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A History of Rapid Creek

by William Kirk Bunte

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THE COVER: The cover drawing depicts Sidney Brooks Lloyd's cabin. Fruita native Patty Johnston did the sketch. Johnston just received her Associate of Arts degree in Commercial Art from Mesa State College. This fall she plans to begin work toward a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts at Mesa State College.

Contents

Author's Note

This history is a shorter and, hopefully, much-improved version of a paper I wrote as an undergraduate student at Mesa College in 1985. The paper was a requirement for my historical research class and proved to be one of the most rewarding tasks of my college experience.

I grew up on Rapid Creek and my family had lived in the area since the First World War. Harlow's grave site always fascinated me as a child and it was rewarding to learn more about the early pioneer. Initially, the paper's focus was solely on Harlow, but I soon expanded it to include the entire area. I am extremely glad that I did this; not only to learn more about the area but also because of the interviews I was able to obtain from early residents of the area.

Due to a variety of circumstances, this paper has been ten years in the making and unfortunately many of the individuals I interviewed have since passed away. I would like to thank Sam and Virginia Pyeatt, Mr. Sidney Lloyd, Mrs. Kathleen Robinson, and Mrs. Anne Goffredi. In addition, I would like to extend my special thanks to the staff of the *Journal of the Western Slope* for their patience with me and this project.

Sidney Brooks Lloyd's cabin at the foot of Grand Mesa circa 1920.
(This photo and all others courtesy of the Museum of Western Colorado.)

A History of Rapid Creek
by William Kirk Bunte

Rapid Creek, a stream that runs from the foot of the Grand Mesa west to the Colorado River and the area immediately surrounding it, is a unique region in Colorado's Grand Valley. Approximately two miles east of the town of Palisade, Rapid Creek lies in the extreme northeast end of the valley at the mouth of DeBeque Canyon on the east side of the Colorado River.

The area is historically significant for several reasons. The first white settler, John Petal Harlow, was an important, if overlooked, pioneer of the Grand Valley. His Rapid Creek farm, started in the early 1880s, was the site of the first successful peach orchard in the region. Although different in several aspects, the events and trends that have shaped the history of the entire valley are reflected in this small geographic area. Pioneers and western land speculators, followed in the early twentieth century by small farmers, ranchers, and miners, and finally by purely residential inhabitants reflect the history of the area and the region. Consequently, a survey of its history serves as paradigm to events that have changed the valley as a whole.

No one knows how Rapid Creek got its name. Ferdinand Vandeveer Hayden's surveys of Colorado do not mention Rapid Creek. The name, however, does appear in the earliest accounts mentioning J.P. Harlow, the first white settler of the area. Whether Harlow named the creek or whether it received its name from another source remains a mystery.

The earliest inhabitants of the Rapid Creek area were the Ute Indians, but of their movements and day-to-day activities in the region we know almost nothing. The Utes may have burned large areas in the high country in Rapid Creek Basin to create open, grassy areas where large game animals could graze. Sidney Brooks Lloyd, an early explorer of the area, also claimed to have known where several Ute burial sites were located. It is certain that one of the Ute Indians who had captured Josephine Meeker during the Meeker Massacre was caught in the area and hanged on the old road that ran up through Rapid Creek to the towns of Mesa and Collbran.[1] Moreover, one can occassionally find an arrowhead lost by a Ute hunter.

The Ute Indians were forcibly removed from Western Colorado in August 1881. Within months, white settlers began moving into the Grand Valley. Among them was the first white settler of Rapid Creek, J.P. Harlow.

Born in Canada in 1830, Harlow had spent most of his life roaming the frontier areas of the American West.[2] During the late 1870s and early 1880s, Harlow and his wife Kate lived in Gunnison, Colorado but in the late fall of 1881 left Gunnison for the two-month old town of Grand Junction. The Harlows arrived in the valley on December 2, 1881.[3]

Upon his arrival, Harlow began constructing a house on the corner of Fifth Street and Colorado Avenue and started another home on Rapid Creek. During this early period, Harlow lived in Grand Junction and his home was considered one of the town's finest, complete with a stable and fenced yard. Kate Harlow served dinner at the home, which was known as Harlow's Restaurant.[4]

During this time, Harlow was a very busy man. In addition to his activities at home, he held the office of Road Overseer for Grand Junction, and was one of Mesa County's first Justices of the Peace. Harlow,

Sidney Brooks Lloyd and party on the old county road leading from Rapid Creek to Mesa, Colorado circa 1900.

A view of the "Blowout" on the west side of Chalk Mountain circa 1933.

a staunch Democrat, was also deeply involved with local politics and served on a Grand Jury that investigated several shootings which occurred in Grand Junction during 1882. Finally, with another man named Fitzpatrick, he began building the Pioneer Ditch, an important early water project in the valley.[5]

Harlow's most important accomplishment during 1882 was his work in agriculture. In the spring of 1882, he began testing the capabilities of the soil. On his Rapid Creek farm, Harlow planted a large vegetable garden and the Grand Valley's first fruit trees. The garden was a huge success: "grasses, cereals and roots of all kinds under his care yielded a harvest which more than satisfied the prospective farmers of the valley, as to the fertility and productiveness of the soil."[6] The fruit trees, however, died in large numbers. Harlow corrected this the next year by using burnt bones and leached ashes to fertilize the soil. The fertilizer worked and his trees grew well.[7]

In the winter of 1882-83, Harlow worked on his Grand Junction property. His home was improved and he moved his wife's restaurant to Main Street and expanded it into a hotel in February of 1883. Simultaneously, he began work on a stone house on Rapid Creek. Its exact date of completion is unknown, but it was finished by the summer of 1884 when Kate left Grand Junction to live with her husband there.[8]

In 1883, Harlow became a Deputy U. S. Marshall, but was defeated for the position of Justice of the Peace in the fall elections of the same year. The local paper, the *Grand Junction News*, explained his defeat:

> We have admired Harlow's independent, professions politically, and could have wished him good luck even on a Democratic ticket had he not used certain language Tuesday night last. The language is too vile to print and will kill Harlow as dead as a mackerel.[9]

Whether it was Harlow's foul language or his party affiliation which cost him the election is unknown, but after this time he abandoned political ambitions and directed his considerable energy toward other projects, mainly farming. Notably, the editors of the *Grand Junction*

News apparently felt no animosity toward Harlow after this event and continued to refer to him in the best terms.

In February 1884, Harlow and a partner named Boulden started a coal mine on a claim he had owned for some time. An opening was made on a three-and-a-half-foot vein of coal and a small mine was put into operation. Harlow found both rock salt and iron ore in his mine, but the resources were too poor to be of any practical value. The coal, however, was of a good quality and the mine expanded.[10]

During the spring and summer of 1884 Harlow was involved in several different projects. First, he served as the administrator of the estate of Maggie Herrick and sued the bondsman of a former sheriff of Grand Junction named Martin Florida for five thousand dollars on grounds of false returns on a Writ of Replevin (which calls for the return of wrongfully taken goods or chattels). It remains unknown whether he won the case, but it did drag on for several years. Secondly, Harlow broke land on twelve lots on Grand Avenue in Grand Junction and planted a crop of fruits and vegetables there. Finally, he planted a huge crop of vegetables, mostly potatoes and corn, on his Rapid Creek farm.[11]

Kate Harlow also remained active with her restaurant business, which saw the addition of an ice cream parlor in May 1884.[12] However, in June Kate closed the business and joined her husband on Rapid Creek where they remained from that point on. Mrs. Harlow was needed to help run the expanding farm, which was becoming well-known locally for its productivity.

The Harlows' hard work made the farm on Rapid Creek a huge success. Preoccupied with his work, Harlow's visits to Grand Junction became less common, usually averaging about seven trips a year. One example of his industriousness was the construction of Harlow's stone wall, which was used to mark the boundaries of Harlow's property and to divide sections within it. This is one of the few remaining structures from this period, and must have been a huge undertaking for one man. The lack of records makes it impossible to determine whether Harlow built the wall himself, and how long it took to accomplish this project.

From a survey of records describing his activities, it must be noted that Harlow was apparently an incredibly hard worker. In addition to

his orchard, vegetable garden, stone house and wall, he also dug the Grapevine Ditch — parts of which can still be seen today. He is also credited with building a flour mill at the eastern end of his farm and a host of other smaller barns and buildings.[13]

Bunkhouses and barns were constructed to provide a waystation for freight haulers on their way to and from Grand Junction to Mesa and Collbran. The Harlow property was situated next to the "old" county road and, since there was plenty of water for horses, it was a logical place to stop. People also came down from Collbran and Mesa, usually in the summer and early fall, after the Colorado River had receded, with loads of hay and potatoes. The road ran west from Mesa near Chalk Mountain, followed Rapid Creek down to the Colorado River, and then followed the southern bank of the river to a point approximately one mile southwest of Rapid Creek known locally as the "Narrows".[14]

In the winter of 1885, Harlow visited Grand Junction to attend a local horticultural meeting. During this meeting he gave a speech on his experimentation with the Grand Valley's soil. The pioneer ". . .urged upon farmers the necessity of education; that brains and muscle should go hand in hand." Apparently, Harlow knew what he was talking about. In the fall of the same year, his trees, some of which had grown to over eight feet within a year and a half, were starting to produce peaches.[15] According to the *Grand Junction News*, 1886 was the most successful year Harlow ever had on his Rapid Creek farm. His orchard, numbering over two thousand peach and two hundred apple trees, now four years old, continued to thrive and twenty-four trees produced peaches in small numbers. The orchard was watered by the Grapevine Ditch that also was completed in this year.[16]

"Judge" Harlow, as he was commonly known because of his tenure as Justice of the Peace, was one of the most successful farmers in the Grand Valley during this period. His success is illustrated by a journalistic description of his farm made in July 1886:

> Judge Harlow and his wife on Rapid Creek are having the most wonderful success in raising fruit of any people in the valley. Grand Junction people were up there this week and returned reporting that for din-

> ner they ate ripe blackberries, black raspberries, white currants and ripe peaches. They have musk melons as large as a man's hat and squashes half grown. A half a dozen ripe peaches were left on our desk this morning (Friday) and are a sight to do one good. Ripening in the sun they acquire such brilliant colors as do not appear on Eastern, or even Californian fruit. Peach growing is bound to be a great success in the Grand Valley.[17]

This prediction of the *Grand Junction News* was indeed accurate. Orchards did become extremely important and successful in the area. This was largely due to the pioneering efforts of farmers like Harlow who showed that through irrigation, large crops of fruits and vegetables could be grown in the Grand Valley comparable to those raised elsewhere.

In December of 1886, Harlow worked to expand his coal mine. He planned to load empty freight wagons returning from up the river with coal for sale in Grand Junction.[18]

Meanwhile, Kate Harlow continued to help her husband and raised her own flock of turkeys for extra cash. She took the birds to Grand Junction, where she remained for several weeks during November. Apparently, Mr. Harlow wanted his wife to return as soon as possible. "The Judge sent a very accurate description of his lost spouse to friends in the city with instructions to capture her and send her home by the first coach."[19]

The year 1887 proved to be even more successful for the Harlows than the previous one. The Judge's efforts paid off with an excellent fruit crop which supplied his own table and also won first place for the best plate of peaches at the Mesa County Fair in October. Moreover, Harlow had sent peaches to the Denver Exhibition in September and had won a blue ribbon there as well:

> J.P. Harlow's peaches captured the blue ribbon at the Denver Exhibition. They were all seedlings picked from trees two years old. Mesa County to the front as usual.[20]

Although this was a great accomplishment, it is quite possible that this was the first entry of peaches the Exhibition had ever seen. It is possible, also, that Harlow grew the first successful crop of peaches in the state of Colorado.

This was also Harlow's peak year in the mining business. Early in 1887 he had taken on a partner, George A. Crawford, founder of the city of Grand Junction.

> Governor Crawford and H. C. Parsons visited Rapid Creek on Wednesday to inspect the "bulliest" coal mine in all this region. The mine owned by Harlow and Crawford is in 150 feet and already shows a quality of coal pronounced by Denver experts to be the best ever sent from this country. A contract has been set for tunneling 300 feet further, and the property will be under the supervision of Mr. Louis Seeger, an experienced miner. The gentlemen, during the day had an opportunity to see Judge Harlow's famous fruit orchard, where peaches, plums, pears and all kinds of fruit are growing nicely. The strawberry patch was duly punished, and the monotony of the day varied by the killing of a big rattler. Both gentlemen contend for the honor of laying out the snake, but we have private advices to the effect that Parsons climbed a tree and the Gov remained neutral while Judge Harlow himself did the heavy work.[21]

With Seeger overseeing the work, the mine was expanded. A second tunnel was started and coal was brought into Grand Junction by teams returning from Glenwood Springs along the Roan Toll Road, which ran west down the Colorado River from DeBeque to Grand Junction. A platform was built on the north side of the river and coal was piled there before being sold. Since the mine was on the north side of the river, as was the toll road, there was no need for a bridge. The price was $2.50 for delivered coal or buyers could pick it up at the mine for $2.00 a ton.[22]

Despite the mine's success, which made it a rival of the Bookcliff Coal Company located north of Grand Junction, Harlow quit the busi-

ness in the same year. Whether he did it to concentrate his efforts on his farm or for other reasons is uncertain. Regardless, Seeger leased the mine from Crawford and continued to work it under the name of the Grand Junction River Coal Mine. Seeger had an agent in town, W.A. Lynch, and orders for coal were left with W. H. Lee or Warren Orr at the Central Drug Store in Grand Junction. Seeger also raised the price to $6.00 a ton.[23]

In the spring of 1888, Harlow was assisted on his farm by his stepson, a Mr. Smith. With the additional help, he expanded and improved his orchard, and predicted another good harvest. The *Grand Junction News* declared: "Judge Harlow says his peach orchard will come to the front loaded as usual."[24]

By this time, the Harlow farm had picked up a nickname, "Peachvale," promoted perhaps by Harlow himself since he seems to have done a great deal of bragging in Grand Junction. We will never know if Harlow was trying to build up the reputation of Rapid Creek to encourage further development of the area or whether he was simply being overly vocal about his success. In any case, the nickname did not stick, but the *Grand Junction News* was more than happy to print what Harlow said if for no reason other than to encourage settlement in the Grand Valley.

> These peach trees are breaking under the weight of the fruit and have to be propped up. He [Harlow] estimates that he will have about a five ton crop of as fine of peaches as ever grew anywhere. All his fruit was grown from the seed and have delicious flavor.[25]

Harlow did have a good harvest in 1888, as he predicted, but the yield was little over a ton of peaches instead of the five that he had predicted. In September they were sold in Grand Junction and many were reported to have weighed as much as three-fourths of a pound each. They enabled him to take first place at the Mesa County Fair. For winning this event, Harlow received a year's subscription to the *Grand Junction News*: "The 8-10 boxes made an excellent showing coming as they did from seedling trees."[26]

Besides the fine fruit harvest, Harlow raised his usual large crop

of vegetables, including cabbages, that were sold in Grand Junction. Perhaps the large yield was due to Harlow's use of fish as fertilizer, a new practice he began in 1888.[27]

The year 1889 marked a change because the Judge began to pursue other interests. Harlow became restless, and was no longer content to stay on his isolated farm raising fruits and vegetables. In January, Harlow along with W. J. Miller, opened a real estate office in Grand Junction. In May, he was among a group of local citizens who went to Utah to survey gold fields recently discovered there. Moreover, there were also reports that he had sold his property on Fifth and Main in Grand Junction for six thousand dollars and, with his old friend George Crawford, opened the Brunswick Hotel, one of the finest in Grand Junction. This new business venture coincided with Harlow's disposal of his other property. The hotel seems to have been successful and he must have profited from the business deal.[28]

From May 17, 1890, until his death a year later, Harlow also ran a post office on his Rapid Creek farm. Noted in postal records as "Harlow, Colorado" it remained in operation until April 7, 1891. The post office of Palisade, Colorado was established in January of the same year.[29]

In January 1891, Harlow went to Grand Junction for the funeral of his friend "Governor" Crawford. Ironically his own funeral would follow a few months later.[30]

During the remaining months of his life, he continued to work as he always had. The last account of him was made by the *Grand Junction News* on March 7, 1891, when it reported that he had been busy pruning his grapevines and fruit trees.[31]

On approximately March 9, 1891, Harlow suddenly became ill. He signed over his property to his wife and was taken to the Crawford Hotel in Grand Junction. There, either on the night of Wednesday the eleventh or early the next morning, he died of pneumonia. The next day a short service was conducted by Reverend Dickenson of the Congregational Church at the Grand Junction roller skating rink and his body was taken by wagon to his home on Rapid Creek where it was interred.[32]

J. P. Harlow was Rapid Creek's most well-known figure, but others also played a role in the area's development. Accounts of their ac-

tivities are sketchy, and many, like George Crawford and Henry R. Rhone, were land speculators who owned property there but never lived in the area.

Henry Rhone, a native of Illinois, a lawyer, came to the Grand Valley in 1882. He was active in the early development of Grand Junction and was best known for the construction of the Roan Toll Road, an early transportation link between Grand Junction and Glenwood Springs.[33]

Rhone bought a large amount of Rapid Creek land in 1883 on the bluffs to the northeast of the Harlow farm. The *Grand Junction News* stated:

> The ranch lies on an elevated mesa at the mouth of Rapid Creek and contains several hundred acres of splendid fruit land on which water can be placed at the expense of a days labor. It is entirely protected and will be worked next spring.[34]

It is likely that this land was later sold to George Crawford and in 1888 the Crawford Ditch was dug. These waterworks opened the second orchard on Rapid Creek in the area near the present Ute Water Treatment Plant. Crawford probably did not develop the farm but instead rented it to a Mr. Hawthorne who worked the land. Hawthorne was a friend of Harlow and had accompanied the "Judge" on a trip to Grand Junction a few days before the latter's death. Another reference to him appeared in the *Grand Junction News*: "Mr. Hawthorne had done some splendid work on the Crawford fruit ranch." He apparently bought the land after Crawford died and worked it until later owners moved in.[35]

Kate Harlow left the Grand Valley soon after her husband's death and settled in San Francisco County, California with several of her children. One of these was an adopted daughter, Esther E. Bennighoff (Hoover).[36]

Kate's departure was apparently hurried and the land was left unworked. After she left a host of rumors began, including some which stated that Mrs. Harlow forced travelers to move off her land at gunpoint.[37]

In 1894, Esther Hoover received the Harlow farm, except the house,

from Kate and made no effort to build another home on the property. She was married at this time to a railroader from Glenwood Springs, John D. Hoover. A man named James Gibbon ran the farm for her. Kate Harlow sold the house itself to Gibbon, but shortly thereafter the Hoovers bought all the property from Gibbon.

Sometime between 1894 and 1902, the Hoovers were divorced. Esther left Colorado and moved to California to join Kate Harlow. After her departure, the farm was sold at public auction to B. T. Napier for the price of $1,961.76. This sale led to a host of legal battles that would not be settled until 1911.[38]

Throughout this period, many people either lived on, or tried to gain control of the Harlow farm. R. H. Bancroft and his brother Allen, along with Samuel Joynson all lived on the farm for a period after Hoover's departure, but the land still belonged to B. T. Napier. Joynson died within the next few years, and the administrator of his estate, Sarah E. Machlin, battled Napier and Esther Hoover for control of his farm.[39]

In 1911, the last contender for the property, Mary L. Griffith, became involved in the fray. Whether some of these people were Harlow's children is unknown. The Bancrofts were not related to Harlow, but others may have been relatives of the pioneer.[40] What is clear is that these contending rivals for the Harlow estate were allied against Hoover in 1911. The dispute went to court and Hoover was declared rightful owner to both the land and the water rights. Napier tried to appeal to the Colorado Supreme Court, but Judge Shackleford in Grand Junction denied his request.

During these years of bickering, something very important occurred: the residents on Rapid Creek lost their water rights to the new self-proclaimed "peach capital of Colorado," Palisade. In 1907, the Town of Palisade purchased large amounts of Rapid Creek water rights for $12,500. Hoover, Napier and the others put aside their differences and tried unsuccessfully to stop this action. Despite their efforts, in November 1907 Judge Shackleford decreed that Palisade was the absolute holder to a title that allowed the town 1.44 cubic feet of water per second out of the stream. After this decision, lack of water became a continuing concern for all Rapid Creek residents.[41]

The period from 1911 to 1915 is very sketchy. Esther Hoover probably lived in California with Kate Harlow and leased out the farm, but we will probably never know exactly what happened in the area due to lack of accounts of either person during this period.

In 1915, Esther Hoover returned to Rapid Creek and in 1916 leased the farm to Andy Voytilla. Andy, who was nineteen, ran the farm and worked for Mrs. Hoover, who was at this time in her mid-thirties. A short time later, Andy was joined on the farm by his older brother John.[42] Mrs. Hoover kept house for the two brothers and provided them with food, farm equipment, and a team of horses. In return, the Voytilla brothers worked her land and took the peaches into town and sold them during harvest. This arrangement continued through World War I, even after John left in the fall of 1918, to join the army. The war ended before he ever left the United States and he was back in time to help bring in the peach harvest of 1919. By this time, Mrs. Hoover had sold the farm to James and Rosa Martin. The Martins moved into the house shortly thereafter.

In 1919, Esther Hoover returned to California for good and joined Kate Harlow. After her departure a variety of rumors arose concerning her, including that she was a spiritualist and could move chairs and open doors with her mind. John Voytilla dismissed these tales as nonsense saying: "Mrs. Hoover wasn't strange, just quiet and didn't associate with her neighbors who were strangers to her." Regardless, the last relative of Harlow had left Rapid Creek forever, and with the appearance of the Martins a new period in the history of the area began.[43]

The Martins divided up the original Harlow property, selling it off in bits and pieces. By the time of James Martin's death in 1934, only the land around and directly east of the Harlow house remained. The original Harlow homestead had been nearly 160 acres.[44]

The division of the Harlow property led to a group of smaller farms which were occupied from the turn of the century until the 1930s. The farms were small, most of them were ten acres or less, and their primary crop was fruit — peaches, apricots, cherries, and apples. In addition, residents raised vegetable gardens and small farm animals. Most of the families who settled in the area were first or second genera-

tion European immigrants. Many arrived in the United States with the last great waves of immigration that preceded World War I.

Although the area never generated a sufficient "critical mass" to become an independent community, the Rapid Creek residents felt a bond with their neighbors and the isolated area. Rapid Creek was a diverse community consisting of people from varied backgrounds, many of whom spoke English as their second language. A survey of their names reveals their origins: Jenkins, Kladdocks, Solovichs, Stokes, Marolts, Smiths, Goffredis and Pyeatts.

As a rule, the farms were not entirely self-sufficient. The residents could grow enough to eat and some surplus for sale, but it was still necessary for family members to work additional jobs. Often men worked in coal mines near the area.

Since the earliest periods of white settlement in the Grand Valley, cattle ranching played a major economic role. Some of the valley's earliest ranchers drove their cattle in the Rapid Creek area. Among this group were a couple of cattlemen from Larned, Kansas: L. H. Miller and Norman J. Krusen, who purchased a ranch on Rapid Creek in September 1886 from a "young Mr. Buzzard."[45]

In October of that same year, Miller apparently went to Pueblo, Colorado to buy more cattle. In addition, he met with Krusen who had a herd from his Kansas ranch. They then planned to drive the herd onto a winter range. Their venture was successful, and Miller, who did most of the actual work, spent considerable amounts of time on Rapid Creek.[46]

In December 1887, Krusen, who was regarded as an educated man, proposed a system of waterworks for the city of Grand Junction. The plan was approved and soon thereafter work was started. Krusen's system was successful and Grand Junction had a waterworks system within a year.[47] Both Krusen and Miller, like Harlow before them, had homes in Grand Junction and ran their cattle ranching business on a part-time basis.

Most ranchers on Rapid Creek also farmed. The history of two families, the Lloyds and Smiths illustrates this trend.

Sidney Brooks Lloyd purchased the Hawthorne fruit ranch in 1936. By this time the farm, which in earlier decades under Hawthorne and

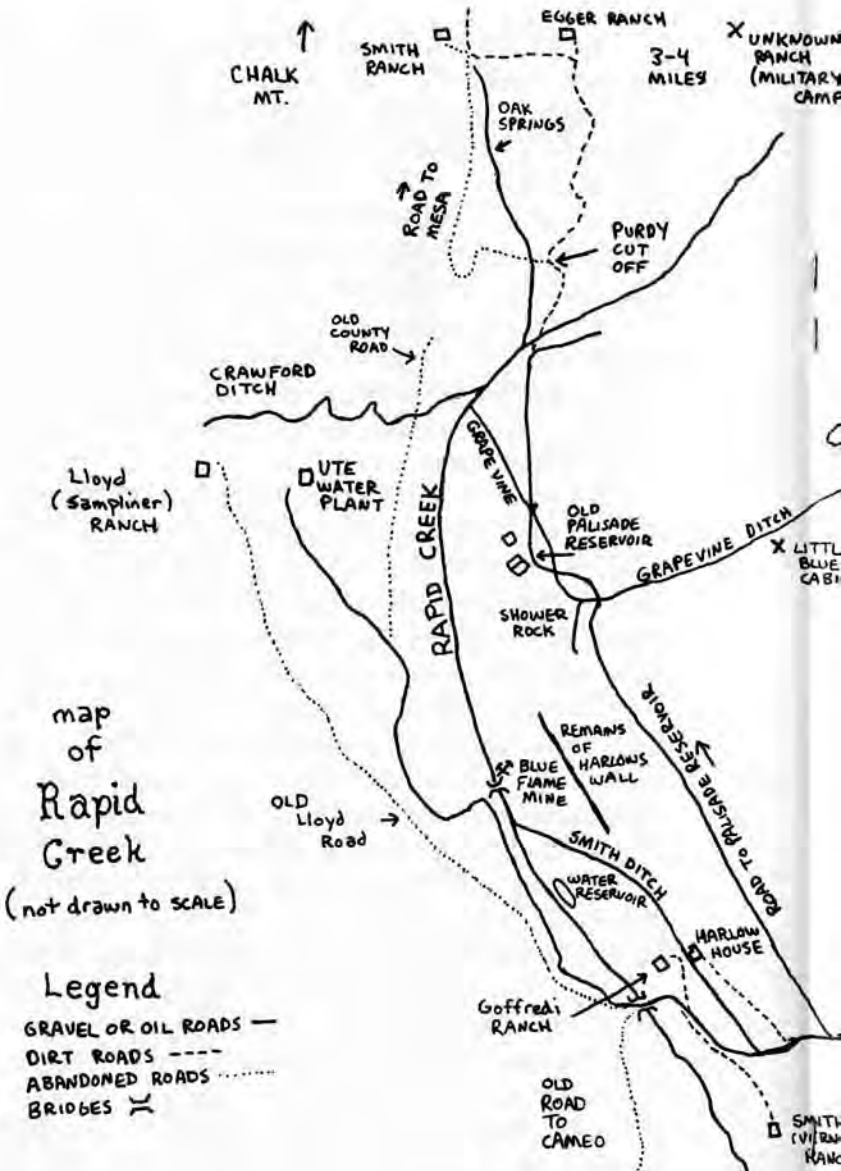
then the Sampliners had supported a splendid orchard, was deserted. The house located on the property had only two rooms and cattle occupied it when Lloyd and his wife and children arrived. He completely remodeled the house, adding five rooms and a group of bunk houses, sheds and corrals.[48]

Lloyd ran a herd of cattle in the Rapid Creek Basin. In addition, he grew tomatoes in a huge field, containing over fifty thousand plants. Like so many other Rapid Creek residents, he supplemented the family income by hauling women from DeBeque to Palisade to work in the canning factory there. His wife Myrna was the office manager of the cannery. The Lloyds lived on the ranch until the late 1950s when it was abandoned. The house was later vandalized and today almost no trace remains of this orchard and later farm.[49]

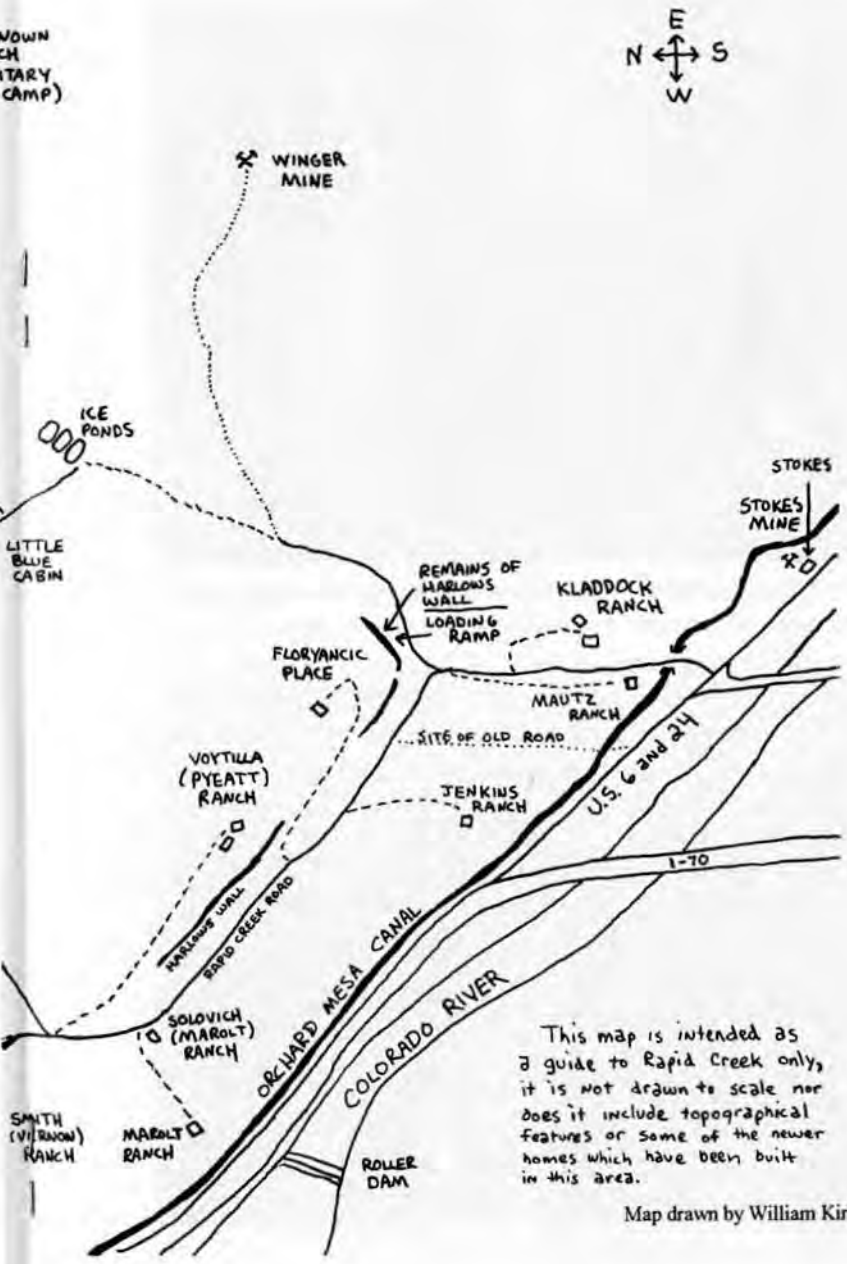
The earliest inhabitant of the Smith ranch was Elmer Purdy, a son of Sam Purdy who was an early rancher in the valley. Elmer built a cabin (where the Smiths later lived) during or shortly after World War I. The ranch was high above Rapid Creek, almost at the foot of the Grand Mesa in the Rapid Creek Basin. There was plenty of water, supplied by three creeks and large open tracts of land that Purdy had started to farm.[50]

In 1919, Claude E. Smith bought squatter's rights from Elmer Purdy. Purdy had already constructed the corrals, sheds, and shelters and had cleared about ten to fifteen acres of land. Smith had money when he arrived in Grand Junction and could have bought a place around Fruita or Loma, but he liked the isolated Rapid Creek property, so he purchased it instead.[51] In April 1919 Smith, his wife Hattie, children Kathleen and Karl and two adolescent boy cousins, loaded a lumber wagon with their possessions and supplies and started out for the ranch, driving cattle and horses with them. The first day they traveled as far as Vineland and spent the night in a barnyard at the foot of the Narrows.[52]

The next day they made their way up Rapid Creek, crossed the stream itself and branched off on what is now called the Purdy Cut Off. This was a mistake; the trail was very steep and slick and the Smiths had to use extra horses to get up the hills. The time spent getting over this rough area meant that it was dark before they arrived at the cabin: "The cows were mad because they hadn't been milked, Mrs. Smith was mad



This map is intended as a guide to Rapid Creek. It is not drawn to scale, nor does it include topographical features or some of the newer homes in the area.



This map is intended as a guide to Rapid Creek only, it is not drawn to scale nor does it include topographical features or some of the newer homes which have been built in this area.

Map drawn by William Kirk Bunte

Sidney Brooks Lloyd outside his Rapid Creek home circa late 1950s.

Goffredi apricot orchard on Rapid Creek circa 1947.

because it was dark, and Mr. Smith was mad too."[53] To make matters worse, when they finally got into the cabin it was a mess. There was mud several inches deep on the floor that had to be removed with scoop shovels, and a family of pack rats were in the roof. But the final blow came when they got into bed and discovered it was full of bedbugs. The bark had not been peeled off the cabin walls and it was a perfect home for the pests. Naturally, no one slept that night. The next day the bark was removed and kerosene was applied to the furnishings. After the cabin had been deloused, things cheered up, but Mrs. Smith and Karl never really liked the ranch.[54]

Every year, from April until September, the Smiths lived on the ranch, farming and ranching. In the winter they lived in Grand Junction. Mr. Smith, like most Rapid Creek residents, also performed odd jobs: cattle ranching, butchering, and moving coal.[55]

In 1920, when the land was opened up for homesteading, Mr. Smith traveled the considerable distance to Montrose and slept on the courthouse steps overnight to make sure he got the land his farm was located on. He was successful and was the first to file on 640 acres of land.[56]

During the summer, the Smiths raised three cuttings of alfalfa, corn and grain to feed their cattle and hogs. Smith also raised cabbages, turnips, carrots, string beans and dry beans, which he brought down to Grand Junction in a truck and sold door-to-door. On Saturdays, Kathleen rode a horse ten miles to Palisade, leading another horse loaded with two five-gallon milk cans full of cream that were sent to the Eckert Creamery via train.[57] The virgin soil of the farm was rich and it produced huge potatoes "large enough that one would feed an entire family at dinner." Other vegetables grew equally large and the Smiths always enjoyed a bountiful harvest.[58]

Occasionally, the Smiths had problems with ranchers from Plateau Valley who, "trampled the hayfields, and then invited themselves to dinner, and at the table had no manners — if they wanted anything they just stood up and grabbed it." But no one, not even an enemy, was turned away at dinner time. Life was quiet and stable on the ranch and no one ever felt deprived.[59]

Mr. Smith kept the ranch over twenty years, until after World War

Mr. Smith and Karl in the Smith cabbage patch circa 1930.

Karl and Kathleen Smith circa 1921.

II, but during this time he had someone else run the cattle. Finally, he sold the place to the Burns family, who also ran cattle, but the land was never farmed again.[60]

In addition to farming and ranching, several coal mines operated in the Rapid Creek area. The earliest coal mine on Rapid Creek, as noted earlier, was the Harlow Coal Mine. The Harlow Mine, which was later called the Roadside Mine, was worked for many years. Located at the mouth of DeBeque Canyon on the west side of the Colorado River, any traces of the operation were destroyed by the construction of the I-70 interstate bridge that now passes over its location.

One mine that is more clearly identified is the Stokes Mine. The mine was started in the late 1890s. Walter Stokes, who was a native of Scotland, came to the Grand Valley in 1897. Stokes had been living in Coal Creek, Colorado, but when the Ludlow Massacre occurred he was forced to leave the area because he had been one of the leaders of this strike.[61]

The Stokes owned a farm in the Grand Valley for a time, but Mr. Stokes did not like this type of work. Later, with another miner, he prospected and found a coal vein in Spiral Canyon just south of Rapid Creek. Although his partner soon left, a mine was opened and he became sole owner of it. Shortly after, Mr. Stokes hired a man named Jim Polle to operate it for him.[62] The mine was successful, employing over twenty-five miners. Bill Stokes, his son, began working in the mine when he was old enough, and when his father died, he inherited the property.[63]

In 1917, Bill married Anne Reese who had come to the valley with her parents in 1904. The couple moved into a one room shack behind the mine and lived there for five years until Bill had enough money to build a house. Anne Stokes would not let her husband rent a place in Palisade, telling him the shack was good enough. Bill built the house on his four-and-a-half acres. It was the first modern house in the Rapid Creek area, complete with an indoor bathroom and electricity.[64]

In addition to the Stokes's shack, there was another one close by. These two structures had a variety of inhabitants, usually people who worked for Bill. Bob Roberts, and later Sam Peppel lived there. Both

Stokes Coal truck circa early 1920s.

Stokes Mine circa early 1920s.

men were old miners in bad health. Peppel, who had a wooden leg, weighed coal at the mine. Bill Stokes' mother cooked and cleaned for these two men.[65]

Before there was electricity, the coal was brought from the mine one car at a time by mule. In 1925, Bill ran a power line from the Palisade Mine, on the other side of the river, to the Stokes Mine. He also purchased an electric hoist in Kansas City and installed electric pumps and lights, which enabled four to five cars to come out of the mine at once. Two years later, Public Service Company took over the line and informed Bill he could not use it, angering him greatly.[66]

The Stokes mine at its greatest extent, tunneled in over two miles. Most of the miners either lived on Rapid Creek or in Palisade.[67] The Stokes Mine ceased operation for two reasons. First, in 1942, Bill was involved in a severe car accident that ruined his health and forced him to quit mining. Simultaneously the coal vein ran into an upheaval of broken rock that made the mine unworkable. Bill sold the mine in 1942 to the Hastys, but they were unable to work through the upheaval and the mine closed for good in 1943.[68]

About a mile and a half northeast of the Stokes Mine was the Winger Mine. Situated at the back of a box canyon and on top of the cliffs, the mine began operation in 1904.[69] The original owner was H. H. Winger, an old Dunkard minister with a huge white beard. Winger had a farm between Palisade and Clifton near the old Bridges Switch Store.[70] In 1908, when Winger sold the operation, it contained one hundred twenty acres of coal land — compared to the Stokes Mine which contained eighty acres, of which only forty were mined — and had two entrances. A large amount of work had already been done by this period and the mine had a five and a half foot vein of coal. The coal was sold for two dollars a ton.[71]

The mine was sold and was operated through the years by several people: Maynard Clark, the Steffens, and the last known owner, a Mr. Fontenary, who abandoned it after it caught fire around 1964. During the years the mine was known by several names, including the Go Boy Mine and the Grand Mesa Coal Company Mine.[72]

The last major mine on Rapid Creek lies in the ravine to the east

of the Harlow farm. This mine was started in 1899 by a Mr. Brownfield, and was eventually known as the Blue Flame Mine.[73] The mine was abandoned for years after its discovery. In 1925, Charles Dutton and Associates, who were not themselves miners, bought eighty acres as an investment. These men never operated the mine and it remained unworked until 1931, when W. J. Waldren and Sons began working the claim.[74] Waldren called the mine the Blue Blaze Mine, and started work with little in the way of equipment. Coal was removed by wheelbarrows to the top of the hill where it was loaded onto a truck and delivered to customers.[75]

In 1932, Richard Martin, the adopted son of the Martins who had owned the Harlow farm, borrowed money to buy the mine. Martin changed the name to the Blue Flame Mine because there was a Blue Blaze Mine in Somerset, Colorado and he wished to avoid a legal fight over the name. The Goffredis sold him a right of way to build a road on the north side of Rapid Creek, which remains to this day and is currently used to reach the Ute Water Treatment Plant.[76] Martin owned the mine for many years and used a donkey to remove the coal from the mine. He sold the coal to the Mesa County Court House and Grand Junction High School.[77]

Martin eventually sold the mine to Charles Vidmar, who in turn sold it to its last owners, the Barstows. The mine was shut down in the early 1960s and today almost no trace of it remains.[78]

Two other important commercial enterprises in the Rapid Creek area were illegal liquor and ice. Liquor was probably produced on Rapid Creek from the time that the first orchards were planted there, but Mesa County becoming "dry" and National Prohibition made the sale of illegal liquor (mainly wine) profitable. This is quite understandable when one realizes that during the early stages of the Great Depression fruit was often left to rot on the ground because there was no market for it. Moreover, Rapid Creek was populated by immigrants for whom alcohol was a part of their culture.[79]

Stills were a major source of income, and almost every farmer had one. "Eli Solovich bootlegged wine and had stills. Large amounts of booze came from Rapid Creek during prohibition. Charles Lumley, Sheriff of Mesa County, raided Rapid Creek regularly, but most were too slick

to be caught."[80] When prohibition ended, the need for illegal liquor died with the Volstead Act, and this source of income for Rapid Creek residents disappeared.

The last major business on Rapid Creek was based on a series of ice ponds. John Sulzar, with the help of his son-in-law, Ray Irving, built and operated the ponds. Excess water from the Grapevine Ditch was stored in the ponds and frozen during the winter. The ice was then cut and stored in sawdust and, during the summer, was sold door-to-door. This enterprise lasted until electricity and home refrigerators ended the need for ice boxes.[81]

Rapid Creek, like the rest of the Grand Valley, depended on irrigation for its very life. Ditches and canals were among the first projects undertaken in the area. The first ditch built on Rapid Creek was the Grapevine Ditch, constructed by J.P. Harlow, a substantial effort dug most likely in 1882.[82] The Grapevine ran from Rapid Creek west to the bluffs above the east end of Harlow's farm. From there it spilled over the rock, which became known later as Shower Rock. It was then diverted either onto the Harlow farm itself or to the mesa which lies to the south of the Harlow house. The ditch was used until the early 1950s, and since its abandonment no orchards have existed on this mesa adjacent to the Harlow farm.[83]

The next oldest ditch was the Crawford Ditch that drew water above the Grapevine. The Crawford Ditch was built in 1888, and while in use, it made possible the huge orchard that existed on the Sampliner (Lloyd) ranch. The ditch ran from Rapid Creek north along several ridges until it reached the farm. The Crawford Ditch has not been used since the Lloyds left the area in the late 1950s.[84]

The Smith Ditch was constructed after the original Harlow homestead was divided into separate ranches. It was the Smith Ditch that provided water to the Smith, Marolt and Solovich farms and, sometimes, to the Jenkins farm. Most of the water used by the southernmost farms did not come from the Smith Ditch, but from the Orchard Mesa Canal.[85]

The Orchard Mesa Canal was built around 1910. After the Harlow property was divided, this was the major water supply to most of

Rapid Creek's small farms. The canal was originally made of wood. Later, it was lined in many areas with concrete and was enlarged to the size it is today.[86]

The earliest road on Rapid Creek was the "old" county road that ran along the Colorado River through the Narrows until it reached a gentle ravine between the Jenkins and Mautz ranches, from which point it ran north to the Harlow farm. From this point, it went down a hill, crossed Rapid Creek and followed the north side of the stream going east to an area where the Ute Water Plant is located today. The road followed Rapid Creek and went past the Smith ranch to Chalk Mountain and from there it ran down into the town of Mesa. This road remained in use until the early 1900s.[87]

Travelers stopped in the area near the Goffredi ranch on their way to and from Mesa and Collbran. "Places were dug in the side of the hill for overnight camping. There were open spots for tents, water for horses and even a dugout complete with a stove."[88]

With the construction of a road through Plateau Canyon, the old road past Chalk Mountain was no longer used. The road at that time ran only from the area of the Roadside Mine south to near Alfred Goffredi's orchard and then down through Rapid Creek. During this period the bridge near the Goffredi ranch was built and the road still went under the Orchard Mesa Canal. The road at the time was part of the Pikes Peak Ocean to Ocean Highway.[89] In the 1920s and 1930s the road through DeBeque Canyon was completed, and the old road through Rapid Creek was abandoned.[90]

The original State Bridge which crosses the Colorado River at Rapid Creek was made of iron and was built only a few feet south of the present bridge. The first bridge was built in the late 1890s or early 1900s and was replaced in 1937 by the present one.[91]

Rapid Creek was never completely agrarian. The farms were too small and economic conditions were usually too hard to make the small farms profitable enough to be completely self sufficient. Only a few farmers worked exclusively on their farms. The vast majority of men who lived on Rapid Creek held additional jobs, usually in mining, to supplement family incomes. While the men worked in the mines, the

women and children took care of the ranches. In addition, every farm had its own pigs, cows, chickens and vegetable gardens. During the fruit harvest the men helped as much as they could. However, it was usually the women and children who did most of the fruit packing. "The boys loaded a wagon full of peaches during the harvest and took them into town to sell them to peach brokers by the depot in Palisade for cash. They didn't return until late into the night."[92] The work was hard, but the majority of people enjoyed their life and never really felt deprived. Rapid Creek by its very location is somewhat isolated, but the individual farms were able to produce much of what they needed, though little that yielded hard cash. The absence of cash flow forced the residents to work other jobs to earn money to buy commercial goods in Palisade or Grand Junction to make the mortgage payments on their farms.[93]

The people of Rapid Creek were progressive in some ways and petty in others. Their attitudes toward prejudice, for example, were usually modern:

> The Ku Klux Klan was never on Rapid Creek even though the Valley was a major center of this movement in the 1920s. Rapid Creek was made up mostly of immigrants or European minorities who didn't pay much attention to the Klan or the rest of the Valley for that matter.[94]

The residents of Rapid Creek usually tried to help one another. Neighbors delivered each others' babies and would help one another if they really needed it. But when it came to water rights, their attitudes were completely different. On this there was a constant rivalry. Neighbors bickered, fought, and stole water from the various ditches, especially in the summer when water was scarce.[95]

The life of young people was very different in the past than it is today. Many Rapid Creek families were large and all the children were expected to work on the farms until they were old enough to get out on their own, or they were expected to find a job to bring in additional money for the family. Kathleen Robinson's trips to Palisade from the Smith ranch as a young girl and the Jenkins boys going to work in the

mines while young teenagers are good examples of this.[96]

Nevertheless, life was exciting for young people on Rapid Creek. When there was no work to be done, children "swam all summer in the [Colorado] river. They built rafts and pulled out near-drowned campers and transients."[97] The children also liked John Goffredi's reservoir as a swimming hole, especially at night. Mr. Goffredi usually ran the kids off and later put up a fence, because he was afraid one of them would drown.[98] Children also ice skated on the river and climbed the Bookcliffs using a path locally known as the stagecoach trail. Along with the occasional trips into town, that was the extent of recreation on Rapid Creek until modern times.[99]

The first school bus on Rapid Creek was an ice wagon run by Dan Freemeyer. Later in the 1920s Rapid Creek got a regular school bus.[100] There was not a school in Rapid Creek, so children were bussed to Palisade or Cameo.

Common utilities were also lacking on Rapid Creek until comparatively late. The first electricity was brought across the river by Bill Stokes for his mine in 1925. Additionally, Anne Stokes was the first resident on Rapid Creek to get city water for her house in the same year.[101]

Norman J. Krusen had sold his water rights to the City of Palisade before this period, and the town had developed not only the Krusen Springs but all of the Rapid Creek Basin. George Nisbet, who was an engineer, was responsible for the first water line built through the Rapid Creek area. Water was trapped originally into Krusen Springs (the intake is still in use) but later the system was replaced by lakes that tap into several springs.[102]

Frank Marolt was the next inhabitant to have electricity. He did this by buying onto the Stokes line. The rest of Rapid Creek had to wait until the REA era of the 1930s before they acquired electric lights.[103]

City water was available from Palisade, but most of Rapid Creek's residents could not afford it. Some continued to use their cisterns into the 1940s and 1950s, and at least one resident still does not have public water.[104]

Rapid Creek has always been affected by the forces of nature. The

terrain is hilly, very dry, and full of large basalt boulders which had to be cleared prior to farming. Flat, open areas suitable for farming exist but are broken by steep ravines and gullies. The soil, however, is very rich and the area also has the good fortune of an almost constant breeze from DeBeque Canyon. This "Million Dollar Breeze" has saved the area's fruit crop from frost many times when fruit in the rest of the Grand Valley was destroyed.[105]

The Great Depression was very hard on Rapid Creek's residents. John Voytilla took one thousand boxes of apricots into Palisade to sell and was given eight cents a box for them. After this experience he decided to give the rest of his crop away.[106] "Fruit was often left to fall on the ground because it couldn't be sold. The fruit instead, was traded for potatoes, beans, corn, etc."[107] However, the residents of Rapid Creek were in some ways fortunate during this period; at least they still had their farms and could produce something to eat. "During the peach harvest every year people came from Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas looking for work. They lived along the river and would come around asking for any kind of work for 10 cents an hour."[108]

With the end of the Depression and the advent of World War II, fruit prices rose. "1943 was the only really good year for fruit. One thousand boxes of peaches fetched over five thousand dollars."[109] This was also the same year that John Voytilla made his best profits on fruit. After World War II prices fell again and things returned to normal on Rapid Creek.

The last major outside force to effect life in the area came from the Town of Palisade. Palisade's impact, especially on Rapid Creek's water supply, will probably never be fully known, but it certainly discouraged growth in the area. It might be argued that Rapid Creek actually grew larger after the loss of water in 1907. But the loss of water restricted growth, not only in the size of the ranches but also in expansion of the entire region itself. Perhaps history would have been somewhat different if the water resources that were diverted to Palisade had been kept on Rapid Creek.

In 1947, the last orchard was planted on Rapid Creek. After this year orchards and cultivated land would slowly be abandoned. From

1947 to the present day the cultivated fruit farms have gradually disappeared. Today only a few fruit trees remain in the area.[110] Can this be due to the same factors which destroyed large amounts of fruit growing elsewhere in the Grand Valley? The is answer is both yes and no. Rapid Creek, indeed, suffered from the same ill effects of bad prices and a general decline in fruit production, but the problems from a lack of water, when compared to Palisade, were unique. The location of the area and the ever-present breeze kept the crops from freezing but simultaneously the lack of water and small size of the region, minuscule in comparison with the entire valley, restricted its growth.

The change has been general in nature. As time passes older economies based on small-scale farming, ranching and mining have been abandoned. Competition from larger companies and conglomerates eliminates these older methods of production and, as a result, the nature and composition of the Rapid Creek community itself has changed.

In 1947, Bill and Lillian Floryancic moved onto the small mesa above the Jenkins farm. This move is important because it ushered in a new phase of Rapid Creek's history: homes being built in the area that had no economic purpose in themselves. The Floryancics were only the first. Since 1947, numerous new homes have been built in the area. Their number today is greater than the number of all the original fruit farms combined.[111]

In the period from 1947 to the present, large acreages of land, especially in the areas east of Rapid Creek, have been bought by either the Town of Palisade, the Powderhorn Coal Company, or the Ute Water Treatment Plant. The areas of upper Rapid Creek are now parts of the domestic watersheds of both Ute Water and the town of Palisade.[112]

The history of Rapid Creek is a very rich one, especially when one considers the small size of the area. The dramatic changes that have occurred in the hundred plus years since J.P. Harlow first homesteaded the area in many ways reflect the same changes which have occurred in the entire Grand Valley. The establishment of a single farm, followed by a period of small independent farmers, ranchers, and miners, finally leading to a modern period of residential growth reflects the history of Western Colorado.

The future will probably see more residential growth and construction. Today, J.P. Harlow remains buried on Rapid Creek and only the stone walls of his house remain. It should be preserved not only by virtue of its age, as the oldest residential building in the Grand Valley, but also because it was the home of an important, if overlooked, pioneer of the area.

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NOTES

[1]Interview with Kathleen Robinson, Palisade, Colorado, 5 November 1985; Interview with Sidney Lloyd, Palisade, Colorado, 18 November 1985.
[2]*Grand Junction News*, 14 March 1891 (hereinafter *News*).
[3]Ibid., 29 December 1883.
[4]Ibid., 2 December 1882.
[5]Charles W. Haskell, ed., *History and Description of Mesa County* (Grand Junction, Colorado: Charles W. Haskell Publisher, 1886), 4, 32.
[6]Ibid., 6.
[7]*News*, 24 January 1885.
[8]Ibid., 5 July 1885.
[9]Ibid., 3 November 1883.
[10]Ibid., 16 February 1884.
[11]Ibid., 19 April 1884.
[12]Ibid., 17 May 1884.
[13]Interview with Anne Goffredi, Palisade, Colorado, 14 October 1985. Any physical evidence of this mill was destroyed by the bulldozing of this area in the fall of 1985.
[14]Interview with Anne Stokes, Palisade, Colorado, 30 October 1985.
[15]*News*, 24 January 1885; 12 September 1885.
[16]Haskell, 77-78.
[17]*News*, 17 July 1886.
[18]Ibid., 25 December 1886.
[19]Ibid., 27 November 1886; 4 December 1886.
[20]Ibid., 15 October 1887; 1 October 1887.
[21]Ibid., 18 June 1887.
[22]Ibid., 24 September 1887.
[23]Ibid., 10 December 1887.
[24]Ibid., 17 March 1888; 12 May 1888.
[25]Ibid., 9 June 1888; 21 July 1888. Harlow's close friend "Governor Crawford speculated in land and this may have been part of a scheme to promote settlement of the area.
[26]Ibid., 6 October 1888; 13 October 1888.
[27]Ibid., 20 October 1888.
[28]Ibid., 12 January 1888; 4 May 1889; 7 September 1889; 28 September 1889.
[29]William H. Bauer, James L. Ozment and John H. Willard, *Colorado Postal History: The Post Offices* (JB Publishing Company, 1971), 69, 109.
[30]*News*, 14 February 1891. Copies of the *Grand Junction News* from 8 March 1890 to 3 January 1891 are not available and no other records of Harlow's activities on Rapid Creek during this period have been found.
[31]Ibid., 7 March 1891.
[32]Ibid., 14 March 1891. It is reasonably certain that the Crawford Hotel was formerly the Brunswick Hotel and, although the paper lists Harlow's death as occurring on 12 March, the date on his tombstone is 11 March 1891.
[33]Haskell, 17, 56.
[34]*News*, 6 October 1883.
[35]Ibid., 7 March 1891.
[36]Interview with John Voytilla, Palisade, Colorado, 13 November 1985.
[37]Goffredi interview.
[38]Copy of Abstract of Title to Lots 6, 7, 12, and 13: Section 2, Township II South, Range 98 West of 6th, P. M. in Mesa County, Colorado, in the possession of Sam Pyeatt of Palisade, Colorado (Hereinafter *Abstract*),. Certificate of Sale, 17 December 1902, #42674, Book 1-B, page 424.

[39]Stokes interview; Abstract; Release of Mortgage, 5 May 1911, #99479, Book 152, page 123.
[40]Ibid., Certificate of Levy, 20 May 1911, #99235, Book 153, page 342.
[41]Ibid., Judgement of Commissioners Report, #73652, Book 119, page 188.
[42]Voytilla interview. At this time about sixty-five acres of land were under cultivation on Rapid Creek.
[43]Ibid.
[44]Abstract; Receiver's Receipt, 7 August 1889, #219.
[45]*News*, 4 September 1886.
[46]Ibid., 9 October 1886; 1 January 1887.
[47]Ibid., 24 December 1887; Ralph Sterry, *The Story of Your Water*, (Grand Junction, Colorado: Special Projects Coordinator, City of Grand Junction, Utilities Department, 17 April 1986), 2. The water works system was a filter system with a pumping plant located on the Colorado River near Fifth Street. The system remained in operation until the early 1900s when it was forced out of business by the City of Grand Junction's water system.
[48]Lloyd interview.
[49]Ibid.
[50]Robinson interview.
[51]Ibid.
[52]Ibid.
[53]Ibid.
[54]Ibid.
[55]Ibid. This lasted until 1923 when Mrs. Smith died of typhoid fever at the age of forty.
[56]Ibid.
[57]Ibid.
[58]Ibid.
[59]Ibid.
[60]Ibid.
[61]Stokes interview. Walter Stokes was seven years old at this time.
[62]Ibid.; Asmussen, Mrs.Carl H. and Mabel B. Eyer, *History of Palisade, Colorado*, Vol. 1, (Palisade, Colorado: Collected by authors, 1963), 10.
[63]Stokes interview.
[64]Ibid. Bill Stokes did not have to serve in World War I because he was needed to produce coal for the war effort. Anne Reese was born in 1896 in Scranton, Pennsylvania. When Bill Stokes died in 1947, the house was sold and moved to Houston Avenue in Grand Junction where it still stands. The area where the house stood is now covered over by U. S. Highway 6& 24.
[65]Ibid. Peppel was a friend of Mr. Kaiser who lived on the Mautz farm. Anne Stokes lived in a house by the mine which still remains.
[66]Ibid.
[67]Ibid.
[68]Ibid. Bill Stokes was hit by a bus while driving his truck; the bus landed on his vehicle, pinning Bill inside and ending his mining career.
[69]Asmussen and Eyer, 15.
[70]Stokes interview.
[71]Asmussen and Eyer, 15.
[72]Stokes interview.
[73]Asmussen and Eyer, *History of Palisade, Colorado*, Vol. 2, 154.
[74]Goffredi interview.
[75]Ibid.

[76]Stokes interview; Goffredi interview. Richard Martin's mother was named Denton and was related to the Martins. Richard was adopted because the Martins wanted a boy and Mrs. Denton was too poor to care for him. Later he had to borrow money for the mine because he had lost everything in the stock market crash of 1929. He also lived in the Harlow house for many years.
[77]Goffredi interview.
[78]Ibid.
[79]Interview with Lillian Floryancic and Margaret Hodgson, Palisade, Colorado, 28 October 1985.
[80]Interview with Sam and Virginia Pyeatt, Palisade, Colorado, 5 October 1985; Floryancic interview.
[81]Pyeatt interview.
[82]Parts of the Grapevine Ditch can still be seen today - see map.
[83]The area where the Grapevine Ditch came over the bluffs was used as a community shower and this became a community event in the summer after a day's work in the orchards.
[84]Lloyd interview.
[85]Pyeatt interview.
[86]Floryancic interview.
[87]Stokes interview.
[88]Goffredi interview.
[89]Pyeatt interview.
[90]Floryancic interview.
[91]Floryancic interview; Goffredi interview. Fruit was packed by each farm in individual sheds until later when the majority of packing was done in large sheds in Palisade.
[93]Floryancic interview. Trips were usually made into Palisade or Grand Junction once a week on Saturdays - after a weekly bath - to buy supplies in town.
[94]Ibid.
[95]Pyeatt interview.
[96]Floryancic interview.
[97]Ibid.
[98]Pyeatt interview; Goffredi interview.
[99]Floryancic interview. In the early 1900s dances were supposedly held at the Harlow house for people who travelled to the site from Cameo.
[100]Goffredi interview.
[101]Stokes interview.
[102]Robinson interview; Lloyd interview. The six-inch pipe was made of wood, covered with tar, and wrapped in wire. Sections of it can be seen at the Palisade Town Hall or on Rapid Creek.
[103]Stokes interview.
[104]Ibid.
[105]Pyeatt interview.
[106]Voytilla interview.
[107]Floryancic interview.
[108]Ibid.
[109]Ibid.
[110]Goffredi interview.
[111]Formerly Jenkins.
[112]The Ute Water Plant was finished and went on line in 1964.

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