

# ***JOURNAL OF THE WESTERN SLOPE***

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# ***JOURNAL OF THE WESTERN SLOPE***

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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**  
**Part II**

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*.



*Professor Richard E. Tope*

## **“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*<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup>Excerpts from *The Objective History of Grand Junction* were also used to produce a booklet entitled *Grand Junction. 75th Jubilee 1882–1957*.





## **Objective History Grand Junction, Colorado: Part II**

### **Cultural Advantages**

In the early years of Grand Junction not much cultural influence could be expected from the outside. The citizens of the 80s had to satisfy their own desires in art, music, drama, study clubs, scientific and philosophical studies, and the library. They did help themselves. They were not to be discounted. In this the women took the lead because they had time to meet and discuss programs for refinement and for understanding. In 1889 they organized a company of singers and rendered "The Mikado," making it a creditable performance. Reading some of the old accounts of the theatricals, you come across the name of Miss Susan Carpenter, who was a charming young woman possessing natural talents in dancing, singing, and as a dramatic reader. Among the men and women you find the names of early day citizens who made the city their permanent home and whose bodies are marked by granite and marble stones in the cemeteries across the river: Mr. and Mrs. Ben J. Snyder, Dr. and Mrs. L. F. Ingersol, Mr. and Mrs. Loren Staley, Dr. and Mrs. E. F. Eldridge, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Ela, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Caswell, Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. McMullin, Mrs. Harriet Ottman, Mrs. Frank Mayo, Mrs. W. F. White, Mrs. B. F. Jay, Mrs. Emma McCune, Mrs. Jennie Delaplaine, Mrs. Emma Wadsworth, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Newton, Mrs. E. P. Chester, Mr. and Mrs. I. N. Bunting, Mrs. Frank McClintock, Agnes Shores. These names are repeated over and over in the stories of interesting program

events. There was developed dramatic talent far above amateur rating. Dr. Eldridge, pioneer physician, was known as the poet laureate. The Academy of Science was important enough to challenge the best thinking of the age.

Several old time teachers in the early school system took an active part in all this work and helped to make the programs a success. Here are some names of those who had stage technique for theatrical performance:

Mrs. R. W. Temple

Miss Thusa Tupper

Miss Emma Allison

Mrs. H. C. Long

Miss Bessie Farwell

Miss Rose Allison

Miss Tupper was a young woman who came to Grand Junction to teach, from Illinois. She married Jesse Glassford, well known businessman and brought up a fine family. She was the aunt of Dr. H. M. Tupper and of Henry J. Tupper, County Commissioner.

The writer is partial to these fine teachers so they are set off to themselves.

The building of the Park Opera House in the 90s added much to the growing community that was anxious for a closer contact with the culture and refinement of the whole country. This was an old style city theater—a show place to be proud of—orchestra section, parquet and two balconies; it was situated on the site of the present Whitman school and had a standard stage. Grand Junction was midway between Denver and Salt Lake City and this imposing structure, like the real opera houses of the large cities, was inviting to all the traveling companies, because if they showed here they would not have to lose a date. Advance agents would make contracts at bargain prices to fill in the time going east or west; as a result then for twenty years Grand Junction could almost write its own contract for stage talent. The manager, Mr. Frank A. Haskell, knew talent, sought variety, and knew values. The development of the screen shows was a hard blow to the traveling in person stage shows, so the Park Opera House was closed and the building sold to the school district, which salvaged the material.

Grand Junction took advantage of the Chautauqua era, which was a summer program, and also the lyceum courses which ran through the winter months: lecturers, entertainers, small and large troupes, orchestras, impersonators, recitalists, and some vaudeville acts.

The Avalon Theater was built in 1922 and that was a modern theater seating 1400 people, and until the great depression struck, the people of the whole area had the opportunity to see and hear many of attractions that came to Denver and Salt Lake City. Following the depression the movie screen just about took over the entertainment field and the Avalon became a movie house

exclusively.

The demise of the Stage, the Chautauqua and lyceum left an aching void in the whole entertainment field. There would be no more programs like Frederick Warde, Russell Conway, Robert LaFollette, Parks Cadman, Albert Beverage, Chauncey M. DePew, Strickland Gilligan, Robert Mantell, Monteville Flowers, Ada Ward, William Borah, Sam P. Jones, DeWitt Talmadge, such stage humorists as Bill Nye and Bob Burdette to lecture in person, or such stage shows to see as the Student Prince, Rose Marie, Pinafore, Parsifal, Al G. Field's Minstrels, Ben Greet Players, Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines. Surrender to the screen has left a vacuum for those who once appreciated the great, in person, stage performances. For art and talent and morals, stage shows were of far greater refinement of character than the screen characters. This was also true of the Chautauqua and lyceum talent.

Bill Nye was a humorous lecturer and writer before the public for twenty-five years. Bob Burdette was lyceum lecturer for over thirty years. One never tired of hearing his Rainbow Chasers, which he gave hundreds of times in various versions. He could play on his audience and have them laughing one minute and shedding tears the next, a sort of master of the emotions. The great treat on the campuses was to have Nye and Burdette come at the same time.

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 sponsored, 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 was the simplest, inconvenient and primitive, yet there was evidence of a remarkable maturity that would eventually bring about their hearts' desire.

### **Home Talent—The Best of All**

The Park Opera House served a great need in the early years of Grand Junction. As related elsewhere the people had a splendid opportunity to see

and hear all the great stage performances that traveled from East to West. The young people grew up with a familiarity with lyceum talent, stage shows, comedians and humorists: performers who would be an inspiration in their own lives. They learned to admire the great and many aspired to emulate the talent they preferred to see.

In the summer time when the show house was dark most of the time the people, both young and elderly, helped themselves. There was Professor O'Boyle who always had a band or orchestra or a large group of singers who could be staged in a cantata, a concert or musical comedy. With equal capability there was Professor H. C. Long who was a talented reader and impersonator and could be relied upon to stage a play, a miscellaneous recital or a drama of stage calibre. Besides these, Miss Susan Carpenter, who was capable of rendering Shakespeare, Dickens and other classical works to the great satisfaction of her audiences, could fill the Park Opera House any time she had a program worked up for presentation.

Miss Carpenter went to New York City with her family and returned to Grand Junction for a concert July 14, 1908. She was making a tour of the west preliminary to her departure on a tour of Europe that had been booked by her agency. She gave a concert in the old Theater and the reporter wrote: "All honor to any one who goes forth into the world and then returns home with honor and has retained great respect for the old friends and surroundings of pioneer life. Miss Carpenter conquered again in her old home and was awarded plaudits and unstinted praise by the people who knew her from childhood."

There was also Phidella Rice, who was a graduate of the Leland Powers school of oratory, and his brother, Bernard Rice, who completed his education in the United States and then in Europe to become a pulpiteer of the Presbyterian faith. They made frequent visits to the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Rice, who came to Grand Junction in 1882. Phidella Rice covered a great deal of the country each year filling engagements made by his lyceum bureau. In later life he established his own school, "The School of the Spoken Word" on Martha's Vineyard Island, where he taught many of the public speakers of that time.

Any time any of these capable people or their groups were ready for a program it was certain that the seating capacity of the Park would be sold out.

To interest the high school students in preparing themselves for first rate prize programs staged each year, Horace T. DeLong and his brother, Ira M. DeLong, who was professor of Mathematics in the University of Colorado for many years, were accustomed to offer a set of prizes in debate and oratory, also in both learned and original orations. A. R. and J. M. Sampliners granted

prizes to high school students in humorous reading, dramatic readings and in essay work each year. These were great events, always plenty of contestants, really remarkable intellectual and cultural shows that filled the Park Opera House and to equal which the attempts at cultural performance and refined stage presence we see today are the merest of amateur stunts.

The pioneers of Grand Junction lived on a high plane of understanding, association, achievement and appreciation. Opportunities may appear meager under the old fashioned pioneer conditions but when you get a proper perspective of the instances of success, they multiply tremendously. Out of the early day life in Grand Junction came such personalities as Gladys Brainard, the concert pianist who would fill the Park Opera House when she would occasionally return from her work to visit her parents; Ervin Miller, who travels the world over for the United Press Service; Noland Morgaard, who does the same for the Associated Press; Leo Antlos, the entomologist who has protected the apple industry of the Wenatche area from insects and disease (he should have been kept here to save our fruit from the pests); Helen Canon, who became a noted University professor of Cornell; Bruce Knight, the Dartmouth professor of Economics; Horace Hopkins, who enjoyed chemistry so well that he became a leading technician for the Dupont Corporation; John Cottrell, who became a famous surgeon; William Lacy, who prepared for the Diplomatic Service. These are individuals selected at random who came out of the pioneer life with glory and honor.

### **The City Library**

The library movement began early. In 1894 the Grand Junction Library Association was organized. The committee on organization was composed of the following citizens:

W. P. Ela	J. H. Ramey
Mrs. H. C. Long	S. M. Bradbury
J. S. Charlton	W. S. Wallace
J. H. Hayden	W. W. Ross
Mrs. R. W. Temple	

Two hundred members were signed up promptly and by popular subscription a large number of books were turned in for the first library. A custom was adopted of holding library social affairs. A program would be prepared and those who attended were each to bring a book. The book collection in the 80s became enormous. It is interesting to read the list of titles as the newspapers related the story of the party, the number of books and the name of the

donor and title of the book presented. Interest grew rapidly. Prior to the turn of the century the big difficulty was to find a home for the literary center.

In 1900 the Library Association received a gift of \$8000 from Andrew Carnegie for the construction of a library building, the gift to come just as soon as the City government would guarantee an annual maintenance of not less than \$1200. This was taken care of promptly and the following year the library building was constructed on the corner of Grand Avenue and Seventh Street across from the Baptist Church. That provided a problem for the women to take over. Down through the years the women have taken great interest in the project. Some of the earnest women who have worked to make the library what it is today are: Mesdames R. W. Temple, B. F. Jay, H. R. Ottman, S. N. Wheeler, A. C. Newton, Emma Wadsworth, W. F. White, W. S. Wallace, Edwin Price, Emma Chester, E. F. Woods, O. H. Ellison, C. A. Latimer, C. S. Desch, R. L. Townsend, H. W. Vorbeck, Miss Julie Taylor, Miss Hazel Ela, Miss Camille Wallace.

### **Road Building**

In 1881 there were no roads, not even trails. The route to the Plateau Valley area was up Rapid Creek and through the hog back straight east from Palisade. The first road out of the Grand Junction area was a toll road up the Colorado River through the DeBeque Canyon to DeBeque, built by Henry R. Rhone, who came to Grand Junction in 1882. Mr. Rhone was a lawyer, an organizer, and became the first promoter of highways. He succeeded in building a toll road for horseback riding, chuck wagons and stagecoach traffic up the Grand River and the first wagon passed over the road in December 1885. When the D&RGW Railroad decided to build through the canyon, Mr. Rhone settled his claims of right of way with the railroad and the toll road ceased in 1892.

The economy of the extensive Plateau region was important to Mesa County so at the close of the toll road it was decided to build a road up Plateau Creek Canyon and connect with the trail that traversed the bad lands on the west end of Battlement Mesa into DeBeque. This served as the highway east until the new highway was built up the Colorado River in 1929. William Weiser was made a member of the Colorado Highway Board in 1921 and he was able to influence the Colorado Highway Commission to build the DeBeque Canyon highway, a modern bridge across the Colorado River on Highway 50 in 1933, and the Fifth Street Viaduct across the railroad tracks in 1936, a dangerous spot for traffic east and west.

In 1920 and 1921 other road building programs were undertaken—the



*One of Grand Junction's early horse-drawn cars.*

road to Rangely and the road to Gateway.

The campaign for a road over Douglas Pass into Rangely was begun. A report was made by a committee consisting of William Buthorn, M. H. Loeffler, and J. B. Taylor, who had just returned from a hike over the Douglas Pass proposed route. This was the first definite account of this project. The cost of opening this route was estimated at \$30,000 to \$40,000 and the committee was sure the money could be raised. Today it would be millions instead of thousands. The money was contributed and the present trail was built into Rangely, in 1920. Little change has been made in this highway since it was first built by money raised in Grand Junction.

Events had shaped up and the Chamber of Commerce had decided on a drive to raise \$25,000 for a road to the south from Whitewater to Gateway. A committee was composed of S. G. McMullin, J. H. Rankin, Charles Rump, A. C. Parsons, William Weiser, A. P. Wadsworth and the amount was soon subscribed. This road has been improved through the years because of the mineral developments of the region it serves.

In 1912 there was great excitement over the Midland Trail, a through highway from Indianapolis to the Pacific Coast. The route through Colorado was over Tennessee Pass, Glenwood Canyon to Grand Junction and across Utah. About the same time another promotion developed, called the Rainbow route, crossing Colorado through Pueblo, Monarch Pass to Grand Junction and across Utah. The Midland Trail became Highway #24 and the Rainbow route became Highway 50.

Another project in the early days that had much emphasis was a route across Glade Park to the Little Delores and into the Paradox Valley and Sinbad area, crossing the Colorado to the Cisco and Thompson Springs region and going down the Colorado to Moab, thence south into Arizona, opening up the whole Colorado River to its mouth direct from Grand Junction. This is about the only dream of a highway that has not been fulfilled. The Rangely road is still a pioneer trail built by public subscription but sometime it will be completed.

The Serpent's Trail was a start on the celebrated road plan down the Colorado River but after years of use it was superceded by the Monument Park Road. Prior to the Serpent's Trail, which was built in 1921 by public subscription, the way into Glade Park and the Little Delores was a long climb south of Nothorough Canyon around Blue Hill and up Jacob's Ladder, an old-fashioned steep, tedious journey.

The Monument road around the rim came to the surface of our thinking in 1927. The region had long been known for its scenic importance because of



the many sheer cliffs of sandstone, hundreds of feet straight-up-and-down sandstone escarpment and for some very unusual monoliths, the principal one being the Monument itself. The money would come gradually from the U. S. Parks funds. Interest would have to be shown over a long period of time. Our Congressman, Edward T. Taylor was convinced he could get strong support in Congress. The campaign was shaped up by many civic leaders in Grand Junction, headed by Lee W. Burgess. The Chamber of Commerce fathered the work of promotion and all the service club organizations joined in making the project one of major importance. The area heretofore had been almost inaccessible except by hiking and that was a strenuous business for even the hardy souls who ventured to see the sights. The work of improvement began at the Fruita and Grand Junction entrances to the area and was proceeding slowly until the great depression came and in order to find employment for millions of men, the WPA and CCC programs were developed. That vast amount of labor-resource just played right into one of the most valuable scenic assets in the nation. Thousands of men were sent to the park, great camps were built for housing and for boarding these workers. The Monument Park highway became a reality. Now it is a finished scenic drive that attracts its full share of National Park tourists and is earning a revenue for permanent maintenance along with the whole National Park System.

In 1933, the Lands End road was begun. This project had been a dream. It too was accepted as a WPA project, and hundreds of men went into camps along the climb up the west slope of Grand Mesa where they worked at road construction. They opened a coal vein, heretofore unknown, for fuel and developed their own water supply from a fresh mountain stream. They liked the place so much and the living was so comfortable that the men worked the year around. This project was under the Forestry Department and they used more machinery than had been used on the Monument project.

Recent road building into the interior areas has been the result of the extensive vanadium and uranium mining. The Federal Government has undertaken the development of roads to make accessible the many mineral claims so that the hundreds of operators can truck out their ores to the mills. This has resulted in a network of good highways never dreamed of by even the most ardent road builders a score of years ago. Only one road project of importance has been allowed to go by default: that ill-fated road to Rangely.

### **Early Day Bridges**

The first bridge for reaching the Redlands was the steel bridge across the Gunnison River at the north end of the Redlands area, built in 1895 and

still used for traffic. It is a mystery why it was located where it is. The old steel bridge across the Colorado River at the west end of Main Street was not built until 1912. The Clifton bridge across the Colorado to Orchard Mesa was built in 1912 also. In the lower valley the Fruita bridge to the Redlands was built in 1907. No old fashioned covered bridges were ever built in the area. The Serpent's Trail road to Glade Park was built in 1921 and became a scenic short cut to the Glade Park area. This old-fashioned trail, obsolete as a highway, should be kept passable in the summer, so people could see an antique piece of road that was considered quite important a few years ago.

One special feature of a Jubilee celebrating pioneer life and a very appropriate characteristic is the revival of be-whiskered gentlemen and sun-bonneted women. The sun-bonnets did not require any department store plan of merchandising and full grown shaggy beards were a natural facial dressing for the men because shaving supplies were limited and woefully nugatory. The Wade Butcher razors sold by hawkers at the county fairs and on the street corners didn't accomplish the service for which they were exploited. A glance at some old photographs will show the true pioneer with a full grown crop of whiskers, a big bright nose peaking through, a broad clean shiny forehead and those characteristic raccoon eyes that always seemed to be piercing the gloom.

### **John Otto's Trails**

No discussion concerning roads in this area would be complete without a statement concerning John Otto, early day trail builder of the Uncompahgre. John spent many years in and around Grand Junction living in selected camps of his own construction, located in somewhat hidden and protected spots in different parts of what he called The Empire. He had a couple of burros for pack animals and a horse well experienced in mountain climbing. The animals were well trained and would stay for any length of time in any vicinity close to John. He had a cache of food in several spots over the area where he could relieve his hunger and he knew all the springs of sweet pure water. John built trails on his own for quicker and easier approach and retreat to the most scenic parts of the whole area. He was a unique and original philosopher, moral, religious, human and universal. He was too deep and subtle for most people and a great many wrote him off as a freak or visionary. He had no income. The little cash he needed was given to him in dribs by people who liked and appreciated his work. He never solicited but appreciated any money to the fullest extent. His friends would suggest to others that a little contribution to John Otto would be money well spent and in this way his circle of support grew. I never saw a man whose eyes would sparkle so brightly over a quarter, as he

slipped it loosely into his pant's pocket. Walter Walker of *The Daily Sentinel* was always ready to give space to his literary productions and aided John with money on many occasions.

J. H. Rankin was a liberal supporter and when John was in Grand Junction he could be found in Mr. Rankin's office in the City Hall when he was one of the City Commissioners or in the court house when he was Mesa County Assessor. Al Look, author and lecturer, was a friend of John Otto and spent a great deal of time hiking and riding with him to the hidden recesses of the Great Empire. I suppose all of John's old trails are now hidden by the rubble of the mountain slides. He taught the Boy Scouts to make a trail to Liberty Cap, which overlooks the entrance to Red Canyon, how to make and care for a good camp and other woodcrafts knowledge.

The first trip I made up the west side of Grand Mesa was by horseback ride in 1919 to the top through John Otto's Notch, a place of access up the rimrock, to be seen near the sharp point that overlooks Kannah Creek. You alighted from your horse and led it for several hundred feet along a narrow trail through slide rock, the cliff brushing your right shoulder as you looked down from a dizzy height to the left. It was a quick way to get to the top of the Mesa.

Another of his celebrated trails was one to the top of Pinion Mesa that overlooks the West Creek and the Dolores Valley. You ascended the mountain on the long climb east of the Nothorough Canyon by way of Blue Hill, past the old time mica vein, through a sort of vale of Kashmire, where you came to Otto's secret trail to the top. There you dismounted and led your horse up a winding steep trail through virgin timber to the beautiful mesa on the slope of the mountain which is snow white in our spring months and over which the summer showers hover all summer if there is a bit of rain anywhere. There is located the prettiest spot for summer cabins of any place in Western Colorado. You can grow potatoes and other root crops, hardy berries thrive, strawberries will ripen in July, asparagus, rhubarb, lettuce and various berries thrive. There could be no more restful place found in the world for full and complete relaxation. And one more thing, it is supposed that the water for the artesian wells in this area has its origin from the snow and summer rains that fall on that beautiful mountain south of the Grand Valley. For ages the water has soaked down through the sandstone layer, hundreds of feet thick. This great layer of sandstone sinks under the Grand Valley due to a great change in the earth's crust.

When population centers grow the problem of maintaining easy access and egress roads increases in proportion to the population and the traffic. In

modern life with the vast number of automobiles and trucks it has become an almost impossible problem to solve. The roads approaching the growing cities must be widened, bridges must be wider and viaducts over the railroad tracks are necessary. In Grand Junction the city administration and the Colorado Highway Commission have worked with the highway situation consistently. The highway traffic from the east over #6 and #24 used to enter over North Avenue and then the traffic could branch off over Twelfth, Seventh and Fifth Streets. The new highway traffic from the east leaves North Avenue at Fruitvale and drivers have chances to leave at Grand Avenue, Main Street or Pitkin Avenue, an easy way to loosen congestion. The road from the Redlands formerly entered the city over a narrow steel bridge at the west end of Main and crossed the tracks on the street level. Now the traffic crosses the Colorado River over a modern concrete bridge, passes the railroad tracks over a viaduct and enters the downtown area at Grand Avenue from where it can divide as it chooses. From the South, Highway 50 enters the city over a modern concrete bridge, crosses the tracks over a great viaduct on Fifth Street and can enter one way streets going east or west. In this way the city has planned ahead and has met the problem before it became too serious. One problem lies ahead and that is a second bridge across the Colorado River, probably at the foot of Seventh Street.

The Fifth Street Bridge was built in 1933, the Fifth Street viaduct in 1936 and the Grand Avenue viaduct in 1939. The Grand Avenue bridge was completed in 1950. The first bridge across the Grand River at the end of Fifth Street was built jointly by the state and Mesa County in 1886 for \$25,000, which was not much of a bridge but a most necessary improvement. The only way of access to the city prior to that was by fording or by boat or a small wooden ferry. Railroad shipments entered over the early steel bridge built when the railroad entered the city in the fall of 1882. Much foot traffic used the railroad bridge prior to 1886.

In 1910 M. C. Ramsay, early day automobile dealer in Grand Junction, took three friends for a spin to Glenwood Springs to see the condition of the trail. They left at 8:30 in the morning, rested an hour in Rifle for lunch and to wait out a thunder shower, then they arrived in Glenwood Springs at 8:10 in the evening. He reported that the road was poor, no culverts or bridges, but with some repairs he thought they could make the run in about eight hours.

### **The Livestock Industry**

Grand Junction became a very important livestock center because of comparatively low, flat, top range land which served as excellent feeding ground for at least four to five months at a very low price per head. The Pinion Mesa



*Photo of old and new Fifth Street bridges circa 1933.*

area, the Uncompahgre and the Bookcliff region were first developed because the desirable range was easily reached by herds and the pasturing season was longer than at the higher elevations. The foothills afforded much fine food early in the spring and the herds could be moved forward leisurely toward the summer range. There would be no hurry in getting the herds and flocks off the top and herding them homeward in the fall.

Grand Mesa has always been rated as the richest and most productive of all the cattle ranges. The soil is deep and rich and the forage produced is of the finest strength and quality. The elevation is a little over 10,000 feet and besides the valuable pastures there is an abundance of good fresh water at all times. Access to the flat top is difficult and there are few good and safe places for reaching the flattop through the rim rock. Getting off the rim rock in the fall is a slow and hazardous experience even for the most experienced cattlemen. Because of its productivity it makes a more desirable range for cattle than for sheep. The first serious problem was in utilizing the great area because both cattle and sheep owners were often in serious conflict. Cattle will starve to death on range where both are permitted to forage. It took years to settle by amicable agreement the problems of boundaries for the use of flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, especially on the lower elevations. Grand Mesa was practically left to the cattlemen, without contention.

Another serious difficulty to overcome was cattle thievery, rustling. Developing the laws concerning brands took place slowly and it was quite profitable to pilfer other people's herds and a lot of bad men became engaged in the rustling of young calves especially. In the lower masses it was difficult to convict by jury trial. Many good cases would come to a dead end because of hung juries, a stock man or two of low ethics would refuse to convict. The fight for cleaning up the cattle areas became stern and determined. Cattle thieves were getting bolder. In the summer of 1882 legitimate cattlemen appealed to the officials for action and the sheriff of Mesa County took some deputies into the range land of the Bookcliffs and got in vigorous pursuit of the most troublesome thieving band in the whole area. They killed the leader and broke up the worst gang the region had known. After this fatality rustling was on the defensive. Better laws concerning branding and making payment for animals with brands, as well as better success in the courts tempered the minds of those who lived by robbery and thievery. Rustling dwindled to isolated areas where a calf might be stolen for the meat and the evidence hidden. Rustling sheep was not so common or so easy for herds of sheep were under the eyes of trained sheep herders who guarded their flock by night and day against the designs of evil men and wild beasts. The herders were assisted of course by their trained dogs

that were as efficient in guarding as were the sheepherders.

The livestock business grew into the most valuable part of the economy of western Colorado. Herds increased, more people became engaged in the industry, big and little, and increased knowledge of animal husbandry resulted in great improvement in the herd of cattle and the flocks of sheep, better grades and proportions of meat and wool for each individual animal.

From the very beginning the livestock industry became the foremost activity and most profitable industry of the area. Farseeing men, energetic promoters established home ranches with agricultural possibilities so they could raise plenty of stock feed for the long winters, where they could take care of their cattle or sheep, and sought leases with the federal government for extensive summer range where pasture would be abundant at a reasonable cost. Range cattle were a hardy breed so shelter was never a serious problem; the same was true for sheep. So the livestock business became a dominating part of the economy of the entire region before 1890. It should be interesting to note the names of the men down through the years who are rightfully listed as the leading cattle kings of the area and the dominant sheep promoters of the past seventy-five years.

The notable cattle men:

The Young Brothers—Lafe, Ed and Lew

The Gordon family—George, Ed, Rachel and John

J. F. Brink Cattle Co. (had 3000 head in 1883)

The Standiford Brothers

The Burford Cattle Co.

The Sieber Cattle Co.

The Webster Cattle Co.

Charles Berg

The Cross Cattle Co.

L. M. Miller

Kimball Cattle Co.

Pace Brothers Cattle Co.

The Taylor Cattle Co.

W. P. Ela

The Delores Cattle Co.

The Turner family

The Ternahan family

The Currier family

Fred Rackwell

Delos Webb

Dan Casement

Bart Owens

Robert Adams

The Stewart Cattle Co.

J. W. Osborn family

Jerome Craig Cattle Co.

Holland Bros.

The prominent sheep men:

Tom Kelley

Ellery Burford

Gus Bullerdick

John Gavin

George Gordon

D. T. Clark Co.

Bert Blodgett

Tawney and Hirons

Perry Olsen  
Buruseo Brothers  
The Taylor Co.  
Fravert and Love  
Peter Jouffas

Tom Cuddy  
The Goslen Co.  
The Fitzpatrick Co.  
Emmet Elizoudo

Many of these livestock men handled great herds. In the early years the animals were driven over the country and along the highways to the summer ranges in the high country. The sheep would be moved slowly because they needed little water and could find considerable food on the desert. The cattle herds would have to move more rapidly after they left the home feeding lots until they got to elevations where there would be good water and plenty of feed. They needed water and the sheep would soon clean out the desert forage.

Then in the fall the livestock traffic would be reversed. The cattle would be taken care of in the valley on home ranches through the winter. The sheep outfits would move to the desert areas west of the valley far out into Utah where they could get some food from the desert until snow came and then winter forage would be transported to them. Sheep could satisfy their thirst with snow, and thrive very well. With sheep the lambing and shearing took place on the desert before the movement to the summer ranges began. As good roads became realities and as transport trucks became the general means of heavy transportation both cattle and sheep were transported by livestock trucks. The sheep men who developed extensive ranges at considerable distances from the Grand Valley used the railroad for shipping to and from the range.

The livestock business was big business. The men were capitalists deluxe. They were heavy borrowers and heavy investors. The sheep men had money twice a year: from wool receipts and lamb returns and other sales. The cattle men cashed in when fall came and the cattle were returned from the range; through the winter they might top off some prize feeders.

Mac Miller, son of pioneer L. M. Miller, was a prominent Angora goat operator. Some of the goat men incurred the enmity of the cattle men but Mac ran his goats for many years without difficulty or loss. He arranged for his range and held his flock to his own permit. Some large goat herds were slaughtered.

The most striking incident connected with the great livestock industry was the project carried out by two brothers, James H. and George P. Smith on Orchard Mesa. The Smiths were very able and educated young men, one an engineer and the other a planner and builder. They established a big farm of 480 acres as their home farm and planned to go into the livestock business—raise feed for the winter season on the home ranch and run their cattle on



government range land in the summer months. They first built a pumping station on the river not far from where the four-corners road reaches the bank of the river, on Orchard Mesa. The Mesa is high above the river and at that date pumping water for such a large irrigated farm was a most unusual irrigation project, but they carried out their plans and were big farmers and stockmen for a good many years. They went into fruit quite extensively, and also grew sugar beets. The pumping system was expensive so the pumping project was given up when the Orchard Mesa irrigation district was formed in 1907. This ranch was known as The Oasis.

### **Industries That Never Came**

For twenty-five years there was a smelter in the future of Grand Junction. Some advance men would appear in the interest of a smelter and since there was always a dormant hope that the natural resources would make a smelter feasible, it was easy to get the Chamber of Commerce on its toes for any kind of a project that had even a little prospect of realization. Always a site was requested, tax concessions, of course, and usually some local investment capital would be solicited, all of which would readily be promised. Time after time, committees would be formed of enthusiastic and perpetually optimistic townsmen who wanted to do all they could for the town and a payroll. A smelter was proposed and partially built on North First Street; several attempts were made south of town below the tracks, but they were never fully realized. The most ambitious proposal was a pyritic smelter in 1902. It was built and operated for a time, but closed within about six months. The great pile of re-torts, steel work, trucks and machinery may be seen just east of the Climax Uranium Mill on the river. All the smelter enthusiasm finally cooled down and petered out after twenty-five years of successive disappointment.

In 1897 there was a proposition for a soap factory. The livestock industry was large and there was plenty of animal fat, but the movement bogged down and the effort failed. The Durham Stock Yards, established in 1894, had proved a wonderful thing for the whole livestock industry. Canning factories were always in the making, both cooperative and corporate organizations. Dried fruits, canning, jams and jellies and other kinds of processing were tried, but for want of capital, know-how and efficient management, they all ailed, until the Currie family built the Currie Tomato Factory for canning ripe tomatoes and tomato juice, in 1912. This was a success and after twenty-three years of successful operations the factory was sold to Kuner-Empson, the present owners.

Butter making had an early development. It was a cooperative industry and at the height there were three creameries. In 1923, thirty-six car loads of butter were shipped, but the milk production did not keep pace with the increase of population and the supply was not great enough for the demand for fresh milk and the needs for a successful butter industry, so the butter industry curtailed its operations.

Speculation follows an ominously set pattern. There is a sharp rise in interest and enthusiasm. The public is impressed. People hate to be caught napping; fearful of being rated unaware of some new movement. They want to "keep up with the Joneses", not realizing that the interest of the Jones' is different and variable. But about the time they get caught up with the Joneses, they have refinanced and then the race must begin all over again, a sort of spiral after spiral. Then the stage is set for the fleecing. Those who started the excitement begin selling out at the artificial price while the public interest holds. Finally the original insiders are out. Then it may be seen that there was never anything very substantial about the high price, and the new crowd, inexperienced and unprepared for discouragement and incapable of rolling up their sleeves and going to work with the extraordinary vigor it takes, are just left holding a wobbly bag.

It is interesting to know about some of the plans the pioneers made while they were trying desperately to help themselves and build a town as rapidly as possible. On October 4, 1850<sup>1</sup>, a group of eighty-four men advertised that they would pledge themselves to raise a bonus of \$50,000 for the first responsible party who would build a smelter at a cost of \$500,000. This ambitious attempt was kept alive and given publicity for many months. Another forward looking proposal was addressed to many capitalists in the east. The Bookcliff Coal Company made public its gift for any of a variety of possible industries:

- 200 tons of coal for each smelter
- 100 tons of coal for each woolen mill
- 100 tons of coal for each canning factory
- 100 tons of coal for each flour mill
- 100 tons of coal for each tannery
- 100 tons of coal for each brewery
- 100 tons of coal for each foundry

At the same time they promised plenty of future coal at reasonable prices to all consumers. Plenty of acreage was offered for sites for any industries that would build a mill or factory.

<sup>1</sup>Editor's note: This year is incorrect, however, this is how it appeared in Professor Tope's manuscript and we cannot locate the source of his information to correct it

W. T. Carpenter was a great promoter for the new community. He was respected and men were glad to cooperate with him in any of his enterprises. He opened the Bookcliff coal mine in 1890 and built the little narrow gauge railroad to bring the coal down to the city. Up to that time good heat was a commodity that was scarce. Imagine the comfort of coal heat after ten years of shivering around a little pile of wood coals. Mr. Carpenter had much influence with wealthy people back east. One of his large promotions was the Colorado, Wyoming and Great Northern Railroad. This huge project would continue his Bookcliff Line over the Bookcliffs, through the Rangely area and continue north to meet the Union Pacific connecting the Rio Grande route with the Union Pacific Line. That was a grandiose scheme. His board of directors was composed of himself as president, T. E. Sanford, M. O. Whitehead, C. F. Lass, J. P. Nesbitt. They had a commitment for \$3,000,000 in bonds. The slogan was, "No such thing as fail; all roads lead to Rome, you know." At that news the interest of the really big railroad promoters was aroused. They could not bear to see a group of pioneers in an isolated spot out west run away with such a promising railroad that would tap at its source the only great deposit of asphaltum (gilsonite) in the United States, so the bond issue was tied up and he never could get possession of the capital that he had been promised.

Flour milling was a necessary industry from the beginning. Pioneers need the staff of life above every other necessity. The first flour mill was built by Dave Roberts and his two sons, Paul and James, and was ready for operation October 1, 1887. It was destroyed by fire November 3, 1898. Governor Crawford donated one acre of ground for the mill on South Seventh, on railroad trackage and Mr. Roberts purchased two more acres. The mill was rebuilt in three months. The mill was sold to John O'Boyle in 1904. The property was purchased by J. K. Mullen, the Colorado Milling Company, in 1912 and W. W. Campbell came in as manager. Mr. Campbell continued in active charge of the local corporation till his death in July 1943. He was a booster for every interest of Grand Junction for thirty-six faithful years.

In July 1899, some surveys were made of home-family-orchard crops where the owners had been giving special attention and personal cultivation from the planting of the trees to the time of full bearing. Three of these appraisals are worthy of note. The crop was of mixed varieties.

William Bumgardner	\$4500.00
J. F. Spencer	\$5500.00
Robert A. Orr	\$4500.00

These orchards were on the fruit ridges on First Street.

## **The Industrial Development**

We hardly ever take the time to think about the tremendous task of creating jobs for people who want to work for someone else. It has always been a super task in every growing community. When Grand Junction began in 1881 there were no jobs and no employers. The first citizens had to classify themselves. The region was virgin. Nothing could be gathered and shipped out for money. A few mining centers were operating, such as Aspen, Ouray, Telluride, Leadville, and these communities had employment opportunities and wages were paid. But they were far away and Grand Junction could not expect much money circulation from these places for some time. The first payroll that went into circulation came from the employer who built the first railroad in Grand Junction in 1882. That was a great thing for the new town and the money was rapidly spread around.

Many of the men who came wanted to start businesses for themselves; they had an ambition at the start to become entrepreneurs. Others wanted to work as employees. For a new job to be created someone must think of a new product that would be in demand and sell for cash, a new process for doing some necessary and important work or some method of expanding present undertakings. It would require considerable imagination to make much of this in a wholly undeveloped community. Those who hoped to create businesses of their own had to take time to plan the process, decide upon a product to be handled and test the product or service out for consumer acceptance. Naturally no very considerable payroll for putting cash into circulation could be expected for some time. The pioneer temperament was prepared to cope with this problem and simply work and think and wait for results. Today the problem is big and complex and costly but worthy of our consideration. Someone has to invest an average of \$12,000 in cash outlay in plant, tools and equipment to create a job. Our population is growing and a million new jobs are needed each year to keep down idleness and unemployment, or a total of twelve billion dollars in new wealth must be invested. The problem has been a serious and delicate one since history began. Where does the money come from? It must come from those whose net income is more than their living expenses. Today, if one spends more than \$3,000 a year for living expenses, he must earn a total income far more than that to have any such sum as \$12,000 left over, tax free, to invest in any enterprise that will give a job to someone he wishes to employ. The parallel has always been the same. The principles by which communities grow and survive have always been the same. It is a condition that has always been critical and it will continue to be so. If society can not maintain the pace, people will become idle and hungry. Usually part of the money is borrowed

and that involves the problems of credit, character and measurable success.

Industrial development came slowly. The population of the vast area was sparse and the isolated position of the city would make industrial progress an almost impossible task. The early Board of Trade (Chamber of Commerce) was organized in 1884, functioned well and originated many ingenious plans, but the brave men who fought early for a place in the sun met defeat in every large endeavor.

It was 1891 before the main line of the Denver and Rio Grand RR was fully completed to Salt Lake City. The Colorado Midland built only to New Castle in 1890 and then came to Grand Junction over the D&RG line. But it was never sure of success. Colorado Springs was the eastern terminal and there was no hope that it could go farther west than Grand Junction. It was a short line through unproductive country. The price of steel rose to a high mark following World War I and the road was sold and junked. Thus the investors were able to save themselves from a loss.

Sufficient soil was planted to grain in a few years and the first flour mill was built in 1887. The electric plant was ready for service in 1888. A street car line for a circular trip about the corporate limits was ready in 1890. This line was then extended through the valley west of the city as far as Fruita. The good roads program and the automobile thirty years later compelled its disbandment.

There were four small red brick plants in 1883 and most of the building at that time was by the use of homemade brick but the brick could not find a market abroad because of the impossible freight charge. The same difficulty hindered the development of granite and marble. Machine shops were needed and soon there were three very good shops to take care of all metal work. J. A. K. Crawford was the red brick manufacturer for over fifty years before the present day refractory plant was organized. Mr. Crawford turned out most of the brick for the city and school buildings and for the red brick buildings still standing about the city.

The railroad shops saved the day, providing labor for an increasing population but the assurance of any great increase in labor opportunity had to wait for some unforeseen change. Hope for any extensive development in silver and gold was not encouraging, in fact a decline in mining and the building of smelters was seen to be imminent by 1910.

The possibility of oil shale development, oil and gas, the rarer metals such as vanadium and uranium, and also the gilsonite industry developed little optimism or even hope because such raw materials were strange and beyond the understanding and general concept.

There were sporadic attempts at processing fruits and vegetables but this never developed to any extent until tomato growing and tomato processing became popular.

In the years when just about all the irrigated land in the valley was set to fruit trees, the Latimer-Goodwin Chemical Company was a sizable industry, established in 1905—one of the largest factories of its kind in the United States. A vast amount of spray materials was needed, also spray chemicals and dip material for livestock made the chemical industry highly important. This factory occupied a large part of the property now owned by the S. J. Miller Packing Company.

It is recent history that new industries have been organized for processing abundant mineral resources: vanadium mills, uranium processing, gilsonite refinery, and oil shale processing. An added use for the abundance of timber in the higher elevations will be realized when the new wood pulp mill is built on the Colorado River for the paper industry. Oil and gas production will mean an industrial expansion far beyond what was ever seen by the early promoters in this field.

A new kind of industry, new raw materials, new uses, new processes, all have to wait on the laboratory and the engineering before they can be realized. Success is coming; it is on its way because the test tube and the drawing board preliminaries insure success for a great development. The region has just about everything for the new industrial age.

Big developments come slowly. A big irrigated valley took time. The Grand Valley Canal was a low canal not calculated to water a great acreage. Work for a higher canal began in 1903, but such a project was too big for the United States at the time. On July 3, 1908, James R. Garfield, Secretary of the Interior, visited Grand Junction and stated that the High Line Canal would be built but it would take time. Actual work began in 1915 and the canal reached the Fruita area in 1916. It cost \$4,500,000, which was a gigantic sum at that time. The High Line Canal increased the acreage by more than 100,000 acres and when extended to take in Orchard Mesa, it added another 15,000 acres to the land that could be irrigated. The canal for the future will come from the big DeBeque Canyon dam. Water from that reservoir will come to the Grand Valley by tunnel that will have its western portal west of Mount Garfield, then an open canal through the valley as far as Crescent Junction in Utah, more than doubling the agricultural land that has been considered heretofore; a much bigger Garden of the Rockies than we have ever thought of having.

## The Sugar Industry

The sugar industry was one industry that came naturally. There were promoters and the leaders were willing to invest in such an industry and they had sufficient land holdings to become large producers of sugar beets themselves. Mr. I. N. Cox was most influential in this movement. He was backed by another able assistant, Mr. J. F. McFarland. Mr. Cox had a large farm on Orchard Mesa, adjoining the Oasis Farm, owned by the Smith Brothers. He built the Page home on Orchard Mesa. He thought the fruit industry would be overdone and there would soon be more orchard and more production than the market could absorb. Fruit was highly perishable and the expense of shipping was high. Soon other important boosters came to his way of thinking. A. A. Miller and C. E. Mitchell organized the men who were interested in growing sugar beets and Cox and McFarland went after the capitalists for a sugar factory.

There were many difficulties but these were overcome and the Colorado Sugar Manufacturing Company was organized and incorporated in January 1899. "Sugar is King" became the slogan. The company agreed to let the contract for a factory just as soon as 1500 acres were pledged to beets and the factory would be ready for the new crop in the fall.

The price was to be \$4.25 a ton. As early as 1894, some farmers had grown sugar beets of high quality in sugar content and had shipped three cars to the sugar plant at Lehi, Utah. The following committee of land owners was appointed to secure the acreage: W. P. Ela, M. L. Allison, J. J. Lumsden, Judge C. F. Caswell, David R. Crosby, A. R. Wadsworth, W. T. Dowrey, W. A. Marsh, P. A. Rice, J. D. Carnahan, Henry R. Rhone. Mr. Rhone was sent to Delta county to solicit acreage so there would be no delay in announcing that the community had met its responsibility promptly. In 1903 the Western Sugar and Land Company bought the first factory and proceeded to enlarge its capacity. The guarantee was increased to 3500 acres and the committee soon met the request for acreage. Sugar beets proved a first rate cash crop. In 1911 the Holly Sugar Corporation purchased the factory and the price of beets gradually rose to \$12.60 a ton by 1919.

The sugar industry was well organized. The acreage and the production are regulated to conform to the market and a price can be guaranteed for the season, before the crop is planted. The quality and type of seed is regulated and the growers are advised concerning all the problems of production. In 1920 the Holly Sugar factory was moved to Delta and a larger and more efficient mill was built, centrally located, for the total beet sugar area.

In the earliest years of beet growing the sugar company raised the big-

gest crop of beets, bringing in Russian and Japanese and later Mexicans for the labor. The regular farmers of the valley were not equipped for large acreage in a heavy labor crop like the sugar beet. Some of the old time growers who made sugar manufacturing an important industry were the following:

Alex Sneider	Wilson Brothers
Ross Scarlet	Henry Arens
C. E. Blumenshine	Herman Sheets
Dave Sleigle	John Kroskob
C. N. Cox	Henery Varest
Dan Hoffman	Hiram Long
The Smith Brothers	

More recent growers who are big operators are:

The Sommerville Brothers	M. G. Hinshaw
Louis Guccine	Frank Beede
Harold Mogensen	William Byers
The Buniger Brothers	C. J. McCormick

The tomato was slow in developing as a food product. The George Currie family pioneered in tomato processing, beginning with a factory for various tomato products in 1912. They developed the industry and made it a great asset to Mesa County. In 1935 the factory was sold to the Kuner-Empson Corporation and development continued on a larger scale. In recent years the S. J. Miller Packing Company came into the field and tomato processing became a major industry.

The first carnotite ore was dug and shipped out in 1923. This yellow ore could be found in many places over the Mesa region and for a few years a good many men made their livelihood in dealing with carnotite, a radium bearing ore, the forerunner of uranium. J. S. Shaw and Hugh Armstrong were operators and had a storage for the ore in Grand Junction.

### **Mercantile Growth**

Grand Junction from its beginning gradually grew into a center of commerce for the vast area. The railroad east and west meant that the commerce of the whole nation would be within reach of Grand Junction. The city soon became the mecca for home and ranch and mine supply. The mercantile establishments rushed to keep pace with the trade and the demand. Many of these early establishments are our leading corporations today. The Independent Lumber Company and Biggs Kurtz Wholesale Hardware Company have played an important part in making Grand Junction a center of activity since 1902. The organization is now, after fifty-five years, managed and controlled by the grand-





*C. D. Smith (seated) with sons (left to right) Sterling T., Claud D., and Burrell D. Smith.*

sons of the original founder of the business: W. C. Kurtz, Jr., James B. Kurtz, and Clinton A. Biggs.

Schmidt Hardware Company is owned and managed by Mark R. Schmidt and Leland A. Schmidt, grandsons of Mr. L. Schmidt who, with his sons A. M. Schmidt and Julius Schmidt, purchased in 1905 the Slocomb store, which had been a leading merchandising firm from 1883. They do business today with the grandsons of early day customers.

The LaCourt Hotel was purchased in 1904 from Ed Nearing, the original owner of the small three-story building on the corner of Main and Second, by Mr. and Mrs. William Buthorn. It was a twenty-two room hotel, a good little place to sleep and rest for weary souls. Today it is a modern city hotel managed by William Buthorn, son of one of the most important men Grand Junction ever had when it came to promoting anything for the good of Grand Junction.

The C. D. Smith Company was begun in 1900. It has grown to be one of the strongest and best equipped plants in the intermountain area and is managed and controlled by the three sons of the organizer and builder, Burrell D. Smith, Claud D. Smith and Sterling T. Smith.

Mesa Federal Savings and Loan Association has been serving the community since its founding in 1889, and is today headed by the son of A. T. Gormley, long time secretary and manager—James I. Gormley, who carries on the work of his father, under whom he had the best tutorial guidance anyone could ever desire or need.

The *Daily Sentinel* celebrated its Golden Anniversary November 25, 1943; now nearly sixty-five years old, it is managed and edited by Preston Walker, son of Walter Walker, former editor and publisher.

The many financial interests of Mr. Samuel G. McMullin, who came to Grand Junction in 1889, are now carried on by his son, Howard H. McMullin.

The Bannister Furniture Company is managed by James M. Silcox, grandson of the first organizer in pioneer days. The history of this store goes back to M. O. Whitehead, who came to Grand Junction in 1883.

Silmon Smith's father was a doctor in the pioneer days of Grand Junction, but Silmon studied the law and today heads his law office that began as Griffith, Watson, Tupper and Smith many years ago.

Warren Lane is carrying on the work of Lane and Company, founded by his father, and he has two young men in the company who are sons of pioneers: William E. Chapman and Paul Britton. Bill Chapman is the son of W. E. Chapman, who went to the Klondike with W. G. Chapman, his father, mentioned elsewhere. W. E. Chapman, Sr., overdid and lost his health in the

Klondike and Yukon region and never regained it, though he was able to return home. Leon Chapman, who was a leader in the affairs of Grand Junction in pioneer days and migrated to Idaho when that territory opened up, is Bill's uncle. Laura Franklin Chapman, Bill's mother, came to Grand Junction in 1893.

Dr. Heman Bull is carrying on the traditions of his father, Dr. Heman R. Bull, who was a physician in Grand Junction for fifty years.

Dr. E. H. Munro did not follow in the footsteps of his father and mother, exactly. His parents served the Congregational Church and were a strong influence for good in the affairs of the growing community, when able ministers were a very great asset.

William Callahan is carrying on the traditions of his father, who established the Callahan mortuary long ago.

W. Dennett Ela follows his father's occupation of banking and general commercial interests. His father, W. P. Ela, is mentioned repeatedly in this record.

George R. Parsons is owner and manager of the A. C. Parsons Jewelers, "Long Lived, Long Loved." The elder Parsons came to Grand Junction in 1913 and purchased the jewelry store that had been occupying the present location in the Margery Building since the building was constructed in 1898.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin C. Baughman are proprietors of the oldest continuing mercantile business in Grand Junction. A. W. Anderson came to Grand Junction in 1883 and established a home-furnishing business. He went through fire, war and panic, but the business still continues at Second and Colorado under the management of his daughter and son-in-law.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Moyer were young people when they came to Grand Junction in 1890. Mr. Moyer established a small general merchandise store and set himself to the task of developing a place for himself in the community chosen for their home. This business developed gradually until he built the building now occupied by Montgomery Ward to house The Fair Store, a large department store. Mr. Moyer won a high place in the hearts of Grand Junction people. He sold his business to Montgomery Ward, leased the building to them, and retired. He died at the age of eighty-two in Grand Junction.

M. H. Loeffler came to Grand Junction in 1900 and established a commercial tailoring business. He brought with him a few sets of suit cloth and as soon as he could find a place to open a small business he was ready for customers. He had also placed orders for additional supplies so there would be no delay in getting his business started. This developed rapidly and in a few years grew to the large Loeffler store for men's clothing which occupied his entire

building. He retired from the retail trade and sold his merchandise to the C. C. Anderson Stores Company, a wholesale wearing apparel concern which he and his son Raymond have developed.

Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Manuel developed and own Manuel's Department Store, which celebrated its thirty-first anniversary in February of this year.

So Grand Junction has many important mercantile establishments that are still holding on to the traditional manner of carrying on private business as compared to the recent trend toward nation-wide chain stores such as J. C. Penneys, Woolworths, Kress, Sears-Roebuck, Hested Stores Company and the big supermarkets.

Many others who are not following and carrying on the business of their parents are nevertheless making themselves a part of the community and upholding the character and traditions of those who contributed so much to the development of Grand Junction. Following the turn of the century the older generation gradually retired from their usual active participation in the general affairs of the city and many young and vigorous new citizens began to take hold of the problems faced in a more promising future expansion. The community had grown and there was room for additional enterprise and a wider range of talent and competence. I refer you to the *Daily Sentinel* Jubilee edition on present day business.

### Census Growth

1890 - 1005	1930 - 10,247
1900 - 3503	1940 - 12,479
1910 - 7754	1950 - 14,454
1920 - 8665	1960 - *

\* This will be our biggest increase, wait for 1960!

The new citizens fitted in with harmony and optimism, congruous with the second generation of inhabitants that had gradually taken over the duties and responsibilities of their forbearers. There are too many of these newcomers for one to begin the selection of names. Suffice it to say that they had resources; they had community building ideas; they had high-mindedness; they had honor that commended them to those with whom they were to be associated in the building of a greater community. The newcomers made their homes in the Grand Valley with the same purposes of home building that had caused the second generation to continue to make their homes in the land where their fathers had trod. The newcomers joined the churches, the fraternal orders, the Chamber of Commerce, the social and service club organizations, the trade associations, uniting with their new acquaintances in the same strong desires

for advancement that could continue in common.

In recent years there have been new developments that neither the first or the second generations had reckoned with; rich resources had been here all the time, but the need and the chemistry and the physics of refinement were unknown. This new discovery has greatly altered the total vision of the future economy and has brought in a new and third generation of citizenry. Whereas the pioneers could think in terms of smelters which were rather simple processes of extracting useful materials, they could not cope with the complex engineering processes and the almost mysterious scientific procedures that were completely outside of their knowledge and experience. Now the third generation is engaged in a new process of growth, that will require a newer and greater refinement in the great cauldron of human growth and community betterment and amendment. Here names are legion and selection is impracticable.

Towns and cities are necessary for special purposes: mercantile business, retail and distribution, banks and finance, offices for all sorts of corporate activities, churches, newspapers, automobile agencies, professional services, printing establishments, hotels, restaurants, concert halls, department stores, etc. Such institutions for doing every type of business must necessarily be grouped and concentrated so you can put your finger on them. Other activities may be scattered for they need not be where the great mass of people are wont to concentrate. Cities then grow as these are needed to serve the people of the metropolitan area. Whether private or corporate, or a mixture of these two methods, the concentration of people is the same. The center of the concentration is the most valuable location. Footsteps increase the potential of worth or value except that service and prices always have an attraction. Good advertising is a recent method of attracting people and pulling them away from concentration. Don't get the notion that the downtown area needs acreage. All these recently publicized plans of decentralization and dispersion that you see going on will prove soon to be a fad. There will be a bigger rush to get back downtown. As the central area becomes congested, the solution is to go up in the air, keep from spreading out any more than is necessary, and beware of increasing the walking distance between important places. Downtown must build multiple story buildings to hold its drawing power, and remember that nearness is drawing power; the elevator solves the problem. Main Street in numerous cities lost out because it failed to reason this problem out to a sound conclusion. Grand Junction now needs some multiple story buildings to keep the municipality from raveling out. A city of 25,000 can not be a street-floor town.

It is interesting how a privately owned business can grow and change in

ownership and still be independently owned. In the early years of Grand Junction, Benton Canon, who came to Grand Junction in 1887, established a store; in a few months the firm became known as Canon and Noland, then John F. Moore joined the firm. The next deal changed the ownership to Moore, Becker and Company, Mr. Canon retiring to go into the banking business. Oldtimers remember the coming of J. V. A. Lay and his family. One daughter is still living on First Fruitridge, Mrs. W. R. Johnson (Laura Lay). So the old firm became Becker, Lay and Company when John F. Moore was chosen Assistant Manager of the Grand Junction Fruit Growers Association. The final change was the Lay and Nattinger Company. So private ownership is a relatively simple yet wieldy type of enterprise and ownership. A private individual can sell to another owner, have a sale of the merchandise and close out, or take in a partner.

Another illustration is the C. P. Bliss Mercantile Company, a very progressive "Dry Goods Store" for twenty-five years in Grand Junction. The newspaper advertising of this store was as modern as such advertising today. Mr. Bliss was the father of Courtney and Archie Bliss, veteran post office employees. In 1912 he was getting ready for retirement and planned an extensive sale that took many weeks to close out the merchandise. Prior to the turn of the century Mr. Bliss took a very active interest in the home talent shows that were in vogue and became the makeup man for the different characters in the theater shows. He was an artist at that work. In later years Archie Bliss took over this work and filled an important duty when Carl Hillyer and Mrs. Marie Treece used to stage their operettas in the Avalon as benefit shows for the junior college. He also did the makeup for the well remembered drama performances prepared by Mrs. La Valliere and staged for the high school and the junior college. Both these types of stage performance were as satisfactory as anything billed by traveling troupes showing in Denver and Salt Lake City.

Howard and Harold Shults, well-known citizens and active in the business and political affairs of Grand Junction, are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Shults, who came to Grand Junction in 1902. Both of them taught school in Plateau Valley, Pear Park and Loma. In the early years, Mr. Shults developed a large show farm in the Loma area. He served two terms as County Assessor and was assured a third term, but he refused to run, saying he believed the county offices should be passed around to qualified citizens.

How conditions change as a city grows older and larger! St. Mary's Hospital occupies a part of the land that was once an old race track where the owners of racing horses practiced their animals for County Fair racing; horse racing that was almost universal all over the nation fifty years ago. There were several strings of both saddle and harness racing stock owned here. Dr. A. P.

Drew, long time citizen of Grand Junction, was veterinarian for years, and was highly rated as an authority on racing before the turn of the century. On this old track, several "Eddie Arcros" got their start in the science and art of jockey service.

First Street north of White was once desert, then a street for some of the finest residences. Now it is mostly a highway system with four to six lanes. North First Street, North Seventh, and North Twelfth, far out, were wrenched from desert wildness, then turned to the finest apple and pear orchards that produced prize fruit for exhibitions in all eastern markets, and now turned to rather exclusive residential areas for the growing city. The Brick Plant was once afar out from the city limits, now it is surrounded by an elite residential area, swallowed by the city. The Veteran's Hospital is located in an area that was once set solidly to apple and pear orchards and produced a great volume of fine fruit, until the seep and the codding moth destroyed the profitable industry in that part of the valley.

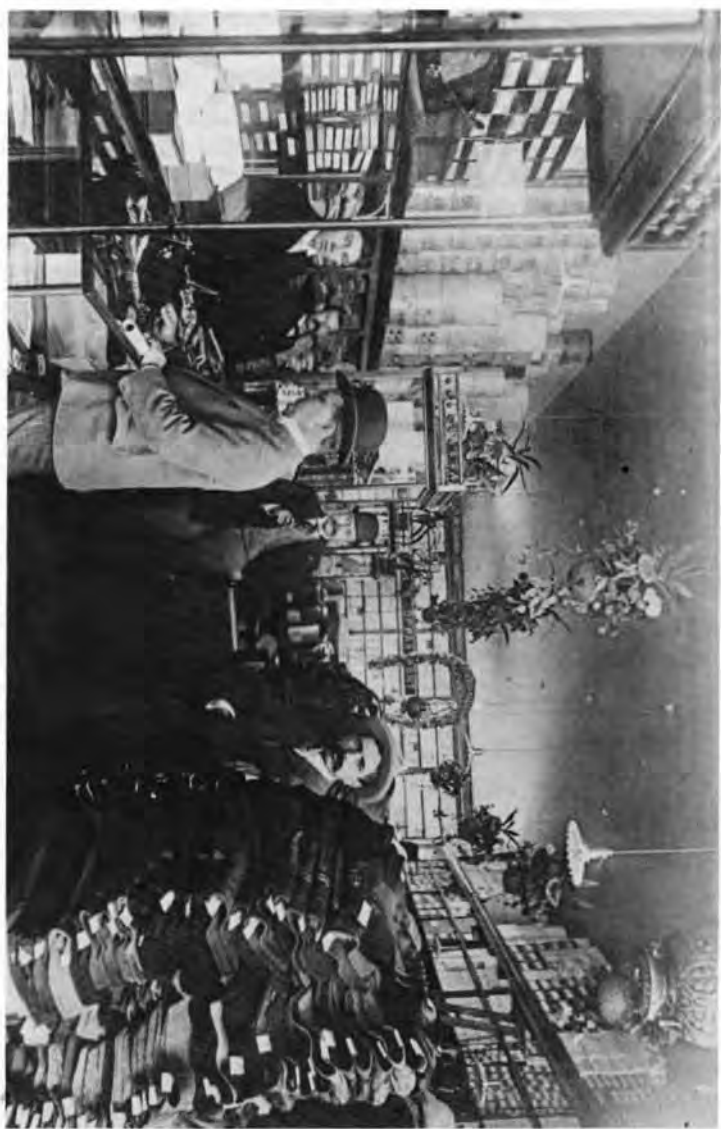
Where the Martin Mortuary is located was adobe flat, apparently worthless. The mortuary was not built on a knoll. That ground was filled in up to the height of the top of the first story with soil hauled from many places. The winding lake has its bottom on the top of the old surface and the shores were built by hauling tons of earth from elsewhere.

So the story goes for many other parts of the city. One thing more, the Brownson addition, our finest finished residence area, was once the Buthorn-LaCourt Farm, where the finest beef for high-class banquets and club dinners was topped off and made better than any prime beef that can be found today.

### **The Famous Merchants' Carnival**

September 2, 1903, the merchants of the city staged an unusual type of carnival. It was planned on a rather elaborate scale for general publicity and to stir up some home enthusiasm. Special sales were advertised and prizes were offered. There were some ingenious stunts designed for fun.

One part of the Carnival was staged at the Park Open House. A part of this program was to have attractive young women, appropriately uniformed and with fine stage presence, walk across the stage with a banner announcing the firm represented. It was a fine selection of the young women of the community at that date and many of them grew up to become prominent women in the affairs of the city and are still living at the time of the Diamond Anniversary of their home town, although they are widely scattered over the country today. Here are some of them and the mercantile establishments they heralded:



*Sampliner's Store with I. N. Bunting (foreground) and Albert and Joe Sampliner.*



M. H. Loeffler Tailors  
Boston Shoe Store  
Grand Junction Milling Co.  
S. W. Moody Store  
Vorbeck's Music Store  
C. P. Bliss Mer. Co.  
Lay-Nattinger Co.  
Fred Mantey Store  
The Fashion Store  
Home Loan & Investment Co.  
The Daily Sentinel  
Bannisters Furniture  
Lyon & Son Store  
W. H. Lee & Son  
Samplers Store  
Grand Junction Feed Store  
Wadsworth & Sons Grocers  
The Fair Store  
C. D. Smith Co.  
P. O. Book Store  
Slocomb Hardware

Mrs. Walter O. Powers  
May Converse  
Gussie Chambers  
Eugena Kelley  
Etta Lapham  
Grace Kirby  
Lou Currier  
Bessie DeLong  
Maud Allen  
Pearl Hards  
Blanche Green  
Clara Barnes  
Mayme Stevens  
Rowena Wheeler  
Mary Hull  
Pearl Shores  
Marguerite Dorsey  
Lizzie Ramey  
Pearl Samliner  
Sadie Ericson  
Alice Lewis

Colorado Springs financial interests took an early interest in Grand Junction and were more help than any other part of the state. The Colorado Midland would have been a great asset, offering competition in rates, could it have been connected with a transcontinental network. The Holly Sugar Company solved the sugar beet industry. Also strong financial support was always ready from the Shoup and Carlton influences. Verner Z. Reed built the Margery & Reed buildings, which have filled a need for many years. Mr. Reed had a great agricultural project under way in the Loma area until the coddling moth ruined the apple and pear enterprise. At the time of the great depression, which was the worst misfortune that ever fell upon the Grand Valley, Mr. E. R. Thomas was sent to Grand Junction to protect the Carlton and Shoup interests. Out of that situation came the organization of the First National Bank, a stronger financial institution that we had ever had before and Mr. Thomas became the president of the new bank.

### **The Women's Club**

The following is from the program of the Grand Junction Women's Club for the year 1904-1905. The women had consolidated their activities into one

organization and a list of the committees gives a chance to use a lot of names of women as well as to illustrate the many activities they were undertaking to improve life in the city. No one would ever suggest that the pioneer town was a man's town. The women were very zealous in handling matters that they considered their rightful prerogatives.

President, Mrs. Emma Wadsworth

Committee on Art

Flora Green	Mrs. W. S. Wallace
Mrs. W. F. White	Mrs. E. P. Chester
Mrs. A. N. Bucklin	Mrs. Leroy Hedges
Mrs. F. R. Smith	Mrs. H. R. Bull
Mrs. C. W. Shores	

Knitting and Crocheting

Mrs. J. G. McKinney	Mrs. James Hinds
Mrs. C. P. McCary	Mrs. John Pierce
Mrs. Charles Clark	Mrs. Ed Allison

Embroidery and Lace

Mrs. W. M. Smith	Mrs. A. A. Miller
Mrs. W. G. Struthers	Mrs. J. A. Sloan
Mrs. G. Van Horebeeke	Mrs. C. W. Keene
Mrs. W. G. Choate	

Sofa Pillows

Mrs. J. D. Williams	Mrs. U. G. Ramey
Mrs. J. H. Gallupe	Mrs. E. A. Wadsworth
Mrs. John O'Boyle	Mrs. Ben J. Snyder

Pantry Stores - Jellies, Fruits

Mrs. S. N. Wheeler

Quilts

Mrs. S. G. McMullin	Mrs. A. R. Sampliner
Mrs. C. H. Arthur	Sara Hall
Mrs. M. M. Shores	Eliza Haskell
Mrs. George Haskell	Emma Hyatt

Bread and Cakes

Mrs. H. S. Hiatt	Mrs. Thomas Todd
Mrs. Thad Parker	Mrs. Edwin Price
Mrs. J. P. Primrose	Mrs. I. N. Bunting
Mrs. Orson Adams	

Floral Exhibits

Mrs. L. M. Miller

### Juvenile Activities

Alice Chester	Mary Dean
Ruth Byers	Lillian Sawyer
Bessie Delong	Florida Thurston
Mrs. S. R. Voils	Mrs. W. R. Wells
Mrs. J. H. Ramey	Mrs. Frank McCurdy
Mrs. J. A. McCullough	Mrs. John Mann
Mrs. E. B. Watson	Mrs. A. B. Stoddart

### Butter

Mrs. H. E. Bevier	Mrs. T. B. Scott
Mrs. A. P. M. Steele	Mrs. S. M. Bradbury
Mrs. John Bulkeley	Mrs. Z. B. McClure

### Baby Shoes

Mrs. W. P. Ela	Mrs. Walter S. Sullivan
Mrs. J. L. Oliver	Mrs. H. T. Delong
Mrs. L. F. Ingersoll	Mrs. E. M. Hardy

## To the Klondike

The discovery of gold in the Klondike in the late 90s stirred the venturesome pioneers of Grand Junction. They had come to Colorado too late to get much benefit from the gold mines and silver was a disappointment. So the Klondike had a strong appeal; at least thirty-six men went to the Klondike. Here are a few of the men who were quite well known:

George Toupain	W. E. Chapman
R. H. Baylis	George Westfield
J. Clayton Nichols	William Mann
Garge Caldwell	W. J. Oliver
Will Reeder	Otto Barton
William Sullivan	W. R. Johnson
W. T. Carpenter	W. N. Arnsbary
James Whitley	Tom Gordon
Cliff Lamb	George Barton
James Hynes	Joe Kiefer
William Bowman	Bruce Kennedy
Gregg Stewart	L. N. Shanks
Fred Rogers	

No one got rich; some returned with many specimens of gold; and all had a thrilling experience, mixed with hardships, that they remembered the rest of their lives.

The capitalist, W. T. Carpenter, true to his inclinations, established a general outfitting business and did fairly well in that. J. Clayton Nichols, the community founder, found that the transiency of the population would prevent any established social, political, or fraternal development so he and W. R. Johnson went to the Philippines, which they thought would be the last frontier that had possibilities for developing a civilization with proper range and scope.

Mr. Johnson, whose brother was consul at Amoy, China, returned to Grand Junction. Mrs. Johnson lives on First Fruit Ridge.

Mr. Nichols remained in the Philippines, went into business, married a Philippine woman, and made himself a prominent and successful businessman in Cebu, Philippine Islands.

Bruce Kennedy died in the Klondike and Gregg Stevens brought a letter from Fred Gordon telling Mrs. Kennedy about his illness and death and enclosed Kennedy's wallet with the gold he possessed at the time of his fatal illness.

R. H. Baylis was the father of W. G. Baylis, veteran D&RGW railroad employee until retirement, since which time he has been Justice of the Peace in Grand Junction, preserving order and dealing out justice in civil law cases.

George Toupain was the father of Carl Toupain and Mrs. Toupain lives at the peach orchard on North Twelfth Street.

### **Promotion for a College**

As early as 1904 there developed a great interest in a college for Grand Junction. The isolated location and the concentration of institutions in the larger population centers incited the people to work for such advantages for the young people. The high schools did not meet the need for sufficient education and the people were determined to seek all the opportunities possible.

From 1904 to 1907 a bill was in the Legislature for the establishment of a normal school, which was one of the early types of educational institutions. They were general education colleges; Valparaiso, Indiana; Tri-State Normal, Indiana; Artioch College in Ohio; Berea, Kentucky are carry-overs in this type of school. But the state was poor and western Colorado population was sparse so the movement did not succeed. At this time Rev. J. E. Weir, minister of the Presbyterian Church in Grand Junction, developed a plan for a Presbyterian College, a liberal arts school such as Hastings, Nebraska; Emporia, Kansas; Wooster, Ohio; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Coe College in Ohio; Millikin in Illinois. Considerable headway was made in this plan when there developed a similar plan for Westminster College just north of Denver. There was more influence back of that plan than Rev. Weir and Grand Junction commanded at the time,

and the Westminster College won the initial authorization. They secured a fine site, built a large college building and started the college. Then it turned into a real estate promotion and the Presbyterian Church authorities withdrew their support and sold the denominational interest in the property.

In 1909, when it was decided by the government at Washington to close Teller Institute for Indians, there was an organized effort to get possession of the land and buildings and establish Western University. This idea created a lot of enthusiasm and a lively discussion. A mass meeting was held and a committee composed of Rev. J. A. Becker, S. B. Hutchinson, J. H. Rankin, N. A. Glasco, Rev. George A. Munro, George A. Currie, J. M. Sampliner, S. G. McMullin, Henry R. Rhone, I. N. Bunting, and E. M. Slocomb was created to represent the community and plan the campaign. So many obstacles arose and bureaus in Washington were so slow in deciding what to do and when to do anything that the committee became discouraged. Finally the government gave title of the whole property to the State of Colorado and that meant that the work would have to be replanned and undertaken in an entirely different way. The Chamber of Commerce was active and supported the committee in every way, as did the city and county administrations. The new strategy seemed to call for a branch of the Colorado A and M college, a land grant institution. This involved the state government and also the Federal government, and progress was slow. Before any definite action could be had, the rainy cycle of 1912 to 1920 and the rise and spread of the seep area in the valley east of Grand Junction threatened the fine 160 acre farm and the foundations of the buildings. The Mesa County drainage program was organized but it took several years to show measurable results in the drainage of the land, so all plans were held in abeyance until the outcome could be seen.

The junior college idea developed in 1921 and that story is told elsewhere in this narrative. Also the State Home for Mental Patients was worked out independently. Mesa College we now have. It is supported by the whole people and the service it renders meets the fondest dreams of the unyielding and resolute ideas of those pioneers who knew no such word as fail. Likewise the State Home is serving Colorado adequately and the early workers and planners labored not in vain. We have a goodly share of what they strived for, but not all. There is something yet to do.

One January 26, 1921, the idea of organizing a movement to have a college in Grand Junction was discussed and, in connection with the departure of Ollie Bannister for the State Senate, it was urged that he prepare a bill for establishing an educational institution in Grand Junction. This movement was



*Dedication of Moyer Pool June 8, 1922.*





*Junior College, located at Fifth Street and Rood Avenue circa 1924.*



joined by the legislators, business men, newspaper men, and citizens generally.

The legislative influence that passed the junior college bill and secured the initial appropriation came from Ollie E. Bannister, senator from Mesa County, and Sterling B. Lacy, member of the House of Representatives from Mesa County. It is to their credit that the first step was taken. An act was passed in the session of 1923 by them, but it was vetoed by Governor Shoup. In 1925 they succeeded in passing a similar bill which was signed by the governor.

The original site for the junior college was at the head of Seventh Street on Capitol Hill, purchased by funds raised by public subscription from Princeton University. The area was thirty acres.

The county commissioners leveled it with road machinery and a drag-line, for which they received \$1676.09. In return the commissioners donated to the college \$980.95 to pay for the first bill of furniture in order to equip the classrooms for school work at the opening of school in September.

The first board of trustees appointed by the governor June 12, 1925, was R. E. Tope, D. B. Wright, and C. E. Cherrington. The appointment was made for two years.

Owing to the very great need it was decided by the board of trustees that the school should be opened for classes at the earliest opportunity. The problem was taken up with the University of Colorado and on August 10 and 11, 1925, Dr. George Norlin, president of the University of Colorado, Dean F. B. Hellems and Elmore Peterson of the extension division came to Grand Junction and in a meeting with R. E. Tope and R. A. Ross approved the plans for opening the college term and authorized Mr. Peterson to secure a dean for the college with University approval.

The dean of the college was to be director of extension work in western Colorado and his salary was to be paid by the University out of extension revenue. Mr. Peterson selected Dr. L. L. Hyde of the University of Wisconsin for this position.

### **First College Year**

In a few weeks the outline of first year courses was decided upon and approved by University authorities. These courses for 1925-26 were: freshman English, college algebra, trigonometry and analytical geometry, modern European history, economic history of England and United States, beginning French, and physical education.

The faculty for the first year was then approved. It consisted of the fol-

lowing persons: L. L. Hyde, dean, economics; O. N. Marsh, mathematics and French; Emma Groom, English; Mary Rait, history; Carl Hillyer, music.

The college began its work in the old Lowell school, which was city property, in September 1925, and forty-one freshmen students were enrolled for the first year, which was very satisfactory from every point of view.

The course of study was increased then to two years and the faculty was increased to take care of the additional work. The first catalog was printed by *The Daily Sentinel* in May 1926. Walter Walker, publisher, donated this job to the school and the new catalog announced work for the academic year of 1926-27, since which time the college has been a regular growing institution.

President Norlin again authorized Mr. Peterson to select a well prepared instructor for chemistry acceptable to the chemistry department in the University. He chose O. R. Lindesmith to organize the chemistry course and begin the work at the opening of the second year. Mr. Peterson also secured chemistry tables with piping and fixtures and sent them over from Boulder for the chemistry laboratory.

The enrollment for the second year was 101 and closed with more good feeling and enthusiasm than the first year.

Many of the two-year students gained admission without difficulty to colleges and universities in several states. This made it possible to announce in the next catalog that junior college students made good and that credits were acceptable wherever they desired to go. That was a great victory and had much to do with junior college growth.

Of the first group to finish the two year course in junior college, seven went to the University of Colorado. Others went to various institutions in Colorado, and one each went to the University of Washington, University of Missouri, Leland Stanford, Mills College and the University of Utah. All of these did well and today are scattered widely over the country where they are engaged in business, in law, in medicine, and in educational work.

### **Mesa College Bill**

The Junior College of Grand Junction Senate Bill 262 by Bannister, established by the General Assembly of Colorado in the session of 1925, approved by the governor April 20, 1925.

Purpose—"Provide instruction in the arts and sciences and in such branches of knowledge as may be designated by the board of trustees of said institution."

Tract of Land—The community secured a fine tract of land, in area thirty-seven acres and deeded the site to the state of Colorado, according to the con-

ditions in the bill.

**Board of Trustees**—A board of trustees, three in number, was "appointed to serve until their successors are appointed and duly qualify."

**Initial Appropriation**—\$2500 was appropriated for the improvement of the site. This money was spent on improvements within the biennium. Vouchers were made out to pay for the different contracts and cash warrants were received by the people who did the work. This work was done by the Mesa County highway department.

### **New Legislation**

Efforts were made at each session of the legislature in 1927, 1929, 1931, 1933 and 1935 to secure state appropriations for buildings and for maintenance. Sometimes these bills passed the senate and failed in the house and sometimes it was the other way but never were the bills defeated by more than two or three votes. In 1931 they lost by only one vote.

Those who looked after the legislative program were Ollie E. Bannister, Sterling B. Lacy, John J. Vandomoer, C. J. McCormick, with Walter Walker serving as generalissimo. The bills were usually drawn by Henry Tupper after careful study and investigation. The opposition was always afraid of the influence and power of the Mesa County legislative personnel. It was quite generally agreed that in time the school would gain full state recognition and be given state support for maintenance and buildings.

### **Financial Support**

During the first twelve years the college was supported by local funds entirely: tuition and donations from individuals and organizations. Each year it closed with all accounts paid in full. The organizations that supported the college with liberal gifts were the Lions Club, Rotary Club, City of Grand Junction, Board of Education, Mesa County, Chamber of Commerce, Pomona Women's Club, Fortnightly Club, Association of University Women, Business and Professional Women, Past Noble Grand Association, Woman's Club, Pan Hellenic, P.E.O., Fruitvale Mother's Club, Rebeccas, Elks, Mesa County Commissioners and City Council.

For several years there was the Hundred Dollar a Year club, which played a large part in saving the life of the college. The membership of this club included: Biggs-Kurtz, Public Service Company, *The Daily Sentinel*, Loeffler's, Sampliners, J. W. Swire, J. C. Penney Company, Bannisters, Western Slope Auto Company, Ross Business College, W. J. Moyer, R. E. Tope, Gus J. Johnson, M. N. Due.

There was also a \$50 club made up of about forty individual business and professional men in the city.

Another source of revenue for seven years was the revenue from teacher extension classes. These classes were organized in Grand Junction and required tuition of \$8. The University of Colorado required a filing fee of \$3 from each person. The classes were taught by R. E. Tope, who contributed the balance of \$5 to the college fund, which usually amounted to about \$300 a year.

Another reason for the success of the college was that each member of the faculty usually carried an over-load in order that the work might move along and at the same time keep the annual budget within reach of the ability and generosity of the subscribers.

The board of education of the city school system helped out for the first seven years by permitting the assignment of several high school instructors to one or more junior college classes. Those from the high school faculty who taught classes were Emma Groom, Hazel Ela, Irma Stockdale, and Esther Conway; this extra work was a contribution on their part and all of them today take pride in the fact that they helped.

Still another money raising function was the theatrical entertainment in the Avalon Theater, which netted hundreds of dollars each year. Mr. Hillyer was a competent producer of musical comedies and he enlisted the aid of other musicians in staging big shows.

## Publicity

Every new institution needs lots of publicity. The budget of the college was always very limited. It took about every cent that came in to pay the salaries of the instructors and to add necessary equipment. In the matter of publicity, Walter Walker, publisher of *The Daily Sentinel*, always came to the rescue. He allowed unlimited space for all kinds of news and general publicity. *Sentinel* writers were kind and generous. It is impossible really to estimate the great value of this early assistance, but writers that should not be forgotten are R. C. Walker, editorial; Merle McClintock, society; Isabella Cunningham, special features; Noland Norgaard, athletics, Ruth L. McQueen, news. No institution was ever favored with such generous and competent publicity and this did the most to make its foundation secure and its life and growth possible.

In December 1929 the college found itself unable to meet all the payment for the faculty. The Grand Valley Bank advanced the sum of \$800 and a note was signed by the following group of boosters: Ollie E. Bannister, M. N. Due, W. C. Kurtz, Clyde Biggs, A. C. Milne, H. H. McMullin, R. G. Miller, E.

W. Dinwiddie, Henry Tupper, R. E. Tope, Walter Walker. That was a good note and it passed the bank examiners.

The college has had four deans or presidents:

- L. L. Hyde, 1925-1928;
- O. N. Marsh, 1928-1932,
- C. G. Houston, 1932-1937;
- H. J. Wubben, 1937-

Many men who are now deceased gave the college a great deal of assistance in money and in genuine personal support. The names should be inscribed on the roll of its early liberal sponsors and donors. Without the help of Robert A. Ross, Beman C. Fox, William Buthorn, James H. Rankin, Lee Burgess, William Murr, Harry Harris, Mrs. Hattie Pearson Murr and R. C. Walker, it is not likely that Mesa College could have made such a fine beginning.

Men who served on the board of trustees while the college was being permanently established were R. E. Tope, D. B. Wright, C. E. Cherrington, R. C. Walker, Henry Tupper and E. W. Dinwiddie.

### **Students Make A College**

It always takes students to make a school. No matter how much effort and community interest there is in having a college, unless there is a corresponding interest in young people who are willing to enroll for work, it would all be wasted effort. A college with its buildings and faculty and course of study could not succeed unless there would be a sufficient response on the part of students who desire an education and are anxious to study for this accomplishment.

A very large part of the credit for the early success of the junior college is due to the students who enrolled the first two years. This was the greatest testimony to the need of a college in Grand Junction and also to the fact that the newly organized school could draw and hold students to a regimen of study and interest in the work.

For ten years the junior college was a lively issue in the legislature. Grand Junction was seeking an appropriation for a building and for maintenance. The plans were for a state institution. During these years the movement was supported by the ablest and most persistent editorial writing that any enthusiast for education could desire. This masterly performance was carried on over the period by Mr. R. C. Walker, editorial writer for *The Daily Sentinel* at the time. Mr. Walker was the father of Walter Walker. His editorials concerning education which are to be found in the files of the paper over this period were widely known and appreciated as the finest educational literature, with-

out which the young independent college could not have been kept going in the early pioneering experience. His writings are interesting and helpful literature today, superior to anything the writer has known in educational advancement and promotion.

Finally after about fifteen years of consistent effort for state support, a general Junior College Bill was enacted granting appropriation funds, setting up junior college districts for taxation units, and providing for a division of the public school funds toward the support of community colleges. With that the contention ceased.

A new site was secured for the junior college; a new home constructed; taxation of Mesa County instituted for its partial support; the name changed to Mesa College, and the institution was able to sit on its own bottom.

The new home on North Avenue was ready and Mesa College was organized in its present location for the school year of 1939-1940.

### **What Of The Future!**

The future problem of Mesa College is no different from what it was in the beginning and what it has been all the time. The idea in the minds of all who had anything to do with its origin and early progress was that it would eventually become a regular four-year college and would have its main support from the whole state in the same way that higher education is carried on in public institutions everywhere.

That problem still exists and must be worked out. No mushroom growth was expected by the early promoters. Neither did they deceive themselves by any delusion that a college could be built without a great deal of hard work and much sacrifice on the part of the supporters. All the things that have taken place since 1925 have been stepping stones toward the goal that was set in the beginning. The main development is still in the future. We are passing through a lull in the fight that must go on after a temporary calm.

On May 27, 1931, R. E. Tope announced that five boys who did their freshman and sophomore work in the junior college were to be graduated from five different universities: Allen Brown, University of Colorado; Bayard Rhone, University of Southern California; John Wolf, Northwestern University; Victor Wagler, University of California; and Kenneth Tope from the University of Washington. Two—Rhone and Wagler—are prominent lawyers, the first in Los Angeles and the latter in Oakland. Wolf is a history professor in the University of Minnesota, Brown is a lawyer in Delta and has served this Judicial District as District Attorney, and Tope is an executive of the Puget Sound Power and Light Corporation in the state of Washington.

A side issue played its part in the important addition of chemistry to the curriculum. The federal ruling at the time was that apples and pears which had been sprayed during the growing season would have to be tested and washed sufficiently by a neutralization chemical so that fruit shipped out of the state would test below a certain tolerance for any poisonous residue. Professor O. R. Lindesmith was selected for the chemistry courses and by mutual understanding with the officials of the fruit growers, he was to have the summer work for laboratory testing of all fruit, and his advanced students in chemistry were to have any jobs necessary for assistance in the work, either part-time or full-time employment in the laboratory. That agreement was a great advantage to the college and meant considerable new scientific equipment for the laboratory. This arrangement continued for a number of years, in fact until most of the commercial apple and pear trees were pulled up.

### Service Clubs

In 1919 the service club movement came to Grand Junction. To the unacquainted the service club form of organization was a strange innovation. The classification plan for qualification and the teaching of fellowship, acquaintance and a friendly spirit was not easily understood. Prior to the organization of service clubs, Grand Junction was sorely afflicted with an annoying discord. There were plenty of cliques of course but the greatest difficulty came from a contentious conflict between two strong factions. It was not religious, political, social or economic. Members of these two dominating groups permeated all the other organizations, causing splits in the Chamber of Commerce, the churches and the lodges. It was a struggle for power, authority, credit, advantage, influence. The clubs soon interested leading citizens and inspired them to pull together for the building of Grand Junction. As the membership increased there were more men who would not engage in bitter rivalry. So the service club movement became an ameliorative influence. The emphasis was placed on improved relationships, friendship, goodwill and cooperation. In a few years the factional leaders began to sense a change of feeling in the whole community. They were failing to stir up the old factional bitterness and in due time it was a small squad that could promote a fracas through selfish and jealous motives. Differences of opinion were settled without wrangling.

In the past thirty years great emphasis has been placed upon service clubs. They have become serious business. These organizations really have become institutions. They have a two-fold purpose—making better individuals and making a better society. Most organizations are clannish and selfish. The service club goal is broad. The aim is acquaintance, friendship, liberty, goodwill,

service. The club meeting is a practice ground where these good traits can be made to function. Each object is a task, something to be done, a system of performance. Men have to resort to monkey-shines sometimes in order to break the crust and get at the heart of the main ideals, but such antics are only the dust of the work going on in earnest.

Membership in a service club is based upon vocational classification. A member does not represent himself or his business. He represents a business or professional classification. His contribution to the club comes from a great vocational group and whatever he learns from his club is to be carried back to the classification he represents. Thus the worthiness of all useful occupations is emphasized and the member dignifies his occupation as an opportunity to serve society. The whole people get the benefit. The purpose is the same for all. The objects apply to all. The ethical principles work for all. This plan also makes possible many service organizations, each giving expression to its own proclivities.

There is nothing spasmodic about service. No one should get the idea that service is something added to the ordinary business of life, a sort of beneficent extra, a philanthropic indulgence after business hours. It is not something to be taken on occasionally and then laid aside. Service is constant. It means broad ethical principles that operate continually. It is not outside one's business, but inside his business that he contributes service to mankind. It takes a lot of time, it demands all of one's time for a man never ceases to be a member of his service club. Service is not a state of mind, it is a field of action.

The classification feature was designed to make it possible for many service clubs to be formed in growing communities, all interested in the same community problems. The friendly spirit that prevails has meant a great deal to the city. Each club soon finds plenty to do without duplication or trespassing upon the other's prerogatives of service and often they must join in the solution of problems that are too big to be handled by any one club.

Learning how to live together is a great game where service clubs exist. Merely living amid others may be a lonely and sorry existence. Service clubs teach people to live with others. They take their hats off to the past. They also take their coats off to the future. The whole service club movement applies to men and women alike.

The new world will have to be built with such a spirit. We hear the boom-boom of battle, but it is just the hammering of the horologe of Time striking the hour for good citizens to begin under noble rules to build a new world of justice and right and order.



“Whence comes this iron music  
Whose sound is heard afar?  
The hammers of the world's smiths  
Are beating out a star.

Beat down yon beetling mountain  
And raise yon jutting cape;  
A world is on the anvil  
Now smite it into shape.”

### **Municipal Utilities**

As early as 1890 there was an attempt to have a street car system in Grand Junction. In time there developed a railway route and a horse drawn car was used. The company finally defaulted in payment of taxes and license and also its debt, and the city took over. It was probably the earliest instance of municipal ownership in such a utility. Then there were several attempts to revive the utility and get some company to build a transportation system, without avail. In 1908, capital became interested and the Grand Valley Railway Company built a city system which was ready for operation in 1909. This concern had plans for a Fruitbelt Line and completed the Fruita Interurban in 1910, as the first unit in the system.

Plans were also in the making for the interurban system to give service to Orchard Mesa, crossing the river on the railroad bridge and continuing the circle around east Orchard Mesa to Palisade and returning to Grand Junction by way of Clifton and Fruitvale; cars could be routed in each direction. That would have taken care of the transportation of the whole valley nicely for all time. But before it was developed beyond the blueprint stage, the automobile and the good roads movement changed the whole system of travel so much that electric bus lines would not be necessary for most of the people; at least such transportation facilities could not be expected to pay for the investment necessary to provide the service.

### **Patriotic Observances**

The pioneers were patriotic and public minded. They were citizens of a great country and they did not want the people to forget or neglect the landmarks in their nation's history. Advantage was taken to observe every holiday and other important days. Appropriate observances were held for Lincoln's birthday, Washington's birthday, Arbor Day, May Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth



*Kate Harlow, early Grand Junction restaurant owner.*

of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years. There were programs, parades, charity balls and the people were entreated to turn out and take part. There would be music and readings and speeches and always some special new and different feature. The organizations of the town were asked to take part in the special exercises or, if they chose, put on something for themselves. In the parades there were special floats, stunts, and uniformed corps. The Knights of Pythias members were good at uniform displays, so were the Knights Templar. The Odd Fellows, the Red Men, the Eagles could be expected to take part. The Elks Lodge had a great American flag which would be carried flat along the street by twenty men in parade, followed by many members of the lodge. The observance of these holidays was required of the schools in some special way; for instance, in the case of Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays, the schools would be held for an extra hour on the preceding afternoon, when an extra patriotic exercise would be given by pupils who were assigned parts and were well prepared for the occasion. School patrons were requested to attend these exercises. On the holiday the pupils were asked to witness the observance downtown. No special day was ever let slip by without proper public recognition.

### **One Pioneer Family**

Among the first citizens coming in 1882 were Mr. and Mrs. Harlow, who arrived in December. They started a small restaurant in a small cabin to make a living through the winter months. They came from Norwich, New York. Kate Harlow did such a good job feeding the people who patronized her little shop that Governor Crawford presented her with a pair of lots on which they could build a larger place for such a necessary business in the new town. *The Daily Sentinel*, issue of December 9, 1893, gives a first page tribute to Kate Harlow who enjoyed the respect and friendship of a host of people. The couple established a ranch about fifteen miles from Grand Junction, and by that date the Harlow Ranch was a show place, producing every kind of fruit that would grow in the Grand Valley. It had its own water right taking water from Rapid Creek, near where it joined the Grand River east of Palisade.

### **The Drinking Fountain at Fifth Street**

Do you remember the celebrated drinking fountain at the intersection of Fifth Street and Rood Avenue? It was an elaborate and somewhat artistic drinking trough for horses and other animals. A women's committee with Mrs. Walter S. Sullivan took the matter up with the National Humane Alliance that was

founded by Herman Lee Ensign, a noted journalist around the turn of the century who had a consuming interest in the welfare of domestic animals. He gave a fortune to this work and inspired people all over the land to be more humane toward all animal life. This foundation arranged to have these fountains built in quantity and would send them free to municipalities that were interested enough in such a work to properly install a fountain in a suitable place in the heart of the municipality. It was a massive piece of concrete and the freight bill showed a cost of \$158 prepaid. The city government, at the entreaty of Mrs. Sullivan, properly installed it in the corner of the intersection at the YMCA corner. The corner stone statement, "For the Making of Men" faced the fountain for the "Comfort of Our Animal Life."

### **Grand Junction Has A Visitor**

In 1936 a young woman from Cebu, Philippine Islands, came to Grand Junction and stopped off her train to visit a place she had heard about often from her father; she was the daughter of J. Clayton Nichols, one of the three men who first set foot on the site of Grand Junction. He went to the Philippines, following his experiences in the Klondike, married a native Filipino, and reared a family of five children. He lived and was in business in Cebu until his death in 1931. Miss Florence Nichols had heard a great deal about Colorado and Grand Junction, the little town he left in 1901 for the Philippines. She had often read letters he had received from close friends back in his old home, particularly those from Leslie Savage of Crawford, with whom her father had kept up a correspondence all his life. She knew too that he wrote many letters to *The Daily Sentinel* and she read many of the acknowledgments from Mr. I. N. Bunting, who gave them space, and later Walter Walker did the same thing. Miss Nichols was glad to see the long time friends of her father. She was a health worker in Cebu and was on her way to New York City to take advanced training for her profession. Her chosen specialty was to aid in lowering the maternity and infant death record among the people of her home land.

Leslie Savage and Clayton Nichols were kindred spirits, both vitally interested in the Black Mesa road as the route from Gunnison to Grand Junction. Mr. Nichols knew that the Uncompahgre River did not carry half enough water for the valley and development there. The inhabitants would always have to fight for the little water they got. The early pioneers had no idea of a tunnel to take water from the Gunnison River to water the Montrose and Olathe areas. So he and Mr. Savage were always of one mind concerning the Black Mesa road and its advantages and possibilities as a better route east.

## Municipal Water

The first municipal water plant for Grand Junction was a private water company with a crude pumping system located on the Grand River not far from the present Fifth Street bridge. This raw water was distributed over the small town and water came on tap in a number of places July 7, 1888, a long time to wait for a bit of muddy water. This water was unsatisfactory of course, so there began a movement to bring in fresh clear mountain water from some source. The whole area was searched for good water, but it would be costly and the people divided on their choices for a source and on the amount of a bond issue that would be necessary. Some were in favor of leaving the utility in private hands and continued to quarrel with the company for better service. Finally, with the increasing pollution of river water by the waste water of irrigation, a complete change of city administration was the result of the election in 1899. The following ticket was elected: Mayor, W. P. Ela; Clerk, M. O. Delaplain; backed by a set of aldermen pledged for a municipal system. The idea of mountain water was given up for a time as an impossibility. Bonds were voted and a contract was let to locate a pumping plant on the Gunnison some distance above the Atomic Energy Center, and pump water to a small reservoir on the top of the hill, from which pressure water could be sent into the city. This plant was ready for use in 1900 and this served until Kannah Creek water was made available to the city on August 4, 1912. Since then the city has been improving the Kannah Creek supply in every way possible, both as to the amount available and the methods of getting pure water to the consumers. At the same time as this decision was made to use Gunnison River water, it was also planned to build a sewer system for the main part of the town and dump the sewage of the system into the river.

Kannah Creek water was a long drawn out promotion. The forces for the mountain water supply were matched by equally determined forces that favored artesian water possibilities with plenty of acreage on Orchard Mesa and the Redlands to make sure that there would be no competition for the underground supply. The artesian water advocates had the advantage of a cheaper supply of good water and the added possibility of a supplementary water source in the river valley by wells along the Gunnison and also below the junction of the rivers west of town. After the first tie vote of 202 votes to 202, both sides began to consolidate their forces for the final battle because the people were becoming impatient about putting up with muddy water and the inability to reach a decision. Kannah Creek was known to be increasing in

ultimate cost. The minimum supply was placed at three hundred inches and there was no hope of securing this at less than \$300 an inch at the source; the actual cost would depend upon a final court adjudication and there were many land owners who were planning to put up a strong contest for all that could be squeezed out of the impending water deal.

Finally the adjudication proceedings reached a decision which was a total allowance to the water claimants amounting to \$182,940. This was not satisfactory to either side. The water cost more than was expected and the land owners did not get as much as they had fought for. The contest had been exhausting so there was a disposition to accept the ruling of the court. The mountain water advocates made plans to put the problem up to the people and an election was called for a final decision on the source of water and the approval of the bonds for building the new water works system. The issue would be plain raw water from the two sources where it was available. There would be simple reservoir because the later questions of filtering, chlorination and fluorination were not live topics at that time. The show-down come promptly in 1911 with the following decisive vote which settled the water problem after thirty years of serious and often rabid discussions:

Kannah Creek Water	721 for - 357 against
Kannah Creek Bonds	411 for - 194 against
Artesian Water	434 for - 626 against
Artesian Water Bonds	239 for - 350 against

The Kannah Creek issue received its final verdict which was decisive enough to have quite general support from the people when the count of the ballots was announced. The people were glad the battle was over and were ready to accept the result of a good old American vote and let the majority rule.

This battle of the ballot was a clincher in other ways too, because the people were asked to vote on sewer bonds and also on paving bonds, two other essential decisions for a growing city.

The sewer bonds carried 863 to 101; the paving bonds carried 838 to 118.

Water has been the costliest resource because of delay and delay. When we have to have any more, the cost will be a staggering assessment chargeable to the shortsightedness of men who did not understand the problem of domestic water and who were delinquent in filing on the whole of Kannah Creek when it could have been had for a trifle compared to the ever increasing cost.

Before the people came to themselves the first price had more than doubled. It has been true in the growth and development of nearly all cities that the water issue has been characterized by more ignorance, more fiddling,

more neglect, more silly quibbling than has been the case in any other problem of growth and finance.

### **The Colorado River**

An early day project was the change of the name of Grand River to the Colorado River. Geographers first named the Colorado as formed by the junction of the Grand and the Green Rivers in eastern Utah and the change of names had to be by the approval of Congress. A bill was introduced in Congress in 1921 by Edward T. Taylor, Congressman from the Fourth District in Colorado for many terms. After a prolonged legislative battle, the bill passed the House and the Senate in 1924. The Grand is the larger and the Green is the longer, so Utah contested the issue to the end, and when you find yourself in a legislative battle with the state of Utah, you know you have had a fight on your hands. This was one of the great gains for Grand Junction because it is the metropolis of the Colorado valley as well as the Colorado Plateau, both of which are having worldwide publicity and popularity these days.

### **A Colorado River Statistic**

On June 18, 1899, a survey showed that the Grand River was carrying 300,000 gallons of water per second and that the current was flowing at the rate of eighteen miles an hour. The writer consulted Mr. Frank Merriell, veteran water engineer, as to the meaning of this statistic. He stated that the figure is higher than any he ever found, but it may be true because at that time all the water was going down the stream bed. It has not been that high in his knowledge. It means, he said, that 40,000 cubic feet of water was running past the point every second, which is a lot of water. He also stated that water runs at many different speeds in the stream, the fastest flow being in mid-current near the top of the flow.

### **Pioneer Day in 1930**

This meeting was one of the greatest ever held in this community. It had long been planned. S. G. McMullin, a pioneer himself, having arrived in Grand Junction in 1889 with his wife, had long urged that the Rotary Club pay respect to the men and women who came into the valley in the 1800s. Lists had been prepared and verified and an appropriate program prepared to give the early settlers who were still surviving and contributing to the economy of the area a signal honor. Invitations were sent out to 115 and those who were able to accept the invitations are listed below. The banquet was held on February 26, 1930.

Walter Walker was selected as toastmaster for the occasion and William Weiser gave the special welcome and greeting to the assembly. Mrs. Boyer, early day musician and teacher of music, was in charge of the special music, beautiful old-time selections.

On the part of the pioneers the following notable personages gave responses: William A. Marsh, C. C. Knowles, M. H. McKee, John Gavin, Frank Haskell and Mrs. L. M. Miller. Bill McGinley, a strapping big man who was one of the three men who first rode horseback up to the south bank of the river and looked over the site of Grand Junction, was present and told the story of their trip: they had nothing for supper and slept on their saddle blankets till morning, when they swam their horses across the river to inspect the site of the proposed settlement. A communication was read from J. Clayton Nichols from the Phillippines, who was also one of the first party to come for the purpose of founding a settlement. Nichols filed on the first acreage of land. William McGinley made the second filing, and O. D. Russell the third, establishing with his brother, J. M. Russell, a business of the Russell Brothers.

The names of those present are given here, with the years of their coming to Grand Junction:

1881—

George Gordon

Ed Gordon

Rachel Gordon (Graham)

William McGinley

1882—

M. J. Sullivan

Tom Sullivan

Nannie Blain (Underhill)

G. R. Blain

John Gavin

Mrs. John Gavin

J. B. Hunter

Mrs. Mamie Hunter

Fred Simineo

Nelson Pritchard

Mrs. Nelson Pritchard

Dennis Sullivan

H. O. Bear

W. I. Hammond

Mrs. S. D. Cox

James Purcell

W. H. Pollock

John Hynes

Mrs. John Hynes

Mrs. Adrian Schmidt

1883—

W. A. Marsh

Frank Grant

Mrs. Frank Grant

Anna Adams

Effie O'Neil

C. C. Knowles

Mrs. Fred Simineo (see above)

J. J. Cottrell

Julia McCune

J. F. Nichols



1883 (cont.)—

Grant Squire  
W. H. Hammontree  
Will Hoffman  
Ed Fleak  
Mrs. Amos Horn  
W. H. McKee  
Gus Anderson  
Mrs. Sleeper  
W. M. Hafey

1884—

George Corcoran  
Amelia Miller  
Mattie Jones  
Charlotte Ponsford  
J. C. Burgman  
Mrs. N. E. Ducket  
Austin Corcoran  
Mrs. Charles Munroe (see later)  
Mrs. William Coffman

1885—

Soren Rathmussen  
Mrs. L. S. Barnard

1886—

Edgar Rider  
Flora Ingersoll  
William Ternahan  
Mrs. J. C. Barnes (see above)  
T. J. Chafee

1887—

C. P. McCarry  
C. K. Ritzman  
Louis Harms  
C. S. Kieknedall  
Amos Horn (see above)

1888—

F. S. Smith  
Mrs. Avery Ponsford

Fannie Jones  
B. F. Hughes  
Mrs. William Hoffman  
P. A. Rice  
George Fletcher  
Agnes Ashley  
C. H. Everett  
J. C. Barnes

William Corcoran  
W. D. Jones  
Job Deacon  
J. S. O'Neil  
Mrs. J. C. Burgman  
William Snook  
George Pope  
William Coffman

Mrs. Isabel Currie  
Mac Miller

William R. Johnson  
Minnie Henderson  
J. W. Osborn  
Horace T. Delong

Rose Parks  
Mabel Keifer  
Jennie Crissman  
Ollie Boyer  
P. E. Adams

Mrs. F. S. Smith  
Mrs. Ida Rhone

1889—

J. S. Hynes  
John G. McKinney  
Mrs. George Gordon  
W. L. Farmer  
Laura Chapman

Elizabeth Webster  
Samuel G. McMullin  
W. F. Bunce  
Mrs. C. E. Shopshire  
Mrs. Samuel G. McMullin

1890—

Mrs. Horace T. DeLong

Charles Munroe (see above)

Most of these were well known in Mesa County in 1930 but few are now surviving, even though some of them were children when they arrived in the early days of this region.

Mr. Walker, in opening the meeting, said in part: "We are certainly pushing back the curtain of time tonight. The committee on arrangements has tried to bring about an atmosphere of the pioneer community feeling of those early days and, through about one hundred guests who came here about a half-century ago, has offered us a real living setting of the beginning of the civilization we are acquainted with in the Grand Valley today. The sweet influence of the beginning of this city and its larger community still live; the imprint of the early comers still binds. I stand here to contend that this event tonight is a historic presence. If Governor Crawford could look down from that rock-hewn mausoleum on Orchard Mesa, which, unchanged and changeless, overlooks the city of Grand Junction, that remarkable pioneer would have great pleasure in seeing the men and women whom he knew so well forty-five to fifty years ago."

Time had wrought its changes. Those pioneers were jolly enough at meeting each other and in appreciation of the honor of such a banquet and such attentions, but though the sparkle in those eyes was still there, you could sense the effects of time and witness the creeping of age on their bodies. Considering the rugged, strenuous life of pioneer and frontier living, you wonder how men and women could stand more than a few decade of such arduous labor, exertion, risk and inconvenience.

The picture called to mind the story of the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony. Some of them survived their hard life and lived to a ripe old age though half of them died on board the Mayflower that first winter. John Alden outlived all the signers of the Mayflower Compact, reaching the age of eighty-seven before he went to his reward. He and Priscilla brought up a family of thirteen children. William Brewster died at the age of seventy-seven, Edward Winslow sixty and William Bradford sixty-seven. There are numerous descendants of these families today, coming down from 1620 to 1957.

## Two First Citizens Gone

Sadness came when the solid citizens of the first years answered the final summons. On November 4, 1900, J. S. Kent, who came in 1883, was buried in the little cemetery. Mr. Kent was a thrifty, noble and sturdy citizen. He had been a public spirited citizen for seventeen years, engaged in the hardware business. He took part in every progressive undertaking, was generous in helping those who needed aid, active in support of the city, county, school, and his church. He had no part in the factional disturbances. The whole community paid tribute to him.

On September 24, 1903, the people attended the funeral of another citizen who was known to everyone in the community, Charles W. Steele, who came in 1882. He had two children in the first school. He filed on land and had one of the earliest orchards in bearing. He spent most of his time in promoting the fruit industry, urging exhibits at every opportunity and in every place possible, especially state fairs and large expositions. He was progressive, public spirited, and would go to all the places where they could arrange to send fine fruit for exhibition at his own expense. He was always too busy to take part in the community factions or political intrigue. His passing was marked by special sadness because it was a severe cold, which he had caught at the Colorado State Fair where he was exhibiting a large booth of fine Grand Valley fruit, that turned to pneumonia and caused his death.

## Three Forms of Government

The form of government under which Grand Junction was first organized in 1882 was a Mayor-Council form of local government. The chief executive was a Mayor chosen at large, with a set of aldermen elected from different wards into which the municipality was divided. This was optional at first; later the division could be changed according to the growth of the city. The number of aldermen from the different wards was also governed by the charter and subject to amendment.

The first government was decided by an election held on July 15, 1882, and resulted in the following set of officials:

Mayor	C. F. Shanks
City Clerk	P. H. Westmorland
City Attorney	W. J. Miller
Street Commissioner	H. C. Hall
Marshall	James Davis

Aldermen

A. A. Miller  
J. M. Russell  
G. W. Thurston  
W. F. Gerry

Spirited elections were held each year until a finished plan of government was worked out by the people, fixing terms of office, designating qualifications for the officers and distinguishing between the officials to be elected by the people and those to be by appointment by the Mayor subject to the approval of the Council. There was never a dearth of office seekers and the number of political parties kept pace with the political cliques that developed. In the election April 3, 1894, there were four tickets: Republican, People's, Citizen's, and a No License Party (Prohibition). The result of this election was:

Mayor	M. L. Allison
Clerk	S. G. McMullin
Treasurer	W. L. Mulkey
Police Magistrate	J. P. Sweney
Marshall	W. J. S. Henderson
Surveyor	H. C. Hall
Attorney	J. W. Morris
Aldermen	M. O. Delaplaine C. P. McCary John L. Pratt E. W. Gannon

The election held April 6, 1899, showed quite an upset in the results. Men who had been in office for years were unseated and the following new names appeared in the several offices:

Mayor	W. P. Ela
Treasurer	S. R. Voils
Engineer	David R. Crosby
Clerk	C. B. Rich
Aldermen	A. T. Wharton J. W. Weyer A. R. Wells Thomas Haddock

In 1909 there was a spirited campaign and the people adopted a new charter providing for a Commission form of government. This charter was really a masterpiece of political engineering for municipalities which had grown tired of the old form of town government. It provided for five Commissioners,

each to be more or less independent, but whose functioning depended a great deal upon cooperation and upon exercising the total functions of the government in an orderly manner and with cohesion. This framework of government provided for five Commissioners: Health and Civic Beauty; Finance and Supplies; Water Works and Sewers; Highways; Mayor and Public Affairs. The first set of Commissioners elected by the people were:

Health and Civic Beauty	C. K. Holmburg
Finance and Supplies	H. F. Vorbeck
Water Works and Sewers	R. W. Vedder
Highways	S. J. Scovill
Mayor and Public Affairs	T. M. Todd

The terms of office were lengthened so that elections did not come so often. At the next election James H. Rankin became Highway Commissioner and Charles E. Cherrington the new mayor. This system continued until 1922, when it was superseded by the City Manager-Council form of government.

### **The YMCA Organization**

In the summer of 1907 the movement to establish a YMCA in Grand Junction had its inception. The business came to white heat and great enthusiasm when William E. Sweet of Denver came over to speak to a group of businessmen. An organization was immediately formed, composed of prominent citizens who were to canvass for sufficient funds to erect a suitable YMCA building. The following men formed the Executive Committee and a large group volunteered to undertake the canvass for funds.

E. M. Slocomb (President)	J. E. Leaverton (Secretary)
J. C. Plank	W. E. Dudley
O. B. Whipple	E. P. Shellenberger
George Le Clere	William Weiser
F. A. Lyons	J. H. Rankin
C. L. Miller	H. F. Vorbeck
V. C. Talbert	J. S. Carnahan
E. E. Udlock	G. R. Warner
C. B. Rich	F. D. Barney
W. P. Ela	William Campbell
I. N. Bunting	D. W. Aupperle

In two weeks the solicitors turned in the sum of \$60,000 and work was begun on the building, which was completed in 1908 and ready for a full program of YMCA activities.

In the Jubilee Edition of *The Daily Sentinel* issued January 8, 1908, the

churches of Grand Junction were listed as follows, all having comparatively new, well located houses of worship:

Baptist	Episcopal
Methodist	German Evangelical Lutheran
Christian	Free Methodist
Congregational	Christian Science
Presbyterian	African M. E.
Seventh Day Adventist	Salvation Army
Catholic	

All these churches were interested in the YMCA center, for they could arrange many of their play and physical activities in the Y Building.

In the Directory of Grand Junction and Mesa County, 1908, the following office holders are listed:

City of Grand Junction—

Mayor	J. R. Wentworth
Clerk	J. M. Conley
Attorney	J. W. Rosette
Chief of Police	C. C. O'Neil
Treasurer	Leon J. Chapman
Fire Chief	G. P. Rogers
Engineer	J. F. O'Malley
Water Superintendent	B. W. Vedder
Police Magistrate	C. B. Hill
Aldermen	J. C. Plank
	M. Hertz
	J. F. Drew
	J. F. Hudson
	W. D. Davies
	J. B. Mathews
	W. C. Beyer

Mesa County—

Sheriff	C. F. Schrader
Treasurer	M. M. Shores
Clerk	Rube Starr
County Judge	Walter J. Sullivan
Assessor	N. N. Smith
Coroner	Dr. H. S. Day
Surveyor	Frank Schwalback
Attorney	Strod M. Logan

Superintendent of Schools  
Commissioners

Mrs. Breeze Lucas  
John D. Secor  
William Dittman  
John Hynes

The city and county officials found the Y Building convenient and helpful for many uses that could not be provided in the city and county offices.

With such a potential of support from so many sources it is inexplicable why the Y was allowed to fail.

M. M. Shores had served as postmaster of Grand Junction for several years. He was the father of Mrs. O. H. Ellison, who for many years was the owner of the Ellison Lumber Company. This originated in the P. A. Rice Lumber Company, beginning with the first circular sawmill that was brought to Mesa County.

### Swimming Pools

Swimming is as ancient as water itself. Life first appeared in the shallow water of the seashores. From that one-celled humble existence, God set in process every living organism that we know on earth.

Swimming is natural exercise. The friction of water offers little resistance, no bumps or jars, no shock. The simple course for the American Playground Association Certificate is a half-mile swim; it is not a strenuous exercise. It is the most economical sport: no expense for equipment, balls, bats, uniforms, clubs, rackets, helmets, gloves, and not much wearing apparel. All the swimmers need to do is dive into the water, which will handle the body gently, soothingly, and never precipitately. If you want to just paddle or wallow around it is that. If you want to prepare for competition like other games there are rules and there is technique but few want to make it that exhibitory.

Until June 8, 1922, the boys of Grand Junction swam in the rivers or canals. The Grand Valley Canal from First to the Mantey Heights area was a famous swimming pool. Not many people lived near the canal and if people were in sight, they could just look the other way while the boys stripped and got into the water. At times the sheriff's office would be entreated to rout out some swimmers who lingered too long in the nude on hot afternoons. The canal gave plenty of room for any course, a boy could swim a mile up or down if he wanted to try himself out for distance.

On August 7, 1921, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Moyer of the Fair Store announced that it was their intention to donate the sum of \$30,000 for the building of a swimming pool and to dedicate it to the boys and girls of Grand Junction. They recited the need and they were planning to have the pool built in

time for use the following summer, when it would be presented to the community and turned over to the city government for control and management with only one special provision, which was that it be free to the children at least one day in each week.

The pool was dedicated June 8, 1922, since which time it has been opened on Memorial Day and closed on Labor Day. Governor Oliver H. Shoup of Colorado was a guest on this occasion and spoke to the great crowd of people who came to attend the ceremony. The oration of the day was by Rev. Charles O. Thibodeau. The High School band furnished a music program and a large chorus of women sang two selections.

The pool was a wonderful addition to the recreation program. It was always crowded from Memorial Day thru Labor Day until the summer of 1956, when the community built a larger extension to make available a clean and lively sport for all who chose to swim, dive or just wallow in fresh pure filtered mountain water.

Over the country swimming pools are largely in the hands of private business. They are popular and competitive. They are regulated by laws and sanitary regulations. They supplant the "Old Swimmin' Pool" that so many of the older generation knew so well. It is a sport today and like other sports it pays its way. There is no use emotionalizing the importance of teaching everyone to swim. If there ever comes a time that you must swim or die, the place will not be of your choosing, the water will not be comfortable or sanitary. It likely will be dirty and roily and cold and filled with debris. Building a large swimming pool in the manner that the college presidents build residence halls and fraternity and sorority houses would be a business venture easy to explore and profitable enough for an investment.

If the community contracts its own swimming pools, they should be more than self-supporting, for the added revenue will help out the ailing budget that always needs some reinforcement. Such a tax would not be opposed for it would be voluntary.

### **Historical Markers**

Mrs. Dorothy H. Woods of Grand Junction has done much research work on historical markers so I requested that she write the following brief statement of her work that it may be added to the history of Grand Junction. The community will do well to follow up the results of her work, and by all means preserve the markers that are now in place.

The placing of historical markers goes back to antiquity; statues and obelisks, tombs and strange picture writings from the Neolithic Age up to the



days of recorded history have interested anthropologists of the entire world. Much of the history of ancient peoples owes its proof that there were such peoples to the markers scattered over the entire globe.

Mesa County, historically speaking, is a very new country. The placing of markers is not only a tribute to the person or incident named on the plaque, but also marks the donors as appreciative of the struggles of the early settlers and their achievements. As time passes, soon there are no residents left to verify the facts and the marker is the only evidence extant.

We cannot hope to compete with the pyramids of Egypt, the Mayan ruins, the Guatemalan relics, the grotesque figures of men on Easter Island or Saigon, but we should, by metal plaques, mark the "firsts" of our little western town: the first library building, the first newspaper, the first theater, the first high school.

The inscriptions should be terse, so that he who runs may read—and most travelers do run. Dates must be verified and approved by the State Historical Society, State Museum Building, Denver, Colorado.

There are now in Mesa County nine historical markers, the first being the sandstone tomb on Reservoir Hill overlooking the whole county, and erected in honor of Governor George A. Crawford, who laid out and named the town in 1881. The name was chosen to mark the confluence of the Grand and Gunnison rivers. Water then, as now, was a precious possession. The others follow:

#### Markers and Inscriptions in Mesa County

1. Tomb of Governor George A. Crawford, erected of native sandstone on Reservoir Hill south of the town of Grand Junction. Crawford, the president of the original town company organized in 1881, was buried there at his request. The tomb was erected in 1898. George A. Crawford, Born 1827; Died 1891.

2. Marked by a fence of lava rock (no tablet) by Mt. Gerfield Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. The site is about three miles south of the town of Mesa on the farm now owned by Robert Bieser of Mesa. to commemorate the freeing of the wife of the murdered Indian agent, Nathan Meeker, and his daughter, Josephine, who were held as prisoners by the Ute Indians. At the orders of Chief Ouray the women were surrendered to the military. The orders were brought by Chipeta, wife of the Chief, who rode horseback many miles to bring the demand for the women's release. This was in 1879 (from Jocknick *History of the Western Slope* and also traditions provided by many

old settlers in the vicinity). A plaque will be added to commemorate this incident.

3. Whitman Park. A bronze plaque about eighteen inches by twenty-four inches on a large granite boulder at Fifth and Ute, Grand Junction, Colorado. The inscription reads:

Whitman Park  
In Honor of Marcus Whitman  
Patriot- Missionary  
who swam the Grand River near this point  
on his heroic transcontinental ride  
Mid-Winter 1842-3 which saved the Northwest  
to the United States.  
Mount Garfield Chapter D.A.R.  
Grand Junction Chapter D.A.R.  
July 4, 1917

4. Cooper Theater Tablet. The inscription reads:

"On this site formerly stood the adobe building which was the original home of the Grand Junction Town Company. Through its organizer and president, George A. Crawford, this company filed on land left vacant by the removal of the Ute Indian Reservation to Utah, September 1881, and thus founded the City of Grand Junction."

5. Tablet on School Administration School Offices. The inscription reads:

"Original Site of the first church in Grand Junction. The Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Built in 1883. Reverend Isaac Whicher, Minister."

\*\*\*\*\*

First School Election June 1, 1882

First School Board Dr. H. E. Stroud. O. D. Russell. W. M. McKelvey

\*\*\*\*\*

First School House was a picket stave cabin near the corner of 5th  
and Colorado Avenue. Miss Nannie Blain, Teacher.

\*\*\*\*\*

The School Administration Building was moved to this site in 1917,  
and to provide for expansion this building was erected in 1938."

6. Second Tablet on School Administration Offices. (In doorway).  
"Erected through the cooperation  
Federal State and Local Governments by  
Works Progress Administration

\*\*\*\*\*

Dedicated to the Enrichment of Human Lives  
A record of Permanent Achievement 1938."

7. Lincoln Park. Flag Pole with Marker—Bronze Tablet. Inscription:  
Lest We Forget  
In Honor of  
Eight Hundred Mesa County Men  
who gave their loyal service in  
World War 1914-1918, and  
In memory of  
those among them who gave the most  
that men can give—life itself  
This tribute is placed in loving appreciation  
by the Daughters of the American Revolution  
Mount Garfield Chapter  
1928

8. City Hall Marker— Tablet. Inscription:  
South Entrance  
Administration Building  
City of Grand Junction, Colorado  
Constructed in 1949 by re-modeling  
the Lowell School  
originally built on this site in 1884

\*\*\*\*\*

1949 City Council  
Frank A. Hoisington, President  
Porter Carson                      Harry O. Colescott  
John C. Harper                    Oscar Hanson, Jr.  
Alfred G. Martin                 Philip G. Dufford

9. Pioneer Monument erected by B.P.O. Elks on Highway— Junction of  
Colorado 65 and U. S. 6&24 Colorado River Highway. A monument of ce-

ment and rubble with plaque. Inscription:

Dedicated to the Pioneers of the Mountain and the Valleys  
of Western Colorado by  
Grand Junction Lodge B.P.O.E. 575  
June 14, 1931

### **The Veterans Hospital**

On Wednesday, January 26, 1944, Walter Walker spoke of the efforts that had been going on for many months to secure a Veterans Hospital for Grand Junction. At the beginning he had surrounded himself with a capable, hard-working committee composed of Walter Walker, Clyde H. Biggs, Charles Rump, C. D. Moslander, Porter Carson, W. M. Wood and Frand Reeds.

The committee struggled with the super-task and was experiencing all sorts of discouraging situations but he said they were continuing relentlessly at the work of eventually securing one of these hospitals, a just and necessary governmental award to this vast area in western Colorado and eastern Utah, and that they would continue the fight with all the energy and persistence they could command. It was a delightful story to hear, even if at times dispirited and slow of realization.

On Wednesday, March 14, 1945, confirmation came of the granting of a 150 bed Veterans Hospital for Grand Junction. It marked the culmination of four years work on the part of the committee that had worked determinedly. Walter Walker had made several trips to Washington to press the claims and keep negotiations moving when there was a lag. The following year the great hospital was a reality, no longer a dream or vision.

### **Religious Influences**

The pioneers were interested in religious organizations. They came over the mountainous terrain in families, bringing young children into the far country to set up their future homes, so the trio of home, school, and church was uppermost in their minds. No minister led the way as was often so when groups emigrated to a new land, as the Pilgrims and Mormons, but the pioneers had the same temperament and convictions. The pioneers of the early eighties in the west came separately rather than in an enlisted and uniform group of people. Their motives just happened to be similar. The Town Company gave a lot to any church that would build a church sanctuary.

In the early years of Grand Junction, churches were being organized. The first church service was held on Sunday, October 9, 1882. Rev. Isaac Whitcher of the M.E. Church South delivered the sermon. He was an elderly

man for such a mission but he succeeded in forming a congregation and built a small church on Rood Avenue opposite the present Court House and where the present school administration building now stands. The cornerstone of the present building has a historical marker indicating this location. Soon other churches were at work taking advantage of the free sites offered by the Town Company and planning their organizations. The little church on Rood Avenue was sold to the M.E. Church, who sold it to the Congregational Church, and it then was purchased by the school district.

As the population increased in 1882 and 1883, there were small groups of people who had been affiliated with certain church denominations back in their old homes. Sectarian experience and beliefs and traditions cling to people no matter where they go. The care for the old home church outlasts time. Soon missions were organized and these were groups that could begin meeting in the homes of the affiliates, so organized religion was keeping pace with civil government and education. These small religious groups cooperated in many ways and always worked for a community in which the highest and best of influences prevailed. One institution more than any other brought about a splendid system of cooperation and that was the Sunday School. All the denominations united in forming the Mesa County Sunday School Association and for years the leading people of all the denominations would come together in a two-day convention. The writer was struck by the program of one of these annual conventions held May 28 and 29, 1894, and made note of the men and women who took part in the two-day conference. All are familiar names among the earliest pioneers:

Mrs. W. T. Carpenter

S. W. Coleman

Mrs. E. W. A. Fisk

Mrs. A. J. McCune

W. A. Marsh

E. T. Fisher

H. T. Delong

W. A. Rice

P. A. Rice

Mrs. J. M. Collender

William Carlyle

Several columns in the newspapers were given to the publicity of this convention which was well attended by the devoted Sunday School workers of the time.

The first Sunday School was held in the little old cabin that had been used by the first school. When school was out, Mr. J. A. Hall, a layman, organized a Sunday School in the fall of 1882, enlisted some volunteer teachers and held school until Christmas time when they had a Christmas party, exercises and treats.

The church groups were of various kinds with different methods of organization and invitation. Some were evangelical and quite militant, even at-

tempting proselytism. The older and more stable denominations and their adherents were more conservative, preferring groups that were more closely knit and that had much of their life in common. They were interested in having a membership that had similar standards of culture, social relationships, business interests, general likes and dislikes; in other words, homogeneity instead of heterogeneity. A mere bringing in sheaves and going into the by-ways and hedges does not work out so well as a selection of people who will believe and act and live on a natural plane of interest, association, and who have a community of spirit, appreciation and understanding. It may be well for a community to have a miscellany of religious denominations but it never works out to have a church group where miscellanea rules. Better have lots of churches with smaller and more consonant groups. And that is what has happened in Grand Junction down through the years. Witness the list of churches in any Saturday evening *Sentinel*.

### The Baptist Church

The Baptist Church was organized in February 1883 and became the first church to become established in its own sanctuary and survive to the present time. The organization group consisted of the following:

O. T. Weeks, Chairman	J. Shields
W. H. Smith, Secretary	A. T. Steinberg
W. G. Bennett	Mrs. J. S. Kent
G. B. Barrett	Mrs. Fannie McClintock
W. H. Coe	J. S. Kent
W. G. Cory	Mrs. W. G. Bennett
Mrs. G. J. D. Williams	George A. Currie
Rev. T. A. Meredith	Dr. F. R. Smith
J. W. Bucklin	Alonzo Means

The first pastor was Rev. W. D. Weaver. They built their first church, a large brick building, on Grand Avenue between Fifth and Sixth streets on land now owned by Safeway, dedicated it in May 1884, and their worship was continued there until the present property was built during the pastorate of Rev. E. G. Lane in 1912. The later annex was added in 1956. Some of the prominent long-time families of the church are the E. F. Currier family through three generations, the notable George Currie family, the McClintock family, the McGuire family. Prominent and long-time ministers who have served the church and who took an active part in the affairs of Grand Junction while they lived and worked here were George F. Walker, M. W. Fashag, J. P. M. Martin, H. H. Beach, W. T. Davis, E. G. Lane, Franklin Fenner, O. T. Day, and E. H.

## The Methodist Church

In 1883 the First Methodist Church of Grand Junction was organized in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Price, with the Rev. R. H. McDade of Salida presiding. The organizing committee was composed of Mr. and Mrs. Price, Mrs. R. D. Mobley, Mrs. J. A. Layton, J. W. Bucklin and Miss Viola Anderson. There had previously been a tentative organization of Methodists by home missionaries from the M.E. Church South and these were willing to be merged into one organization. The early day roster shows well known names such as Governor Crawford, H. T. DeLong, J. J. Lumsden, C. B. Rich, William Marsh and all their families. Later there were the families of A. M. Schmidt, A. E. Borschell, L. W. Aupperle, Henry Tupper, C. A. Latimer, R. A. Ross, M. O. Delaplaine, J. H. Ramey, M. M. Shores, Dr. Carl Plumb, G. W. Stong, C. F. Grant, Milo Sharp, O. D. Williams, C. M. Jaquette, and of course no one would ever forget Marian Hinds, Lenore Watkins, Olive Crosby and Helen Dewey.

Long-remembered ministers who served the church and had a part in the development of the community were the Reverends Eugene H. Smith, D. D. Forsyth, Charles O. Thibedeau, R. A. Forrester, Samuel Marble, Warren Bainbridge, and A. P. Gaines.

The finest church experience the writer ever enjoyed was during the pastoral service of Dr. Willard Tobie of the M.E. Church. The minister of the Presbyterian Church was Dr. Herbert Hazlep. The Presbyterian Church had a fire in 1916 and Dr. Tobie was not very well so the two congregations teamed up and the ministers cooperated in taking care of the ministerial duties to the membership of the two large congregations. Both men were first-rate pulpiteers and enjoyed the respect of the total membership and of the community. The M.E. Church was filled morning and evening and never had anyone seen a finer spirit than was shown by the people in this fine example of Christian fellowship. The work of the combined choirs was superior to anything we have seen in Grand Junction before or since and a host of people still remember with delight the wholesome association that prevailed.

The first little church on the corner of Fifth and White, now torn down, was built in 1890; the large addition for Sunday School on Fifth at the alley in 1903; the sanctuary on White in 1927; and the new educational unit was completed in 1952; all making the largest and most complete plant in the city. Rev.

George E. Berry is minister at this time.

### **Saint Joseph Parish**

The presence of Catholicism in the Grand Valley was not unknown one hundred years before the founding of Grand Junction. An exploratory expedition headed by America's earliest missionaries, brown-robed Franciscans, trudged over these frontier stretches in search of a trail to the Spanish Missions of California.

On August 7, 1776, Friar Escalante and his companion Dominguez reached the Gunnison River and crossed the Grand (now known as the Colorado River) at their junction. They journeyed north over the Bookcliff Mountains into the White River Country.

The first settlers were tended by missionary priests from earlier established frontier centers such as Denver, Georgetown, Leadville, Aspen, and Ouray.

In 1884 Father R. T. Servant came as the first resident pastor of St. Joseph Parish. At his advent the parish included Mesa, Delta and Montrose Counties and part of Garfield County. There was no other Catholic Church west to Salt Lake City, north to Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The cornerstone of the old Catholic Church bore the date 1884. The bell which is now in use in the present church was installed in 1886.

On November 30, 1887, the Reverend James McGrevey assumed charge of St. Joseph Parish and during his tenure a rectory was built.

The Reverend T. M. Conway came on February 1, 1898. It was at this time that a new influx of settlers began coming into the valley. It was during the first few years of his pastorate that Father Conway initiated plans for the erection of a new church; in 1906 work was begun and completed in the following years.

A Catholic cemetery was bought, platted and fenced during the same years. In 1909-10 a new brick home for the resident pastor was erected. In 1913-15 a school was built which opened in the fall of 1916. In June, 1922, Father Conway requested of the Bishop to have an administrator appointed to assist him with the growing burdens of the enlarged parish. In 1923 Father Conway retired after serving as pastor of St. Joseph Parish for twenty-five years. He died in 1924.

Father Nicholas Bertrand was appointed pastor in 1923. The present church was enlarged to its present size, remodeled and the seating capacity doubled. In the fall of 1945, after serving tirelessly as shepherd and guide for twenty-three years, beloved and endeared by all who knew him, Father Bertrand



passed to his eternal reward.

In 1946, the Reverend Francis P. Cawley succeeded to the pastorate of St. Joseph Parish. During his incumbency of twelve years Monsignor Cawley guided the parish through the years of sudden growth, brought on by discovery of uranium in the Colorado Plateau. In 1955 a second Catholic Church was organized in the city of Grand Junction, the Reverend Emil Eckert being appointed pastor to the newly created parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary. In 1956 the Right Reverend Francis Cawley requested of the Bishop a transfer to Durango, where he had served as pastor before coming to Grand Junction.

The Very Reverend Bernard Gillick is the successor of Monsignor Cawley and present pastor of St. Joseph Parish. Plans are made for the remodeling of the present church and of the priest's home.

### **St. Joseph School**

In 1912 four lots were purchased on the corner of Third and Grand Avenue. During the winter months of the following year the foundation was dug. The members of the parish and farmers who owned horses donated their service. The school was completed and ready for occupancy in September, 1916. The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas were given charge of the school. In 1950 the original two story structure was completely remodeled, and is now a modern and well equipped elementary school. Modern classrooms were built around the original stone building and the old building was converted into a large gymnasium; altogether a complete and well administered school system. Many well known and well remembered pioneer were of the Catholic faith.

St. Mary's Hospital was organized in 1895 and the first small hospital was ready for patients on May 22, 1896. Like the parochial school, the hospital is managed by the Sisters of Charity. The brick hospital on Colorado Avenue was built in 1912 and this was increased in size and served the community until 1951 when the present St. Mary's was ready for service. The training school for nurses was established in 1912. Plans are now made for an addition to greatly increase the size and service of St. Mary's. It was in 1896 that the people of Grand Junction began giving money for the construction of St. Mary's Hospital and it continues for an ever greater institution to care for the sick.

### **The Presbyterian Church**

The Presbyterian Church was organized January 20, 1883, by Rev. T. S. Day, a visiting Home Missionary. The roll started with thirteen members. They met for several years in home circles and occasionally in the McCune Hall.

Not until 1890 were they able to build a small frame church on the corner of White and Sixth Streets, on lots given by the Townsite Company. The first regular minister was Rev. F. M. Collier and his Board of Elders was composed of William Carlyle, J. T. Sharp, and Charles Thompson. The first church was destroyed by fire February 13, 1900. A new and enlarged frame building with a sanctuary and Sunday School rooms was built in the summer and was ready for the congregation in the fall. This large frame church with kitchen, social hall, Sunday School rooms and an adjoining bungalow for the primary work served until the present building was built—cornerstone laying December 23, 1923, dedication January 22, 1928.

Members who have been active in the affairs of Grand Junction down through the decades were the families of William Carlyle, A. C. Newton, Z. B. McClure, J. H. Rankin, I. N. Bunting, M. N. Due, Judge N. C. Miller, the Milne families, S. G. McMullin, S. N. Wheeler, J. W. Swire, the Hoisington families, the J. S. Shaw family, C. J. McCormick, Dr. H. R. Bull, J. V. A. Lay, R. C. Henderson family, the Cheedle families, John E. Lowe, J. F. Cox. Anyone acquainted with the early history of Grand Junction has to mention William Carlyle, who more than any other man directed the affairs of the Presbyterian Church from its early beginning to his death. Mr. Carlyle was a Scotsman who came to Grand Junction by way of Canada. He was a forceful and competent leader. He gave most of his time to the affairs of the church and Sunday School and to the bodies of the Masonic Lodge. He was so favorably known that most of the people of the town spoke of him as Brother Carlyle. When his funeral was held in the Presbyterian Church December 3, 1908, the whole area about the place was crowded with people and every kind of conveyance associated with that time. Another great loss to the church and to Grand Junction that year was the death of Dr. F. H. Wells who passed to his reward November 5, 1908.

Ministers who served the church and at the same time had much influence in the affairs of Grand Junction were the Reverends:

Dr. J. E. Weir

Dr. William A. Mast

Dr. D. Luther Edwards

Dr. George F. McDougall

Dr. Herbert Hezlep

Only the latter survives and he and Mrs. McDougall are retired from the presidency of Huron College and are living in Denver. The church is planning an addition to the present property under the leadership of Henry G. Korver.

In recent years members of the Presbyterian faith who held very responsible places in the affairs of the city have been Mr. and Mrs. M. N. Due, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Blaine, Mr. and Mrs. Rex Rankin, Mr. and Mrs. Tim

Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Lane, the F. C. Martin families, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. McMullin, Mrs. and Mr. Coe Van Deren, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Severson, V. C. Garms, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Linton, Mrs. and Mr. R. G. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Warren, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sullivan.

### **The Christian Church**

On April 14, 1884, the Christian Church was organized at a meeting presided over by Evangelist J. F. Sherrard. Nine charter member were present: Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Orr, Tillie Wolf, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Blakeslee, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Fairley. They accepted the present location on Eighth and White from the Town Company and this has been the church home for nearly seventy-five years. The dedication ceremony was held April 13, 1902. Good citizens of the Grand Valley who have maintained this church through the years and who have been prominent in the affairs of Grand Junction are the Nesbit, B. E. Brown, Ponsford, Long, Hibbs, McKibben, Gigax, and Giffen families. There was also the Rhone family (Mr. Rhone came to Grand Junction in 1882), Mrs. Laura Chapman who came in 1893, and the Price family. Miss Agnes Gigax was their director of music for many years.

In recent years many well known citizens have been members of this church: Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Manuel, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Howell, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hindman, Mr. and Mrs. George Shull, and Mr. and Mrs. A. C. McInturf.

Ministers who have served the congregation for long periods were the Reverends Joseph T. Moses, George P. Ross, Dean A. M. Haggard of Drake University, J. J. Hutchison. At present the church is planning a new sanctuary on acreage held on North First Street, under the leadership of Rev. Roy Leeds.

### **The Congregational Church**

The Congregational Church was organized January 17, 1890. Fourteen men and women signified their desire to become charter members: Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Glessner, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Webster, Mrs. Lula Nelson, Mrs. Nettie M. McCary, Mrs. Fannie W. Wright, Mrs. Lucia H. Hale, H. L. Gaylord, W. H. Saxon, Joseph Gilliam, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Olds, J. M. VanHorn, and Mrs. Grace Cameron. W. E. Pabor, founder of Fruita, acted as secretary of the organization. The first accessions to the little church group were: Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Mann, Dr. and Mrs. H. R. Bull, Eunice Gaylord, Moses T. Hale, G. M. Wright. The first minister was the Rev. Samuel F. Dickenson, who served until his death in 1897.

The first church home was a tabernacle or gospel tent donated by the missionary society of the Hyde Park Congregational Church of Boston. The first organ was loaned to the church by Mrs. W. T. Carpenter, who had a music conservatory at the time. The congregation purchased the little brick church on Rood Avenue from the M.E. Church and occupied it in June, 1890. Services were held there until the church at Sixth and White Avenue was built and the records show that a congregation of 736 people attended the dedication October 23, 1904. This building was the largest auditorium in Grand Junction for many years and was often used for large community gatherings, lyceum courses and banquets. The first pipe organ in the Grand Valley was in this church and that filled a great need in the pioneer days.

Many families of the Congregational faith have been influential in building Grand Junction down through seventy-five years: W. F. Manning, George W. Sievert, Mrs. Emma Wadsworth, Richard Meserve, James A. Walker, Judge C. F. Caswell, W. E. Dudley, Edgar Rider, W. H. Lee, N. A. Glasco, A. B. Campbell, Mrs. Emma Budelier, Beman C. Fox, J. L. Britton, O. E. Daniels, Robert Best, Daisy Kirk, Virginia Eddy, and HESSIE HENDERSON ROBERTS, whose father was W. J. S. Henderson, early day pioneer. Her mother was a notable news correspondent to the *Sentinel* for many years. Ministers who impressed the congregation and were influential in the community were James A. Becker, George A. Munro, Paul W. Jones, Edwin F. Wright, John H. Blough.

The Rev. John D. Leach, Chaplain in the U. S. Army, aided the church at many intervals when there was no regular minister.

In 1953 the church, under the leadership of William W. Meyer, sold the old church and built a fine sanctuary at Fifth and Kennedy.

### **Church Membership a Variable**

Churches reap a harvest not of their own choosing or labors. Membership is far more fashionable than faithful. The acceptance of popularity lulls affiliates into a sense of simple security. Salvation deals with the ultimate, but life is always running over with ordinary things close at hand, absorbed with everyday problems. Doctrines and experience just don't harmonize or amalgamate very well.

All the churches had fluctuating rolls of membership in pioneer days. There would be many names on the roll, then the livestock men and the fruit growers would get their new homes built on their land or find opportunities elsewhere and move, and even if they located in Fruita, Clifton and Palisade areas, these places were afar off in the horse and buggy days and there were churches to support there too.

## **Seventh Day Adventist Church**

The Seventh Day Adventist Church is a parallel of Grand Junction. It was organized before the turn of the century. One of the original organizers, Mr. Olaf Nelson, is still living in the valley at the time of our seventy-fifth anniversary. The first church building is standing at the corner of Eighth Street and Colorado Avenue. Early-day workers of the denomination were Elders J. M. Rees, J. J. Allen, F. A. Lashier, William Andres. Miss Helen Lude and Charles Robbins gave their lives in the mission field for the cause they loved. Other local members who are in foreign mission service are Rodney and Helen Davidson, Grace Duffield and Dr. Carrie Anderson Robbins. Elder W. F. Kennedy guided the church through the years of World War I and into the years of rehabilitation, and men well-known in the valley—J. W. Turner, B. H. Shaw, and H. E. Lysinger—were loyal helpers. In the continued expansion and growth with Elder C. S. Wiest, money was raised for a fine new building on North Eighth Street costing the congregation \$100,000, in addition to a great volume of work performed by members of the church. It was dedicated to the educational, social, and worship program of the church in 1949.

In addition to the religious program, the Adventist Church does a vast amount of charitable work all over the world. The church manages a day school that follows through the tenth grade. The present enrollment is near the one hundred mark and there are five full-time qualified and devoted teachers in charge of the work of this parochial school. For the glory of the Lord and a broadened program, the congregation is planning and dreaming of the future when they will complete an addition to the present plant costing considerably more than \$100,000, to give more space for school and worship without so much duplication of space and change of furniture. Present day workers led by Elder Dwight S. Wallach are Dale Luke, Pete Borris, John Watson, Roy Schumann, Karl Dallmus, Ples Watson, G. J. McDonald, Joe Perkins, James Borland, George Tilton, Clifford Starkebaum. The Adventist Church has many very fine hospitals over the nation and the local church gives assistance to these in professional material ways.

## **The Episcopal Church**

The Episcopal Church was organized by the Rev. O. E. Ostenson in 1890. It was made the Missionary District of Western Colorado. The first church was built on the corner of Fourth and White Avenue, and dedicated on April 17, 1892, which was Easter Sunday. The parish celebrated the fiftieth anniversary on April 17, 1942.

Many prominent citizens of the community were members of the church through the sixty-five years of its history: Dr. and Mrs. A. P. Drew, Dr. and Mrs. R. R. Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. William Buthorn, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Cherrington, Mr. and Mrs. Von Northrup, Mr. and Mrs. John Burroughs, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde H. Biggs, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Helman, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hume.

Many rectors served the Episcopal Church which began as a Mission. It became a self-supporting parish under the charge of Rev. Charles William Lyon, who served the parish from 1900 to 1908. He was an uncle of Mrs. Harvey Webster, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Von Northrup, early day pioneers. In 1946 they sold the property at the corner of White and Fourth Street and made preparations to build on the new location on North Avenue, the first unit of which was completed in 1949. Since then the church property has been enlarged until with the new addition in 1956, it is one of the finest in the city at this time.

Among the many clergymen who have served the church and had a strong influence in the community are the Reverends Philip A. Easley, Joseph Barnett, McMurdo Brown, Eric Smith, Leon C. King, Rev. Paul Habliston, who has been rector since the building program has been in progress, came in 1951.

Bishops who have had much influence on the program of the church in Grand Junction and who were well known to Grand Junction citizens and gave much time to addressing many organizations in the city on their visits from Denver were the inimitable Bishop Irving P. Johnson and the matchless Bishop Fred J. Ingley. They were favorite speakers and frequently their coming meant a joint meeting of the two big service clubs, Rotary and Lions, with many added guests for the treat in store.

### **The Spirit and Service of the Salvation Army**

In peace time, during two World Wars and much catastrophe, thousands of people have seen the Salvation Army in action, taking its good work for granted, supporting it, trusting it—an international organization operating places of worship and social rehabilitation centers in eighty-five countries.

The 26,626 officers are specially trained men and women who have further applied five years of religious sociology in action before qualifying as fully commissioned officers.

The description of the Salvation Army is found in the charter issued in New York State in 1899. Here the Salvation Army is defined as an organiza-

tion "Designed to operate as a religious and charitable corporation with the following purposes:

The spiritual, moral and physical reformation of all who need it.

The reclamation of the vicious, criminal, dissolute and degraded.

Visitation among the poor and lowly and sick.

The preaching of the Gospel and the dissemination of Christian truth by means of open-air and indoor meetings."

The original and still paramount purpose of the Salvation Army is to lead men and women into a proper understanding of their relationship with God. William Booth, however, was a realist. He recognized that help towards physical regeneration must go hand in hand with spiritual rebirth.

He, therefore, instituted a welfare program that was and is today a manifestation and practical application of the dominating spiritual motive of the Salvation Army. Aid is given wherever and whenever the need is apparent without distinction as to race or creed, and without demand for adherence, simulated or real, to the principles of the Army.

The Salvation Army faithfully follows the word of Christ: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

The Salvation Army has dedicated its heart to God, and every officer has covenanted to extend a helping hand to man...to "care for the poor, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, love the unlovable and be friend to those who have no friends."

Very early in the history of Grand Junction, the Salvation Army presented itself to the citizens of the new community for service. The institution was given a welcome and a promise of support. A Citizens' Committee was appointed to work with the officials and assist in every way possible. The local Board of Directors is a self-perpetuating body and an annual budget is planned from year to year to aid the Army in its work. Down through the years the Board has cooperated in maintaining a splendid example of functionalism. One of the special services of the many people who support the work of the Salvation Army in Grand Junction was the raising of sufficient money to purchase the "Home of the Army" at 623 Colorado Avenue, so there would be adequate facilities for carrying on the work.

The writer requested Lt. Ray Schweizer, who is in charge of the work here, to prepare the above article, so something very appropriate could be added to this disquisition on Religious Influences that have had an important bearing on the life of Grand Junction. He did this beautifully and we hope that all who read this history can give assent and sanction to such a mode of looking at religion.

## Reading

And finally, let's read! Francis Bacon wrote "Reading maketh a full man." So did Ben Franklin. Cicero put it clearly, "Through the night watches, on all our journeyings and in our hours of ease, reading is our unfailing companion." It would be pathetic to snuff out reading. Once the trolley car and the bicycle were thought to be frivolous substitutes for reading. Book publishers in New York City in 1894 groaned that the people would prefer bouncing down to Coney Island, rather than curling up on a easy chair with a good book. Later the scares continued when people contemplated the effect of automobiles, the movies, the radios, and feared that these might sound the death knell of literary interest. Now the bugaboo is TV. But make no mistake! Beware lest you fall by the wayside! Nothing, absolutely nothing, will ever take the place of, or give the infinite satisfaction of a really good book. Reading is the most economical, easiest, safest, and most rewarding way to spend your time, aside from your daily occupation. Anthony Trollope was always repeating in his lectures, "Reading useful books is the only enjoyment in which there is no alloy; it lasts when all other pleasures fade." Probably your first and most important reading is your abstract for your property. Have you read it? How did your property come to be private property? Who have owned it? What transfers have taken place in its ownership? What liens and mortgages and leases and tax sales have been on file against it? Have all of them been released? Anything unusual about the ownership down through seventy-five years? Your abstract tells the story. Read it. It is good Grand Junction history.



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