

C R ≡ T K H Y X C V T S M  
 X I K E Z J P Y > N S Y  
 U S H D J M Y X F X I ⊕  
 G W T X X F A 3 C H S  
 C J O X H C M Z Δ D O X Y U S  
 J F + I Z L X V C + X K U  
 L K F + Δ - L Y V S Z Δ K F  
 X L C + Y S fl Y N + S X F  
 T N W T H U N T H H ± N N  
 I X - A C X - T H O D X J ≥  
 - O I H T K T A T X V C  
 )) T I X U I O C J R W R - M - T I



W. H.  
 78.8  
 Hot

**Hotchkiss & Crawford**  
**1881-1910**

This Brochure commemorates the Bicentennial and is dedicated to those men and women who braved and accepted the inconveniences to make this Valley a good and pleasurable place to live.

W.H.  
978.8  
Hot  
Hotchkiss & Crawford  
1881-1910  
Bicentennial  
Brochure

DATE DUE	
FEB 14 '78	
APR 21 '78	
DEC 8 '80	
MAR 19 '84	

Grand County Public Library  
Gypsum, Colorado



Elizabeth McIntyre Hotchkiss



Enos T. Hotchkiss

Parents of Fred, Clair, Adair and Leon.  
Early settlers honored him by giving the village his name.



David Swandt and wife, Ada. Children: Mary Ella (Thompson), Gary, Cora (Ashbaugh).  
One of the first families to come into Hotchkiss, 1862.

Grand County Public Library  
Gypsum, Colorado

1/16 - 1.85



Fall roundup, 1887. Left: Duke Bros. Store. Right of center: the town wall. Far right: Joe Reich's rooming house. The lady in the sidesaddle is Ada Swendt.

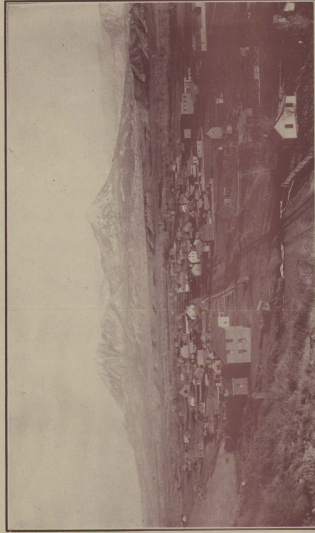


Hatchkias about 1888. Left front: first red brick school building built in 1887. Center back: Duke Bros. Store and Reich's rooming house.

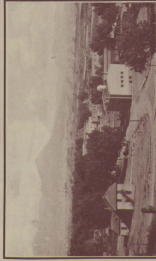


In 1902, Valentine and Margaret Ebert came from Oklahoma over Black Mesa to Crawford in a covered wagon. They lived in this log cabin, located west of Crawford, where George Reynolds now lives.

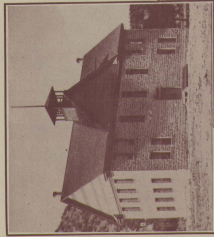




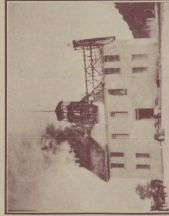
Hotchkiss c. 1900. No train, no phone, no electricity, no running water, excepting in the irrigation ditches. Left front: the 1887 brick school building with the 1897 two story addition in front.



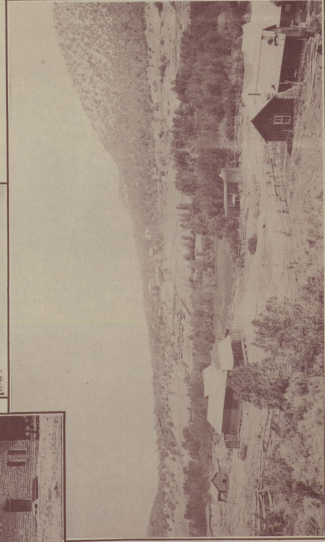
The first high school building in Hotchkiss was built in 1910 across the street from the red brick building.



Crawford c. 1900, originally located south of the Smith Fork as shown here. Left foreground: a store; center: Alex Morrow's blacksmith shop; Right front: Samuel McKissen house. Right center background: Methodist church in present-day Crawford.



The first school building in Crawford, 1906.



The same building burning in 1912.





Hatchkiss, 4th and 5th grades, 1909-1910. Ethel Stanley (Jacobs), teacher. Some of pupils, front to back: Ruby Poe, Dorothy Barrow, Leroy Harding, Paul Wilson, Gavin Mallett, Dewey Larah, Frank Stables, Bud Simonds, Arlene Lewis, Ruth Kehr, Lucy Roberts, Helen Kehr, Lucile Willoughby, Mable Feiz, Lucile Powell, Ila Poe, Bill Duke.



A modern school room in the red brick building, used by the 9th grade in 1907-1908.



Hatchkiss High School, 1909-1910. Prof. Shaw, Alice Taylor, teachers. Ethel Smith, Georgia Miller, Horace Duke, Raymond Harding, Howard Kelly, Eleanor Simonds, Nellie Durkin, Josephine Blackwell, Hazel Patchen, Ella Jardon, Charlie Slatten, Bruce Duke, Beatrice Barns, Elizabeth Gunther, Lella Williams, Gertrude Bishop, Lella Roberts, Otis Walker, Arthur Patchen, Melvin Penfield, Homer Duke, Bessie Fobare, Mabel Abrams, Winnie Murphy, Zack Pierce, Ray Chamberlain, Marnie Roberts.



Not-so-modern school room in Niles Hall, 7th and 8th grades, 1909-1910. Jessie Fields, teacher.



6th grade graduating class, 1904. First row: John Siltthem, Don Finn, Leon Hatchkiss, Terril Ellington. 2nd row: Bessie Sinsel, Lawrence Jacobs, Bessie Goodwin, Dick Livesay. 3rd row: Gian Ellington, Louise Kainsorge, (teacher), Pearl Fisher Biggs. 4th row: Will Pierce, Carrie Feely, Earl Scott, Hattie Roberts, John Goodwin, Huron Robertson.



Hatchkiss High School graduating class, 1905. First row: Nellie Collins, Oria Hiatt, Chauncey Williams, Rosie Woods, Edna Kelly. 2nd row: Mattie Feely, Jessie Buck, Mr. Malcher, (teacher), Adair Hatchkiss, Mattie McCartney, Effie Collins, Prof. Kelly.



Hatchkiss Opera House, back of the pack string, after 1905.



The stagecoach which carried railroad passengers from Hatchkiss to Crawford.



First school bus from Hanson and Powell Mesas, 1910.



Picking and packing apples in Slatten's orchard on Barrow Mesa



Rogers Mesa Fruit Growers Assn., the first Co-op, started in 1908, managed by Andrew Linn.



The first Delta County Fair held at the present Delta County Fair Grounds in Hotchkiss in Sept., 1905, displayed the entries in this rented circus tent.



Hotchkiss Block, built by Enos Hotchkiss, 1897, was constructed of brick made at the Carl Sherman local brickyard.



Inside of Hotchkiss Mercantile Co., opened in 1909, George Roller, manager.



Duke Hanson Mercantile Co., 1908. In the car: Maudie Duke, Harrose Duke, Inez Post. At the entrance: Manager Budler. On sidewalk: In plumed hat, Mabel Boland and her mother, Mrs. Wilmat.



Pool hall in Hotchkiss, Eberly Barrow, manager.



J.C. Kremer, Jewelry Store in Hotchkiss, 1902, Edison phonograph and case containing cylindrical records at back.

Hotchkiss industrial area.  
Left: Evaporator (1906)  
and Electric Power Plant  
(1909), stockyards, sugar  
beet ripple. Right: Packing  
sheds, water tank, depot.



Loading cattle at  
stockyards, near depot,  
north of railroad.

Sheep on high range in  
summer.



Activities at Hatchkiss City Park. Entrance, center back, 75 yards south of present entrance.



Sulky racing.



Lucy Roberts, Love Tinnin, Norma Galwicks out for a boat ride.



High diving.



Hatchkiss baseball team, 1908. First row: A. Gaddard, L. Taylor, Bruce Duke, Bill Duke (mascot), J. Chamberlain, Homer Duke. Center row: Pete Grier, R. Kenne, H.D. Corbitt (manager). Top row: "Hooley" Hatchkiss, Ed Balch, Morrell Smith, J. Denney, John Moore.



Crawford baseball team c. 1909 at Hatchkiss Park. First row: Ross McCulley, George Tuttle, Jack Reid, Able Pacheco, Sid McIntyre. Top row: Escal McKissen, Sam Hartman, Ira Morrow, Roy Rice.





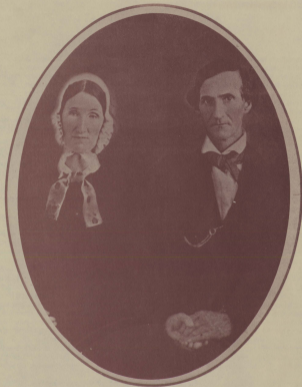
Andrew L. Webb Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, Hotchkiss. Built in 1898-1899.



North Fork Baptist Church of Hotchkiss, built in 1904.



John Finney Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church of Crawford, built in 1900.



Harriet Weaver Roberts and Creed Fulton Roberts. Parents of Henry Roberts, grandparents of Lela Roberts Copeland. Photograph taken about 1855.

## "AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS—"

For many centuries the North Fork Valley lay quietly sleeping on the Western breast of the vast Continental Divide. The scenic, grass Western Plateau, often wearing a mantle of white, gave sustenance to the Indians—the only men who had set foot upon it. In the very same year that our nation was born, 1776, just a few months after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a small party of men came looking for an inland route from Mexico to California. They were led by two stalwart Spanish priests, Father Escalante and Father Dominguez. They came into Colorado near Pagosa Springs, went northward, crossing Spanish Divide, then traileading down the Uncompahgre to the Gunnison River, up the North Fork, past Leroux Creek into the Muddy Country where they turned west over Grand Mesa into Utah.

In 1853, Capt. John W. Gunnison of the Topographical Engineers was sent by Secretary of War Jefferson Davis to survey a route across the Rockies for a transcontinental railroad. Capt. Gunnison led his party over Blue Mesa and forded the North Fork near Austin. The Indians had told Capt. Gunnison that the Black Canyon was impassable.

In 1868, a treaty with the Ute Indians pushed them from Eastern Colorado to the Western Slope. The 1873 treaty, ratified November 20, 1875, moved them west again, and the Uncompahgre Agency, which served the North Fork Indians, was established seven miles south of Montrose. After the Meeker Massacre in 1879, a Ute delegation went to Washington and on March 6, 1880, a new treaty was signed by Chief Ouray. This treaty renewed all the Utes from Colorado forever. Early in September of 1881, John M. McIntyre, the Indian Interpreter at the Uncompahgre Agency, conducted the first large group to the Uintah Reservation in Eastern Utah. The stragglers were taken to their new home a few weeks later.

So it was that the lush North Fork Valley with its abundant supply of feed and water beckoned the rugged men who welcomed the challenge of the unknown which held for them the dream of a bright future.

Enos Hotchkiss visited the North Fork alone in 1879. He camped near Delta, and the next morning made his way up the Gunnison River, crossing near the site of the State Bridge at Austin. As he rode across what is now Rogers Mesa, he was amazed at how it shone with a silvery shimmer from the white sage which covered it. He stopped on the brow of Rogers Mesa on August 15, 1879, and was probably one of the first white men to view the North Fork Valley. (With his spy glass he located two Indian camps near Quackenbush Creek. He camped near the spot he was to make his home, a small plot cleared in the brush by the Indians for corn. Here there was much deer hair, evidence that the Indian squaws had been tanning hides.) He returned to Gunnison, then the center of a rich mining district, over Black Mesa, planning a road as he went. His journey had lasted over a month, and even though he had eluded several parties of Indians, he returned safely to family and friends. In 1881, Enos Hotchkiss, with George H. and William H. Duke, young men barely past twenty, and Dave Platt, started from Gunnison for the North Fork Valley. The Duke Brothers both drove wagons heavily loaded with supplies. Eight oxen were harnessed to the wagon of W.H. Duke. It took them ten days to cross Black Mesa. They drove down the Black Mesa hill with huge spruce trees tied behind their wagons. When they arrived at the North Fork River, it was too high to cross. They built a cabin just across from the Old Hotchkiss Homestead, left Platt in charge, and went back for another load. On the return trip several early settlers came with them. George and Will Duke lived on their claim the winter of 1881-1882 clearing ground and preparing material for a house. Others camping near were: Bill Berry, Charles Gray, Will Frady, E.W. Gates, and W. Dewar. The next year, 1882, many settlers came into the valley. Names of our earliest settlers not musically off the tongue—John R. and John M. Smith, Swendt, Balch, Todd, Head, deGraftenried, Olson, Young, Hammond, Fawcett, Wade, Edwards, Coburn, Hice, Berrow, Gelwicks, Hiestead, Ross, Patterson, Puffer, Traesdale, Rogers, Ashbaugh, Metcalf, Ellington, Slatten, Ed Duke, J.H. Barrow, Meredith, and so on and on and on.

Enos Hotchkiss moved in his family. Henry Roberts came first in 1881 and settled here permanently in 1882. At a house warming in the new home of Enos Hotchkiss in September, 1882, all residents of the North Fork Valley were present; they numbered thirty-six.

Voting was a precious right of the early pioneers. Until July, 1882, the land of our hometown was Indian Territory belonging to the Ute Reservation. No homesteads could be filed legally until a survey was made by the United States government. Citizens did not elect the officers who served them; they were appointed by the U.S. Senate. In the year 1883, Hotchkiss residents, for the first time, elected their local officers.

In the Maher county S.B. Hartman and John McIntyre came and settled in 1881. George H. Young, Wm. and R.T. Fluke, Chris Kehr, Caleb Maher, and Jack Fobare came in 1881. Wm. McMillan, D.D. McIntyre, Dan McIntyre, Henry Deusch came to settle in 1882. Several brought families.

One of the first big cattle outfits and the oldest brands in the Crawford country was the Diamond Joe Cattle Company. Sam Hartman was the largest cattlemen, running about two thousand head for twenty-five years. (By the year 1891 he had the head of Soap Creek, the head of Curecanti, and all of Soap Mesa for his range where he ran as many as 4500 cows and calves. In 1890 Hartman bought cattle for seven dollars a head. He ran them until 1893 when he sold them for \$4.10 cwt., the first cattle out of the country to beat four cents. They were big cattle weighing over 1200 pounds bringing over \$50.00 per head, an unheard-of price. They were mostly of the Shorthorn mixed breed.) At one time his ranch put up 800 tons of hay and he fed 1500 head of cattle through the winter.

The cattle industry prospered because of the abundant water, plentiful grass that proved to be nutritious, and a bracing, fairly mild climate so the North Fork Crawford area became renowned for its livestock. The cattle were rounded up in June, calves were branded and all were driven to the high country for summer grazing. This round-up along with the beef ride in late summer or early fall provided for the lonesome, hard-working cowboys a rendezvous that has been popularized in song and story.

Enos Hotchkiss brought in the first band of sheep in 1889. In 1890 a large band of sheep were brought in from Utah and turned out on Grand Mesa. Angry cattlemen drove them out. The animosity between cattlemen and sheepmen continued to increase until it precipitated a cattle and sheep war in 1901. After many deaths of both humans and animals, and destruction of much property, the government established range for sheep and range for cattle. Before the turn of the century most of the pasture land had been homesteaded and fenced. The unfenced land had been over-grazed so that cattle had to be kept on the home ranches to be fed. In 1905 the U.S. Forest Service took control of the higher ranges. In 1934 the Taylor Grazing Act put all the lower unregulated range under federal supervision, finally ending the feud between the cattlemen and sheepmen.

The first planting of fruit trees in 1883 proved so successful that thousands of fruit trees were set out. At the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, Colorado won medals for the largest, the most highly colored, and finest flavored, and the most perfect specimens of fruit. At the Trans-Mississippi Exposition held in Omaha in 1898 North Fork growers were awarded gold medals for the largest and the most varied fruit displays. In the year 1904 a thousand carloads of fruit were shipped out of the North Fork Valley, fifty percent of it from Hotchkiss. The boom in the fruit industry continued until about 1909. Competition from other fruit-producing areas increased, pests had arrived in the orchards, and worst of all, in 1912 a severe freeze devastated the entire area, even killing many peach trees. The golden days of fruit farming as a bonanza were gone.

The earliest settlers had taken up all the land near the streams. More land was needed for a sky-rocketing fruit industry, hay fields, grain crops, and pasture. Water had to be gotten onto the high mesas, so irrigation ditches had to be built.

In 1893 Edd Hanson was the promoter for the Farmers' Ditch. It was twelve miles long, taking water from the North Fork two miles above Paonia and carrying it to Hanson Mesa. The Fire Mountain Canal was built by the people themselves. Henry Roberts was highly instrumental in getting this ditch built. (A secretary's report in 1897 stated that of the 10,463 shares of capital stock issued, 9,520 shares were for labor. No dynamite was used; as many as sixty farmers with their teams worked during the winter months, twelve-hour days digging through frozen ground. Five years were required to finish it.) It tapped the North Fork ten miles above Paonia and ran along the river for thirty-two miles, supplying needed water to productive Rogers Mesa. The Overland Ditch was started in 1896. The Duke brothers were its promoters. Water from the West Muddy and other creeks was stored in large reservoirs, then brought by twenty-one miles of ditch to Redlands Mesa. Many reservoirs were constructed by individuals in the Upper Leroux country which furnished water for Rogers Mesa and eventually for the town's water supply.

With water available more fruit trees were planted. At first, the fruit had been sold locally, but after the reputation established at the Chicago and Omaha Fairs, the Eastern fruit agents came to the Valley to bid on fruit. The fruit was picked and boxed in the orchards and transported by wagon over a bumpy road to Delta.

A need for better transportation developed. The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad had been laid through the Black Canyon into Delta in 1882. To facilitate the marketing of livestock, fruit, and coal from the North Fork Valley, the narrow gauge road was extended to Somerset in 1902. A memorable day—Railroad Day—was celebrated on September 18, 1902, the day the first train pulled into Hotchkiss. Many packing sheds for fruit were soon built near the depot in Hotchkiss, and also a corral for loading cattle and sheep. The railroad was changed to a standard gauge in 1906.

Before 1910 there were no big coal mines near Hotchkiss; however, the Burdick which was north of Hotchkiss, the Farmers', the Newman, and the Bennett on Leroux Creek supplied coal locally.

The turn of the century brought many people to the North Fork Valley, people of strength with determination to go West to a new land to realize new dreams.

While the heart of Hotchkiss may have been its Main Street, certainly its life-blood was the people living on surrounding mesas. They contributed so much to the economy and to the civic and social activities.

Each mesa had its early settler and most mesas were named after one. Out on Rogers Mesa it was Calvin O. Rogers. On Hanson Mesa Old Man Drammmond took up residence in 1883, later selling to Monette Hotchkiss, who in turn sold to Edd Hanson who lived there and developed the mesa which bears his name. Powell Mesa was named after Nick Powell. The Duke Brothers were associated with Paine's Mesa, later called Redlands. In 1910, a new post office was established on Redlands which was known as WELCOME. J.H. Barrow settled Barrow Mesa first. On Bone Mesa, it was Abraham Bone who first settled there, built a log cabin, and shortly thereafter set out his orchard of fruit. The town of Lazaar started shortly after the D&RG railroad was built up valley crossing the lower end of the mesa. The Lazaar post office was established in "about 1910" in the Busey and Allen store. It was named for J.B. Lazaar who owned the 80 acres of land west of Main St. and donated the land for a depot which was once there. Cattarwood Mesa is named from the creek which runs through it from the southeast to the southwest. Olson Mesa received its name from three Olson brothers, Olaf, Ben, and Peter who were born in Sweden and migrated to this country in 1884.

One of the earliest circuit riders in the North Fork Valley was Father Clark, a Baptist Missionary. He made his rounds on foot twice yearly, coming from Crested Butte. In 1894, Henry Harpst, a full-bearded man who lived at the top of the Rogers Mesa grade, became the Hotchkiss Methodist minister. He preached at the Rogers Mesa schoolhouse, and at the one-room brick schoolhouse in Hotchkiss. It is recorded that on April 1, 1894, three members were received into the Methodist Church. On March 16, 1898, George H. and Will F. Duke ceded lots in Block 7 of Hotchkiss to the Andrew L. Webb Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church. This church was dedicated July 31, 1899.

On Sunday, November 28, 1886, several Baptists desiring to organize a Baptist Church held a service in the Hotchkiss schoolhouse near the North Fork of the Gunnison. Henry Grant, of Crawford, was called as the pastor of the new church. The zeal of Missionary Pastor Moses A. Clark was influential in the formation of the early church. On March 17, 1903, two lots were purchased from Alvin E. Sherman and a building was completed in 1904. The church was instituted as the North Fork Baptist Church of Hotchkiss.

A Father Ferro came from Delta to Hotchkiss Vicinity looking for a site to build a Catholic church and that site turned out to be in Lazaar on a spot of land donated by the Stone family. The church was dedicated on Sunday, May 28, 1911.

The Crawford Community Church is the result of a labor of love and cooperation. Henry Harpst, known affectionately as "Poppy", began the church with five people. Within a year he had organized a Sunday School and had set plans in motion to build a church. After a great deal of effort by the preacher, endless hours of work by the women, much donated labor, and financial sacrifice, a contract was let on January 19, 1900, to Zaan and Zaan of Hotchkiss to build the church. The amount to be paid was \$164.00.

The finished church was different from the typical pioneer building of log and stone; it was of white painted siding with a delicate pointed bell tower. The hillside behind the little church became a Garden of Memories graveyard. The land for the church and cemetery was donated by Mrs. E.S. Ong.

On April 25, 1900, the John Finney Memorial Methodist Church of Crawford was dedicated. Through many changes and different names, the little church has served its community for many years.

Hotchkiss pioneers had been laid to rest in two cemeteries. "The Upper Cemetery" or "The Old Cemetery" originally was a private burying ground. This land was a part of that taken up by George Rogers in 1883. It is said that when this plot was bought in 1903, there were five burials in it, two of them Indians. No records have ever been kept of the graves and no charge has been made for maintenance so this small pioneer cemetery has for its only decorations sagebrush, cactus, and dilapidated headstones.

On December 14, 1897, Enos T. Hotchkiss deeded to the Hotchkiss Cemetery Association a tract of land of approximately eighteen acres. About half of the area could be used for burial spaces. This has been called "The Lower Cemetery" and "The Riverside Cemetery".

The first school in Hotchkiss was held in 1882 in the Smith home, until the new log building was built in 1883. Etta Gould was the first teacher. The log cabin, with holes for windows, proved too small so another log building was put up the following year. In 1886-87 a one room brick schoolhouse was built. It was opened with a big celebration which featured a dance. People

came on horseback from miles around, brought food and had a big fire outside. In 1898 a two story brick addition was added to the south side of the 32' x 32' building. David Swendt, the first blacksmith in Hotchkiss, had previously donated an acre of ground for this building. By 1904 the curriculum offered four years of high school, but these older students went to school in Niles Hall, the Baptist church, or any unused building. There was no money for a high school until 1910.

Children of the Crawford vicinity attended Smith Fork School and the Sanderson School. On April 3, 1906, a special meeting was held in Crawford to vote on uniting the two schools. The vote was unanimously in favor of combining them. So Crawford opened a school on October 8, 1906 in a barely finished new building with Lydia Swift, Ursula Pace, and Robert C. Dobbins as teachers. They were paid fifty dollars per month. The school term was seven months. Later, a stone and brick building was built which was changed and improved many times. The building burned in 1912. The bell still remains in the belfry on the building that was rebuilt after the fire. The bell still calls children to their classes and signals dismissal time.

The town of Hotchkiss was incorporated on March 19, 1900. The incorporation was filed on March 13, 1901. On September 28, 1895, George and Will Duke gave to the town the land for the streets and alleys north of Bridge Street. On December 14, 1897, Enos Hotchkiss, Elizabeth Reich, and Wm. Sweeney deeded to the town the streets and alleys south of Bridge Street. The town was named when the post office was established in the home of Enos Hotchkiss in 1882.

The town of Crawford was named after Captain George A. Crawford, a prominent scout on the Western Slope in the early days. The town was incorporated on October 19, 1910.

The first Crawford post office was established April 13, 1883. Joli Preston was the postmaster. Before that the mail was handed out on the Sanderson place below Crawford.

Before Hotchkiss had water for domestic use homemakers bought water from Jack Meyers. (It has been said that customers caught up on the town news while filling their barrels from his water wagon.) During the winter Meyers delivered blocks of ice, taken from the river. These were piled on the north side of the house and melted when water was needed. On January 12, 1904, F.W. Simonds, living on Orchard Street, paid \$14 for the first tap on the line of the Hotchkiss Water Works. Domestic water had become a reality!

Professor Lee installed a large well-equipped evaporator, and opened for business in 1906. It was located near the packing sheds at the depot. Some apple orchards were planted to supply a special type of apple good for drying. He dried apples, apricots, peaches, and prunes. Also, he made cider and vinegar. The evaporator gave apple a boost to the early-day economy. On June 25, 1907, the Hotchkiss Packing and Power Company was incorporated. Its incorporators were: J. Walter Lee, John E. Hanson, M.B. Hanson, Chas. L. Pike, and M.C. Pike. Its purpose was: To purchase, evaporate, can or otherwise preserve fruit, and to dispose of same and to manufacture cider and vinegar. To manufacture or produce electrical or other power, and to sell and dispose of same. On March 15, 1909, the Company applied for an electrical, heat, and power franchise to the Board of Trustees of the Town of Hotchkiss. The franchise was granted. So electric lights and power had come to Hotchkiss.

In 1886, Sherman and Co. started a brickyard. It was located south of town near the river. This industry made brick for many of the buildings still standing, one is the hotel.

In 1888, Kan Collins and Nels Cole started a flour mill. It was located northeast of town. It was powered by water from the town ditch. The water, carried by a high flume, generated power by a huge water wheel.

In 1897, Abner McKee of Panna constructed a private telephone line, stretching the wire across hillsides, tree tops, and even fence posts. He incorporated his business on January 15, 1897, capitalized for 500 shares at five dollars per share. However, the venture proved to be a financial lemon so he sold to the Bell Company in 1902. The Bell Company built only a toll line to connect the Rio Grande depot with Denver. With the arrival in the Valley of Dr. Willard F. Follansbee, telephones were vigorously promoted. The doctor wanted phones in the homes of his patients, at a price they could afford to pay, so he suggested that each family throw fifty dollars into a pot to start a telephone company of their own. He, himself, donated \$1500.00. The company was granted a charter of incorporation. Seventy-six subscribers constituted the first Co-op. The first meeting of the stockholders was on December 24, 1902. Dr. Follansbee served as the company's secretary until 1912. Judged by modern standards of telephone efficiency, the early-day Co-op with its crank phones and overloaded party lines and no long distance connection might appear rather makeshift, but to the valley residents at the turn of the century it was a glorious mode of communication.

The North Fork Times stated in its issue of January 13, 1905: "Hotchkiss now has a full-fledged Home Company. (Their equipment consists of about a thousand feet of hose, a hose wagon, pick axes, rubber coats, etc.) The pressure of the water system being about 120 pounds to the square inch and the fact that the organization has the hearty support of the citizens will give the town a much needed and protecting arm from fire.") In 1906 a tower for the fire bell was erected. It is "now to be seen

in the alley between the hotel and the livery barn." The tower of galvanized steel was thirty feet in height. The hose cart and paraphernalia were housed in a specially constructed room underneath the tower. By a pre-arranged set of signals, the ringing of the bell would tell the firemen where the fire was located. This was greatly appreciated by the firemen since all of their transportation was by foot, even when hauling the hose cart. The North Fork Times issue of January 16, 1906 states: "When the blaze started in the Goodwin house last spring, there was not a man who made the run who did not feel utterly exhausted long before he got to the house." The history of Hotchkiss has been replete with the dedication of its volunteer firemen—even before 1910.

The North Fork Times, a spirited newspaper, began publication in 1897. It was owned by Lossius and Woods. Certainly it played a vital role in early Hotchkiss life until its last issue in 1899. G.J. Lossius died suddenly of a heart attack while visiting in Denver so the paper was up for sale. Its next owner and editor was Tom Blackwell who published his first issue in January, 1905. The Hotchkiss Herald was begun by Arthur W. Perry. The Herald was both forceful and newsy, and it has survived with almost continuous publication to the present day.

The Grand Opening of the "new Opera House" was celebrated on July 4, 1905, by a big dance. "A new floor has been laid recently and although it is not as good as it will be because of its newness it bids fair to be the best in the city." The Opera House was the old North Fork Times building on Main Street. For years its walls echoed and re-echoed with the stamp of dancing boots, the ringing debate and elocution of the pioneer "literary", and the melodrama of traveling stock companies. Rough wooden benches gave comfort to the penting dancers, and a potbellied stove gave the only heat. However, in 1909, new sidewalks furnished a much less muddy approach to its door.

Let it be remembered that these hardy pioneers loved gala festivities, and indulged in much sheer fun. The "kitchen stamp" with its mouth harp and fiddle, swimming at the Old Black Bridge, Clubs, Lodges, Horse Races, Foot Races, Rodeos, a fist fight now and then, and Baseball with a capital B! They worked hard and played hard and lived life with zest.

The first of anything resembling a Fair was held in the fall of 1886 in Hotchkiss. This was the first Horticultural Exhibit. It was held in the new big brick barn that Esos Hotchkiss had just completed that summer. "The Fair" has always played an important part in Hotchkiss life. The earliest Fair Book extant is dated 1898. However, its preface is written in such a manner as to suggest a Fair had been held previous to that time. In 1905 the Fair moved to Hotchkiss from Delta. Fair Grounds were made ready for the big event. "On the second day of June what is now a place of amusement was a practical jungle, covered with a rank growth of brush and vines." In 1909 a "lagoon" was made on the grounds. It turned into a sizable lake on which people skated in winter; during the summer it was used for boating and fishing.

Exhibits at the Fair included all types and classes of livestock and poultry. Farm exhibits were grains, grasses, sugar beets, honey, vegetables, fruits and flowers. Home exhibits included kitchen and pantry stores such as preserves, homemade bread, rolls, corn bread, cakes, cookies, sorghum molasses, vinegar and butter. Premiums were awarded for craft work of all kinds. Prizes were awarded for winning froats.

In this Centennial/Bicentennial year let us remember the feverish patriotism of the pioneers that they exhibited in their all-out celebration of "The Fourth". The June 23, 1905 issue of the North Fork Times stated: "Hotchkiss is going to have a good time on our nation's birthday. The committee in charge of the new Fair Grounds are to be highly commended on their labors in getting the new race track and fair grounds in shape for the Fourth. The morning salute from the hills on the south will be something to hear." That salute to Freedom has been ringing through the years for the hardy, happy people of Hotchkiss.

The Brochure Committee is very grateful to each person who contributed pictures or information for use in this publication. Additional copies of the Brochure and prints of any picture may be obtained from:  
The Hotchkiss Public Library  
Hotchkiss, CO 81419

German Canyon Public Library  
Hotchkiss, Colorado