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Colorado Folklore

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Between the factual and objective records of the past, which we recognize as history, and the artistic and personal interpretations of life, which we call literature, there lies a popular region known as folklore.¹ Here one finds the traditional customs, beliefs, songs, sayings, tales and legends "of the people, by the people and for the people." For the members of a social group, be it a primitive tribe or a regional unit of some complex modern nation, these constitute a rich common heritage.

The line separating this body of normally oral tradition from the formally transmitted sciences and arts, is often a dim one; the sciences tend to replace many folk beliefs and to modify old customs, while the fine arts frequently absorb or build upon folk tales, traditional songs, and popular sayings. As material for the study of cultural development and as a revelation of the basic in human nature, folklore has great values. Furthermore, it is often very delightful.

Although Colorado is one of the youngest of the states and the center of what was only recently the raw frontier, her informal cultural heritage has been cumulating for more than a century. It deserves serious attention. Inspiration and guidance for the study of our local folklore may be gleaned from the publications of such well-known collectors of songs and ballads as John Lomax, Robert W. Gordon, and Carl Sandburg; of such anthropologists as Natalie Curtis, George Bird Grinnell, George Dorsey, and A. E. Kroeber; of such regional enthusiasts as J. Frank Dobie and the members of the Texas Folk-Lore Society, of which he is the secretary; and of those groups of writers under the sponsorship of the Works Progress Administration who have compiled numerous state guidebooks and folklore pamphlets. Much of the folklore of Colorado has not yet been gathered from the widely scattered and diverse printed sources and made accessible to the general reader. It is still possible to add to these materials by the collection of oral accounts of early days

*Dr. Davidson, who delivered this address at the Annual Meeting of the State Historical Society on December 10, is head of the Literature Department at the University of Denver. He has contributed to previous issues of our magazine.—Ed.

¹Cf. Alexander H. Krappe, *The Science of Folk-Lore* (London, 1930).

and by the recording of current local traditions, beliefs, and sayings. In what follows I shall indicate, with examples, some of the areas most profitable for exploration by the student or the collector.

The earliest folklore of this region antedates the coming of the white man; Indian myths and legends are, undoubtedly, a part of our complex heritage. Only fragments of this vast oral tradition have survived; for these we are indebted to such cultured travelers as George F. Ruxton, to the trained anthropologists, and to such pioneer journalists and historians as William N. Byers.² George Bird Grinnell, historian of the Cheyenne tribes, has described these tales as follows:

Told at night to a group of young and old sitting in the half light about the flickering lodge-fire the stories compel the interest and hold the attention of the listeners. . . . Some of them were well worth listening to, and others seem more or less trivial. Of the older stories there are many variants. Some of the stories contain the same incidents, and it is not easy to separate them into groups. Many are very old, while, on the other hand, some of the war stories deal with matters of at least a generation or two ago, and in certain cases the precise year is given.

The stories which the Indians narrate, cover a wide field of subjects, furnish to us concrete examples of their ways of thought. Beside their inherent interest, many of them have a direct relation to the early history of our country, and some tell of events happening on ground now occupied by great numbers of white people.³

The following is one of the earliest recorded examples of the legends devised by our mountain Indians, preserved by oral transmission, and finally transcribed in English and printed. This story as told to William N. Byers, Colorado pioneer journalist, by the Utes of Middle Park, was printed in the July, 1873, issue of *Out West*, together with the Ute legend of the origin of the coyote and Byers' explanation of his interest in the preservation of such tales. Here we have the Indian version of how Hot Sulphur Springs originated:

A long time ago there were many hundreds of lodges of Utes living in the mountains. Game of all kinds was plentiful, peace reigned and all they had to do was to kill and eat. But a dissension arose about the tribes going on the war path. An old Medicine-Man, Spiquet Pah (Smoking Water), was opposed to any parties going out of their own country to fight. But a young chief who wanted to immortalize himself, and who, it seems, was "spoiling for a fight," so influenced the minds of the young bucks with his glowing pictures of the "pomp and circumstances of glorious war," that the war party was soon the most popular, as is frequently the case. A general council was held of the "Great Plain" (Middle Park), whereat words ran high and a quarrel broke out between the old medicine man and the young chief and their respective adherents. The chief delivered a bitter speech against Spiquet Pah and his peace policy of staying at home like squaws—killing nothing better than game. He said:

²Cf. bibliography of Vera Campbell, *Myths and Legends of Colorado* (Greeley, 1924).

³George Bird Grinnell, *By Cheyenne Campfires* (New Haven, 1926), Preface and Introduction.

"There is not an enemy's scalp in all our lodges; the war dance is forgotten, and the bow is less used than the awl. You braves that won't go on the war path should be compelled to leave the tribe, to go to the Uintahs, or be killed."

Old Spiquet Pah, in humility and deep sorrow replied: "My brother talks as the North Wind that comes in the season of falling leaves and ripe berries. The sound of his voice chills the life-blood in our bodies as the North Wind chills the life of the grass and the fruits. As the North Wind soon brings the snows and death of winter, so would he bring sorrow and death to our people. When the snows of winter are upon us, the buffalo, deer, and antelope are not found, the elk calls together its tribe and goes to the lonely mountains. The beaver creeps into his lodge and is seen no more, the bear sleeps till the snow is gone. Nothing is left, but the great white wolf, which destroys all that it can master, and the thieving yocoates (coyote) that steals everything it can find. If you do this, Strength, and Peace, and Plenty will depart from us forever; Health will be for but few; Joy will be seen no more; Courage will desert us because of our great sorrow, while Want and Hunger will be with us always; our children will cry for food and we will have none to give them; war will kill our young men, and disease will destroy our young women; in a few snows our number will be but few. Then, the Shoshones will come from the North, and the Sioux will come from the East, and the Navajos will come from the South, and the Uintahs will come from the West, and our people will fall before them, as the leaves fall before the North Wind in winter. My Brother's talk is bad. I am done."

But they followed the advice and the leadership of the young chief, and went upon the warpath against the Sioux, and got badly thrashed—as they generally do to this day). War thinned their ranks, and their scalps adorned the lodges of their enemies. Disease depopulated their villages, and their children cry always for food. Spiquet Pah's prophecy was literally fulfilled and its fulfillment is ever being repeated. When the young chief and his followers set out for the land of the Sioux, Old Medicus realized fully the usual fate of prophets—to be without honor in his own country—and in his deep sorrow and chagrin, he retired and went into the heart of the mountain, and—as an irreverent trapper said,—“pulled the hole in after him.” There, he now sits on his hunkers, by the side of his camp-fire which is built on the bank of a stream, and so near it that the water is heated by its blaze. Whilst he ruminates on the uncertainty of greatness and the ingratitude of his children, his camp-fire forever warms the water and it flows out to cure the sick, to heal wounds, and to wash the unclean. The Indians say it is “heap good.” War, and disease, and famine have chastened them, and they now revere the memory of him whose counsels they did not respect whilst living.

A curious fact is noticeable at these springs. Water from several of them, collecting into a considerable rivulet, pours over a ledge of rock and falls into a deep pool twelve or fifteen feet below. In the stillness of the night, and in certain conditions of the atmosphere, this falling water gives forth a clear, distinct and metallic musical sound, of which the Indians stand in great awe.

Besides a great number of stories explaining origins, including various myths as to the creation of the world, the Indians cherished many tales about practical jokers. Included in this category are the Arapaho stories about how “Nihanca Loses His Eyes.” These tell how a man could send his eyes out of his head, then call them back again. When Nihanca saw this, he asked to be shown the

way to do it. The man taught the joker but warned him not to do the trick too often. Forgetting this warning, Nihanea sent his eyes to the top of a cottonwood tree to view the country once too often. They did not return, but to this day can be seen as the markings on the bark and branches of the cottonwood. According to the version heard by George A. Dorsey, Nihanea was forced to borrow the eyes of various animals, finding those of a mouse too small, those of the buffalo too large. Finally he adopted those of the owl; thenceforth his eyes were yellow. According to another version, heard by A. L. Kroeber, the joker finally stole the eyes from a mole, who ever since has remained blind.⁴

Well known to historians are the contributions of the fur trappers and traders to the exploration and the settlement of the Trans-Mississippi West.⁵ But most of the tales which these first white residents of the Rocky Mountain West told around campfires in winter quarters, at the summer rendezvous, or inside the trading post, are now lost; some reached the ears of travelers, explorers, army officers, or other writing men and have thus been preserved. Only a part of these have as their locale the area now called Colorado. It is, however, safe to assume that all of the good ones belonged to the repertoire of those champion story tellers who held forth at such gathering places at Bent's Fort, on the Arkansas, or the winter quarters in Brown's Hole, in northwestern Colorado. Thus they belong to the Colorado folklore which preserves a vivid picture of the early life of white men in our region.

Among the best and most frequently retold of the trappers' tales is that of John Colter's race for life in 1807, familiar to readers of American literature in the version given by Colter to John Bradbury and reprinted by Irving in *Astoria*.⁶ Another frequently described escape from hostile Indians was that of Thomas Fitzpatrick, who, in 1832, while rushing ahead of the supply train, on horseback and alone, to the famous rendezvous in the Teton Basin, at Pierre's Hole, was intercepted on the Pacific side of South Pass by a band of Grosventre Indians. He fled, but was so hotly pursued that he had to dismount, hide in a small cave in the mountain side for more than a day and a night, travel for several more days and nights with scarcely any food until, when found by a searching party from Pierre's Hole, he was hardly recognizable.⁷ Less fortunate were the many trappers who fell in open conflict with hostile

⁴George A. Dorsey and Alfred L. Kroeber, *Traditions of the Arapaho* (Chicago, 1903), 50-51 and 51-52. A similar tale but from the Cheyenne tribe is included in Stith Thompson's *Tales of the North American Indians* (Cambridge, Mass., 1929), 63. It, too, was collected by A. L. Kroeber.

⁵Outstanding descriptions of the fur trade and of its significance are Hiram M. Chittenden, *The American Fur Trade of the Far West* (N. Y., 1902, new edition, 1935); and John G. Neihardt, *The Splendid Wayfaring* (N. Y., 1920).

⁶First printed in Bradbury's *Travels in America* (London, 1817). Chapter XIV of *Astoria* (Philadelphia, 1836).

⁷A late version is that in Le Roy R. Hafen and W. J. Ghent, *Broken Hand* (Denver, 1931), 96.

Indians. Following the 1832 rendezvous came the famous Battle of Pierre's Hole, a spirited version of which was included in Irving's narrative of Captain Bonneville's adventures.

Many are the stories of Indian horse stealing raids and of white reprisals, of trappers made captive by the savages, and of those who experienced remarkable escapes. Jedediah Smith, Henry Vanderburgh, Old Bill Williams, and many less famous trappers were shot down by Indians in ambush. Their endings furnished material for numerous campfire thrillers.⁸ Bears were almost as dangerous as Indians. The well-armed hunter who saw the bear first was safe; but a fighting grizzly, confronted unexpectedly, sometimes won. The most famous of Western bear stories is that of Hugh Glass, who killed his attacker but was so torn and bitten that he was unable to accompany his trapper band and was left behind to die. The two companions who were to wait until he should die and then bury him before rejoining the band, grew tired of waiting, deserted him after robbing his corpse-to-be, and told their companions that Glass was now under the ground. But he lived to appear like a ghost and to demand vengeance.⁹

Of a lighter nature is the story told by Captain Randolph B. Marcy of a bear-fighting contest between Jim Bridger and Jim Baker. Upon meeting two young grizzlies Bridger "remarked to his friend that if they could 'pitch in and skulp the varmints with their knives,' it would be an exploit to boast of. They accordingly laid aside their rifles and 'went in.'" But the battle was fiercer than the trappers had counted on. Although victorious they resolved never to try the stunt again; as Bridger phrased it, he would "'never fight narry nother grizzly without a good shootin-iron in his paws.'"¹⁰

Although the beaver was not a very dangerous antagonist, his wisdom was respected by the trapper. The following is told in Edwin James' account of Major Long's expedition:

Singular accounts of this animal are given us by the hunter, but which we had no opportunity of verifying. . . . Three beaver were seen cutting down a large cottonwood tree; when they had made considerable progress, one of them retired to a short distance, and took his station in the water, looking steadfastly at the top of the tree. As soon as he perceived the top begin to move toward its fall, he gave notice of the danger to his companions, who were still at work, gnawing at its base, by slapping his tail upon the surface of the water, and they immediately ran from the tree, out of harm's way.¹¹

⁸For example, George F. Ruxton, *Life in the Far West* (London, 1849), vividly describes Old Bill Williams' arrow-riddled corpse as found by fellow trappers. Smith's death is reported in Josiah Gregg's *Commerce of the Prairies* (N. Y., 1844).

⁹Cf. John G. Neihardt, *The Song of Hugh Glass* (N. Y., 1915); and Chittenden, *op. cit.*, 689-697 and note.

¹⁰*Thirty Years of Army Life on the Border* (N. Y., 1866), 406. For additional examples of trapper dialect, cf. Levette Jay Davidson, "Old Trapper Talk," *American Speech*, April, 1938.

¹¹Edwin James, *Account of an Expedition . . . under the Command of Major Stephen H. Long* (Philadelphia, 1823), I, 464.

Encouraged by the presence of a greenhorn, the old trappers would bring out some tall tale and elongate it until the auditor's gullibility was exhausted. Such happened when Rufus Sage and his companions saw a carcajou, or wolverine, "a strange-looking, dark-colored animal . . . of a family and species found in no other part of the world as yet known . . . partaking the mixed nature of the wolf and bear, but far more ferocious than either." According to Rufus Sage an old trapper related the following, "which will serve to give some idea of this ferocious animal":

A party of hunters, at their night camp, were seated around a large fire, at whose sides were fixed several pieces of meat, *en appolas*, for the purpose of roasting. All were waiting patiently the kind office of the fire in the preparation of their longed-for suppers, when, attracted by the fumes of the cooking viands, a "carcague" came bounding from the mountain-side, directly over their heads, and made for the roasts, with which he disappeared before even a shot could be fired in their defence.¹²

Living beyond the control of law courts, trappers settled their disputes in the primitive way. When inflamed by bad whisky, their normally unrestrained tempers often led to acts of violence long remembered and later narrated with appropriate additions. Reverend Samuel Parker, who stopped at the Green River rendezvous in 1835, described one such duel: "A hunter, who goes technically by the name of the great bully of the mountains, mounted his horse with a loaded rifle, and challenged any Frenchman, American, Spaniard, or Dutchman, to fight him in single combat. Kit Carson, an American, told him if he wished to die, he would accept the challenge. Shunar defied him." Both fired at close quarters. Carson's ball shattered the hand, wrist and arm of Shunar; then Carson went for another pistol with which to finish the job; but the now humbled bully begged for mercy.¹³ Probably Dr. Marcus Whitman, Parker's companion, dressed Shunar's wound, for at this same rendezvous he "extracted an iron arrow, three inches long, from the back of Captain Bridger, which he had received in a skirmish three years before, with the Blackfeet Indians."¹⁴ The manner in which this story of Carson's duel with Shunar has reappeared in many later versions, illustrates the easy transformation of fact into legend.¹⁵ Even better known is the story of Mike Fink's treacherous shooting in 1823 of his companion Carpenter, instead of the whiskey cup on Carpenter's head.

¹²Rufus Sage, *Scenes in the Rocky Mountains* (Philadelphia, 1846), chap. xv.

¹³*Journal of an Exploring Trip Beyond the Rocky Mountains* (Ithaca, N. Y., 1838), 75-81.

¹⁴*Ibid.*

¹⁵According to *Kit Carson's Own Story of His Life, as Dictated to Col. and Mrs. D. C. Peters about 1856-57*, edited by Blanche C. Grant (Taos, N. M., 1926), the French bully was Captain Drips, an employee of the American Fur Co., which was a bitter rival of Carson's own band, the Rocky Mountain Fur Company. Here Carson is reported as having told the bragging trapper that "if he made use of any more such expressions, I would rip his guts." The extended version by DeWitt Peters, *The Life and Adventures of Kit Carson, the Nestor of the Rocky Mountains, "from facts narrated by himself"* (N. Y., 1858).

More humorous is Lewis H. Garrard's account of Hatcher's solitary spree, which led this old-timer to imagine that he had ridden right into the mouth of Hell and had paid a visit to the devil himself. After imbibing, while half-starved, a jug of "Taos lightning," Hatcher mounted his mule and passed up the canyon of the Arkansas, which closed behind him, forcing him deeper and deeper into Hell. When discovered by fellow-trappers, he was writhing on the ground, overcome by the pursuing snakes.¹⁶

Champion of all tellers of Western tall tales, according to Lieutenant J. W. Gunnison, Captain W. J. Reynolds, and others who employed him as a guide, after the fur period was about over, was Jim Bridger. As early as 1844 he had brought back to St. Louis stories of the wonders of the Yellowstone region, but the newspapers were afraid to print such big yarns. Little wonder, then, that Bridger decided no longer to be restrained to the truth that no one would believe. Among the charming lies attributed to Bridger in later years are tales of an accurate echo that could be used as an alarm clock if one would just call out "Get up! Get up!" when he went to bed; of the mountain of glass, or Obsidian Cliff, with the heap of bones at its base—mute reminder of the animals and birds who had tried to pass through without noticing that there was a mountain in the way; of the petrified valley where he rode over a chasm without falling, for even gravitation was under the spell; of Scott's Bluffs, standing nearly four hundred feet high in the place where there was only a deep valley when he first came West; of his ability to tell the elevation of any place by boring down until he struck salt water and then measuring the distance to sea level; and of the great snow in the Salt Lake Valley that killed the vast herds of buffalo, which he pickled in the Great Salt Lake, thus preserving them for himself and the Utes for many years.¹⁷

Since the printing press came to Colorado along with the Pike's Peakers of 1859, many of the tales of pioneer days reached print after only a relatively brief oral existence. Nevertheless these verbal portraits of typical aspects of frontier life and of the striking events of succeeding decades are a part of our folklore. Included

describes Carson's opponent as "Captain Shuman, a powerful Frenchman." Peters sketched in the scene, elaborated on Carson's patience, and gave a more romantic version of Carson's words to the bully. Blanche C. Grant, in editing the manuscript which Carson dictated, comments as follows on DeWitt Peters' extended work, "Carson never read the book as a whole but read enough so he is said to have remarked that Peters 'laid it on a leetle too thick.'" Charles Burdett in his *Life of Kit Carson* (N. Y., 1860), calls the bully "Shuman" and adds a touch of romantic fiction by making the duel result from Carson's defense of a Blackfoot beauty to whom "Shuman" was paying repugnant attention. A swift-moving account of the affair constitutes a part of Stanley Vestal's modern biography, *Kit Carson, The Happy Warrior of the Old West* (Boston, 1928).

¹⁶*Wah-To-Yah and the Taos Trail* (Cincinnati, 1850), chap. xix. Reprinted in Davidson and Bostwick, *The Literature of the Rocky Mountain West* (Caldwell, 1939).

¹⁷Many of these were collected by Hiram M. Chittenden in *The Yellowstone Park* (Cincinnati, 1895). Others are found in *Ab-Sa-Ra-Ka; or Wyoming Opened*, by Mrs. Henry R. Carrington (Philadelphia, 1868), chapter XII of the 1896 edition, prepared by her husband.

are stories of the Cherry Creek flood, of grasshopper plagues and Indian wars, of the visit of Horace Greeley and other tenderfeet to the mines and the mountains, of the lucky strikes of Russell, Jackson, Gregory, Tabor, and Stratton, of the practical jokes of Eugene Field and his friends, of such picturesque figures as O. J. Goldrick and Buffalo Bill, and of the innumerable struggles, failures, and successes involved in the building of a commonwealth. Print gave permanency of form and immortality to some narratives that in an illiterate society would have undergone many transformations or, perhaps, would not have survived.

The early issues of our local newspapers are full of stories which are neither accurate history nor artistic fiction, but merely informal and entertaining gossip. These concern prominent people, public catastrophies, rumors, optimistic prophesies of future greatness, and humorous aspects of frontier experiences. They come within the dictionary definition of folklore as "traditional customs, beliefs, tales, or sayings, preserved unreflectively among a people"; they are material for "the science which investigates the life and spirit of a people as revealed in such lore." Although space does not permit retelling them here, examples of such popular tales will occur to anyone familiar with the story of Colorado—even though one refuses to include in this tradition exaggerated versions found in *Silver Dollar* and *Timberline*. Besides the newspaper files, rich sources for the student are the volumes of our older magazines, especially the *Sons of Colorado* and *The Trail*, and also of our present *Colorado Magazine*, which, for example, printed just a year ago two delightful stories: "Silverheels" and "The Kidnapping of Judge A. W. Stone."

No doubt the pioneers made up songs, as well as stories, in order to express their reaction to new experiences; but few of the popular type have been preserved. Most of the signed poetry of the early decades is pretty bad, even though it sometimes appeared in book form. The following "Song of the Times, By a Frontier Individual" was published in the first and only issue of the *Cherry Creek Pioneer*, Denver City, Kansas Territory, on April 23, 1859. Since it is to the tune "Hard Times Come Again No More," it probably is a parody, but the anonymous author voiced the attitude of many of that day.

There's a crowd in every village, and every town, astir,
Who are going to gather up the gold;
There's a sound in every cottage, and a wring every ear,
"Pike's Peak is the land for the young and old."

Chorus:—'Tis the life and the dream of the many,
"Pike's Peak," "Pike's Peak," the land of the brave and the bold,
Many ways we have wandered and now we are told,
"Pike's Peak" is the place to get the gold.

There's a young lovely maiden, scarce sixteen summers old
Whose thoughts o'er the distant prairie roam,
Where the idol of her vision is digging for the gold—
Pike's Peak is the place to make your home.

Chorus:—'Tis the life and the dream of the many, etc.

"Fare thee well," says the farmer to his loving child and wife;
"Be merry till the day we meet again,
For we'll farm then no longer, but lead a happy life,
Pike's Peak is the place to get the tin."

"I am tired!" says the merchant, "of selling goods for years,
When a fortune can be made in half the time."
So he takes a barrel of whiskey, besides a sweitzer cheese,
Pike's Peak is the place of his design.

There is youths of every nation, and men from far and near,
Who are going to make their fortunes quick,
There goes Paddy with his shovel, there Yoccup with his beer—
Pike's Peak is the place to raise the chink.

More realistic is the following description of "The Pike's Peakers," by presumably another poet, in the *Rocky Mountain News*, for May 31, 1862.

In '59 Pike's Peakers were a sight
To make a city dame turn ghastly white.
The chaps who roughed it coming 'cross the plains
In dress displayed no very 'tic'lar pains;
Long bushy hair upon their shoulders lay
Their grizzly beards unshorn for many a day.
"Biled shirts" gave place to "hickory," plaid, or patch,
While graybacks brought the wearers to the scratch.
Stripes down their breeches looked uncommon queer,
A buckskin patch conspicuous in the rear.
Spectres, say you? Pro-spectors were the trumps
Who, delving in the mines, first found the lumps;
To them a tribute would I gladly pay.
Who "made the raffle" at an early day,
And set to work, though adverse tales were told,
And turned the scales with glittering scales of gold.
The Desparado was a savage cuss,
Eager to breed a row, or raise a muss,
Who snuffed afar the symptoms of a fight.
And drew his "Nivy" or his "Bowie" bright,
And always made it his exclusive "biz"
To mingle in a crowd and "let 'er whiz";
To shoot at random was a heap of fun,
Rare sport to see his victim's life-blood run!
On him at last the tables swift were turned;
A wholesome lesson to his cost he learned.
The "vigis" pointed to an empty saddle,
And gave him just ten minutes to skedaddle.

Perhaps we should claim some of the cowboy ballads as a part of our folklore. They are, however, well known and are recognized as belonging to the great plains region from the Rio Grande to the Canadian border. Unfortunately there is no such body of song portraying our more definitely local vocations of metal mining and sugar-beet raising and processing.

Another type of popular verse, anonymous and designed for the whole people rather than a literary audience, was the Carrier's Greeting, issued on New Year's Day, by some of our Colorado newspapers. Although the custom existed in some other parts of our country, there are passages in these crude poems which vividly reveal the local interests and attitudes of our region during the '60s and '70s. A few quotations will illustrate the nature and the present value of these almost-forgotten annuals.¹⁸

The first of these, "Carrier's New Year Address to the patrons of the Rocky Mountain News," January 1, 1860, consisting of one hundred and thirty-four lines in couplets, was printed in black on one side of green handbill paper. Greetings in later, more prosperous, years appeared resplendent in colored inks and ornamented covers. After a salutation to the "kind patrons" and a request for a dime or a quarter to gladden the newsboy's heart, the poet next discussed the sad state of the nation, commenting upon the differences between the North and the South, the trouble over Kansas, and the attack upon "old Brigham." Then he turned to local matters, as follows:

Next we'll speak of "Pike's Peak," the place of all places,
Toward which many turned their backs, as well as their faces,
Some crying "all right," while others would swear
"There wa'nt any gold, and ne'er would be there,"

'Twas funny to see those seekers for gold
Get half way out here, then commence crying "sold;"
Turn their cattle around, with a wince and a shrug,
Hurry back to the States, crying "great is humbug!"

So now, my dear friends, let us all return thanks,
That our tickets for life have not all proven blanks;
And that while the Old World has been pulling her triggers,
And Old Captain Brown has been fighting for niggers,
And Greeley, and Seward, and others of note,
Are threatened with stretching Virginia's rope,
That we are all right—letter A, No. 1,
With plenty of cash and plenty of fun;
We don't care a fig how the Eastern world wags;
We're bound to go onward, and never to lag;
So hurrah for young Jefferson, Star of the West!
May her land e're be free, and her people all blest;
So I'll bid you adieu—not say a word more,
For fear you may think me a consummate bore—
But hold! My dear friend, have you, during the winter,
Thought enough of your country to pay up the PRINTER?
If not, go at once and hand him the "wheels,"
And feel the delight that an honest man feels.

By 1866, with the Civil War over and Colorado's darkest days ended, the *News* poet spread his wings a bit and issued an invitation

¹⁸Quotations are taken from copies in the Western Collection of the Denver Public Library.

in the following passage to immigrants, although he confessed that all roads had been closed just the year before by "friendly" Indians.

Come and delve in the mines where the rich jewels blaze,
While silver and gold shed around their bright rays;
Or choose you the plains where the husbandman's toil,
Is richly repaid by a prolific soil;
Where vast herds may roam o'er the unbroken range
Whom nature will feed through all seasons' change;
O, come where the joy-feasts of beauty abound,
Where Summer and Winter alike a grand round
Of plains clothed in verdure, of peaks grand with snow;
Come, taste of the pleasures which here you may know.
Italia boasts vainly of balmier skies
Than over our plains in azure hues rise.
Of landscape or scenery grand to the view,
There's naught in the old world compared to this new—
Then come to the land of the mountain and plain,
Where joy fills the heart and banishes pain,
There is nothing will set human pulses aglow,
Like the climate and scenes of Colorado.

One further quotation, taken from the greeting issued by the *Colorado Tribune*, of Denver, January 1, 1870, certainly voices a popular sentiment of the day—Colorado's joy at the coming of the frontier-destroying railroad.

The Union Pacific, mighty and grand,
Has pass'd from the East to the Western land.
To open our marts, our commerce to find,
Ocean to Ocean together to bind,
Whilst out of its side like Adam of old,
The rib has been pluck'd as you have been told.
'Tis Eve(ans); in kind, "The Denver Pacific,"
But for us 'tis the Railroad prolific.

Denver looks forward to the swift coming time,
When the bells of her cars shall ring a sweet chime,
When the Railroad shall bring (not milk and honey)
But plenty of trade and plenty of money.

Everyone is familiar with the romantic and stereotyped picture of the West found in the vividly-colored Western magazines of the corner drug store, or in the Wild West motion picture, produced without much change since the beginning of the motion picture industry. In this dream world of out-door heroes, heroines, and villains one meets hard-riding cowboys on bucking broncos surprising the cattle rustlers at the water holes. In the six-gun battles which follow, flaming lead wipes out the bad hombres, who, although thus saved from the hang-man's noose, are nevertheless planted in graves on Boot-Hill, a perpetual warning to ugly devils that crime never pays. Sometimes a lone rider rescues the daring but innocent daughter of the widow owner of the Bar-X Ranch, and the story ends with the triumph of true love. As entertainment and as escape from reality these stories and pictures of the "Horse-Opera" variety seem to satisfy a popular demand, but they add

little except mistaken ideas to the movie-goer's or to the reader's conception of life west of the Mississippi.

It is to be regretted that we do not have more folk ballads and stories depicting the experiences of the common people of yesterday and even of today as they go about their everyday living and engage in those occupations which are peculiar to this region. One other repository of common knowledge, however, invites study—the vocabulary of the average man who has lived for a decade or a lifetime within sight of the Rockies. Since words are the store-houses of experiences, events, ideas, and attitudes, a study of the speech of Westerners of today brings one closer to the truth than does the reading of much so-called Western fiction. Although cultured people in Ohio, Nebraska, Colorado, Arizona, California, and Oregon exhibit many of the same speech traits, there are frequent differences in their choice of words; out of different occupations, different geographical surroundings, and different historical backgrounds have come place-names and other common expressions which give individuality and vividness to the Westerner's talk. As one collects such a word list, he comes closer and closer to the true flavor of the life of our region. Only a few examples can be given here.

A check of the Denver Telephone Directory a few years ago revealed the following names—some with a definite regional flavor—as those applied most frequently to business firms: Rocky Mountain, Mountain, Park Hill, Midwest, Capitol and Capitol Hill, Columbine, Santa Fe, Pioneer, Mile Hi, University, State, Washington Park, Silver, Silver State and Silver Dollar, Great Western, Evergreen, Pikes Peak, Burlington, Pacific, Midland, Civic, and Cherry Creek. Those called Denver or Colorado were, of course, most frequent. The street names of Denver, Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Greeley and other cities and towns, also often recall early history or other folk interests. In Denver, for example, we use the names of Indian tribes for a series of streets, from Acoma (here pronounced *a-kó-ma*) to Zuni. Among the outstanding pioneers whose names have been given to streets in Denver are the following: Larimer, Gilpin, Evans, Byers, Clayton, Iliif, Richthofen, Wynkoop, and Speer. Throughout our state many of the names of mountain peaks, rivers, counties, and towns, which are frequently on the lips of everyone, hint at fascinating stories, for example, Cache La Poudre, Purgatoire, Sangre de Cristo, Beecher Island, Fort Lupton, Berthoud Pass, Fairplay, Tarryall, Manitou, Kit Carson, Mesa Verde, Creede, Cripple Creek, Leadville, Estes Park, Echo Lake, Fruita, Holy Cross Mountain, Julesburg, Ludlow, Meeker, Ouray, Telluride, Tin Cup, and Wagon Wheel Gap.¹⁹

¹⁹See L. J. Davidson and Olga Koehler, "The Naming of Colorado's Towns and Cities," in *American Speech*, Feb., 1932, and the series now running in the *Colorado Magazine*, prepared under a WPA project.

From our special occupations comes many a Westernism. Not long ago I heard an old-timer tell how the cattlemen and the sheepmen used to *bow* (*bō*) *their necks* at each other. He called the wild horses, still occasionally seen in Western Colorado, *broom-tails*, because of their uncombed or bushy tails. It is needless to list the many terms borrowed by our everyday speech from cowboy lingo; to this vocabulary, as to that of frontier language, mining expressions, or old trapper talk, Colorado contributed a generous portion. Dry land farming and irrigation, together with the raising and the processing of sugar beets, have also contributed to our picturesque speech. One who does not know these special vocabularies may find himself unable to read with understanding many a sentence in our newspapers or to follow some of the discussions in Colorado's legislative halls.

Although some phases of Colorado folklore have been omitted from this discussion, such as the Spanish-American folk songs and tales still to be heard south of the Arkansas River, enough has been given, I hope, to indicate the interest and the richness of the field. Much remains to be done in the further collection, preservation, study, and circulation of folklore materials. It is to be expected that creative artists will utilize more and more of these Indian legends, trapper tales, pioneer sketches, early songs, and Western vocabularies, for the enrichment of their works. The folklore of Colorado is one of the most valuable elements in our heritage from the generations who formerly occupied the region that we are now privileged to enjoy. Like history and literature it adds human associations to our physical environment, it deepens our understanding of our fellow men, and it frees our minds from bondage to the here and the now.

Montie Blevins, North Park Cattleman

ADAH B. BAILEY¹

Montie Blevins has lived a long and eventful life; and from the coming of the first herd of cattle into North Park, Colorado, in 1879 he has taken a leading part in the cattle business here.

Born in Iowa in 1859, he crossed the plains to Colorado in 1864 with his father, mother and two sisters. This was the year the Indians committed more depredations than at any other time in the history of early-day travel. Even the Overland Stage could not travel for a while.

¹Mrs. Bailey lives in Walden, Colorado. This historical sketch won first prize in the Woman's Club State Contest this year.—Ed.

Montie was only five years old, but he says he remembers that trip very clearly. They were all so frightened as they would pass stage stations which had been burned down, piles of iron where wagons and camps had been burned. Indians buried in the trees, and graves with headboards at the side of the road where whites were buried—all these things showing so plainly what the Indians had been doing. But they had no trouble at all, making it through the whole trip without being molested.



NORTH PARK CATTLEMEN AND FAMILIES (ABOUT 1909)

(Left to right, standing: William Baldwin, Laps Ish, Montie Blevins, Mark Baldwin. Sitting: Mrs. Mark Baldwin, Russell Baldwin, Mrs. Laps Ish, Edwin Baldwin, and Mrs. William Baldwin)

Later that same winter, in the early part of 1865, Montie's mother died, after having given birth to a little girl. Relatives took the baby to raise, but Montie's father took care of the other children himself.

In the summer of 1866 the father left the children in Denver and went to Julesburg to put up hay. While there, every night the men took their beds out in the willows and hid all night to sleep. They also hid their horses in the willows.

In 1869 he located on a ranch in Pleasant Valley, in Larimer County. The children had to stay at the house alone while their father worked all day on the ranch. One day, while Montie and his two sisters were alone, they looked out and as far as they could

see was a long string of Indians on horseback, coming single file towards their place. There was a building of some kind, perhaps a barn, out behind the house, and the children struck out on the run for this building, scared nearly to death. The big, fine-looking chief rode quite a bit ahead of the other Indians, and he called to them saying, "Don't be afraid, kids, we friendly Indians." It was Chief Friday of the Arapahoes, who always was a friend to the whites. He talked to the children a little while, and then all rode on.

Montie's first pony of his own was a glass-eyed one that his father bought from Joe Mason, the first postmaster and first white settler of Fort Collins. He rode this pony to school at La Porte.

Right across the road from the schoolhouse at La Porte lived the Provosts. John Baptiste Provost was the first permanent white settler in Larimer County. He married a fine Sioux squaw and they had one boy a little older than Montie and one a little younger. At noontime Montie and these boys would go over to Provost's house to play. In their exuberance, Montie said they would sometimes raise particular Cain. Then Mrs. Provost would finally get enough, and would cry out in Sioux, "See-e-e Chee-e-e," meaning "Baa-ad Bo-o-ys," and would look at them with a peculiar, piercing, penetrating look. That usually settled things for a while.

At the age of fourteen Montie ran away from his father and never went back. He went to live with and to work for William S. Taylor, the kindly and famous pioneer of La Porte, who in early days had entertained Grant, Colfax, Bowles, and other notables at his Virginia Dale stage station.

In 1877, when Montie was eighteen years old he went to work for C. B. Mendenhall, who lived at Virginia Dale, on the old Pearson place. He punched cattle for Mendenhall clear down to the Republican River.

The summer of 1879 a terrible drouth struck the Livermore, Virginia Dale and Fort Collins country, and the cattlemen had to hunt fresh pasture for their cattle. A large number of them drove their herds into North Park to graze. Montie Blevins brought in 3,000 head of steers and 600 head of horses for Mendenhall. Sam Brownlee had trailed the steers from Texas and he helped drive them into the Park. They branded them at what is still called the old Mendenhall Place. Mr. Mendenhall brought his family along and soon the cabins were built and corrals laid up. Montie Blevins was then twenty years old.

Then came the Meeker massacre that fall, and they all got scared and drove their cattle out, except Montie Blevins and Ed Davis, who were looking after the Mendenhall cattle. Less than half a dozen men stayed at Teller that winter. All the others got

scared and left. Sam Haworth carried mail to them all winter, though, a lot of the way on snowshoes.

During the summer the cattle were all turned loose to rustle, nobody looking after them. Those Texas steers were great travelers. Montie says that when they got onto a trail they never stopped, but just kept on going. That winter, along about the first of January, 1880, Montie got word that some of their cattle were over in Middle Park and about to die of starvation.

Montie started after them, leaving Davis at the cabins. He went on horseback to Prince Dow's. Dow was batching up in the south end of the Park on Coyote Creek, and Big Frank Crozier, who had lived a lot with the Indians, was batching with him and trapping coyotes.

The next morning they went on up to the top of the range on horses, then Crozier took the horses back and Montie and Dow went on with snowshoes. They went on over the hill and had to camp in the open with only a cold lunch for supper and a blanket apiece to roll up in. That night it snowed ten inches and they nearly froze. Next morning they ate some cold lunch again and started into Middle Park. They snowshoed all day and just about gave out. It got dark. Prince Dow finally staggered over, and partly leaning on Montie, said, "I don't think I can go any farther." Montie coaxed him to try a little longer and then they heard a dog bark. Montie says it was the sweetest music he had ever heard. A little farther and they could see a light. They made it to the door of the cabin and knocked. It was Jack Rand's "Hermitage on the Muddy."

Old Jack Rand was very rough and tough. He had lived with the Indians a lot and was supposed to have killed several men. He came to the door and said gruffly, "Who are you? What do you want?" Montie said, "I am Montie Blevins." "Not old Henry Blevins' son?" "Yes." "Come in! Come in!" He put out his hands and dragged them in, gave them a great feed and put them to bed.

Harry Webber was there that night also. He was running cattle over near Kremmling and knew where the lost Mendenhall steers were. The next day he took some of his horses and went with Montie to find them and they drove them over onto Wolford Mountain where the snow did not lay on and left them there the rest of the winter. Dow stayed in Middle Park and Montie came back alone.

The first of May, 1880, Montie took two or three men and a dozen pack horses and went over and got the cattle. As they were returning they made camp up on the Arapahoe and laid up a corral. That old corral is still standing.

While they were making camp, a young white boy who was building fence for some ranchman up near there saw them from afar, thought they were Indians, and started running towards Pinkhampton, clear in the north end of the Park, following the streams and hiding in the willows. The miners for Teller were beginning to swarm in again and all stopped over night at Pinkhampton. When the boy finally reached there the next night and told them a big band of Indians was coming, the men sat up all night with their guns loaded and ready. Of course nothing happened, but the next day Mark A. Walden, the man for whom Walden, Colorado, was named, who was stopping there that night, got all the men to turn in and finish the old blockhouse at Pinkhampton. It still stands.



MR. AND MRS. MONTIE BLEVINS
(At the Time of Their Marriage in 1883)

On April 11, 1883, Montie Blevins married Mr. Mendenhall's daughter Harriet. Her father had sold his place in North Park to Haas and Evans, and Blevins was running the outfit.

The winter of 1883-84 was a terribly hard one. At least half of all the cattle in North Park died. Blevins' outfit had 12,000 to start with and came out in the spring with 6,000. After this the cattlemen in North Park began to cut and put up hay for winter.

Ora Haley bought out Evans in 1885 and then the outfit was Haas and Haley. They sold out to Swift and Co. in 1887. Blevins worked for Swift five years on the same place and began buying other ranches for Swift. He bought the old 2 Bar by Walden.

and clear down the Michigan to Henry Donelson's and also the old George Ward place where Vic Hanson is now; up the Michigan to Iva Allard's; the Hardy on the Canadian; from the Jack White place to where Vic Riley now lives; the Spicer ranch; and the Art Allard place on the Illinois—thousands of acres of land. He put cattle on all this land, started cutting and putting up hay, and ran the whole outfit for the Swift Company.

Finally Swift decided to close out their holdings in North Park and they began selling the ranches until all that was left was the Hardy ranch. In 1912 Montie Blevins, Clayton & Murnan bought the Hardy ranch, and that was the end of the Swift Company in North Park.

Mr. Blevins bought the J R ranch near Walden in 1901. This is the place where their five children grew up. He sold it to Ovid Allard in 1914. He formed a partnership with Harry Green and they ran the Mallon ranch and cattle business until 1921, when they dissolved partnership.

Since then he has not engaged actively in the cattle business, but he still takes a keen interest in all North Park's stock raising. He spends his winters with a son in Denver and summers in North Park; his favorite topic of conversation, of course, is early day cattle raising in North Park. He has the keenest of memories and lacks many years of looking his eighty-one years. Exceedingly tall, like Abe Lincoln, only much handsomer, he still stands out among any group of men.

The Early Days of Florence, Colorado

LYNN SMITH*

The first settlement in what is now Florence proper consisted of a building or two east of the city about a quarter of a mile, known as La Bran. It was thought that this location would be more accessible for a branch railroad line to Coal Creek, which at this time (1872) was a thriving coal camp.

The late Senator James A. McCandless, who owned the town-site, was somewhat in doubt as to just what location for a permanent town would be the most desirable. He finally decided on the present site. Townshand S. Brandegee, a civil engineer, was engaged to make the survey and plat. The engineer became well acquainted with the three-year-old daughter of McCandless and took a fancy to her. After the survey was completed, the engineer asked Mr. McCandless what name he had selected for the new town.

*Mr. Smith is Secretary of the Florence Chamber of Commerce.—Ed.

McCandless said he had never given the matter a thought. Brandegee, who had the little girl in his arms at that time, suggested that the name be "Florence," the same as that of the little girl. Mr. McCandless willingly agreed to the suggestion and so "Florence" it was. The town was incorporated in 1887.

Maurice, a French trader who came from Detroit, Michigan, established the first trading post on Adobe Creek, seven miles south of present Florence, about the year 1830. The first agricultural settlement was by a group of Mexicans near the mouth of Adobe Creek. They built thirteen low-grade, earth-roofed adobe houses on one side of a projecting square or plaza. It was completed by an adobe wall. One of the buildings, with a dirt floor and one small box window, was used for a church. They cultivated some land on Hardscrabble Park but had a life of constant hazard from the Indians.

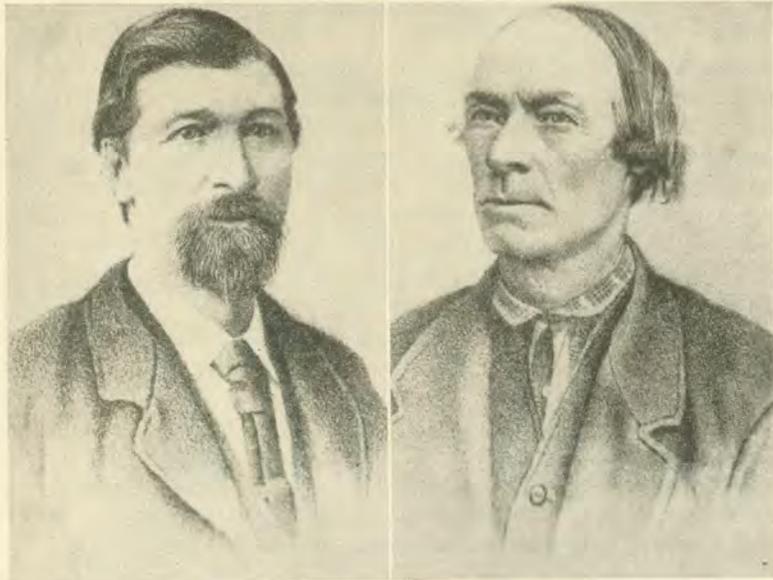
In 1838, on approach of the Sioux and Arapaho Indians, the settlers are said to have taken refuge in Maurice's fort. The Indians demanded that Maurice give the Ute squaw, who was living with him, as a pledge of peace. He parleyed with them until a courier, sent to the Ute camp, brought the braves. There, one of the fiercest engagements of our early history was fought, resulting in victory to the side of Maurice and the Utes.

The first American settlement on Adobe Creek, south of Florence, was established about 1840 by an association of hunters and trappers. The following persons are known to have been leading spirits of the company: Governor Charles Bent, L. P. Lupton, Colonel Ceran St. Vrain, Charles Beaubien and L. V. Maxwell. These men are all well known in the history of Colorado and New Mexico, Maxwell having been a companion of Fremont on his first trip to California. The settlement remained on Adobe Creek, with few interruptions, until the year 1846, when it was broken up and all the inhabitants, except Maurice, went to other localities.

Fred Walters, a pioneer resident of the Wetmore district in Custer County, some time ago made a survey of the spot where this old Maurice fort stood. He found several evidences of occupation, but most of the site is now nothing but a mound. Mr. Walters, as a result of his investigation and deduction, had a blueprint made of the old fort. A copy is in possession of the Chamber of Commerce at Florence, and one is owned by the State Historical Society of Colorado.

"Uncle Jesse" Frazer, as he was familiarly called by everyone, was one of the early pioneers of the Florence district. He came here in 1859 and established a home for the remainder of his life. Perhaps no person in Colorado had seen greater hardships and undergone more privations in an early day than Uncle Jesse and

his estimable wife. At that time the nearest point at which they could buy supplies was Denver, except occasionally from a trail wagon going through the country. At one time he heard of a supply wagon at Canon City and he went there on foot, a distance of eight miles. He bought a sack of flour for which he paid \$18 and carried it home upon his shoulders. Mrs. Frazer was the first white woman in Fremont County. Uncle Jesse commenced tilling the soil with a novel plow made from a crooked stick, and raised a considerable amount of vegetables the first year. In 1867 he put out a few apple trees, as a result of which he had the first thriving orchard in Colorado. It comprised 2,000 trees, consisting of apples, pears and plums. In 1879 and 1880, each year he sold \$2,000 worth of fruit. A part of the orchard is still intact.



JAMES A. McCANDLESS AND JESSE FRAZER

Edwin Lobach was another colorful pioneer of the Florence district. He was an old freighter of the early days and in 1862 he fitted out a train of twenty-six wagons, six yoke of oxen to the wagon, to haul freight between Leavenworth, Kansas, and Denver. In the spring of 1868 he contracted on the Union Pacific Railroad and continued until the road was finished to Promontory Point. He came to Florence in 1870 and established one of the best farms in the valley, which is now in charge of his son, Edwin Lobach, Jr.

Honorable J. A. McCandless, known as the founder of the town of Florence, was born in North Carolina, February 28, 1836.

He was a farmer's son and as the means of getting an education were very limited, what he did get was by his own efforts. He came to Colorado in 1864 and after spending six years farming in the west part of the county, he took up his residence in Florence. Mr. McCandless started out with seven families with ox-teams outfitted at Kansas City in 1864. They fell in company with seventy-five persons having fifty-eight wagons at Cow Creek, about fifty miles east of Great Bend. They traveled to Fort Larned where their train stopped, owing to a large band of Indians passing them the day previous. The fifty-eight wagons, loaded with merchandise for Fort Sumner, New Mexico, went on and the next morning were attacked by about 1,000 Arapahoes and Cheyennes and all their arms, money, goods and stock were stolen and the wagons burned, but none were killed.

Senator McCandless located in Florence in 1870, when he purchased the homestead of Isaac W. Chatfield, comprising 160 acres. The original townsite was first preempted in 1866. Mr. McCandless developed his holdings and when oil was struck he platted his farm into a townsite, which the city of Florence occupies. Senator McCandless was the first mayor of the town and was interested in its growth and development.

The Colorado orange apple was originated in Florence. It is a yellow apple but its color does not affect the quality. The history of the apple is an extremely interesting one. In the year 1859 the pioneer, Jesse Frazer, steered his ox-team across the long and dangerous route from Missouri to Colorado and settled in what is now the city of Florence, Fremont County. Uncle Jesse was a typical pioneer; a man capable of building a comfortable home for his family on any frontier. Among the other necessities with which his covered wagon was loaded was a bundle of apple trees, which were kept as moist as possible throughout the long, arduous journey. These trees, Uncle Jesse set out around his log house, but only a few of them lived. Most of these were later destroyed by grasshoppers. Nothing daunted, Uncle Jesse, who was convinced that this portion of the Arkansas Valley was a fruit district, went back to Missouri for more, and these, when planted in the early '70s, did better. His orchard, many of the trees of which are still standing, was one of the earliest and best in the state.

Uncle Jesse traded with Indians, cultivated his crops, found time to open up one of the first coal mines in Fremont County and in addition to all this improved and extended his orchard by raising seedlings and grafting thereon.

The old original Colorado orange tree is dead now, as are most of the gnarled old veterans that, as slender switches, journeyed to Florence over the long trail in Uncle Jesse's covered wagon. But

the soul of the old tree goes marching on, in its descendants scattered over all parts of the West.

While the only commercial fruit ever originated in Florence was the Colorado orange apple, there is yet another which, if given publicity, and propagated by a nursery man, would attain probably even greater fame than the first mentioned fruit. This is the McCandless pear.



ONE OF THE FIRST OIL WELLS IN THE FLORENCE FIELD
(Known as Well 49. It Has Produced Over One Million Barrels of
Oil in Forty Years)

This pear came from a seedling planted by Senator James A. McCandless, who was one of the first four to plant orchards in Fremont County. The other three were Jesse Frazer, B. F. Rockafellow of Canon City, and Edwin Lobach, Sr. Of them all, Jesse Frazer was the pioneer, but Mr. McCandless soon after him had an orchard which covered the present location of Florence. Mr. McCandless was a man of keen intellect, and an exceptionally close observer of men and things. He noticed the pear sprout close to the wall of his home, and watched it carefully until its first fruit set, when he at once saw that he had an exceptionally valuable pear. Throughout the years since, persons from all over the United States have sent for cuttings from this tree, and it is probable that the McCandless pear under many different names is known in almost every state in the Union.

The Florence oil fields are the second oldest in the United States. The first oil was discovered here in 1862. The field has been a continual producer since that time. Some individual wells have produced oil for nearly forty years.

The Colorado Portland Cement Company has a mill near the city which has an annual output of more than two million barrels. The Fremont County coal fields have been producing a high grade of bituminous coal for more than fifty years.

Senator McCandless developed the first oil in this section of the country from an oil spring on Four Mile Creek. This was in 1862—three years after the first discovery of petroleum at Oil City, Pennsylvania. The Florence field was thus the first oil field in the West and the second in the country. McCandless hauled the manufactured kerosene by bull team to Denver. Later came the first deep well in the Florence field drilled by that pioneer oil man, Isaac Canfield, near Coal Creek in 1876. The old United refinery was established from this discovery and continued in operation through expansion for a period of fifty years.

Jesse Frazer also played a prominent part in the discovery of the fine grade of bituminous coal for which this county is noted far and wide. Frazer began mining coal at Coal Creek in 1860 and marketed it at Canon City and Pueblo by wagon. Since this crude beginning of the coal mining industry in Fremont County, coal has become one of the outstanding contributions to the commercial importance of Florence.

Through the development of oil, coal, cement, agricultural and horticultural resources and the later discovery of gold in the Cripple Creek district, the commercial importance of Florence was well established. In the beginning it was only a hamlet of a few hundred people. The oil business in those days was the backbone of its development.

After the incorporation of the town, Senator McCandless was selected as the first mayor. He was also the first postmaster. It was a struggling little city but as the oil business increased, its development was augmented. With the building of the Florence and Cripple Creek railroad and the ore reduction mills, at one time the population was estimated at between 5,000 and 6,000. The cement industry at Portland added to its importance and stability, likewise the settlement of Beaver Park. When the large coal companies withdrew from the field the towns of Coal Creek and Rockvale were visibly affected. The companies leased and disposed of their coal lands to independent operators and we now have some thirty or forty independent mines in operation. Owing to its location, Florence was the natural headquarters for the coal industry in eastern Fremont County, until today the city depends to a large extent on the coal industry for its business.

Place Names in Colorado (F)*

Fairfield, Phillips County, was founded in 1886, and was given its name by Mrs. Bert Riffenburg, who came from Fairfield, Iowa, and who thought that the people of the "two towns had much in common." Fairfield has a small store, its own church, and a grade school.¹ Fairfield was once known as Egyptian Valley, because of the abundant crops of corn and wheat raised here.²

Fairplay (221 population), Park County, was founded in 1859.³ A party of gold seekers entering South Park were angered to find the best placers at the Tarryall diggings already taken up. They withdrew westward to the South Platte River, where they found rich placer deposits and established their own camp, called Fairplay as a jeer at their older rival, which they scornfully nicknamed "Graball."⁴ At one time the town was known as South Park City, although it retained its former name for the post office.⁵ Eventually the older name was restored.

Falfa (45 population), La Plata County, was known as Conley's Seat in the early 1890s. Later the name was changed to Griffith, honoring Charlie Griffith, a local resident. Finally, when the post office was established in 1904, the name was changed to its present form, because of the vast acreage of alfalfa surrounding it.⁶

Fall Creek (3 population), San Miguel County. At present only a post office point, Fall Creek (at first called Seymore) was once (1888) a thriving camp at the placer diggings on Fall Creek. At this time it was the chief shipping point for the Silver Pick Mines, but in 1894 the post office was moved to the site of the mines and was renamed Silver Pick in their honor. Later, about 1896, the Sawpit Mines were discovered in the region, and the post office was moved to the new camp and given the name of Sawpit. Its present name dates from 1922, after the mines had closed down, and refers to the river upon whose bank it stands. The stream was so named because of a waterfall near the site of the town.⁷

Fall River (6 population), Clear Creek County, was once a flourishing gold camp at the junction of Clear Creek and Fall River, the latter giving it its name. The stream is named for the numerous

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

¹Letter to Colorado Writers' Project in 1937 from Jack Ruckman, Principal of Schools, Fairfield, Colorado.

²Letter to Colorado Writers' Project, December 2, 1940, from Gladys E. Skold, teacher, Haxtun, Colorado.

³Jerome C. Smiley, *History of Colorado*, I, 256.

⁴*Colorado Magazine*, I, 64.

⁵*Rocky Mountain News*, April 1, 1869.

⁶Letter to Colorado Writers' Project in 1938, from Celia F. Marshall, Superintendent of Schools, La Plata County.

⁷Letter to Colorado Writers' Project in 1937 from Wilma Hart Smith, Postmaster, Fall Creek, Colorado.

waterfalls along its course. In 1860 the town boasted a fine hotel, a post office, and numerous stores and residences.⁸ Today it has dwindled to a post office and supply point.

Farista (300 population), Huerfano County, was first called Huerfano Canon, but when the post office was established, the shorter name of Talpa was adopted. Confusion with Talpa, New Mexico, necessitated another change. Asperidon S. Faris, the postmaster, suggested Farisita (Sp. "little Faris girl"), the nickname by which his eldest daughter, Jeanette, was affectionately known to the Spanish-speaking residents of the town.⁹

Farmers (20 population), Garfield County. The name of this sugar beet-loading station is a contraction of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad name, "Farmer's Spur," given because of the type of side track installed here. The siding, or spur, necessitates the backing of loaded cars to the main line, since it does not curve to rejoin the track.¹⁰ There is also a town of this name in Weld County.

Farr (800 population), Huerfano County, is a coal-mining town. It was named for Jeff Farr, an early day sheriff, who was active in coal mining promotions.¹¹

Firestone, Weld County, was founded in 1907 by the Denslow Coal and Land Company, and named for Jacob Firestone, owner of the townsite land. The coal-mining towns of Firestone, Dacono, and Frederick are called the "tri-cities," because they lie on a straight line along the Union Pacific Railroad and are so close together that their boundaries overlap. Of the three, Firestone had the first telephone exchange, lumber yard, and newspaper, the *Firestone Torch*.¹²

Firstview (31 population), Cheyenne County, was founded in 1870, when the Kansas Pacific Railroad (later absorbed by the Union Pacific) entered Colorado. It was probably given its name because it is the point where travelers coming from the east get their first glimpse of Pikes Peak and the Front Range.¹³

Fitzsimons, Adams County, was dedicated as Base Hospital No. 21, by the United States War Department in 1918. The present name was given to the place in 1920, honoring Lieutenant William Thomas Fitzsimons, the first American officer killed in the First World War. The first unit of forty-eight buildings cost \$1,300,000,

⁸Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, III, 315.

⁹Letter of November 14, 1940, to Colorado Writers' Project, from Jeanette Faris Thack, Postmaster, Farisita, Colorado.

¹⁰Letter to Colorado Writers' Project in 1938, from W. H. Lininger, Greeley, Colorado, official of the Colorado & Southern Railroad.

¹¹Interview by Colorado Writers' Project in 1937, with N. C. Brooks, Denver, Colorado, member of the Coal Producers' Association.

¹²*Frederick Farmer and Miner*, October 28, 1937.

¹³Letter to Colorado Writers' Project in 1938, from State Representative John P. Dickinson, Hugo, Colorado.

and during the past twenty-two years between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000 more has been spent on enlarging and improving the hospital base. The "city" of Fitzsimons has a fire department, police force, stores, restaurant, power plant, laundry, chapel, golf course, tennis courts, athletic field, and other conveniences of ordinary city life.¹⁴ Usually between 800 and 900 patients are enrolled here. The staff at present (1940) includes 110 nurses, 70 officers, 553 enlisted men, and several hundred laborers.¹⁵

Flagler (540 population), Kit Carson County, was platted in 1887, and was originally known as Malowe, for M. A. Lowe, attorney for the Rock Island Lines. Before the platting of the town, there had been a combined store and postoffice here, managed by a homesteader named Robinson, who called his postoffice "Bowser," in memory of a favorite dog that had died. The present name of the town honors Henry M. Flagler, millionaire railroad man, who extended the Rock Island Line through this region.¹⁶

Fleming (365 population), Logan County, was originally a siding on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad and was known as Twenty-nine Mile Siding. The present site, half a mile west of the original siding, was laid out in 1889 by H. B. Fleming, a representative of the Lincoln Land Company, and was named for him.¹⁷

Fleming's Junction, San Miguel County ghost town, was founded in 1879, and was named for Alexander Fleming, one of the earliest pioneers in southwestern Colorado, and the leader of the band of prospectors who established their camp here.¹⁸

Florence (2,475 population), Fremont County, was founded in 1860. It was first known as Frazerville, for "Uncle Jesse" Frazer, who developed the coal mines on nearby Coal Creek. He also imported young apple trees from the East, bringing them across the prairie by ox-cart. Many of these original trees, which served to start what has proved to be one of the largest industries of the county, are still living. Later, the name of the town was changed to Florence, to honor the daughter of James A. McCandless. Mr. McCandless was the first to refine oil here (1862)¹⁹, and in 1872 he gave the community its first real impetus to growth by donating a townsite and having the first town plat made. Florence was incorporated in 1887.²⁰

Floresta, Gunnison County. Floresta is a Spanish word mean-

¹⁴*Rocky Mountain News*, May 20, 1938.

¹⁵Information to Colorado Writers' Project from Colonel Jabolovsky, Lowry Field, Denver, Colorado, October, 1940.

¹⁶State Historical Society, Pamphlet 350, No. 27.

¹⁷Emma Conklin, *History of Logan County*, 161-62.

¹⁸*Silverton La Plata Miner*, April 5, 1879.

¹⁹*Pueblo Chieftain*, January 3, 1937.

²⁰*Colorado Magazine*, IX, 175.

ing "forest" or "fine country place,"²¹ and probably refers to the town's location in beautiful wooded country.

Florida, La Plata County. Florida is a Spanish word, meaning "flowering." The town was probably named for the Florida River in this region. The stream was mentioned and visited by Padre Escalante in 1776.²²

Florissant (26 population), Teller County, was founded in 1870, and named by Judge James Costello, the first settler, for his home town, Florissant, Missouri.²³ The region, once the bed of an ancient lake, is noted for numerous fossil remains.

Focus, Custer County ghost town, was never more than a combined store and post office in the mountain country south of Silver Cliff. It received its name from the fact that at this point a fine view of the Wet Mountain Valley and the Sangre de Cristo Range "comes into focus."²⁴

Fondis (10 population), Elbert County. This name, taken from a newspaper article dealing with an Italian hotel, *Fondi de Italia*, was one of four submitted to postal authorities when a post office was established here. Fondi, suggested by Mrs. W. S. Burns, the first postmaster, was selected and an "s" added.²⁵

Forder (85 population), Lincoln County, was named in honor of Adolph Forder, prominent rancher, who engaged in the cattle and sheep raising business here for many years.²⁶

Fort Bent (See "Bent's Fort," in earlier article, and "Fort William," below.)

Fort Collins (11,389 population), seat of Larimer County. In the latter part of May, 1864, two companies of the 11th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry were sent from Fort Laramie, Wyoming, to Laporte, Colorado. They replaced another force that had been transferred to Fort Bridger, and gave the camp, hitherto nameless, the title of Camp Collins, in honor of Colonel W. O. Collins, commander at Fort Laramie. Less than a month later the camp was swept away by a flood of the Cache la Poudre River, and a new site was selected about four miles to the southeast. Beginning with October 23, 1864, all orders issued by the commandant of the post were dated Fort Collins, instead of Camp Collins. The camp was established as protection for the scattered ranchers of the region and travelers on the Overland Trail, but the civilians disliked the men in uniform almost as much as they did the Indians. They complained that the soldiers

²¹*Velazquez's Unabridged Spanish-English Dictionary*.

²²W. R. Harris, *The Catholic Church in Utah*, 131.

²³Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, III, 380.

²⁴Letter to Colorado Writers' Project from Julius Strohlke, Silver Cliff, Colorado, 1936.

²⁵Letter to State Historical Society, from W. S. Burns, Pueblo, Colorado.

²⁶Letter to Colorado Writers' Project from State Representative John P. Dickinson, Hugo, Colorado, 1938.

were "overbearing"; on the other hand, the soldiers complained that the cattle of farmers and immigrants ate up the unfenced haystacks reserved for military stock. Most of the action seen by the military here consisted of chasing cattle away from the prized hay. Fort Collins was abandoned as a military post in 1867, and the following year the settlement that had grown up around the fort was voted the seat of Larimer County.²⁷ The town was organized in 1872, and incorporated in 1879.²⁸

Fort Crawford, Montrose County. Following the tragedies at the White River Agency and the resulting hostility towards the Utes, a treaty providing for the removal of the White River and Uncompahgre Utes to Utah was agreed upon. The Uncompahgre Utes did not take kindly to the proposed move and Colonel Mackenzie at Fort Garland was directed to move to the Uncompahgre Valley with part of his command to prevent any outbreak. A temporary supply camp was established on the west bank of the Uncompahgre River, July 21, 1880. The following fall construction on the barracks to be known as "Cantonment of the Uncompahgre" was commenced.²⁹ In 1886, the name was changed to Fort Crawford, in honor of Captain Emmet Crawford, 3rd Cavalry, who was killed in January of that year at Nacori, Mexico.³⁰ The post was abandoned in 1890.³¹

Fort Davy Crockett, Moffat County, was a fur-trading post established on the Green River during the 1830s. It was named for David ("Davy") Crockett, pioneer and frontiersman, who was killed during the Battle of the Alamo in Texas (1836). It was nicknamed Fort Misery by early day trappers because of its poverty-stricken condition.³²

Fort Defiance, Garfield County. In 1879 parties prospecting on the Ute reservation found surface indications of what they believed was a vast mineral treasure. Desiring to continue their search, but fearing lest the Utes find them on forbidden ground, a fort of pine logs was erected and named Fort Defiance. Two accounts are given as to the location of Fort Defiance. One states that it was built some ten miles southeast of the camp, later called Carbonate City. Another account says it was twenty miles due west from the junction of the Eagle and the Grand rivers.³³

Fort El Pueblo, Bent County, was a short-lived settlement of American trappers, Mexican mixed-bloods and Indians. It was also known as Pueblo de Leche (Sp. "milk town"), and Milk Fort.

²⁷Ansel Watrous, *History of Larimer County, Colorado*, 211-33; *Colorado Magazine*, X, 47-55.

²⁸Frank Hall, *History of Colorado*, IV, 185.

²⁹*Colorado Magazine*, XI, 54, 55.

³⁰State Historical Society, MSS XXI-12a.

³¹*Colorado Magazine*, XI, 63.

³²*Colorado Magazine*, XI, 171.

³³Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 129.

because of the large herds of milk goats owned by the inhabitants. It consisted of a series of one-story adobe houses, constructed around an inclosed court that served as a night corral for livestock. Fort El Pueblo was a flourishing community in 1839, when it was visited by Thomas J. Farnham, author and journalist, who marveled at the large number of horses, mules, cattle, sheep and goats belonging to the fort.³⁴

Fort Garland (250 population), Costilla County. In 1852, a military post called Fort Massachusetts was built a few miles from the site of present Fort Garland. It was intended as a check upon the depredations of the Utes, but failed in its purpose, since its location in a depression below two lines of buttes enabled the redskins to fire down into it, picking off soldiers at will; furthermore, stagnant water killed almost as many men as the Indians did. In 1858, Fort Massachusetts was abandoned, and the troops were moved to a newly established post, Fort Garland, named for John Garland, commander of the military district. Kit Carson was a commander here from 1866 to 1867. The military post was abandoned in 1883, but the name was retained by the settlement that had grown up here, and which was platted the same year that the troops were moved to Fort Lewis.³⁵

Fort Gerry, Weld County, was a trading post at the junction of Crow Creek with the South Platte River. It was named for the factor, Elbridge Gerry, a grandson of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The post was abandoned in 1840, and another, also called Fort Gerry, was built on the opposite (south) side of the Platte, and was managed by Gerry and his two Indian wives.³⁶

Fort Jackson, Weld County, was built in the late 1830s by Peter A. Sarpy and Henry Fraeb, agents of Pratte, Chouteau & Company, St. Louis fur-trading firm. It is not positively known whether the post was named for the then-President Andrew Jackson, or for Gilbert Jackson, one of the post employees.³⁷

Fort Junction, Weld County, was an early day trading post built during the summer of 1864, so named because it stood at the junction of the Boulder and St. Vrain Rivers.³⁸

Fort Lewis, La Plata County, was established in 1877, at the present site of Pagosa Springs. It was named for a Lieutenant Colonel Lewis—a descendant of Meriwether Lewis, of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806)—who was killed during a

³⁴*Colorado Magazine*, XIV, 106. Ungrammatical spelling given in original source (Thomas J. Farnham).

³⁵Letter to Colorado Writers' Project from Georgianna Kettle and Ranger R. M. Truman, San Isabel National Forest, 1937.

³⁶State Historical Society, Pamphlet 343, No. 17.

³⁷*Colorado Magazine*, V, 9-11.

³⁸*Frederick Farmer and Miner*, July 27, 1939.

Cheyenne Indian raid during that year.³⁹ In 1880 the post was moved to a new site, about twelve miles southwest of present Durango, but was abandoned a few years later. In 1892, the deserted buildings were transformed into an Indian school for the children of the Southern Utes. The young redskins, however, did not take to forcible education and burned the place to the ground. In 1910, the site was created the Fort Lewis School of Agriculture, and some of the pupils here are descendants of the same warriors against whom the old fort had been erected.⁴⁰

Fort Logan (800 population), Arapahoe County, is the only garrisoned military post in Colorado. The site was selected in 1887 by Lieutenant General Philip H. Sheridan, and the post was called Fort Sheridan in his honor. However, when the War Department considered the official adoption of names for several new posts, Sheridan asked that his name be given to a fort on the shore of Lake Michigan, called Fort Logan in honor of General John A. Logan, famed Illinois political and military leader of the Civil War. Accordingly, the names were interchanged. It has been used by many military divisions at various times, and served as a recruiting station during the First World War.⁴¹

Fort Lupton (1,578 population), Weld County, was founded by Lancaster P. Lupton, a lieutenant in the expedition of Colonel Henry Dodge to the Rocky Mountains in 1835. The young officer saw the possibilities of the fur trade in this region, and secured a leave of absence from the army the following year, came West again, and established a trading post, first called Fort Lancaster, later Fort Lupton. The post was built in 1836 or 1837,⁴² and was abandoned in the early 1840s. Later, the adobe building was used as a stage station on the mail and express route from Missouri to Denver, and served as a place of refuge for settlers during the Indian uprising in 1864. The present town was incorporated in 1890.⁴³

Fort Lyon (1,180 population), Bent County. In 1853, Colonel William Bent, having abandoned his great trading post on the Arkansas River, moved downstream about forty miles and established a second post, called Bent's New Fort. The following year, it was leased to the United States Army, and renamed Fort Fauntleroy, in honor of Colonel Fauntleroy of the old First Dragoons. In 1859, the post was purchased by the government, and was named Fort Wise for Henry Alexander Wise, Governor of Virginia. When Virginia joined the Confederacy, at the outbreak of the Civil War, the fort was again renamed, this time in honor of General Nathaniel

³⁹Bernard J. Byrne, *A Frontier Army Surgeon*, 21.

⁴⁰*Colorado Magazine*, VIII, 81.

⁴¹Letter to Colorado Writers' Project from Lieutenant Colonel C. C. Gee, Fort Logan, Colorado, 1939.

⁴²Baker and Hafen, *History of Colorado*, I, 324.

⁴³"Gazetteer of Cities and Towns of Colorado," *Year Book of the State of Colorado, 1937-1938*.

Lyon, the first Union general killed in the war. In 1866, the river cut away the bank, making the fort untenable; a new Fort Lyon was built about twenty miles up the river.⁴⁴ The buildings were of stone, one story high, covered with earth, and inclosed a large plaza or parade ground.⁴⁵ Kit Carson died on the Fort Lyon reservation May 23, 1868. The old post is now a Veterans' Psychopathic Hospital.

Fort Mary B, Summit County. In 1859 a small party under command of Charles Lawrence, coming from South Park, by way of Hoosier Pass, found gold in paying quantities.⁴⁶ A fort was constructed less than a mile below Breckenridge and named Maribeh in honor of the only white woman who accompanied the party. A number of block houses with walls of green logs and roofs of earth were built around a hollow square. The fort, also called Mary B, was occupied as winter quarters during '59 and '60, but was deserted in 1861.⁴⁷

Fort Morgan (4,423 population), seat of Morgan County. This former military post was first known as Camp Tyler. In 1865, the name was changed to Fort Wardwell. At this time it was an army camp, with makeshift barracks; in 1866, when some substantial buildings were erected, the name was changed again, honoring Colonel Christopher A. Morgan, of the United States Volunteers.⁴⁸ The present city was incorporated in 1887.⁴⁹

Fort Reynolds, Pueblo County, was on the south side of the Arkansas River, near the present site of Avondale. It was built in 1867, and was named in honor of General John F. Reynolds, who was killed in action at the Battle of Gettysburg (1863). The post was abandoned in 1872.⁵⁰

Fort Robidoux, Delta County, was built by Antoine Robidoux, French fur trapper. The exact date of its establishment is unknown, but it was probably in the late 1830s. It stood near the junction of the Gunnison and Uncompahgre Rivers, and was sometimes known as Fort Uncompahgre.⁵¹

Fort Sedgwick, Sedgwick County, was established in 1864, as protection against the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Sioux Indians. It was first called Fort Rankin, for John K. Rankin, a cavalry officer prominent in plains warfare.⁵² It was sometimes called Post Julesburg, because of its proximity to the station town of Old Julesburg.

⁴⁴Colonel Homer W. Wheeler, *Buffalo Days*, 34.

⁴⁵*Rocky Mountain News*, January 22, 1866.

⁴⁶*Mining Gazette*, June 1, 1880 (State Historical Society).

⁴⁷*Miner's Record* (Tarryall, Park County), July 20, 1861.

⁴⁸State Historical Society, Pamphlet 351, No. 45.

⁴⁹"Gazetteer of Cities and Towns of Colorado," *Year Book of the State of Colorado, 1937-1938*.

⁵⁰*Denver Times*, April 30, 1896.

⁵¹*Colorado Magazine*, VII, 128.

⁵²George Bird Grinnell, *The Fighting Cheyennes*, 176.

It served as a refuge for its inhabitants when the Indians burned the town in 1865. The second town of Julesburg, abandoned in 1867, when the Union Pacific Railroad entered the region, was built close to the post.⁵³ In 1865, the name was changed to honor Major General John Sedgwick, Union officer killed the previous year at the battle of Spotsylvania Court House, in Virginia. Sedgwick had formerly (1857-1860) led several Indian campaigns in Colorado. Fort Sedgwick was garrisoned until 1871, when the plains tribes were finally subdued.⁵⁴

Fort St. Vrain, Weld County, was established by Ceran St. Vrain and the Bent brothers as a fur post in 1837 or 1838, about one and a half miles below the mouth of St. Vrain Creek. The post was first called "Fort George," presumably in honor of George Bent. Marcellus St. Vrain, a brother of Ceran, had charge of the post for several years, as an employee of the Bent and St. Vrain Company. He was not a partner. The post was "abandoned and falling to ruin" when Parkman visited it in 1846. For a time during 1859 and 1860 a settlement existed at the site of the old fort.⁵⁵

Fort Vasquez, Weld County, eighteen miles south of Greeley, was built in 1837 by Louis Vasquez and Andrew Sublette. In 1840, it was sold to Locke and Randolph, who continued trading activities until Indian depredations forced them to abandon the fort two years later.⁵⁶ It was used as a base for troop movements during the Indian wars of the 1860s. Recently the old post was rebuilt, although not entirely as it was originally, by the Work Projects Administration, cooperating with the Platteville, Colorado, Chamber of Commerce.⁵⁷

Fort Wicked, Logan County, was a station for the Overland Stage Company during the 1860s. It was known as the American Ranch, and also as Godfrey's Station, for the factor, Holon Godfrey. During the bloody winter of 1864-1865, this was the only station between North Platte, Nebraska, and Denver that was not destroyed by the Indians. When a war party attacked this ranch, Godfrey, aided only by his wife and two daughters, repulsed the savages with considerable loss. Afterward the station was referred to as Fort Wicked, and Godfrey as "Old Wicked," because of the fierce fight he put up.⁵⁸

Fort William, Bent-Otero County Line, better known as Bent's Fort, was the most important trading post in southern Colorado.

⁵³Letter from the War Department, Adjutant General's Office, August 2, 1928.

⁵⁴*Denver Times*, April 10, 1889.

⁵⁵*The Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, XII, 340.

⁵⁶*Colorado Magazine*, X, 15.

⁵⁷Letter to Colorado Writers' Project from Judge George H. Bradfield, Greeley, Colorado, 1936.

⁵⁸State Historical Society, Pamphlet 353, No. 24.

It was founded between 1828 and 1832, and was named for the chief factor, Colonel William Bent.⁵⁹ It employed about a hundred men, and was occupied also by numerous women and children, chiefly the Indian wives and half-breed offspring of the white employees.

Fosdick, Pueblo County, was an earlier name of the present town of Boone. When the Missouri-Pacific Railroad was built to Pueblo in 1888, it touched this point, which was already a station on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Line. The Missouri-Pacific station was named Fosdick, in honor of H. M. Fosdick. The Santa Fe, however, called its station Boone, for Colonel A. G. Boone, early settler and a great-grandson of Daniel Boone, famous frontiersman. The confusion was completed when the post office was named Booneville. Finally, all three adopted the name of Boone.⁶⁰

Fountain (577 population), El Paso County, is named for Fountain Creek, which flows through the town. The river was called *La Fontaine Qui Bouille* ("the spring that boils") by early French explorers, because of the bubbling springs at its head. The village was founded by Quakers during the 1870s; in 1888 it was almost totally destroyed by the explosion of a carload of giant powder on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad track here. The complete settlement of claims against the railroad enabled the town to rebuild itself.⁶¹

Fountain City, Pueblo County, was one of the earliest agricultural settlements in the Pikes Peak region. The hamlet, located near the mouth of the Fountain, was settled in November, 1858, and named Fountain City. A town company was organized and the townsite platted the same winter. About thirty cabins were erected, some of logs and some of adobe, a part of the material being taken from the crumbling walls of old Fort Pueblo. Fountain City was subsequently swallowed by the city of Pueblo.⁶²

Fowler (968 population), Otero County. Before the coming of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway, mail was distributed from the stage station near the present town, but afterward a post office was established on the railroad. This was first known as South Side, then as Oxford Siding; confusion with a station on the Santa Fe Line led to a new name, Sibley. In 1887, the townsite was platted, and was named for Professor O. S. Fowler, an eminent phrenologist who had come here for his health and had busied himself with the development of the community.⁶³

Foxton (25 population), Jefferson County, was settled in 1876 by Dr. Alvin Morey, who named the site "Park Siding," for the

⁵⁹*The Trail*, December, 1908, 21.

⁶⁰*Pueblo County History* (written under the sponsorship of the Pueblo Chapter of the D. A. R., 1933), Sec. XII, 9.

⁶¹Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, III, 384.

⁶²Jerome C. Smiley, *Semi-Centennial History of the State of Colorado*, I, 241.

⁶³State Historical Society, Pamphlet 360, No. 8.

beautiful park-like appearance of the terrain. In 1909, the name was changed to Foxton by J. O. Roach, a merchant who came here at that time. The name was derived from Foxhall, a village in England, but the exact reason for Mr. Roach's selection of it is unknown.⁶⁴

Franceville (12 population), El Paso County, is a coal-mining town, named for the Honorable Matt France, Colorado Springs businessman, who had large interests here.⁶⁵

Francisco Plaza (La Veta), Huerfano County. Colonel John M. Francisco, while on a prospecting trip about 1834, came upon the spot where the town of La Veta now stands and exclaimed: "I have found my home! This is paradise enough for me!" He secured a grant of land and built a large adobe plaza. When the Denver & Rio Grande first ran a branch road in this direction, Francisco Plaza was its terminal. The building was at various times, depot, trading post, fort and stopping place for trappers, scouts and prospectors. Kit Carson, a warm friend of Colonel Francisco, often visited the plaza.⁶⁶

Franktown (50 population), Douglas County, first known as California Ranch, is one of the oldest settlements in the region. When Douglas County was created in 1861, Franktown was made the county seat. After years of conflict it lost this honor to Castle Rock (1875). It was called Frank's Town, later spelled Frankstown, in honor of James Frank Gardner, owner of the townsite land on Cherry Creek, who was serving as county clerk at that time. Later, postal authorities deleted the "s."⁶⁷

Fraser (260 population), Grand County, was formerly known as Easton, for George Easton, who laid out the townsite.⁶⁸ Its present name was derived from that of the Fraser River, which flows through the town. The spelling was originally Frazier—for Reuben Frazier, early settler—but postal authorities adopted the simpler spelling when the post office was established here.⁶⁹

Frederick (596 population), Weld County, was founded May 27, 1907, by three women, Mary M. Clark, Maud Clark Reynolds, and Mary Clark Steele, who had the town laid out. It was named for Frederick A. Clark, owner of the townsite land,⁷⁰ and was incorporated the following year. It is one of the "tri-cities" of Firestone, Frederick and Dacono.⁷¹

⁶⁴Letter to Colorado Writers' Project from Peter F. Bossie, Foxton, Colorado, November 12, 1940.

⁶⁵Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, III, 383.

⁶⁶*Evening Times*, February 23, 1906.

⁶⁷*Douglas County Record-Journal*, December 16, 1921.

⁶⁸Letter to the State Historical Society, from Mrs. Charles S. Jenne, Fraser, Colorado, May 22, 1935.

⁶⁹*Rocky Mountain News*, February 20, 1939.

⁷⁰Information from Mrs. Agnes O'Day Beynon, Postmaster, Frederick, Colorado, 1936.

⁷¹*Frederick Farmer and Miner*, October 28, 1937.

Friend, Yuma County, a trading hamlet in the dry land flats of northeastern Colorado, was first known as Frontier Legion. The name was changed to Friend because so many of the people in the vicinity had come from Friend, Nebraska.⁷²

Frisco (18 population), Summit County, was named for San Francisco, California, adopting the short form by which the metropolis is familiarly known.⁷³ The first settler here was Mr. H. A. Recen, Sr., who arrived in 1873. Two years later a Captain Lenard, who was doing government scouting work in the region, wrote "Frisco City" over the door of Recen's cabin.⁷⁴ In 1880, when Frisco was incorporated, it was a thriving town.⁷⁵

Fruita, Mesa County. The site of Fruita was selected in 1883, by William E. Pabor, who did much to advertise the fruit section in the western part of the state. The town was originally a part of a ranch claim preempted by Messrs. Steele, Ross, Sutton, and Downer. The claim was purchased by Messrs. Henry, Pabor and their associates, and the plat filed July 23, 1884. A previous attempt to establish a town (Fairview) on this site had failed.⁷⁶

Fruitvale (100 population), Mesa County, is more properly a district than a town. A school, several stores, packing sheds, and a dance hall make up the "town," but these are scattered at different points along a mile-long stretch of highway. The name honors the chief product of the region. In 1884, a Denver newspaper spoke of Fruitvale as "a town being established, and soon to be incorporated." At that time the town site comprised 80 acres and was adjoined by "160 acres of land especially adapted to the raising of standard fruits."⁷⁷

Fulford, Eagle County, was a mining camp on Nolan Creek, in the midst of a rough, mountainous region. The townsite comprised fifty-nine acres, and was incorporated in January, 1896.⁷⁸ It was named for A. H. Fulford, one of the pioneers of the area, who was killed by a snowslide on the mountain near the town in 1892.⁷⁹

Fulton, Gunnison County, was a gold-mining camp of the 1890s, named for N. B. Z. Fulton, one of the original prospectors and camp founders.⁸⁰ There is a town of the same name in Adams County.

⁷²*Wray Gazette*, July 23, 1937.

⁷³Letter to State Historical Society from Louis A. Wildhack, Postmaster, Frisco, Colorado.

⁷⁴Letter to Colorado Writers' Project from Kenneth V. Caldwell, Teacher, Frisco Public School, Frisco, Colorado, 1938.

⁷⁵*Denver Tribune*, December 4, 1880.

⁷⁶Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 218.

⁷⁷*Denver Republican*, February 7, 1884.

⁷⁸State Historical Society, Scrap Book W 219-1, p. 141.

⁷⁹Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 125.

⁸⁰*Denver Times*, December 31, 1894.

ADDITIONAL TOWNS ON WHICH MATERIAL IS LACKING

Fairmont, Otero Co.; Fairview, Garfield, Co.; Fairview, Mesa Co.; Fairview, Montrose Co.; Fairview, Custer Co.; Fairview, El Paso Co.; Fairview, Park Co.; Fairville, Park Co.; Falcon, El Paso Co.; Farmers, Weld Co.; Farnham, Summit Co.; Fairfield, Phillips, Co.; Farwell, Rio Blanco Co.; Fayette, Otero Co.; Fay's Plaza, Rio Grande Co.; Fecen, Summit Co.; Feldspar, Fremont Co.; Fenton, Otero Co.; Fergus, Kiowa Co.; Ferguson, Garfield Co.; Fergusonville, Montrose Co.; Ferncliffe, Boulder Co.; Ferndale, Fremont Co.; Ferndale, Jefferson Co.; Fernleaf, Fremont Co.; Fidler, Fremont Co.; Fields, Montezuma Co.; Fife, Larimer Co.; Filter, Larimer Co.; Finley, Larimer Co.; Finntown, Lake Co.; Fir, Costilla Co.; Fir, Huerfano Co.; Fireclay, Jefferson Co.; Fisher, Chaffee Co.; Fisher, Pueblo Co.; Fisher Mills, San Juan Co.; Five Points, Douglas Co.; Flanders, Summit Co.; Flat, Grand Co.; Flat Top, Washington Co.; Fletcher (Aurora), Arapahoe Co.; Flint, Gunnison Co.; Flora, Sedgwick Co.; Flora Bell, Chaffee Co.; Floresta Junction, Gunnison Co.; Floyd Hill, Clear Creek Co.; Flues, Las Animas Co.; Fluorspar, Jackson Co.; Folsom, San Miguel Co.; Foot Hills, Huerfano Co.; Footlog, San Miguel Co.; Forbes, Las Animas Co.; Forbes Junction, Las Animas Co.; Ford, Logan Co.; Ford, Yuma Co.; Forest, Grand Co.; Forest City, Chaffee Co.; The Forks, Larimer Co.; Forks Creek, Jefferson Co.; Forks of Creek, Lake Co.; Formby, Dolores Co.; Formby, Montezuma Co.

Fort Fremont, Elbert Co.; Fort Flagler, La Plata Co.; Fortification, Routt Co.; Fort Huerfano, Pueblo Co.; Fort Latham, Weld Co.; Fort Moore, Logan Co.; Fort Namaqua, Larimer Co.; Fortsches, Gunnison Co.; Fortworth Crossing, Las Animas Co.; Fort Worth Junction, Pueblo Co.; Fossil Creek, Larimer Co.; Foster, Weld Co.; Fourmile, Moffat Co.; Fourmile, Routt Co.; Fourmile Creek, Boulder, Co.; Fourmile Creek, El Paso Co.; Fourmile Creek Spur, Garfield Co.; Fowler Springs, Las Animas Co.; Fox, Yuma Co.; Fox, Park Co.; Fox Spur, Park Co.; Frances, Boulder Co.; Franklin, Las Animas Co.; Franklin, El Paso Co.; Franklin Junction, La Plata Co.; Frantz, Grand Co.; Frauenhoff Spur, Douglas Co.; Frawley, Summit Co.; Fredonia, Bent Co.; Freedom, Conejos Co.; Free Gold, Chaffee Co.; Freeland, Clear Creek Co.; Freeman, Rio Grande Co.; Freemans Spur, Eagle Co.; Fremont, El Paso Co.; Fremont, Eagle Co.; Fremont, Fremont Co.; Fremont, Washington Co.; Fremont Junction, Fremont Co.; Fremont Orchard, Morgan Co.; Fremont Pass, Lake Co.; Freshwater, Park Co.; Fremont's Butte, Weld Co.; French Gulch, Lake Co.; Frick, Baca Co.; Friend, Washington Co.; Frost, Arapahoe Co.; Frost, Montrose Co.; Frost's Siding, Montrose Co.; Fruitdale, Jefferson Co.; Fruitmere, Fremont Co.; Fruit Ridge, Mesa Co.; Fuego, Pueblo Co.; Funston, Garfield Co.; Furman, Pueblo Co.