

JOURNAL OF THE WESTERN SLOPE

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**Panther Pride:
Delta's 1960 State Championship in Football**

The Day Buffalo Bill Came to Town

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***JOURNAL
OF THE
WESTERN SLOPE***

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THE COVER: G. Roger Hutchinson graduated from Gunnison High School and attended Western State College. Presently, he teaches visual arts at Delta High School. Over the years at Delta High, Hutchinson has coached a variety of sports. This cover drawing is the second cover he has done for *Journal of the Western Slope*.

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Contents

**Panther Pride: Delta's 1960 State Championship
in Football. 1**

by Charles Casey Carlquist

The Day Buffalo Bill Came to Town 25

by William L. Tennent

Book Reviews 38

Steven C. Schulte. *Wayne Aspinall and the Shaping of the
American West*

Virginia McConnell. *The Ute Indians of Utah, Colorado and
New Mexico*

Abbott Fay. *The Story of Colorado Wines*

Panther Pride: Delta's 1960 State Championship in Football

By Charles Casey Carlquist*

1960 was a year to remember. The Olympics were taking place, Eisenhower was president, and Mike Ditka was playing well enough, for his Pittsburgh team, to put him in the running for the Hiesman Trophy.¹ Delta, Colorado was no different than the rest of the country. Life in Delta was often routine, but this changed in early August 1960 when the Delta High School football team accomplished something exciting. A group of dedicated coaches and determined athletes won the first state championship in school history. Several different things had fallen into place, which allowed this team to win a state championship. Winning the 1960 AA State championship electrified the team, the school, and the community.

Located in the heart of Colorado's Western Slope, Delta is a small city thirty-nine miles south of Grand Junction and twenty miles north of Montrose. It lies at the junction of two great rivers, the Gunnison and the Uncompahgre. To the east of Delta lie the smaller towns of Hotchkiss, Paonia, and Crawford, and to the west, the Uncompahgre Plateau. Forty-five minutes northeast of Delta is Grand Mesa, which offers skiing, fishing, hunting, and other recreational activities. The railroad that cuts

*Charles Casey Carlquist attended Delta High School where he competed in football, wrestling, and baseball. He graduated in 1994, and then attended Western State where he played football for the Mountaineers. Carlquist then moved back to Delta where he was hired on as an assistant football coach to Bruce Keith. He now coaches for Olathe High School and attends Mesa State College.

through the north end of Delta provides access to the coal mines to the east.

In 1960, thousands of acres of farmland surrounded Delta. Agriculture provided the majority of Delta's income. People there enjoyed the recreational opportunities the area offered, such as hunting and fishing.² When people chose not to spend their leisure time outdoors, they often attended the newly reopened Egyptian Theater. On September 10, 1960 the Egyptian theater celebrated its reopening with the movie *Why Must I Die?* As exciting as this was for the community, there was an added surprise. The leading lady of the picture, Miss Juli Reding, appeared as a guest speaker for the big night.³ The reopening created a new type of leisure activity for these people, but during the 1960 football season, the most popular place to be was the Friday football game.

Delta High School was located at 822 Grand Avenue, in a facility constructed in 1920. It consisted of two complete stories with a basement and an attic. When first established, the school offered a share of "college prep" courses, such as science, agriculture, and industrial arts. The school later added a science wing and "vo-ag" building in 1956. In 1960 came what is now the south wing, which is located south of the main building.⁴ For many years the main building was split in half with the junior high in the south half of the building and the high school located in the north end. In 1960 the attic was used for arts and crafts classes.⁵ To the north east of the school is Cleland Park, a popular gathering place for families. Panther stadium, where the football games were held, sat directly east of the main building.

Prior to the 1960 season, it was difficult to be a football coach or player in Delta. The city had not fielded a decent football team in recent memory and townspeople tended to treat football participants in a less-than-polite manner. According to local folklore, the coaching staff began to go to other towns to get haircuts in order to avoid the conversations in the local barbershops. However, the attitude in the community changed completely when the team began to win a few games. The main

reason for this turnaround was the new head coach of the Panthers, Donald Stimack.⁶

Donald J. Stimack came to Delta in 1958, and became the head coach at the high school. He came from Manzanola, a small town in eastern Colorado. A friend who had applied at Delta and Montrose informed him of the job opening, and he applied at Delta because he wanted to coach at a larger school. He won the Delta job, and his friend made a move to Montrose, Colorado. Although Delta was a larger school than Manzanola, it was the smallest school in a league that consisted of Montrose, Fruita, Grand Junction Central, Cortez, Durango, and Gunnison.

Coach Stimack believed in "Hard nosed football, and believed that motivation was the key to molding successful players."⁷ He was also a true believer in the 4-3 defenses, consisting of four defensive linemen and three linebackers, a defense built for small and quick players, which is what Stimack felt he had in Delta. On offense he liked the Wing-T, which was used to misdirect the opposing defense by using different types of counter plays. He also included a belly series, which is the original option offense and predates the wishbone and veer offenses. During Stimack's stay in Delta, he not only created a successful football program, he also changed the attitudes of the community and school. Stimack was one of the premier coaches in the state: he was a student of the game who intensely scouted his opponents; and found those at Delta High School with the best athletic ability, recruited them into his program, and then taught each of them to give their best. He was an expert at planning and carrying out a week's plan.⁸

Stimack left Delta to become the freshman coach at the University of Colorado, where he worked under Sonny Grandelius. After CU, he went to Western State College to earn his master's degree. While in Gunnison, he worked in the football program as an assistant coach. After earning his master's degree, Stimack went to Cañon City, Colorado High School where he coached and developed a successful football program. He ended his career as the principal of Cañon City High School. Wherever

he went, including Delta, Mr. Stimack made friends and gained a great amount of respect.

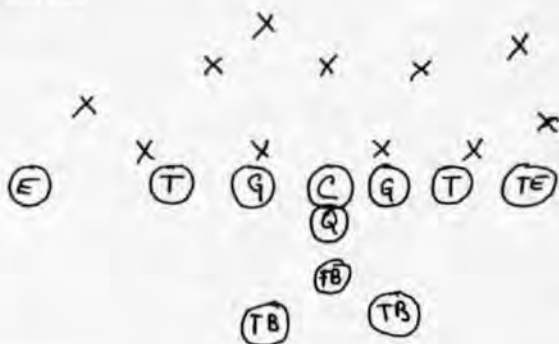
One key to molding good teams is to have a strong coaching staff. A characteristic of a strong staff is that its members have experience in the sport at a higher level. For high school coaches, this means that they should have played or coached at the college level.⁹ Don Stimack did well, in part, because the Delta County School District had assembled a strong team of coaches. This staff came together in the fall of 1958. Although these men were strangers at first, they went on to develop strong friendships. Bob McGarvin, Ed Tooker, and Moe Keutz made up a strong assistant coaching staff for Mr. Stimack.

Moe Kreutz joined this staff late. Having been a head coach in a number of other schools and having even coached against Stimack, Kreutz brought considerable experience to the staff. Because Mr. Kreutz and Stimack were closer in age to each other than the rest of the staff, the two developed a close relationship, and shared similar philosophies.¹⁰ Bob McGarvin brought practical experience to the staff. He had been a stand-out football player at Western State College. There he played the end position for the Mountaineers. At Delta he coached ends and linebackers. Coaches, players, and students all respected him. McGarvin brought the ability to demonstrate skills and new techniques at his position. He continued to coach in Delta until 1967,¹¹ then finished his career as the principal at Delta's Garnet Mesa Elementary School.

Ed Tooker was also a young man beginning his coaching and teaching career. He brought the same type of experience that McGarvin did. He had been an all-state player, and then went to the University of Northern Colorado. Tooker was a stand-out lineman at both levels, and joined the Delta staff as the line coach for the Panthers. In addition he coached the Panther wrestling team. Tooker, after Stimack left Delta, became the head coach of the Delta high football team. Following his stint in Delta, he moved to Grand Junction and became the wrestling coach at Mesa College.

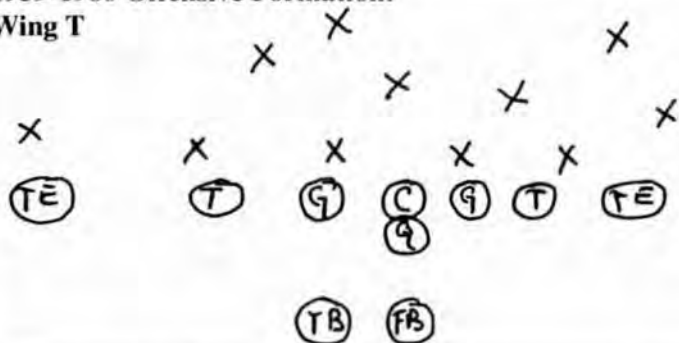
Even though Delta's football team began to win games during the new staff's first year, the 1958 team did not meet community expectations. After a few losses during that first season, the staff changed its philosophy. A simplified playbook concentrated on just four offensive plays. The staff reasoned that the team would be more successful if it could run these few plays to perfection, instead of running many plays at an average level. The four plays were: dive, off-tackle, sweep, and option. The dive play is used as an inside running play where the pack runs the ball inside of the tackles. The off-tackle is also a running play where the offense tries to run the ball at the width of tackles. The sweep runs the ball beyond the confines of the interior line. The option is a running play that gives the offense up to three opportunities for a running attack. In the option, the quarterback is given the option of handing off as a dive play, pitching the ball for a type of sweep, or running the ball himself. This creates confusion for the defense. The team practiced these plays over and over until each lineman knew who to block and the backs knew which hole to hit. Mastering the plays led to success; the Panthers won a couple of games, and this ignited the interest of other students and the community.

**1959-1960 Offensive Formation:
Wishbone**



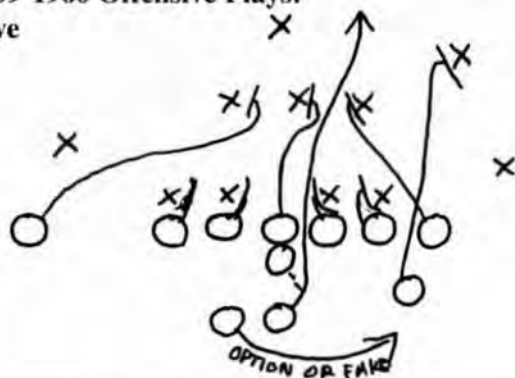
1959-1960 Offensive Formation:

Wing T

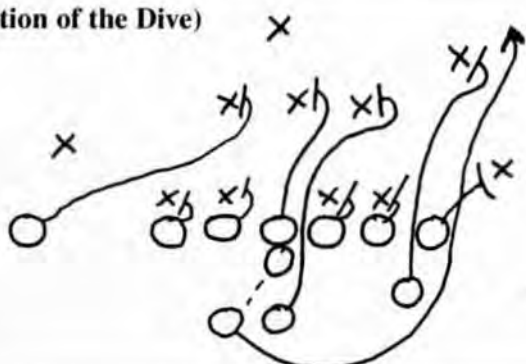


1959-1960 Offensive Plays:

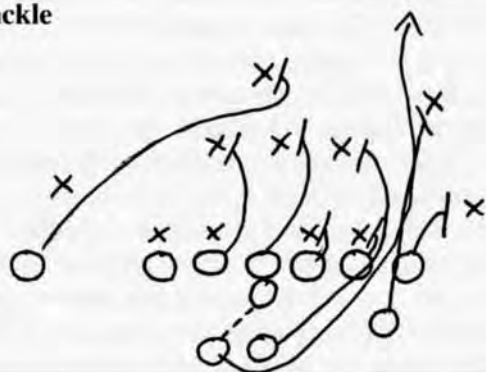
Dive



(Option of the Dive)



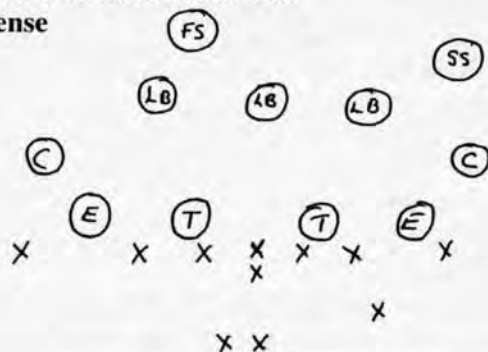
Off-Tackle



Sweep



1959-1960 Defensive Formation 4-3 Defense



The following year, the staff saw more boys interested in playing football. It also brought a better attitude and work ethic to the field. In 1959 the team had a great deal of talent, maybe even more than the 1960 state championship team.¹² As a staff, these men brought a new and impressive atmosphere to the football field. These ingredients made the 1960 team a state championship team.

Stimack demanded hard work and dedication from the players and the coaching staff. Stimack required that his staff work harder than its opponents. He stressed scouting in order to give his team an exact idea of what the opponents did. Stimack always sent his teams to the fields knowing the opponent's weaknesses and strengths, and the tendencies of their offenses and defenses. He and his staff spent many hours traveling to other towns in order to watch future opponents. Stimack motivated his players to be efficient and to play to the full extent of their abilities. Stimack's philosophy of hard work and motivation ran into his practices, which made them a true ingredient to this team's success.¹³

Prior to each practice, the coaching staff would meet to plan that day's practice. Each practice was set to a timed schedule in which each drill would last only a few minutes. This was done in order to make sure that each and every area was covered in preparation for that week's game. Before starting practice, the coaches would review the scouting report with the team. During the practices, each group, such as backs or linemen, would run its drills according to the scouting report. During the first few weeks of practice, prior to the beginning of the games, the practices consisted of drills that were designed to teach the players the correct technique for their positions. During the season the practices were designed to prepare the team for the next opponent according to the scouting reports the staff had created. Although the practices were intended to prepare the team for the upcoming game, the team had to be made up of a good nucleus of boys, and this team had "great kids."¹⁴

In the fall of 1960 the Delta Panthers had a good number of athletes, forty-five young men, willing to participate in hard

two-a-day workouts. Among these forty-five players were ten seniors, seventeen juniors, sixteen sophomores, and two freshmen. Despite the fact that this team had graduated the five top offensive backs from the previous year, the *Delta County Independent* noted they returned "Five of [the] starting linemen who helped guide Delta to a 9-1 record in 1959.... They included end Jim Parks and center Axel Hasto, both second team all-state selections the year before, tackles Jerry Schendel and Gerald Gilder and guard Wilbur Fix."¹⁵ With a strong offensive line, Delta expected success.

Some in the community doubted this team's potential. These were farm boys who were not fast and lacked size. The line had decent size with the largest players weighing in between 180 and 215 pounds.¹⁶ The fact that the team had graduated its primary backs had diluted the team's speed of the previous year. The backs in 1960 were slower, but a little more hard-nosed. Another asset these athletes brought to the team was maturity. They were boys who were familiar with hard work and discipline. The majority of them came from farm backgrounds, and others had worked in mines and in the construction business. More maturity came from varsity experience gained during the previous year as juniors and sophomores.¹⁷ The ball players on this team tended to be well-behaved people who knew how to work and to respect society's rules. When other teenagers were out getting into trouble, these boys were spending their time on the field or at work away from the temptations that would have caused problems for the team. They concentrated on the task at hand, and accomplished the weekly goals set for them by the coaching staff.¹⁸

The 1960 football season started, not in the Panther's back yard, but in the neighboring state of Utah. Price, Utah was the first opponent for the Delta team. Due to the previous year's successful 9-1 season, the team traveled in style in a charter bus. The Panthers faced a good team with a starting lineup that consisted of all seniors who played hard-nosed football.¹⁹ The Panthers put thirteen points on the board before the Dinosaurs

could score. The Panthers followed Price's fourth quarter touchdown with one of their own, making the final score 20-6. Delta's scoring came by way of three touchdowns on the ground and two in the air.²⁰ This win marked victory number fourteen for Stimack in twenty-one attempts since his arrival in Delta.

In the second game Delta thrashed the Gunnison Cowboys. Due to the rainy weather the playing field was a mess. With a 13-0 lead at half, Delta recovered its own kickoff to begin the third period. It took the Panthers only ten plays to put their next score on the board. The Panther's last score came on a thirty-five-yard pass to the end Jim Parks. Delta ended the game with a 25-0 win over the Cowboys. Statistics indicated that the Panthers dominated their opponents. They put up nineteen first downs, compared to Gunnison's four. They also had 387 yards of total offense, while the Cowboys only had sixty-seven.²¹ The Panthers played well enough to win, but there was room for improvement; they had fumbled the ball four times.

Delta's third game was their second in history against Moab, Utah. Delta won the first meeting by a score of 28-0. The Panthers took their two-game winning streak into Utah, and returned home victorious with the score of 33-6. The Panthers led Moab in all the major statistics. The defense did well, holding their opponents to a mere six points.²² After the Moab game came a monumental challenge at the hands of Montrose, the only team that had beaten the Panthers the previous year.

Delta's players and coaches believed they could gain another win against the Indians. Coming into this big game the Panthers had outscored their opponents 78-12, compared to Montrose's spread of 53-46. Also, the Montrose Indians were coming to Delta's home field to play. The Indians were a little beat up; their starting running back nursing a broken hand. However, the Indians possessed a gargantuan front line, which averaged seven pounds more per man than the Panther's front line. The game was something of a defensive struggle. The Panther's defense held Montrose scoreless, and the Indians allowed Delta to score only sixteen points, well off the mark of

their last two games. Although the Panthers did not show the potent offense that their fans were used to seeing, they did throw a touchdown pass. Delta also put another tally on the board with a short run by Eddie Ball. The final score of the game came on a fifteen-yard fieldgoal, the first of the season. Delta's defense again dominated, holding the opposing offense to only 109 yards.²³ With this win, the Panthers headed into league play with four straight victories.

In their opening league game, the Panthers were scheduled to take on Central High School located in Grand Junction, Colorado. Unlike the previous game, the Delta squad was not at full strength. They had a couple of athletes who had missed some school during the week due to illness and were not expected to play full time. Once again though the Panthers held the advantage because their offensive line had more experience and size. The Central Warriors were expected to start sophomores at four of five positions due to injuries during the week.²⁴ In this game Eddie Ball ran the ball exceptionally well, and Delta went on to win their fifth game in a row and their first league game. The *Delta County Independent* reported that, "Fullback Eddie Ball scored three touchdowns in leading the Delta Panthers."²⁵ Delta won with relative ease, beating the Central Warriors 35-13.

Delta's second league game was slated against the Fruita Wildcats, who had chosen to make this contest their homecoming game. For the second straight week Eddie Ball ran hard for the Panthers, racking up almost two hundred yards rushing. The Delta defense played a great game, keeping the Wildcats out of the endzone. Delta earned a 16-0 win, and the Wildcats suffered their third straight shutout of the season.²⁶

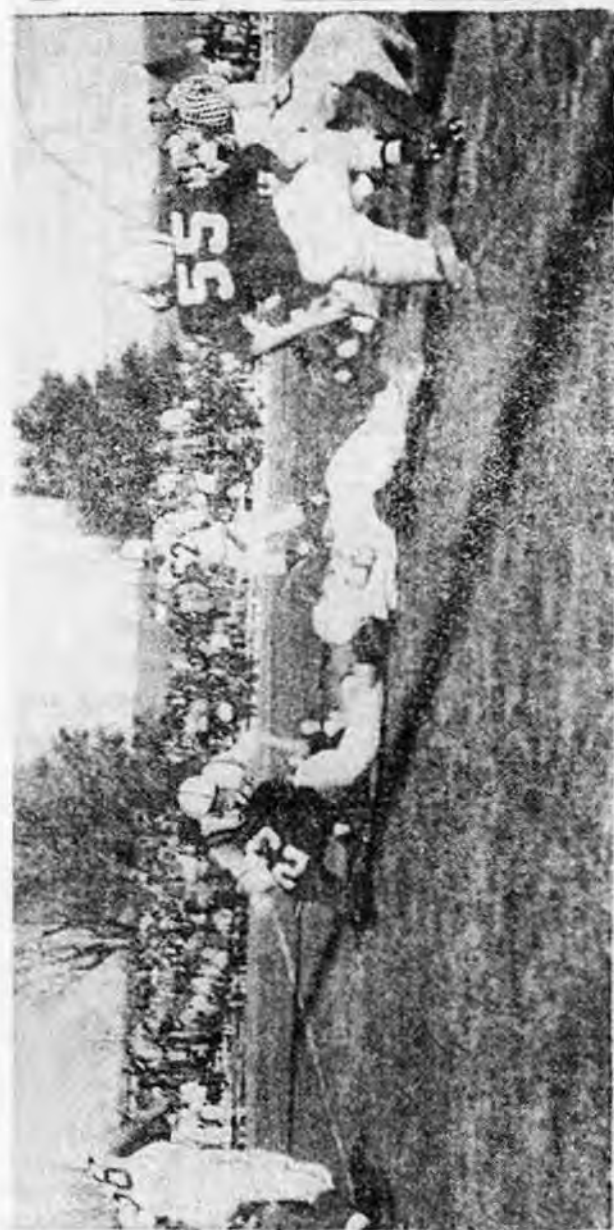
Delta continued its season with a non-league game against cross-county rival Paonia. Due to a teacher's convention held in Paonia on Friday, the game was moved to Wednesday. Paonia was powered by the outstanding running ability of Dan Cholas, who later became a teacher, coach, and administrator in Delta. The Paonia Eagles proved to be Delta's toughest opponent to date; Delta squeaked out a narrow 20-14 win.²⁷ After this, the

Panthers jumped back into their league games by taking on a team with the same mascot, the Cortez Panthers.

Both sets of Panthers took unbeaten records into the game. Delta traveled to Cortez to attempt to ruin another homecoming.²⁸ Entering the second quarter trailing by a 7-6 score, the Delta Panthers scored a touchdown just before half, and took the lead, then dominated the second half. The Delta ball club gained a total of 284 yards rushing and seventy-four in the air, and defeated Cortez 25-7.²⁹ With this win, the Delta squad was headed into its homecoming game with an 8-0 record, and was tied with Durango their next opponent, for the top spot in the league.

The Panthers had not won a homecoming game in three years, and hoped to get that monkey off their back with a win over the Durango Demons. The Demons had spoiled the 1958 homecoming game for Delta High School. On the field, the Panthers were large up front, and this factor had helped them win their first eight games.³⁰ A big special teams play by Delta in the first part of the third quarter was the game breaker. The *Delta County Independent* reported: "Big Jerry Schendel rushed in to block a Durango punt.... And Axel Hasto recovered the ball in the end zone for a touchdown to break a 7-7 tie. The Panthers went on to win a 28-13 homecoming victory."³¹ Not only did this victory bring the first homecoming victory to Delta in many years, it also gave them the sole lead of the league.

A second win over the Montrose Indians, the next week's game, would clinch the Panthers first AA league title. The game would be held on the home field of the Indians, and this would be the third time in as many years that these teams met on the final week of the schedule to determine a berth in the playoffs. This game proved difficult.³² Both teams put two touchdowns on the board, Delta scoring twice by air, and Montrose twice on the ground. The only difference in scoring came from the extra point conversions. Roger Gastineau put both of his extra point attempts through the uprights, giving the Panthers a two-point advantage. This was the season's first game in which Delta had not tallied more offensive yards than their



"RETURNS OPENING KICKOFF — Delta's Bryan Harder (23) is brought down at the 33-yard line after returning the opening kickoff 20 yards Friday afternoon. Montrose's Dan Moore (69, on ground) and Ron Henderson put the stopper on Harder. Other identifiable players include Ron Hupp (66) and Jack Kreidler (52) of Montrose and Delta's Jim Parks (55)."

(Clipping courtesy of *Delta County Independent* and Delta High Alumni Website.)



“INDIANS GET SECOND TOUCHDOWN — Larry Swain (arrow) falls across the goal line for Montrose’s second touchdown. The play came early in the fourth quarter as Swain raced around left end for eight yards on a fourth down play. Four battled Panther defenders watch the play after Swain had just ran through them for the score. The DT cut Delta’s lead to 14-12, but the Panthers managed to hold on through the final 10 minutes of the contest to win.”

(Clipping courtesy of *Delta County Independent* and Delta High Alumni Website.)

opponents. Delta rushed for 131 yards compared to Montrose's 169, and Delta threw the ball for forty-seven when Montrose gained seventy-eight yards in the air.³³ With this win the Panthers won the school's first league title, and their first opportunity to play for the AA State championship. The Panthers would face the Cañon City Tigers.

On the Friday morning before the Panther's final game, a group of students and townspeople cheered their Panthers and sent them off. Not only did the school's students give the team a big sendoff, but they also boarded a school "pep" bus and traveled to Cañon City in order to support their team.³⁴ Delta left on Friday morning and practiced in Cañon City later that evening in preparation for the big game. The Tigers held an advantage over the visiting Panthers by having played in one other state championship game. Most of the Delta players had watched as spectators while the Cañon City City Tigers had played for the championship the previous year.

The Cañon City Tigers won the coin toss, and chose to receive the opening kickoff. Delta's Brian Harder started the game with a long kickoff and the Panthers stopped the Tiger's return man at the twelve-yard line. Delta held Cañon City to three plays, and forced them to punt. No one scored until late in the first quarter when the Panther's Brian Harder broke a tackle to put the first score of the game on the board. The extra point failed, and Delta entered the second quarter with a 6-0 lead. The Tigers moved the ball to the Panther fifteen-yard line early in the second period but Brian Harder recovered a fumble by the Tigers. After that Delta ran successfully, but did not score before halftime.³⁵

Harder again came up big for the Panthers in the third quarter with his best punt of the day. The Tiger's returner, speedy Don Ready, fumbled the kick and was forced to recover it in his own end zone where Delta's Schendel dropped him for a two-point safety.³⁶ With 7:47 left in the third quarter, Cañon City kicked the ball to the Panthers who fumbled three plays later. However, the Tigers offense stalled, and they were forced to punt. Later in the fourth quarter, the Cañon City team moved the ball



"HIGHLIGHTS OF A SUCCESSFUL DAY—This series of photos show some of the action at the state championship game, some of the tense moments for those on the sidelines and the smiles that came with victory. Delta's Bryan Harder (23) shakes loose from an unidentified Canon City player at the 15-yard line on a 26-yard run that carried to the 44. It was the longest run of the afternoon for Harder, who topped all rushes with 163 yards. Tigers pursuing the ball carrier include Bill Crossman (50), L. Rosenstrach (56) and Bill Steers (65). Delta's Jerry Schendel (white uniform and left watches the play. Field judge Gordon Crandell of Montrose follows the play."

(Clipping courtesy of *Delta County Independent* and Delta High Alumni Website.)

down the field and scored on a fifty-five-yard pass to Knopp. With only 5:55 left in the game, Paolino put the ball in the end zone for a two-point conversion. With this score, Cañon City closed the gap to 8-7, the difference being the safety. On the next drive of the game Delta kept the ball by moving it slowly down field, and scoring with less than two minutes remaining in the game.³⁸ With the score now 15-7, after Gastineau kicked the extra point, the Panthers forced Cañon City to fumble the kickoff and then gained control of the ball. Delta kept possession of the ball until the clock ran out and the Delta Panthers were officially named the AA State champions.³⁹ The first state championship in school history excited the community and the school.

The 1960 championship season affected the community and school in similar ways. Since the arrival of Don Stimack and his staff, community support had grown. Parents and businesses created booster organizations. A booster organization, called the "Touchdown Club," brought a number of the town's citizens together at Terrels, a local café on Main Street, where Coach Stimack would go talk about the last game and indicate what he expected to happen in the team's next game. Winning seasons also resulted in support at home games. On the "away games," "pep" busses brought the player's classmates to watch their team. A number of fans turned out to welcome the Panthers after they won the state championship. Approximately 150 carloads of people met the team outside of town, and followed the team into Delta with their horns honking and their cheers loud enough to be heard throughout the town.⁴⁰ Having a successful season not only gave the team something to be proud of, it gave the entire community an opportunity to come together and celebrate.

Delta was one of the smallest schools in the AA category, one that fell in the 500-1000 student range. Interestingly the majority of these schools were in the southern part of the state, and most were also on or near Highway 50. So some might say that this was not just the State championship, but it was the "Highway 50 Championship."⁴¹ In the fall of 1960, when a pound of pork chops cost forty-nine cents at the local Ranch Market⁴² a



"Coach Don Stimack, the ever-present roll of tape in his left hand, shouting encouragement to his crew. The scoreboard in background shows Delta leading 8-0 with 4:07 left in the fourth quarter, but the Tigers came back on the next play to score on an 83-yard pass play to cut the margin to 8-7. Assistant Coach Ed Tooker also shows concern as he watches the play long with Ralph Mangum (81)."

(Photo by Ollie Leighton)
(Clipping courtesy of *Delta County Independent* and Delta High Alumni Website.)

group of four coaches and forty-five athletes accomplished a memorable feat. Football players, their coaches, and their efforts had earned respect in Delta, Colorado.

Football Terminology

End

Defensive player lined up on the end of the Defensive line

Linebacker

A defensive player directly behind the line

Offensive line

Offensive front line consists of two tackles, two guards, and one center

Option

Offensive play whereby the Quarterback reads the defense and decides to hand the ball off, pitch the ball, or run the ball

Quarterback

Offensive back who calls the signals

Running Back

Offensive player who carries the ball lined up directly behind the line

Veer

Offense which uses the option as its main attack



"Coaching staff in a happier frame of mind following their return home Saturday night with the state championship trophy. The coaches are, left to right, Moe Krautz, Bob McGarvin, Ed Tooker and Don Stimack." (Photo by Ollie Leighton)
(Clipping courtesy of *Delta County Independent* and Delta High Alumni Website.)



"BATTERED, BRUISED AND VICTORIOUS—Delta's state champions are all smiles as they receive the huge trophy following the Panthers 15-7 conquest of the Canon City Tigers. Players crowding around for the presentation are, left to right, Wilber Fix, Axel Hasto, Jim Parks, Jerry Schendel, Roger Gastineau and Gerald Gilder. Gastineau also holds the game ball which the Panthers got to keep as a souvenir of the championship game."

(Clipping courtesy of *Delta County Independent* and Delta High Alumni Website.)

Notes:

- ¹ "Heisman trophy Voting," n.d., <wysiwyg://9/httpwww.infoplease.com/ipsa/A074476.html> (12 October 2000).
- ² Bob McGarvin, interview by author, tape recording, Eckert, Colo., 5 December 2000.
- ³ *Delta County Independent* (Delta, CO), 5 September 1960.
- ⁴ *Delta Colorado Historic Guide* (Delta, CO: Prepared by City of Delta Historic Sites Committee, November 2000). Copy on file at the City of Delta office.
- ⁵ Ibid.
- ⁶ McGarvin, interview.
- ⁷ Don Stimack, interview by author, tape recording, Delta, Colo., 15 November 2000.
- ⁸ Moe Kreutz, interview by author, tape recording, Delta, Colo., 20 November 2000.
- ⁹ Kreutz, interview.
- ¹⁰ Ibid.
- ¹¹ McGarvin, interview.
- ¹² Axel Hasto, interview by author, tape recording, Montrose, Colo., 3 November 2000.
- ¹³ McGarvin, interview.
- ¹⁴ Stimack, interview.
- ¹⁵ *Delta County Independent*, 8 September 1960.
- ¹⁶ Hasto, interview.
- ¹⁷ Kreutz, interview.
- ¹⁸ McGarvin, interview.
- ¹⁹ *Delta County Independent*, 8 September 1960.
- ²⁰ Ibid., 12 September 1960.
- ²¹ Ibid., 19 September 1960.
- ²² Ibid., 26 September 1960.
- ²³ Ibid., 3 October 1960.
- ²⁴ Ibid., 6 October 1960.
- ²⁵ Ibid., 10 October 1960.

- ²⁶ Ibid., 17 October 1960.
- ²⁷ Hasto, interview.
- ²⁸ *Delta County Independent*, 27 October 1960.
- ²⁹ Ibid., 31 October 1960.
- ³⁰ Ibid., 3 November 1960.
- ³¹ Ibid., 7 November 1960.
- ³² Ibid., 10 November 1960.
- ³³ Ibid., 14 November 1960.
- ³⁴ Hasto, interview.
- ³⁵ *Delta County Independent*, 17 November 1960.
- ³⁶ *The Panther Pant* (Delta High School paper), 23 November 1960.
- ³⁷ *Delta County Independent*, 21 November 1960.
- ³⁸ *The Panther Pant*, 23 November 1960.
- ³⁹ Keith Drake, interview by author, tape recording, Delta, Colo., 30 October 2000.
- ⁴⁰ Kreutz, interview.
- ⁴¹ *Delta County Independent*, 8 September 1960.

GRAND JUNCTION Monday Forenoon SEPT. 7
Only One Performance ∴ 11 a. m. Sharp
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A Great Drama of Civilization with a Typical Cast
Each making means (except in American Livestock Exchanges)

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 of the Great Pacific showing a scene of a bandit hold-up in the West, which has never been shown in any other show in America.

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A REALISTIC BEYOND DESCRIPTION A Holiday at "T-E" Ranch

A Holiday at "T-E" Ranch, showing the life of the cowboys and the beauty of the West.

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Ray Thompson's High School Horses, showing the performance of the best horses in the West.



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PRESENTING IN FAITHFUL REPRESENTATION TYPICAL SCENES AND INCIDENTS
 Feats of Heroism, Skillful Sharpshooting, Military Manoeuvres, Equestrian Sports, Drills, Reviews and Pageants, Cavalry Charges, Indian War Dances, Cossack Charges, Fun and Frolics by Cowboys and Wild West Girls, the Entire Entertainment

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Shows given at 10:00 A. M.—PERFORMANCE BEGINS AT 11:00 A. M.
 Admission (including seats) 25 cts. GRAND STAND CHAIRS including refreshments \$1.00 on sale day of the company at KRAFT & EMERSON'S DRUG STORE. Children under 10 years half price. All seats reserved from 9:00 and sold by immense Canvas Canopy.

Ad from the Daily Sentinel, 1908. (Courtesy of the Daily Sentinel)

The Day Buffalo Bill Came To Town

By: William L. Tennent*

September 7, 1908 was not a typical autumn day in Grand Junction. It was the day Buffalo Bill came to town.

Buffalo Bill came to town at the end of a busy summer. Plans for the new Highline Canal were progressing and farmers were envisioning the vast new lands to be opened to agriculture by that project. The existing Grand Valley orchards were yielding bumper crops. Although some fruit trees were dying from over-spraying of arsenic and lime, 185 carloads of fruit had already been shipped from Palisade-the largest amount of fruit ever shipped from that point. One acre in Fruita brought in twelve tons of potatoes and the Western Sugar & Land Company was looking forward to a large beet harvest.

Young boys laboring in the fields found their chores eased by the tantalizing knowledge that Buffalo Bill was heading their way. The young ladies sorting fruit on the packing house floors, outfitted in neat white summer dresses and high-top shoes, secretly anticipated the hundreds of cowboys, zouaves, gauchos, and lancers that would be flooding into town with Buffalo Bill.

Anticipation ran high on Main Street, too. Matrons discussed the upcoming show while shopping in the recently

* Most readers will remember William "Bill" Tennent as Curator of History at the Museum of Western Colorado. Since leaving the Museum, he has held several positions, including Curator of the Cayman Island Museum and Director of the Isaiah Davenport House in Savannah, Georgia. As this issue goes to press, he is hiking the length of the Appalachian Trail. The Editorial Board of the *Journal of the Western Slope* thank William Tennent and the Museum of Western Colorado for permission to reprint this fine article, which first appeared in 1985 in the *Museum Journal*.

completed basement department of the Fair Store, which was declared the equal of any basement department in the country. The newly opened M.L. Frantz store featured the latest sheath gown, "a close fitting skirt that actually revealed the figure." The second story of the Reed Block was under construction along the north side of Main Street in the 300 block. Scenes from the play *Damon & Pythias* were attracting attention at the Magestic Theater. Globe Dry Goods was celebrating its grand opening, and the Y.M.C.A. had contracted to build a \$60,000 facility of the "most modern, best style." Bannister Furniture and Undertaking was, fortunately and unfortunately, doing brisk business on both fronts.

The gentlemen of Grand Junction gathered at the Senate, the St. Regis, and the Annex where they discussed the day's events over whiskey and cigars. The prospect of seeing Buffalo Bill enlivened conversation as did debate over a proposal reported in the *Daily Sentinel* that "faithless wives be dealt capital punishment," which seemed like fair treatment to most of the men. The summer also saw the *Daily Sentinel*, following the trend of the day, featuring such lurid headlines as "Family Poisoned," "Man Cuts Wife's Body Into Small Pieces," and "Helpless Man is Eaten by Red Ants."

Politics was also a much debated topic in Grand Junction when Buffalo Bill came to town. The 1908 presidential campaign was in full swing pitting Republican William Taft against Democrat William Jennings Bryan (running for the third time) and Socialist Eugene V. Debs. The *Grand Junction News* vigorously supported the Republican and the *Sentinel* vigorously supported the Democrat. The *Sentinel* claimed that Taft, weighing in at nearly 300 pounds, was too fat to be President.

In addition to political debate, the summer of anticipation was punctuated by labor unrest when violence between striking D & RG machinists and strikebreakers broke out on Second Street. At least one strikebreaker was seriously injured and was taken to Dr. Bull's for attention.

The week before Buffalo Bill arrived ten hobos were rounded up, tried for vagrancy, and given one hour to leave town.



1890 THE FAIR 1930

The basement department of the Fair Store was declared the equal of any basement department in the country.

(Photo F-392 courtesy of the Lloyd Files Research Library, Museum of Western Colorado.)

New five room homes were selling for \$2,800; \$200 down and \$25 per month. Lots on the outskirts of town, as far east as Tenth Street, were selling for as much as \$150.

Schools had opened with a record attendance. The high school had 246 students compared to the 219 enrolled in 1907. Teachers all over the Grand Valley found students having a hard time concentrating on the three R's. Their desks seemed unnatural prisons and their eyes would gaze out the windows toward the horizon in expectation of the approaching train cars loaded with magical delights to be deposited as if from some giant Santa's bag in their own backyard. The promotional broadsides posted around the valley promised that they would actually be able to see Buffalo Bill "Ex-Chief of Scouts, Ranger, Patriot, Pathfinder, and Plainsman, who Positively Appears at Every Performance, No Matter What the Weather."

But the splashy broadsides promised more than a glimpse of the noted Col. Cody. They reminded all of their wide-eyed readers that Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World "stands alone, monarch of its sphere...picturesquely perpetrating for posterity primordial pictures of the plains" complete with "feats of skill, nerve, and manly daring...reckless horsemanship and equine intelligence," and "epoch-making scenes revived in animated living pictures."

Native Americans were not to be forgotten. The show would feature "aboriginal typee [sic] and customs" as well as scenes "depicting with historical exactness the barbaric methods of savage warfare, contrasting the cunning of the Indian warrior with the valorious deeds of the American soldiery" which led to the "conquest and eventual civilization of the Indian." The entire extravaganza was, of course, "complete, unchallenged and unequalled in its class," and it was "directed, instigated, conceived, originated and perpetuated by the one and only Col. William F. Cody."

On August 31, a man of "giant physique and military bearing" dressed in a dark suit with Prince Albert coat and big black broad-brim hat sporting a mustache "almost in a class by



Buffalo Bill's advanceman declared that he was surprised to find such an excellent hotel as the St. Regis in a city of this size.
(Photo F-366 courtesy of the Lloyd Files Research Library, Museum of Western Colorado.)

itself" checked into the St. Regis. He listed his residence as "United States."

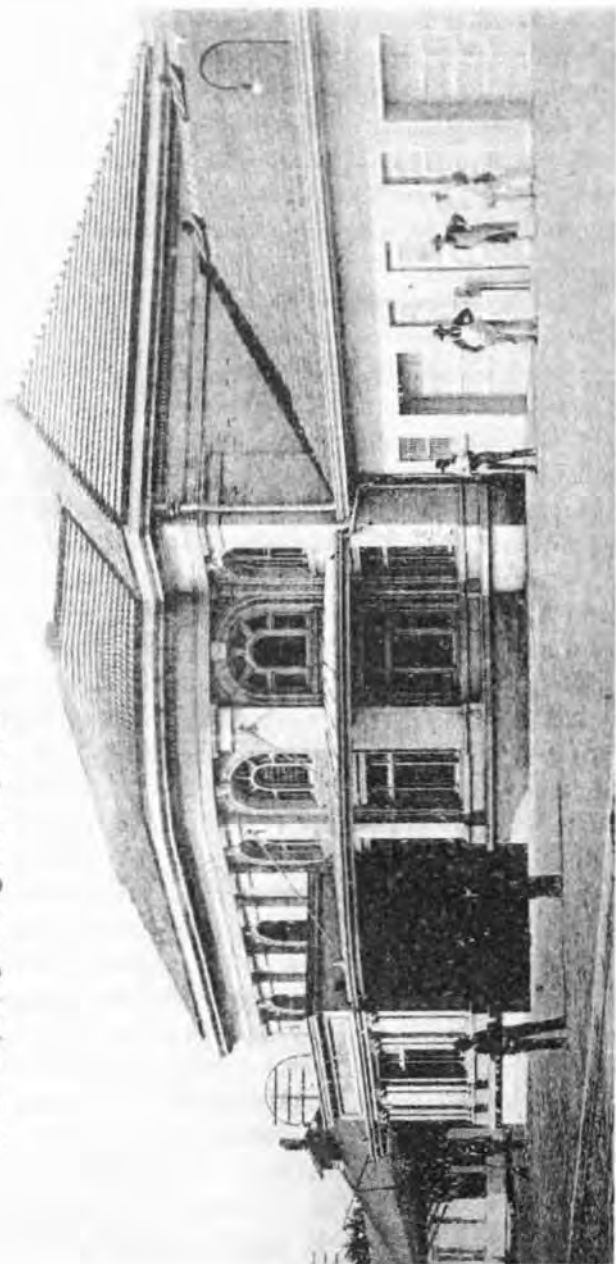
The impressive gentleman was Major John M. Burke, an advance-man for Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World Show. His role in Grand Junction was to promote the show and see that all the preparations had been made for the event or, as he put it: "I am sent out to dispel prejudice and educate the ignorant regarding the west that was and as pictured in life by Col. Cody and other men who really were factors in the west that was." As Colonel Cody's closest personal friend and the first general manager of the Wild West Show, Burke created a flurry of excitement wherever he traveled.

Burke informed local residents that Buffalo Bill seldom visited towns the size of Grand Junction, but had decided this season to visit every part of America, especially the smaller cities of the great west. The show, however, would not be scaled down. The performance would be identical to that seen in New York, London, and Paris.

Before leaving on the noon train to Salt Lake City, the Major inflated local pride. The *Sentinel* reported that "he had many good words to say regarding the prosperous appearance of Grand Junction, declaring that it is one of the best towns for its size he ever visited. He also declared that he was surprised to find such an excellent hotel as the St. Regis in a city of this size."

On September 6, the day before the great show, a crowd of several hundred eagerly gathered in the railroad yards to welcome the three trains bearing Buffalo Bill and company. The 57 cars pulled into Grand Junction between one and two o'clock and systematically expelled their exciting cargoes causing those who watched "to marvel and marvel." Because no official Wild West Parade was scheduled, the only preview of the show would be the unloading and moving of the properties and paraphernalia to the showgrounds located on the edge of town at Pitkin Avenue and Ninth Street. But the moving of the properties to the showgrounds constituted a wondrous parade in and of itself. What a parade it was: hundreds of wagons, great quantities of

Union Depot, Grand Junction, Colo.



The Denver & Rio Grande depot where the Wild West Show unloaded its wondrous cargo.

(Photo F-365 courtesy of the Lloyd Files Research Library, Museum of Western Colorado.)

canvas, thousands of seats, a big herd of buffalo, more than 100 Sioux Indians, an army of cowboys and cowgirls, Cossacks, Turks, and people of many nationalities, stage coaches, old mail wagons, and more than 500 horses, ponies, and burros.

The excited crowd followed the parade along Pitkin to the showgrounds where the experienced crew quickly raised three huge tents to shelter the livestock and an immense pavilion to serve as a dining room for the nearly 600 humans in the cast. Local feed store operators were kept busy delivering hay, straw, grain, and bran to the grounds. Many curious locals remained at the showgrounds long after sundown to chat with the cast and crew around the cook fires.

However, Buffalo Bill was not the only famous personality in town that night. The politically conscious members of the community found themselves drawn to the Park Opera House on the eve of the Wild West Show to hear "one of the most remarkable men in the country," presidential candidate of the Socialist Party, Eugene V. Debs. The crowd, one of the greatest audiences to ever hear a political speaker in Grand Junction, began to assemble long before eight o'clock and grew to nearly 1,000. Every seat in the house was occupied and many spectators crowded onto the stage or stood in the wings. The famous Chicago Volunteer Socialist Band entertained the swelling crowd and was presented with a box of "the finest fruit in the world-Grand Valley peaches" in appreciation.

The Debs party had arrived on the "Red Special" the day before having stopped in Leadville, Glenwood Springs, New Castle, Rifle, and De Beque enroute. In each community Debs spoke fervently about the industrial conditions in America and the promises of the Socialist Party. He was warmly received in all towns except Glenwood Springs where his speech on the grounds of the Hotel Colorado fell on deaf ears. Debs confessed that the Socialist party had trouble organizing in the rich summer resort town.

It was 8:35 when Debs, "a giant in physique and not a pigmy in intellect," stepped onto the stage and was greeted with a storm of cheering from the assembled multitude. For nearly an

hour and a half Debs' booming voice expounded on child labor ("If there is a crime that should bring the crimson wave of shame to the cheek of man it is child labor."), poverty ("There were no tramps fifty years ago, the word had not been coined. How many tramps are there now?") and women's rights ("There is no one single right accorded to man that should not be accorded to women."). His words were frequently interrupted by roars of applause from the crowd. At the close of his address hundreds pressed forward to shake hands with the great man.

Later that night the crowd shifted to the depot to bid the presidential hopeful and the Chicago Volunteer Socialist Band farewell. As the "Red Special" disappeared into the darkness thoughts less weighty than socialist dogma crept into the minds of the crowd. It was after midnight. It was now September 7, the day of the Wild West Show.

The day of the show dawned clear and crisp. It was one of the Grand Valley's golden days of autumn. By nine o'clock a large crowd had assembled at the showgrounds. The gates opened at ten o'clock and the throng inundated the site. Many people had purchased their tickets in advance at the Kraft & Emerson's Drug Store. Admission (including a seat) was 50 cents although many people opted for the \$1.00 grandstand chairs. All seats were protected by an enormous canvas canopy.

People streamed into Grand Junction from every corner of the county and beyond. Special trains and regular trains brought hundreds of visitors from Fruita, Palisade, Montrose, Ouray, and Delta. (The special Montrose train arrived late and many of its passengers reached the grounds after the show had begun.) By 11:15 the crowd had swelled to well over 10,000. The mass of "hot but good-natured humanity" was perhaps the greatest crowd Mesa County had ever seen.

Side shows did a big business before the principal performance began. Vocal barkers charged exorbitant fees and practically forced their wares and exhibits on the captive audience. Although the *Sentinel* later declared the side show to be a "rank fake outfit and grafting concern...not worthy of the

endorsement of the magnificent exhibition with which it is allowed to travel," the bizarre sideshow freaks and displays delighted and terrified many Grand Junction youngsters.

Finally, the much awaited show began. Ten thousand voices united as one and a cheer that must have scattered deer on the Grand Mesa rose from Ninth and Pitkin. During the next two hours the people got more than their 50 cents worth.

The people of Grand Junction, like those in New York and Paris, were treated to Col. Cody's complete program. Major features included the Battle of Summit Springs (a reenactment of the 1867 Indian battle), A Holiday at T-E Ranch ("wherein the pleasures and pastimes of the plainsmen are set forth in attractive display..."), The Great Train Hold-Up and the Bandit Hunters of the Union Pacific ("showing a scene typical of the dangers attendant upon early railroading in the Far West, wherein lawlessness is punished by the trained representatives of law and order.").

The crowd also cheered Ray Thompson's High School Horses, a troupe of highly educated western range horses in "displays of surpassing equine intelligence;" and Football on Horseback featuring a mammoth rubber ball manipulated from goal to goal by skillful horses and riders.

The Rough Riders of the World thrilled the audience with non-stop maneuvers of American cowboys, Royal Irish Dragoons, Devlin's Zouaves, Mexican Ruralies, South American gauchos, Russian Cossacks, Royal English Lancers, Bedouin Arabs, U.S. Calvary, and Japanese acrobats. And there was more to come: races of various kinds; the herd of buffalo; the old emigrant train; the pony express; Johnny Baker, the celebrated marksman; Mexican lasso throwers; Maud the Bucking Mule ("...she becomes instantly jagged lightning, an avalanche and a land slide, a cyclone and the explosion of a boiler, a mixture of hoofs, ears, leather, earth and atmosphere, something sensational to behold."); the feats of the cowgirls; bronco busting; and Indian war dances.

But no one drew more applause than the old scout and plainsman himself. Riding tall in the saddle, he dazzled the crowd

with his marksmanship and showmanship. The living legend, at age 62, was still able to steal the show. As the *Sentinel* later reported: "The raven curls have turned white, but the grand old scout is as handsome as ever."

Had anyone stopped cheering long enough to contemplate the makeup of the audience, they might have noted its ironic nature. The arena occupied land that less than a generation before had belonged to the Ute Indians. Most of the crowd were true pioneers still in the process of wresting their land from nature's harsh grip. All of the crowd lived in an area that was certainly a part of the real "wild west," an area that even a century later would still be considered a remote frontier by most of the nation. Yet, they had flocked to this theatrical production to witness scenes of pioneer life in the Wild West!

Folks who could vividly recall the Meeker Massacre were fascinated by the mock Indian battle. Real life ranchers were being treated to scenes of western ranch life. People from Mesa County, where only a month earlier the sheriff had captured a horsethief in Plateau Canyon, were amazed by scenes of the bandit hunters. And, although they had no way of knowing it, little boys thrilling to the military drills of the foreign regiments would be graduating from high school just in time to march off to a real world war in Europe.

The minutes flew quickly by and suddenly the show was over. Twenty thousand hands, aching from applauding, were stilled, and the breathless crowd drew a huge collective and satisfied sigh.

The show ended at one o'clock. By four o'clock the tent city and arena had been dismantled, the three trains were loaded, and Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show was speeding toward Salt Lake City.

While at least one little boy gazed wistfully down the track long after the trains had disappeared, thousands of Western Slope residents were fanning out in all directions to enjoy what was left of Labor Day and recount the day's adventure. When the Iowa Club met at the Odd Fellows Hall that night, the major topic



Photo 4
Main Street in Grand Junction as it appeared when Buffalo Bill came to town. This rare photo shows the street during that period between the removal of the horse car rails in 1903 and the installation of the electric streetcar system in 1909.
(Photo F-802 courtesy of the Lloyd Files Research Library, Museum of Western Colorado.)

of discussion would be that morning's show. During intermission at the Park Opera House that evening the audience enjoying *The Rejuvenation of Aunt Mary* could not help but not compare that stage production to the outdoor spectacular they had witnessed earlier.

If anything substantial was left in the wake of the departing trains, it might have been a collective emotional boost for the Western Colorado psyche. One of the world's great entertainments had visited Grand Junction. The remote settlements of Western Colorado were not a cultural backwash and residents did not need to feel like they were living at the end of the earth. For two hours on September 7 they shared a commonality with residents of the major capitols around the world.

For two hours differences were forgotten. Merchants and farmers, strikers and strikebreakers, Republicans and Democrats and Socialists all came together under Col. Cody's canvas canopy. That might well have been the most memorable occurrence on the day Buffalo Bill came to town.

Book Reviews

Steven C. Schulte. *Wayne Aspinall and the Shaping of the American West*. Boulder, CO: University Press of Colorado, 2001. Pp. xiii, 322. Cloth 29.95.

In the drought years of the early twenty-first century, as farmers, municipalities, and wildlife managers contend over water stored in the great federally-built reservoirs in western Colorado, Steve Schulte's volume on the political career of Congressman Wayne N. Aspinall could not be more timely. Few public figures in the second half of the twentieth century were more influential in water resources development than Aspinall. "You can't take a drink of water in Colorado," former Governor Dick Lamm was reported to have said, "without remembering Wayne Aspinall."

Yet, no prominent national political figure has been given less attention by historians than the former Colorado Congressman. Schulte's book goes far in remedying this neglect. Tracing Aspinall's career from his years in the Colorado legislature through his rise as one of the most influential members of the U.S. Congress, Schulte has carefully documented and narrated a moving account of Aspinall's successful, if contentious, career.

First elected to the Congress in 1948 after several years in the Colorado General Assembly, Aspinall rose rather quickly to become a legendary chair of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. In that role he presided over the enactment of some of the nation's most significant natural resources legislation: the Colorado River Storage Project, the Arkansas-Frying Pan Project, the Wilderness Act, the Central Arizona Project, and the ambitious Public Land Law Review Commission Act.

Simultaneously, Aspinall became one of the most controversial political leaders on the national scene. As a staunch advocate of the "multiple use" concept of natural resource development, first advocated in the early twentieth century by

Gifford Pinchot and Theodore Roosevelt, the Congressman clashed repeatedly with the rising new forces of environmentalism. Though the study of these confrontations has been surveyed in other works, Schulte has achieved a fresh approach to these events from a regional and Aspinall-centered perspective, giving the reader a perceptive study of the struggles over the Echo Park dam, over wilderness legislation, over dams in the Grand Canyon, over atomic energy experimentation, and over mining law revision. The narrative is quite riveting, well written, excellently researched, and balanced. Though Schulte clearly respects and admires Aspinall and credits him with significant achievements, he does not hesitate to give attention to the Congressman's critics, to his faults and foibles, to his miscalculations.

While the general reader and the historian will find Schulte's book illuminating and useful, political scientists will be attracted to it also, since the Congressman's political career was what Schulte calls "a magnificent study of western American political power: how to achieve it, hold on to it, and, ultimately, how to lose it." Aspinall's rise to a position of power, his use of that power to achieve his legislative goals, and his eventual fall from power and grace are excellently and fairly treated. In addition, the work is an excellent study of the dynamics of power-wielding in the Congressional law-making process.

Aspinall is seen by some as a bridge between the old resource-exploiting culture of the West and the new ecology-driven culture of the region and nation. But as Schulte's study makes plain, Aspinall, to the end of his life, defied the arrival of the new order and championed to final breath the natural resources ethic expounded by conservationists of the Progressive Era. As his party shifted toward an ecology-driven resource management position, Aspinall became increasingly alienated from his old political moorings, an alienation that led to his defeat in the 1976 Democratic primary.

After leaving Congress, Aspinall sided with the Sagebrush Rebels in their quest for state management of the

public lands and he continued his fight against the environmental tide while virtually severing his connections with the Democratic Party.

At the center of the Aspinall legacy, as far as westerners are concerned, was his role in the massive dam building effort by the federal government in the 1950s and 1960s. His critics were convinced that the Congressman never met a dam he did not love. As drought in the Rocky Mountain West continues, Aspinall devotees are quick to pay tribute to the many reservoirs for which the "Great Dam Builder" was responsible. Schulte's biography of the Congressman is a tribute to that legendary effort.

Don MacKendrick
Professor Emeritus, History
Mesa State College

Virginia McConnell Simmons. *The Ute Indians of Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico*. Niwot: University Press of Colorado. 2000. Pp. xv, 323. Cloth 29.95.

When my review copy of *The Ute Indians* arrived, I took my lecture notes on the subject out of my Colorado History file, planning to pencil in some changes. I soon realized that Virginia Simmons had rewritten Ute history, and that I needed to do the same with my notes. This is the best book on Ute history, and one of the most important books about Colorado to appear in the last decade. The excellence of the volume, however, should surprise no one; Simmons's other works, such as *Bayou Salado*, *The San Luis Valley*, and *The Upper Arkansas*, are classics about our state.

The Utes consists of 11 chapters which take Ute history from prehistory to the present. The first two chapters, "Mother Earth, Father Sky" and "The Núu-ci," introduce Ute lands and bands, and explain the worldview and life style of this group. Chapters 3 and 4, "The Coming of the White Man (1598-1821)"

and "Trappers, Traders, and Transition (1810-1846)," trace the history from first contact with European-Americans to the end of the Mexican-American war. The next three chapters, "On a Collision Course (1846-1858)," "Sherman's Solution: Freeze and Starve (1859-1867)," and "Attempts to Create Reservations (1868-1874)," detail the tug of war between the Utes, who wished to maintain their autonomy, and U.S. military personnel and bureaucrats, who wanted to incorporate the Utes into the "American" system. Chapters 8 and 9, "Beating Plowshares into Swords (1875-1881)" and "The Unraveling Begins (1882-1895)," show that Utes maintained substantially different ideas about the future than the white settlers and the U.S. government, and that these differences often led to bloodshed. The final two chapters in the book, "Disorder and Chaos (1896-1915)" and "From the Ashes: Today's Ute Indians" take the story from the turn of the century to the present.

As the chapter outline above demonstrates, Virginia Simmons has written a comprehensive history of the Utes. She provides an excellent overview of the land where the Utes lived, and their worldview. She gives equal attention to the Ute groups in present day Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. Simmons breaks Utes into twelve bands, and keeps the reader informed about the shifting political currents and leadership within and among these groups, as well as explaining relationships with outsiders. Virginia Simmons also provides chronological completeness by covering the story of the Utes from earliest times through the twentieth century.

Thorough research enabled Virginia Simmons to provide new material and new interpretations of the Utes. She demonstrates that they were major players in that portion of the West that would become Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico. They had extensive dealings with the various people who lived in these places, including Hispanics, Navajos, Pueblo Indians, Plains Indians, Mormons, and Anglo-Americans. A contribution of immense importance in this regard is the author's careful documentation and analysis of the Indian slave trade and the central role that the Utes played in it.

Virginia Simmons makes a number of complicated topics understandable. She provides a clear delineation of the agency and subagency systems, carefully weaves the numerous treaties into the narrative, and explains the history of the boarding school system and education. She tells the story of exploratory and military efforts by Spain, Mexico, and the United States, locates the various forts and trading posts, and discusses the personnel in them who impacted the Utes. She treats the modern period with objectivity and sensitivity, and deals directly with problems of reservation life such as alcoholism.

Virginia Simmons brings a love of the subject matter and a keen analysis of people to the narrative. Chapter One, "Mother Earth, Father Sky," is a carefully crafted chapter about Ute lands written by someone who has actually seen the places described. The historical characters are real people. Well known Utes, such as Ouray, Chipeta, Shavano, Colorow, and Kaniache, are woven into the general narrative, but do not dominate the story. A host of Utes lesser known to readers in Colorado—such as Walkara and Akhambra—are included in the account. Outsiders also appear in the book: who will not smile when reading about non-Utes like Sam Lone Bear, Fabian Martinez, and Jabez Nelson Trask who sashayed into Ute history? Readers will shake their heads in disbelief when reading about Governor Edward M. McCook. Anyone who spends time with the book will leave it knowing a great deal about an interesting array of people.

Virginia Simmons's literary style is remarkable. In this book she uses imagery of the Bear and the Bear dance to link chapters and to keep a sense of Ute philosophy and worldview before readers. The closing lines of the text are:

The Núu-ci are dancing. Something stirs. Something is awakening.

Call it continuity. Call it the circle of Life. Call it Bear (p.258).

These concluding sentences add a nice touch to an outstanding book. They reaffirm the mood that the author has carefully crafted throughout the work—that this is a study about a living and

breathing group of people who have a real sense of their history, and know who they are and how they relate to the world around them.

The work is carefully endnoted, contains an index, and has a 20-page bibliography that will become the standard starting place for other historians working on the Utes. The University Press of Colorado produced a visually pleasing book with an attractive dust jacket, 57 illustrations, and 9 maps. The maps are among the most helpful parts of the book, helping readers to locate the Ute bands, the shifting boundaries of reservations, and "Ute agencies, subagencies, and Indian farms."

This book is a substantial contribution to the history of Colorado, and the history of the Western Slope. It belongs in all personal and public libraries with collections on Native Americans and Colorado.

This is Virginia Simmons's best book to date. I hope she has begun another project on Colorado and its Western Slope.

Paul Reddin
Mesa State College

Abbott Fay. *The Story of Colorado Wines*. Montrose, CO: Western Reflections Publishing Company. 2002. Pp. x, 118. Paper 12.95.

Most readers will already know that Abbott Fay has written several books on Colorado history. Fay, a retired history professor at Western State College, continues to be active in researching, writing, and teaching the history of the Centennial State. Among his ten published works are histories of Western State College, the Colorado ski industry, and a biographical collection of nationally famous Coloradans. Fay's book *I Never Knew That About Colorado* (1997), contains nearly fifty years of historical research.

The Story of Colorado Wines tackles the history of Colorado's wine industry with style. The book's 45 chapters are brief, but packed with useful and delightful information. The state can now boast two nationally recognized viticultural regions, which produce 95 percent of Colorado's wine grapes: the "Grand Valley" and the "West Elk Mountain" regions. The first two chapters of this publication trace winemaking back to the Colorado Territory in the 1860s, and to 1882 when the Western Slope was opened to white settlement. Pioneers planted fruit trees and grapevines in their gardens and on their farms for private consumption, or to sell to neighbors. The Women's Christian Temperance Movement caused the demise of many a grape vine, but even during the Prohibition era individuals found ways to continue making home wines. It was not until the late 1960s that winemaking in Colorado began its "Renaissance" (p. 7) under the direction of Dr. Gerald and Mary Invancie, and Jim and Ann Seewald. After presenting the history of Colorado wines from private production to world-renowned success, Abbott Fay goes on to explain the process of wine tasting (in competition) and the geographic, geologic, and climatic factors that go into making Colorado's grapes and wines among the best in the nation and across the globe.

In the sections labeled "The Winemakers" and "The Newcomers," Fay provides brief vignettes on Colorado's 37 wineries in a way that captures the humor, personality, and style of the wineries's owners with such chapter titles as "Behind the Chardonnay Chicken," "Where the Coyotes Stole the Grapes," "Gussie's One-Woman Winery," "Wallpaper Hangers Make Good Wine," and "Where the Elk Get Together." The wine labels are equally enchanting and delicious. Some are classic, even romantic, and reminiscent of the Old World. All promote the surrounding Colorado landscape, legends, or landmarks. Some labels roar with humor. A sampling of such humor would include *Tyrannosaurus Red* and *Cougar Run* (Carlson Vineyards), *Avalanche Rose* (Grand River Vineyards), *Ski Bunny Blush* and *Howlin' Coyote Red* (Rocky Hill Winery), *Wine Chick White*

(Augustina's Winery), and *Blueberry Bliss* (St. Kathryn Cellars). By providing brief histories of these individuals and their wineries, *The Story of Colorado Wines* presents a cornucopia of immigrant and American-born traditions that have blended together to make the Colorado wine industry worthy of international attention.

In this concise and well-organized book, Fay has also managed to write a very handy guide to Colorado's wineries. Fay lists addresses, phone numbers, tasting times, and a brief list of the types of wines produced at that location. Especially useful are the two maps in the front of the book: the first showing wineries within the state of Colorado, the second focusing on Grand Valley wineries. Fay's chapter "Let's Celebrate" provides dates for Colorado's wine festivals in Palisade, Lafayette, Telluride and Snowmass. The author even includes a list of limousine, van and shuttle services available for those who wish to take a sampling tour of the Grand Valley while avoiding any DUI's. To allow his readers to gather even more information, Fay provides an Appendix which supplies the website for the Colorado Wine Industry Board where readers can find maps, wine recipes, wineries, and up-coming events. Websites for several of the individual wineries "include the historical information, location, tasting room hours, a wine list, and on-line ordering capabilities" (p.109). Abbott Fay has once again provided a wonderful reference on Colorado's history as well as a promotional guide to Colorado's Wine industry. *Western Reflections* can also be applauded for producing an attractive publication. Residents and tourists alike will find *The Story of Colorado Wines* entertaining and practical.

Janet C. Mease

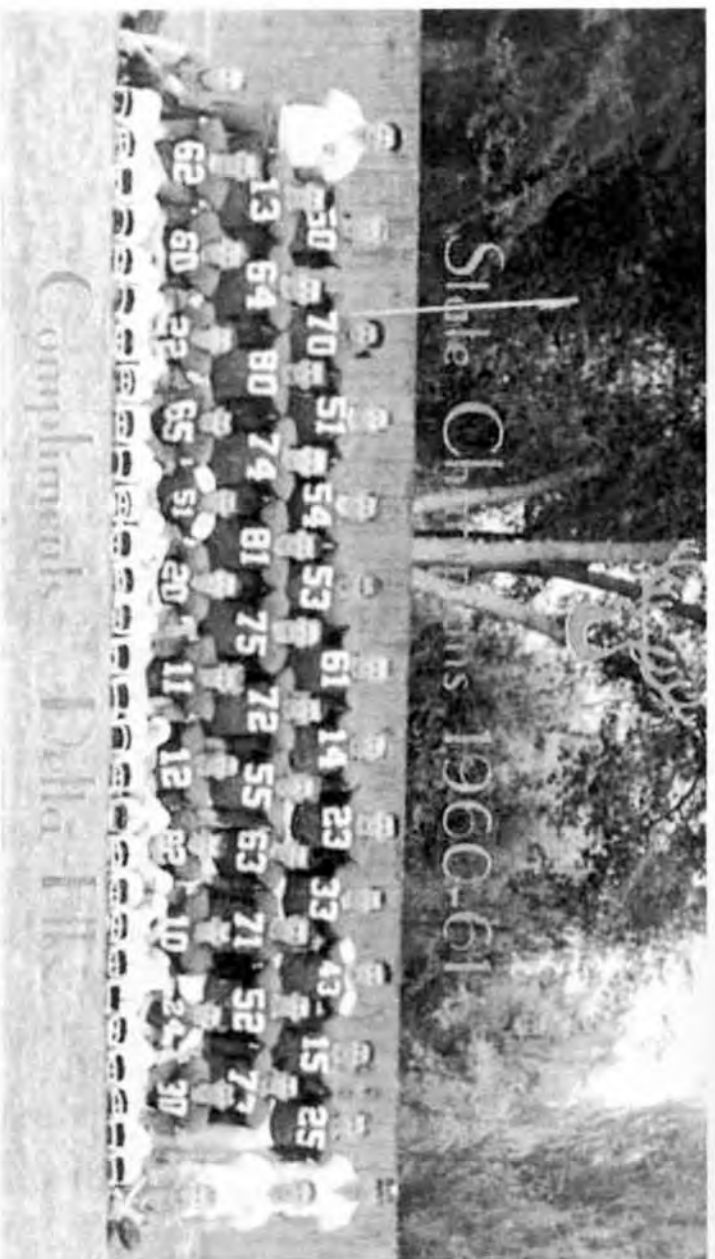
Journal of the Western Slope

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1960 - 61 Championship team.

(Photo courtesy of the Delta Elks and the Delta High Alumni website

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BACK ISSUES

- | | | |
|---------|----|--|
| Vol. 1 | #1 | Hard Times But Good Times: The Grand Junction Women During the Great Depression
Recollections of the Redlands |
| | #2 | Uncompahgre Statesman: The Life of Ouray |
| | #3 | The Grand Junction Town Company and the Land Dispute with William Keith
The Avalon Theatre |
| | #4 | The Grand River Ditch
Recollection of Naturita |
| Vol. 2 | #1 | The Roan Creek Toll Road
Harvesting Peaches with German Prisoners of War |
| | #2 | Birds of Mesa County
Crawford: A Good Little Town
Chinese in Early Grand Junction |
| | #3 | Reminiscences of Early Life in Grand Junction |
| | #4 | The Schiesswhol Building: An Economic Barometer of Grand Junction Business Activity, 1908-1934
The New Deal Programs as Seen from Loma
The Peach Festival 1887-1909: A Celebration of the Land |
| Vol. 3. | #1 | Volunteer to Professional: A History of the Grand Junction Fire Department |
| | #2 | "A Monument for Good in the World and Glory of God": The Parachute Home Culture Club |
| | #3 | Development of Grand Junction and the Colorado River Valley to Palisade 1881-1931, Part I |
| | #4 | Development of Grand Junction and the Colorado River Valley to Palisade 1881-1931, Part II |
| Vol. 4 | #1 | The Ku Klux Klan in Grand Junction 1924-1927 |
| | #2 | The Schmidt Family Hardware Store and Grand Junction, A Partnership
Early History of the Grand Junction High School Band
Transcendental Twisted Trees and Enos Mills |
| | #3 | The Crawford Mill
The Survival of Judaism in a Far Western Town: A Brief History of the Jewish Community of Grand Junction |
| | #4 | Archaeological Investigations at Battlement Mesa
Enstrom's: More Than Just Toffee |
| Vol. 5 | #1 | Higher Education and Mesa State College: A Study of Roles and Influences
In the Spirit of Public Service: Leslie Savage of Western Colorado |
| | #2 | A Reminiscence of Mesa College at the End of World War II 1944-1946
The Manhattan Project on the Colorado Plateau
The Plateau Canyon Road |
| | #3 | Grand Junction's City Parks: A History of Community Cooperation
Reminiscences of an Inveterate Colorado Skier |

- #4 A Twentieth Century Stopping Place: The St. Regis Hotel 1893-1990
Johnson's House of Flowers: A Family Tradition
Solid Cold: A History of the Grand Junction Ice Houses
- Vol. 6 #1 Community Development and Historical Events: Social History and Folklore of the Grand Valley
#2 Bloody Grass: Western Colorado Range Wars, 1881-1934
The Life of a Shepherd: Then and Now
#3 Hispanic People of Grand Junction
The KREX Story: A History of Broadcasting in the Grand Valley
#4 The Civilian Conservation Corps on the Colorado National Monument
Onion Valley: The Fate of the One-Room Schoolhouse
- Vol. 7 #1 A Study of the Retolaza Boarding House and its Role in the Life of the Basque Itinerant Shepherd
The Western Hotel of Ouray: A Hundred Year History
#2 Women Coal Miners, The Orchard Valley Mine, and the Efficacy of Affirmative Action
Women and Their History in Kannah Creek
#3 Labor Shortage and its Solution During WWII in the Grand Valley of Western Colorado
John Lawrence and the Opening of the San Juans, 1869-1882
The Howard Lathrop Agriculture Center
Las Immigrantes Mexicanas
#4 100 Years of Uranium Activity in the Four Corners Region, Part I
- Vol. 8 #1 100 Years of Uranium Activity in the Four Corners Region, Part II
#2 Fort Crawford: A Symbol of Transition
#3 Cesspools, Alkali and White Lily Soap: The Grand Junction Indian School, 1886-1911
#4 Shoo Away the Snakes, Prairie Dogs, and Rabbits: Let's Make the Desert Bloom: The Uncompahgre Project 1890-1909
- Vol. 9 #1 The Blind Immigrant
I Don't Even Hear the Trains Run Anymore
Gandy-Dancer to Shoe Clerk
#2 Hotel Colorado: Playground of the Rich and Famous
Grand Junction Clay Products Company
#3 Whose Water is it Anyway: Bureaucrats, the Animas-LaPlata Project, and the Colorado Utes
A History of Rapid Creek
- Vol. 10 #1 Objective History: Grand Junction, Colorado, Part I
#2 Objective History: Grand Junction, Colorado, Part II
#3 William Moyer: The Rise and Fall of a Small-Town Progressive
The Life of Humanitarian Sabina Veronica Lally O'Malley
#4 Land's End Road
Sights on the West Coast But Home in Grand Junction
Tales of Black Mesa
- Vol. 11 #1 "Queen" Chipeta
Audre Lucile Ball: Her Life in the Grand Valley from World War II Through the Fifties
#2 A History of the Palisade Wine Industry
The Birth and Early Years of Club 20

- | | | |
|---------------|----|---|
| | #3 | Mesa Drug: A 1950s Social Institution |
| | | War Relief Efforts of Mesa County During the Second World War |
| | #4 | The North Branch of the "Old Spanish Trail" |
| Vol. 12 | #1 | Camp Hale: A Civilian Perspective |
| | | Military Memories of Glenn Hanks and the Tenth Mountain Division |
| | #2 | Splendid Public Temples: The Development of Public Libraries in Mesa County, Colorado 1892-1997 |
| | | History of the Wheeler Opera House, Aspen, Colorado 1889-1894 |
| | #3 | Mobile Youth: Cars and Teens in the 1950s |
| | | The Rise and Fall of Drive-ins in Grand Junction |
| | #4 | Walter Walker and His Fight Against Socialism |
| | | Navajo Migrant Workers in the Grand Valley |
| Vol. 13#1 & 2 | | The Far Country: Wild Horses, Public Lands, and The Little Book Cliffs of Colorado |
| | #3 | Tom Mix in Glenwood Springs |
| | | The Civilian Conservation Corps in Garfield County |
| | #4 | John Otto: More Than a Misunderstood Visionary |
| Vol. 14 | #1 | Early History of School Bands in Western Colorado: The Legacy of Cleon Dalby |
| | #2 | Transplanting the Body: Bringing Southern Italian Culture to Grand Junction, 1870-1930 |
| | #3 | The Bug House: History of the Colorado Insectary, Palisade, Colorado |
| | #4 | A Thousand Year Old Pine, Mesa Verde, and Enos Mills |
| | | Women, Politics, and Booze: Prohibition in Mesa County, 1908-1933 |
| Vol. 15 | #1 | World War II Comes to Delta |
| | | Annals of a War Era High School: Grand Junction, Colorado's High School During World War II |
| | #2 | Uncommon in an Uncommon Valley: Homesteading in the Surface Creek Valley |
| | | A Short History of Bowie, Colorado |

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