pruden family history

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*Denver Daily Tribune*

*The Denver, Northwestern and Pacific Railroad* by Powers, Russell

*David Moffat's Denver, Northwestern and Pacific* by P.R. Bob Griswold

*The Denver, Northern and Pacific "The Moffat Road"* by P.R. Bob Griswold

*The Moffat Road* by Edward T. Bollinger and Frederick Bauer

*The Kite Route Story of the Denver and Interurban Railroad* by William C. Jones and Noel Holley

*Only In Boulder: The County's Colorful*

*Characters* by Silvia Patten

*Coal Creek Canyon Colorado Tales from Times Past* by Vicki Moran

*Deer Trail 1869 Rodeo Centennial 1969 The Colorful Past Lives On* by The Deer Trail Pioneer Historical Society

*Our Side of The Mountain* by Emma Michell

*Colorado Prairie Towns* by Susan Eldringhoff and the Deer Trail Pioneer Historical Society

*Up the Smoky Hill Trail in 1867: with an Oxen Drawn Wagon* by Leslie Linville

*The Smoky Hill Trail: Following the Old Historic Pioneer Trails on the Modern Highways* by Margaret Long

*The First Five Years of The Railroad Era in Colorado* by E.O. Davis

*A Glimpse at Eldorado's Colorful Past* by Joanna Sampson

*High, Wild and Handsome* by Joanna Sampson

*A Family Moves West* by Joy Barber Mintzer

Carnegie Branch of Boulder Public Library numerous photos, papers, documents relating to early Eldorado Springs history

Oral history tapes from Carnegie Library Barber, Chesebro, Fowler, Kneale, Shanahan, Robinson, Moore

and DVD's of Richard Fox and Helen Kneale

Conversations with some of Jennie's descendants

Jennie Maude Hogan Pruden's personal handwritten daily diaries written in 1891 through 1945. Transcribed by her great-granddaughter Cherry Moore in 2012 and 2013

Numerous family birth certificates, death certificates, homestead application records, real estate transactions, deeds, mortgages, naturalization records, national archives records, many different city and county public records, wills, probate records, school records and diplomas and certificates, other miscellaneous sources as well as numerous trips to the Denver Public Library, History Colorado, numerous cemeteries, Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum and Comanche Crossing Museum.

Many, websites and their links including but not limited to Ancestry, Fold3 Military Records, Find A Grave and Newspapers.com

Heroes, Villains, Dames and Disasters; 150 years of Front Page Stories from the Rocky Mountain News by Michael Madigan

*1000 Inventions That Changed The World* by Jack Challoner

*In Their Time; A Timeline Journal for placing family events into historical context* by Roger L Dudley

*The Old North Trail: Legends and Reli-*

*gion of the Blackfeet Indians* by Walter McClintock

*Alberta History: The Old North Trail (Cree Trail) – 15,000 years of Indian History – Prehistoric to 1750* by Joachim Fromhold

Jennie's great-granddaughter Cherry Moore can be reached via email at [cherry.moore@att.net](mailto:cherry.moore@att.net)



# Over the Corral Rail

*Compiled by Ed Bathke, P.M. Please submit your items of news, etc. to Ed. Deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the first month in the date of publication.*

## October Westerners Presentations

Boulder County Corral Sheriff Bill Johnson spoke to the corral about "The San Juan Mountains: Geology, Route-finding and Survival – Fremont, Packer, and Marshall." The unique geology of the San Juans has confounded many, and in some cases led to tragic outcomes for those attempting to traverse its beautiful but sometimes maze-like quality.

The Colorado Corral presentation was "Sisters of Courage – Women Homesteaders at Grand Lake," by Dave Lively. The Harbison sisters, homesteading in the Kawuneeche Valley near Grand Lake, led an extraordinary life. Their homestead is now the west entrance of Rocky Mountain National Park. Dave is a "Certified Interpretive Guide" (one of 10,000 in the U. S.) and a dynamic speaker. His specialties in Colorado history are demonstrated by Dave's offices of President of Historic Fraser, Past President of the Grand Lake Historical Society, and Past Chairman of the Grand County Historic Preservation Board.

The Pikes Peak Posse heard member Eric Swab's "From Utility to Attraction, the History of the Manitou Incline." The Manitou Incline began in 1907 as a cable tram, hauling pipes for construction of a line from Englemann Canyon to the Manitou Hydroelectric Plant. Subsequently it became a popular tourist attraction with spectacular views in open cars on a three-foot narrow-gauge funicular. After its closure in 1990, the incline has become a challenging, controversial, but incredibly popular hiking trail. Eric is the author of a book titled as his presentation. His fascination with the historic human activity surrounding Pikes Peak include the Fremont Experimental Forest and the Skelton Mountain Ranch.

## Denver Posse mourns loss of member Rod Greiner

Rodney Greiner passed away on Oct. 5. He began life in Crawford, Nebraska at the beginning of the Great Depression. Rod moved to Denver, got married, built his home, and raised a family. Many of us know him as an investment advisor and financial planner, but he led a fascinating and varied life, as a boat builder and worldwide sailor, and as the philanthropist founder of the American Zang Education Preservation Foundation. His most outstanding accomplishment in Western history endeavors was the purchase and restoration, and then completion of Colorado Historic Landmark designation of the Adolph Zang Mansion. Furthermore, Rod documented his own history in his book *Our Good Fortune, Memoirs of Red Greiner*.

Rod provided an entertaining atmosphere to the meetings of the Denver Westerners with his witty comments, and his multi-talented demonstrations including harmonic playing and yo-yo exhibitions. Rod's boots will be hard to fill at the Denver Posse corral gatherings.







## Westerners Bookshelf



**Ancient Galleries of Cedar Mesa**, Photographs by Dave Manley, Introduction by Benjamin A. Bellorado, Canyonlands Natural History Association, 2016, 107 pages, numerous photographs, paperback, \$21.99.

As an avid Rock Art researcher I have visited and photographed many of the sites in *Ancient Galleries of Cedar Mesa*. I was fortunate enough to visit many with Dave and other members of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association. To my chagrin none of my photos have captured the essence of Southeastern Utah or the rock art panels with the skill and beauty found in Dave Manley's photographs.

This volume begins with Benjamin Bellorado's eight-page introduction which discusses and explains the people who lived in the Cedar Mesa area and their rock art. It addresses the interpretation and dating of rock art and, specifically, the rock art found in the Greater Cedar Mesa area, intertwining the rock art with the evolution of the cultures of the area.

Following the introduction Dave Manley presents the photographs along with a short discussion of photographing rock art and rock arts interpretation. Both Dave and Benjamin's articles are interspersed with rock art photographs.

Now we get to dessert, the reason this volume caught your eye and why you picked the book up, ninety pages of superb photographs. The photos of rock art include photographs of historical Ute, Ancestral Pueblo, Archaic, Glen Canyon Linear, and Basketmaker glyphs. Occasionally photos of dwellings and the Cedar Mesa area are interspersed. Especially intriguing photos include a historical Ute glyph with a possible depiction of a Spanish conquistador, an Ancestral Pueblo depiction of a crane, and several Basketmaker panels.

The volume ends with a discussion of how to protect rock art sites when you visit them. This volume is an excellent introduction to the beauty of and fascination of rock art.

--Keith Fessenden, P.M.

**Ned Wynkoop and the Lonely Road From Sand Creek**, by Louis Kraft. University of Oklahoma Press: Norman, 2015. Paperback, 335 pp. Maps, photos, endnotes, bibliography and index, \$19.95.

Edward Wynkoop's name is legendary in the history of Colorado and especially in regard to his involvement leading up to the "Massacre" at Sand Creek on November 29, 1864. His attempts (to gain peace between the settlers and the Native Americans) have been in countless books.

Using a draft of Edward Wynkoop's unpublished autobiography written in 1876, his scrapbook at the Chavez Historical Library at the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the Wynkoop family, and material from numerous archives, Louis Kraft has done an impressive job of researching the man as well as the time.

Edward Wynkoop was born on June 19, 1836, in Pennsylvania to John and Angeline Wynkoop. He was the last of seven children. Although his father had been prosperous, he suffered financial losses and died on July 1, 1837. Edward was barely a year old and his mother was the sole provider. His brothers and sisters (who adored him) called him Neddy. As he matured his friends called him Ned or Ed. He excelled at school, was well spoken and "stood out in any crowd...he was six-foot-three-inches tall, broad shouldered and athletically built."

When he was twenty years old his sister Emily encouraged him to go to LeCompton, Kansas Territory. He developed his survival skills, fought border ruffians and worked in the land office, which later moved to Paola.

Rumors of gold in the Rocky Mountains sparked his interest and he became involved in developing a land company in the gold region after which James W. Denver appointed Ned Sheriff of Arapahoe County. They were to establish a town site and sell lots. It was during this trip that Ned had his first real encounter with Native Americans. After a long night (fearing that bands of Kiowa and Comanches were going to attack them) morning light revealed that they had left without a fight. Years later Ned Wynkoop stated: "they are not the first to precipitate a war and whenever Indian hostilities have taken place war has been forced upon them by the action of the whites."

Much more is revealed about the man who sought peace by disobeying his superiors and arranging the meeting at Camp Weld prior to the Massacre at Sand Creek. I highly recommend this book as enjoyable as well as loaded with information about a man who will forever be a part of Colorado's history.

--LaVonne J. Perkins, P.M.

**Mapping the Four Corners, Narrating the Hayden Survey of 1875**, by Robert S McPherson and Susan Rhoades Neel. University of Oklahoma Press, 2016. 284 pages. Maps, photos, illustrations, index and footnotes. Hardbound with dust jacket, \$29.95.

Many Americans have heard of the Hayden Survey. It was one of several surveys sent out to explore, map, and catalog the western US after the Civil War. The products of these included maps, geological assessments, archeological and botanical surveys, and other scientific data.

What made this particular expedition different was friction with the Native Americans. The Utes entered the post-war era with rights to the western third of Colorado. In less than twenty years, they were almost entirely squeezed out. By 1885 they were left with reservations in the far southwest corner of Colorado and in east central Utah.

The knowledge and public awareness brought by this survey hastened that process. South of the LaSal Mountains, between present-day Moab and Monticello, two survey parties joined forces as they were attacked by Indians. The running battle lasted two days. Chief Ouray labeled the attackers a band of criminal renegades. The Americans escaped with loss of equipment and some animals, but no people. There were political recriminations. Hayden was not helped by the publicity as he sought funding and to gain control of all western surveys. Ultimately the USGS was formed to consolidate the efforts, but Hayden was passed over as its head.

The authors tapped reports, diaries, and newspaper accounts of the participants. W. H Jackson was one; his photos and drawings give interesting context. This book is based on real and personal accounts. It sheds light on little studied facets of one of the major western surveys. The book is an entertaining and worthwhile read.

*--Stan Moore, P.M.*

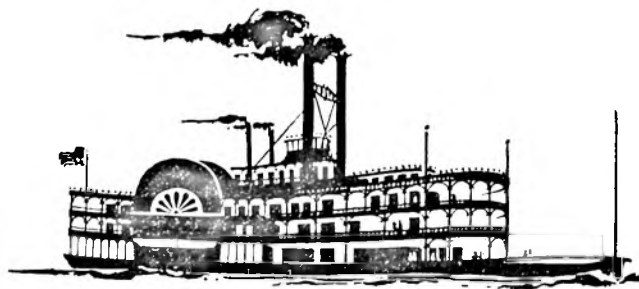
**Denver Landmarks & Historic Districts, Second Edition**, by Thomas J. Noel and Nicholas J. Wharton. University Press of Colorado, 2016. 197 pages, maps, photos, index. Paperback, \$26.95.

This book should appeal to anyone interested in the what and where of Denver Landmarks. It covers buildings as diverse as the Daniels and Fisher Tower on 16th Street to Fire Station No. 14 at 1028 Clayton Street. There are descriptions in concise language of 333 Landmarks as well as 51 Historic Districts.

As someone preoccupied with the brick-and-mortar side of Denver history, I would keep this volume as a handy reference tool to consult time and time again. Included with the descriptions of the various buildings are dates of construction, names of architects, the addresses and enough history to motivate further research.

The two-column-per-page format makes for an effortless read. The entire layout from cover photo of the Voories Memorial to the bibliography looks clean and professional. There are more than 150 photos and several maps to aid in locating each landmark and historic district. This second edition is updated from 1996 and contains eighty-three new landmarks and twenty-three more historic districts. There are also new and updated photos and text.

*--Robert Mulvihill*





*The* DENVER WESTERNERS  
**ROUNDUP**

November - December 2016



**The Colorado Mountain Club and the Gore Range**  
by Stan Moore, P.M.



## Our Author

Stan Moore is a husband, father, and grandfather; a third generation Coloradan; an author and historian; a Vietnam veteran; a retired small business owner; and an avid mountaineer, backpacker and desert rat.

He is an officer of the Denver Posse of Westerners, a trip leader for the Colorado Mountain Club, is active in several authors groups, and is a volunteer blacksmith at Clear Creek Historical Park in Golden.

He and his longtime wife make their home near Denver with two cats who let them stay there.

# THE DENVER WESTERNERS ROUNDUP

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Rick Barth (303) 838-6687  
 4646 Park County Rd. 72  
 Bailey, CO 80421

### Book Reviews

Ray Thal (303) 324-9483  
 2301 S. Holly Pl.  
 Denver, CO 80222

### Dues and Other Payments

Bill Anderson (303) 973-2489  
 11168 W. Ontario Ave  
 Littleton, CO 80217

### Reservations for meetings

Bob Lane (303) 751-2717  
 9103 E. Eastman Pl.  
 Denver, CO 80231

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## The Colorado Mountain Club and the Gore Range by Stan Moore, P.M.

The Colorado Mountain Club (CMC) 1935 summer outing was unique. It was one of the last home-grown, self-funded mountain exploration expeditions of the era. It was also virtually the last such effort to attain significant mountaineering feats in the lower 48.

By the mid-1930s there were few unexplored places and unclimbed peaks anywhere in Colorado.

Colorado's mountains have been tramped over and lived in for thousands of years. Of course the typical Native American was more interested in finding food and shelter than in bagging summits. That said, some mountain climbing was likely done by early Coloradans. There were early reports of a blind – a covered stone shelter in which a person could hide to surprise and catch eagles or other birds – atop Longs Peak.

After the Native Americans but before the miners, fur trappers and the traders who supplied them explored the West. They went into or knew of most every valley and drainage in the western US and Canada. Any valley with enough flowing water to sustain beaver was likely visited and known by some mountain man.

Be that as it may, Colorado's mountains were not explored and documented thoroughly until after 1850. Systematic understanding of mountain geography started when men walked the Rockies'

valleys and ridges. They searched not to categorize and map the land, but for mineral outcroppings. In this process, many of the state's peaks were climbed. Sometimes they were climbed to pursue ore on the peak, sometimes to get an overview of outcroppings the next valley over.

This is especially true of the mountains and valleys in the mineral belt. This geologic phenomenon ranges diagonally across the state. It runs from Durango and Telluride, veering north-east to Monarch Pass and Aspen, then up into Gold Hill and Nederland in Boulder County. It varies in width from ten to fifty or sixty miles wide. The geology gods smiled on this mountainous section. Ores rich with gold, silver, molybdenum, tungsten, and many other precious and rare minerals are to be had here.

Miners and prospectors exhaustively walked every peak and valley in and near this mineralized extravaganza. They also took at least passing looks at other ranges and areas. Mount Zirkel, the Rabbit Ears Range, northern Front Range, Sangre De Cristos, Flat Tops, South San Juans...all got a going over by prospectors seeking the big strike. A few of these sites yielded short lived dabs of placer gold, but none provided lasting pay dirt or paying ore. The Cripple Creek area is the exception, an ore-rich volcanic area outside the mineral belt. It is best explained by a geologist.



Government survey teams completed comprehensive maps of the ranges and valleys.

Colorado's Gore Range is named after a British nobleman who "hunted" in the West. That is, he had game driven to him so he could shoot from his wagon. He harvested virtually none of the meat, rather left it to rot. The rich Irishman was in the West from 1854-56 but never in the range bearing his name.

The Gore Range is close to but mostly outside the mineral belt. The south end is not far from Breckenridge, just north of where the towns of Kokomo, a silver camp settled in 1879, and Pando, which had a post office in 1891, were. They are now buried under tailings from the Climax molybdenum mine.

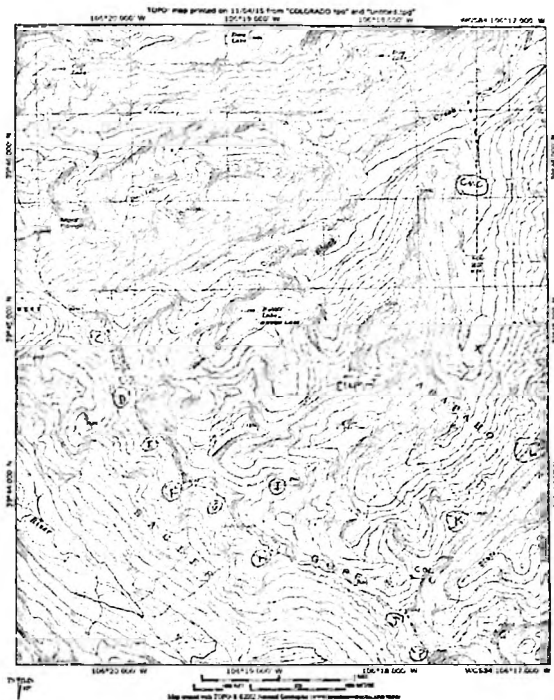
The mountains of the Gore run about thirty miles north, ending just south of the Colorado River. Its north tip is southwest of Kremmling, southeast of Hot Sulphur Springs. The array of mountains varies from five to fifteen miles wide.

The topography of the range is craggy and harsh. It has narrow, steep-sided valleys. Even for Colorado, its land is rugged and rocky. Access was difficult enough that it was never developed. The few prospectors who went in saw scant reason to return much less remain. They wasted little time there. There is one assay pit on Red Mountain, near the south end. And the Boss Mine on Keller Mountain, in the east side of the central range, actually got to the point of producing a few tailings. It was abandoned long ago. There may have been other efforts at mining but evidence or ruins are not to be seen. Local people asked and records consulted mention nothing of consequence.

Nor was the range logged for fuel, railroad ties or mining timbers. Nearby areas are relatively more open and gentle. The Williams Fork Range to the east, the Front Range to the southeast, and Ten Mile Range to the south have more rounded summits and valleys that are relatively open and navigable. Those ranges were explored for minerals and were also logged to some extent.

The Gore sat, idle and unexplored. Desultory attempts were made to pierce the range in the 1860s and 70s. As mentioned above, they turned up no evidence of mineralization or other economic viability. With the rich results in





the man who filled in many blank spaces on the U.S. map; the man who came to know American Indians like few others, one of the few Europeans to do so; and father of the U.S. Geological Survey. Powell's name brings to mind first descents, not first ascents.

Before his river and ethnology achievements, Powell was an entrepreneurial naturalist-explorer. The young veteran had some contacts in government and was building influence and fundraising skills. The summer before he burst on the national scene as river boatman extraordinaire, he was in Colorado. That summer, 1868, he led a group of amateur scientists, some uni-

Breckenridge, Montezuma, Leadville, the Ten Mile District, and other nearby fields, people lost interest. Its mountains and valleys remained undisturbed and virtually immune to penetration. Its defenses were simply more than anyone wanted to take on. The rocky jumble of valleys and sharp peaks enjoyed this lofty peace for many years even as mining, tourism, ranching and railroad development occurred all around it.

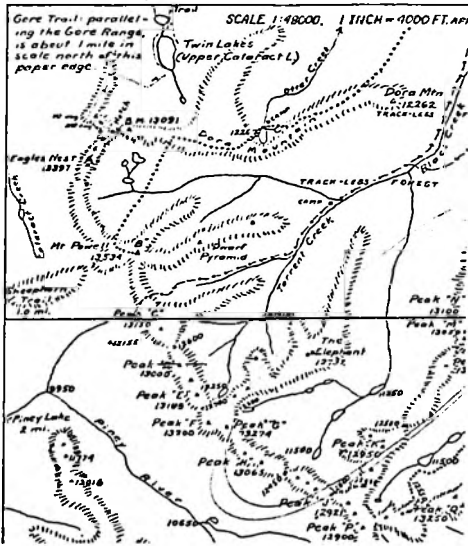
There was an exception to this regal solitude. Not surprisingly, it involved Major John Wesley Powell.

Powell is not remembered as a mountaineer. He is thought of the one-armed survivor of Shiloh; the man who led the exploration of the Colorado River;

his wife and a brother out west. He had a small budget; most of the participants were volunteers. The expedition hired a guide and made camp atop Berthoud Pass. There they collected specimens, took temperature and barometric pressure readings, and undertook general scientific observations and activities. More importantly, they got the lay of the land. With a little time many of them learned to get by in the wild; a few even became comfortable.

One of the mountain men hired as a guide, Jack Sumner, was himself well connected. Sumner was married to the sister of William Byers. Byers was well known in the region, being a Denver

Map of a Portion of the Gore



they proclaimed themselves the first men to stand on the flat, multi-acre summit. They were certainly the first Europeans to do so and leave a record.

A month later, Powell climbed a prominent peak in the northern "Eagle River Range," what we now know as the Gore Range. On September 26 he and his party stood atop the biggest mountain they could find. At 13,534' above sea level, it is in fact the highest mountain in the range. It was unnamed. Their approach was from the east, the Blue River side. Probably they came up Black Creek. The exact route is unknown.

civic leader and publisher of the *Rocky Mountain News*. He also owned a ranch near Hot Sulphur Springs and knew Middle Park well.

Longs Peak dominates northeast Colorado. Its summit lies 14,255 feet above sea level. The peak regally sits surrounded by lower but equally craggy summits in what is now Rocky Mountain National Park. Of course the Park was not even a gleam in a naturalist's eye, being almost fifty years in the future.

Late that summer of 1868, Powell, Byers, Sumner, and some others set out from the ranch. Their goal: to scale Longs Peak. They approached from the west, through rough country east of Grand Lake, over the continental divide and into what is now known as Wild Basin. From there they went north to the peak. On August 23 they got to the top. Seeing no evidence of others,

The party included some of the people from his scientific exploration expedition including a student named Ned Farrell. Byers did not participate. On the summit, they left evidence of their ascent. They deposited papers with names and the date, stashed in a cocoa tin under a cairn. Someone other than Major Powell inserted a biscuit. Apparently the Major's biscuits were of quite a dense and stomach-filling nature. One of the members thought a specimen should be included for posterity. The Major did not see the humor in leaving such a relic. To his credit he looked the other way when they added it under the cairn.

Mount Powell was next climbed in 1873. A party from the Hayden Survey got to the top on August 28. They approached from a different direction. The group came in from the west, via Piney Lake. This is the standard route today.



The Hayden party found the tin with Powell's register and the desiccated biscuit. To this tin they added their own paper register with dates and names. They recorded no words on the fate of the biscuit.

The peak was listed as Mount Powell in the *Hayden Survey Atlas* of 1877. Perhaps seeing that Powell had preceded them was the reason for the name.

Some other peaks in the range were climbed in that era. Among them were Eagle's Nest, Peak C, Little Powell (actually Mt Guyselmann, named after a local rancher) on the range's north end, and Red Peak, Buffalo Peak, and Mount Uneva on the south end.

By the early 1930s, mountains in the continental US had been pretty much explored and the high points climbed. There were a few exceptions, most isolated and far from roads, railroads, and

towns. The Gore Range was probably the last area near a major population center and transport grid which offered a number of unclimbed peaks, not just virgin routes, but unclimbed peaks.

The Colorado Mountain Club has a long history of climbing, exploring and preserving mountains. The Club and its members were instrumental in the formation of Rocky Mountain National Park. From its inception in 1912 to the present day it has been a leading mountaineering and conservation organization.

The club has sent and continues to send climbing and hiking trips all over the world. However, the list of actual first ascents by club members is short. This is simply because it was founded relatively late. By the early 1900s, as we saw earlier, most ranges in the region had been explored and the principal peaks climbed. By then, mountaineers



A fragment of the register signed by Powell and his party on Mt. Powell in 1868

were starting to penetrate the Himalaya and the Andes in search of untrodden summits.

The CMC has traditionally put on a summer outing, a week or two-week-long trip to a specific area, to climb hike and enjoy. In the twenty-first century this involves car camping and day hikes. In earlier years, with limited access and fewer people, these outings were more exploratory and expeditionary in nature.

The 1935 CMC summer outing, it was decided, would go to the Gore Range. The Gore was chosen precisely because of its numerous unclimbed peaks.

The March 1935 *Trail and Timberline* – the club's magazine - announced the Gore Outing for August 11-24. "Designated as a primitive area by the United States Forest Service, this region is noted for the ruggedness of its peaks, the beauty of its lakes and valleys, and the excellence of its fishing possibilities. It has been this inaccessibility of the Gore Range that has kept it from being chosen as the site of the Summer Outing in previous years. This year, however, the committee is planning to establish camp in the heart of the wildest part of the region."

Access was the issue. Scouting and preliminary exploration had been undertaken for several years. This was a cooperative effort; the idea was to penetrate, explore and map the area, not to provide data for the CMC Outing Committee.

The USGS sent in a group in 1931, up Mount Dora and Mt. Powell. A year later a small CMC party—Ken Segerstrom and Ed Cooper—went in from Piney Lake. They bagged the first ascent of Peak C. In 1933, another group of two went in. In July an electric storm drove a team, Harold Weaver and Ken Segerstrom, off of Eagles Nest (which, they later determined, had already been climbed). In September, a trio hiked in following the trail up Slate Creek. Ken Segerstrom, Ed Cooper and Burbank Buffum made their way past end of trail into the upper Slate Creek drainage. They were able to bag a first ascent of Peak Q.

From the sum of these efforts and map study, the Outing Committee of the



CMC determined that the outing should go to upper Black Creek, one drainage to the north of Slate Creek. Looking at the paths of the various exploring parties, that valley was devoid of tracks. It offered a clean place, a slate on which a list of ascents and accomplishments could be written.

Names of mountains usually offer a glimpse of the history of the area. Names of prominent people or features usually end up attached to the high points in a range. But, perusing a map of the Gore, one sees very few peak names. A few on the south end have names. For peaks in the north and central parts, that's not so. Other than Eagles Nest, Powell, Dora and Little Powell, the peaks are known by the alphabet.

How this came about is a story in itself. In 1932, the CMC's Ed Cooper and Carl Erickson combined the alphabet

with the Gore. From north to south, Eagles Nest was designated Peak A, Powell B, and so on all the way south. This structure remains with us today. Starting with Peak C just to the south of Powell, the range is populated with letters, not names. This runs to Peak R at least. The USGS doesn't put these letters on their maps, but nor have they approved other names.

The Outing Committee had peaks in the Black Creek valley in its crosshairs. The peaks they wanted were the middle of the alphabet, from D through P.

The October 1935 *Trail and Timberline* reported on the Outing. Referring to upper Black Creek and access, "This spot was made available through the cooperation of the Forest Service in building five miles of trail."

That description is, shall we say, sanitized. Charles Moore was in the



advance party. (Moore was a member of the Denver Westerners, in the Posse, some fifty years later.) In a letter written in 1981, he recollects the scenario.

“Some of the descriptions of the trail building in the T&T article are classic understatements. The Forest Service didn’t cooperate on building 5 miles of trail. They just gave us permission to build on our own. The present Forest Service trail up to the meadow site of the CMC camp branches off the Lost Lake Trail and wasn’t built until something on the order of 10-12 years later.”

He continues, filling in details on the access the CMC crew in fact constructed. “The trail we built started where the Gore Range Trail crosses Black Creek, followed the slope to the north side of Black Lake above the Olinger property, into Black Creek above the lake and then directly up the valley to the site. To call it a trail is somewhat of a misnomer as it previously was just a cleared way

thru (sic) the trees wide enough for a pack horse - no grading or anything like that.”

Adding one final item, he concludes, “As further evidence that this was just a ‘way’ and not a ‘trail’, we made no attempt to pack in tent poles. They just wouldn’t go so we cut all poles on site from aspen and small firs.”

Moore and the rest of the advance party left Denver August 6. They improved the trail for several days. By Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> camp was being set up, no doubt with tent poles aplenty being hewn and utilized. The group arrived Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>.

The camp was set up in a meadow at the north end of the valley of upper Black Creek. The trees open up as one comes up the steeps and there is a nice meadow in the lower valley. It has room for tents and horses to graze.

The twenty-four participants listed in the T&T were all in camp by Sunday evening. Also there was Hod Nicholson, a horsepacker from Aspen who had worked with other Summer Outings. He brought in supplies and tents with his horses with the help of several hired hands. When all were set up, there were about fifteen tents for sleeping and cooking. The cook tent was sited about twenty-five yards from the creek. Much of the area between tents and creek was marshy. Trees were cut, limbed, and laid as a walkway so the kitchen crew could easily walk to get water.

The cook was Homer Taylor. He cooked and fed the group, very well from all reports. He faced some unique challenges. Not only did he need a steady supply of wood and water, but other citizens of the valley took an interest in his duties. One day there was a commotion in the cook tent. Out of the tent burst a bear with a ham in its mouth, followed by a yelling Taylor, waving a frying pan. The bear made good its escape. There is no word on whether it tried for return trips.

Hiking and exploring started right away. On Monday most of the group hiked to lakes at the head of the valley. Legs were stretched, equipment was fine tuned, and so forth. All had hiked in the previous days. Still, getting out at altitude, using the gear one would hike with for two weeks, was a good idea. Equipment was state of the art, the latest in design and utility.

That phrase "state of the art," is over-used. Today's state-of-the-art anything—phone, climbing equipment, diet, what have you, is tomorrow's mu-



seum piece. But let's take a look at the art's state in 1935. It gives perspective.

Pictures of the expedition show people in denim jeans, lace-up leather boots, fabric jackets, and head covering of some sort. Most of the men wore fedora type hats, the women slightly more stylish tams or other women's hats. The women wore pants, not skirts, and sported boots as well.

Advertisements in contemporary issues of *Trail and Timberline* offer insight to popular and useful outdoor gear. One advertiser offered boots, handmade to order, "Complete with edging nails to your design." Another advertiser offered wool shirts and "sox", and leather jackets. That store, too, boasted of "hob and edging nails, now in stock."

Moore spoke to the sport and craft of mountaineering in 1935: "Basically it was not greatly different than today



except in the equipment. Footgear was hobnailed boots, usually knee high. And if you were really into it they had Swiss edging nails for rock climbing. Sleeping bags were pretty poor compared to today's down and fiber fill articles. Pack boards and ruck sacks were primitive equipment alongside the current pack styles."

He goes on to speak of mountaineers. "Generally we were regarded as a bunch of slightly crazy, nutty people, to go and climb a mountain without any other incentive than to say we had done it. Definitely a minority group in those days."

After Monday's warmup, the fun started. On Tuesday, Moore took the main party, of about eighteen or twenty, up Peak L, 13,193 feet. Most reached the summit ridge and almost a dozen climbed to the summit. This was not a first ascent.

The same day, a party left camp early. The four men went to the head of the valley, to the right of upper Black Lakes. They were Stanley Midgely, Clifton Snively, Maxwell Mery and Pete Alexander. The group climbed what they thought was Peak G. They found themselves on a false summit and for a short while looked up at their mountain. Traversing a ridge with "a precipitous drop" to the true summit, they got the Outing's first "first" at 13,274 feet. They weren't done. The trip report describes the rest of their day: "Continuing their traverse, the four worked their way to the top of Peak F at 13,200, for another first ascent. The descent was made to the north and east, part of the way over an unnamed glacier of considerable extent."

The camp was sited several miles down the valley from the peaks under assault. One photo in the CMC album shows a scene just at timberline and labels the distance at three and a half miles from camp. To reach the peaks from there, hikers had to go easily another horizontal mile and vertical 2000 to 2500 feet. The country had no trails and was strewn with fallen timber, bogs, and in places avalanche debris – timber, rocks, and gravel carried down and piled on a steep slope in a narrow gully. Despite this terrain, the job got done. Every peak summited during these two weeks, with one exception, was bagged in a day. From camp to summit to camp meant that some of those days and hikes were quite long and demanding.

Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> saw a first of the Elephant, 12,732 feet by a party of four: Stanley Midgely, Clifton Snively, Don



McBride, and Carleton Long. They worked up the valley, gained the ridge, and followed it northwest to the summit.

What is a “first”? It is the first recorded ascent of a peak, or a route on a peak. The climbers looked for signs of people. For example, Peak H was climbed later in the trip. As they neared the summit, it was thought the group was going to be able to brag of another first. But “upon reaching the summit a weathered match stick bore mute evidence of human predecessors.” It was conjectured in the T&T that the climber came in from the Piney Lake drainage to the west. Even today that approach offers much easier access to peaks in the Range.

A year or two earlier, a duo of climbers thought it was first on Eagles Nest. As they enjoyed the glow of achievement and the view, one found a rifle shell down among the rocks. So their climb morphed from “a first” to merely “an early ascent.”

None of the peaks claimed as a first by the Outing Committee bore any evidence of human contact or presence. It is conceivable someone came to the top of one or more of those peaks, looked around, and left with no mark. Conceivable but unlikely: in that era, it was common, even expected, to leave a cairn or some other evidence of having gained a summit. The “leave no trace” ethic practiced today was far in the future. Nature was still something to be bested, not coexisted with.



Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> Everett Long and Carl Blaurock led a large group past the lakes at the head of the valley. Goal for the day was Peak K, 12,858 feet. Some of the group became “converts to the Order of the Snail,” that is, they dropped off at the upper lake, sat, and enjoyed the scenery. The fifteen remaining hikers reached the col between K and J, 12,450 feet. They followed the ridge north to K. A cairn was constructed and a club register in a tube was deposited. The group returned to the col for a rest and lunch. They then followed the ridge southwest, reaching Peak J (12,924’) in less than an hour. Approaching weather dictated a quick retreat, which was made down the northwest ridge to a col at 12,600’. From there “an exhilarating slide 1,000 feet down a large snow and ice bank brought them to the highest of the four upper Black Lakes...” Camp was reached in a drizzling rain.

On Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> Carl Blaurock led a party out of camp through rain, sleet, hail and wind. Objective was Mt. Powell. This was the fifth recorded ascent of the peak. All who started from camp made the summit. The party's route isn't clear. They may have gone to the head of the valley then north to the next valley past Bubble Lake to Powell. Or perhaps they dropped down Black Creek and followed that up to Powell. Either way would have been challenging. As the T&T reported, "The Mt Powell trip was the longest made from camp."

That same day, Saturday, a group of four (Bob Lewis, Fred and John Nagel, and Gene Shaetzel) regained the J-K saddle. From there they crossed the valley to bag a first of Peak P (12965 feet). On the return they came along the ridge, over J for a second ascent.

Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> saw the final first ascents of the trip. Fred Nagel, Bob Thallon, Gene Schaezel and Bob Blair climbed both D (13047 feet) and E (approx. 12960feet). This is the one trip which took more than a day. The group ran out of daylight and had one lagging member; they bivouacked out but returned to camp in time for breakfast.

Another group went to Mt Powell, the sixth recorded climb, on Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Led by Charles Moore, the group had good weather and all attained the summit. The group found the original summit register left by Major Powell's 1868 party. The register left by the 1873 Hayden party was in the same can. Both registers and the can were recovered, brought back to camp, and ultimately turned over to the State Historical Soci-

ety. A standard summit register and tube were left in Powell's summit cairn.

The CMC members not mentioned by name in the reports were also busy. They climbed numerous peaks including M, N, Little Powell, and the Elephant twice.

Those fortunate enough to have participated in the Gore Range Outing went into tough, unknown country. They explored the valley and climbed numerous peaks, many for the first time. It is an unparalleled but little known accomplishment in American mountaineering.

The *Trail and Timberline* summed things up well: "Participants in the Gore Range Outing had an opportunity for exploring and pioneering in a new region – an opportunity that cannot be had every year...."

Members signed up for 1935 CMC Gore Range Outing as of July, per *Trail and Timberline*:

Constance Bouck, Polly Bouck, Grace Carrier, Arthur L Carron, Mr. & Mrs Duvall, Martha E Erwin, Dorrie Hahn, Grace Harvey, Florence Igle, Rudolph Johnson, Carleton Long, Everett Long, Donald McBride, Stanley Midgeley Jr, Charles Moore, Bill Nagel, Dorothy Peters, Helen Seeley, Jack Seeley, John Seeley, Tommy Seerley, Bob Thallon, Mike Walters.

Members of the 2015 CMC Gore Range Black Creek trip: Helen Carlsen, Joe Kramarsic, Katie Larsen, Dan Martel, Stan Moore, Herb Taylor, Jim Wheeler, Candace Winkle.



# Over the Corral Rail

*Compiled by Ed Bathke, P.M. Please submit your items of news, etc. to Ed. Deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the first month in the date of publication.*

## Westerner Corrals Complete Presentations for 2016

The Boulder County Corral November program was presented by Robert R. Crifasi, "A Land Made from Water." This is the same title as Bob's book published in 2015 which is an in-depth, well-referenced overview of the development of the American West with particular emphasis on the importance of water and its critical function in the evolution and success of our present lifestyle. Robert R. Crifasi works in water management and planning and is an environmental scientist with more than twenty-five years of experience. He has served as the Water Resources Administrator for the City of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks Department, was on the board of directors of eleven ditch companies, and, as the president of several Boulder Valley ditches, was responsible for supervising all regular ditch operations.

The dean of Colorado's railroad historians, Charles Albi, presented "Riding the Narrow Gauge to Leadville," treating the Colorado Corral to photographs of the 1930s. Chuck is a Denver native who has spent a lifetime studying the history of the American West and its railroads. He was an underwriter for a national property and casualty insurance company before becoming executive director of the Colorado Railroad Museum for twelve years. He edited the museum's *Colorado Rail Annuals* for many years and continues as a volunteer there and at Denver Public Library's Western History/Genealogy Department.

The Pikes Peak Posse heard a dynamic presentation by Steve Adelson, "Contested Ground, the Story of the Battle of Little Bighorn." Steve is an avid historian and Little Bighorn Battle scholar who has presented to thousands of visitors as a seasonal park ranger at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. His flagship presentation "Contested Ground" is a riveting one-man reenactment of the epic battle. Adelson is a retired educator and coach with thirty years in his profession.

The December program for the Pikes Peak Posse is "The National Western Stock Show, 111 Years Strong," by Keith Fessenden. A Colorado native, Keith is the archivist and historian for the National Western. He is a member of the Denver Posse, Boulder County Corral, and Pikes Peak Posse of Westerners.



## Westerners Bookshelf



**Ned Wynkoop and the Lonely Road From Sand Creek**, by Louis Kraft. University of Oklahoma Press: Norman, 2015. 335 pp. Maps, photos, endnotes, bibliography and index. Paperback, \$19.95.

Edward Wynkoop's name is legendary in the history of Colorado and especially in regard to his involvement leading up to the "Massacre at Sand Creek" on November 29, 1864. His attempts to gain peace between the settlers and the Native Americans have been in countless books.

Using a draft of Edward Wynkoop's unpublished autobiography written in 1876, his scrapbook at the Chavez Historical Library at the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the Wynkoop family, and material from numerous archives Louis Kraft has done an impressive job of researching the man as well as the time.

Edward Wynkoop was born on June 19, 1836, in Pennsylvania to John and Angeline Wynkoop. He was the last of seven children. Although his father had been prosperous, he suffered financial losses and died on July 1, 1837. Edward was barely a year old and his mother was the sole provider. His brothers and sisters (who adored him) called him Neddy. As he matured his friends called him Ned or Ed. He excelled at school, was well spoken and "stood out in any crowd...he was six feet three inches tall, broad shouldered and athletically built."

When he was twenty years old his sister Emily encouraged him to go to LeCompton, Kansas Territory. He developed his survival skills, fought border ruffians and worked in the land office, which later moved to Paola.

Rumors of gold in the Rocky Mountains sparked his interest and he became involved in developing a land company in the gold region after which James W. Denver appointed Ned Sheriff of Arapahoe County. They were to establish a town site and sell lots. It was during this trip that Ned had his first real encounter with Native Americans. After a long night (fearing that bands of Kiowa and Comanche's were going to attack them) morning light revealed that they had left without a fight. Years later Ned Wynkoop stated: "they are not the first to precipitate a war and whenever Indian hostilities have taken place war has been forced upon them by the action of the whites."

Much more is revealed about the man who sought peace by disobeying his superiors and arranged the meeting at Camp Weld prior to the Massacre at Sand Creek. I highly recommend this book as enjoyable as well as loaded with information about a man who will forever be a part of Colorado's history.

*--LaVonne J. Perkins, P.M.*

**Mapping the Four Corners, Narrating the Hayden Survey of 1875**, by Robert S. McPherson and Susan Rhoades Neel. University of Oklahoma Press, 2016. 284 pages. Maps, photos, illustrations, index and footnotes. Hardbound with dust jacket, \$29.95.

Many Americans have heard of the Hayden Survey. It was one of several surveys sent out to explore, map, and catalog the western US after the Civil War. The products of these included maps, geological assessments, archeological and botanical surveys, and other scientific data.

What made this particular expedition different was friction with the Native Americans. The Utes entered the post-war era with rights to the western third of Colorado. In less than twenty years, they were almost entirely squeezed out. By 1885 they were left with reservations in the far southwest corner of Colorado and in east central Utah.

The knowledge and public awareness brought by this survey hastened that process. South of the LaSal Mountains, between present-day Moab and Monticello, two survey parties joined forces as they were attacked by Indians. The running battle lasted two days. Chief Ouray labeled the attackers a band of criminal renegades. The Americans escaped with loss of equipment and some animals, but no people. There were political recriminations. Hayden was not helped by the publicity as he sought funding and to gain control of all western surveys. Ultimately the USGS was formed to consolidate the efforts, but Hayden was passed over as its head.

The authors tapped reports, diaries, and newspaper accounts of the participants. W. H. Jackson was one; his photos and drawings give interesting context. This book is based on real and personal accounts. It sheds light on little studied facets of one of the major western surveys. The book is an entertaining and worthwhile read.

*--Stan Moore*

**Denver Landmarks & Historic Districts, Second Edition**, by Thomas J. Noel and Nicholas J. Wharton. University Press of Colorado, 2016. 197 pages, maps, photos, index. Paperback, \$26.95.

This book should appeal to anyone interested in the what and where of Denver landmarks. It covers buildings as diverse as the Daniels and Fisher Tower on 16th Street to Fire Station No. 14 at 1028 Clayton Street. There are descriptions in concise language of 333 landmarks as well as 51 historic districts.

As someone preoccupied with the brick and mortar side of Denver history, I would keep this volume as a handy reference tool to consult time and time again. Included with the descriptions of the various buildings are dates of construction, names of architects, the addresses and enough history to motivate further research.

The two-column-per-page format makes for an effortless read. The entire layout from cover photo of the Voories Memorial to the bibliography looks clean and professional. There are more than 150 photos and several maps to aid in locating each landmark and historic district. This second edition is updated from 1996 and contains eighty-three new landmarks and twenty-tree more historic districts. There are also new and updated photos and text.

*--Robert Mulvihill, C.M.*

**Ancient Galleries of Cedar Mesa**, Photographs by Dave Manley, Introduction by Benjamin A. Bellorado, Canyonlands Natural History Association, 2016, 107 pages, numerous photographs. Paperback, \$21.99.

As an avid rock art researcher I have visited and photographed many of the sites in *Ancient Galleries of Cedar Mesa*. I was fortunate enough to visit many with Dave and other members of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association. To my chagrin none of my photos have captured the essence of Southeastern Utah or the rock art panels with the skill and beauty found in Dave Manley's photographs.

This volume begins with Benjamin Bellordo's eight-page introduction which discusses and explains the people who lived in the Cedar Mesa area and their rock art. It addresses the interpretation and dating of rock art and, specifically, the rock art found in the Greater Cedar Mesa area, intertwining the rock art with the evolution of the cultures of the area.

Following the introduction Dave Manley presents the photographs along with a short discussion of photographing rock art and rock arts interpretation. Both Dave and Benjamin's articles are interspersed with rock art photographs.

Now we get to dessert, the reason this volume caught your eye and why you picked the book up, ninety pages of superb photographs. The photos of rock art include photographs of historical Ute, Ancestral Pueblo, Archaic, Glen Canyon Linear, and Basketmaker glyphs. Occasionally photos of dwellings and the Cedar Mesa area are interspersed. Especially intriguing photos include a historical Ute glyph with a possible depiction of a Spanish conquistador, an Ancestral Pueblo depiction of a crane, and several Basketmaker panels.

The volume ends with a discussion of how to protect rock art sites when you visit them. This volume is an excellent introduction to the beauty of and fascination of rock art.

--Keith Fessenden, P.M.

**Petroglyphs of Western Colorado and the Northern Ute Reservation as Interpreted by Clifford Duncan**, by Carol Patterson, Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, Volume 105, Part 5, American Philosophical Society Press, 2016, 151 pages, maps, photos, references, index, appendixes, PB, cost \$37.00.

In 151 pages the *Petroglyphs of Western Colorado and the Northern Ute Reservation as Interpreted by Clifford Duncan* provides a plethora of information about the Ute Tribe. It provides a brief discussion of Ute history, culture, and world view; then in the context of this overview it reviews using Ute Elder Clifford Duncan's input, his interpretation of Ute rock art found in Western Colorado, primarily in the Gunnison River Valley and around the Uintah-Ouray Reservation in northeastern Utah. Clifford was a Northern Ute elder and is the tribe's retired historian. As stated in the foreward, "His (Clifford's) exegesis includes personal remembrances as well as historical information about the panels, the ceremonies often depicted on the panels, and events that occurred on the reservation."

I found the depictions of the Uintah Railway trains, including a wreck, to be of special interest as I grew up near the location of the railway. *Petroglyphs* provides a perspective of historical Ute rock art not usually viewed or seen in the print

media. Most books refer to older rock art and ignore the more “historical” rock art. This book provides an interesting and welcome frame of reference for historical Ute rock art. Carol Patterson has written an exemplary book which enlightens the reader of many facets of Ute culture primarily through a discussion of historic Ute petroglyphs.

Clifford Duncan’s interpretations and insight as shared throughout this volume provide a view of historical Ute rock art that will be read and enjoyed by those who enjoy rock art and Ute history. Even if you are only interested in the history of Western Colorado or Northeastern Utah, or Indian tribes this volume provides the reader with a prospective worth considering, reviewing, and appreciating.

--Keith Fessenden, P.M.

**Photographing Custer’s Battlefield: The Images of Kenneth F. Roahen** by Sandy Barnard. University of Oklahoma Press, 2016. 257 pp. Photos, endnotes, bibliography, index. Hardcover, \$39.95.

Kenneth Roahen’s biographical sketch alone would provide an incredible read, but this book contains so very much more. Born in Kansas in 1888, Roahen became a Federal game warden during the height of the Roaring Twenties gangster era. He underwent eighteen operations related to Mob gunshot wounds and beatings administered by duck poachers seeking delicacies for Al Capone’s table before the government pulled him from Prohibition-Era Chicago and resettled him in Montana in 1930.

While continuing to pursue his duties, Roahen began photographing what was then called the “Custer Battlefield.” His avocation gradually became a successful business as he sold literally thousands of copies of his prints to dealers and individuals, many as postcards. He worked with a veritable who’s who of early Custer scholars.

Sandy Barnard, a noted expert on the Little Bighorn Battle, has already authored *Where Custer Fell: Photographs of the Little Bighorn Battlefield Then and Now*, among many other works. Within the present volume, Barnard pairs Roahen’s earlier photographs with contemporary views. These pairings reveal the often subtle and often dramatic changes that have occurred at the Battlefield over the last seventy years.

Barnard summarizes many controversial and conflicting interpretations regarding the locations of critical events as he leads the reader on a photographic journey from the Crow’s Nest, through the Valley Fight, Reno-Benteen and on to Last Stand Hill.

It is difficult to believe that Barnard managed to pack so much valuable information into the necessarily brief narrative that accompanies these photographs. Nevertheless, he touches virtually every phase of the battle. Both the novice and the hard-core Custer fanatic will find an overflowing buffet of food for thought within these highly recommended pages.

--Dennis Hagen, P.M.