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THE COVER: The drawing of Richard E. Tope is by Charles Hardy, Professor of Art at Mesa State College.

OBJECTIVE HISTORY
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO

By
Richard E. Tope

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Editor's Note

It has been a pleasure to work with the Museum of Western Colorado in order to publish the *Objective History of Grand Junction* by Richard E. Tope. Due to its length, the manuscript will be presented in two parts: Volume 10, Numbers 1 and 2. Readers will notice outmoded spellings and grammatical style and references to places that are no longer here, as well as social and cultural differences since the history was written. It is the opinion of the editorial board that to change these features would cause the history to lose its flavor. Therefore, we have published the text exactly as written, correcting only typographical errors in the original.

Thanks to Judy Prosser-Armstrong for writing the introduction and biography of Professor Tope, and for her untiring efforts to find appropriate photographs for this history. All photographs are courtesy of the Museum of Western Colorado.

As outgoing editor, I want to express my sincere appreciation to Paul Reddin, Steve Schulte, Frank Keller and Don MacKendrick for their invaluable input and support during the past three years. Special thanks to next year's staff, Shirley Johnston, Russ Twitchell, and Janet Mease for their help with typesetting and proofreading. As a student at Mesa State, it has been a privilege to serve on the staff of the *Journal*.

Introduction

The *Objective History of Grand Junction*, written by R. E. Tope, is one of several dozen manuscripts that have been collected through the years by the Special Library at the Museum of Western Colorado. The manuscript was donated to the Museum by Dwight Tope, one of "Prof" Tope's six sons. It is with great pleasure that the Museum joins with the *Journal of the Western Slope* and Mesa State College to make this amazing resource available to all who are interested, now and in the future, in the history of Grand Junction and Mesa County.

Major facilities at the Museum of Western Colorado include the Main Museum (1965), Cross Orchards Living History Farm (1981), and Dinosaur Valley (1985). The Museum, in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management, operates outdoor interpretive trails at Rabbit Valley Research Natural Area (1986), Dinosaur and Riggs Hills (1987), and the Little Park Desert Preserve (1988). It also serves as a federal repository for fossil specimens and archaeological artifacts collected from lands administered by the BLM in west-central Colorado. In addition to all that is the Special Library.

The Special Library is housed primarily in the former Whitman School Building which the Museum acquired in 1965. The Museum began acquisition of primary source and library materials with its inception as the Museum of Arts and Sciences in 1965. Three years later, this role expanded when the institution was repackaged as the Historical Museum and Institute of Western Colorado, renamed the Museum of Western Colorado in 1977.

Historian Maria Baldik, a part-time, paid archivist, began classifying and cataloging the Museum's special library materials in the early 1970s. Michael Menard, a graduate of Michigan State University, was employed as the Museum's first professional archivist in 1977. Under his leadership, the special collections were consolidated into a curatorial level department. He surveyed the existing collection and established a system of finding aids which is still employed. He also implemented a program to collect the Museum's institutional records.

As time and finances permit, special library holdings are currently being cataloged by PRLSS into OCLC and downloaded into the Western Colorado Online Library System, MARMOT. Museum records entered into OCLC are also accessible to the public through ACLIN.

The Museum's Special Library includes more than 3,000 bound volumes, periodicals, and monographs, more than 300 manuscripts collections,

some 18,000 photographic images, a cartographic collection, the 1982 Grand Junction and Grand Junction area historic site surveys, and the Museum's institutional records. The library also curates the Museum's small fine arts collection in association with the history division.

Collection development focuses on documenting local and regional history, archaeology, paleontology, agriculture, and mining. Some of the most utilized collections are those acquired from the U.S. Department of Energy. Photographs from the DOE collection have been reproduced in a variety of audiovisual presentations and published works in the United States and Germany.

The Special Library contains one of the largest collections of newspapers in Colorado museums and is in the process of microfilming the state's longest-lived weekly, the *Palisade Tribune*. Currently, it also houses the archives of the Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museum, the Avalon Theater, the local chapter of the Old Spanish Trail Association, and the records of various organizations devoted to military veterans and to civic activities. The Grand Junction Fire Department and the Alfred A. Look collections constitute the two largest manuscript holdings.

For more information about the Special collections, or about the Museum's funding crisis, contact the Museum of Western Colorado at P.O. Box 20000-5020, Grand Junction, CO 81502 or call (970) 242-0971; FAX (970) 242-3960; e-mail: judyjapa@csn.org.

"Professor" Richard E. Tope

Grand Junction's seventy-fifth anniversary in 1957 would have been very different without the inspiration and wisdom of Richard E. Tope. Not only did he compile the *Objective History of Grand Junction*¹ featured in this and the next edition of the Journal of the Western Slope, but he helped assemble the *Daily Sentinel's* special Jubilee edition. Recognizing Tope at the time, reporter Mildred Hart Shaw observed, "Very few of the special occasions and probably none of the routine activities of the community since 1911 when Prof. Tope came to Grand Junction could have gone off as they did without the good influence of Prof. Tope."

Richard E. Tope was born on December 19, 1875, and was raised in Gallia County, Ohio. He attended Ohio Wesleyan University for three years, and then entered Providence University, Oak Hill, Ohio, where he received his A.B. in 1901, and his masters the following year. He later took graduate courses at the University of Colorado and from Chicago University.

Arriving from Ponca City, Oklahoma, Tope served as principal of Grand Junction High School from 1911-1918. He then became Superintendent of Schools, serving until 1938 when he was named superintendent emeritus. Three years later, in 1941, a school was constructed and named in his honor.

Tope was a member of the Grand Junction Junior College Board of Trustees, doing much to help establish what is now Mesa State College. He was a director of and stockholder in local financial institutions and businesses, and for a number of years was featured in a weekly column in the *Daily Sentinel*.

He was a charter member of the Grand Junction Rotary Club, serving as president from 1922-23. He also served as secretary for a number of years, and was district governor of the Seventh District of Rotary International. Later, he also compiled a history of the club. He was also a member of the Presbyterian Church and the Masonic Lodge.

Mr. Tope and Miss Elizabeth Jones were married on December 30, 1903. He died on January 11, 1967. Surviving Tope, in addition to his wife, were five sons, one daughter, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Judy Prosser-Armstrong
Collections and Information Manager
Museum of Western Colorado

¹Excerpts from *The Objective History of Grand Junction* were also used to produce a booklet entitled *Grand Junction, 75th Jubilee 1882-1957*.

Foreword

The author has endeavored through great research to prepare this brief history of Grand Junction. It is presented as factual history and therefore as many events as possible are dated. The author has tried with unusual diligence to give as many names as could be verified. Though the dates are long past and the names of men and women who came as pioneers and laid the foundations of the community we enjoy as our home today are generally unfamiliar, it certainly is appropriate that they be not pushed aside as though oblivion should be the fate of all who serve their fellow men and then merely pass to their reward, forgotten, unrewarded and unremembered. The same applies to those who came in the middle period. Such a factual history cannot include many dates or names that have made up the record of 75 years of history. It can at best be a sampling. Therefore, space and comment by the author has been an attempt to make a wide and representative sampling without going into too great and too lengthy detail. This is a brief outline of the history of Grand Junction using data of variable significance to make it suggestive of further expansion. It would be no more difficult to write several narratives, akin to this, and yet dealing with an entirely different set of dates and even names, without exhausting the myriad facts of our history or its subject matter. I have created this record, so far as it covers the subject, as factual as the newspaper reporters of the time recited the daily doings of the people earnestly and scrupulously, without bias but with good judgment.

May we keep the record alive.

Richard E. Tope



Professor Richard E. Tope

Objective History Grand Junction, Colorado: Part I

A Brief History of a Harried Life and the Multitudinous Activities of a Growing Community in a Remote and Primitive Setting Sensitive to Many Plans for Improvement and With Vigorous Hopes for Their Progressive Venture on the Part of the Leaders and Chosen Officials

Pre-History

"Without a sense of history no man truly understands the problems of life."—Winston Churchill.

Few white men were ever visitors to the Grand Valley, prior to the coming of the men who founded the city of Grand Junction. It was an isolated spot on the map of the United States. There were two main routes across the United States: the southern, called the Santa Fe Trail, which had no very high mountains and high range-passes like the Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains across Colorado; the other across southern Wyoming or the Lewis and Clark route. In Colorado the rivers also had impassible canyons. Friar Escalante and his band of Franciscan Brothers came through the Grand Valley in the summer of 1776 on their way to the Spanish Mission of California. They are supposed to have forded the river near the junction of the Grand and Gunnison. Marcus Whitman, a later missionary explorer, made a journey from Oregon to the east in 1846, camped and forded the river somewhere near the junction of the two big streams and then made his way east by way of Cochetopa Pass. It was easy enough to get into this area from the west if one knew the topography, but trying to get east or from the east was not only puzzling but hazardous. In addition to these famous travelers, there were many explorers of the Kit Carson, Jim Bridger and John C. Fremont generation who knew of the Grand Valley, its great possibilities for a substantial Western Civilization, and the two very large rivers that joined at this point on the map. It was extremely difficult to reach and to get away from because of the great mountain range, but it was well known to the scouts and guides that there was nothing like it or equal to it in North America. It would be a garden spot if only it could become accessible.

In the century prior to the settlement of Grand Junction and other communities of the western part of Colorado, explorers such as Capt. W. J. Gunnison covered the virgin area pretty well. There were also the famous trappers. Fur bearing animals were plentiful and the fur trade was a profitable enterprise. Numerous groups trapped the Rocky Mountains over and over. The men could live off the country because they were primarily meat eaters and were armed with rifles as well as traps. They avoided the Indians and kept to the higher altitudes except in the winter season. They were better armed and better woodsmen than the Indians, so fur trapping was a great occupation and was pursued by many groups of men. Famous trappers who covered Western Colorado were the groups of Huddard, Bicknell, and Caywood. Besides these American groups, there were French trappers, and the Hudson Bay Company of Canada sent in expert trappers.

Western Colorado was occupied by the Ute Indians who were divided into bands that roamed over the vast mountainous territory, at will, a rather loosely organized tribe of Indians.

At the time of settlement, authorities estimated that there were no more than four thousand of these Indians, and the government was arranging to remove them to an established agency smaller in area. The Utes lived off the regions and had no vision of any further development than just to live. They were not tradesmen in any sense, nor were they interested in the least in agriculture. They had no fixed habitation, just roamed the forest areas, lived on fish and game, dressed to some extent in the furs of the animals they killed for food. They had one skill: that of making a good bow, thong and arrow, and chipping a very fine flint as an arrow tip. Many chipping spots are known. They knew how to prepare the skins of animals for clothing and for their shelters.

The Utes were never interested in the Grand Valley or the site of Grand Junction. That was so much waste land to them. They had no vision or constructive imagination. The great rivers that joined here meant nothing to them. Crossing places were few and far between, a hindrance to their migrations. They never dreamed of transportation or highways or railroads. They did not care for horses, any possibility of the use of the soil for producing food never entered their minds. Their stage of civilization had reached its full height and they were stabilized in their own kind of culture and economy. When they moved about over the area that they claimed as their own, they skirted around the high elevations within the edge of the timber where there was coverage and shade, where there was fresh water from the springs and mountain streams, where the fishing was good, where good wild game could be caught and where

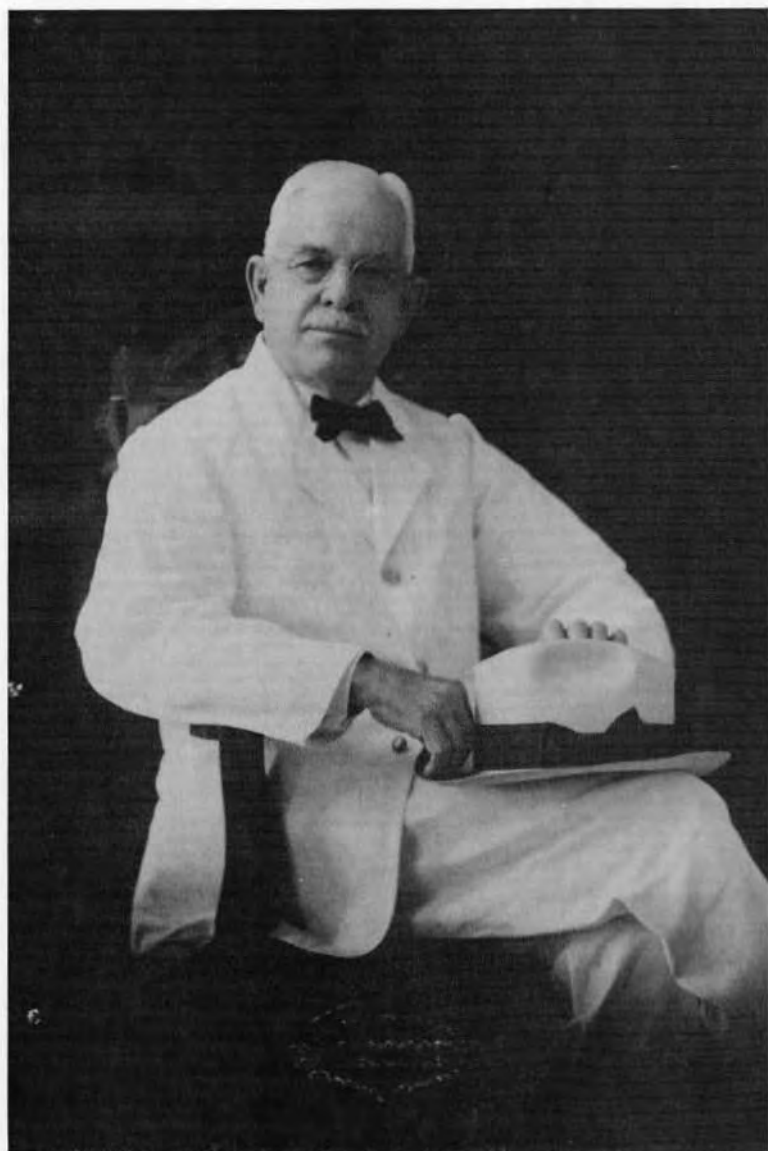
they could rest to their heart's content. So the only thing the Indians ever did for Grand Junction was to look upon the site with a vacant meaningless stare.

Chief Ouray and Chipeta were a noble Indian couple. A few points in their history have been verified. Chief Ouray was born in Taos. They were married in a notable ceremony in 1859 and spent their honeymoon on the shore of Lake San Cristobal. They had one son but when a small child, he was stolen by a Kiowa Indian and they could never find a trace of the kidnapper. The longtime enemies of the Utes were the Cheyennes, the Sioux, the Kiowas, the Comanches and the Arapahoes, who seemed to envy the Utes who stuck to the great mountain areas, roaming high and low according to the season. Ouray and Chipeta, jointly, had great regard for the whites and though they regretted the necessity, they were disappointed in having their reservation gradually diminished. They could understand that civilization was gradually compelling them to make concessions and sign away their domain. The Meeker massacre broke their hearts. They understood what would be coming: the division of the tribe—some going to Utah, others to southern Colorado; the smaller domain would not give them the freedom they had enjoyed. Ouray died in 1881 while rearrangement plans were being carried out; Chipeta lived until 1924. She visited Grand Junction frequently.

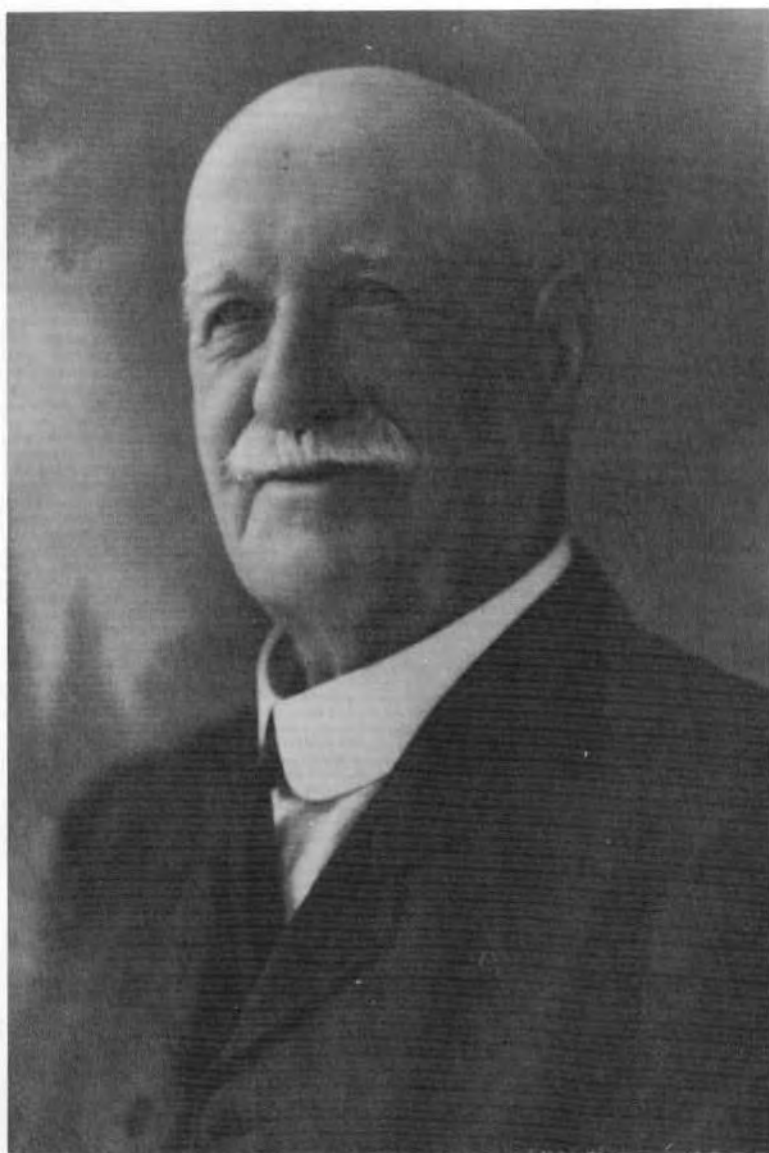
The Utes had a fondness for hunting wolves, deer, elk, grizzly bear and mountain sheep, and they were aggravated when the trappers came in and began to slaughter these animals by the wholesale just for furs. So Ouray and Chipeta met life as it descended upon them, and settled about them, with a mixture of happiness, tragedy, cruelty and sorrow.

1881

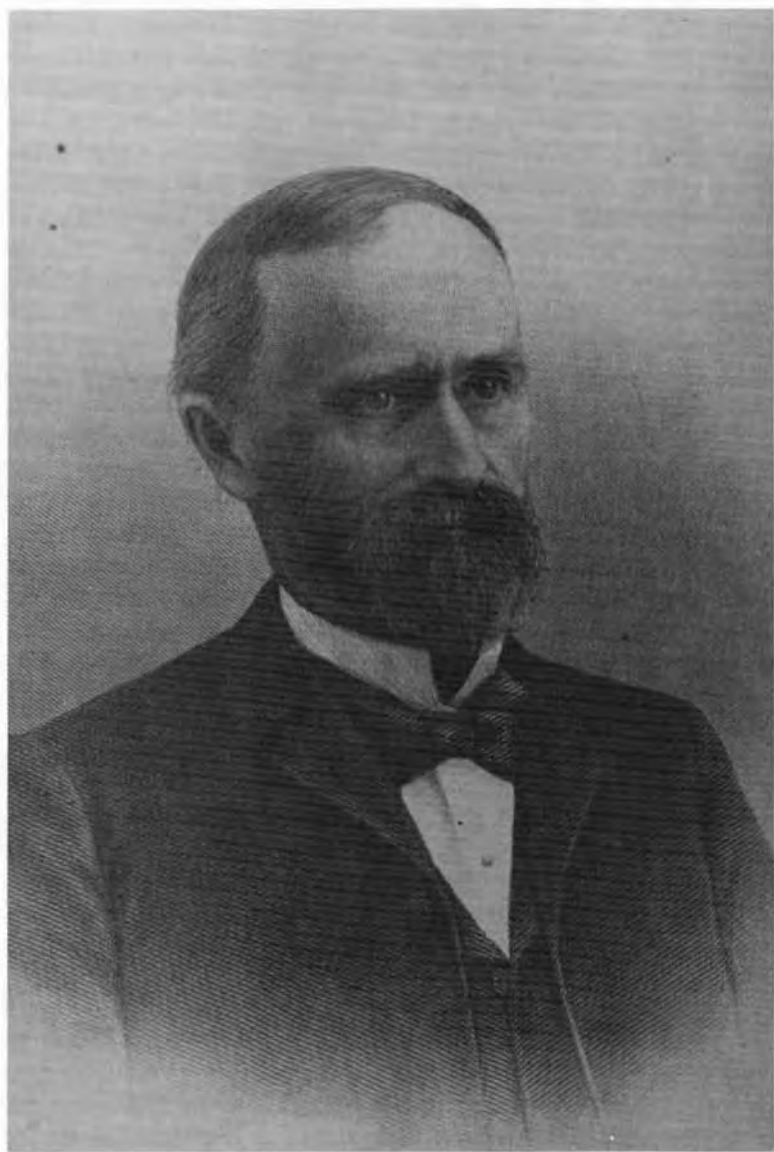
On September 8, 1881, three young men rode horseback to the south bank of the Grand River, somewhere east of the junction of the present Colorado and Gunnison rivers. They were William McGinley, O. D. Russell and J. Clayton Nichols who had come from Gunnison, the chief settlement on the frontier of a civilization that was gradually pushing its way across the continent of North America. The hardships of travel made it impossible for any but the hardiest and sturdiest of manhood to reach the interior of the great plateau beyond the Continental Divide, bordered by the Rocky Mountains. The route they followed was probably by way of Black Mesa and skirting around the Grand Mesa to the valley of the Grand. There would be fresh water along the way and the food would have to be fresh venison, rabbit, fish and birds, mostly eaten raw for they had no facilities for cooking. It was evening, so they looked across the big river and its uncertain depth and swiftness and decided to rest



J. Clayton Nichols



William McGinley



George A. Crawford

for the night and look for a crossing in the morning. The following day they swam their horses across and set foot on the northern shore of the combined streams and concluded that it would be a promising spot for a proposed pioneer townsite and then set out on their return trip to Gunnison to report to Governor George A. Crawford, who had recently arrived from Kansas where he had won his title, and had plans for the building of a Western city. Governor Crawford selected the young men to serve as his guides in making the trip to the location, so proper filing of the townsite could be recorded.

Because of the junction of the two rivers, the name Grand Junction was thought best and on the 26th of September, 1881, the filing was officially made on Section Number 14 as a townsite for the new city. The tomb of the founder and promoter overlooks the junction of the two rivers and the growing metropolis.

Winter was coming on and there was a rush to make progress. Supplies had to come from Gunnison or a government cantonment in the Uncompahgre Valley. The Ute Indians had been removed but there was a threat that they might return. The land was declared open for filing and there was considerable anxiety among people who had come west and were gathering in Leadville and Gunnison and such mining centers as Aspen, Lake City, Ouray, and Telluride, looking for an opportunity to get to Grand Junction in time to file on select locations. Some were mere adventurers, but many were real empire builders who could not be discouraged by any obstacles. The early filings were along the river east and west of Grand Junction.

Names of those who came in 1881 were as follows in order of arrival:

O. D. Russell	Douglass Blain
J. Clayton Nichols	J. C. Holden
William McGinley	Wm. Green
William Nishwitz	George Lewis
R. D. Mobley	C. E. Mitchell
George A. Crawford	John Gavin
M. N. Graham	John Ducket
H. P. Giles	J. F. Brink
B. F. Carey	C. W. Steele
Wm. Keith	Wm. Reeser
J. M. Russell	Ed Bevier
L. S. Robinson	Jacob Rice
M. L. Allison	Henry Nichols
J. A. Layton	Patrick Fitzpatrick
Elam Blain	

(Henry Nichols was a brother of J. Clayton Nichols.)

The region was favored by good fall weather and a mild winter, so the population increased steadily week after week. The developments necessary for a town took place like an unfolding panorama. The log cabin, which has ever been the standby of the pioneer, was the first construction for a habitation. They cut the cottonwood down by the river.

In Grand Junction in 1881 logs were scarce and the eager home builders soon turned attention to adobe brick, a sort of first cousin to the sod house of the Great Plains from whence many of the newcomers had come. For the sake of variety many hastened the work of finishing an adobe hut to they could send for their wives, who were waiting back at the old home for the word to come on to the new home in the west; also by building picket cabins which were roofed pole frames with upright walls of slabs or split logs. Such pioneer homes were along Pitkin, Ute, Colorado, and Main Street, from First Street to Seventh. This was prior to the early day sawmills that could not be brought in until the railroad came. All lumber had to be run by hand sawing. Those who filed on the land along the river front had an advantage in cabin building.

These modest little homes were small but they were shelters; the mother earth was the floor, one doorway that was covered by a gunny sack, a rag rug, or deerskin served as an entrance and a small square window covered with greased paper admitted light. The roof was earth covered, mixed with straw or wild plants or cattails.

There was no fuel except cottonwood trees along the river. There was coal in the Book Cliffs, but it was not until 1890 that the first coal mine was opened and the Grand Valley Coal Company began transporting fuel from the mine north of the city over a narrow gauge steam freight line. Another necessity, fresh water, was scooped up as raw water from the river and hauled or carried to the homes for private use. It was not until 1889 that water on tap became available and this pressure water came from an engine house located at the foot of Fifth Street not far from the present Fifth Street bridge.

Other important installations followed. A U. S. Post Office was established in 1882. The stock of goods began arriving in December for the first merchandise store established by Giles and Mitchell. Two small hotels were ready for guests in 1882, little adobe huts of a few small rooms. Also a saloon was opened for business in a hastily built structure where the men could loaf and drown their sorrows, commiserate their fears and failures, discuss the news of the day, and pick up courage for the future.

The Grand Junction Town Company received its charter and Samuel Wade, a surveyor, began the work of laying out the streets and alleys and town

lots. The sale of lots began and the Townsite Company offered title to a free lot to anyone who would immediately build a building on the property. Many of the lots on Main Street were first owned under this provision. You will notice one peculiar feature of this early survey in the north and south alley that runs across the townsite in the blocks just west and east of Seventh Street. When the plat was prepared liberal provisions were made for each of these city parks: Whitman, Emerson, Hawthorne, Washington; and school sites were granted for each of these city parks. Church sites were offered and so were lots granted for public purposes, such as the block on which the Mesa County Court House and City Hall are now located and the entire block on which the Lowell School is located. The first was for school location and for years practically the whole school system was located on this block. The latter was for Mesa County and Carnegie library purposes. In 1920, by negotiation of the City administration, the Mesa County Commissioners and the School Board, an exchange of ownership in these blocks was made.

Surveyors for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad reached Grand Junction in the fall of 1881. This main line was planned from Denver to Salt Lake City by way of the Royal Gorge, Leadville, and Glenwood Canyon.

Thus by the end of year 1881 there was a tremendous enthusiasm and hope for a grand development that would soon bring to full fruition the fondest dreams of those pioneers who first planned the city and development of the Grand Valley. To make this more heartening, it was learned that the Rio Grande would extend the road from Gunnison through the Black Canyon and Uncompahgre Valley to Grand Junction, thereby making the name a very apt and futuristic institution, a junction of rivers, of railroads, of highways, and of airlines.

1882

The year 1882 came with a great deal of enthusiasm and hope for the little city in the big valley. New life and new promotional enterprises were creating new visions each month. The roster of the Pioneer Society of first settlers showed the following names on July 4, 1882 up to the 4th of July. Many of these men were married and their wives had also arrived.

C. W. Kimball

W. S. Delley

H. U. Fonda

G. B. Frazier

George Ryan

T. W. James

N. N. Smith

H. W. Stroud

John Philips

W. M. McKelvie

W. J. S. Henderson
J. P. Olson
J. H. Rice
F. G. Heisen
W. J. Miller
J. W. Bucklin
William Snyder
F. B. Crawford
A. A. Miller
M. J. Sullivan
Ovid Turrill
J. A. Hall
J. P. Harlow
J. S. Gordon

B. F. Carey
H. C. Hall
Henry R. Rhone
C. F. Shanks
Edwin Price
George R. Blain
Mat Arch
T. C. Clayton
George Shackelton
F. C. Payne
J. F. Spencer
Prush Warner
S. W. Harper
H. P. Giles

J. Clayton Nichols filed on and developed the first ranch in the valley, southwest of the Durham stockyards.

C. A. Brett built the first house outside of town and the little log cabin can still be seen on Independence Avenue.

The most urgent and immediate problem was that of irrigation of land so production of crops for food and the raising of livestock could be had. In March of 1882 work was commenced on the Pioneer Canal. A company composed of twenty-one stockholders and land owners on the river east of town had been formed. A rather simple construction job took water from the river at a minimum of expense. This job was pushed rapidly and it was completed by April 20, 1882, so that the owners could put in some crops and begin a farming operation for the year. This was a lifesaver for the new community. Another ditch company was organized under the name of Pacific Slope Ditch, primarily to bring water and irrigation to the new townsite. It was finished to the townsite line July 1, 1882, and work was at once begun by the city administration to run the water in ditches along the principal streets so a general program of home and lot development could proceed. Before summer was over a considerable change from the complexion of a desert to that of a vineyard was to be seen. Ambitious, enterprising home owners soon had shade trees, gardens, and grass plots for beauty and usefulness.

During the winter season of 1881-1882 a couple of young men, Henry and Hobart Henderson, had rigged up an ingenious contraption called a whip-saw and began cutting timber and sawing lumber. Up to this time the little lumber that was produced had to be laboriously sawed by hand and there was scarcely enough produced to suffice for window frames and door jambs.

The first lumber produced by the new machine was used in building a rather crude ferry boat for crossing the river because practically everything entering the city came from Gunnison and had to be ferried over from the south side of the stream, which carried more water all the time than we see in the channel now, because all the water of the river went down the river bed. Weil and Fitzpatrick owned the little old ferry.

The summer of 1882 brought on much activity. The land under irrigation was producing fine crops. A brick yard was producing a good quality of brick for better construction purposes. The citizens adopted the proposal of municipal incorporation of the town on June 22, 1882. In May and June the river was too high to risk the use of the small ferry boat and quite a crowd of newcomers were forced to camp and live the best they could on the south side for many weeks until the water receded. The first Fourth of July was the occasion of a great celebration, speeches, exhibits, dancing and all the color and show that the planners could think of. By this time there were four general stores, Bevier and Meyhew, Layton and Hishwitz, Payne and Shackleton, and the Russell Brothers Company. The first doctor, H. E. Stroud, had established a drugstore, two blacksmith shops, three huts for hotels. Two lawyers had located in the town, J. W. Bucklin and W. J. Miller. The first issue of an established newspaper, the *Grand Junction News*, edited and published by Edwin Price, appeared October 28, 1882. Associated with Mr. Price in this venture was Darwin P. Kingsley, who later became internationally famous in the field of life insurance. He ascended to the presidency of the New York Life Insurance Company. Years later, after Mr. Price had disposed of his newspaper interests and had served several terms as postmaster, he was called to an executive position in the New York Life organization. His son grew up in the New York Life organization. Following Mr. Price's death, Mrs. Price, who had first come to Grand Junction in a stage coach, returned to Grand Junction and spent her declining years in the city she loved.

This narrative would not be complete without paying tribute to another first citizen, Mr. A. J. McCune, a very competent irrigation engineer. He had a large part in the early water problems, developments in municipal water and in the first water development of the whole valley. The first big project was the Grand Valley Ditch, a privately owned system. This irrigation project is without a doubt the most successful irrigation project in the whole world. It was constructed in 1883 by its water users. It has stood the test of nearly seventy-five years and embraces a land development of 50,000 acres of fine land, to a large extent due to the work of A. J. McCune, whose home stood at the corner of Rood and Sixth Street, where the Dufford Insurance Agency is now located.

The early history of the canal was full of difficulties because the water users were poor, ignorant of irrigation, the land had to be leveled repeatedly and much of the soil was sterile until the owners could mix humus to enrich it. But they worked out all their problems and in time paid off the bonds and now own the system.

The first death in the new community occurred on April 1, 1882. The river was at flood stage and there were newcomers on the south side pleading for a crossing. Ben Scott and another man attempted to cross the river; their boat capsized and Ben lost his life in the turbulent water. No missionary had come to the frontier town at that time so R. D. Mobley and J. W. Bucklin conducted the funeral and burial of their fellow townsman.

On November 25, 1882, work was completed on the D. & R. G. narrow gauge line from Salida by way of Gunnison and Uncompahgre Valley to Grand Junction and the first little locomotive crossed the railroad bridge and entered the city. This caused great rejoicing among the people and stirred up a rush of confidence in the future of their new home. The first engine, #23, engineer Frank Sylvester and fireman Charles Hobb, pulled in thirty cars. Soon the second train with eighteen cars pulled in, with B. F. Estes, engineer and C. Z. Zimmerman, fireman. Other railway men of 1883 were Benjamin Snyder, Bill McGinley, Michael O'Hara, Harry Sharp, H. C. Chandler, P. P. Egan, William Caurad, William Yates, Dennis Ryan, W. S. Binning, Lew Wallace. It was like a conquering army that had come to relieve a beleaguered city. The first depot was soon built and the present depot was finished in 1906.

This event prompted Mayor C. F. Shanks to make a survey of the growing community which showed 161 homes, in the spring of 1883.

The Grand Junction Town Company under founder George A. Crawford and composed of his brother, F. W. Crawford and R. D. Mobley, M. R. Warner and S. A. Harper wanted to make sure that the D. & R. G. Railroad would locate the depot, the trackage for a division point, the shops and other important installations, once and for all, within the townsite, so agreement was made to grant the railroad a total of eighty acres together with a one-half interest in the Townsite Company. So the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Company and the City of Grand Junction became cooperators in the future development of the region. Progress was reported on the main line that was coming over Tennessee Pass and the sure connection with the line west to Salt Lake City.

The engineering problems for Western Colorado were unlike any that the railroads had met before. In bringing transportation to Grand Junction, the

Rio Grande had to explore canyons, high and low mountain passes, and distances. The Royal Gorge route from Pueblo to Salida was chosen. From Salida to Grand Junction the problem had many facets. The more direct route would be over Monarch or Marshall Passes. These were very high passes and would mean many difficulties, such as slow traffic up the steep grade and snow sheds over the high elevation. The alternative was to go by way of Pancha Pass, a low altitude pass, to Saguache at the north end of the San Luis Valley, then over Cochetopa Pass, of medium elevation, into Gunnison. This distance would be much greater.

The engineers chose the Marshall Pass route and this line was the first railroad through the Continental Divide in Colorado. The route through Leadville over Tennessee Pass offered no serious difficulties because the approach to the top was gradual. The greatest obstacles were the Eagle River Canyon, Glenwood Canyon and DeBeque Canyon, all of which are narrow and deep and slides can be terrific. Nevertheless the engineers chose this route for the main line west which was completed to Grand Junction in 1891. This was standard gauged and placed Grand Junction on a transcontinental railroad line. When the highway building boom first struck, because of the invention of automobiles and transport trucks, canyons were avoided so far as possible, at a very considerable expense of distance but eventually the highways accepted water grade construction and began the use of powerful explosives to make room for the highway in addition to the railroad right of way. A still later advancement in engineering is the boring of tunnels for both railroad and highway transportation, if the traffic will insure the economy of tunnels.

The true pioneer spirit is one of grit, tireless energy and work, work, work. Needs must be cut down to size. The pioneer must be tough and undiscourageable. Many things must be organized and attempted when the only equity is just a hope. The new generation becomes softer; there develops a craving for an easier life. Instead of meeting problems head-on and alone, instead of individual effort, the assignments are given to committees and there progress rests. It is like the two old codgers at the circus. They were discussing the camel when one of them commented, "It looks like it had been put together by a committee." When you get away from the pioneering generation you find personal force soft-pedaled; people become slaves of invention and manipulators of the push button. When the auto came it meant speed but the old fashioned, determined plodding and self-reliance were lost. The cry went out, "Give us ease, make us happy, grant us luck!"

The Stork Found the Place

The first white child born in Grand Junction was Lola Price, born to Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Price, mentioned elsewhere, January 20, 1882. On December 26, 1901, Lola Eudora Price was married to Richard E. Meserve, a young surveyor. He became famous for his promotion of the Shale Oil industry and used every resource he could command, even making himself poor, to unfold this slowly developing industry. Mrs. Meserve still survives and lives in California.

A few weeks previous to the birth of Lola Price the first white child born in Mesa County was Hattie Dunlap born in the Meadows above Collbran. The Dunlap and Hawhurst families were the first to build permanent homes in that area in 1881.

Almost simultaneous with these early visits of the good old stork, was the birth of Harison Gavin, son of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Gavin of the Lower Valley, in September, 1882.

The Early Pioneers Were Well Educated

The first lawyer was a graduate of the University of Virginia, W. J. Miller. His partner W. G. Connely was from the same school. J. W. Bucklin and his partner L. A. Staley were graduates of Ann Arbor, Michigan, also Judge Walter S. Sullivan and his partner T. C. Clayton. Judge C. F. Caswell was a graduate of Dartmouth.

The first physicians came from the following schools: H. E. Stroud, educated in England; E. P. Brown, Rush Medical College; L. F. Ingersoll, University of Michigan; and J. J. Robertson, University of Virginia.

Some Early Events

The first post office was established in 1882 with R. D. Mobley as postmaster. Sid and Dwight Crandall established the first little bank in 1882.

The first vegetables grown for sale in the valley were on the Harlow ranch at the mouth of Rapid Creek, east of Palisade. These were a welcome change in the diet when the crop began to come to town in the fall of 1882.

The earliest general farm was developed four miles east of Grand Junction along the river, and it was a show place, named Hopedale, by Charles W. Steele. He extended a hearty welcome to all who would come to see his place. Every kind of fruit that would grow was propagated: peaches, apples, pears, berries, grapes, grains, feed, gooseberries, currants, vegetables, melons. Mr. Steele was a propagandist for the valley as long as he lived.

In the Whitewater district along the Gunnison, several pioneers developed farms: W. H. Coffman, the Shropshire ranch and the Penniston ranch were early show places for general farms; fruit, livestock and poultry were produced.

Livery stables were important in 1882. They were for the rental of horses and the feeding of horses that were brought in by the earliest pioneers. In 1882 there were four such businesses: Taylor and Coghill, W. I. Hammond, Hynes and Prairie, and Thurston and Allison. They kept horses for rental but there were no roads for vehicles or bridges for crossing the streams for several years. Walking and horseback riding were the only ways of transportation and travel about the region.

Blacksmith shops were just as necessary. They were small businesses and industries of course. Horseshoeing and the building of vehicles and keeping them in repair were very necessary and worthy occupational classifications. For many thousands of years there was little change in the means of travel. The feet of the horse had to be serviced the same as a man and the wheels of the conveyances needed attention constantly. The building of the wagon required skilled hand labor in making the tongue, the single trees, the brake or friction gear for carrying a loaded conveyance down hill and proper shrinking of the metal tires on the rim of the wheels. Tightening the tire on the wheel was as important as the inflation of tires is today and required aptitude.

In 1882 there came to the small town several artisans: Felix Toupain, a carpenter; Jacob Rice, a plasterer; S. J. Scoville, a butcher; William Isham, a jeweler; Dr. Lord, a dentist; T. E. Barnhouse, a photographer; and R. E. Fletcher, an iron worker and wagon builder. Mr. Fletcher came with his family, and his son George Fletcher entered business with his father when he grew up. Miss Marian Fletcher, secretary of The Sentinel Publishing Company, is a daughter of George Fletcher, one of the early pioneers who went to school in the first public school building.

1883

In February, 1883, Governor J. B. Grant came over from Denver for a visit to the new city. He was accorded a handsome reception in the Brunswick Hotel, a pretentious three-story brick structure that stood on the location of the J. C. Penney Store. The city was progressing very well and able to solve its municipal problems of administration and discipline as well. The area was still a part of Gunnison County with the county seat more than 140 miles distant. Attorney J. W. Bucklin had been elected to the legislature of Colorado to attempt the creation of a new county for the Grand Junction area, and W. J.

Miller, another attorney, was sent to Denver to assist in bringing this about. They succeeded and on February, 1883, a bill creating the new Mesa County was passed and a short time later the Governor signed the act. This was another development that brought forth a celebration, as did the coming of the first railroad. There were bonfires, processions, and speeches on a grand scale for such a community. Pursuant to the signing of the law, Governor Grant appointed the following men as county officials, all well and favorably known as pioneers, successful and able men for their jobs: Commissioners T. B. Crawford, G. T. Thurston and B. T. Carey; treasurer S. G. Crandall; assessor William Keith; sheriff Martin Florida; County judge Robert Cobb; surveyor A. J. McCune; coroner J. N. McArthur; clerk and recorder M. L. Allison.

The County Commissioners met the Board of Commissioners of the parent county and they mutually agreed upon the sum of \$7,208 as a payment to the old county as their share of the former indebtedness, so Mesa County entered the galaxy of Colorado Counties with a clean slate and with honor and integrity. As Daniel Webster in his eulogy on Alexander Hamilton said: "He touched the dead corpse of public credit and it sprang upon its feet."

In March of 1883 W. T. Carpenter received a charter and opened the Mesa County Bank, which at once filled a great need. Mr. Carpenter was a progressive citizen for such a local enterprise and did everything possible to upbuild the area on a solid financial basis. The new bank building between Fifth and Sixth Streets on Main was the first frame building in the county — all others were log or adobe. A power saw mill had been set up for making rough lumber.

While serving as a member of the legislature of Colorado, J. W. Bucklin had urged the Federal Government to establish an institution for the education of Indians in this region and in response to this request Teller Institute was established in 1885, named after Henry M. Teller, Colorado Senator who secured the institution. The Teller family owned a quarter section of land just east of town. The citizens donated a tract of 160 acres east of the city for this purpose. Teller Institute was a prominent Indian school for many years. The government finally, around the turn of the century, decided to close all off-the-reservation schools and Teller Institute closed its doors in 1911 and the property was given to the state of Colorado. The buildings stood vacant for some years until the State Home and Training School was established by legislative enactment in 1919 through the effort of Ollie E. Bannister, who was representing Mesa county in the legislature. An initial appropriation of \$300,000 was made to renovate and remodel the buildings. In 1920, 186 patients were sent to the school and it has been increasing in size each year since that time.

Fruita

Soon after the founding and settlement of Grand Junction, other spots were settled by newcomers into the valley. Distances were great in the horse and buggy era, so town building was almost a game in the settlement of any region. Fruita became a settlement in 1883. Like Grand Junction, the first thing was the creation of the second school district in Mesa County at Fruita in 1883. Several families arrived there in the summer and one of the first interests was to provide a school for the children. A school was organized in a log cabin. It was a tuition school, of course. The parents of the children prevailed upon Bernard F. Hughes, a young man who had come to make his home in the Fruita section, to teach the school. Mr. Hughes was a qualified teacher who had taught several terms previously.

It will be interesting to see the school roll because of the three families that made up the large part of this early pioneer school: Mary, Maida, Charles and James Lapham; Effie, Anna, Charles and Albert Mahaney; Charles, William, Henry, Edward, Dick and Sadie Ross; John and Mary Stafford; and two other pupils made up the roll of eighteen pupils. Most of these pupils continued to live in the valley and became prominent in the affairs of the county. These names are given to illustrate the fact that the early settlers came with the idea of making a new home for themselves. For ten years, Fruita was about as large as Grand Junction.

How families of several children could make their way overland, along crude Indian trails, with old fashioned tent wagons and survive under such primitive conditions as they had to meet, is hard to explain in these days of plenty and refined living circumstances. Despite the privations, such parents and their children became the substantial citizens of the Garden of the Rockies.

The third school district in Mesa County was Whitewater which promised to be a center of considerable population. The new railroad established a station and some trackage there. Purdy Mesa was organized as number four and Whitewater was at the entrance to the Unaweep Canyon leading to the Dolores River area and the Uncompahgre Plateau which was the first cattle country to be opened up.

Collbran

The most outstanding example of pioneer development in the Rocky Mountain region was the settlement of the upper Plateau valley in the early eighties. George Hawhurst and Horace Dunlap were the first to come. They

made their way across the country from Gunnison to that section in 1881. They were followed soon after by Charles Libby, John Dunlap, Dave Anderson, John Fitzpatrick, Bill Stites, Joe Putney and Jess Snipes. Many interesting stories are related about the experiences of these famous pioneers and their families as they were finding homes for themselves and beginning a development for the region. No story book offers such thrilling episodes. Many other settlers soon came and a thriving community was begun. It was a wonderful combination of famous pioneers and a choice and unique region in which to settle, a higher altitude and more vegetation than the Grand Valley.

A Through Railroad

In 1883 the Rio Grande Western Railroad was completed and opened for traffic to Salt Lake City. It was a narrow gauge road, the same as the road from Salida by way of Gunnison. The two roads were separate corporations and though there could be traffic through from Denver to Salt Lake City, it was slow and uncertain. Both pieces of road, though, were a great aid and convenience to Grand Junction. Machine shops were completed in 1883. Following the completion of the road over Tennessee Pass in 1890, the entire line was broad gauged to Salt Lake City.

The year 1883 was one for consolidating and making stable the affairs of the new town, the establishing of its businesses, and the building of more permanent homes and places of business. The Masonic Lodge was organized in 1883 and also the order of Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias.

Names of families who came in 1883:

Frank McClintock	Henry Waller
A. M. Davis	S. H. Kiler
J. R. Elliott	J. C. Kennedy
J. S. Kent	A. A. Miller
W. G. Boyd	W. H. Talbott
A. J. Aiken	W. A. Arey
N. N. Smith	Benj. J. Snyder
Lew Wallace	C. P. Bliss
Charles Berg	M. O. Whitehead

The pioneers possessed an extraordinary interest in their cultural life. They were making new homes where they could live happily and bring up their children with every advantage possible. They brought with them a strong feeling for the best of the cultural traditions they enjoyed in the states east and from which they had emigrated. Though they were to start from scratch in the

Grand Valley so far as the physical developments were concerned they would make no greater surrender of any cultural inheritance than circumstances might force. They really reemphasized the importance of the home, the church and the school. The books they read, the early library organization, the literary productions they planned, the music, the theater, the scientific interests, the programs they prepared and the new life they contemplated, all placed a heavy emphasis on the institutional evidences of a broad cultural development. Though the surroundings were in the raw and their mode of living the simplest, inconvenient and primitive, yet there was evidence of a remarkable maturity that would soon bring about their heart's desires.

1884

By 1884 the several fraternal bodies and the school and the churches proved very useful for getting acquainted and also such organizations took care of all worthy members who met misfortune and distress. Such organizations filled a great need in many forms of charity. The Masonic Lodge, the Odd Fellow, and the Elks were organized early and made great contributions to the growth and progress of the new city. To the young single men they were "a home away from home."

Conditions were met with here which none of the pioneers had known before and which were altogether different from experiences met anywhere else in the United States. The new people came from parts of the country where many of the resources and blessings were to be had free and unencumbered; plenty of natural precipitation, rain was free and enough to spare, good fertile soil, fuel for heating, material for housing, much food to be found growing wild. The Grand Valley was truly naked. It seemed to be a land that God forgot. Later an apt expression was, "You should have seen this place when the good Lord was trying to run it himself." The soil was sterile, leached out, except in spots. There was no wild food, no grass or other vegetation. It was truly a desert wilderness, pathless and unreclaimed. Every development had to start from zero. All the maturity we see today has been a fully earned increment. The old adage we knew so well prior to the present Century, "Go West, Young Man, and Grow Up With the Country," did not work out well. Pioneer life was hard. There were afflictions and difficulties. The life span was short at best. All the work was strenuous hand labor. The risks were great and the odds were against the adventurers. Hours of labor were long and the exposure was a test of strength and took a heavy toll of vitality. Injury, sickness, ill luck, lack of funds struck men and women down mercilessly at an early age. There was no

surgery and internal medicine was in a pioneering stage itself. Many of the young men were single and had no family to care for them in any emergency.

In looking over some of the early records of the social and fraternal orders prior to the turn of the century I became sadly impressed with the amount of care and support that they had to give to broken-down brothers who became old prematurely and therefore indigent in a new land. Soon there were widows and orphans to care for. Many of the cases were pitiful, yet the lodges did their duty. They lived up to their rituals. The funds were continually depleted because of so much relief work to be done. Weeks upon weeks the members had to give time and sustenance to their worthy and distressed members. Then the member would die and the lodge had to salvage what undeveloped property the victim had, dispose of the same, pay the debts and if aught remained, distribute it to whatever kin they could locate. Living today in the same but regenerated and modernized refinements we can hardly imagine the kind of life our forebears lived seventy-five years ago.

Charles W. Haskell and C. F. Coleman began publishing a second newspaper, *The Democrat*. The files of this paper are to be seen in the City Library and for some years the paper made a very great contribution to the community. Mr. Haskell was an able writer and, being familiar with settlers who came in the pioneering years, he was able to write and publish a very fine booklet preserving the record of the early settlement, for posterity. Copies of this early history are just about nonexistent and it is because of this that the author of this record has been inspired to produce as good a substitute as he is able, to be his contribution to the Diamond Anniversary Celebration of the settlement of Grand Junction. If preserved, it should be a source of useful knowledge of our city for the Centennial observation when 1981 rolls around.

Another source book will always be valuable; namely, Thesis submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Colorado in Partial Fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts, Department of History, by Mary Rait, in 1931. This Thesis is entitled "Development of Grand Junction and the Colorado River Valley of Palisade From 1881 to 1931." This thesis can be seen only by calling on the Library of the University. For research it will always be valuable. It is a most important record.

Everywhere in the United States when a band of people began the settlement of a new community, they worked together simultaneously at developing that great trinity of civilized forces for unfolding the best civilization possible: the civil authority, the school system, and the religious organizations for moral and spiritual refinement. These were worked out simultaneously but always in cooperation. The civil authority was confined to its own geographical limits,

for townsites had to be filed on and chartered within a given acreage. The school district had an area and boundary limitation, too, but the size of the school district had little relation to that of the municipality that was the real nucleus or center.

Each church or religious organization was usually developed by sectarian influences, by ecclesiastical bodies under their own system of missionary promotion. Religion has ever been free in the United States, as much so as civil government and educational management. There have also been fine examples of community churches, organized and administered by the people concerned, without any allegiance to set creeds or outside sectarian influence.

In 1884 the Colorado Midland was completed from Colorado Springs to New Castle. When the Rio Grande built into Grand Junction in 1890, the Midland arranged to come to Grand Junction on the Rio Grande tracks.

After 1891, the route to Denver was by way of Leadville and Pueblo or over the Colorado Midland by way of the Roaring Fork, Frying Pan, South Fork to Colorado Springs. It was not until the Moffatt tunnel was completed in 1925 that we had a shorter route.

There never was a benefactor, a guardian angel, or a financial backer, not even a grubstaker. Everything had to be fought and bled for. The pioneers built their own town—a self-reliant, hardy bunch of adventurers. Though they might at times fight one another and on occasion try to take advantage, you could always be sure that they would stand back to back in any common cause, against all foes. Their struggles gave savor to the life they lived. Their adventures contributed to a happy existence. Their defeats strengthened their determination to win the next combat.

By the turn of the century the pioneers had won the battle. The railroads and the shops built up a population. The early day crops, live stock sales, and the fruit industry brought in cash from the outside. Following 1900, many farmers from Iowa and Nebraska with more than average means began coming into the Grand Valley to make it their home. They were good workers and qualified for all kinds of farm operations and they had sold out back home, pulled up their stakes and were determined to make new homes in the new land. Concerning open house New Years 1884, Edwin Price, early pioneer, wrote a letter to the Lion's Club Special Edition of the Daily Sentinel, January 1, 1939 and a quotation from his letter describes the morale of the people at that time:

“When the holidays of 1883 and the New Year of 1884 were ushered in, the “Society people” of the promising new town, felt that it would be a mistake

to allow the season to pass without making some effort at entertainment for their social enjoyment. Most of them were on an equality so far as home life and equipment for entertainment were concerned.

"The ladies! Well! Of course they got together, and decided to hold open house to all callers of New Year's day, and follow the customs they had enjoyed in the more pretentious homes they had left behind. So the word was passed that they would be at home to all callers on New Year's day, and that light refreshments would be served everywhere.

"The gentlemen! Well! Should they call?... Yes! Wildly delighted, ladies! We are coming in style, with four-in-hand coach and coachman. Be prepared for our arrival! So the gentlemen arrayed themselves in their best "bib-and-tucker"; some wearing their plug hats and Prince Albert coats and cut-aways, all imported from their faraway homes. They did not propose to allow the ladies to outdo them in any particular. It was one of those out west open winters—mild and sunshiny days—and it fitted into their plans most admirably. No snow, mild and balmy, overcoats unnecessary.

"Will Hammond's livery barn furnished the coach, which proved to be his large freight dray, to which were hooked four big black horses. The seats provided were soap boxes on which were placed planks, or any old thing that would do to sit on. Then the coachman began to pick up the gentlemen callers, scattered about the town. Here is a partial list, as I recall them, viz: Darwin P. Kingsley, T. B. Crawford, M. O. Whitehead, Will Smith, Charles Fluke, Governor Crawford, Dwight and Sid Crandall, Hib Smith, W. T. Carpenter, W. G. Connelly, T. C. Clayton, Judge C. W. Burris, E. D. Bouton, Edwin Price, John D. Reeder, C. P. Bliss, C. E. Mitchell, J. W. Bucklin, Harvey Bucklin, Walter Sullivan, Clayton Nichols, W. P. Harbottle.

Remember Ladies

"Among the ladies living there at that time who opened their homes for callers on New Year's day, as Mrs. Price and I can remember, were the following: Mrs. J. R. Elliott and daughter, Mr. W. P. Harbottle, Mrs. E. D. Bouton, Mrs. Kiler, Mrs. Peabody, Mrs. Campbell assisted by her sisters, Misses Emma and Elsie Kent; Mrs. W. T. Carpenter assisted by her mother, Mrs. Lewis; Mrs. Dwight Crandall; Mrs. Frank McClintock and Mrs. Edwin Price assisted by Miss Mollie Mitchell who afterwards became the wife of D. P. Kingsley.

"That was a jolly crowd of men who boarded the big freight dray. I have often wished that someone would have thought of taking a photograph of that crowd and its outfit. It would now afford much amusement as we look back on those days, and compare then with the motor busses and taxicabs of today, with our paved roads and highways. But there was a feeling of freedom and joy and fun in that crowd, out there in that new town on the frontier, that cannot be duplicated today. The character and good breeding of the men and women of that day, who became the first settlers of Grand Valley and Grand Junction, has had a lasting influence for the good of society, and the upbuilding of religious and educational institutions."

An Interview

On June 11, 1894, the *Rocky Mountain News* displayed an interview with Benton Canon, Banker, and Mr. M. L. Allison, Mayor of Grand Junction, who were returning from a trip to the Mississippi Valley area where they had been on a publicity trip looking for settlers for Western Colorado. They had been looking for farmers, livestock men, fruit growers and men who could be interested in building industries of various kinds. They were interested in developing new payroll industries, one of which was a Chemical and Spray Manufacturing Company, because of the rapid development of fruit growing.

The interview was quite complimentary to the men and their mission. They were quoted as speaking in glowing terms of the Colonists who were coming in those early years: honest, moral, industrious people. They were jubilant concerning the character of the men and women who were coming and of the inquiries from those who were considering closing of their affairs and moving to new homes. They met many families who were people of affairs in their home communities and were attracted by the scenery, the climate, the mountains, irrigation and opportunities for recreation and a change of activities. They expected as a result of their trip and solicitations to have many come here from Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and Kansas.

In 1905 Mr. Charles A. Latimer established his chemical industry which later became the Latimer-Goodwin Chemical Company for the manufacture of all kinds of spray materials for agricultural purposes. This industry served the whole region for many years. But no amount of care, industry and chemicals

could offset the danger of neglected orchards where the owners would not spray their fruit trees. In the Grand Valley, every neglected apple or pear tree and every orchard that failed to maintain the necessary spraying rules became a menace to the whole fruit industry and in the end ruined it, with a loss of millions of dollars to the economy of the whole region. Good orchardists and bad met the same disaster. The chemical concern closed in the 1930s. Mr. Harry B. Goodwin lives in Grand Junction and manages his personal affairs in his office at 804 So. 7th Street. Mrs. Latimer resides in Grand Junction. Her son, James, is chemist for the Atomic Center and her daughter, Mrs. Tom Brownson, head of the Brownson Clothing Company, both live in Grand Junction.

Special Census of 1885

An interesting bird's-eye view of residents seventy-five years ago has been discovered in a dust-covered volume in the Secretary of State's office in the Capitol building at Denver. It represents the first census taken and completed on May 31, 1885, by John C. Montgomery, Commissioner of the Census. Evidently, it was just a sampling enumeration, a special Federal Census at mid-decade. Grand Junction at that count had a total of 378 residents, of which 224 were males and 154 females. There were 376 white residents and two Chinamen. Single people numbered 220, married 156, ten were widowed and six had been divorced. The youngest resident was two months of age, the oldest, Alta Baker, seventy years old, a native of Canada.

Thirteen foreign countries were represented as birthplaces of the Mesa County residents, of which Canada furnished fourteen, the largest number; Germany was second with eleven, England ten, Ireland eight, Scotland two, China two, Denmark two, and one each from Austria, Sandwich Islands, Bavaria, France, Wales, and Sweden.

One of the significant features of the census was that few adults thus enumerated were natives of Colorado, almost all of the Colorado-born being infants of ten years and under.

The complete alphabetical list of residents, at home as of May 31, 1885, as certified to the Territorial Assembly by Census Commissioner John C. Montgomery, was as follows:

Name	Age	Nativity	Name	Age	Nativity
Azzalia, Frank	36	Austria	Albers, W. L.	25	Illinois
Albers, Lydia K.	19	Kentucky	Albers, Henry F.	1	Colorado
Abbey, R. P.	50	Pennsylvania	Abbey, H. E.	46	New York
Abbey, Walter A.	18	Pennsylvania	Abbey, May	7	Colorado
Ackerman, J. H.	31	New Jersey	Ackerman, Ella J.	25	Illinois
Ackerman, Harry C.	7	Texas	Ackerman, Alice A.	3	Colorado
Ackerman, Ralph	1	Colorado	Allison, M. L.	36	Missouri
Alphin, John	47	Illinois	Alphin, Elmira	38	Mississippi
Alphin, Zuzetta	21	Utah	Alphin, Cora	15	Utah
Alphin, Dolly	13	Utah	Alphin, Frank	11	Nevada
Alphin, Charles	9	Nevada	Anderson, A. N.		
Bickford, Charles M.	32	Maine	Blakslee, H. Z.	54	New York
Blakeslee, Lucy E.	55	Ohio	Blakslee, Rowland	18	Iowa
Bisbee, L. H.	22	New York	Bisbee, Agnes	19	Kentucky
Bisbee, Eugene	57	New York	Bisbee, Eliza F.	48	Vermont
Bales, George	29	Illinois	Blain, George		
Burris, C. W.	38	Kentucky	Bucklin, James W.	28	Illinois
Bucklin, H. C.	26	Illinois	Barrows, C. A.	40	Michigan
Boutwell, T. W.	45	Virginia	Brown, R. P.	28	Illinois
Barnhouse, T. E.	54	Virginia	Bliss, C. F.	29	Iowa
Barrett, John F.	29	Iowa	Barrett, Mary I.	29	Missouri
Barnhouse, A. L.	20	Illinois	Barrett, Mary J.	9	Missouri
Barrett, B. H.	45	Illinois	Bishop, Virginia	39	Indiana
Blain, Elena			Blain, Douglas		
Bucklin, James	2 mo.	Colorado	Bucklin, George	2 mo.	Colorado
Braman, C. J.	57	Virginia	Briley, Nelson	43	Ohio
Briley, Mary	47	Illinois	Boulder, George W.	31	Ohio
Baker, Alta	70	Canada	Baker, Sarah	30	Canada
Bonton, Edwin D.	39	Pennsylvania	Bonton, Madeline	39	Germany
Bonton, Craig M.	3	Colorado	Blakeslee, J. H.	29	Ohio
Bissell, C. H.	32	Indiana	Cameron, J. M.	41	Ontario
Cameron, Stella M.	30	New York	Connehy, W. G.	26	Pennsylvania
Conner, J. C.	35	Virginia	Carpenter, W. F.	36	Indiana
Carpenter, Susie E.	29	Wisconsin	Carpenter, Susie C.	6	Nebraska
Crook, James	32	Illinois	Campbell M. A.	37	Illinois
Campbell, Celia M.	26	Pennsylvania	Campbell, Hazel B.	2	Colorado
Cook, Joseph H.	27	England	Cook, Arthur P.	33	New York
Cook, Julia I.	28	Illinois	Cook, Arthur M.	7	Colorado
Crawford, Minnie	21	Iowa	Clayton, Thomas C.	34	Ohio
Clayton, Josephine	26	Illinois	Crandall, Dwight	36	New York
Crandall, Dora	24	Missouri	Crandall, Sidney G.	34	New York
Crandall, Clyffee	7	Colorado	Crandall, Mable	3	Nebraska
Crandall, Frank	4 mo.	Colorado	Crawford, George A.	57	Pennsylvania
Crotser, Louis	22	Missouri	Crawford, T. B.	20	Pennsylvania
Crawford, Emma	27	Missouri	Cosgrove, J. H.	29	Wisconsin
Cosgrove, Sarah	28	Ireland	Cash, Lucius	23	New York

Name	Age	Nativity	Name	Age	Nativity
Coleman, S. W.	37	Kentucky	Coleman, Mary	32	Indiana
Coleman, Cora	5	Colorado	Coleman, Edith	3	Colorado
Clegg, Louisa	31	Canada	Clegg, William	4	Canada
Clegg, Charles	1	Colorado	Crawley, Timothy	27	England
Cameron, John	31	Canada	Curran, Matthew	29	Wisconsin
Currie, Mary	34	Illinois	Currie, Lydia	4	Colorado
Carleton, N. A.	45	New York	Cushing, John	53	Ireland
Coleman, N. J.	29	Pennsylvania	Coleman, Ellen B.	28	Pennsylvania
Coleman, Fred S.	2	Colorado	Coleman, Joseph	60	Pennsylvania
Coleman, Irma	54	Massachusetts	Cannon, Frank	45	
Donnelly, George	26	New York	Dunlop, Emma	28	Wisconsin
Dunlop, James	32	Pennsylvania	Dunlop, Nellie	2	Utah
Davids, C. W.	27	Ohio	Delo, J. M.	29	Indiana
Dulmane, J. E.	26	Canada	Desrosie, Louis	36	Canada
Deshais, Z.	33	Canada	Dowd, Rose	19	Colorado
Deveraux, M. T.	25	Iowa	Evans, William	27	Michigan
Edwards, Guy	22	Iowa	Elliott, J. R.	53	Pennsylvania
Elliott, Nellie	45	Indiana	Elliott, Belle	12	Iowa
Earl, Orrin B.	35	Michigan	Fluke, Charles T.	28	Ohio
Fredericks, M. F.	28	Pennsylvania	Florida, Martin	45	New York
Florida, L. J.	32	Iowa	Florida, Ella A.	15	Iowa
Frazier, G. B.	45	Iowa	Frazier, Alice M.	28	California
Frazier, Robert R.	7	Colorado	Frazier, Anne D.	5	Colorado
Frazier, James H.	3	Colorado	Farrell, J. B.	25	Rhode Island
Farrell, M. J.	40	Ireland	Farrell, Josie H.	29	Pennsylvania
Fonda, Henry V.	51	New York	Fonda, Jennie	51	New York
Gipson, W. A.	41	Scotland	Gipson, Laura A.	32	New York
Gipson, May	10	Colorado	Gipson William J.	7	Colorado
Goodrich, W. E.	28	Vermont	Gould, Jewell	18	Illinois
Gordon, John S.	37	Missouri	Gordon, George	12	California
Gordon, Edward	9	California	Grossbeck, Hattie	23	New York
Graham, Moses	26	Virginia	Graham, Rachel	18	Oregon
Graham, Effie	2	Colorado	Gordon, Emma	26	Iowa
Gwinea, I. D.	67	New York	Grossback, Belle	19	New York
Hayer, H. L.	40	Sandwich Is.	Hill, L. R.	30	South Carolina
Hall, J. Austin	39	New York	Hall, Mabel	10	New York
Heisen, F. Y. C.	32	Alabama	Hart, William H.	34	Vermont
Harrington, G. S.	26	New York	Hays, C. B.	32	Virginia
Huskins, George M.	29	Pennsylvania	Huskins, Mattie A.	22	Michigan
Huskins, John E.	5	Colorado	Huskins, E. Wayne	3	Colorado
Huskins, Harry E.	1	Colorado	Hynes, John	34	Iowa
Hynes, Mary E.	25	Kansas	Hynes, W. J.	3	Colorado
Hynes, Ethel A.	6 mo.	Colorado	Henderson, W. J. S.	44	Ireland
Hersch, Herman	24	Germany	Hammond, W. J.	23	Missouri
Higgins, James	37	Ireland	Higgins, Emma H.	27	Iowa

Name	Age	Nativity	Name	Age	Nativity
Higgins, Carrie	3	Colorado	Hull, Sarah E.	42	Illinois
Hull, Victoria	7	Missouri	Husy, J. B.	37	Alabama
Husy, N. C.	33	Texas	Husy, William A.	12	Texas
Husy, Caroline	6	Texas	Husy, Thomas	4	Colorado
Husy, Daisy	2	Colorado	Hammond, C. C.	34	Nebraska
Halboner, Fred W.	29	Illinois	Hall, B. R.	35	Indiana
Hall, Elizabeth E.	23	Ohio	Hale, James M.	55	Virginia
Hadock, Thomas H.	25	England	Hadock, Mary E.	24	England
Haskell, Eliza A.	55	England	Haskell, Charles W.	31	Iowa
Haskell, George E.	25	Iowa	Herron, R. M.	34	Vermont
Herron, Ida M.	26	Illinois	Isham, E. L.	48	New Hampshire
Ingersoll, T. F.	31	New York	Innes, William	40	Canada
Innes, Lucy	35	Canada	Innes, Eddie	7	Missouri
Jackson, William	35	England	Jackson, Mary Jane	24	England
Jackson, George A.	3	New York	Jackson, Frederick	1	Colorado
Jay, Ruth A.	15	Iowa	Johnson, Mary	56	Ireland
Kiler, W. H.	39	Ohio	Kiler, C. A.	38	Ohio
Kiler, Lillie B.	10	Missouri	Kiler, Jesse L.	8	Missouri
Kenney, J. G.	32	Ohio	Kenney, Alvira D.	30	Iowa
Kenney, Kate P.	10	Utah	Kenney, Jeanette	6	Utah
Kenney, Ellen	3	Colorado	Kenney, Lulu	6 mo.	Colorado
Kent, James S.	58	Pennsylvania	Kent, Amanda	54	Pennsylvania
Kent, Emma B.	28	Pennsylvania	Kennedy, J. C.	31	Vermont
Kennedy, Mary E.	21	Vermont	Knowles, G. W.	43	Illinois
Knowles, James R.	37	Ohio	Knowles, Charles C.	19	Iowa
Knowles, Kate M.	17	Iowa	Knowles, Franklin F.	11	Kansas
Kingsley, Darwin P.	28	Vermont	Kingsley, Mary M.	22	California
Krinz, Louis	55	Germany	Kippe, Henry	39	Germany
Kippe, Mary	34	Germany	Kippe, Alvina	15	Germany
Kippe, Emma	12	Germany	Kippe, Martha	11	Illinois
Kippe, Edwin	4	Colorado	Kippe, Amelia	1	Colorado
Kennedy, B. K.	29	Ireland	Kennedy, E. C.	20	Iowa
Klingensmith, S. J.	24	Pennsylvania	Kirk, Clark	28	Missouri
Kenyon, John	30	Pennsylvania	Leshner, W. Z.	32	Pennsylvania
Lewis, Susie L.	56	Connecticut	Lee, William H.	38	Kentucky
Lee, Alice L.	29	Illinois	Lee, Frank I.	15	Wyoming
Lee, Effie	13	Wyoming	Lee, Lucy	11	Wyoming
Larkie, Josie	22	Illinois	Lumsden, J. J.	27	New York
Lumsden, Cinderella	26	Illinois	Layton, J. A.	40	Indiana
Layton, Louisa M.	39	North Dakota	Layton, Harry P.	12	Missouri
Layton, Edgar	7	Missouri	Layton, H. B.	35	Indiana
Layton, Rose	57	New York	Lee, Shang	35	China
Marsh, W. A.	29	California	Miller, A. A.	35	Canada
Miller, W. J.	32	Tennessee	Miller, Anna M.	22	Tennessee
Mesler, C. B.	50	New York	Mobley, R. D.	51	Kentucky
Mobley, Emma	42	Illinois	Mobley, Rose	9	California

Name	Age	Nativity	Name	Age	Nativity
Moore, Samuel	40	England	Mulkey, Walter T.	17	Illinois
Murray, G. C.	34	Missouri	Murray, T. C.	29	Missouri
Mow, Yet	27	China	Miller, Anna R.	43	Ohio
Miller, Mary A.	16	Kansas	Miller, Michael	10	Nebraska
Miller, Albert	8	Nebraska	Miller, L. M.	44	Ohio
McGinley, William			Moore, C. C.	36	Connecticut
Moore, Emma M.	26	Wisconsin	Moore, Lailie	5	Colorado
Moore, Fred D.	6 mo.	Colorado	Monroe, Kate M.	25	Massachusetts
Nichols, J. Clayton	30	Ohio	Nutting, W. J.	35	Maine
Nishwitz, William	37	Germany	Orth, Lit J.	27	Illinois
Olsen, Hans	40	Denmark	Olsen, J. Peter	44	Denmark
Olsen, Augusta	33	Missouri	Olsen, Olivia	12	Missouri
Olsen, Edward E.	6	Missouri	Olsen, Beulah	3	Illinois
Phillips, John	33	Kentucky	Purdy, Lotie	16	Pennsylvania
Price, Edwin	27	Illinois	Price, Lola F.	24	Maryland
Price Lola E.	2	Colorado	Pardue, McDonald	35	Ireland
Quinlan, Maggie	7		Quinn, W. J.	32	
Quinn, Mary C.	32	Missouri	Quinn, Gentry J.	7	Kansas
Quinn, O. P.	5	Kansas	Quinn, Hugh D.	4	Kansas
Quinn, Laura F.	2	Colorado	Quinn, Bess	1	Colorado
Rhone, Henry R.	36	Illinois	Russell, O. D.	32	Ohio
Russell, J. M.	59	Ohio	Reider, John D.	23	Missouri
Robertson, J. J.	23	Utah	Ryan, George	35	Ireland
Ramage, David	45	Canada	Ryan, Nellie	19	Indiana
Rosenthal, George W.	20	Missouri	Randall, A. C.	38	New York
Randall, Nancy A.	26	Illinois	Randall, Minnie M.	10	Montana
Randall, Charles A.	8	Montana	Randall, Edgar P.	6	Iowa
Robinson, John	39	Scotland	Robinson, Maggie	26	Canada
Robinson, Jennie	6	Ohio	Robinson, Kate	1	Colorado
Strand, H. E.			Sanders, T. C. F.	69	Pennsylvania
Spink, C. H.	30	New York	Scribner, J. E.	35	New York
Smith, F. N.	50	Massachusetts	Sutton, Francis J.	46	Ohio
Shrewsbury, T. S.	44	Illinois	Shrewsbury, M. E.	41	Ohio
Staley, Lorin A.	31	Ohio	Staley, Julia P.	24	Wisconsin
Smith, N. N.	40	Ohio	Smith, Anna	29	England
Steele, Grace	14	Iowa	Savord, J. D.	30	Canada
Smith, John E.	22	Kansas	Sullivan, W. S.	28	Ohio
Sullivan, Emma A.	31	Kentucky	Strouse, Morris	47	Germany
Strouse, Teresa	35	Germany	Strouse, Louis	10	Indiana
Spencer, J. F.	37	Wisconsin	Spencer, Ida M.	27	Illinois
Spencer, Mabel	2	Colorado	Snider, William	60	Ohio
Snyder, Conrad	41	Pennsylvania	Snyder, Laura	39	Maryland
Sears, Mary	22	New York	Sears, Ruth	1	Illinois
Shoefel, James	43	England	Smith, M. J.	28	Missouri
Schallert, Frederick	53	Germany	Schallert, Margaret	39	Bavaria
Swinehart, David	26	Ohio	Swinehart, Anna	27	Tennessee

Name	Age	Nativity	Name	Age	Nativity
Swinehart, Blanche	1	Colorado	Skinner, Emma E.	47	Ohio
Stewart, Mansir	45	New York	Stewart, Julia A.	39	Indiana
Stewart, Jennie	18	Kansas	Stewart, George	16	Kansas
Stewart, Lucy F.	12	Kansas	Stewart, Clair	9	Kansas
Stewart, Dick	6	Kansas	Stewart, Earl	4	Colorado
Stewart, Ray	2	Colorado	Stewart, Daisy	2 mo.	Colorado
Swaney, J. W.	45	New York	Shanks, C. F.		
Swaney, Emma J.	35	Ohio	Swaney, Charles	8	Colorado
Shields, John	45	Michigan	Scoville, Stephen	28	Canada
Scoville, Sarah	25	Kansas	Scoville, Smith	2	Kansas
Shackelton, George H.	26	Kansas	Shackelton, Amelia	17	Kansas
Thurston, George W.	39	Indiana	Thurston, N. J.	28	Missouri
Thomas, W. A.	33	Pennsylvania	Thomas, H. E.	38	Canada
Temple, R. W.	28	Pennsylvania	Temple, Francis A.	27	Iowa
Turrell, Ovid	32	France	Talbot, N. H.	22	Maryland
Vaughn, John	27	Wales	Vaughn, Katie	24	Vermont
Vought, Jacob O.	26	Ohio	Ward, John W.	31	Illinois
Ward, Elizabeth	31	Wisconsin	Ward, Daisy	6	Wisconsin
Ward, Minnie	2	Colorado	Welch, Sarah	12	Canada
Wolfe, Matilda	38	Indiana	White, Edward	27	Kentucky
Waller, Henry	43	Tennessee	Waller, Trenyard	37	Minnesota
Waller, George	17	Dakota	Waller, John	12	Dakota
Waller, Julia	10	Dakota	Waller, William	5	Colorado
Waller, Lily	3	Colorado	Westerman, Joseph	34	Michigan
Williams, W. E.	25	Illinois	Williams, Lulu	20	Illinois
Williams, Eliza	50	Kentucky	Williams, Hattie	21	Illinois
Williams, Anna	19	Iowa	Williams, Jennie	16	Kansas
Watkins, Eva	19	Kansas	Weyer, J. W.	33	Ohio
Weyer, Kate B.	18	Minnesota	Westlake, William B.	49	New York
Westlake, Jennie E.	39	Ohio	Westlake, Burris W.	5	Colorado
Waldenberg, Fred	37	Sweden	Waterman, George A.	53	New York
Waterman, Mary J.	40	England	Waterman, Maryetta	18	Utah
Waterman, John D.	15	Utah	Waterman, George A.	13	Utah
Waterman, Asa	1	Colorado	Wood, Alfred	47	Maine
Wheelock, M. A.	60	New York	Wheelock, Elizabeth	60	Ohio
McFarland, J. F.	27	Ohio	McKee, M. H.	26	Pennsylvania
McKee, Adda E.	23	Colorado	McLean, Sarah	39	England
McLean, Nordelle	5	Texas	McBride, George W.	37	Ohio
McGinnis, Patrick	33	Ireland	McGinnis, Mary	23	New York
McGinnis, Martha	6 mo.	Colorado			

Anyone who looks over the records finds the service of pioneers of every classified group looking at him from yellowing records, and from the pages of albums and scrapbooks with serious expressions. Most of them, like most of us, did not leave very deep footprints in the sands of time, but there is always that quizzical-teasing stare, "What are you going to make of it." We hear it said that when men die, they just pass out and their positions are soon filled. That may be true, but the right man in the right place leaves an influence, a standard, an example that etches its way into an enterprise and lasts long after the pioneer has laid down his work. Let such a thought be an epitaph of the sincere toilers, who, by being the right men in this fair land we enjoy so much today.

Pioneers are a hardy lot. Though they rate themselves as resourceful and, barring accident, they count on getting along on their own power, yet they were always aware that in life there are some things that no one person can handle alone. This means organization. In pioneering there develops a strong spirit of mutual help, of making common cause and there is in the air an urgency to do things on a bigger scale, to build things, to get things started, to pool resources for faster achievement than one individual can realize.

The School System

The famous state paper of 1787, forming the organization of the North West Territory or the Ohio Territory, stated the thesis for all America: "Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary for good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged."

The school system of Grand Junction was the first governing organization to be formed. The civil government had to wait for a charter from the government, a county government by the authority of the legislature and an official interested in education did not need to wait because it was possible to begin school work by private subscription on a tuition basis.

The first election in Grand Junction was a school election held on June 1, 1882. This was before the town was incorporated and before school district families had come into the valley by stage coach, horseback, and immigrant wagons and wherever there are children in America there must be school advantages. So a committee was chosen to work out some plan for a school. This committee was composed of Dr. H. E. Stroud, the first physician in the new community, O. D. Russell and W. M. McKelvey. Mr. Russell came in company with William McGinley and J. Clayton Nichols, the first three settlers who rode horseback into the Grand Valley on September 8, 1881. That was the historic beginning.

First School

The first school was held in the summer of 1882. The school committee raised the money by public subscription and selected Miss Nannie Blain, a young woman who had recently arrived with her parents and brothers by old fashioned camp wagon along the old Indian trails from Canon City by way of Gunnison and Ouray, as teacher.

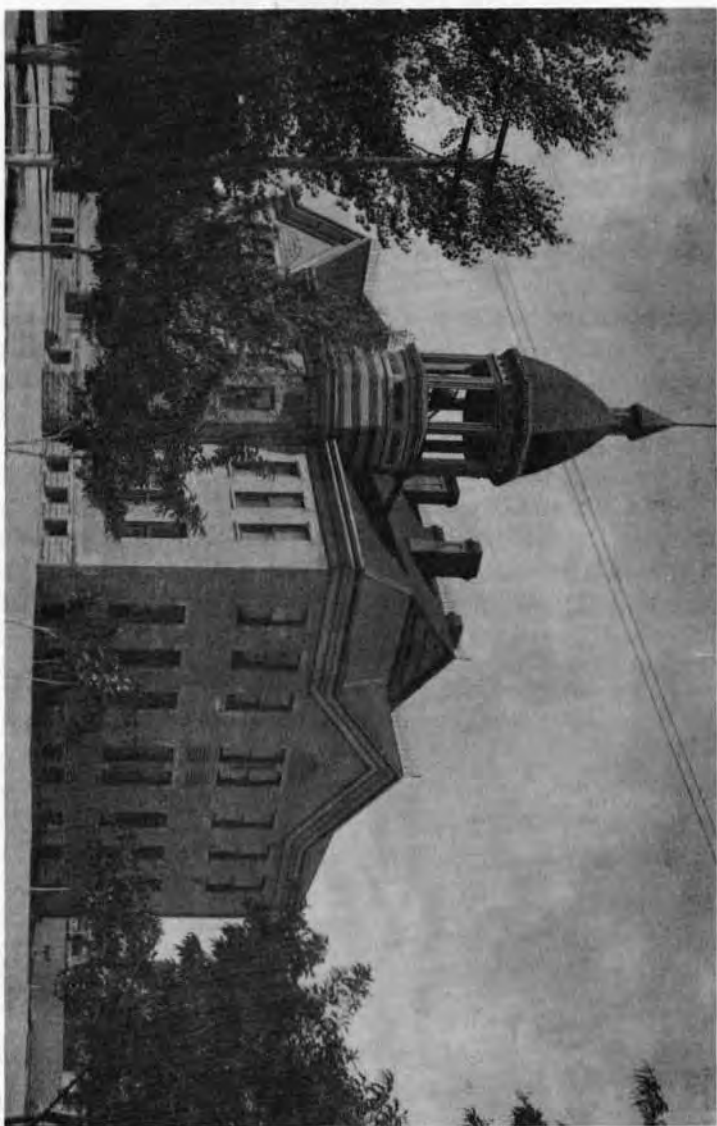
Twenty pupils were enrolled and the school was organized in a small picket cabin on the south side of Colorado Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets. The names of these pupils have been preserved for seventy-five years and a picture of the school may be seen in the present school administration office. J. S. Gordon had come with his family in the summer of 1882. He enrolled four children in the first school. Miss Blain married William Underhill and they established their home in Mesa County. Attorney Elam Underhill of this city is a son. Mrs. Underhill describes her school as a hut, dirt floor, dirt roof, and the furnishings just such simple necessities as could be hastily made by hand. She states that her pupils were a bright, promising, and well behaved group. At the close of the term the pupils spoke their pieces, Judge Mobley and J. W. Bucklin, among the early citizens of the pioneer community, made appropriate school addresses. There were also two other tuition schools in 1883 and 1884 before the first tax money became available late in 1884.

The Pupils of the First School

Jennie Davis	Hattie Green
Henry Davis	Carrie Green
Charles Green	Rachel Gordon
James Green	Rose Gordon
George Gordon	— Randall
Edward Gordon	— Randall
Lillian Hall	Lizzie Reeser
Nelson Hall	Arthur Reeser
William Knowles	Grace Steele
Millin Randall	Grant Steele

First Citizens

In 1881 about a score of young men rode horseback into this section. They were mostly single men but among them were a few married men who had left their families behind while they looked for a place to make a home. The hazards and uncertainties of such an adventure can be imagined. Their names have been given earlier in this narrative. (See 1881). They provided their own winter quarters as best they could in a virgin land.



Grand Junction's first High School building, located on Fifth Street between White and Rood Avenues.

First Public School Building

Mesa County was created February 11, 1883, and the school district No. 1, which had already been formed, became a legal entity. In the fall of 1883 the new board of school directors composed of H. E. Stroud, A. M. Davis and George B. Frazier requested of the new board of county commissioners a school levy of 7 mills for school purposes. The first board of county commissioners in Mesa County was composed of the following: B. F. Carey, Thomas B. Crawford, and G. W. Thurston, who were appointed by Governor N. B. Grant as soon as the new county of Mesa was created by the legislature.

The little old narrow gauge railroads had come in 1882. There was a rapid development of pioneer property that made a tax duplicate from which a little money could be raised and a school levy was considered as having first claim. It was not until late in 1884 that any school taxes could be collected, so the school sessions of 1882 and 1883 were tuition schools. The school rooms were rented from such crude shelters as were available. Equipment was anything that could be collected.

On May 5, 1884, school bonds in the sum of \$10,000 were voted by the taxpayers. These bonds were sold for \$9,700 and the contract for a new building was let to five local concerns which could go ahead and construct a building quickly. The plans called for a two-story, four-room, brick structure. The following bids were accepted: brickwork—Hunt Bros., \$2655.00; carpenter work—Nelson & Taupin, \$3300.00; plastering—Ackerman & Lumsden, \$806.97; stone work—E. Smith, \$1025.00; painting—The Town Co., \$451.00; total bids—\$8237.97.

The building was completed for school purposes late that year, this first school building being the middle part of the old Lowell school on the court house block. It may be seen in old town pictures. It was a four-room, two-story building made of homemade brick, facing south.

First High School Building

The first high school, which was located on the site of the court house, may be seen in any old time pictures taken after 1891. On May 6, 1890, a petition of legal voters was presented to the school board requesting a new high school. The names are given in this record to pay honor to a noble set of pioneers. At that time the board was composed of N. N. Smith, A. J. McCune, and S. W. Coleman; note the swift changes. The petitioners were the substantial citizens of the community at the time and are added to this report.

Thomas C. Clayton
W. T. White
Frank McClintock
W. A. Rice
Robert A. Orr
J. H. Nelson
C. E. Mitchell
Walter S. Sullivan
Dave Roberts
George Ryan
Henry Kipp
M. Strouss
A. T. Poff
J. H. Ackerman
J. G. Hall
A. S. Hough
J. T. Sharp
W. J. Quinn
L. F. Ingersoll
J. O. Brodish
T. M. Jones
A. A. Miller

Edwin Price
Benton Canon
M. E. Williams
T. B. Crawford
J. A. Layton
Orson Adams
G. A. Crawford
C. W. Baldwin
W. A. Marsh
John Philipps
J. F. Byers
J. W. Bridges
J. P. Nesbitt
G. H. Lawrence
F. W. Cobb
M. O. Whitehead
J. W. Parmenter
R. P. Abbey
J. Vaughn
H. R. Rhone
J. J. Lumsden
P. A. Rice

An election was promptly called for May 26, and the sum of \$11,000 was voted unanimously. These bonds were sold for 10 1/8 and a contract was let for a new building. The contractor defaulted because he bid too low and the board decided to finish the building and asked for more money. A new bond issue for \$8,000 was voted and the building was dedicated February 21, 1891. At that time the whole school was assembled on the present court house city hall block. This building was the largest in the city, a fifteen-room structure, three floors, with large hallways and a large belfry in which a very fine bell for calling the children to school was hung. The old high school was condemned in 1917 because of crumbling foundation. Builders have learned a lot about foundations in this community since 1890. Imagine, though, a large three story brick building 15 rooms for less than \$20,000.

To go a step further in the early history of school building, a bond issue for \$10,000 was voted May 1899, for the building of a five-room addition to the original Lowell school which had four rooms as related before. The building was completed that summer with the new additional five rooms facing

Fifth Street. The east end of the old Lowell school was built in 1907, adding four additional rooms making a large 13-room brick structure for elementary school purposes. The present school office building was all used for classrooms, making thirty-four school rooms in the area.

School District No. 1

School District No. 1, Mesa County, began as a third class district. In 1901, the enrollment reached the 1,000 mark and it became first class. The new board elected that year consisted of five men, instead of three as before. They were: H. R. Bull, C. H. Arthur, William Bumgardner, S. N. Wheeler, and W. A. Marsh. Anyone acquainted with the facts of early history must have a high appreciation of the laymen who served the schools in an official capacity. These men without any emolument whatsoever had to make much personal sacrifice in order to organize and develop a school system. Here are some of the names of men who should not be forgotten:

G. B. Frazier	J. Clayton Nichols
W. A. Marsh	A. J. McCune
N. N. Smith	S. W. Coleman
W. P. Ela	H. R. Bull
D. T. Stone	Darwin P. Kingsley
S. M. Bradbury	S. N. Wheeler
A. R. Wadsworth	

It was in the first high school in 1911 that the writer had his office and classroom when he came to Grand Junction. That was not so long ago but it was near enough for the writer to form a profound appreciation for the character of the men and women who laid the foundation for a fine city and an excellent school system, to possess some knowledge of the hopes that were formed in those early years, and to be impressed by the good work that was so painstakingly performed by the founders of this community.

Due to this the writer began the systematic collection of a large file of records giving a mass of details concerning the evolution of the school plan, the people who gave years to the development of the school system, the roll of teachers who have taught the boys and girls of Grand Junction for seventy-five years, and the young people who responded to opportunities that were provided at great sacrifice by the citizens and completed the work of the school since the first class graduated from the high school in 1892. The first graduating class had two young men who completed the original three year course in

1892. The high school course was then extended to four years so there was no graduating class in 1893.

Some Early Teachers

The roll of teachers who have served in Grand Junction is an impressive list of great personalities. This article is too brief to begin mentioning the notable teachers who taught the schools through the 80s and 90s. That is a story in itself. Suffice it to say, here, that there were many 'Mark Hopkinses' in those days besides the famous one of Williams College. The roll of teachers in 1902 is given to illustrate a point:

W. H. Miller, Supt.	A. S. Otto, Prin.
E. T. Fisher	Lena Bull
Grace Bailey	Helen Dewey
J. B. Bacon	Marian Hinds
Lucretia Moore	Mary Enoch
Cora Miller	Nannie Forry
Mina Norris	Lenora Watkins
Ada Copeland	Beulah Van Buren
Marcia Waples	Frances Strock
Olive Crosby	Margaret McConnell
George A. Warning	Mabel Nesbitt

Most of these will be well and favorably remembered by all the old timers. They maintained a regimen of study and achievement that was the admiration of the parents who had any ambition for their children and by a host of young people who had any will to study. Many of these gave more than forty years to the service of the schools in this city. They were people of affairs outside the school system, devoting themselves to all the duties of good citizenship.

Regimen of Study

No one can go over the records of this period without paying tribute to three notable school personalities. So many who attended high school around the turn of the century still remember these three men: W. H. Miller, Superintendent; A. S. Otto, High School Principal; and E. T. Fisher, veteran teacher. They made an indelible impression on the high school students because of their scholarship and teaching skill. Their influence on the school and on the community lasted for many years.

In 1901 these men presented to the board of education a revised course of study which was adopted. It was a systematic arrangement of just what had been developed over the ten years that the high school had existed. This course attracted the better class of students from all over Mesa County. Many of the most substantial citizens of this community today are products of this school course. Some finished their formal education at the end of high school and others used their high school records to gain admission in the leading colleges in the country at that time. This high school course seemed a good thing for both groups.

There is one thing certain, there is no evidence of any of the softening influences that characterize high school education at the present time. Daughters heard from their mothers and aunts about Wellesly, and Smith, and Mount Holyoke and became thrilled with a desire to prepare themselves for such schools. Boys learned about Harvard, Yale, Princeton, West Point, Annapolis, and Stanford and worked with diligence to make preparations for big things.

Going to school was a business for the intelligent. No one ever regretted his regimen of study even though his school days ended with high school graduation.

Four Year Courses of Study

1. Study of English and American Literature	1 year
2. Mathematics	
Algebra to theory of exponents	1 year
Plane Geometry	1 year
Solid Geometry	1/2 year
Trigonometry	1/2 year
Advanced Arithmetic	1/2 year
Algebra Theory of exponents & Quadratics	1/2 year
3. Sciences	
Botany	1/2 year
Zoology	1/2 year
Mineralogy	1/2 year
Astronomy	1/2 year
Physics	1 year
Chemistry	1 year
4. History	
English History	1 year
Greek and Roman History	1 year
Mediaeval and Modern	1 year

American History	1 year
Political Economy	1 year

5. Languages

Latin	4 years
German	2 years
French	2 years

Sixteen credits were required for graduation and language could be substituted for either science or mathematics; all activities were voluntary and were scheduled after school hours and the teachers were glad to help in anything extracurricular if there was a corresponding desire on the part of any students.

Herewith follows the names of the early day graduates in 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898 and 1899—some of whom are still living and all of whom became well and favorably known in future years of service and success.

1892—	Henry Pope Hunter	1897—	Maidie Van Buren
	May Rice		Truman Ketchum
	Lily Waters		Ione Strain
1894—	Wallace Carver	1898—	Norma Allen
	Hayden Green		Laura Bedwell
	Marion Littlejohn		Alvin Borschell
	Mabel Nesbitt		Mina Clark
	Louise Strouse		Mary Enoch
	Alice Carver		Katharine McGetrick
	Bessie Hunter		William Weiser
	Naomi Marksbery	1899—	Elizabeth Bumbardner
	Carl Osborn		Rolla Bulkeley
	Thomas Van Buren		Ethel Calliotte
1896—	Mae Carroll		Olive Hensel
	Issac Hill		May Hull
	Edith Jaynes		Callie Moore
	Edgar Layton		Mayme Norine
	Bernard Rice		Phidella Rice
	Percy Cosgrove		
	Daniele Hill		
	Olive Kirk		
	Stella Rundle		
	Arthur Wadsworth		



High School class of 1898.

Beginning with 1895, there was an ever increasing number of high school graduates. The programs of these annual exercises have been preserved and there is a field for another story. In passing it may be said that the true value of any program of studies is to be seen in the quality of life it produces.

This old fashioned list of school subjects had a value that can be measured today. It produced a character and pattern of life that has made its imprint on the records of Mesa County and the State of Colorado that is very well known. The aims were high and the goals were attained by those who applied themselves.

High School Students of the Nineties

The high school students of the nineties made their school life an enjoyable experience. There were declamatory, oratorical, and musical contests, and these were held with great enthusiasm on the part of the students themselves and the school patrons in general. In declamation they recited such famous masterpieces as the "Rider of the Black Horse", the "Finger of God", "The Painter of Seville", and a "Vagabond Prince". In oratory they discussed such subjects as The Society of Solitude, The Pathos of the Past, The Power of the Minority, Napoleon, Gladstone, Francis E. Willard, The Law of Progress; Washington, Lincoln, Patrick Henry, Andrew Jackson, Robert E. Lee, Livingston, The Pioneer, Benjamin Franklin, Clara Barton and Susan B. Anthony were favorite themes, those days, for delineating character.

A survey of their programs discloses the fact that they were able to write their own poetry and compose their own music when they chose to do so. In music, piano and voice competency was outstanding. And they knew something about band and orchestra, too. On May 4, 1894, an item in the school publication stated that the band had ordered the following instruments: five clarinets, two saxophones, two trombones, two cornets, one piccolo, and one euphonium. "This will provide the band with complete instrumentation," they said, "and with thirty members in the band, it will be one of the finest bands in the State."

The best stage and lyceum talent in the nation passed through Grand Junction in the early days. The old Park Opera House which stood on the Whitman School site was the show house. There the artistry of great talent became the inspiration of the high school pupils and they tried to imitate and emulate. This made an impression upon their lives that could never be erased. It was reflected in their school activities, their attitude and in the subsequent careers of many of the students. The students saw and heard in person the prominent people who influenced the American public.

Academy of Science

An interesting development was the Academy of Science, an intellectual adult scientific society, of which Dr. S. M. Bradbury was the president and moving spirit. The signal service was established in 1889 with Dr. Bradbury an observer. This society had a considerable membership for such a young community. Much study and investigation was given to geological, paleontological, botanical and zoological specimens. They had a large collection of exhibits along these lines and met regularly for discussion. Dr. Bradbury communicated with eastern scientific societies and created the interest by which the large dinosaur skeleton was excavated and taken to Chicago where it is to be seen today in the Field Museum, also the two in Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh. There were regular lectures on scientific topics to the juniors and seniors of the high school who were given memberships in the Academy of Science. Both men and women joined the Academy of Science. They wanted to have some fundamental knowledge about the world in which they were to live their lives, some understanding too. They were somewhat confident that the time would come within their time when it would be highly important to know the fundamental knowledge of animal life, or plant life, of astronomy, of mineralogy, of chemistry, of the universality of literary expression, of the history of the peoples of the world with whom we shall have to deal and live, of the art of expression in vocal and written forms which we must eventually meet. The leaders who were masters of presentation in the arts and sciences were Dr. Bradbury himself, Prof. Theo Lemmons of the Teller Institute, Prof. E. T. Fisher, W. P. Ela, Rev. S. F. Dickinson, I. N. Bunting, Clayton Nichols, Dr. F. H. Smith, Judge C. F. Caswell, and many others.

Then began the early athletic games as a regular high school activity. There was competition with Fruita, Palisade, the Grand Valley Commercial School and the Teller Indian School. Several games each year were played with Indian students. It was rough, tough sport and the boys liked to go up against the Indians.

The boys played baseball in the spring and football in the fall months as long as the weather permitted, then some basketball, which also was played outdoors.

Football prior to 1908 was a dangerous game. The lines of scrimmage were not separated, pushing and hurdling were permitted and five yards had to be made in three downs. Worse than all this there was the flying wedge, a V-shaped mass of players, like a charge of cavalry, with the ball carrier somewhere within the V. This mass of players scattered destruction in its tracks and

was hard to break up when it got off to a good start. There was also the tandem play which was a human spike driven in the opposing lineup by several players protecting the ball carrier somewhere in the spike. By 1906 so much outcry against the severity of the game compelled changes in the rules and reform began. The rule was changed to ten yards in four downs, the forward pass was permitted and more authority was given to the officials so they could penalize for unnecessary roughness, piling up, clipping, the flying tackle, illegal use of the hands and other infractions.

Outstanding Events

Men and women living in Grand Junction still remember the many unusual school events that took place when the school provided its own activities—pleasant memories of big times they had in school. There were no movies. There great events, however, among the most important that carry over and cause pleasant recollections to linger in the minds of many of those early day students are the following:

Dramatic events carried on in the historic Park Opera House located on the Whitman School ground but now torn down; (the bricks of the building are now in Riverside School, the school office building, the Columbus School, Band and Manual Training Shop Building at the Junior High School, and the Tope School); Literary Events of unusual scope; Musical Programs, Vocal and Instrumental, Holiday Festival Programs; Declamatory Exercises; Debating and Oratorical Programs; Musical Comedies and Operettas; Display of Talent in art, poetry, short story; Stage Plays.

No such cultural experience had ever been had before nor since as that of seeing and hearing in person at the Park Opera House such talent as was available in this isolated spot in Western Colorado. Outstanding actors and actresses appeared: Rose Coughlin, May Robson, Madam Mojeska, Eddie Foy, Robert Mantell in "Hamlet", George M. Cohan, The Four Cohans in their full tilt comedy, Frank Mayo, The Barrymores, The Red Pepper Show with McIntyre and Heath as comedians, and the famous Troubadours. When the Avalon was built to fill the place of the old time theater, there came to the stage Ina Clair, Otis Skinner, Al Jolson, Olga Petrova, Chic Sale, David Warfield, Pavlova, Schumann-Heink, Anna Case, Florence Macbeth, Lucy Gates, Alma Gluck, and to see Pavlova in "The Swan" took you out of this world. And what a revelation it was to see and hear the famous lecturers of the time: Joseph W. Folk, Ben Tillman, Thomas R. Marshall, Ida Tarbell, Irvin S. Cobb, Dr. Frank Crane, Champ Clark, Carl Sanburg, William H. Taft, William Jennings Bryan,

Gay Maclaren, Manteville Flowers, Bishop Quayle and Frank Gunsaulus, all carefully selected by a good manager.

In education we are impressed with the way things change. We live in a big wide wonderful world. You gotta have heart whatever you do. Laughter and tears are sure to come; illusions rise; you can count on being battered, bewildered. The protection is to build up a reserve to stand the jar of every change. Intelligence, caution, self-reliance, economy, willingness to put up with matters the rhapsody of change sobers up, are the ballast that sustains, until the crisis of "whoop-te-do" passes over the horizon. This the theater did for the pioneers.

Nothing illustrates this like great entertainment. Once the great stage shows were preferred: drama, opera, minstrels, oratorios, philharmonics, recitals, impersonators, humorists, actors and actresses, all in person. Then the screen invention of wider and more pretentious screens, but the crowds came just the same and when the living stage was forgotten they sat and cheered just the same. The third step is the TV and the great entertainment program returns to the sacred precincts of the home and the family where it once began; 38.4 million machines with a value of 1.4 billion dollars, leaving only nine million homes without their own private machines. What next! Already a lag is setting in! Already people are watching the bottom line of the balance sheet! Already we wonder how much lower we can go! A great expense with nothing to be done by ourselves.

A singular educational event occurred in 1898. Around the turn of the century there were numerous World Fairs. The Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia started this off; then you remember the Great World Fair at Chicago in 1893-94. In 1898 there occurred the Trans Mississippi Exposition in Omaha. The Grand Junction school system entered a complete display of school work at this Fair, a very extraordinary job to undertake, but the school people at that time thought it a worthwhile project and before school closed in June, they had it prepared. The school patrons were enthusiastic and the teachers and pupils worked with them to make it a very creditable piece of educational work. It was sent to the Exposition. The Grand Junction school system won the highest award for this general display. The good news was astounding when the report reached the city. Leading residents declared that the result did more to bring attention to this area and secure the interest of desirable new citizens than all the rest of the propaganda and advertising put together. Visitors at the Omaha Fair were attracted by the evidence of good schools. The school people who prepared this notable exhibit of a complete school system were as follows; none of them survives at this date:

W. H. Smith, Supt.
A. S. Otto, H. S. Prin.
E. T. Fisher
Alwilda Adams
Olive Bateman
Helen Dewey
Francis Strock
Marian Hinds
Laverne Tauss
Sadie Daniel

Eleanor Swift
Ruby Harding
Nannie Forry
Lena Bull
Amanda McPheters
Agnes Moore
India Paulson
Lenore Watkins
Beulah Van Buren
Cora Miller

Miss Elizabeth Walker (Hinton) was County Superintendent at the time and she assisted in many ways.

The educational exhibit that won such high honors at the Exposition at Omaha was taken to the Colorado State Fair at the next meeting and it won the highest rating again. When the Mesa County Fair was running, there were always very interesting school exhibits. The writing was always superb. There were no newfangled ideas about letting such things as legibility take their natural course. Pupils were taught to write so the hand writing could tell its story. After all writing is a simple task in school; there are only 26 script forms in the English language. Even if we had Phonetic spelling, there would be only 42 characters. That would not be exhaustive as an educative function. The story of a small boy comes to mind. His mother had been a school teacher before her marriage so she took the young hopeful in hand and soon taught him to write in a legible hand that was creditable to a youngster and his teacher too. Soon he came home sad and upset with the statement: "Now mother, see what has happened; you taught me to write, now the teacher has found out I can't spell. What'll I do now?"

Present School Buildings

To complete this very early record, the school buildings of school district #1 are listed with the dates of erection. Questions frequently arise concerning when this and that took place and usually no one knows; here is a record:

Lowell School (old)	1884 center, 1889 west, 1907, east
Emerson School	1903
Hawthorne School	1908
Columbus School	1912, 1938
Riverside School	1917, 1937



Washington School



Tope Elementary School

Washington School	1920
Whitman School	1925
Lincoln School	1925, 1930 North
Lowell School (new)	1926
Junior High School	1911, 1917 west, 1920 east, 1926 Junior H. S. & gym
Tope School	1941, 1950
Orchard Avenue	1948, 1953
Shop and Music Bldg., J. H. S.	1920, 1928
Administrative Bldg.	1938 — see Historical Marker on the corner of the building
New High School	1955

Education

The fulfillment of all hopes depends heavily upon the young people in any generation; upon how well they are prepared in school to take advantage of the opportunities for more advanced education. The technology of each age becomes more complex as invention and discovery develop new things. When transportation was by footsteps of either the man or his horse, time and ingenuity kept pace with the manner of locomotion; today we move by great machines on land, on the great seas and in the air. So our security, our living standards, our progress in commerce and industry are based upon technology that is far more exacting than was ever dreamed before. Easy, simplified knowledge does not suffice. The world is a community so we need language construction, the world has surrendered its hidden resources and thorough training in the depths of mathematics and the sciences is fundamental.

Any enlightened people must understand education. To have a critical attitude toward the educational program should be natural; it should be expected and welcomed. The what and the why and the how are always relevant.

Grand Junction parents have always had a deep concern for proper educational standards. In 1910 there was deep concern about the educational standards. The discussion got into the open; parents of the school children were alarmed at some of the trends; too many elective studies to take the place of and set aside the standard exacting studies such as Latin, German, French, grammar and rhetoric; ancient history, medieval history, classical literature such as Shakespeare, Wordsworth, George Eliot, Victor Hugo, Tennyson, Walter Scott, botany, zoology, astronomy, physics, chemistry, geography — political and physical, all without abridgement and simplification.

At the time some of the colleges found it necessary to make rules con-

cerning spelling and writing. They were forced to place students in spelling classes and writing classes from which they could not be released until they could pass tests in correct spelling and in legibility; Physics and Chemistry students could not compute division of decimals or work with compound denominate numbers or figure interest on things purchased on time. There was complaint that definite subjects were being crowded out by such artificially created subjects as general mathematics — a mess of miscellaneous mathematical subject matter that didn't teach mathematics at all; another simplification was that of the basic sciences being watered down to a sort of popular general science that did not teach any science at all; a third was a blend of history and geography and civil government into what was called "social science" which was just something to talk about and which did not teach any of the subjects for which it was designed to be a substitute.

The people were somewhat isolated at that time. The only way to get to the rest of the country where their relatives, their friends, and even their children who had gone away from home lived, was by train, with many changes. They could understand that though they lived in a fruit county it would be impossible to produce apples or a field of sugar beets or a good first-cutting crop of alfalfa without a knowledge of botany; though they lived in a region that might profit from the production of poultry and dairying, yet without fundamental knowledge of zoology there could not be produced a dozen good eggs or a bottle of sweet milk. It is needless to point out the value of physics and chemistry in all phases of mechanized living. Yet there was fear long ago that the young people of High School would eventually be robbed of their birthright by this clever substitution of improvised subject matter in place of the fundamental warp and woof of a real basic education.

The trouble with so many discussions and controversies is that both sides are in the wrong. Such a state is the worse because both sides are also often in the right. Each side will try to win the world to a narrow idea. The opposing side may be just trying to enjoy the world, and if this be true, the fondest wish of such a body of contenders is to have all the problems go away and leave them alone. The most serious predicament in education today is that the aim and trend has been enjoyment, pleasure, indulgence, choice, inclination rather than thought, contemplation, effort, results, achievement.

Mesa County

Mesa County had to be created out of Gunnison County and organized as a necessary political unit in the State before much progress could be made in school or local government. A county of reasonable size was essential to the

problems of taxation and organized government. This caused the deepest interest and anxiety, too, among the local leaders. On February 11, 1883, the bill creating Mesa County passed the Legislature and three days later was signed by Governor J. B. Grant. The Governor soon paid a visit to the new village and county and in due time appointed a set of administrative officers for the County of Mesa, who were:

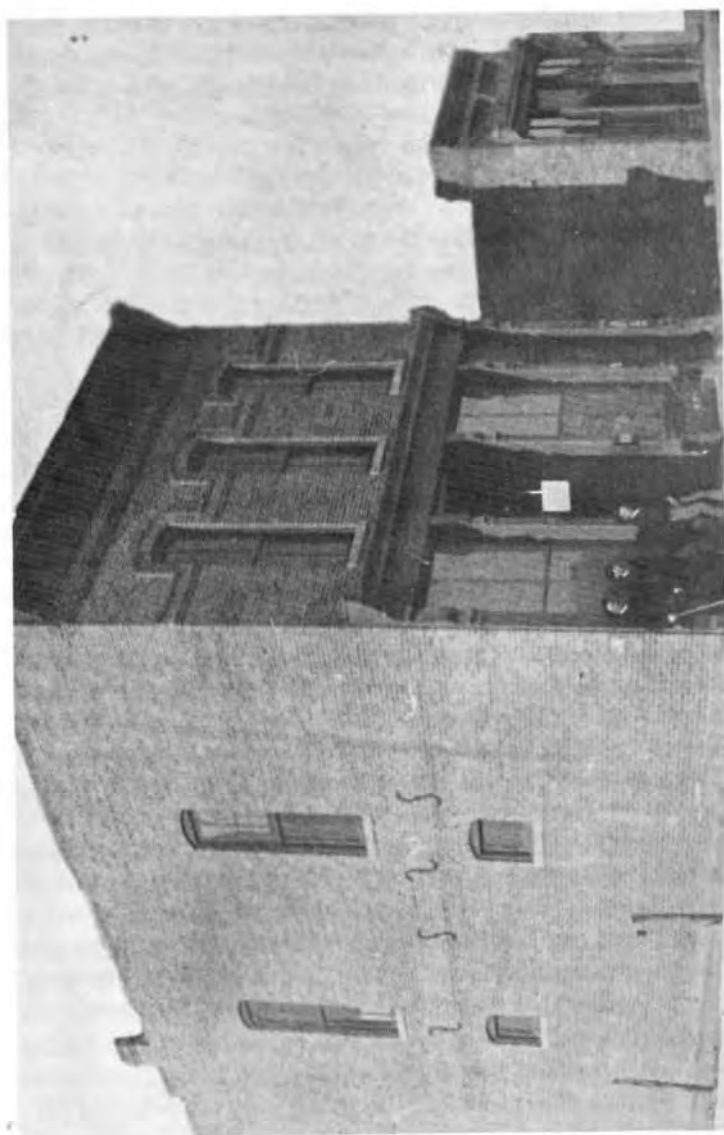
County Judge	Robert Cobb
Sheriff	Martin Florida
Clerk & Recorder	M. L. Allison
Coroner	J. N. McArthur
Treasurer	S. G. Crandall
Surveyor	A. J. McCune
Assessor	William Keith
Commissioners	T. B. Crawford
	B. F. Carey
	G. W. Thurston

This was the easiest and quietest and quickest way that Mesa County ever got a complete set of officers. The next election and all elections following have been accompanied by more or less bitter campaigning of two or more contentious groups.

The Court House had to be located here and there in small huts or in the officers' homes or places of business, part of the time on the street. The first pretentious County home was in a two story brick building that stood on the present site of the Thomas Hardware Store, Sixth and Main Streets. The Treasurer's Office was at the front on Main and the Assessor's office on the alley. The Court Room was upstairs, front. The rest of the offices were fitted in wherever a desk could be located.

In 1883 Mesa County held its first regular election. The County Government soon formed a number of political parties in conformity with the city, which had a very large part of the total population: the Republican and Democratic parties, to be sure, also there was a strong Prohibition party with a complete list of nominations, and invariably a Citizens party and a Peoples party.

In the Nineties, the Populists swept both the County and Grand Junction in several elections. It was a most unusual occurrence if ever a candidate for any office was permitted to run for office without one or more candidates in opposition. The new officials elected by the people in the fall election of 1883 were as follows:



Grand Junction's first court house located at Sixth and Main Streets.

County Judge	R. D. Mobley
Clerk of Courts	J. A. Layton
Sheriff	William Innes
Treasurer	N. N. Smith
Assessor	---Scribner
Coroner	H. E. Stroud
Commissioners	C. A. Brett
	J. M. Russell
	J. F. Brink
Superintendent of Schools	Geo. Caldwell

It was the custom in the earlier years to publish the names of those who voted and exercised their franchise in the elections; on December 11, 1893, there was published the names of the people who did not vote. Another kind of publicity was that of publishing the names of all taxpayers with an assessed valuation of not less than \$1000.00. In 1884 the list numbered 168 people. The lowest valuation published was \$1080.00 and the highest was the Denver & Rio Grande RR with \$354,019.00. W. T. Carpenter was the capitalist with \$13,400. A few live stock men ran up to \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Beginning January 1, 1898, a new set of Mesa County officers were installed in the Court House; new faces and a new spirit:

Treasurer	W. C. McCurdy
County Clerk	Henry Nichols
Sheriff	Charles H. Wallis
Assessor	S. M. Dowden
Surveyor	A. J. McCune
Coroner	L. F. Ingersoll
Commissioner	J. U. Harris
Supt. of Schools	Elizabeth Walker
County Judge	Walter S. Sullivan

The present Court House was built in 1922.

For the first twenty years, most of the County officers were from among the first settlers, the pioneers, and therefore from Grand Junction, where most of the voters lived and listing of the office holders would be a repetition of names that are already repeated over and over in this record.

Political Life

The political campaigns were lively and perverse in the local, state and national campaigns. Men were eager to run for office so there never was any dearth of candidates. To make a place for the eager contestants they multiplied

the number of tickets. For many decades they followed the French system of filing a variety of sets of candidates. Here is the list of parties for the election in November, 1896 :

Peoples Ticket	Silver Republicans
Democratic	Republicans
Populist	National Peoples Party
National Party	Prohibition
Socialist Labor	

For years there could be expected a Prohibition Ticket with a complete list of candidates. Solid, substantial citizens wore their deepest convictions on their sleeve and were always ready to lead or serve in the ranks with those who were openly nonalcoholic. They knew no such thing as defeat and this spirit prevailed until 1909 when the city and county voted overwhelmingly dry. It was a victory for the famous brothers, William and P. A. Rice, also W. A. Marsh, Mrs. Elizabeth J. Smith, Mrs. C. F. Grant, Mrs. J. L. Britton, Mrs. Amos Horn, and many other temperance workers.

No political party or other organization ever had a more conscientious, more resolute and more capable group of workers than these. They were proud to wave a victorious banner when victory finally came.

Whether election time came around in the spring or fall, men who were closely associated in business, in general civic affairs, men of the Churches, of the Lodges, became divisive spirits and flocked to different banners concerning the many issues that arose from year to year. For a few weeks then, they would be malcontents serious and scrappy. On election eve they would lay aside their prejudices, forget any bitterness that had divided them in the campaign, and go back to their jobs and normal business activities, happy to be in harmony with their fellows and surroundings.

Tribute To The Pioneer Work

All the failures in the making of Grand Junction and Mesa County were somehow identified with the shortcomings of other people than the early comers themselves, while on the other hand all the successes have been the result of the persistence and the strength and the genius of the men and women who worked out the destiny of the evolving community. Grand Junction was the center of a great mountainous area, a center of trade, a source of supply, a storage location where the needs and wants of a widely scattered population engaged in many activities could be satisfied, a place for social experience, some recreation, a chance to satisfy the excitement and impulses when the

desert people could leave their work and come to town, a refuge from the winter blasts that always slowed activity to a halt in winter months. The post office, the hotels, the railroads, the bathtubs, cooked food, mattresses, doctors, dentists, newspapers, churches, made a civilization that was nonexistent in the vast expanse of desert and mountainous terrain.

The worst evidences of acrimony I have found in the reading of the great variety of events that transpired through those strenuous pioneering years was the tendency to quarrel and fuss over the many conflicts and misunderstandings that naturally would arise. Men who had been associated in all sorts of transactions under trying circumstances would seem to tire of each other, get touchy over their relationships, and into the courts they would go for an adjustment and a settlement. The lawyers would then take charge and each one would try to make a case with all the exaggerations that skilled barristers might be able to concoct. At that time they probably knew no other way than to go to court and the law. Probably the lawyers were to blame; it seemed to be their livelihood. But in looking over the record one is somewhat depressed by the crude way they had for adjusting their misunderstandings. The more sensible way in modern life is to keep out of the courts in most of the civil cases. Good law firms advise this and devote their time to adjusting the entanglements calmly, with good demeanor.

In the summer of 1905, there occurred an unusual event; the opening and drawing for Uinta Lands in Utah. Grand Junction was listed as one of the registration places and over 16,500 people registered for the drawing. Making runs like the Oklahoma Cherokee strip had been discontinued and besides, such a run would have been impractical for the Uintah area anyway. There were 6,000 choices, so only a small per cent of the people could have the luck to draw a ranch site. There were 324 successful drawings here. Oscar Haynes drew #6, Eunice Edwards 31, Lottie Scott 100, Bert Johnson 131, Margaret Beemer 132, Robert Erwin 133, George Emerson 140, George Ducray 180, Herman Barlup 183, George W. Stong 188, Frank E. Smith 219.

The Historic Issue

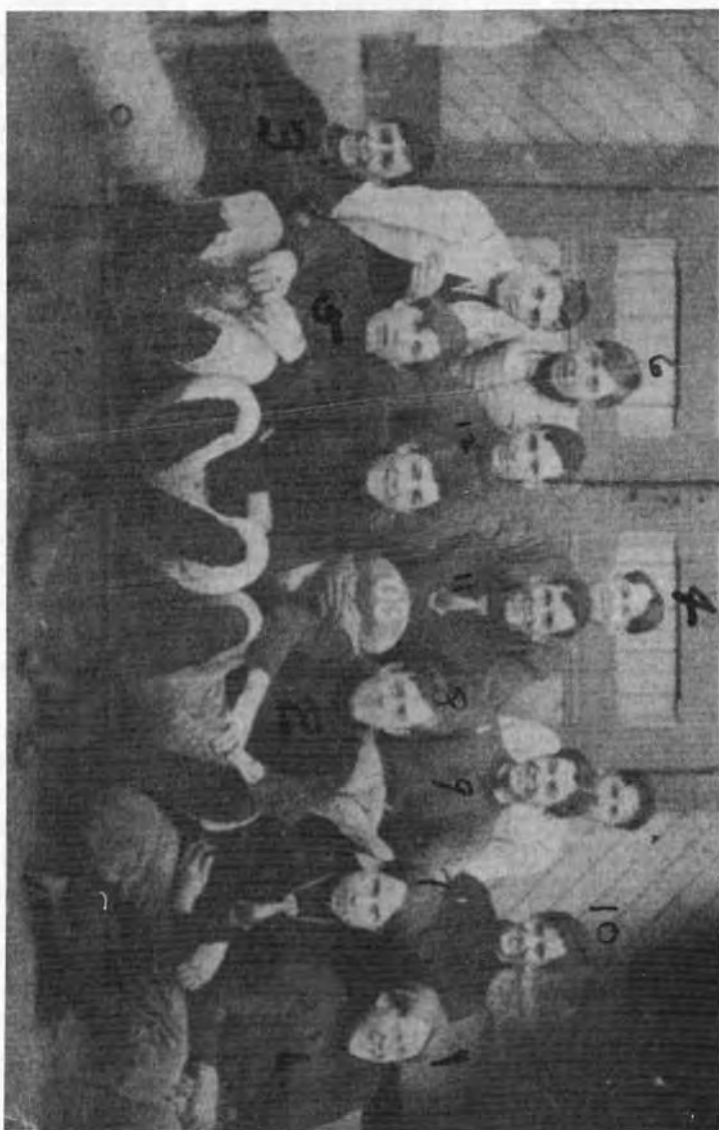
The one great political issue at the close of the nineteenth century was the Silver Issue, "Free Coinage of Silver." Colorado took a positive stand on the proposition: "What is good for Silver is good for Colorado." In May 1895, Grand Junction heard the appeals of three notable men who were leaders in the political thought of the time. Silver Sibley, the "Apostle of the White Metal," could plead the cause of Silver with all the art of fine rhetoric, drama and eloquence. Next came Richard P. Bland, who was the rival of William Jennings

Bryan in the Democratic convention and lost by a few votes after Bryan gave his famous Cross of Gold speech on the floor of the Convention. Mr. Bland could meet any public issue head on and was known as "Silver Dick" wherever he travelled with his soul stirring speeches. He died in the white heat of the Silver battle. Another notable campaigner who came to Colorado in this long drawn-out campaign was Jerry Simpson, the apostle of the Populists Party. "Sockless Jerry" was of no less ability and power of persuasion than his Democrat friends. The three men agreed on the Silver Issue, but Simpson was a Populist, a confirmed third party spokesman. He wore socks and dressed in conventional style. The epithet that was attached to his name originated because he sometimes wore light brown socks and on the speakers' stand they looked like he was sockless. His fire and fervor created the Populist Party in Colorado just as it did in a number of states in the West. The party lasted for three national political campaigns. In Grand Junction and Mesa County there was a winning Populist Party in all the numerous elections for twelve years.

Athletic Games

Football was accepted as a sport by the rugged sons of the pioneers in 1903. Early day coaches were Barney Welsh, Gover Rice, and George Warning. They had football experience in college so they introduced the game and served as coaches as a service to the boys on Saturdays. It was a fierce combat with few rules to regulate the sportsmanship of the contest. The game had been played by school boys and young men earlier but it was mostly a kicking game with a round ball. When the Rugby System was organized for high school boys, the field was 110 yards with the goal posts on the end lines. The halves were 35 minutes and no quarter changes. Hurdling the line was permitted. The game was a rough and tumble sport; very often when the boys got heated up in the fracas it deteriorated into a knockdown, drag-out contest. Eleven places were arranged for each team with names of the positions about the same as today. The number of boys was limited for few could stand the pounding. The game did not exact a lot of tedious coaching for there were few rules and few plays; it was not an open field game. Most of the playing was with the Teller Indian Institute. The coach there was a Carlisle veteran and that meant tough, and some of his boys had had previous experience in Carlisle or Haskel, the great Indian schools of those days. The members of the Grand Junction team in 1904 have been preserved: Herman Vorbeck, Dennet Ela, and Ray Hunter, still living in Grand Junction; Lucius Wells, Art Beal, Ross Hoskins, Whipple Chester, Arthur Currie, Rae Kennedy, Charles Raith, Gregg Haskins, Irvin Miller, Adrian Matlock, Zeke Miller and Fred Snyder.

Grand Junction football team circa 1904.



The team picture for 1909 shows the following men for that period. Glen Merrill, Ed Ryan, Willard Ross, Philip McCary, Walter LeClere, Roy Pierce, David Mitchell, Roy Caldwell, John Randel, Walter Hatch, George Frey, Cosgrove Hinds, Duane Budelier, Rex Arthur, Rex Barber and Richard Budelier.

Philip McCary became the all-conference halfback of the University of Colorado. Harold Aupperle was business manager for this team. He lost his life in World War I in the Balkans.

Basketball was introduced at the same time. It was played outdoors in the fall months and mostly by girl teams. When the Y. M. C. A. building was completed in 1908 there was a good gym so the schools arranged for basketball practice and basketball became a popular winter game for boys' and girls' teams, and this served until the high school gym was built in 1926.

Herman Vorbeck is the best authority on early day games and athletic records and performances.

For physical exercises and calisthenics there was much work carried on in the elementary schools. Much of this was outdoor drilling, but also for many years the schools rented the old armory which stands next to the present New Method Laundry. Victoria Wilhelmy supervised and directed this work for many years and the demonstrations were held in the Fair Grounds (Lincoln Park) on May Day. Hundreds of children would put on fine performances and the last number would be the May Pole when thousands of people would look upon the winding of from 15 to 20 May Poles in rhythmic style to music by the band. This was a most colorful performance, pretty and artistic.

The finest athletic function that was ever held in Grand Junction occurred May 31, 1897. That was the age when bicycles were very necessary and popular, too. Bicycle racing was an important sport and contests were interested and gave much instruction in the use of the machines. The salesmen would give demonstrations, furnish instruction sheets to bicycle riders and demonstrate riding upgrade and downgrade and also long distance speed riding. At this time, Alex and William Struthers, sons of Mr. W. G. Struthers, a well-known citizen and County Treasurer of Mesa County, had gone to Denver on their own without any fanfare and entered competition in the Decoration Day bicycle race on the big Denver course. Bicyclists from all over the nation competed in this notable meet. The boys won the fastest bicycle race in history. The people turned out to meet the train when they arrived home and on the following evening a banquet (complimentary) was given the boys by the business and professional men of the city. The list of men attending is one of the choicest pioneer lists available.

W. G. Struthers, Sr.
J. S. Carnahan
W. W. Moser
J. M. Sampliner
M. L. Roberts
James Hards
I. N. Bunting
Dr. L. F. Ingersoll
T. M. Jones
John D. Reeder
A. G. Mahan
Walter Clark
John Thomas
Charles Kitzmiller
William McFeely
C. VanHorebeeke
Charles Keene
M. C. Ransay
Guy Bedwell
James Roberts
Ed Wadsworth

Russell Johnson
Hollis Curtis
William Thompson
Dr. S. M. Bradbury
W. P. Ela
Cliff Lambs
Tom Rogers
Nelson Hards
Tom VanBuren
Frank Lee
Fred Mantey
J. M. Cameron
Job Payne
Levi Tex Eyck
Ben J. Snyder
John Pearce
W. S. Case
C. Simpson
Charles Bennett
Otto Barton
A. N. Arnsbary

Other famous early day bicyclists were:

Felix Carson	Whipple Chester
Walter Allison	Lawrence Barber
Rex Barber	Russell Welsh
Bert VanHorebeeke	Lyman Kennedy
Robert Rhone	Arthur Chapman
William Post	Melvin Knight

An early day physical training center was the Turn Verein, a well-equipped German gymnasium. It was the center for all kinds of indoor athletics and performances. Adam Rettig and Walter Wilhelmy were leaders in the Turn Verein Center, which was built and owned for a good many years in the building which is now the home of the Salvation Army. The Turn Verein did a fine work before the Y. M. C. A. building and organization took its place in the city.

Basketball

Basketball is a spectacle on hardwood. The game is played by patterns rather than predetermined movements. There are very few set plays; when one is tried it may be broken up at any instant. As play follows play in speedy sequence, the knowing spectator has the fun of trying to anticipate for himself what each participant will do to further or impede the progress of the ball upcourt to its ultimate destination, a metal ring 18 inches in diameter, suspended ten feet above the hardwood floor. The guess of one expert is only as good as another, no better. The game is an endless series of instant improvisation on a basic theme: getting the big ball through the hoop. Any maneuver may be broken in a flash. There is always a possibility but it may vanish quickly. As soon as one maneuver is played out, a new pattern with its options will instantly unfold. For this reason first rate basketball is enjoying a rapidly increasing popularity.

The girls were more interested in basketball than the boys. They could play the game in the fall weeks and then continue through the winter, while the boys would change from football to basketball after Thanksgiving. In looking over the records for several years, many names of girl students show up with what would be looked upon today as very remarkable athletic records for girls. This list of names contains many well known female leaders. They are scattered widely over the country today. They have brought up fine families and are good citizens and quite predominant in the place where they live.

Ethel Adams	Ruth Nelson
Laura Rhone	Ruth Pearce
Ruth Newton	Lillian Smith
Helen Burkholder	Aline Drury
Gertrude Lane	Amy Brown
Myrtle Scoville	Helen Seegmiller
Carolyn Derryberry	Mary Sanford
Victoria Wilhelmy	Gladys Kiefer
Virginia Wheeler	Margaret McConnel
Lenore Neeb	Muriel Coles
Miriam Welles	May Nelson
Gladys Birdsall	Bessie Miller
Hazel White	Gladys Bailey
Bess DeLong	Marceline Chambers
Helen Smith	

One of the coaches who popularized basketball and took charge of the girls through the dozen years when the game was in vogue was Mae Carroll, who taught in the high school for many years and was quite active in all the problems of the student body. This was her hobby and pastime. She terminated her teaching by marrying John H. Fry, a noted lawyer in Grand Junction and later in Denver. Mrs. Fry served in the Colorado legislature several terms, years ago. For eight years Miss Victoria Wilhelmy had charge of the physical activities of the entire school system. She coached the high school girls in basketball as an added extra, using the old armory as a gym, and later the Y. M. C. A. gym.

Any of the women who see this list will recall many interesting events connected with their happy school days.

Since this write-up is quite different from what girls are accustomed to these days, an interesting story can be related. The basketball games were played outside on the bare earth and the practice field for several years was on the site of the present city library building. The girls had to have some kind of playing apparel including shoes, other than regular clothing, so they purchased cloth and in the domestic science sewing class made their own gray bloomers using about two yards of cloth for each leg. There was considerable talk about this by people who watched the girls exercise and learn the game. The claims of immodesty became so strong that the matter was carried to the Board of Education for a ruling. As a result a compromise was made by which the girls were required to wear skirts over their bloomers. But for the price of some good wholesome fun and vigorous sport, the girls were willing to do most anything to save the day for their outdoor game. What would those critics think today of the scanty apparel that crowds our streets and appears almost conventional through the summer days?

Miss Wilhelmy left Grand Junction to take charge of Physical Training for Women in New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas and from there she went to Long Beach as Physical Director in the famous Jefferson Junior High School where she taught until she retired from her profession a few years ago.

Wrestling

Unlike such team games as basketball and football, wrestling is individual. Definite regulations control wrestling so each man is matched for weight before he enters the game. You can be sure that the contestant is always matched in his weight class and the game is well observed by a competent referee who

takes the field and keeps a close watch of every movement until he rules a down and pats the player on the back as his announcement of the fall. The performer is never matched against superior weight as in football or extreme height as in basketball. Amateur wrestling is especially well guarded and, though a strenuous sport, it is quite safe. Even the professional wrestlers meet with small casualty loss and if they are good athletes and take care of themselves, they make good money and live beyond the average span of life.

Frank Ducray was for years the Colorado State Champion and has long lived in Grand Junction. He taught physics in the high school and coached football, basketball and wrestling with considerable success. For many years, he was the mentor of such long time athletes as Ed Whalley, John Whalley, Marvel Chinn. When Ducray was in the game there was great interest and the old armory would be filled to see his matches. In 1911 he had a number of matches; one against Olsen of Chicago which he won in 70 minutes; another victory over Demetral, who said after the match that Frank was the best man he ever tackled. When Ducray was active in sports we used to have Farmer Jones, Gotch and Hackenschmidt here often. They would stop off and train in the Turn Verein and later in the Y. M. C. A. when Frank was the physical director. All who liked the sport got to see the greatest kings of wrestling.

Rough Water Running

Grand Junction is the center for the river running sport. Several of the most famous boating courses in the world go out from and are outfitted here; the Arkansas River, the Colorado, the Green, the Dolores and the San Juan. Boatmen can take any distance run they choose. Like the old fashioned sport of bicycling it is an individual skill, one man and his boat against the turbulent water with a short quiet space here and there just to get a rest for the coming struggle by the water to swallow up heroes and heroines who dare to ride the ferocious waves. Some sports are wholly team work; the individual is lost in a human machine and the game is a failure if the machine does not function. It takes 30 or 40 men to play a football game, but only one man runs a race, makes a high jump, writes a short story, delivers an argument, drives a golf ball. Some famous river runners have resided here and trained here and outfitted here for their hazardous game: Mr. and Mrs. Preston Walker, Edward L. Holt, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Nevills, Jack Rigg, Jim Rigg and Otis Marston. They have run all the courses.

The long canyon of the Colorado, starting at Moab and ending in the placid waters of Lake Mead is the longest and most perilous. When you once

enter this run, you lose contact with everything, and there is no turning back or exit from the river until you come to rest on the bosom of Lake Mead, after hundreds of miles and many days of surprising adverse chances. Films showing every degree of jeopardy that accompanies these trips are available, and make no mistake about it, the riding of the waves on the screen will give you a greater thrill than any sport screens you have seen before.

A Business College

From its earliest years, Grand Junction has had a business college. The purpose of such a school was to turn out competent clerical workers for the business institutions, the law offices and various corporations. Young people came to the business school from all over the country when they were through high school and college. There were many college graduates who came after they had their degrees because the easiest way to get a job in the commercial world was to be able to enter it through ability in stenography, typing and bookkeeping or accounting. In teaching these subjects, the business college excelled. Young people who were interested in civil service positions in the government also came to perfect themselves for a civil service examination. The college was at its height when Prof. Robert A. Ross was at the head. His faculty is remembered today by many business offices that are presided over by graduates of the school when Mr. Ross managed and taught various subjects in the school. H. G. Kiggins taught the accounting courses, Birdean F. Gambell the stenography, and Mrs. P. W. Eubank the typing courses. That was a team for your life when it came to efficiency and results. The courses were set up on the unit basis with monthly units. In bookkeeping, typing and stenography, the student moved to the second month when he finished the first month and finishing meant perfection. If the student could not master the first month after two trials, he would be told that he was in the wrong field; he could try again if he was determined but there was no way to advance to a new unit without finishing the preceding unit. That was that. The spelling, writing and arithmetic standards were just as exacting, accurate and precise.

The school recommendation was always sufficient in getting any graduate a job and offices and businesses over Colorado today will tell you with some boasting that their main office has a Ross Business College student who went to work with them some 25 to 40 years ago. Mr. C. H. Buttolph managed the school after Mr. Ross' death and then sold the school and equipment to Mesa College.

Chamber of Commerce

The Commercial promotion that is so necessary in a community had its beginning with the organization of the Grand Junction Board of Trade in 1884. The community leaders realized at that time that there can be little advancement without planned progress. The pioneers had the spirit, the optimism, the energy and the ability to work together to plan organized effort, and a will to maintain a prosperous and dynamic economy. They lacked the resources for it took time and tremendous work to convert a virgin land into a prosperity that had real intrinsic value and measurable wealth. Nothing succeeds like success and the basic values of success take time. In 1884 there was a Board of Trade that enlisted the heartiest and most devoted community promotion ever seen anywhere. Their names as community builders still survive: Judge C. F. Caswell, W. T. Carpenter, Dwight Crandall, Sidney Crandall, George Currie, George Smith, S. G. McMullin, John F. McFarland, Charles W. Steele, J. H. Ramey, Dave Roberts, E. M. Slocomb, A. R. Sampliner, Henry R. Rhone, and Robert A. Orr. They planned and fought for Grand Junction and refused to be discouraged by the terrific obstacles they faced. They fully comprehended the modern slogan of the days of our Diamond Jubilee, "To Grand Junction, the ceiling is unlimited and the base is solid." The issue of their day was not so much what they won as how they fought.

The tremendous battle to develop a community that would be prosperous, law abiding, cultured, homeloving, and would possess the moral refinements and attributes of pleasant living would wear people down to a state of weariness at times and there would be periods of decline but it never became a disinclination to action and labor in the interest of a good community in which to live and call home. Upon the successes and victories of each decade the citizens who are celebrating the Jubilee of 1957 rightly pay tribute to those who bore the burdens in the "heat of the day."

The resources of Western Colorado always seemed elusive and so hidden from sight. For 30 years there were oil and gas discoveries; there was a great excitement over copper in the Unaweep and the Paradox; following World War I, a vast amount of rich radium bearing Carnotite ore was dug up and sold; the value of gilsonite, oil shale, vanadium, uranium, and many other resources were known and explored and all the signs pointed to a big boom just ahead, but when it came to the process of actually cashing in on the resources that had been discovered and sufficiently tested to prove their value, there loomed an impossible barrier that seemed to say "Not yet!" Those resources are there, to

be sure, but they can't be used, "Not yet!" So the earnest and devoted souls saw their glowing prospects fade to a low degree of dimness but never to a degree of discouragement that would mean surrender. Some of the most ardent citizens gave their lives to promoting the development of the resources that they knew existed in great abundance but they spent their energy and their substance trying to hasten developments that were impossible of realization in their time. They lived and thought too far ahead.

The pioneers fought for roads when there were not even trails; they fought for water when the only choice was a muddy river supply; they fought for freight rates when the control was in the hands of a monopoly; they fought for a payroll when there was no market for any goods that could be produced; they guarded every unnecessary expense to keep taxes within their ability to pay. After 75 years the Chamber of Commerce is contending without much success against these same obstacles.

In 1889, the Board of Trade held a very enthusiastic meeting. A banquet was held and the work of past years was reviewed according to the pattern of such meetings. They rejoiced over what they had accomplished and above all they congratulated themselves over the fact that they had worked hard for everything that had been attained. The gains were small from year to year but there was no intention to let up in the problem of community building. They were determined not to be discouraged at results; on the contrary they expressed themselves as willing to go forward, with more vigor. The officers chosen at that meeting were:

Benton Canon	President
J. W. Bridges	Secretary
W. T. Carpenter	Vice-President
J. F. Byers	Vice-President

Anyone acquainted with the men who have contributed to the development of Grand Junction will admit at once that the Board of Directors serving the association, chosen at the annual meeting in 1903, was as devoted and influential for the building and progress of the city as any such group in the 75 years of our history. They were promoters A-1 and devoted a great deal of their time to the work: President David Roberts, founder of the Mesa Flour Mill, A. R. Sampliner, George A. Currie, E. T. Fisher, J. H. Ramey, George Smith, John T. Moore, Orson Adams, Edwin Price, E. M. Slocomb, Charles W. Steele.

The Fruit Industry

The fruit industry developed rapidly. The first fruit was grown in the Grand Valley by Elam Blain in 1884. This caused great enthusiasm and soon

there was much activity in planting peaches, apples, apricots, and pears. A horticultural society was formed. There was great promotion in acreage and planting and the horticultural society undertook steps to regulate and destroy the pests. In September 1895 a great peach festival was held and it was estimated that 10,000 people came to see the exhibits and to be served delicious peaches. William Jennings Bryan spoke to the great throng of visitors who came by special railroad rates. The valley from Loma to Palisade was spread with many orchards of fruit trees and real estate soared in price.

The Grand Junction fruit won prizes in all parts of the United States for beauty, color and taste. The Edison Film Company made fruit slides and these were exhibited in many parts of the country, running for one week in Madison Square Garden. In most exhibits in the large cities Grand Valley fruit won most blue ribbons. Fourteen varieties of Grand Valley apples won sweepstakes in Cornell University in 1908. In 1913, Grand Valley apples took first prize in Cleveland. The greatest celebration, counting attendance and interest, was Peach Day in Grand Junction in 1909. President Taft was guest of the city and the fruit men. The fruit crop for 1911 passed the million dollar mark. Shipment of apples alone amounted to 1800 cars. Trucking was unknown then: no trucks or roads.

The greatest battle of the growers came when they were forced to develop orderly and systemized marketing regulations. The problem of marketing fruit for better returns to the growers was an almost insurmountable task and in 1957 it still lacks considerable adjusting and harmonization.

Two serious fatalities began to swoop down upon the producers by 1910. One was the seep land areas, the other the coddling moth. These were more than human problems. The seep was due to years of spreading too much water on the land. The water table gradually rose nearer and nearer to the top soil, bringing certain death to trees and even surface crops. This meant forced regulations concerning methods of irrigation, a difficult matter to control. It also meant an expensive drainage program to lower the water table.

The other serious problem was that of the coddling moth, wormy fruit. Because of carelessness and ignorance the fruit industry was ruined before the growers fully realized their serious predicament. When the scientists came in to survey the condition they found that the Grand Valley coddling moth had a resistance to arsenic greater than any other place in the world; the insect had built up its own immunization. There were neglected orchards of apples and pears everywhere that were so infected with pests that hope for any solution was futile. There was no alternative to save or aid the fruit industry. Orchard land was waste land and the trees were rubbish. As a result, more than a half



Peach Day 1909.

million trees were pulled up and destroyed.

The peach trees were not affected by the codling moth but they were threatened by the peach mosaic and by another danger called chlorosis. This disease was slower in action and there was no general wide spread devastation but it was a serious problem to individual orchards, fatal to the orchard when it struck.

It had already been proven that the Grand Valley could produce the highest quality fruit, so when the codling moth died off in the area, apples and pears of fine specie and quality could again be produced. The apple market has been steady for years because it is not a perishable fruit like the peach and can be stored and released throughout the rest of the year after harvesting, according to the market, the apple being the best year round fresh fruit. To prepare for a new beginning every neglected pear and apple tree should be destroyed utterly.

Two other very injurious pests threatened the economy of the entire valley for years, nor is the danger eliminated now. One was the beet hopper that threatened the sugar industry.

In 1912 W. A. Shands, entomologist for the Bureau of Entomology at Washington, was sent here to study the beet hopper and to plan some method of fighting the pest. He discovered its breeding areas over the desert of Eastern Utah and its migration to the Colorado valleys. When the original habitat in Utah gets hot and dried up, they spread all over the area, and reach quite far up on the western slope of the trans-continental range but do not get over the top to affect the beet crop on the east side. They attack the beet plants and cause a disease that threatens the whole sugar production in Western Colorado. Costly spraying would help but the development of seed that would produce a resistant plant was considered to be the solution. That saved the day for the beet growers. Mr. Shands is at the head of the Department of Entomology in the University of Maine now. I used to go with him down in the Hanksville area where he had traps for the study of the beginning of these small insects in the early spring. He would set an insect trap about six feet in circumference and then force in some formaldehyde gas to kill everything under the cover. Later he would gather up all the vegetation and some of the dirt and bring it to his laboratory where the tiny insects would be counted. More than 10,000 insects would be counted in one of these traps. You can imagine how a breeze from Utah would carry them in by the billions.

The other problem is more current than the sugar beet enemy and that is the alfalfa weevil. This pest destroys the early first cutting of alfalfa. It is not so damaging later in the growing season, but the first cutting is rated the best of all the hay harvest and commands a higher price. So far the only effective

control is spraying by airplane. All fields not sprayed and all alfalfa plants in waste places are hosts for the propagation of this injurious pest.

The fruit growing industry reached its height in 1911. Apples, pears and peaches, in this order, had become the central part of the economy of Mesa County. There were other fruit crops such as cherries, apricots, grapes, plums, and quince that were proving popular, but which had not developed extensively enough for carload harvesting and marketing. At the meeting of the Grand Junction Fruit Growers Association that year there was a hopeful enthusiasm. The crop had been good for several years and the fruit growers were doing well. John F. Moore had proved himself a good manager of the Association and when all reports were in there was a strong feeling of approval and satisfaction. The directors elected at their annual meeting were a fine set of men who had been the making of the industry for many years: A. J. Harvey, R. E. Turpin, Robert A. Orr, A. E. Johnson, W. J. S. Henderson, John J. Bridges, Fred Baisch, James H. Smith and L. E. Jaynes. The Association was the largest and best in the whole nation.

One ominous warning in the report made by Frand R. Davis, assistant manager of the Association, did not mean so much at the time as it did later, and that was the threat of the coddling moth and importance of more effective laws and regulations concerning spraying. Mr. Davis is the only one of that group of men surviving at the time of the seventy-fifth anniversary of this hometown. The manuscript of his important report and address was published in its entirety.

The author can dramatize this further so you can see the meaning. Copeco ranch, named from the Colorado Pear Company, was a \$100,000 ranch of 260 acres, two residences, a large two story barn, a domestic water storage system, a very large storage construction with steel frame and a large concrete outdoor swimming pool; a well developed fruit and agricultural ranch. When the water table rose to the surface in the lower valley, eighty acres of the finest farm land went to seep and the coddling moth took the pears and apples in the rest of the acreage. The owners pulled 17,000 trees in two years and burned the trash.

The Peach Festival

The pioneers were interested in creating some sort of an event that would unite the whole people in a great celebration: some community wide pageant—an annual cultural event—a great cooperative enterprise in which all might enter with a zeal and spirit from year to year. Such an enterprise would be a cure-all for the many diverse matters that arise from human frailties and misunderstandings; something that would be greater than themselves and all their

problems.

The Peach Festival seemed to be the answer. The first Peach Festival was held in 1890 and it proved to be all that the ardent dreamers hoped for. A program of great variety was worked out. The reception committee was composed of forty leading citizens, all old timers. This became an annual event to look forward to and was so successful in every way that it developed into a four day event in September of each year. Plans were made ahead for big attractions. Each new committee tried to outdo all the rest in exhibits, fun and frolic. The city would be in gala attire for a week. Exhibitions, bands, side shows, carnivals, skilled performers, and the final event would be a masque ball on Main Street. This was kept up until 1904 when it was changed to the Mesa County Fair Association, and the first fair was held in the Fair Grounds where Lincoln Park now is located: a great Exposition, held in September, 1904, a five-day event. The Fair took to itself all that the Peach Festival had and added more.

To all who remember the gala Fairs of a generation ago, a lively and fond memory will be aroused by the mention of this event. County Fairs were institutions within themselves. There were great displays of agricultural products, livestock, poultry, elaborate parades a mile long, honey, homemaking displays, amusements, horse racing, bicycle races, wild west sports, amusements, stunts, fakirs, orations, educational exhibits. The Fair collapsed in 1923. Some sporadic attempts have been made to produce a new and even larger cultural festival but sufficient leadership and emotion for a grand scale exposition with a pageantry background never seems to materialize. People are willing enough to go great distances to attend some periodical season of entertainment but they lack the imagination to build something for themselves and their own community.

At the Mesa County Fair, September 23, 1910, a very unusual performance occurred. A five mile race was on the program between Rex Barber, champion bicycle racer and Saul Halyve, an Indian long distance runner. The prize was \$100: \$60 to the winner, \$40 to the loser. The Indian led for the first two miles, then began to weaken, but it was a sensational attraction for the Fair people that day. The time was 13:22 for Barber and 14:28 for the Indian runner. Charles Lumley, long time sheriff in Mesa County, was the referee. Mrs. Lumley lives here and Dr. C. S. Lumley, veterinarian, is a son. Another son, Jack, is in the U. S. Army.

In July 1908, an organization was formed to sell the Fair Grounds to the city of Grand Junction for a public recreation park and locate the Mesa County Fair and Exposition grounds elsewhere. This idea had almost universal sup-

Packing shed circa early 1900s.



port. It was proposed that the surrounding fence be torn down and that the area be surveyed and plans made for its landscaping and beautification, and suitable areas designated for development as athletic grounds, lawn, shrubbery and flowers, so that it could be converted into a beautiful park for all the activities that the people might want. The Fair was doing well, the crowds were increasing year after year and the Fair Directors were making it bigger and better besides making it pay its way. The proposal cooled down after a while and soon was lost sight of. So the Fair went on its merry way, until it failed because the leaders lacked the imagination necessary for changing the old style fairs into new type expositions; something to take the place of horse racing seemed to be the chief difficulty.

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