

The Pueblo Flood of 1921

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On the night of June 3, 1921, the city and county of Pueblo were visited by the most destructive flood in their history. The flood swept down the Arkansas Valley, causing immense damage to farm lands, railroads, bridges and towns.¹ The heaviest rainfall occurred in the region bounded by Colorado Springs, Manitou, and Victor on the north; Canon City on the west; thence following a line from ten to twenty miles south of the Arkansas River as far east as Pueblo; and the east boundary was from five to ten miles east of the Fountain.

Before considering the magnitude and details of the 1921 flood, let us note some of the previous floods which have been recorded in Pueblo. According to authoritative sources, the first recorded flood of the Pueblo region occurred in 1855, after a long winter of heavy snowfall. The probable cause of the flood was heavy rainfall during the period of the melting snow.² No information regarding the exact date and approximate height of this flood is available.

The second recorded flood of this region was that of June 11, 1864, which was caused principally by very heavy rains. The flood reached a point near Third and Santa Fe Avenue. As Pueblo was then but a small settlement of less than 100 inhabitants, with only a few houses to obstruct the flood flow, it is probable that the same amount of water now would reach a considerably higher stage in the city. During this flood all the streams in the valley were very high and overflowed their banks for great distances.³ Fountain Creek was the first to rise, and many cabins on its banks were washed away. Since no records were kept during that period, no lives were reported lost, nor is the amount of precipitation available.

Certain minor floods occurred during the summer of 1880 and August of 1881. Available records for 1880 show that the rainfall for July and August was nearly twice the normal precipitation, while the Pikes Peak record showed over three times the normal amount for August, 1881.

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¹*Pueblo Star Journal*, June 4, 1921.

²*Water-Supply Paper*, No. 487, p. 36.

³*Ibid.*, 37.

The next flood of any importance occurred July 26, 1893.⁴ Although 1893 was the second driest year in a thirty-five year period, this flood was fourth in size in three-quarters of a century. The Arkansas River reached a point some ten feet lower than that of 1921. The *Rocky Mountain News* of July 27, 1893, said:

Heavy rain at Pueblo broke the levee and did \$200,000 damage. At nine o'clock in the evening of July 26, the river began to rise and rose eight feet in two hours. A saloon standing on the levee became undermined and fell into the channel. Water rushed through the break in the levee, and in ten minutes city hall was surrounded by six feet of water. The crest of the flood is said to have reached the floor of the Union Depot.

The most destructive flood in the history of the Pueblo region prior to the flood of 1921 occurred May 30, 1894.⁵ Heavy rainfall on May 30 and 31 extended over the Arkansas drainage basin, taking the form of snow at higher elevation, especially on Pikes Peak and the mountains at the upper end of the basin. From the *Rocky Mountain News* of May 31, 1894, we quote the following item concerning the flood of 1894:

In consequence of an all day downpour of rain such as has not occurred in this valley in twenty years, the Arkansas River tonight came up and broke the levees in four places on the north side and two on the south side. Everything is in a sea of water, from Union Avenue viaduct to the postoffice. All business cellars are filled in that territory, and the water is over the floors from six inches to two feet. This is a worse flood than any that has occurred since the town became a city. The water flows with a strong current through the streets, and everything is confusion. The flood covers the city from Union Avenue on the south side to Fourth Street on the north side, an area of three-quarters of a mile.

On Second Street between Santa Fe Avenue and Main Street the water was four feet deep over the floor of the buildings. At the highest stage the water was three feet deep in the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad freight yard and kept that height from 2 A.M. to 8 A.M. on May 31. It receded slowly and by 6 A.M. June 1st, had fallen only four and one-half feet. The highest stage was about seven feet less than that of the 1921 flood.⁶ During this flood the property damage amounted to over \$2,000,000, and five lives were lost.

Soon after the 1894 flood had subsided, E. W. Hathway, city engineer, measured the flood cross section just west of the city, and found the maximum discharge of the flood to be 39,100 second feet, of which 24,200 second feet had been carried by the river channel and the remainder flowed through the city on both sides of the river.⁷ As a result of this survey, the river channel through

the City of Pueblo was widened and the levees were raised so that the improved channel would carry 40,000 second feet.

Originally the Arkansas River pursued a winding course through the city, but its channel was straightened and levees were built to furnish protection against a flood of 40,000 second feet, a volume slightly greater than the maximum discharge of the flood of 1894. The heavy rains of June 2 and 3, 1921, in the Pueblo region caused several successive rises in the river. The highest rise and the one that caused the great damage was the second, which occurred on the night of June 3. Dry Creek, which drains an area of 86 square miles just west of Pueblo on the north side of the Arkansas, was subject to its severest flood the night of June 2.⁸ This flood caused the river at Pueblo to rise by 2 A.M., June 3, to a stage of 13.7 feet on the State gage just below the Main Street bridge. This rise subsided in a few hours and as the river channel could safely carry a flood of that stage, little damage was done. The intense rains that began on the afternoon of June 3, caused the river to rise rapidly at 5 P.M., and by 8:45 P.M. the levees were over-topped at a stage of 18.1 feet. The river continued to rise until midnight, when the maximum stage of 24.66 feet was reached.⁹ This stage was maintained for only a few minutes, and then the river fell almost as quickly as it rose, until about 4 A.M., June 4, it had receded to the top of the levee (18.1 feet). By 2:30 P.M. the river had fallen to a stage of 9.5 feet and by midnight to 9.1 feet. About the time the levees were overtopped, they broke at several places near the west end of the city, and large quantities of water flowed directly through the heart of the business section.¹⁰ A third rise reached a stage of 11.1 feet at 4 A.M., June 5, but the river quickly subsided again and remained at a stage of 9.1 feet until 2:15 P.M., when a fourth flood caused by the breaking of the Schaeffer Dam on Beaver Creek, reached the city. The river reached a stage of 13 feet from 3 to 4 P.M., and then fell to 9.1 feet by 7 P.M. By this time the flood run-off from the area of heavy rains had passed, and the river continued to recede gradually, except for a temporary rise to 8 feet at 5:30 P.M., June 6.

When the levees were overtopped an immense volume of water flowed across the old flood plain and through the heart of the business section, which lies on both sides of the river.¹¹ The flooded area covered three square miles and extended from Sixth and Main Streets north of the river to the bluffs south of the

⁴*Ibid.*, 38.

⁵*Ibid.*, 39.

⁶*Pueblo Chieftain*, June 1, 1894.

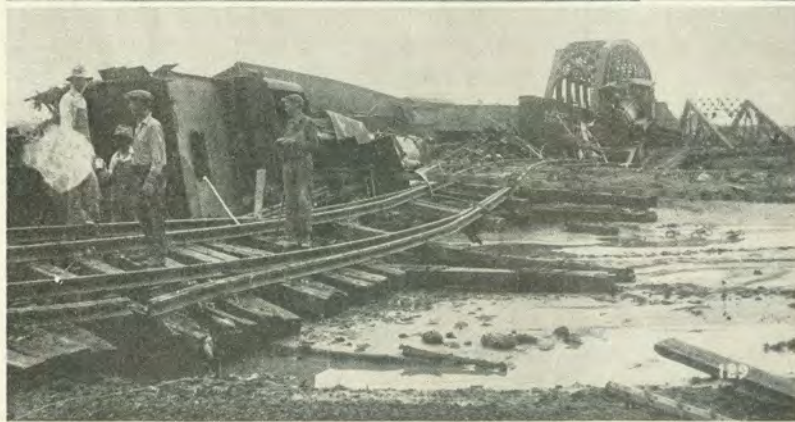
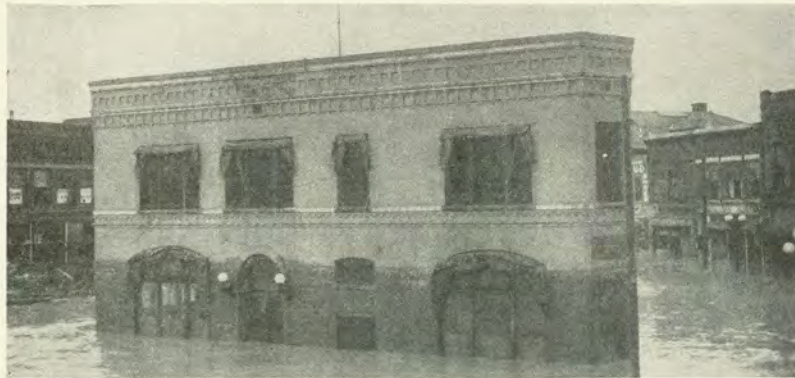
⁷*Ibid.*

⁸*Pueblo Star Journal*, June 4, 1921.

⁹*Water-Supply Paper*, No. 487, p. 23.

¹⁰*Pueblo Star Journal*, June 4 and 5, 1921.

¹¹*Ibid.*



THE PUEBLO FLOOD OF 1921

Upper: Triangle Building, Union and North Main Streets.
 Middle: Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Yards.
 Lower: General View of the Flooded Area.

Denver and Rio Grande Railroad yards on the south side of the river.

The following table shows the height of the high-water mark above the sidewalk level on different buildings in the city.¹²

High-water mark on Different Buildings of Pueblo

Building	Location	Height above Sidewalk
Union Depot	Victoria Ave. and B St.	9.8 feet
Fulton Candy	Santa Fe and Third	9.8 "
Electric Co.	Union and N. Main	11.9 "
McCarthy Block	Union and N. Main	12.5 "
Central Block	Main and Second	12.6 "
Post Office	Main and Fifth	5.5 "
Western Nat'l Bank	Main and Second	13.2 "
.....	First and Santa Fe	14.4 "

The first warning of the approaching flood reached the city about 6 P.M. on the third of June, stating that a wall of water was rushing down the river. Messengers were sent out at once to warn the people living in the lowlands, called Peppersauce Flats. Hundreds of people rushed to the levees to witness the approach of the great wall of water, not thinking that the city could be inundated, as the levees were believed to be high enough to protect it.¹³ The sudden breaking of the levees cut the people off from the higher land, and in endeavoring to escape many were drowned, as were many others in the houses in the lowlands who had refused to heed the flood warning. Fires broke out almost simultaneously in different parts of the city, terribly illuminating the darkness caused by the failure of the lighting system. Burning piles of timber from a blazing lumber yard drifted through the streets of the city, lodging momentarily against frame buildings and setting them on fire. It was almost impossible to fight the fires, as the buildings were surrounded by water, which prevented the fire department from reaching them. With the breaking of the city water system it was impossible to put out the flames. The fires finally burned themselves out. In addition to this, the telegraph and telephone communications were also completely cut off by the catastrophe. All bridges over the Fountain River were washed away, cutting off the eastern part of the town, and all but one bridge over the Arkansas River were either washed away or rendered unfit for use. The stricken city was thus separated into three parts, with practically all means of communication swept away. Much damage was done

¹²Water-Supply Paper, No. 487, p. 25.

¹³Pueblo Star Journal, June 4, 1921.

by floating houses, box cars, and wagons, which tore through the streets in the mad rush of water. Nearly all railroad traffic was suspended for several days. This great flood of 1921 swept on down the Arkansas Valley, almost to the state line, leaving behind it a trail of devastation and death. From the *Pueblo Star Journal* we quote:

Denver and Rio Grande train from Salt Lake which arrived here about midnight was swept over by the flood near the Rio Grande roundhouse. It is said that about 200 passengers were on board and that of these 83 were accounted for. It is claimed that there is heavy loss of life on the train. Lee Williams, a contractor, who was one of the passengers, stated that at least 100 persons are lost. Bodies will be found when the train is reached.

Due to the confusion caused by the terrible flood, Sheriff Thomas called for volunteers to prevent looting until the State troops and rangers could arrive. By 10 A.M., Saturday, Sheriff Thomas had sworn in 1500 deputies.¹⁴ Among the first to assist the police department were the members of the Pueblo Post No. 2 of the American Legion and the members of Pueblo's unit of the National Guard. On Sunday afternoon, June 5, the State Troops arrived and Pueblo was placed under martial law. The volunteers were then released to rest before they joined in the work of reconstruction. Additional troops arrived June 6, and Colonel Newlon was placed in command.¹⁵

In order to conserve the supply of food and fuel, C. W. Lee was appointed food administrator for the city on June 6.¹⁶ All electric lights, city water and gas were shut off, due to destruction of these utilities by the flood. No food hoarding was permitted. But all restrictions on food were withdrawn two days later.

Very soon after the waters had receded, relief organizations established relief stations in different parts of the city to aid the distressed, the homeless and the sick. The Red Cross set up relief stations at the courthouse on the North side and at Central High School on the South side. A temporary hospital was opened in the courthouse with many doctors and nurses aiding. The Elk's Club at Fifth Street and Santa Fe Avenue opened a temporary relief station.¹⁷ Here sandwiches and coffee were served to relief workers and refugees. The Y. M. C. A. building was thrown open, lodging was provided for the weary and food for the hungry. Because of the serious conditions in this region, Pueblo officials appealed to President Harding and the Colorado delegation at Washington by telegram to send immediate aid. The sum of \$20,000,000 was asked for. Of this \$5,000,000 was for immediate

use to Pueblo City and County.¹⁸ On June 7, President Harding appealed to the nation to send contributions by the American Red Cross in rendering aid to the people of Pueblo.

While Pueblo citizens were attempting to relieve their distressed, residents of other cities were striving frantically to get into Pueblo over impassible highways.¹⁹ Motor trucks loaded with food, clothing and medical supplies left Denver Saturday and arrived in Pueblo Sunday afternoon, June 6. Red Cross chapters of the surrounding towns responded in a remarkable way by sending food and supplies to needy Pueblo. The following quotation from the *Pueblo Star Journal* of June 6 describes the relief situation:

A relief train from Trinidad arrived over the Colorado and Southern Sunday. At South Junction it was sent into Minnequa over the Denver and Rio Grande after 2 miles of tracks had been repaired. The train was in charge of Lieut. Governor Cooley and was sent by the direction of the City Council of Trinidad. Trucks met the train and food and clothing were distributed. Two cars of bedding and supplies of all kinds arrived Sunday from Walsenburg Red Cross. * * * Everything possible is being done to care for the homeless in the courthouse, the schools and the churches where they have been quartered since driven from their homes. All Colorado is ready to respond to call for help. Cooks and waiters from wrecked Denver and Rio Grande and Santa Fe trains are preparing meals for those cared for by the Red Cross.

And from *Pueblo Star Journal* of June 7:

A steel baggage car filled with food, clothing and medical supplies was sent from Chicago Monday for the relief of the Pueblo flood victims.

The exact extent of losses to life and property will never be known.²⁰ The most complete estimate of property losses was prepared for the board of the United States Reclamation Service engineers who made an examination of the river and proposed plans for prevention against future floods. This estimate is given below.

Property Losses, June, 1921

Federal, State and County property.....	\$ 900,000
Municipal property.....	800,000
Real estate (city and town).....	3,420,000
Personal property (city and town).....	3,575,000
Farms	3,675,000
Irrigation works	1,275,000
Railroads	4,275,000
Public utilities	500,000
Other property.....	250,000
Total property losses	\$19,080,000

¹⁴*Pueblo Star Journal*, June 5, 1921.

¹⁵*Pueblo Star Journal*, June 6, 1921.

¹⁶*Ibid.*

¹⁷W. H. Parker, *Pueblo's Flood*, 6.

¹⁸*Pueblo Star Journal*, June 6, 1921.

¹⁹*Ibid.*

²⁰*Water-Supply Paper*, No. 487, p. 8.

A report to the Pueblo City Council stated that 510 dwellings were washed away, ninety-eight buildings were wrecked and sixty-one were washed from their foundations. The loss of life in Pueblo was heavy, owing to the swift rise of the river and the unwillingness of many people to heed the flood warnings. The official list places the number of bodies recovered at seventy-eight, but many bodies that were washed down the river were never recovered.

Twenty thousand, six hundred twenty-four acres of Pueblo County farm land were inundated during the flood.²¹ And of this area 2,540 acres were rendered unfit for cultivation. About 20,000 acres of irrigated land were affected temporarily by the destruction of reservoirs and irrigation ditches. The irrigated land that was ruined by erosion was valued at \$448,350.

The heaviest loss was incurred by the railroad companies, as the flooded area included nearly all the extensive terminals of the railroads that enter Pueblo. So great was the damage to the railroad property not only in Pueblo, but in the surrounding territory that not a relief train could enter Pueblo for two days.²² Of the six railroad bridges over the Arkansas River and the three over the Fountain only the Santa Fe bridge to the Union Depot escaped. All the others lost one or more spans or large portions of approaches. The Missouri Pacific yard and engine terminal was cut off by a new channel and was left on an island without a rail connection. A Denver and Rio Grande train and a Missouri Pacific train were caught in the flood while trying to reach higher ground. Coaches were overturned and several lives were lost. Some 2,000 cars in the yards during the flood suffered great damage. Many were floated away and overturned or crushed by the impact or pressure of debris. The total property loss of the railroads in the city was estimated at \$10,000,000.

During the flood the gaging station at the Main Street bridge, which was maintained by the State Engineer, was entirely destroyed.²³ The area inundated was so wide, it was impossible to make discharge measurements during the peak flow. So after the flood, the United States Geological Survey determined the maximum discharge as 103,000 second feet. This amount was 63,000 second feet more than the maximum discharge during the flood of 1894, the greatest flood prior to 1921.

Monday, June 7, several thousand men were put to work clearing away the wreckage and debris from the buildings and streets of the downtown section.²⁴ The steel plant closed and its

employees aided in the task of cleaning up. Bodies of horses and other animals were destroyed in order to prevent the spread of disease later. It took several weeks to clear away the wreckage from the streets of the business section of the city.

Very soon after the flood had subsided, the businessmen of Pueblo decided that something must be done to prevent another such catastrophe.²⁵ Accordingly, a committee of twelve citizens was selected to plan and direct the work of reclamation, until such a time as a special session of the state legislature should provide an authorized plan through legal enactment. To save time this committee began to function immediately. In surveying the whole country, this committee found that the Morgan Engineering Company of Dayton, Ohio, had developed a flood control plan for the Miami River after the Dayton flood of 1911 that worked very satisfactorily. The engineers of this company visited Pueblo and after making a survey, presented their flood control plan with cost estimates. The estimated cost for the Flood Control Project was duly laid before the proper legislative committee at Denver, when the General Assembly was called into special session by Governor Shoup. The legislature enacted a law creating the Pueblo Conservancy District, placing the same under the jurisdiction of the District Court of Pueblo County. The court was authorized to appoint three competent businessmen of Pueblo to administer the affairs of the Pueblo Conservancy District. The committee was composed of Charles W. Lee (Chairman), G. H. Nuckolls and R. G. Breckenridge. The law also called for a tax on those districts affected by the flood to build the Flood Control Project.²⁶ It called for a bond issue of \$4,509,000, and gave four years for the completion of the project.

The Morgan Engineering Company of Dayton, Ohio, had charge of the project work. And Platt Rogers, local contractor, was the man who really accomplished the huge task provided by the Conservancy plan. This plan called for the building of a huge barrier west of Pueblo, and the making of a new river channel about one-half mile south of the old channel. The barrier at Rock Canyon, six miles west of the city, is constructed on the principle of pouring water out of a teakettle.²⁷ This was built of concrete and reinforced steel. It is thirty-three feet high, eighteen feet wide at the bottom and six feet wide at the top, and is built on bedrock. The entire length of this barrier wall is 1642 feet. It took 500 carloads of cement and 2,775,000 pounds of reinforced steel to complete the barrier. There are two openings in this barrier, one for the river channel, the other for the Denver and

²¹*Water Resources*, December, 1922.

²²*Water-Supply Paper*, No. 487, p. 8.

²³*Ibid.*

²⁴*Pueblo Star Journal*, June 6, 1921.

²⁵Unpublished records of Pueblo Conservancy District.

²⁶*Ibid.*

²⁷*Kansas City Star*, January 10, 1926.

Rio Grande Railroad. The river channel opening will allow the passage of 85,000 second feet. Should the water back up far enough, 15,000 additional second feet will pass through the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad notch. Extending for hundreds of feet on either end of this solid concrete wall are equally high dirt wing walls containing 125,000 cubic yards of dirt.

The old river channel, after leaving Dry Creek at the western edge of the city, took a wide bend to the north, then cut diagonally across the city lowlands.²⁸ Almost parallel to the old channel and about one-half mile south was a long, low bluff or cliff. It was decided that the base of this hill should be the new river channel. Accordingly a deep, wide channel was cut along the edge of this hill toward the southeast for about two and one-half miles. Along the northern bank of the new channel, a concrete levee, some two and one-half miles long, was built through the city. This levee has a sloping bank on the water side. It is thirty-two feet in height from the river bed, fifty feet wide at the bottom, and eight feet at the top. This levee was built to last permanently. From a distance of not less than ten feet, water soaked earth and rock were dropped into forms, which rapidly dried into a concrete-like substance. Over this was placed the outer surfacing of reinforced concrete and steel over ten inches in thickness. The wall goes to rock bottom, so there is no possibility of it undermining. The new channel has a capacity for carrying five times as much water as the old channel.²⁹ Part of that increased capacity is due to the fact that the present channel now runs seventeen miles per hour in flood time, while the old channel current ran only six miles per hour in time of flood.

Before the project was all completed, another flood came down the Arkansas River in 1925. The project work then done, held the water back and saved the city. Few citizens knew or realized the danger that was averted by the flood prevention work.

In moving the river channel, it was necessary to surmount many other obstacles. The main railroad yards of the Denver and Rio Grande Western happened to be just where the new channel was to be located.³⁰ So a part of the conservancy job was to move the railroads. Thirty-two miles of railroad track were taken up and thirty-four miles of track were laid. Then certain sections of the electric lights, gas, telephone, telegraph, and sewage systems of the city had to be altered more or less. Underground cables were torn up and relaid. New sewers had to

be built and the power plants changed. All this huge task was accomplished without hindering the passage of a single train or inconveniencing any one using any of the public utility systems.

In addition to this, the Conservancy District built seven bridges and one subway. This included the following: the upper Denver and Rio Grande Railroad bridge, the Dry Creek Railroad bridge, the lower Denver and Rio Grande Railroad bridge, West Fourth Street Viaduct, Union Avenue Viaduct (City of Pueblo paid about one-half of this cost), Main Street Viaduct, Santa Fe Avenue bridge (it contains one span which is 280 feet long), and the Santa Fe Avenue Subway.

The whole Flood Prevention Project was completed and in operation within two years from the time the project was commenced. The method of handling this project and the thoroughness with which the project work was done, has caused eminent engineers from nearly all parts of the country to visit Pueblo and study the flood control system. The Conservancy Board has been complimented in every case by the visiting engineers for the thorough and efficient work accomplished. At any rate the people of Pueblo have a feeling of security from future floods.

²⁸Unpublished Records, Pueblo Conservancy District.

²⁹*Ibid.*

³⁰*Ibid.*

Memories of Chief Ignacio and Old Navaho Springs Sub-Agency

S. F. STACHER*

In March, 1906, the writer and family came down to Old Navaho Springs Sub-Agency, in Southwestern Colorado, by special hired team and spring wagon from Cortez. This was the end of several days' journey from Oklahoma, as I had accepted an offer to the position of Financial Clerk. This Sub-Agency was under the jurisdiction of Superintendent John S. Spear, who was also in charge of the Fort Lewis Indian School, sixty-five miles distant.

Superintendent Spear was at Navaho Springs when we arrived. There were many Indians about the agency, as they had received their semi-monthly supply of rations. Superintendent Spear remained another night, which gave us more time to learn the duties of my position. Among the first Utes that I met was Chief Ignacio. He called me Secretario, as did other Indians, and in Spanish said, "My friend loan me five dollars?" He gave me a smile, but I too smiled and told him I was broke also. Charles Duff up to this time had been attending to the issuing of supplies

to the Indians and also assisting with the Annual Annuity payments to the tribe. He had resigned, which was the reason for the Department offering me the place. William Fritz was the farmer and his mother kept house for him. His position was abolished, so from there on I was the only employee and Mrs. Stacher was the only white woman most of the time for three years on the reservation.

I had been given notice before acceptance that the position of Financial Clerk would be abolished in September of that year and I would be designated Teacher and Mrs. Stacher would be employed as Housekeeper. At that time it was my responsibility to organize and develop a day school for Ute Indian children. Chief Ignacio gave his full support, but opposition by Red Rock and Mariano to the operation of the school made it very difficult, but we managed to enroll twenty-two. Maintaining attendance was a task, as parents and children were not school minded and it was necessary to send policemen almost daily to some of the camps. The girls were taught home care, cooking, baking, and sewing. There were no bathing facilities and it was necessary to haul water daily for all bathing and domestic use. The Navaho Spring was dry for more than a year. The water supply was from a little stream up near the Ute Peak Canyon. For bathing, water was heated on a stove, and the children bathed in a tub. Mrs. Stacher's time was fully occupied, finding time for the care of our three children, Herbert, Beulah and Bonney, in addition to the training of the Indian children.

Usually on the first day of each month, ten to fifteen steers were delivered to the slaughter house corrals by the contractor. Early the next morning Indian butchers would be on hand to take care of the butchering. I would knock the animals down with a rifle, then they were dragged into the slaughter house, where they were stuck, skinned and hung up until the next morning. As the animals were butchered, the entrails were placed outside, where the Indian women would take charge, cut up the paunches and clean out the intestines. They would squeeze out the contents and often times they would cut off a strip and give to the small children to chew on. At daylight the butchers would go to the slaughterhouse and begin cutting up the meat in chunks of various sizes, load these into a wagon and haul them to the commissary, or issue house. The meat was weighed and apportioned out to each family. Special attention was given that Chief Ignacio and his wife receive a choice piece of meat. Flour, sugar, coffee and baking powder were also issued to all families. Fresh meat was issued only once each month. On the 15th or 16th of each month issue was made of supplies as above, except that

*Mr. Stacher, recently retired from the United States Indian Service with a long and distinguished record, revives for us here a picture of life among the Utes of southwestern Colorado in 1906-1909.—Ed.

salt-pork and beans were substituted for fresh beef. There was usually a large gathering of Indians assembled about the agency on ration days. The giving out of rations usually began about 10:00 A. M. and would require about two hours to complete. Then the many families would start fires and the aroma of boiling coffee and roasted beef steak, or stew with onions filled the air. Soon their appetites were appeased and they were ready for all eventualities, particularly gambling by cards and horse racing.



MRS. S. F. STACHER, CHIEF IGNACIO, S. F. STACHER

Picture taken in 1908 at Navaho Springs Agency, Ute Mountain Reservation

South of the old Navaho Springs agency about 300 yards was a straight-way race track about three-fourths of a mile in length. The far end of the track was out of sight. Some races would start at the agency end of the track; they would race down to the other end, circle round a bush and run back up the stretch. Ignacio had his followers on one side of the track and Mariano and Red Rock and their friends on the other. Ignacio's band

would choose a horse for a certain race, then the other side would also select their choice for the race; then the distance was decided on. The challenging side would get money, bracelets, rings, bead work, blankets and sometimes saddles. Together all this would be placed on a blanket which was spread on the ground. The other side would match the bet and the race would be on.

Chief Ignacio owned a long rangy horse named Joe, and this horse was usually selected to run the long distance race around the bush and back, and would win most of these races for Ignacio and his backers. After the races, the Indians would get together in groups and play Monte, both women and men. For a time this gambling would be carried on in front of my office and it became a nuisance. We were not in position to say that there would be no more gambling around the agency, but we told them if they must gamble it would have to be on the other side of the arroya to the west. This was agreed to, and from that time on there was no more gambling on the sub-agency grounds. Mr. Edward Nolan of Mancos, Colorado, one of the great pioneers and Indian Traders of the old West, owned the only trading post on the reservation, with Mr. Henry Crawford in charge. Henry was known to the Indians as Patsy Chume.

The Indians received about \$25.00 per capita annual payments in accordance with the terms of the old treaties effected by Chief Ouray and leaders of the Confederate bands of Utes. Ouray died August 24, 1880; Ignacio, for a time after the death of Ouray, was recognized as head chief.

There is but little of record as to the early life of Chief Ignacio prior to his association with Chief Ouray, though it is common knowledge among the older Indians that he lived in the Cimarron Country. During the three and one-half years that we were stationed at Navaho Springs, Ignacio and wife lived a half mile from the agency in a two-room adobe house, which the government built for him, and with them lived a woman named Acopeats and her two children, Jack and Mary Lyons. Nathan Wing, a nephew, and family lived most of the time near Ignacio's home. Nathan and wife are still living and have their camp up Mancos Creek, where he and his sons give most of their time to looking after their cattle. Nathan was employed as chief of police; Ignacio was an honorary member. Also, E-woop, Henry Goodman, John Adams, Bill Coyote and James Harrison were on the police force and each received \$10 per month, and the chief received \$15.00. The government issued them rations, and feed for their horses. All of these men are now dead.

One day word was brought to me that a Ute Indian woman was found hanged to a tree in McElmo Canyon, about 300 yards

from the home of Mr. Hall. She was a widow and was known as Stuart's squaw. At that time there were no automobiles or telephone lines, so I started for McElmo to investigate, but on the way I met Little Billy, a Ute, with the body in his wagon and told him to go on to the agency and I would go on to the scene of the hanging. It was nearly dark when we arrived at the place and we were invited to stay at Mr. Hall's over night. A coroner's jury returned a verdict of suicide. After breakfast we started for the agency, about twenty miles distant, and upon our return I found the Indians squatting about the store in groups and the body of widow Stuart still in the wagon, as they would not bury her until I returned. After making examination of her neck and rope markings I suggested that they go on and dispose of the body. It was the custom of the Utes for one or two men to go with the corpse into the foothills and dispose of same by placing it under a ledge of rocks and wall up the front as speedily as possible, then make a hasty retreat, chanting a requiem for the dead. No gathering of friends and relatives and no eulogy at such a time. Superstition and fear dominated their lives.

The Mariano-Red Rock group insisted that this woman did not hang herself but that a young man of about twenty-five whose name I cannot now recall, was the one who hanged her. He was in the crowd. There seemed to be a subdued excitement. I went into the store and remarked to Henry Crawford that the situation looked rather bad. He said he thought we had better close up the store, and so ordered all the Indians to move out, which they did. We went back in the kitchen. In about ten minutes I decided to take a look and see if there was any disturbance, so I went out the back door and looked over the high fenced enclosure of the backyard. My hair stood up and cold chills ran up and down my spine as I beheld one of Mariano's followers trying to take aim with his rifle at the boy who was believed to have hanged this woman. He was on horseback, Henry Goodman had hold of the barrel, keeping it pointed up in the air. I jumped over the fence and yelled like a full blood warrior to stop. The accused boy was on a burro. Ignacio's followers then tried to pull the boy off the burro and away from the crowd, while the Mariano-Red Rock Indians were bent on killing the suspect. Had someone fired a shot at this time there would have been a real fight and killing on both sides.

I called to E-woop and Henry Goodman to help get the boy off the burro and out of the crowd; and through interpreter James Harrison, I told them they must not kill this boy; that I would send him to jail to Cortez, Colorado; that there would be a trial, and if they had any information or evidence against this boy they

would have a chance to testify. I went with him and the police to the agency and gave them ammunition. I gave Henry Goodman a note to the sheriff at Cortez to hold the boy. Five policemen were sent ahead with Joe, and after they had gone a couple of miles in the direction of Cortez, we told E-woop to go on and catch up with the party and to let none of the Indians follow him, for if they did so there would surely be more trouble.

Ignacio was very much pleased at the outcome of this tense situation; he made a peace talk to the Indians in his usual dramatic manner. The trial of the boy came up at Cortez a month later. There was no evidence against him and the case was dismissed. Stuart's squaw had lived alone much of the time after her husband's death. She weighed nearly two hundred pounds. The boy was in the last stages of tuberculosis and died a month later. He was physically unable to have committed such a crime, even if he had so desired.

In the year 1908, Superintendent John S. Spear bought sheep with the grazing fees collected from white cattlemen who ranged their cattle on the reservation during the winter season. The fee was at the rate of \$1.00 per head. He purchased about two hundred head of Navaho grade ewes from Dick Simpson, who operated a trading post in Gallegos Canyon, twenty-five miles southeast of Farmington, New Mexico. The sheep were delivered at Navaho Springs, and Superintendent Spear came over from Fort Lewis to accept them from Mr. Simpson and issue same to the Indians. The Indians were not informed in advance of the plan to buy sheep. Perhaps fifty Utes were present and Mr. Spear explained that the purchase of sheep with the grazing money collected would enable the Utes to get a start in livestock; that next year he would buy more, and this would give them a chance to raise their own meat and have wool to sell, and that they would soon be like the Navahos and own many sheep. When he had concluded his talk, I proposed that this first issue of the two hundred be made to the parents who sent their children to school, which would have been about twelve to the family.

Ignacio, Red Rock and Mariano were present and many of their followers. Red Rock took the floor and proceeded to warm up to an oratorical barrage, as did Mariano. They made it plain that they wanted the money; that they would not accept the sheep. That if they took the sheep they would have to take care of them, and told Mr. Spear to take the sheep back with him. The sheep were placed in a corral near the Noland Trading Post. Ignacio was the last one to talk; he urged the Indians to be reasonable, and accept them. Darkness came on and Superintendent Spear did not decide what should be done, but left for Cortez, where he remained

over night. His instructions were to issue them to the Indians if I could. There was a full moon, so about nine o'clock I went over to the camp of an Indian known to all as "Rooster"; he could understand a little English. I asked him if he would like to have some sheep. He said, "Where's sheep?" I replied that they were in the corral at the trading post. He wanted to know how many there were. I said, "Maby-so 100." "Me take 'em," he said. We went to the corral and this number was counted out to him. The camps of Jake Bird and Petermonk were also visited and induced to accept 50 each, and they drove them to their respective homes.

Next morning Ignacio, Mariano and other Indians came and wanted to know where the agent was. They were advised that he had returned to Fort Lewis. They were curious to know what had become of the sheep, and they soon learned. An all day pow wow followed, and they decided they would round up the sheep and take them to Fort Lewis. They had great respect for Rooster, for in his earlier days he and his wife had two sons that became ill, and when a couple of medicine men could not drive away the evil spirit of sickness and the boys died, Rooster killed the medicine men, so the Indians had great respect for him and did not molest him or take his sheep.

Jake Bird and Petermonk came and said, "Secretario, Utes make bad talk, me 'fraid keep sheep, you come, ketch-um." Ignacio could do nothing to pacify them. I talked like a Dutch uncle. They were still insistent that they would take the sheep back to the agent and get the grazing money instead. Patience ceased to be a virtue and I made a threat that if any of them attempted to molest the sheep or the Indians to whom they were given, we would send for the soldiers and take them away to jail, as the soldiers did the year before near Shiprock, when a few Navahos had made trouble for the administration. For a time this had a deterrent effect, but for a year they continued to grumble about this purchase, and would threaten to take the sheep back to the agent.

Mr. Spear seldom visited Navaho Springs and but few meetings were held. Always the sheep question would come up and was very disturbing to Mr. Spear. For some reason the Department failed to authorize the payment of annuities to them as stipulated. As a result, they would accuse the agent, Ignacio, and me of stealing their money. Trader Nolan gave them credit in some cases far beyond their ability to pay.

At last pay day came. Superintendent Spear and a clerk came from Fort Lewis and we three made the payment. Nearly every family was there. Bills were paid. Clothing and other supplies were purchased. The next payment I made alone. Payrolls

then were made in triplicate and each one who could not write his name would sign by thumb print and have it witnessed by two persons. Mancos Jim, Polk, Posey and followers lived in the Blue Mountains and Bluff City areas, seventy-five miles away, and would not remain on the reservation for long at a time, as the Ute Mountain Indians looked upon them as trespassers, even though they were all enrolled together and had an equal interest in the reservation resources and accumulated funds.

One afternoon in the fall of 1908, who should drive up but Mr. W. T. Shelton, then the new superintendent at Shiprock, and Mr. Robert G. Valentine, the personal secretary to Indian Commissioner Frances E. Leupp. They were in a spring wagon and driving a good team; they remained over night with us. The good wife prepared supper and breakfast for them and two rooms for guests were available. This gave us an opportunity to present our problems to Mr. Valentine, and to tell the discouragements of working with one of the most difficult bands of Indians to be found anywhere. There was no money for any development. Annuities were the only income, except for a limited amount obtained from bead and other handicraft that was marketed. Most of the Indians were born tired and would not work, were inveterate gamblers, and without ambition to get ahead they presented a problem as they seemed content to eke out an existence on the small amount of rations and annuities.

A short time after Mr. Valentine's visit he became Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and in January, 1909, he tendered me an appointment as Superintendent of Pueblo Bonito jurisdiction in New Mexico, newly established, and to find a suitable site for a boarding school and agency, and to have charge of all Navahos living or allotted on the public domain in New Mexico and Arizona. The offer was accepted. When the Utes learned that I was to leave Navaho Springs, Ignacio, Red Rock, Mariano and many others came to see me and in their language said, "Secretario, you no go, you stay here, set down, you heap savey Utes, you heap savey pay um money, no go pow a witch (Navaho) country." I told them I would have liked to stay with them, but that they did not like to work and they did not want to have stock and that Washington wanted me to work with the Navahos because they would do what I told them to do. I hired Petermonk to take us to Shiprock, with family and belongings. Our youngest daughter, Iola, was born at Navaho Springs. I doubt if there is any woman now in the Indian Service who has pioneered and gone through such hardships and privation, and been so isolated from civilization as Mrs. Flossie M. Stacher, and she can be truly classed as the "Pioneer Mother."

In bidding Chief Ignacio goodbye in March, 1909, I left a great character, who in his younger days was associated with the great Chief Ouray and was for a time his successor; but as the several bands of Indians separated, his influence waned. The White River band settled on the White River in northwestern Colorado, and later located in Utah with the Uncompahgre and other bands. The Moache and Capote bands settled on the Pine River. The Los Pinos Agency was established. They accepted individual allotments and



CHIEFTAINS' MEMORIAL AT UTE AGENCY, IGNACIO
Exhibiting plaques of Ouray, Ignacio, Severo and Buckskin Charley

by treaty for certain considerations gave up their reservation. In recognition of the influence and assistance to the government, Congress approved the payment of \$500 to Ignacio and awarded him a medal. He was given an allotment of land on the lower Florida River; a house was built for him and his land fenced. He and his wife resided there for a time, but for some reason he gave it up and went to Ute Mountain Reservation, where he lived until the time of his death, which occurred on December 9, 1913. His body was hidden away in some lonely, unmarked spot, somewhere east of the old agency. Effort has been made to locate the remains and re-inter

them in the Indian Cemetery, that he might be alongside the other great chiefs, Ouray, Buckskin Charley, Severo.

Thirty-one years have gone by and since October 1, 1937, I have been in charge of the Consolidated Ute Agency. All the old-timers have gone over the great divide, Petermonk, Red Rock, Mariano, Mancos Jim, Polk and Posey, and but few are living who knew me as Secretario. With the passing of the old people and with better administration and development of resources, the younger generation have accepted the benefits of reorganization. They are now governed under an established constitution, with an elected Tribal Council of six members. Livestock ownership is on the increase; all have work, either giving attention to the care of their stock or on the CCC-ID or Roads projects. They have voted the use of tribal funds for home building, fencing, water development, land purchase and livestock.

Rations are no longer issued, except for the old or indigent without income. Annuity payments have ceased; nearly all of the children are in school, and thus the people that Chief Ignacio once led are slowly finding themselves, and doing things for self-improvement.

In memory of Ouray, Ignacio, Severo and Buckskin Charley, the Chieftains Memorial has been erected in the Ute Agency Park, sponsored by the Southern Utes, the American Legion, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Federal Employees Union Local No. 360, and assisted by the Federal Arts Project of Denver and the Works Progress Administration. The village of Ignacio was named in honor of Chief Ignacio. The deeds of these great leaders should ever be an inspiration to the generations of today and tomorrow. This shrine will ever grow brighter and more interesting to the students of history.

I have spent 37 years in the Indian Service, but will be retired September 30th of this year, and regret that it is the end of our service with the Indians. But the good wife and I have many very pleasant memories of Indian personages, and the old days, and will never lose interest in the welfare of the Indian people.

Place Names in Colorado (E)*

Eads (518 population), seat of Kiowa County, was founded in 1887, when the Missouri Pacific Railroad was extended through this region. Immediately after the railroad survey, a town called Dayton sprang up on a site three miles south of present Eads, but when the line failed to touch this point the town—buildings and all—moved

*Prepared by the Colorado Writers' Project and the State Historical Society's W.P.A. Project.—Ed.

to Eads, which was organized by two railroad officials. The town became the county seat in 1902, and was incorporated in 1916. It was named in honor of James B. Eads, noted engineer, who built the Eads Bridge across the Mississippi River at St. Louis, Missouri.¹

Eagle (341 population), seat of Eagle County since 1921. The settlement was first called Castle, for near-by Castle Mountain, by William Edwards, an early settler. Some years later the name was changed by Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad officials to Rio Aquilla (Spanish for "Eagle River"). Next, it became known as McDonald, honoring the man who owned the townsite; but the name was not favored by the citizens, and was changed again, this time to Eagle. There are several versions for the final choice. One early settler asserts that it honors a Ute Indian chief; another says that Bald Mountain, behind the town, was a nesting place for eagles; still another has it that the name refers to the Eagle River, a stream near the town, which was so called because "it has as many tributaries as there are feathers in an eagle's tail."²

Eastlake (150 population), Adams County. The townsite was filed upon in 1911 by the Eastlake Investment Company, and was named for East Lake, a body of water half a mile distant. (Railroad name East Lake.)³

East Portal (50 population), Gilpin County, was founded in 1925, during the construction of the 6.4-mile-long \$18,000,000 Moffat Tunnel through the shoulder of James Peak. The town takes its name from its location at the eastern entrance of the tunnel, which was completed in 1927. The main tunnel serves as a railroad passage for the Denver and Salt Lake (Moffat) and Denver & Rio Grande Western railroads, while the original bore is used by the city of Denver for the diversion of water from the Fraser River.⁴

Eaton (1,221 population), Weld County, was named for Benjamin H. Eaton, fourth state Governor of Colorado (1885-1887), a prominent builder of irrigation projects, and founder of the town.⁵ Eaton was founded in 1888, and incorporated in 1892.⁶ Eaton was originally known as Eatonton, to avoid conflict with the post office of Easton in El Paso County. When Easton was finally changed to Eastonville, the final syllable of Eatonton was dropped, changing the name to its present form.⁷

¹Letter to State Historical Society, January 31, 1935, from A. R. Rittgers, Mayor of Eads, Colorado.

²Letter to State Historical Society, 1939, from L. W. Green, Principal of Eagle Public Schools.

³Letter to State Historical Society, January 14, 1935, from Alma S. Elmor, Postmistress, Eastlake, Colorado.

⁴Information from Laura E. Röss, Superintendent of Schools (1938), Gilpin County, Colorado.

⁵Colorado Magazine, IX, 175.

⁶Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado* (Chicago: Blakely Printing Co., 1895), IV, 341.

⁷Eaton Herald, February 9, 1940.

Eckert (125 population), Delta County, was the maiden name of the wife of Adelbert (Del) Slates, who established the first store and post office here, October 27, 1891.⁸

Eckley (359 population), Yuma County, was laid out in 1889. The word is an adaptation of the name of Adam Eckles, at one time the cattle foreman for J. W. Bowles, well-known cattleman of north-eastern Colorado.⁹

Edgewater (1,473 population), Jefferson County, a suburban community adjoining Denver, is on the shore of Sloan's Lake, once the largest lake (area 270 acres) on the Eastern Slope in Colorado, from which site it takes its name.¹⁰ It was incorporated October 7, 1901.¹¹

Edler (24 population), Baca County, was named for a Dr. Edler, the first homesteader in this area.¹²

Edwards (83 population), Eagle County, was first known as Berry's Ranch, in honor of Harrison Berry, owner of the townsite land. Later the name was changed by Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad officials to honor Melvin Edwards, former postmaster of Red Cliff, who had just been elected Secretary of State (1883-1887).¹³

Eggers, Larimer County, was named for the Eggers family, the original settlers on the site of the present summer post office town.¹⁴

Egnar (100 population), San Miguel County. The name is the reverse spelling of "range," and was adopted after the range land here was thrown open to homestead settlement and a post office was established.¹⁵

Elbert (325 population), Elbert County. The town, like the county, was named in honor of former Territorial Governor Samuel H. Elbert (1873-1874), who later served as Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court.¹⁶ It was founded by the Elbert Townsite, Road, and Coal Mining Company.¹⁷

El Cedro Redondo, Conejos County, was the spot where the Guadalupe Colony first settled in Colorado. It was founded in 1854

⁸Information from Olivia S. Ferguson, Eckert, Colorado.

⁹Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 358.

¹⁰Jefferson County, Colorado Yearbook Directory (Seibert, Colorado: National Directory Co., 1935).

¹¹State Historical Society, Pamphlet 354, No. 21.

¹²Information from Jack Wicken, Trinidad, Colorado, Field Worker, Colorado Writers' Project, 1936.

¹³Letter to State Historical Society from O. W. Daggett, former Postmaster, Red Cliff, Colorado.

¹⁴Information from Fred and Alma Eggers, Eggers, Colorado, to the State Historical Society, January 25, 1935.

¹⁵Letter to State Historical Society from C. Krabbe, Postmaster, Egnar, Colorado.

¹⁶Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 127.

¹⁷Denver Tribune, May 1, 1874.

by Jose Maria Jacquez and his followers.¹⁸ The name is Spanish, meaning "the round cedar."¹⁹

Eldora (16 population), Boulder County, now a summer post office, was established as a gold mining camp in 1896. At that time it was called Eldorado (Spanish, "the golden"), a common name for hopeful mining communities. When application was made for a post office, there was a priority in name and the present form was adopted.²⁰

El Dorado City. Early in 1859 a party of Pike's Peakers from Kansas City laid out a townsite on Monument Creek two or three miles from its mouth. The settlement, which contained a log cabin and several tents, was called El Dorado City.²¹ In August, 1859, the Colorado City Town Company was formed. This covered the original site of El Dorado City. El Dorado City on Monument Creek and El Paso City on Fontaine qui Bouille are often referred to as identical, but they appear to have been distinct settlements.

Eldorado Springs (25 population), Boulder County. The thermal springs here were probably named for their location in the midst of a highly mineralized district. The name is Spanish, meaning "the golden" or "the gilded one." An early legend, widely believed by Spanish explorers, concerned an Indian ruler whose custom was to daily gild his body with gold dust, washing it off each night in a lake near his dwelling. The Spaniards referred to this mythical potentate as "El Dorado," and in time the name came to be applied to places or regions rich in gold.²² The town was earlier known as Moffat Lakes.²³

Eldred, Fremont County, was named for L. E. Eldred, who owned the ranch upon which the post office was established.²⁴

Eleven Cabins, Boulder County. During the fall of 1858, a company of pioneers seeking gold in Boulder Canon and vicinity built a group of eleven rude cabins for shelter during the approaching winter. This temporary settlement, adjacent to the present city of Boulder, soon became known as Eleven Cabins.^{24a}

Elgin, Gunnison County, was named in honor of Charles H. Elgin, the first postmaster. The post office was established in 1882.²⁵

Elizabeth (226 population), Elbert County, was named by Governor John Evans in honor of Elizabeth Gray Kimbark Hubbard,

¹⁸Information from Grace Lepper, Alamosa, Colorado, Field Writer, Colorado Writers' Project, 1937.

¹⁹*Velasquez's Unabridged Spanish-English Dictionary* (New York: D. Appleton and Company).

²⁰Information from Hugh F. Watts, Boulder, Colorado.

²¹J. C. Smiley, *History of Colorado*, I, 241.

²²Information from O. C. Luigg, Assistant County Superintendent of Schools, Boulder, Colorado.

²³*Boulder County, Colorado Yearbook Directory* (Seibert, Colorado: National Directory Co., 1934).

²⁴*Canon City Record*, June 20, 1940.

^{24a}J. C. Smiley, *History of Colorado*, I, 219-220.

²⁵*Denver Times*, November 15, 1882.

his sister-in-law, who was visiting at his home. The governor, searching for names for new towns along the line of the Denver & New Orleans Railroad, of which he was promoter and principal owner, said one evening at the dinner table: "I'll name a town for you, Elizabeth."²⁶ In 1885, this railroad line was re-organized as the Denver, Texas and Gulf Railroad.²⁷

Elizabethtown, Clear Creek County, was named in honor of the sister of the Griffith brothers, pioneer settlers.²⁸ In 1867 it was surveyed and platted, and was incorporated with the older camp of Georgetown.²⁹

Elk Lodge, Garfield County, small supply town and jumping off place for hunting parties, derives its name from its location in the midst of elk hunting territory.³⁰

Elk Springs (28 population), Moffat County, was named by A. G. Wallihan in 1884 for the springs here, a watering place for large herds of elk.³¹

Elkton (50 population), Teller County, a suburb of Victor, was formerly known as Arequa.³² The present name was derived from the near-by Elkton Gold Mine, discovered in 1892, during the first rush to the Cripple Creek mining area, by a young tenderfoot, John W. Bernard. Bernard knew nothing of prospecting and simply staked out the first pile of rocks he saw, naming his claim the Elkton because of a pair of elk horns lying on the ground. He gave a half interest in the claim to two grocers to settle a \$36.50 bill; later, the mine produced \$13,000,000.³³

Ellwood, Archuleta County ghost town. Established in 1879, and named for T. L. Woodvale (L-wood), an early mining prospector,³⁴ this deserted camp had the first post office established (1882) in what is present Archuleta County.³⁵ It was abandoned when the mineral deposits here were worked out, and successive floods have obliterated the site.³⁶

El Moro (206 population), Las Animas County, was founded by the Southern Colorado Coal and Town Company in 1876, when the

²⁶Information from Miss Anne Evans, daughter of Governor Evans.

²⁷Edgar Carlisle McMechen, *Life of Governor Evans* (Denver: Wahlgreen Publishing Co., 1924), 193-194.

²⁸W. B. Vickers, *History of Clear Creek and Boulder Valleys* (Chicago: O. L. Baskin & Co., Publisher, 1880), 283.

²⁹H. H. Bancroft, *History of Nevada, Colorado, and Wyoming* (San Francisco: The History Company, Publishers, 1890), 590-91.

³⁰Information from Mrs. Edna Tawney, Grand Junction, Colorado, Field Writer, Colorado Writers' Project, 1936.

³¹Letter to State Historical Society from A. G. Wallihan, Elk Springs, Colorado.

³²*Denver Times*, December 31, 1895.

³³Harry J. Newton, *Yellow Gold of Cripple Creek* (Denver: Nelson Publishing Co., 1928), 19.

³⁴M. R. Scott, "History of San Juan National Forest" (MSS in files of U. S. Forest Service, Denver, Colorado), 26.

³⁵*Denver Weekly Republican*, October 19, 1882.

³⁶Scott, "History of San Juan National Forest," 26.

El Moro spur of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad reached this point.³⁷ The name is Spanish, meaning "the Moor" (a native of Morocco).³⁸ Its derivation is not known. It is sometimes misinterpreted to mean "moorland," because of the peat flats near the town.

El Paso City, El Paso County, first settlement in the vicinity of present-day Colorado Springs, was founded in 1858 by a party of gold seekers from Kansas, known as the "Lawrence Party." The name is Spanish, meaning "the pass," and refers to the settlement's site at the mouth of Ute Pass, one of the chief traverses of the Front Range of the Rockies.³⁹ The town existed only a few months before it was succeeded by Colorado City.⁴⁰

Elwell (50 population), Weld County, was named for Mrs. E. C. Elwell, mother of Reverend Cora M. Dilley, woman minister, who founded a United Brethren Church on this site in 1895. For several years the town was known as Dilley Chapel.⁴¹

Emma, Pitkin County, was named for Mrs. Emma D. Garrison, first postmistress here (1883).⁴²

Empire (93 population), Clear Creek County, formerly called Empire City, was founded in 1860 by four men, Merrill, Musser, Nichols, and Spinner.⁴³ It was first called Valley City,⁴⁴ but a year or two later the name was changed to the nickname of New York State, the home of the founders.⁴⁵ In 1862 the town had one hotel, a blacksmith shop, a combined grocery store and post office, and two or three dwellings.⁴⁶

Engineer City, San Juan County, was named for Engineer Mountain, near the town. The peak was given its name by the engineers who laid out the road over the Red Mountain Pass here.⁴⁷ In 1882 the town had a population of 300 or 400, and was unique in that it had no saloon.⁴⁸

Englewood (7,980 population), Arapahoe County, was originally a pleasure resort, owned by A. C. Fisk, and was known as Fisk's Gardens. Later it became known as Orchard Place, for the large apple orchard here. In 1903 the residents of the community organized a town, and adopted the name of Englewood, which seems to have been taken from that of an Illinois town near Chicago. The

³⁷Denver & Rio Grande Official Guide (1890), 168.

³⁸Velasquez's Unabridged Spanish-English Dictionary.

³⁹H. H. Bancroft, *History of Nevada, Colorado and Wyoming*, 366.

⁴⁰J. C. Smiley, *History of Colorado*, I, 240.

⁴¹Information from Mrs. J. W. Purvis, Elwell, Colorado.

⁴²Denver Times, December 26, 1883.

⁴³Letter to State Historical Society, September 22, 1935, from Mary A. Shovlin, Principal of Empire Schools, Empire, Colorado.

⁴⁴Georgetown Courier, March 14, 1936.

⁴⁵Letter from Mary A. Shovlin.

⁴⁶The Trail, I, No. 7 (December, 1908), 6-7.

⁴⁷Information from L. R. Rist, Forest Supervisor, Uncompahgre National Forest.

⁴⁸Lake City Silver World, June 3, 1882.

word is from the old English "wood inglen," a wooded nook or corner.⁴⁹

Epaulet, Clear Creek County, was a camp established in 1923, when the first survey of the highest section of the Mount Evans road was being made. It was named for its site on Mount Epaulet, a shoulder of Mount Evans.⁵⁰

Ephraim, Conejos County. The townsite was surveyed in 1879 by Mormon colonists, and was named in honor of a son of Joseph of ancient Israel. In 1883 the settlement contained fourteen families. It died out in a few years, due to its location on swampy ground.^{50a}

Erie (930 population), Weld County, was founded as a coal mining camp in 1871,⁵¹ and is supposed to have been named for Erie, Pennsylvania. Lots were sold to the miners to induce permanent settlement, and thus lessen the danger of strikes. The town was incorporated in 1874.⁵²

Escalante Forks (50 population), Mesa County, probably derives its name from its site at the forks of Escalante Creek.⁵³ The creek was named for Padre Escalante, a Spanish priest of the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition in 1776, searching for a route across the Rocky Mountains to connect the missions of New Mexico with those of California. The expedition is supposed to have camped on the bank of this stream.⁵⁴

Espanola (12 population), Weld County. The name is a Spanish word meaning "Spanish woman."⁵⁵

Espinosa (410 population), Conejos County, was originally called Los Fuertecitos del Incarnacion Espinosa ("the little fort of Incarnation Espinosa"), and was a fortified plaza built by Don Incarnacion de Espinosa. The name was later shortened to the present form.⁵⁶

Estabrook (44 population), Park County, was named for Joseph A. Estabrook, who settled here in 1872, engaging in horse raising. He called his ranch Estabrook, and the name was adopted by the Colorado & Southern Railway when it established a switch on the property in 1879; it was retained when the present town grew up.⁵⁷

⁴⁹Colorado Magazine, IX, 175.

⁵⁰Municipal Facts (published by the City and County of Denver, March-April, 1931), XIV, 26.

^{50a}Colorado Magazine, XVII, 178.

⁵¹Boulder News, January 1, 1875.

⁵²Information from Donald L. White, Greeley, Colorado, Field Writer, Colorado Writers' Project, 1936.

⁵³Information from F. N. Nisley, Superintendent of Schools, Cameo, Colorado.

⁵⁴State Historical Society, MSS XIV, 13.

⁵⁵Velasquez's Unabridged Spanish-English Dictionary.

⁵⁶State Historical Society, Pamphlet 349, No. 18.

⁵⁷Interview by State Historical Society with Mr. George Berger, Sr., Denver, Colorado, grandson of Joseph A. Estabrook.

Estes Park Village (417 population), Larimer County, is the center of a popular recreation area, Estes Park, which was named for its first permanent settler, Joel Estes. Mr. Estes came to the park in 1859, and the following year built a cabin on Fish Creek. Visitors to the region praised its beauty and natural attractions so highly that two or three other families followed, and Estes moved his family from the park, complaining that there were "too many people." The first white men to visit the region were probably trappers.⁵⁸

Estrella (50 population), Alamosa County. The name is a Spanish word meaning "star."⁵⁹

Eureka (197 population), San Juan County, takes its name from Eureka Gulch, west of the townsite. During the 1860s, gold seekers believing that they had struck it rich here gave the name, a Greek word meaning "I have found it," to the entire region.⁶⁰ Ferdinand Vandiveer Hayden of the U. S. Geological Survey, who visited the region several years later, says, "we came out into a thick clump of trees in which were several big cabins bearing on a flaring signboard the word EUREKA, evidently intended for the name of a town that was expected to be, though what had been found there to suggest the name was not immediately apparent."⁶¹

Evans (540 population), Weld County, was laid out in the autumn of 1869 by agents of the Denver Pacific Railroad, and was named for the second Territorial Governor, John Evans (1862-1865), who was a leader in the financing and construction of the railroad.⁶² Until a bridge could be built across the Platte, Evans was the southern terminus of this line, which was to connect Denver with the Union Pacific; due to this, Evans was an important supply point for the mountain towns, and was an ambitious rival of Greeley.⁶³ In 1875 it wrested the position of county seat from Greeley, retaining the honor for two years. Then the seat was permanently settled in the larger town.⁶⁴

Evanston, Weld County. This unplatted town was named for the near-by Evans Coal Mine, which is said to have been named in honor of former Territorial Governor John Evans (1862-1865).⁶⁵

Evergreen, Jefferson County, was originally called The Post, because a man named Post had a store here.⁶⁶ In 1874, when D. P.

⁵⁸Enos A. Mills, *The Story of Estes Park, and a Guidebook* (Denver: Outdoor Life Publishing Co., 1905), 5.

⁵⁹Velasquez's *Unabridged Spanish-English Dictionary*.

⁶⁰*San Juan Herald*, July 27, 1882.

⁶¹F. V. Hayden, *Annual Report of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories* (1874) (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1876), 463.

⁶²*The Trail*, XI, No. 10, 5.

⁶³Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 347.

⁶⁴David Boyd, *History of Greeley and the Union Colony of Colorado* (Greeley: Greeley Tribune Press, 1890), 174.

⁶⁵*Frederick Farmer & Miner*, October 28, 1937.

⁶⁶State Historical Society, Pamphlet 343, No. 20.

Wilmot circulated a petition for a post office, the name of Evergreen was suggested by his sister, Miss Ella Wilmot, because of the dense evergreen forests in the vicinity. When the present town grew up, the old post office name was retained.⁶⁷

TOWNS ON WHICH PLACE NAME MATERIAL IS LACKING

Eaglate, Mesa Co.; Eagles, Mineral Co.; Eagle Sampler, Teller Co.; Earl, Las Animas Co.; East Canon, Fremont Co.; Eastdale, Costilla Co.; East Lafayette Junction, Boulder Co.; East Leadville, Park Co.; East Mancos, Montezuma Co.; East Manitou Junction, El Paso Co.; Eastonville, El Paso Co.; East River, Gunnison Co.; East Vac, Rio Blanco Co.; East Weston, Las Animas Co.; Ebert, Adams Co.; Echo, Fremont Co.; Eclipse, Teller Co.; Eddy, Routt Co.; Eden, Pueblo Co.; Edgerton, El Paso Co.; Edison, El Paso Co.; Edith, Archuleta Co.; Edlowe, Teller Co.; Edwardsville, Summit Co.; Egeria, Routt Co.; Eilers (or Eiler), Lake Co.; Eiler Junction, Pueblo Co.; Eisner, Pueblo Co.; Elba, Washington Co.; Elberta, Delta Co.; Elco, La Plata Co.; Elder, Baca Co.; Elder, Otero Co.; Eldredge, Ouray Co.; Eleanor, Jefferson Co.; El Jebel, Eagle Co.; Elk, Moffat Co.

Elk Creek, Gunnison Co.; Elkdale, Grand Co.; Elkhead, Routt Co.; Elkhorn, Gunnison Co.; Elkhorn, Larimer Co.; Elko, Gunnison Co.; Elko, Saguache Co.; Elk Park, San Juan Co.; Elkton, Gunnison Co.; Elkton, Summit Co.; Ellicott, El Paso Co.; Ellis, Clear Creek Co.; Ellwood, Rio Grande Co.; Elm, Weld Co.; El Paso, Teller Co.; Elphis, Kit Carson Co.; Elsie Place, Jefferson Co.; Elsmere, El Paso Co.; El Vado, Boulder Co.; Elwood Archuleta Co.; Embargo, Saguache Co.; Emerald, Fremont Co.; Emerson, Phillips Co.; Emery, La Plata Co.; Emma, Gunnison Co.; Endner, Gunnison Co.; Engle, Las Animas Co.; Engleville Junction, Las Animas Co.; English, Fremont Co.; English Gulch, Lake Co.; Eno, Adams Co.; Enos, Las Animas Co.; Enterprise, Mesa Co.; Enterprise, Boulder Co.; Enterprise, Dolores Co.; Enterprise, Jefferson Co.; Escalante, Delta Co.; Escalante, Routt Co.; Eskdale, Adams Co.; Espy, Gilpin Co.; Estelene, Baca Co.; Estelene, Las Animas Co.; Eugene City, Park Co.; Eula, Routt Co.; Eureka, Cheyenne Co.; Eureka, Las Animas Co.; Evansville, Lake Co.; Everett, Lake Co.; Eversman, Boulder Co.; Excelsior, Summit Co.

⁶⁷Information from Mrs. Clara Wilmot Herzman, Evergreen, Colorado.

A Dutch Colony in Colorado*

The fame of Colorado as a commonwealth rich in agricultural resources was abroad in the 1880s and the '90s. The successful and well advertised colonies of Greeley (Union) and Longmont (Chicago-Colorado) interested groups in several foreign countries, particularly England and Holland, and representatives were sent to this state to examine lands and lay the plans for future colonization. Every encouragement was given these agents, different sections of the state vying for their favors. The San Luis Valley especially, was intent upon securing immigration from foreign shores.

*This article was prepared by the State Historical Society's W.P.A. Project and was written by Mrs. Dorothy Roberts.—Ed.

The Holland American Land and Immigration Company of Utrecht, Holland, representing hundreds of responsible citizens, sent such an agent to the United States in 1892, to select sites for several agricultural colonies. Many sections of the country were visited, and in time a tract of land in the San Luis Valley was chosen as being one of the most promising.¹ The soil was rich, an adequate system of irrigation was in operation, and railroad and market facilities were considered excellent. An agreement was made with T. C. Henry,² of the Empire Land and Canal Company, for purchasing fifteen thousand acres of land under the Empire Canal.

Upon learning that favorable plans had been made for their settlement in the New World, many families sold their farms and homes and made final preparations for the long journey across the sea and overland to Colorado. A group of two hundred adults and a large number of children,³ organized by Ove Noordtzy, president of the Holland company, embarked at Amsterdam, and after a tedious voyage in the crowded steerage arrived at Ellis Island, November 26, 1892.⁴ Intelligent and hardy, and supplied with money adequate for their immediate needs, these immigrants formed a distinctly superior colony group.

The cost of transportation from Holland to the San Luis Valley was one hundred and fifty dollars each, this being paid by the colonists themselves with the exception of a few families unable to meet the expense, but considered otherwise desirable, who were financed by the company.⁵ Special accommodations were furnished for the journey from New York to Colorado by the Pennsylvania and Missouri Pacific railroads. Reporting the arrival of the colony at Alamosa on November 30, a correspondent of the *Rocky Mountain News* stated:

"The biggest thing in the way of a colonization scheme that has ever been undertaken in Colorado has just had its beginning here. Tonight at six o'clock a special train bearing three hundred and fifty Holland immigrants arrived in town. They were immediately escorted to Armory Hall, where the people of Alamosa had prepared a good substantial supper for them. This is but the vanguard of over two thousand Holland farmers and their

¹*Denver Republican*, Nov. 28, 1892. In addition to the specific references that follow, we are especially indebted to Walter D. Carroll of Alamosa, who secured much valuable data, and to Mr. V. A. Winn, Superintendent of Schools, Crook, and Mr. Charles Miller of Crook.

²Hon. T. C. Henry, a prominent business man and promoter of the San Luis Valley, did much to bring the advantages of this section of the state before the public. He sponsored several colony projects and was extensively interested in many irrigation systems in southern and eastern Colorado. The town of Henry, which later became Monte Vista, was founded by him and named in his honor.

³*Denver Republican*, Dec. 1, 1892.

⁴*Denver Republican*, Nov. 28, 1892.

⁵Walter D. Carroll, Alamosa, Colorado.

families who will settle in the sunny San Luis valley before another year rolls around, and as a natural result, the people of Alamosa, who are to be directly benefited by the locating of these farmers here, are enthusiastic and gave them a rousing reception.

"After the supper, speeches were made by several of the leading citizens and translated into the Dutch language, so the strangers could understand, and they responded by singing their national hymn, and giving three hearty cheers for Alamosa and her citizens. They will all be cared for by the people here tonight, and after breakfast tomorrow they will leave for their headquarters buildings, four miles west of town."

Two large frame buildings, thirty-six by sixty feet, had been constructed at the Willis Switch, west of Alamosa, against the arrival of the colony. These, however, proved to be most uncomfortable. They were poorly heated and lighted, very unsanitary, and the space was insufficient to provide suitable accommodations for the large number of people quartered there.⁶ The upper stories, lighted by small gables, were occupied by the general run of immigrants. Rudely constructed beds filled the spaces, and in these people slept, crowded three, four, and five to a bed. The lower floor of one building was used by the larger families, small rooms having been partitioned off, and the general dining room occupied about three-fourths of the lower floor of the remaining building. Crowded with a confusion of paraphernalia, the men lounging upon unopened boxes and the boisterous, rosy-cheeked children playing in and out among the goods, these quarters strongly resembled the steerage of a ship, and, but for the cleanliness of the people, would have been almost unbearable.

Although a few of the colonists dressed in the prevailing mode, the greater portion wore their native costumes. The trousers of most of the men fitted tightly around the waist and bulged like balloons over the hips, the bulges being accounted for by two overlapping pockets in which were carried a large assortment of miscellaneous articles. The peaked cap was the favorite head gear. Both men and women wore wooden shoes, or "klumpen," which caused them to walk pigeon-toed and to waddle. These shoes, which had cost about thirty cents, or thirty-five cents if painted frills were added, were warm and serviceable. For ordinary wear the women had white lace caps, stiffly starched. Most of them also possessed distinctive national or provincial head-dresses, dresses and aprons. Mrs. Ver Burg's Friesland head-piece was a solid casque of thin gold, with tiny gold designs beaten into the sides. The children were kept painfully clean, and were

⁶Walter D. Carroll, Alamosa, Colorado.

noticeably polite and agreeable. Many of the boys, aged twelve to twenty, smoked long black cigars, while their fathers smoked small pipes, and all of the colonists, even the smaller children, drank huge amounts of beer.⁷

Upon the arrival of the colony at Alamosa, Albertus Zoutman, the American Agent for the company, assumed the management. On December 9, the Holland American Land and Immigration Society filed a certificate of incorporation with Secretary of State, Eaton, stating that their principal colonies would be established in Conejos County, Colorado, with Albertus Zoutman, a resident of that county, as principal agent.⁸

Almost immediately dissatisfaction with the management of the colony became apparent among both the Hollanders and Americans of the vicinity. Zoutman and Van der Hoogt, the delegate, sadly neglected the interests of the people, and it was feared that they were dishonest as well as inefficient. The immigrants, loose from the moorings which had held their forefathers so many years, and confused by conditions and customs of this new land, felt deceived and outraged, and did not know where to turn for assistance and advice. Then sickness and death came into the colony.

The first death occurred December 11, and was that of Mrs. Ballast, an aged grandmother, the hardships of this new life proving too much for her feeble health. She felt when she left her homeland that she would not be able to endure the trip, but said she would rather go with her children than to be left to die without them.

Less than two weeks after their arrival at the Willis Switch, scarlet fever and diphtheria broke out among the children of the Hollanders. Conditions in the overcrowded colony houses fostered the rapid spread of these diseases. The parents were horror-stricken with a fear that their children were doomed, and were entirely helpless to avert such a tragedy.

Dr. Gale, of Alamosa, took charge of the patients, spending several hours each day at the colony. He experienced great difficulty, however, in having his instructions carried out, as very few of the colonists could understand English. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, the Alamosa Citizen's Committee sent a trained nurse to assist the doctor in caring for the children. At the urgent request of Dr. Gale, two railroad cars were provided by Superintendent Lyden, of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad.

⁷*Denver Republican*, Dec. 19, 1892.

⁸*Denver Republican*, Dec. 10, 1892.

Into these cars the sick children were removed, thus limiting the spread of the disease.⁹

The funeral of the first four victims of diphtheria occurred on December 21. "The melancholy procession, headed by Schoolmaster Zyistra, moved from the colony houses to the Alamosa cemetery. All of the Hollanders seemed deeply moved over the sad fate of the children, whose life in America had been so short. They were all buried in one grave. In this cemetery also lie the remains of Mrs. Ballast."¹⁰

Before the contagions had run their course, thirteen children died. These two diseases, the dread of all early settlers, caused many fatalities during pioneer days. This was especially true of diphtheria. Many families in the mountain districts and the smaller settlements, far from a doctor, and helpless against the inroads of the disease, suffered the loss of several of their children.

People in all parts of Colorado became interested in the dilemma of the colonists, and sympathized deeply with their distress. Governor Routt was appealed to, but he reported that there were no state funds available for use in their behalf. "I'm quarter Dutch, myself," the Governor stated, "and I stand by my own blood. The Dutch make good citizens, and I am really sorry there is no money to help them at my command. In my address to the legislature I will mention these poor people, and if they still need aid, that body will appropriate it."¹¹

Mr. Hamilton, superintendent of the Empire Land and Canal Company, and Mr. Manders, representative of T. C. Henry, who had tried in vain to have the leaders of the colony locate each family upon a suitable tract of land, visited the colony and made the following proposition to the people themselves: "Our company has a number of houses located upon the Empire farms five miles from Alamosa, on the railway, which we offer to your people free of charge in order that each family may have a home to themselves and as a precaution against infection from scarlet fever, which we understand has broken out in the immigrant houses. Should any of the farmers desire to purchase any of these lands they can have an opportunity to do so or they can rent the same and we will undertake to furnish seed and implements. The offer of free rent we would expect to be construed to mean the winter season, but any farmer who desired to rent could remain in the house to which we might billet him."¹² Manager Kebler of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company of

⁹*Denver Republican*, Dec. 19, 1892.

¹⁰*Denver Republican*, Dec. 21, 1892.

¹¹*Denver News*, Dec. 21, 1892.

¹²*Denver Republican*, Dec. 19, 1892.

Pueblo, also offered the colonists all the land they needed under the Bessemer ditch at a fair price, and assured them that four hundred of their men could have employment in the steel works.¹³

Messrs. Van der Hoogt and Zoutman were openly accused of misrepresentation and blamed for the plight of the people. Feeling was very bitter in this respect. One of the colonists informed Mr. Hamilton that when Van der Hoogt made his appearance at breakfast that morning, no one got up and bowed as was their custom, but all sat in silence. This meant a great deal, as the Dutch were great believers in caste, and Van der Hoogt had always been accorded the greatest respect. Several of the young men had already become disgusted and had left the colony, securing employment in Alamosa.

A meeting, held by the leading men, and to which Van der Hoogt and Zoutman were not invited, resulted in the appointment of a committee composed of L. Ver Burg, J. Zwier, A. Z. Van Lummel, D. Sjardema and F. Zyistra. Mr. J. Van Boyen, the correspondent of the *Amsterdam Standard*, who was stationed at Alamosa, to investigate the colony affairs, was consulted by the committee, and a cablegram was immediately dispatched to the Holland Executive committee, requesting the removal of the colony officers and stating that liquidation and dispersal of the colony would follow.

Upon receipt of this disturbing report, and also of a cablegram from Mr. Van der Hoogt, advising that the second party of two hundred families, comprising almost five hundred persons, should not start for America on January 1st, as was originally determined, President Noordtzy left Amsterdam for New York, where he was met by Mr. Zoutman, who accompanied him west. Plans were made while enroute to move the immigrants to northeastern Colorado, Mr. Noordtzy having brought with him funds sufficient for this purpose. Upon arriving at the Willis Switch, they were, therefore, greatly surprised to find that the majority of the colonists had left the headquarters buildings, having accepted the offers of Mr. Henry's agents, and selected lands upon the Empire farm, several miles from the tract of land previously selected by the Holland American Land and Immigration Company. The Hollanders had settled individually upon these lands, and apparently were well satisfied, absolutely refusing to be dislodged or to listen to any plans in which Zoutman and Van der Hoogt were interested. District Attorney Merriman of Alamosa, assured them of their right to stay, and warned them against being worked by any bluff on the part of Zoutman.

¹³Denver Republican, Dec. 31, 1892.

A few days after President Noordtzy's arrival, a tract of land covering thirty thousand acres in the lower Platte Valley, was purchased for \$450,000, Messrs. Noordtzy, Van der Hoogt and Zoutman acting for the Holland Company in negotiating the deal. This land was all under ditch, the former owners, a syndicate composed chiefly of Denver people, having spent thousands of dollars on improvements. When final arrangements were completed, the group of colonists waiting at Amsterdam was instructed to begin their journey to Colorado.¹⁴

On February 1, 1893, the colonists remaining at the headquarters buildings in Alamosa, left the Valley under the leadership of Zoutman and Van der Hoogt for the new colony site. "Fifty-two full rate and twenty-three half-fare tickets were bought. This was less than one-third of the original colony, and all the balance will remain here (Alamosa), and this includes almost all those having money."¹⁵

The Hollanders settled on the South Platte River from Red Lion to Proctor. Many houses were built upon the land, and a large office building and hotel was erected at Crook. The hotel building of two stories stood where the Crook Town Park is now located. This building was soon destroyed by fire.

Mr. John Zoutman remained here as manager of the colony, and although the immigrants, with true Dutch industry, made every effort to cultivate their lands and to establish various enterprises, dissatisfaction with the management, discouragement and financial loss, caused them to abandon the settlement in August and September of 1893, less than a year after their arrival. A few of the immigrants moved to Greeley; some settled in Brush and in Fort Morgan and several families went to Iowa; but the majority returned, with their families, to Holland.

One colonist, a well educated young man named John Hardfelt, remained in the vicinity of Crook for several years, working as a cowboy for Box J Cattle Company.

In 1894 the Colony buildings were torn down, and the lumber hauled to Sterling and sold to cover mortgages held by the Henderson Lumber Company. With the razing of these buildings, all vestiges of the Dutch Colony vanished.¹⁶

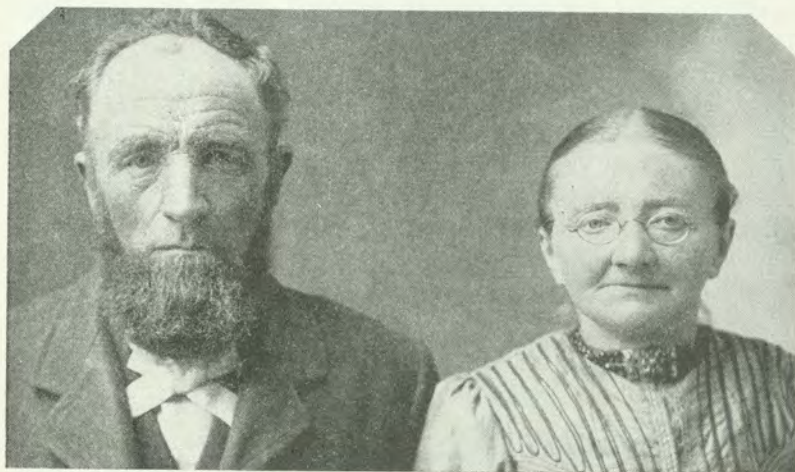
The colonists remaining in the San Luis Valley fared little better than their fellow countrymen at Crook. Not being aided in their efforts to establish permanent homes, as was promised by Zoutman and the Holland Company, most of them soon found themselves without funds. "They became discouraged and prac-

¹⁴Denver Republican, Jan. 29, 1893.

¹⁵Denver Republican, Feb. 1, 1893.

¹⁶V. A. Winn, Crook, Colorado.

tically all of them left the Valley in the spring of 1903, and settled in Iowa. The only family remaining was that of Adolph Heersink, who was financially able to carry on. He filed on a homestead, proved up, and developed it into one of the best farms in the Valley. Mr. and Mrs. Heersink died a few years ago, but their children still live at the old home place in this vicinity."



MR. AND MRS. ADOLPH HEERSINK (1905)

Mr. Hof, one of the original members of the colony, who left with the group in 1903, and settled near Denver, returned eight years later, locating near the Empire farm, and has been a most successful farmer. Mr. Hof, in commenting upon the colony, said, "Mr. Noordtzy, the Dutch agent, was a fine man, and did all in his power to help the emigrants, but the agent at this end of the line (Zoutman) was a crook and made promises he never fulfilled, causing much suffering and inconvenience."¹⁷

Like all other pioneer enterprises, the colony projects produced tragedies as well as triumphs. The failures, due in almost every instance to dishonest or inefficient management of those responsible for the welfare of the people, were especially bitter to colonists from foreign lands. In connection with each of these colonies that failed to function as a unit, there were, however, instances where individuals, by virtue of personal initiative, succeeded in establishing successful farms or businesses, and thus became valuable additions to the pioneer life of the state.

¹⁷Walter D. Carroll, Alamosa, Colorado.