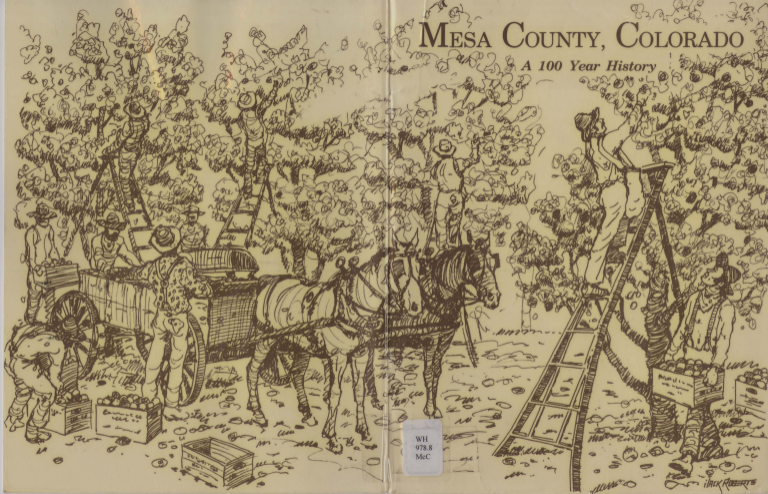


MESA COUNTY, COLORADO

A 100 Year History



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JACK ROBERTS

Mesa County, Colorado: A 100 Year History (1883-1983)



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Cover
The Jack Pipers showing a historic Palisade orchard aspect one of the few threads of continuity in county history. At same time, apple orchards have passed almost all areas of Mesa County.

The Museum of Western Colorado
Grand Junction, Colorado
• Main Building
148 South 4th Street, 2nd-8th Fls.
• Overlook Building
307 F Road, 4th-8th

• Dinosaur Valley
362 Main Street, 1st-2nd Fls.



Accredited by the
American Association
of Museums

Museum of Western Colorado

The Museum of Western Colorado collects, preserves, interprets and disseminates the social and natural history of Western Colorado. It offers seminars, classes, programs, educational tours to local, regional and national destinations, and special programming for educational institutions and organizations. Research has an affiliated access to special collections, including a historical archive and two research libraries. The Museum functions as a major regional tourist destination as well.

A department of Mesa County, the Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums. It is operated by a professional staff assisted by associate curators, and more than 100 volunteers. The Museum's three major branches are the Museum, 4th and 1/2th, Dinosaur Valley, 4th and Main, and Cross Oklahoma Living History Farm at 307 F Road in Grand Junction.

The Museum, located in the former Wisconsin School Building, was dedicated and opened to the public in 1966 as the Museum of Arts and Sciences. From 1968 to 1978 it operated as the Historical Museum and Institute of Western Colorado. Emphasis then on the social and archaeological heritage of the region. The Museum's main office, history division and archive are headquartered in the building.

Cross Oklahoma Living History Farm was acquired by the Museum in 1986. Following an extensive cooperative fund-raising effort, its present 44.4 acres are the last remnant of the 240-acre Red Cross Land and Fruit Company which operated from 1909 to 1921, largely financed by Massachusetts capital. Extensive restoration efforts since acquisition have included excavations and exterior restoration of the historic house, packing shed and backhouse, and reconstruction of the scruboak. Authentically restored gardens and herbicide-free fields interpret the history of the site, Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., during the regular season, May to November. Scheduled events include Spring and Fall "Days on the Farm", the John Henry Lovers' Series, and the Apple Jubilee. A gift shop, opened in 1986, specializes in items of county nostalgia.

Dinosaur Valley, opened in 1985, is a Museum exhibit focusing on dinosaur paleontology. Six historic, unexcavated excavations are reconstructed by historic photographs of early Chicago Field Museum expeditions to the area, books and casts of prehistoric creatures which roamed the region some 145 million years ago, and an active working laboratory. More than 20 volunteers work in the laboratory, preparing fossils and demonstrating modeling and casting techniques. The Museum offers ongoing educational courses and tours during the school year. A gift shop specializing in dinosaur-related merchandise provides an entertaining and educational experience.

The Museum and the Bureau of Land Management jointly administer the 280-acre Rabbit Valley Research Natural Area, located 60 miles west of Grand Junction. The 3,112-acre "Rabbit Valley" offers an opportunity to experience one of the last forested rangelands in situ and observe many other geologic and natural features of the Rabbit Valley area. Ongoing restoration in the area continues to reveal an outstanding local natural site. In 1980 the Museum acquired 1000 acres of 1800 hills, miles of major trails made by the Chicago Field Museum in 1940 and 1941.

The Museum additionally represents the Mesa County Oral History Project with the Mesa County Public Library in Vero, Colorado. The Museum maintains activities with organizations involved in an Heritage Council, and others who are concerned with the preservation of the region's social and natural history.

In addition to organizations in the County, those include the Western Colorado Guide Center for the Arts, Stamp Club, Antique Car Club, Muscle Landers, Telephone Museum, Grand Junction Geological Society, Grand Junction Genealogical and Mineral Club, Doll Club, Quilts, Centennials from Bonanza, Westwood, 1849 Club, Valley Heritage Society, Rocky Mountain Great Squabbers of the Colorado Air Force, Antiquarian Society, Jack Sellers, South Society of Western Colorado, square dancers, herpetology (herpetologist Denver Address), Society for the Preservation of Redwings Quaint Singing in America, Inc., Western Colorado Botanical Society, Muddlers (model airplane), and the Western Slope Book Club.

Cooperation with local, regional and national organizations continues to strengthen the Museum's role within the community. In 1980 the Museum cooperated with the University of Colorado, a field trip to many of the important Mesozoic deposits of Eastern Utah and Western Colorado for the North American Paleontological Conference. It is also part of the Dinosaur Triangle which presents travel to Dinosaur National Monument, Cleveland-Lodge Valley, Price and Vernal museums in Eastern Utah, Dinosaur and Rabbit Valleys. The Museum actively works with the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce, Colorado National Monument, the Dinosaurians Development Authority, and Club 30 to promote tourism.

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Museum of Western Colorado, 5-87 6/6/80

ALFRED A. LOOK 1893-

This volume is dedicated to Al Look, "the Old Man of the Mountains." Though his long and varied career has continuously documented the region's social and natural history.

Look, a Nebraska native, received his journalistic training at the University in Lincoln. He enlisted in the Navy during World War I, and, following service as a "90-day wonder," homesteaded in Cross Creek, Colorado in 1919. After providing for his heirs, he moved to Durango and became advertising manager of the Herald. While there he married in the silent movie "Navajo Love" and married Margaret Largent. Their family grew to include Alfred T., Joan and Anne.

The Looks moved to Grand Junction in the early 1920s when he was employed by the Daily News. When the News was sold, he transferred to the Daily Sentinel where he became advertising director—a position he held for 31 years. His "On Guard" column became a local favorite, and his efforts through "Soupsupers" resulted in Christmas presents for underprivileged children in the late 1930s and 1950s.

Look became interested in local topography and began an ongoing study of geology, paleontology and archaeology. An archaic mammal discovered locally was named Spauldschidlohi look and he and his son Al assisted with the discovery and identification of two archaeological sites, Turner-Look and Taylor-Look. His first book, *My Backyard*, printed in 1951, was a direct result of many of these experiences. His 11 books and booklets have included *U-Bar* (1956), *Unforgettable Classrooms of Western Colorado* (1966), and *Grand Junction 300'* (1972). Look was advertising instructor at Hot-Flow Business College for many years, served two terms as president of the Rocky Mountain Advertising Men's Association, and was on the board of the International Newspaper Advertising Executives Inc. He authored two volumes on

real advertising, and, after retirement from the Sentinel, was advertising director for U.S. Bank of Grand Junction. He is a past-president of the Grand Junction Lions Club, has been on the state board of the Colorado Division of the American Cancer Society, and has spoken to hundreds of local, regional, and national organizations.

In recognition of these efforts, and others, the Museum recognizes Al Look. He is a friend and truly one of Western Colorado's "most unforgettable" characters.



Preface

Frontier and pioneer are subjective terms. In 1890, the superintendent of the U.S. Census declared that during the previous decade western population growth and settlement patterns had reached a point where a frontier no longer existed in America. If his statistical analysis was correct, the pioneer in Mesa County were tarsmen of one of America's last frontiers. They challenged a year, often unexplored and forbidding territory during the last years of frontier settlement. They can certainly be considered pioneers.

Pioneers, however, are not always settlers, and frontiers are not always geographical. Although Mesa County has existed as a political entity for over one hundred years, its story has remained largely unspoken. The only previously published history was written in 1886 when the county was just three years old. This volume, therefore, is a very major updating. The products of this book remained in a pioner, often unexplored and forbidding territory and should be considered pioneers like the Mesa County settlers of a century ago.

Especially the authors were guided by the many efforts of those who had "tried Blaine's" local history before them. These early adventures included Charles Haight, Mary Pratt, Motzer Beggs, Al Look, Richard E. Tipes, Alar Wright, Sarah Raiter, Helen Horvath Young, Don MacKinnon, Armand de Beque and members of the Palisade Library Board. More recently their ranks have included Edward Barrows, Irma Harrison, Virginia Downs, Elviese Seely, Kathleen Hill Underwood, William McGee, Charles Todd, Steven Melch, Duane Swath, Duane Vanderbauch, Dave Fehel, Don Davidson, Lonnie Lampert, Robert McLeod, and all the authors who have contributed accounts of local history in the Colorado Heritage Magazine, *Western Colorado Magazine*, and to the newly developed *Journal of the Western Slope* produced by Mesa College. Many of these local authorities and others submitted segments covering their areas of expertise for the book. This allowed

the book's authors to edit the information and mesh it into one cohesive unit, producing a county-wide history.

This project has been coordinated by Judy Prosser. Author Erna McCosson, assisted by Joan Gray, performed the monumental task of researching, writing, and editing the original manuscript while laboring under tremendously difficult time and space constraints. Land Duda spent countless hours fire-proofed combing the chapters in the final editing.

It is appropriate and timely to begin Mesa County's second century by reflecting on its first one hundred years. Mesa County, Colorado, A 100 Year History is just that—a history of the county's first one hundred years. It does not attempt to bring the story up to the date of publication, nor is it to be considered a definitive history. It is a factual endeavor which can be used as a point of departure for students of Mesa County history. It can also provide impetus for an in-depth monograph series dealing with specific issues to be published by the Museum of Western Colorado. As more of Mesa County's history is gathered, interpreted, written, and published, it is hoped that the authors will be able to use the factual material to go beyond the "who, what, and where" of our past and concentrate on the "why."

The "who, what, and where" documentation for this book came from various primary and secondary sources found mostly in the Museum's current collection: books, documents, manuscripts, oral histories, letters, diaries, public records, photographs, scrapbooks, newspapers, and artifacts. A more complete history will be possible as the Museum obtains additional documentary evidence from scattered community members.

In part, Webster defines pioneer as "a person doing original work that others prepare the way for others." That is the goal and the hope of this book's authors.

—William L. Trueson

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Although Vikings did not sail the sea which covered the local landscape millions of years ago, the latter-day ship is a perfect embodiment of the ingenuity Meas County residents have employed in dealing with its often fickle environment. Dutch Seaman photographer Jan Oort captured this special image after completion by Lotus resident Billie Ripper, at wife and friend Bill Silver and Mike "Lizard" Adams in November 1975.

In the Beginning

Events that have occurred through the epochs of geologic time have created Meas County's distinct topography. Exposed rocks bear records of the ancient Rocky Mountains, numerous advances and retreats of sea, rivers and dunes, rivers with broad flood plains, lake forests, ancient lakes, lava flows, and dunes.

The Utopian Plateau is the county's dominant topographic feature. The canyonlands of the Dolores River drainage are to the southwest, and to the northeast is the Grand Valley, with the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers and marking the southern flank of the Poudre Basin. Grand Mesa, the result of an ancient series of lava flows, is prominent in the eastern part of the county.

Paleolithic man appeared in the Pleistocene Epoch, followed by a series of Archaic peoples. Much rock art found in Meas County is ascribed to the Fremont people, believed to have appeared locally around A.D. 300. They apparently abandoned their fields and disappeared as a cultural group about A.D. 1350.

The Utes, members of the Shoshone linguistic family, were in the region when the first Spanish explorers entered the area. The Grand Valley was a favorite wintering and hunting area. Utes, armed with bows and arrows and the horse later the sixteenth century, were able hunters and skilled warriors.

In 1776 the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition explored the region after setting out from Santa Fe to seek a northern route to California. The team crossed the Dolores River south of Canoncito, made their way across the Utopian Plateau, reached the east end of Grand Mesa, and crossed the Colorado River near the present town of De Beque. Other Spanish explorers may have crossed the area as early as 1540.

Beaver trappers were in the region during the era of the mountain man (roughly 1802-1840). Around 1828 Antoine Robidoux built Fort Utopianque (Fort Robidoux) near the present Mesa Delta County line. Marcus Whitman, John C. Fremont, Edward Beale, and John W. Gunnison were among those who explored the area in the mid-19th century.

Members of the U.S. Geological Survey, under the direction of Ferdinand Hayden, mapped Colorado from 1853 to 1856. West-Central Colorado was first mapped before the entrance of white settlers.

The county was part of a U.S. Expedition set aside in 1808 (never), but continuation promise was applied to remove the Indians so the land could be settled. On September 29, 1809, the "Meeker Massacre" and Milk Creek Battle precipitated the final takeover of Ute lands. Indian Agent Nathan Meeker along with eleven other whites were killed at the White River Indian Agency near Medicine Mesa, Arvillo Meeker, daughter Josephine, and Mrs. Shabank Price were taken captive. Seventy men rode to the northeast, federal troops hunted the Indians until

October 5 in what became known as the Milk Creek Battle. Casualties in the confrontation included the commanding officer, Major Thomas Thornburgh.

In a treaty signed in 1850, the Utes gave up all land in Colorado with the exception of a narrow strip in the southwest corner. They were forced to leave their ancestral homeland to relocate on a divide-like reservation, the Uteash, near Vernal, Utah. In 1881 the Utes were exiled from the Grand Valley at gunpoint. Following their trail, before the last innocent prize show was, came the first permanent series of Meas Counties.

Founders

Early in September 1881, O.D. Basell, J. Clifton Nichols, and William McKinley crossed into the newly opened lands, riding into what became Meas County. According to McKinley, they followed the Gunnison River and a rough wagon road until they crossed the "Divide" between present-day Whitewater and Orchard Mesa. They crossed at a ford near the junction of the Grand and Gunnison Rivers, and camped at the future site of Grand Junction. The next day they rode along the river bottom, hiding so the Utes, who were still walking out of the area, would not see them. When they reached a place near present-day Fruita, they stopped and returned to the main campsite, since they saw no better land than that by the junction of the rivers. McKinley and Nichols set claim dates, and their party returned to the base camp where others were awaiting news about the retreating Utes. About this time, J.S. Gordon, a Mr. Forthall, and William Ostrom apparently entered the valley from the west.

In Grasshopper, the county seat, Governor George A. Crawford was writing for news concerning the Ute evacuation. He and his party, including B.D. Mahley, M. Bush, Warren, Conrad Morris and S.W. Harper, outfitted and headed for the reservation. According to Crawford's diary, the trainee was seized on September 26, 1881.

When the first settlers entered the area now known as Meas County, Colorado had been a state for five years. Figures compiled for the DNRG also disclose that during 1881 the number of towns in the Centennial State had increased from 294 to 369.

George A. Crawford was always referred to as Governor Crawford, a title of honor from the state he was elected in 1881, but did not serve as Governor of Kansas. He had experience in founding towns, having planned three towns in Kansas, including Fort Scott. Locally, he assisted in founding Delta.

Governor Crawford incorporated the Grand Junction Town Company, filing the papers with the Colorado Secretary of State in the fall of 1881. The design called for areas reserved for parks, schools, churches, and government buildings. By the end of 1881, 29 persons had filed claims. Samuel Wade surveyed the lots for the town company; he later founded Paria.

The first winter was exceptionally difficult because supplies had to be shipped by wagon from the caravansaries at Fort Crawford (near present-day Montrose) or from Gunnison. Gradually, stores were built, the first general merchandise store being established by Giles and Mitchell in December 1881. Several saloons and shops were set up in ruins, and by January 1882, the first hotel was in business.

George Handhurst, his wife Hannah, sons Alex, Tom and John, daughter Mary, and son-in-law Horace Durlap arrived in the Platteau Valley in October 1882. They entered the area near Grand Mesa on a trail from Seiber Creek to Linn Creek. According to Tom Handhurst, they reached the Meadows, where Vigi Reservoir is now, on

Meas County was created on February 24, 1881. Grand Junction, founded in 1881 and incorporated in 1882, is the county seat. Meas County has 1,113,000 acres in 1,131 square miles. It is 42 miles at the widest point, 98 miles at the longest. The population was 9,567 in 1900 and by 1982 was 86,266.

October 7. Family members transacted left for Gunnison to obtain winter supplies. Coming back, they had to fight their way to camp when a snow storm broke as they reached the head of Laramie Creek. The rough climb they took, 150 miles from sea port they claim, obliterated their trail they could attempt to get out the next spring.

In April 1882 the Hallowaush started toward Gunnison City for supplies. They were surprised to find Grand Junction, having believed they were the only settlers for a hundred miles. While traveling they encountered J.R. Brook's trading parties. Brook returned to the Valley a few months later and established a ranch south of Mesa Creek.

John Beem was the first to seek a present-day Mesa, Colorado, arriving in the area in June 1882. The Hallowaush family and Alex and Joe Long soon followed, settling over the old Ute trail.

Early residents in the Fruita valley included Mr. and Mrs. Albert Langham, E. A. Hollister, Albert Mahony, Squire G. Lane, John Nichols, and the Krier brothers — Joseph, Benjamin and Frank. The earliest attempt to locate a townsite was apparently made by Fitzpatrick and Casey when they established Fairview. They failed in connection with legal requirements, however, and the land was grouted up by Douglas Ross and George Beebe. Part of this land was acquired by William E. Fabor for his town company. Fabor, acknowledged as Fruita's founder, had been looking for development property for the Colorado Lumber and Trust Company, and believed the area well suited to fruit production. The Fruita Town and Land Company was incorporated in May 1884. Theodore C. Henry supplied the financing, and Fabor drew up the plans.

Cleveland was named east of Fruita by the Krieres in 1880 when a dispute involving the Fruita Town Company arose and led to another town company. The new office was apparently temporarily relocated in the creek town, but postal authorities deemed the building had to be returned to Fruita. Cleveland was awarded by Fruita in 1925 when additional population was required in order to finance the Fruita Pipeline project.

Palmdale, the third permanent community in Mesa County, became a starter of record about 1895. A decade before, however, W.A. Pease settled south of the town and John E. Harlow began farming 200 acres east of town on Rapid Creek. Harlow served as postmaster of the first post office in the upper valley. In 1891, the post office was moved from the Harlow ranch to the present town site, and the name changed from "Harlow" to "Palmdale," later shortened to "Palmdale." The Purdy Hotel was the town's first business, and others were rapidly established when the railroad arrived from the east in 1891. Palmdale was incorporated in 1904.

Most of Mesa County was lightly inhabited by 1890. Settlement of this section of Colorado was self-advised and rapid, due in part to the adjoining Denver and Rio Grande and Colorado Midland Railroads. By 1890, large groups of immigrants from Kansas, Arkansas, and especially Iowa, had found homes in the new country.



These local lumbermen, photographed at the Palmdale railroad depot, were among the many from the area who flocked to the new town site in the 1890s. "Wood Day" was soon celebrated at a yearly event. (Photo: Olin Colwell)

Grand Junction

Grand Junction is the wholesale, manufacturing, and retail center of a 60,000 square mile territory with a population of 22,000. In 1957 Grand Junction and its suburbs were home to some 54,112 residents.

The City of Grand Junction has had three forms of government. First organized in 1882, it had a mayor-council government. The mayor was elected at large, alternates from the town. In 1909, a new charter was adopted providing a commission type of government. Five commissioners were elected, each with specific responsibility: Health and Civil Beauty, Finance and Supplies, Water Works and Sewers, Highways, Mayor and Public Affairs. In 1923, this form of government was replaced by the current city manager concept.

The first few months in Grand Junction were difficult. Many settlers spent the winter of 1881 in tents. Shelter had to be constructed, largely from cottonwood growing along the river. Logs were hewn by hand and draped into rude dwellings with a gully sack for a door and a piece of old paper for a window. Roofs were made from earth loosed with forks and shovels. Fortunately the first winter was mild, for each a wet foot can rot in six weeks.

In 1882, Henry and Robert Hedderston started a lumber operation with a sawmill. Their source of wood was cottonwood from the river banks. They started out 25,000 feet, which sold at \$300 per thousand. It was used chiefly to make doors, window frames, crates and shingles. Other several owners in the country included A.M. Sawyer on Koon Creek near De Beque, Ans Palmer and Willis A.M. Hopkins on Oak Creek in Platteau Valley, and the Rice Brothers on Piton Mesa. The Rice Brothers supplied quality lumber for bridges and buildings, favoring Englishman spruce. The Platteau Valley, the Sherman and McVey rail opened first near the present site of Gary Refining, later near Horseshoe Canyon Ranch.



"Grand Junction" became the name for the settlement at the Grand Junction and Gunnison rivers in November 1881. In just the same edition from an issue on the same date the first sale of immigration, one from the east, the other from the west. (Photo: Olin Colwell)

There were no bridges the first year. The ferry, owned by Joseph Will and Patrick Fitzpatrick, was the only method of crossing the Grand River other than fording. Several parties lost their lives and property while crossing in high waters, including Fitzpatrick, who drowned when the ferry broke loose from its guiding cable.

Since wood was hard to find, builders turned to adobe and brick, sometimes made directly on the construction site; however, several brickworks manufactured brick locally, produced locally to delay transportation costs. C.W. Kerball claimed to have fired the first kiln of brick. The town company manufactured pressed brick which was used not only in town construction, but also by the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

It was not long before Colorado Avenue, the first major street in the new town, had frame and brick buildings. A meat market, two blacksmiths, several saloons, three hotels, a newspaper, a pharmacy, and a clothing store were operating by 1882. Sawmills were initially made from boards. The first cement walk was laid at Sixth and Main at the turn of the century. Streets were dirt — half deep mud when it rained, and clouds of dust when it was dry.

In November 1882 a petition for a post office was circulated and presented to the postal service. The name Grand Junction was selected by common consent due to the town's location at the junction of two great rivers, the Grand (now Colorado) and Gunnison, and its location at the crossroads of immigration routes from the east and west. The petition was granted in 1882, but the federal government initially named the post office "Lepre." From the beginning, there was pressure to form the area into a separate county.

Although Grand Junction was a raw Western town, a surprising number of professionals were here from the start. Lawyers W.J. Miller and Lewis W. Bucklin both arrived in February, 1882. The first doctor was Harrison Stroud. That year the first school opened with Nellie Adams as schoolmaster. After a year a series of "professions" in commerce is felt, so that not only a taught school, but also the town's cultural life.

At the time the town was established, the Denver and Rio Grande (DR&G) had just reached Gunnison, and was building its way to the Colorado-Utah straddle. One-half mile in the Grand Junction Town Company was added to the railroad, and development of the area as a major commercial center began.

Steve Corvill built the first private ice house, followed by a community ice house near the railroad tracks. Ice was essential for home refrigeration as well as refrigerating railroad cars to ship Mesa County fruit. In 1882, the Grand Junction Ice and Cold Storage Company, part of the Grand Junction Electric and Manufacturing Company (1893), and mesa electric power to produce ice.

No one could break horses or wagons without an occasional hot shoe or sledge hammer. The blacksmiths kept the settlers' transportation in readiness. Also important to a town were livery stables — a place to bed and feed one's horse or rent a horse and carriage. The first stable in Grand Junction was Coghill and Taylor's.

The first hotel in town was the Grand Junction House, owned by William Green, which opened January 24, 1882. It was sold to Al Randall and renamed the Randall House. It was an adobe structure with a small room located on the corner of Colorado Avenue and Second Street. Another hotel was the Crawford House, later the Durawick. In September 1882, the Crawford brothers built the first frame building on Main Street and opened the country's first bank.

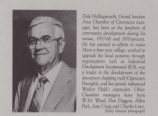
Ironing was essential to the development of a viable agricultural industry, a drinking water was to the town. The Grand Colorado River was the first source of water for Grand Junction. The Pioneer Ditch, later the Mesa County Ditch, began providing outflows with irrigation water in 1882. The Pacific Slope Ditch Company, who taking water out of the river south of Clinton, began construction only that spring; their water was also intended for household use. Steam mowers did not roll their wheels, rhyolite and dyerets were common, and "Melychae Flax" became the town's trademark.

The town soon grew enough to support a newspaper. First was the Grand Junction News (first edition October 28, 1882), edited by Edwin Peir. His paper was soon joined by two others, the Grand Junction Democrat (1883) — later Mesa County Democrat) and Ranch and Grazing (1884).

One important enterprise was the Grand Junction Milling Association & Elevator Company, owned by David Roberts. Located on South Seventh Street, the four mill began operation October 1, 1887. A few



The Grand Junction Milling Association & Elevator Company building, located on South Seventh Street, was a vital business in the 1890s. The town at "Wood" ended in 1893. (Photo: Olin Colwell)



Although Grand Junction was a raw Western town, a surprising number of professionals were here from the start. Lawyers W.J. Miller and Lewis W. Bucklin both arrived in February, 1882. The first doctor was Harrison Stroud. That year the first school opened with Nellie Adams as schoolmaster. After a year a series of "professions" in commerce is felt, so that not only a taught school, but also the town's cultural life.

deserved the three-storied building in 1898, but a new rail was built in less than three months. The mill used local goods, and flour was sold to other communities by the railroad carload.

New Year's Day, 1884, was a day of celebration in Grand Junction. It was time for "soozies" to become more refined. Wine and necessaries of the settlers decided to hold an open house. The gardeners, who had to endure in the case of drought, hired a coach from Will Hallowaush's livery and set out to make their call. It was "Yally" bar" and set the tone for Grand Junction society. No longer was this to be a wild town; it would be a place where a man would be proud to raise his first child.

Mary, Frances and relatives of Grand Junction were formed first decade. They served the community by furnishing support services for their members, helping those who lack run out to purchase the necessities of life, and, when death came to a member, serving as estate executors. Many people did not succeed in the Grand Valley's harsh conditions. Frequently, burials had to be made in the open — it was only through trial and error and a lot of failure that they learned how to manage water and soil. Agriculture was the country's economic base; if the producer failed, so did the business that served them.

Producers, however, did not lose their enthusiasm. Many pursued life, and in 1884, the first railroad line with the railroad taking an active part in promotion efforts. The Midland Railroad, which arrived in 1890, ran excursions bringing Denver journalists to marvel at the Palmdale area in the spring, and at Fruita when the apples were ripe. The first Board of Trade was formed in 1884 and the present Chamber of Commerce was established in 1890. Other contemporary promotional organizations include the Downstream Development Authority (DDA) and the North Avenue Association.

Town growth had not always been smooth. William Keith and the Grand Junction Town Company were opponents in a lawsuit that threatened the entire town's development, as using such hard lodging which was carried out over other aspects of community life. Keith had pre-empted a claim in Section 34, which was filed on by the town company in 1881. Keith was arrested when he returned survey markers, but he continued trying to retain his claim. The case was ultimately resolved by Secretary of the Interior, but Keith lost in 1885, who decided to leave in favor of Keith on the basis of continuous settlement. After the decision was upheld in two hearings, Keith claimed the entire town patent to be invalid. Since the victory of Crawford and the town company was in doubt, the attorney brought suit against them, but the case was not tried. A federal land agent investigated, and on February 15, 1886, the town received its patent securing titles for the settlers.

The first depression hit Grand Junction in 1891 when many other dropped to the an ounce. The First National Bank closed, and W.T. Carpenter, owner of the bank and of the Bookbind Mill, was bankrupted. Many farms were foreclosed. In the 1920s, the Great Depression caused rapid hardship. William J. Moore, the town's most outstanding citizen, owner of the Fair Department Store and Grand Valley National Bank, was bankrupted by that crash.

The first volunteer fire department was formed in 1885. On July 16, 1889, the first fire hose company was organized. The hose and equipment were pulled by the firemen. About 1895 the Grand Junction Hose Team held

the world's record for lasting 182 yards of hose — Hook and Ladder Company membership meant that the volunteer did not have to put a pole in. In 1911, the city purchased its first fire truck, a Seagraves model.

Jim Davis was the first town marshal in 1882. The following year he was succeeded by two sons. By about 1899 there were three marshals. An official police force was established in 1908. On March 13, 1903, Company F, Grand Valley Guards, was organized into state service; it was the first National Guard unit in Mesa County.

Most of the companies that initially came to Grand Junction were agriculturally dependent. Among them were the Colorado Sugar Manufacturing Co. (1889 — later owned by Haly Sugar), the Loring-Goodrich Chemical Company (1890s — 1929) and the Carrie Canning Company (1912). Plans for a soap factory (1897) did not materialize. The Durbin Stockyards were established in 1899, and a private smelter opened in 1902 but closed in 1903. In 1919 the four Frutser brothers expanded their City Market operation into the Western Sheep's Fair "supermarket" new part of a cattle district. The city has always been the retail center for the Western Slope and Eastern Utah. Wholesale and supply firms are an important factor. Grand Junction has consistently been a wholesale area, second only to Denver in the state of Colorado. Current businesses include a steel company, high-tech electronics companies, a candy manufacturing, a large liquor, and oil-related enterprises.

There has been consistency support for cultural events, and for such movements as the temperance cause, which polled enough votes to make the entire county dry in 1909. In May 1907, the Grand Mesa Women's Club (Grand Junction Women's Club) and the Sewing Society Club (later the Reverend's Sewing Society) joined to found the Grand Junction Public Library. It was reported that "70% or more of the energetic ladies of our city propose to make the library the sole aim and object of their confederation and organization." An appeal was sent to Andrew Carnegie who responded with a large sum of money for a building. The city library was built in 1901 on the corner of Seventh and Grand. The county began a separate library in 1901 in the old Lowell School at Fifth and White. The state helped supply books; the WPA helped with a bookmobile (the first in the 39th), and schools and branch libraries were the backbone. The county library was moved to the basement of the city library's building in 1951, and the two merged into the Mesa County Public Library in 1967.

There was a housing shortage by 1930 and new houses had to be built before the town could expand. In 1932 the population had grown to 2,616. Each of the subsequent national booms caused the town to reach out into the farming areas. As the booms faded, so would labor, but not at any time has the population declined to its pre-lion level. Overall, there has been a stable, steady growth. The city annexed the Mesa Mill corridor in 1961, and continues to develop in all directions.



Located at 2712 Lincoln, the Orchard Mesa Garage and Barber Shop was owned the community from 1918 until recent changes but remained under the sole ownership of John B. Seider. (John Seider Collection)

Orchard Mesa

Orchard Mesa is a triangle of desert land between the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers and the Grand Mesa. The first settlers used the Grand Valley from a promontory on the horizon mesa, within a decade orchards were planted and grapes encouraged by the homesteaders. Today the orchards are receding under the pressure of subdivisions.

Residence were built on the mesa in 1890. One fine example of Victorian architecture is the old Page Ranch House. W.E. Page purchased the land which had been an experimental government orchard in about 1890. Some used in building the house was burlap down the Grand River from Glassboro Springs. Perhaps the first subdivision on Orchard Mesa was that of Dr. Dry and his associates, who tried to divide the land in the top of the present-day Fifth Street curbs and sidewalks remain from that project.

Orchard Mesa was covered with high production orchards for almost four decades. Irrigation water was first taken from the river by private enterprise. George Smith was the first to pump water. In 1922, the Bureau of Reclamation began a drainage project to solve alkali problems. The gulches, soon filled with canals, are still used.

In the 1920s the Christ family owned their Rose Glen dairy on the west end of the mesa. This area is now heavily commercial and residential.

In 1944, Veterans Intermentment Memorial Park, honoring local veterans, was purchased and dedicated. The granite lions on the west end of additional construction, resulting in Unitarian Downs racetrack and the course for golf. By 1971, the grandstand and show pens were completed.

Three bridges have connected Orchard Mesa with Grand Junction, Glade Park, and Clifton. The Fifth Street Bridge, which connects Grand Junction with Orchard Mesa, was a joint venture between the state and the county. The Colorado legislature had to change its procedure to grant monies for its share, saying that the bridge was important for the whole state. The contract was awarded in 1896 to Cronin from Bridge Company of New York. The old Gunnison River Bridge, connecting Glade Park with Orchard Mesa and now unable to support traffic, was built to replace the dangerous ferry. Abandoned from the old Clifton Bridge can be seen east of the present bridge at 12 Road.

Grand Junction's connection are located on the south of the Fifth Street Bridge above the Department of Energy complex. Governor George Crawford, founder of Grand Junction, is buried atop Reservoir Hill overlooking the canyons.

Redlands

Originally a desert range, the Redlands was not developed until the Redlands Irrigation Company was founded in 1895 (incorporated in 1904). The Kiefer brothers of Fruita were instrumental in promoting the area, and by 1917 the land was irrigated and peach trees were planted.

In 1909 the Kiefer brothers were bought by Henry L. Roberts, a Wall Street millionaire and oil tycoon who later on purchased the entire county that owned the limestone and limestone line. His Redlands Company built a large dam on the Gunnison River, irrigation was extended, and a hydroelectric plant built. A great sewage was made available for agriculture and fruit growing. The Redlands Company sponsored a home ranch and camps for employees, their caring hotels was an innovation for its time.

Residents took over the Redlands County Club building when the club closed in 1929 and made it into a community center. The area no longer involved in commercial peach production since the 1960s, has been a growing residential suburb of Grand Junction. It is home to over 12,000 people in 1982.



The Church of the Nativity Episcopal, 217 Broadway, is a handsome case of historic architecture. Built around 1908, it first used as the Redlands school. In Mesa the former high school was utilized as a community service center until a new center was built. (John Seider Collection)

Fruita

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Layhans were possibly the first permanent homesteaders in the Fruita area although, when they came in late 1882, they took up residence in a pre-existing cabin with a dirt floor and a blanket case. They were followed by other settlers, nearly all of whom were general farmers.

Attempts to organize a community in the Fruita area seem unsuccessful. The Founders started and the present dry town was established in May, 1884 by William E. Faber who entered the Fruita Town and Land Company for the purpose of selling town lots. Faber had earlier recognized the fruit producing potential of the area. Having worked with the Orrey family, he founded the new town along the same lines, including the provision that there be no liquor sold or manufactured in the town. The present layout of the town was laid out in late 1890. The street was planned to run in right-angle across with a park in the middle.

The first school was a log cabin, followed by a frame structure and then a brick building. Immediately after forming the town, an incident broke away from School District #1, Grand Junction and formed School District #2 on July 5, 1894. Enrollment climbed, and there was need for an area high school.

The neighboring communities of Elbert, Star and Loma joined with Fruita in 1904 to form the Fruita Union High School. Henry joined in 1889, New Liberty in 1918, and Mack in 1912. When the building became too small, the local board of directors could not build another school because of a law stating that the director in which a union high school was located had to provide the building. Fruita could not carry that load alone. After the school burned in 1934, classes were held in the armory until the district asked the Colorado legislature to change the law. It was passed in 1935.

In the 1889-90 period fruit was planted throughout the area, mostly hardy apples and pears. During the early years, Fruita's Chamber of Commerce worked to have area products shown in expositions and fairs throughout the U.S. In 1910, Mike Stinner was elected mayor of the National Apple Show, and J.C. White won a \$300 prize at the Black-Ber-Davis apple show. Unfortunately though, Fruita was susceptible to frosts which, combined with oxidizing soils and assiduous, destroyed the orchards by the 1930s, probably the collapse of the Gobbo family in a thriving business. Cattle and sheep ranching also became economically

productive for a time. The majority of Fruita agriculture has been diversified farming, such as peaches, sage hogs, and winter wheat. Amusements and entertainments were studied on school activities or with local theaters producing dramas. Children spent summers in Fruita also at one time had a movie theater. When cars became common, entertainment, like shopping, centered in Grand Junction.

In the 1930s Fruita participated in several government projects including the Grand Valley Reclamation Project (later Western Slope Farm). Settled in groups of two to three families per area, thirty-four families were relocated in the Lower Valley by 1937. Another government program was the Rural Electrification Program (REA) which brought electricity to homes and 800 farm homes. Fruita also had a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp, several Work Progress Administration (WPA) projects including the town library, and a federal loan for the new central school.

The telephone reached Fruita by about 1900 and water flowed through the pipeline in 1907. Electricity came with the Interurban Railway from Grand Junction in 1911. In the 1930s, there was a Public Service gas line, and soon some installed with the water system. Use Water began serving the area in the 1960s. Fruita has not experienced the boom-bust economy of Grand Junction, instead the population has risen fairly steadily through the years. Two of the best remembered personalities associated with Fruita were author and naturalist Will Miner and cowhand Charlie Gless.



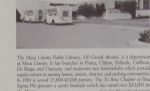
Two of Fruita's best known personalities, naturalist and Will Miner left and Charlie Gless (right) who collected, exhibited, and wrote on some. Footprints in the Trail and More Footprints in the Trail. Gless, a thick mustache, made a name and had a wide reputation for three years. He was involved in what may have been the last conflict of the sheep and cattle "wars." (John Seider Collection)

Glade Park

Glade Park covers some 400,000 acres. There are seven sections: Glade Park, Little Park, Potosi Mesa, West End, Bearss Creek, Cotton Creek, and Little Dolores. Part of Potosi Mesa is now the Fruita Reserve, a part of Grand Mesa National Forest.

In 1881, C.W. Sawyer and Wardell Elms formed the W.V. (V) on the Little Dolores River, bringing to 6,000 acres. In 1889 Charles Sieber began buying ranches, at one time running \$2,000 head for the Sieber Cattle Company. It became the S-Cross after Sieber was shot from his horse by Joe Harris in 1882. The first sheep, 8,000, belonging to the Cools Sheep Company, entered Glade Park in 1908, crossing on a stringing bridge over the Grand River from Fruita.

The federal government ordered unauthorized fences removed in 1907 — removal took twenty-five years. After the Taylor Cattle Co. passed Congress in 1934, farmers and ranchers had to have a permit to run stock on public lands, based on how many animals were on the home ranch. This eliminated ranches (especially sheepmen) who did not have a permit. Some of the effects of the act, combined with drought, made it impossible for many small owners to make enough for permits and feed so they sold out and left the area.



The Mesa County Public Library, 530 Grand Avenue, is a department of Mesa County. It is located in Fruita, Clifton, Delmore, Clifton, De Beque and Cameron, and maintains two bookmobiles which provide regular service to many homes, schools, clubs, etc. and nearby communities. The library is owned 10,000-40,000 books. The \$1.8 million Clifton Library signed Phi opened a newly bookmobile which has raised over \$20,000 in the library. (John Seider Collection)

(John Seider Collection)

Dry farms came to Glade Park about 1901. They grew beans, potatoes, corn and small grains after plowing up the uplands. When the drought remedied, during the Depression in the 1930s, they also let. Land was needed to raise grain.

The first post office, established in 1902, was named Big Park. Since there was another town in Colorado by that name, the post office was renamed Glade Park. The first school was a subscription school where families paid for their children's education. Each of the seven areas had a school; only three children were required to form a school.

Early roads to Glade Park were gravel and barely possible in bad weather. The first road included Jacob's Ladder, Gordon's Toll Road, and the Little Park, which went up to Glade Park. The Crack Trail led to Geneva, and Billy Goat Trail went up from No. Thousend Canyon. After the Fruita bridge was built, ranchers used the Fruita Diggins Road. John Otto began construction on the Trail of the Serpent in 1920, many miles from the area helped construct the road. It was a big improvement, even though some drivers had to back their car uphill. The first auto reached Glade Park by 1928. The Hancock Road in the Colorado National Monument was completed in 1950 and the old road became a footpath.

The first telephone line in CO on Glade Park was built by subscription who used microphones line to hold it together. Local people paid fifty dollars, furnished labor and poles, and were allowed to look into Grand Junction lines.



Anna Lane is the lady girl in the dress who was first land owner in this photograph at the Glade Park Community Center, 1935. Her sister, Olive Lane, is directly behind her. © Steve Beckler Collection

Loma

Loma means "Little Hill" in Spanish. By 1899, the Kiefer brothers completed 17 miles of new ditches in the area, in 1917 the Highline began supplying water to the community.

In 1901 the Colorado Sugar Company acquired 1,000 acres to settlers interested in growing sugar beets, many of which were European immigrants. Beets remained a major crop until the mid-1970s when the Delta Sugar Beet Factory was closed.

Vernor Z. Reed, known as the "Colorado millionaire", purchased some 1,200 acres in 1903 for an apple orchard. The Golden Hills Ranch was his dream, with underground irrigation and nine ranch houses. Reed and the sugar company built a sawing factory in Loma which did not reach full capacity. The estate, two miles northeast of Loma, was sold as one of the country's largest auctions in 1923.

School District 23 was organized in 1899. The "Adobe School" was built in 1898, and Loma School was constructed in 1902 from yellow brick, fired on the grounds. In 1918-19 the Leung moved a small frame school across the river from Highland Canyon, this became Valley View School. Sunset School was built in 1938 and had a homebased bus to take sugar grade children to Loma School.

Loma was not part of growth when the Highline Canal was built (1921-8) and when the federal government reserved 15 families from the Eastern Slope that bowl them. Electricity came under the Rural

Electricity Administration (REA) in 1938-39. Use Water in 1940-45, and natural gas in 1947-8. A rural mail route was begun in 1961. The American Glaciers Company built a dairy line from Breckenridge, Utah to Loma, following the old Utah-Railroad track, which was cradled glaucite to water along pipes to the processing plant. This was refined into gasoline, "glacipure" and high purity briquettes for aluminum refining uses byproducts. Gary Refining currently owns the plant. Today Loma continues, as it began, as agricultural community.



This early view looks down Loma's main street, ca. 1908. From the left are the Loma Mercantile store seen "Pioneer Store", a private residence, the Red Hill sign says "Loma Supply Company", and a hotel. A's much more dangerous to step and clear on the street made, sometimes carrying shifting signs often came sailing over the hill to show some back from Douglas Run. ©Colorado National Monument

Mack

Mack, three miles west of Loma, was a company town. Named for John Mack, president of Barber Asphalt Paving Company and the Utah Railway Co., it owed its existence to the only commercially important deposit of glaucite in the world (glaucite, or celestine, is a black, solid, lustrous asphalt). Mack, switching pipes from the narrow gauge Utah to standard gauge of the Denver and Rio Grande Western, was the dense rail connection for shipping ore. The paving company built the Utah to haul the ore from Dragon, Utah, to Mack.

The company built the town in 1904 and for 35 years it was a town without general government. Electricity, water, and sewer were supplied by the company. Approximately 200 people lived there in the late 1920s. It was an attractive town with many fine buildings in the desert. There were stores, a garage, post office, a school, and a hotel reserved for its inmates. A small library was also established, and by 1902 contained nearly 300 volumes. A library in the neighboring canyon or on the Utah line could borrow a book without charge.

The first school opened in 1906 with eight pupils. It was two close to the railroad and therefore was moved after the first year. A new school was built in 1921 and elementary classes were held there until 1953 when small attendance led to no classes.

The town did not end when the Utah Railroad ceased operations on May 16, 1939. One company legacy was a sewer system which stretched until 1939. The office of the Glaciers Company (maker of a seal for bridge joints) is located in Mack; the town is now the center of an agricultural area. By the end of 1982, current resident Terry Bowen had published nine Western and one romance novel; he and his wife Fernita operate the Desert Glaciers Store.

Garmesha

As the twentieth century began, large investors showed interest in Mesa County. The Crowell family, who controlled Quaker Oats and other corporations, purchased a barren mesa on the Garfield-Mesa County line for a showcase farm. Located 90 miles north of Fruita on 16 Town, it had the most modern equipment of its time. There were four dorms in the barns with steam heat in the log pens. A horizontal separator was the main house and there was a laundry, cook house, bank house,



Vernor Z. Reed was one of the Colorado Sugar Company capitalists who invested in Mesa County during the early 20th century. His investment included the Grand Junction Dam and Improvement Company, Grand Valley National Bank, Rural Securities Company, Glaciers National Bank, and Montgomery and Reed Building. Reed and Associates also developed Loma in the 1900s. Photo from Anna Lane Photo Album © Steve Beckler Collection

and even a fire department. A twenty-acre acre reservoir, the Ruby Lake, was built in 1911 to hold water for the ranch, and a still was used to purify water for drinking. At least twenty runs were employed in sawing operations. Robert W. Lanson, a relative of the Crowells, was manager. One bull farm the ranch was Colorado State Champion at the New Mexico State Fair in Pueblo in 1918.

Because the reservoir filled with silt and the price of purchased animals fell, the ranch was closed. In 1923 the Lanson donated the forested and wooded to Browning. After the house was sold at auction in 1927, it was moved. A second school opened in the Garmesha area from 1927 to 1934 as part of the Fruita system.

New Liberty

Northwest of Mack on a fertile plateau, New Liberty was one of the last homestead areas in Mesa County. Although the first settler came in 1857, it was not until the Highline Canal arrived in 1917 that the land was offered for drawing. In the spring of 1897 fifteen parcels were opened to 215 applicants. The name "New Liberty" was chosen because of the wartime attention centered on Liberty Bells. Farmers grew varied crops and had small livestock operations. A large sheep-raising plant 65,000 per day opened near the Utah line. There were 42 families farming 6,900 acres in 1917.

The community centered around the school built in 1919. In 1915 an adobe school was built with WPA help. Children are now bused to Fruita and Loma.



Eighty grade practicing child, New Liberty, School District #39, 1911. The instructor, Mr. Cornell, is shown in the corner, and Louis Liles, son of Mack, is the third from the right. ©Steve Beckler Collection

Appleton (Holland)

Appleton is located at the junction of 24 and H Roads, about five miles northeast of Grand Junction. Its property rests on agriculture,

although apples and pears, the initial major crops, declined after coddling moth infestation in the 1930s. Early in the century, Appleton had easy access for selling produce as it was a stop on the Intermountain Railway and the Hillman Peak County-Clear Highway. The community had the first cross-tied school district in Colorado, established in 1911, and the high school was a model for the times. Appleton School had eight rooms and an auditorium with modern lighting, sanitation, and heating. The old school building is maintained in front of the present Appleton Elementary. Appleton Center had a general store and feed mill, a garage, beer brew factory, Mackintosh dry and a conning factory. There were also several churches in the area.

Bookcliff (Carpenter)

A settlement was established by Grand Junction banker W.T. Carpenter in 1900. Carpenter built a company store, a combination house/restaurant, and the Carpenter post office was established, opening early 1901. The settlement apparently had no more than 50 residents at one time from. Some centers and stores from the Bookcliff Mine, using stone from the company quarries, constructed several foundations and buildings, including employee housing. Various buildings in the Grand Valley and the light brown Carpenter stone.

The mines, towns, and railroad were sold to wealthy Manufacturers investor Isaac Weyman in 1899. He improved the mine and hired additional employees; the old eating house was converted into a school and church.

The town began a gradual decline following Weyman's death in 1903. His will left his holdings to Princeton University which managed the legacy for three years before discontinuing operations in 1925. A few foundations are all that remain.

The Independent Lumber Co.,
P. M. GIBB, Manager
Building Material of All
Kinds

Foots & Cotton, Plaster, Gypsum Products, Pipe, Machine, Diesel, Gasoline, Electric, Hardware and Electric
The Independent Lumber Co.,
Gibb, Colorado

The Independent Lumber Company was one of the region's oldest and longest operating until its purchase by Boise Cascade in the late 1970s. Independent was founded in Fruita in 1902 by Gilbert Campbell and C.A. Gibb, and later headquartered in Grand Junction. At the time of its 75th anniversary in 1977, it employed over 400 and served a six-state area including 19 Western State communities.
Adapted from The Cotton Season, Cotton, Colorado, Edward 1949

Clifton

Clifton, named for its proximity to the Bookkicks, was apparently assigned that name by railroad survey crews as early as 1881, but the railroad did not arrive from the east until 1890.

It was not until 1900 that the name appeared in conjunction with a post office and general store, Judge A.J. Mann was postmaster. In 1902 the Fruit Growers Association built a packing shed near the siding because there were enough orchards in the area for the railroad to provide a freight stop. The townsite was planned in 1905, it has not yet been incorporated.

There were 11,000 acres in fruit in the first decade of the century, and Cass Orchard the largest operation in that area. However, caddis bug infestation and sewage destroyed apple and pear orchards in the 1920s. Orchards were later replanted. Apples and pears continue to be the important revenue producers, but cherries have also been grown extensively as a cash crop. Many orchards have disappeared during the past few decades, as the area has been heavily subdivided for residential development.

Freestone, west of Clifton, was a community centered around its school, including a senior high. A fruit loading platform and packing shed near 30 and E Roads employed local residents prior harvest. The Ancient Order of Work, a community club began during the 1930s Depression, helped people over the hard times with laughter.

The Clifton Rural Fire Protection District organized in 1941, replacing the earlier Clifton Fire Department. The District built a new fire station in 1979. It also has a volunteer Rescue Squad, a house of many Moss County towns.



Former storefront and hotelier F.W. Hughes established one of the West's most successful early cherry orchards, the first area growing in Idaho. By 1909 in 1900, Bookkicks trees, some such fields, appeared in Wyoming, Nebraska, and Western Colorado, including Clifton and Palisade (Clifton Public Library Collection)

Palisade

Palisade is known for its peach production. The cliffs surrounding the area conserve heat and funnel air currents, causing the air temperature near Palisade to be 3°-5° warmer than in the rest of the Valley. This warm rising air inhibits frost from burning tender fruit blossoms, and the Palisade area is usually protected from major drought.

Farmers and orchardists such as John P. Harlow, Gabriel Christopher Carabian Bessie, and William and S.E. Clifton were among the first Upper Valley settlers in the early 1880s. Harlow, ranching on Rapid Creek, first tested the soil capabilities of the upper valley in 1882 with garden vegetables which his wife Kate used in a well-known restaurant in Grand Junction.

Palisade's beauty and prosperity stemmed from irrigation with the Grand Colorado River providing a supposedly limitless water source. The first orchards of L.L. Oliver and William and Frank Berger were historically sustained by land from levels of Grand River water handed to the orchard sites. Above 1900, the Berger brothers began digging the Rice Ditch to water their orchard north of the river. The Grand Canyon Ditch watered Vinland orchards, and the Orchard Mesa Highway Development project watered the East Orchard Mesa area.

The town of Palisade was established about 1895 and incorporated in 1904. In 1908 it was described as having "a large line of business stretching from the train depot for about five blocks."

Charles S. Reed arrived from Garden Grove, Iowa in the late 1890s. Dissatisfied from his bank clerk position when someone else offered to work for less money, Reed came to Palisade to create a real estate partnership. When he wrote contracts for his former bank customers including the widows of Palisade, many pulled up stakes and immigrated to Mesa County. So many came from Iowa that several Iowa Day celebrations began in Grand Junction in 1899 and in Palisade by 1907.

Inventors affecting peach harvesting came from Palisade ranchman J.C. Park (invented a straddle peck in 1908), Nancy Brown constructed a patented picking sack in 1915, by 1925, Billy Edward invented a mechanical peach sorter and Raymond Deibel had invented a defuzzer.



Developing scene from the foot of Mt. Lincoln, Palisade, Colo. (Palisade Public Library Collection)

Insulating the joints of filling, was in general use in the Palisade area by 1908.

(Palisade Public Library Collection)

George Bowman established the United Fruit Growers in 1921, the cooperative marketing organization still serves the area. The Fresh Marketing Order, F.A.C. (originally Board of Control), was established in 1939. Helen Moss currently serves as office manager.

From 1940 to 1941, nearly a million bushels of peaches were shipped yearly with the largest production totaling 1.5 million. In 1961 the production figure was 19,146. There were 852,996 trees in 1945, and 30,000 in 1985. Palisade peaches have won many prizes in national and international shows, people from all over the world have visited the orchards to learn from the growers, including a group from Nepal in 1965. From 1982 to 1993 the fruit industry supported several local committees.

The Oriental loach roach and several types of scale threatened the peach trees from 1930 to 1950. In 1945 a Colorado Department of Agriculture laboratory (initially established by the Dutch Marketing Order) was created to produce two roachless waxonaceous parasites to control the pest. It was headed by Lewis Anderson until 1955. DDT also helped control other pests.

The area across the Colorado River toward Grand Mesa is Vinland. Initially, vineyards blanketed the area where peaches now grow. C.C. Boyer planned the first orchard there at the beginning of the century and used a grove on the river bank as his own vineyard. Seventh Day Adventists settled the area at the same time and established the Western Slope Academy in 1905, the school had fifty pupils with Professor A.M. Woodall as principal, and three staff members. A bridge and ferry initially joined Vinland to the town of Palisade. Eventually a steel bridge was built (1908), and called one-third mile by the town, the Vinland groves, and the state, Colorado-Mountain Vinlands, on East Orchard Mesa, began local wine production from Grand Valley grapes in 1910.

"The Great Post Office Robbery" occurred around 1924. The robbers were believed to be hiding in the Palisade Mine, but were not apprehended. Palisade was the center of Moss County's largest coal mining operations during the early 1900s, supplying coal to the railroads was a major industry for the town.



A portion of Campus was purchased by Public Service, and a 30.7 million stone generating plant opened in 1917. The plant serves the Grand Valley and is fed by and from Siltwater, Colorado. The town's swinging bridge originally served Palisade, and now spans the Grand River at Belegap. (Palisade Public Library Collection)

Cameo

Cameo is named for a stone face formation in a cliff overlooking the area. Originally a coal mining town, it was founded in 1807 when John McNeil of Grand Junction built and Mining Company opened the mine. Longtime county residents recall the "terrible, dangerous superstition belief" that infested Cameo to the highway.

Cameo also served as headquarters for the men building the roller dam for the Highline Canal in 1912. In 1917 Public Service of Colorado opened a new steam generating plant at Cameo. The 6.5 million dollar plant is a 44,000-horsepower unit doubling area capacity. The Roadside Mine coal mine has been operated by Powderhorn Coal Company since 1981.

De Beque

De Beque could be called the "CM Shale Town of Mesa County", although ranching has provided a more stable economy for the community. The town, incorporated in 1896, is at the mouth of Roan Creek. Robert Eaton, L.T. Stewart, and George Gibson filed homesteads and water rights claims on Roan Creek in 1881. J.C. Coyne and John Larkin established claims in the Blumton area on the south side of the Colorado River. The Blumton area was later developed by Judge Joseph E. Ong.

In 1894 De Winkle, A.E. De Beque and three other partners, Fred Webster, John Bevelin and Dick Smith, traveled over the Bookkicks to the head of present-day De Beque Canyon. There De de Beque established a homestead named Rautabooks. The doctor brought his wife, Marie Bevelin, to his log cabin — and in 1895 the area's first post office opened in this home.

One of the last Indian signs in Mesa County occurred on Roan Creek in 1886. A lone Indian had remained on the White River Indian Reservation, and a report circulated that they were on the verge of and headed for the De Beque area. Women and children assembled in a stone house at the mouth of Roan Creek and men armed themselves, but not one Indian appeared.



One of the best-known local dairy enterprises was the Arnold de Beque. It began in 1912 with three stables, eventually up to seven large ones with six Stockmen's Bull Friesians. For a time, the business ran from the St. Regis Hotel in Grand Junction over KTVJ radio. (Arnold de Beque Collection)

De Beque owes to the present site of De Beque in 1886 and built a log cabin. He later constructed a house which his son, Armand, lives today. The post office was also moved and located "De Beque" in 1888. De Beque had another school in 1907, a water system in 1912, and a movie in 1916.

The Kinloch brothers owned the fine large barn, 300' long, into the area in 1883, but sheep were not welcome. The largest slaughter of sheep in the local cattle and sheep was reportedly took place on Clear Creek in 1890. About 4000 sheep were unloaded or driven over the dam.

The railroad arrived from the east in 1891, and De Beque prospered. For a time in 1893, 1894, and 1910, more cattle were shipped through De Beque than at any other place in Colorado. The town boomed with the railroad and declined when the stockyards closed.

A large stone school was built in 1892. De de Beque climbed trails the hills to the dedication and raised the American flag, the first one flown over a public building in De Beque. Grades one through eight were taught in the first years of the school. One high school grade was added each year starting in 1905, the first one graduated in 1912 with two seniors receiving diplomas. De Beque is now in School District 49, organized in 1956.

After settlement, hazards from all over the nation began coming to the area, which became known for wild mountain lions, deer, bobcats, coyotes and bears. A mountain lion hunt was an annual affair for several years, and a game reserve was built in the 1940s.

Bears and cougar have played a major role in De Beque history, due chiefly to oil shale. Although oil was discovered in 1892, nothing was done with the severities with discovery. The first shale boom occurred in the early 1930s with recent "booms" at twenty-year intervals in the 1940s, 1960s and late 1970s-80s. The area's first distillation plant was built in 1917 on Dry Fork, a tributary of Roan Creek.

Flamenco was social events. Everyone came to flamenco — coming in from ranches on horseback, buggies and wagons. Men were uncomfortable in "dresses" suits, women and children tried and failed in Sunday hats, as they listened to the pianist and the music. Shows danced for fruit loans, and after the service, women visited and went shopping in the big store or the five smaller ones. Mothers took children to the drug store for ice cream and men retired to the saloon for a drink before the long drive home.



Timed, a bit of a mile east of the railroad tunnel in De Beque Canyon, contained water from a hydroelectric power plant. It is about 100 feet in diameter, and 200 feet high. It is a chimney still holding up nearly the size of the residence of a Mr. Mitchell. (John Howe photograph)

Plateau Valley

Plateau Valley lies between Grand Mesa and Battlement Mesa. The first settlers were members of the George Hancock family, coming from the valley in 1881 over the east end of Grand Mesa from Gunnison, and settling at the Meadows, now covered by Voga Reservoir. Other settlers followed the Ute trail, coming over Siltwater to where Mesa Creek enters Plateau Creek near the Atwood Bridge. Joe King and Billy King operated the first store in 1882 in a cabin where Bull Creek intersects Plateau Creek.

There are four communities in the valley. At the east end is Collins, first called Hartsburg, at the junction of Bassard and Platano Canyons. The first post office was established on the Platano in 1867, above those Bassard and Platano Canyons east of Collins) in 1881, eight to nine miles above the present townsite. A rail route was established in the fall of 1882 from Delta through Hartsburg over the Hogback to Grand Junction. On March 1, 1892 when the community was trying to get a rail line through the valley, the townspeople were persuaded to remove their community in honor of Harry Colburn, general manager of the Midland Railroad. The name was changed and Collins incorporated in 1898, but the town did not receive a rail line. It grew rapidly after 1902-05, with a 1903 population of approximately 430.



This is an early Collins street scene, ca. 1890. When done through a stereoscope, the two images merge to form a three-dimensional view. Looking at stereoscope scenes was a favorite pastime at the turn of the century. (Dick Lindt Collection)

Platano City, west of Collins, is an unincorporated village established January 5, 1894. At one time this community had an academy, post office, church, saw mill, general store and fire hotel, where some of the first cattle in Mesa County was raised. The academy moved to Grand Junction becoming Hot Row Business College (which is now essentially the business department of Mesa College).



Platano City, also known as "The Tean", is immediately west of present-day Collins. During the 1920s it was a thriving community with a post office and a percentage bonded school by the adjacent community. (Allen Price photograph)

Haltson between Collins and Mesa is the village of Molano, formerly known as Sappa. Molano is the Spanish name for "Salt". In the early years a flour mill, owned by various settlers including Robert Flemer and George Peugh, operated on Cottonwood Creek. After the highway was constructed and improved, the road cover kept a suspension at Molano. One day they would slide up to Collins and beyond, the next to Mesa and down Platano Creek.

Highway 138 near Highway 67 at the Arrow Bridge and the bend of Platano Canyon. Area families sent their children to the Carron School (#26) which opened around 1899 and operated until the 1930s. A campground located at Camp Rock (also known as Noon Rock) offered

travelers a protection cliff and a grove of cottonwoods. Wireless could also be had and board at J. Elvin Harris ranch near the De Beque-Caroff. Silver Springs led the De Beque-Caroff was the site of an early store operated by a Mr. Barnard, later a store and filling station combination operated by Esther and George Knowles.

The town of Mesa was built on a flat plateau between Platano Creek and the top of Grand Mesa. John Brown was the first homesteader in the Mesa District in 1881. Many of the later settlers came from Arlington, following Joshua Barnes over the Hogback. The post office was designated as Mesa in 1887 (six miles Mesa had existed in the Fruita area in 1883). The town site actually was homesteaded by Dr. Archie F. Craig, the town's doctor and second supervisor of Bartleside Mesa National Forest. In 1920 American Legion Post 13 was established, the first in the county. The major portion of the business district, including the Mesa Pool Hall, the Mesa Mercantile and the Present store, was destroyed by fire in 1956.



During their 1903 Red Cross sale the architectural committee of Mesa and Molano apparently raised more money for the Red Cross in World War I than any other community of equal size. (Bob Howe Collection)

The road to Palisade over the Hogback was the main transportation route out of the Valley to Grand Junction for many years, and auto-facilities, requiring at least two teams to get a loaded wagon over the Hogback. It was replaced by a road from Mesa to De Beque (De Beque-Caroff which continued down Platano Canyon). The major thoroughfare between Grand Junction and the Garfield County line, it later became part of the Pike Peak Ocean-to-Ocean Highway.

In 1911, it was still a three-day trip to the Grand Valley when the Mesa County Commissioners voted to improve the road — they had discovered the country could get convict labor from the State Prison in return for food and shelter. Prisoners arrived that year and, using only hand tools, built a six and one-half mile road on the north side of Platano Creek from the Flaming place to the J. Elvin Harris ranch. A broad oven from one of the three camps constructed to house the convicts had been preserved by the Mesa County Historical Society.

When Platano Valley homesteaders first plowed fields and gardens, they tried the same crops as those planted in the Grand Valley: fruit trees, vegetables and berries were grown. Fruit took the best roots and produce was difficult to transport in mountainous condition over the Hogback route.

Big cattle outfits like the VT arrived, and mountain prairies were overgrazed leaving the land bare and dusty when the dry years of the 1890s came. When sheepmen began leading flocks into the high country, the sheep were often attacked and slaughtered by angry cowboys. A few men were shot during this range war, including Sylvester McCarty. At his funeral, a well-attended affair, cowboys were their guests in full view, and Mrs. McCarty's average was paid anonymously. Platano Valley pioneers, like others who settled Mesa County, had to find water to irrigate their land. However, unlike Grand Valley ranchers, those in Platano Valley had to build reservoirs to store snow water. Their reservoirs on Grand Mesa, began in 1886, in fact built by hand with teams, sermons, wheelbarrows, and shovels. In 1911 farmers along Big Creek were flooded when Arden Reservoir burst.



This photograph photo documents the visit of a July 1901 with 36 men and 33 head of cattle in 1901. It was estimated that the highly generalized \$2.6 million in economic activity in Colorado in 1901. (Patricia Peck-Lindt Collection)

The Forest Service helped stabilize ranch economy. Bartleside Mesa Forest Reserve was set aside in 1892 as public land by President Harrison. Ranchers had to pay a grazing fee for each animal permitted on the forest. Meadows were leased by auction of grass available that, in summer of poor forage, ranchers could not obtain or large a permit in its better years. Although controversy arose, over the boundaries were established, rancher and forester have generally worked out their conflicts to mutual advantage while enjoying multiple use for timber and recreation. The first supervisor was Gabriel May Jr. May, the second, Dr. A.B. Craig and the third, Denver Andrews.

The first grammar school, initially in a log cabin on the Arden place, continued, in better quarters, until 1906. Union High School in Collins opened in 1911. High school in Mesa was held in a brick school building later used as a community hall until 1981. Currently, all Platano Valley children attend Platano Valley School (District 53) near Platano City.

The abundance of deer and elk helped the first settlers over rough terrain, providing food, clothing and a marketable commodity in the form of hides. Today, the area is known nationwide for its hunting and guiding services, people come to hunt deer, elk, bear, and possibly a lion or bobcat.

Sometimes during the 1950s many of the small ranches-landowners were replaced by large companies. Today many ranches are being purchased and subdivided for commuters who work elsewhere.



Moses and Emerson adapted the Indian Rock label after their Diamond Orchard was replanted from peaches to apples in the mid 1920s. Two of the better labels issued in Mesa County are the United and Missouri Lines. (William Whaley Collection)

Bridgeport

Bridgeport, first known as Arlington, is located some 20 miles southeast of Grand Junction on the Mesa-DeBeque County line. It was initially a stop on the Guadalupe Division of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, and later the site of a 170-acre apple orchard, one of the most extensive in the Mesa County, established in the 1890s by Fred and Avery Barber. The orchard was bought by John Moses in 1901, and acquired by his son Frank and cousin George Emerson around 1926. The orchard was then replanted to peaches. It was later acquired by the Biggs-Keevy interests when it was needed for a cattle ranch.

In 1964 Bridgeport became part of the Moses family holdings which include much of adjacent Dentonville Canyon. The one-lane Bridgeport bridge currently provides the most accessible entrance to the highly popular and scenic Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Study Area, managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Whitesaur

Settles arrived in Whitesaur in 1881. In the early 1880s, Whitesaur was reported to be larger than Grand Junction, boasting a hotel, blacksmith shop, railroad and telegraph stations, two eating places, stores, a dance hall, stockyards, and a ferry across the Guadalupe River. The post office, established in October 1884, was in various homes and stores until the present building was constructed in 1901-04. For many years, it was in the Mahaback store, owned by G.W. Peugh after 1874.

Carey's Edwards homesteaded where the town is now situated. She subdivided her land and donated land with the provision the town remain "dry." About 1885, one man decided to challenge that and set up a saloon without taking time to secure the licenses of Whitesaur. This gambler and desecrated upon his place of business, but, fortunately, he was not there. They broke up his stock and let it be known that men and freshmen wanted him if he returned.

A Mr. Guston reportedly built the hotel, which El Mahaback, later purchased in 1884. The telephone switchboard was later located in Mahaback's hotel, and the young woman who managed it lived in a room next to the switchboard so they could answer any strange long rang.

The schoolhouse (1883) was the community center, and on Sundays was also the church. The school closed in 1959 and present children are bused to Lincoln Orchard Mesa in Grand Junction. Prick School served the Karahak Creek residents, with other schools serving Unatop and areas to the east.

Ranching was the major industry. Cattlemen began ranches in head country and basins for wintering cows. Whitesaur once had large stockyards and Unatop ranchers tested cattle across the often dangerous Guadalupe River.



Whitesaur was shipped from the Whitesaur railroad depot in the 1900s. Other depots were in Grand Junction, Delta, De Beque, Palisade, Fruita, Mack and Lerna. (Bob Peck-Lindt Collection)

Orchards were prominent for a short time with those of F.W. Sheppard, J.R. Brennan, and William H. Colburn especially well known. Some of the first prizes won by Mesa County orchardists were awarded to fruit grown in Whitesaur orchards. Eventually, the trees were lost to poor ground and alkali seepage. Most residents now work in Grand Junction.

Unaweap Canyon

Unaweap Canyon is unique water flows out of either end. East Creek borders to the Guadalupe River (near Whitesaur); West Creek to the Dolans River at Otisdown. The canyon, forty-four miles long, contains some of Mesa County's most spectacular scenery.

The first settlers, including J.D. McGill who arrived in December 1881, were ranchmen. After crossing the Whitesaur bridge the ferry to the early dam, their loaded wagons climbed Noon Mile Hill. Drivers got no traffic would be descending, since it was impossible for two vehicles to pass. When wagons approached the hill toward Whitesaur, the drivers would send passengers out on a narrow ledge to look down the road for approaching wagons. After the hill was negotiated, the ride became

smoother. Early travelers from 1857 to 1862 could stop at the towns of Paul and Copper City. They would then cross the Divide and start down the last western miles to Gypsum. The route of Highway 91, roughly corresponds to the route of the old road.

Copper, silver, silver and gem quality prospects have been mined in Unawap Canyon. Paul and Copper City (1847, 1862) were mining camps near small copper mines. Each town once had a hotel, a blacksmith, and a post office. Copper City had two schools and a newspaper. A small shelter was built in Paul. There were no more than 100 people in each and no trace of either remains.



Unawap is the site used for "canyon rock music." The ranch (West Creek) crosses into the Dolan Basin, the other East Creek into the Gannion. It was approached, crossed by a long trail, possibly the Colorado, the Gannion, or perhaps both.

D.W. Lohman photograph used with permission.

Unawap Canyon had trail at least once a week by 1885; it was delivered to the upper canyon twice a week by 1901. Telephone wires were strung to the last ranch on the road by 1901.

The Diggins mine was the canyon developer until vandals broke it apart. Mr. Diggins, an Emeryman, 64 is now with the canyon and had the mission built as a summer home. His wife, however, did not like the West, and the house was sold to others. Although one group used it for hunting, it was not truly inhabited. Mesa Cresso was among the artists who did the beautiful mosaic.



Old and new bridge construction are featured in this 1919 photograph documenting the building of the new "Carnegie" bridge between Gateway and Whitewater near Nine Mile Hill. (Photograph courtesy of Division of History, State Department of Highways, State of Colorado)

Gateway

Gateway is located at the junction of West Creek and the Dolan River. Touring over the town are red sandstone monuments, like those dotting the nearby Utah landscape. The Utah had worn a trail through the area, and outlaws used the isolated surrounding valleys for hideouts.

The McCarty gang had a cabin in the Striped Valley in 1890. A copper "boom" led to the development of some small mines in that valley around 1895.

Early settlers included the Lewis Hall family, the Willers B. Fox family, Ed and George Gordon, Johnson Sawle, Jerry Hatch and Bill Goshals. They built cabins of corrugated log with dirt floors and roofs. The name "Gannion" was suggested by the break in the steatite on the Utah trail through which the settlers came. The first post office was established in 1863, and for many years residents received mail only three times a week.

The first school was built in 1863 in Schoolhouse Draw. Another school was built in 1891. Miss Lolla Lynch, the teacher, decided the "new school" should have a piano. Money was raised through a series of dances and other events, and the entire community heard the piano on Christmas 1916. The present school was built in 1957. In 1963, there were 59 students, including 1 senior.

Ranching is the community's economic mainstay, but mining has been important. Pyramid Mining Company, mining and milling low grade copper ore, was active in the Striped region in the 1930s when much work was necessary. There were only seven men until Pyramid built a road up West Creek to the Unawap Road in the early 1900s. This was the first road to Grand Junction, and the trip took all day.

Many stones from the Gateway area involve ranches. One concrete Saw-Em-Up Mesa where thistles rapidly cut through old cows, stand the acreage up with wildlife, and abandoned cattle. Gateway was caught some horseflesh, possibly the last appearance in the county, in the 1950s.

Although local telephones were installed in 1911, long distance dialing was unavailable until 1965. Electricity came in 1952, and Highway 91 was paved in 1958. The decade of the 1950s brought renewed vigor to the town with its artisan boom. The town is currently adjusting to the artisan boom's closing.



William B. "Tippy" Fox has been identified as seated, right from, in this photograph of an early Gannion community gathering, ca. 1902. (Wilson and Keller House Collection)

Miscellaneous

Throughout Mesa County, small groups of two and three homes were "communities" at one time, particularly before the coming of the automobile. When the railroad came, from the south in 1862 and from the east in 1891, its workers raised the village as they laid the track. Shown on a 1958 map, these stations were on the Gannion River — Bridgport, Deer Run, Karrah, Whitewater, Unawap, and Pump House on the Colorado River — De Beque, Adlers, Tunnel, Mirror, Gile, Caruso, Ramo Valley, Redlers, Midwest, Snow, Palouse, Waco, Bridges, Clifton, Fratrick, Grand Junction, Dehans, Kawa, House, Lerma, Mena, Ruby, and Shale.

Other areas have been integrated into larger communities, including Vondler, Demons, Rose Park, First and Second Fruitrides, and Fairmount, now part of the Grand Junction area. Hazart, Star and Rhone were distinct near Fruita. On Chalk Park the seven areas are now collectively identified as one.



From the list of early Mesa County residents are a number who are recognized as being among the "founders." Some, like Crawford George A. Crawford and William E. Barber, personally know us national and state levels, were at the forefront of town companies. Some, such as William Coffman, George Hanchant, William B. Fox and John Brown, were among the first in their communities, helping to establish them as we know them today. Others, such as Norman Blain, the first teacher; physician Dr. W.A.E. de Beque; rancher Charles Seher; and Kate Hanson, seamstress and farmer, were part of the educational, professional and economic sectors. Frank Kiefer and his brothers Frank and Joseph probably affected the entire Lower Valley and the Redlands with their work on the irrigation system. Shown clockwise, beginning top left, are: Dr. W.A.E. de Beque, De Beque, John Brown, Mesa County Hanchant, Hanchant — see Coffman; William B. Fox, Gannion; William E. Barber, Fruita; William Coffman, Whitewater; Kate Olsen, John F. Harlow, Royal Cook and Upper Valley; Charles Seher, Chalk Park; Frank Kiefer, Lower Valley; Crawford George A. Crawford, Grand Junction; and Norman Blain, the first school teacher.

Fruit Industry

When early settlers entered the Grand Valley, they saw sage, grasswood, and a few coniferous trees. Orchards were planted within the first year. Because of the success of fruit produced in Utah where soil and growing conditions were similar to those in the valley, settlers were encouraged to raise fruit. One of the first orchards was planted by Elias Blain and sons in 1831, along the Colorado where the State Regional Center is now located. Early orchardists in Whitewater were William Coffman, R.W. Shropshire and J.R. Foskinson. By 1886 they were winning prizes at regional fairs for their peaches, both as specimens and as canned fruit in jars.

The first orchards were apt to be haphazard, with varieties and types of trees mixed. In the 1890s fruits grown in the county included strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, blackberries, cherries, sweet and sour cherries, hard and soft-stuffed almonds, black walnuts, currants, apricots, nectarines, plums, peaches, apples and peonies. Legend indicates one orchardist had 94 varieties of apples planted in his orchard at one time.

W.E. Pabst was an early promoter of the fruit industry, proving that the sweet fruit was a ideal for fruit, particularly apples, and encouraging the first fruit trees in the Lower Valley around 1883. For many years it seemed his prediction was true: apples and peaches were planted in profusion and production was high. After 1902 fruit crops were shipped on the horseback to the rail yard in Grand Junction where they were packed into crates and used for the trip to market.

A Mesa County Fruit Association and a Mesa County Agricultural and Horticultural Society were formed in 1894. In 1898 Pabst organized a Mesa County exhibit of fruit at the Denver Exposition. Around 1897 the first Mesa County Fair was held, and the first Peach Days in September 1891.

Peach season for fruit profit were in the first decade of the century. The first crop in DRI, the year of the greatest yield, passed the million dollar mark — shipment of apples alone amounted to over 1,800 railroad cars. Apples, peaches, and peaches, in that order, had become central to Mesa County's economy.

From the first, peaches were more successfully grown in Palisade and on East Orchard Mesa than in other areas of the county. The best years for the developing peach industry were 1896 and 1898, but marketing peaches needed the horseback blizzard and was generally in use by 1902.



Workers pack peaches for the Peach Growers' Association, Palisade, Colorado, 1902. In 1904, 2,400 cartloads of all varieties of fruit were being shipped by the Grand Junction Fruit Growers' Association.

(From *Utah Photographs*, Palisade Public Library Collection)

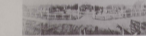
An amazing variety of individuals have been involved in peach harvesting. In the 1930s many came from as far away as Missouri to pick peaches. Families made a vacation of living in their cars and picking the late summer crop for 25¢ a bushel, taking plenty of peaches with them when they went home. During World War II harvesting labor was scarce until German and Austrian prisoners of war were brought into the orchards with an imposed quota of 20 bushels per man per day. Through the years many, also young people have also participated in all phases of peach harvesting. Today many pickers are migrant laborers from Mexico.

In the 1940s and '50s major problems affecting the peach industry were killing freezes, suspended frosts, peach mosaic and Oriental fruit fly.



The photograph of the peach harvest, Redlands District, was taken about 1910. After the disastrous freeze of 1963, much of the orchardland in the area was subdivided for residential development.

(WPA, Wood Collection)



In 1907 Colorado Spring Juicer Verne Z. Reed announced plans to establish the second largest orchard in Colorado. The 1,000 acre tract was now miles northwest of Latta, in hamlet named "Golden Hill." Other large fruit orchards included Lawrence and the 20-acre ranch operated by the A.C. West Land and Fruit Company in Fruite.

(Karl Swanson Collection)

Two serious problems threatened fruit production following 1902. First, unlined canals seeped because there was no use of dirt bottom; water ran into the orchards and stunted around the trees, severely dwarfing them, or killing them with alkali. Hundreds of acres were uprooted.

The second serious threat to fruit production was the codling moth. In the Grand Valley, with its hot, dry summers, the moth was able to produce several broods per year. There were no compulsory regulations requiring removal of orchard refuse and the pest seemed to abandon orchards producing stronger broods the next year.

Some orchardists tried swamping the base of the trees with hurlap to trap the grubs, and a parasitic wasp was introduced in the mid-1920s which killed 40% of the moth grubs. Farmers used several systems such as leaf ash, arsenic, which did help control the pests. The USDA ruled that fruit we sprayed had to be washed and acid wash of the poison before it could be marketed, but washing degrades the keeping quality of apples and pears and fruit can not then be marketed at all. Although the industry was decimated by the end of the 1920s, more apple and pear orchards were planted when new sprays made it possible to control the codling moth.

A 100 Year History

Modern sprays such as DDT were used to control insect infestations. Recently, many orchards have been bulldozed to make way for housing developments.

Apricots and cherries have not been consistently important. Apricots have a rough time with the spring frosts because they are the first fruit to blossom, cherries are medium in peak and difficult to ship, but both are grown for the local market. Plums are occasionally grown, but are not as popular as other fruits.

Oranges have been grown sporadically. When the Italians working on the railroad started in the valley they noticed that the climate and land seemed similar to that in Italy where grapes are grown. Some grapes were started, but they were not commercially successful. Recently, with the establishment of Colorado Mountain Vineyards on East Orchard Mesa and improvements in growing techniques, grapes have again been planted as a potential cash crop to supplement income from peach and apple production.



In 1898 the Colorado Sugar and Manufacturing Company opened the first sugar beet factory in Colorado in Grand Junction as land donated by the Grand Junction Town Company. (Industries, Loring Company Collection)

When management changed and the plant reopened in 1904, sheep and cattle were brought in to feed on pulp and cogs. Profits rose during the first World War when prices rose to \$22.00 per ton. Hildy Sugar Company acquired all the capital stock in 1912 and adopted a profit sharing plan with growers, resulting in increased beet planting.

The Grand Junction factory was operated until 1933, when it was closed because of early frosts, a beet disease which attacked the crops. The facility was dismantled in 1941. After the disease, beet from the Grand Junction area were processed in the Delta plant.

The Grand Junction factory buildings were later leased to Citrus Unions Company. The remodeled strawberry-variety mill, opened from 1961 to 1970, produced 2.2 million tons of cane and a similar quantity of tallage.



Visitors explore the roots of Mesa County's history in Colorado Mesa's own Unions' sweetening house. The factory was established in 1909 on East Orchard Mesa by Jim and Anne Stewart.

(Grand Junction photograph)

In Platte Valley, strawberries, raspberries, and dewberries were grown in the first decade of this century, but were not an economic success, due to their fragility in shipping. One reason for the company for a railroad line to Collins was the hope that this crop could then be shipped safely.

The first trees were watered by hand. Farmers would dip water from the river into barrels on their wagons, return to the orchard and dip out water for each row. Later, small ditches were built from the river to the orchards and pumps lifted water from the river to the ditches. Much support for irrigation projects has come from the orchardists.

There were many skeptics when the fruit industry began. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, as late as 1898, declared Colorado unfit for fruit production because of high altitude, poor soil, and lack of moisture. Over the years, the Grand Valley has proved that assessment wrong.

Sugar Beet Factory

William E. Pabst exhibited a 25-pound beet in Denver in 1886, demonstrating that sugar beets would grow well in the Grand Valley. In 1887 farmers planted beets which showed remarkable yields from the extraordinary soil and climate in the valley, and soon indicated a high enough sugar content to begin commercial planting. Conditions necessary for a local beet industry included an adequate price per ton, low transportation cost to the nearest factory, enough land in production to ensure a feasible operation, and American difficulties with tariff incentives.

Although Charles E. Mitchell returned the Utah Sugar Company in Grand Valley in 1891, development of a local beet industry stalled until the Spanish-American War in 1898 out of Cuban sugar. Mitchell and C.N. Cox devoted their energies to establishing a factory, and in 1899 the first processing plant was built by the Colorado Sugar Manufacturing Company in Grand Junction. The Company demanded 1,500 acres be planted in beets, 1,500 acres as a bonus and corporation stock be purchased by local residents. Early plant operations proved unworkable due to a variety of factors including the low prices received by farmers. By 1902 no beets were grown.



Beet gardening by the Nipe family on Orchard Mesa. Beet and vegetable stands elsewhere, continue to reflect the area's rich agricultural heritage.

(William Nelson photograph)

Other Crops

Before the turn of the century, sugar beets were found to be a productive crop in the Grand Valley. The first squashes was apparently planted in 1901 by Martin Page of Fruite, and the Grand Junction Seed Company contracted for seed crops of cucumbers, tomatoes, flowers, and melons. Corn, winter wheat, and alfalfa continue to be grown in the county.

When small waterfalls in the Grand Valley contracted for tomatoes, sweet farmers turned first to the local area tomato fields. Cucumbers also picked pumpkins, carrots, and green beans. Truck crops such as lettuce, cabbage, and cauliflower supported a number of workers in the eastern end of the county through the mid-1920s. Today, market stands around the county offer farmers fresh produce during the growing season.

Prairie beans have been grown on Glade Park, but during the drought years of the 1930s, fields were abandoned when dry farmers were unable to harvest a crop. Potatoes have been grown, especially in the Lower Valley around Loras.



Betsy, John and Dean first sighted Walks, owned by Curt Lawrence, on a sheep show while handling and evaluating cattle in the spring. The Walks are descendants of one of the early homesteading families in Platons Valley.

Livestock

Livestock has been, and continues to be, a major industry in Mesa County. In September 1881, Clifton Nichols selected the site for the first ranch. Cattle were brought in from Utah as early as 1882 in Platons Valley and the Rose Creek area. Other prominent localities were Glade Park, the Unsworth, and the Lower Valley. Lower elevation ranches were used for winter feeding, while in summer cattle grazed on Grand Mesa, Piute Mesa, and the Douglas Mesa area. Grand Mesa is said to provide the best cattle grazing range in the country.

The first cattle were brought in by large outfits in bands of 500 or more. Some of the big ranches were those of the Knibb brothers in De Beque, the TT in Platons Valley, the Sieber or S-Cross on Glade Park, James Nichol of Fruita, and the Smith brothers on Orchard Mesa. The S-Cross was said to have 10,000 head at one time before going out of business in 1910. These large outfit herds combined to herd cattle across the national land and up to the high country. Their exploits became part of local legends, but their freedom was curtailed when the Forest Reserve was established on Grand Mesa and grazing permits and range management were required.

In 1882, when J.F. Brink was pursuing a notorious gang of cattle thieves under the leadership of George Howard, he and his cowboys met the Howard gang in Whitewater and one of the Howards was killed. Cattle rustling, widespread in 1881-82, subsided, however, ranchmen continue to have problems with people who take an occasional cow or calf. The establishment and recording of brands has helped reduce illegal activities.



Calves on the S-Cross Ranch, Charles Sieber-Gailo Company, brand recorded on Glade Park in 1887.

Brands were and are the personal property of the rancher and can only be sold or willed by the owner. The price of simple brands has risen sharply over the years, many ranchers sell their brands rather than sell or transfer them.

One rendezvous for horse thieves was Horse Thief Caves, across the Colorado River from Loras. A trail led over steep cliffs into the caverns where the flock grazed reportedly used carbon paste to graze stolen horses. When Underhill's "Coy" Pease went after the gang, he sent a message out of the cavern which, according to local legend, read "Have sent flock grazing. Send five sheep coffins."

In the spring when the calf crop arrives, branding begins (it does not end). Cowboys roped and corralled and branded all new stock before driving the cattle to open, higher range where animals from many outfits intermingled. In fall roundups, the cattle were separated prior to marketing. In the early days cowboys herded the cattle from stream to summer range and back. Today, most animals are trucked, especially if the route is a long one with few places to stop. Trucking requires fewer hands and saves wear and tear on the animals.

In the last decade of Mesa County ranching, marketing depended on the railroad. Some livestock yards in Whitewater, De Beque, Arapahoe and Grand Junction. The Dakota yards (owned for the Durban cattle brand, west of Grand Junction, operated into the 1950s. There were also a few local slaughter houses, such as the McQueen Slaughter House near Fruita, in business from 1920 to 1945.

Open range caused many problems. One seasonal quarrel broke between Charles Sieber and Joe Harris. Sieber owned the S-Cross on Glade Park in partnership with the Thatcher brothers of Peabody. He had animals in Colorado in the 1880s and came to the Western Slope to establish his spread in 1895. One of his employees was Joe Harris, who got in fern his own ranch with headquarters in Whitewater, Utah. Each man asked the other of branding. On August 25, 1892, when Sieber crossed onto Harris's land, Harris rode to meet him. The two argued. Harris drew a gun and, apparently hearing Sieber, shot him off his horse. Joe Harris had a well-publicized and self-administered trial. He was convicted of manslaughter, later serving in his ranch. One day he ran into Joe Dick, who had worked for Sieber. Joe shot Harris, reportedly calling out, "That's for Charles Sieber."



Producers Agree to the mid 1940s indicate that one-half of Mesa County's income was derived from livestock and livestock products, including one-half million pounds of wool per year shipped to market.

In the 1890s sheep entered the cowboy's domain. Sheep were more docile animals, easier on the move in flocks of as many as 40,000 "woolies", their owners not always having a permanent home. They could live on the desert ranch better than cattle, because they did not have the same need for water. Herders drove their flocks to summer pasture in the high country, arriving before the cattle, and, so the cowboys believed, destroying and contaminating the range. Thousands of hoofs tore up the grasslands, and corals, supposedly, would not drink water where sheep had been. In the fall, the sheep were trailed along the rivers

and down of the Grand Valley and into Utah where they would winter. In the spring they landed and were sheared before starting their journey back to the high country. One eyewitness recalled a herd that started across the Fifth Street bridge in Grand Junction at 6:00 a.m. and did not stop until eight o'clock that night.

The local sheep and cattle "wars" were soon underway. According to local legend, in 1894, when sheep were being brought into the De Beque area, cattlemen, hiding their faces with bandanas, rode to the place where the sheep were loaded down. The armed and disguised men forced three herds of sheep over a handy dip, killing and suffocating 1,800 of them. They also shot a hawker, filling his ponies with buckshot. The Road herd of 825 sheep was forced over a cliff in Platons Canyon, two men were tried for the crime. One, Peter Swanson, a herder, was shot at Kanab Creek in 1907.

Another incident involved argona goats. Mrs. Nancy Irving, living at the base of the Colorado National Monument, had her herd of prairie-goat sheep swamped over a cliff.

One of the bloodiest slaughters took place in 1898 on the Mesa-Gilfield County-Utah state line. S.A. Taylor and R.A. Tansley had their herd in an area which cattle could not use. Nevertheless, fifteen cowboys rode into their respective range one morning, rounded up and gagged the herders and keepers, leaving them in the hot sun all day, while they slaughtered, snuff, and bled as many as 4,000 sheep.

Few participants in the sheep and cattle "battles" admitted their activities. Authorities were usually unable to determine who was responsible and, when a case occasionally came to trial, juries usually acquitted the accused.

The range was stepped when the Forest Reserve acquired the top of Grand Mesa, limiting free range, and the Taylor Grazing Act (1904) legislated permits and regulations for the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service. All public land was surveyed. Ranchers had to purchase grazing permits for specified numbers of animals, and had to have a base ranch for their animals in use at least four months of the year in order to obtain the permits. Many sheepmen, having no permanent base, were unable to qualify. Large outfits could not afford to maintain extensive land-use permits on reaching beyond a family-oriented business with more care and concern given to the animals. At present, there is a program allowing sheep to graze only in the seasons because they will not damage which does not harm them, but it is deadly to cattle. Sheep are then moved to higher pastures. By the time the cattle are ready to move to summer pastures, the grass has regrown.



Clayton's Blue Glen is one of the best known dairies in Mesa County. Established in 1911 by Paul and Mabel Clayton on Orchard Mesa, it is operated by Duane Clayton and family.

Dairying developed as one of Mesa County's major enterprises. As early as the summer of 1893, two Mesa County herds were created in a tributary Cow Testing Association. Since then, testing as a means of herd improvement has been constant, and a number of breeders associations have grown from this beginning.

Early in 1910 committees from four cooperative organizations on the Western Slope met in Grand Junction and Delta to form the Western

Colorado Marketing Association. They were then advised into the Challenge Cream and Dairy Association, and, later, into the Land O' Lakes Dairy Cooperative. That year, the newly formed Platons Valley Creamery Association of Colbymen moved across for having the best butter at the Los Angeles Challenge. There it earned a government grade of 50, the highest in the commercial butter industry. (The city of Mesa County's liquor, was on the west end of Orchard Mesa, delivered all throughout World War II in spite of restrictions on gasoline and a shortage of help; other items included Minko Gold and Cadillacs.) Today a few small dairies are still producing.

Hogs and poultry have not been important factors in the county's economy. The Appleton area may have had more commercial production of hogs and fowl than other districts. Raising these animals is usually a sideline on cattle or sheep ranches. Many farmers' wives collected money from sales of their eggs, "egg money" was used for their personal needs. Sometimes this bit of cash got the family over rough times.

In the summer months just past here. The Grand Valley has had yields and grasses since irrigation first watered the land. The high country, particularly in the Collihan area, has two cuttings of hay if the weather cooperates, the lower valleys may get three or, very rarely, four. Early haystacks were made with a Murrens stork, a device which, when a hay is slipped under a load of hay, swings it over to the stack. It is a dangerous operation, for the crews can get caught in the ropes and pulleys. Haystacks occasionally give way to bales. Now machines make round bales and mini-stacks and the number of people needed to put up hay declines with each machine. One man can do a job that required as many as fifteen in the early years of this century.



During the boom and bust cycles, one of the cash incomes for many Kanab Creek families was live hay sales. After hay was cut and dried, it was stacked with cattle and a derrick, derrick was pulled by horse. Photo: Murrens and Nye's hayrack.

Animal prices were high in World War I but dipped in the mid-twenties. The Depression forced ranchers to take drastic measures. The federal government, under a New Deal program, paid ranchers to liquidate their herds of pigs, sheep, and goats. Economic conditions forced John Bond of Fruita to slaughter his 4,300 argona goats. He gave the meat to the people who helped him; the government paid \$1.40 for each goat hide and \$1.00 a head for sheep.

For years, cowboys for their horses ran stations in the Bookcliff. Dave Knight of De Beque would capture horses in the spring for his summer string. Some of them became wild, particularly after Knight became ill in the 1960s. Over the years, the wild herd grew to an unmanageable size, grazing the range to a point where a sun in danger of desiccation. The Bureau of Land Management began rounding up horses, planning to sell them for dog food. However, the WildFire Rounding Horse and Burro Act of 1971 was enacted, calling for the protection of all unclaimed horses. The Little Bookcliff Wild Horse Range, encompassing 17,712 acres, was dedicated November 7, 1980. Animals which are given to be accommodated to the refuge are given to people who will care for them.

Knight had tried interbreeding beef and buckles during World War I, one of the early experiments in "backhoes." He had bred a Hereford bull with a buffalo cow so that the mother would not strain when delivering a humped baby.

Radices are traditional in Mesa Courts. Fruits has had the Cuzco-punch! location where cowboys showed off their skills for years. Backing horses were brought in from Wyoming, Shanty Creek, Lake Shere, and others set the tone for dandy riding. Colburn's sodas was famous throughout the country with big stars on top the radio glasses. Colburn still stages junior rodeos for young people. Life Begins sodas are weekend attractions throughout the Western Slope. In late summer Uranium Downs on Orchard Mesa hosts a rodeo in conjunction with the County Fair. The Mesa County Sheriff's posse hosts the Colorado Stampede in early summer.

Early in Grand Junction history, a race track was located where Lincoln Park is today. Hams came from as far away as Missouri to compete with local hams and bats ran into the thousands of dollars. As the city grew, the race track moved to Five Fountains, at Seventh and Broadway. Now there is legions racing at Uranium Downs in the fall.



Breeds have been and are important recreational pastimes. For many years cowboys made their skills at the Annual Cuzco-punch Rodeo in Frisco. After the mid 1970s the Sheriff's posse has organized the annual Colorado Stampede in Grand Junction.

William Stone Collection

Water

Three large rivers and many creeks and streams flow through Mesa Courts. The Colorado River, first known locally as the Grand, was renamed the Colorado in 1811, by joint consent of various parties including the federal government and the state of Colorado. The other two rivers in the county, the Gunnison and the Dolores, flow into the Colorado, the former at Grand Junction, the latter in Utah. Each of the three rivers is inflated by many Mesa County creeks. Horn Creek, Piatina Creek, and Rapid Creek are among those joining the Colorado River. Kanawh Creek flows into the Gunnison River from its source on Grand Mesa. East Creek drains Uranium Canyon on the east end, and West Creek drains the Uranium to the Dolores River at Gateway. State reservoirs at Vega and Highline hold water for irrigation and domestic purposes.

Possibly the most urgent problem for the first settlers was water — how to bring it to their families and livestock, how to control and purify it, and how to share it. Generally, farmers built their own small ditches, then joined their neighbors in larger efforts, and finally formed, or joined

as shareholders in, the large ditch companies. At first water came from rivers or creeks close to the farms, but as the population increased and agricultural development began, ditches soon constructed requiring capital for big headgates, pumps, and siphons. Because of valley contours, ditches have been built. Most of the valley has been irrigated from ditches originating south and east of Clinton or east of Dolores.



The Freeman place in Appleton is shown here in 1903. The family moved into the cabin in 1895, and, like many others, were waiting for completion of the Highline Canal.

Thomas of Western Colorado General Collection

Without ditches, most of Mesa Courts would have remained a desert. The first water project was the Grand Valley Ditch. It was conceived in late October 1881 by Palisade area ranchmen William McMahon, Elias S. Oldham, William Cline, and John Bagley. When entrepreneur Matt Arch charged the project in January 1883, he changed the name to the Grand River Ditch.

A second irrigation project known as the Pioneer Ditch East Mesa County Ditch began as early as March 1, 1881. It was surveyed by J.P. Harlow and Patrick Fitzpatrick, but was not officially incorporated and registered until January 31, 1884. The Pioneer Ditch was completed by April 23, 1882, and supplied water for the land south of the ditch later that summer.

Work on the Pacific Slope Ditch began on March 23, 1882, to supply water to the growing city of Grand Junction by July 1 of the same year. The headgate and point of origin of the ditch were on the Grand River east of Clinton Reservoir above the present-day Clinton water treatment plant at 510 34 Road.

The extreme speed in which the early ditches were constructed resulted in poor construction. After the Pioneer and Pacific Slope ditches were about six months old, the Grand Junction News reported that the ditches seemed torn to be "a wasteful condition, the streams often becoming irreparable due to overflow."

A fourth ditch, the Ranchmen's Ditch Company, was organized in December 1882. The purpose of the project was to irrigate the fertile alluvial north and west of the area served by the Pioneer Ditch, as well as to carry domestic water to Fairview (Fruita was founded in that



This map of early canal systems in the immediate Grand Junction area was drawn by J.D. Moore, based on original surveys by Dan Davidson. The Independent Ranchmen's Ditch and Highline Canal did not appear because both lie south of this area.



Ferries transported passengers and freight before bridges were built. In 1902 one encountered by Field Columbian Museum expedition members headed jadedly here from Durango 2300 feet Fruita across the Colorado River (see page 25 photograph used by permission of the Field Museum of Natural History)

area in 1884. When criticized for sinking money into a canal of their own instead of supporting Matt Arch's Grand River Ditch, the principal members comprising the company voted to change their name to the Independent Ranchmen's Ditch.

The Pioneer Extension Ditch Company was incorporated on December 15, 1883. The purpose of the Pioneer Extension was to "irrigate land along the line of said ditch and for milling and manufacturing purposes." The Pioneer Extension was completed by early spring of 1884. It started at the Pioneer water gate at Fourth and Tiber, running about three miles to the northeast, emptying into the Grand River Ditch.

Although the Pioneer Ditch and Pioneer Extension were separate organizations, from over possible legal ramifications due to the similarity of names led the Pioneer Ditch Association to seek help for a new corporation to be known as the Mesa County Ditch Co. in January 1894. Soon after the Pioneer Extension was completed, a flood demolished the concrete headgate of the Mesa County and Pioneer Extension, a flood demolished the concrete headgate of the Mesa County and Pioneer Extension, a flood demolished the concrete headgate of the Mesa County and Pioneer Extension, a flood demolished the concrete headgate of the Mesa County and Pioneer Extension.

Work on the Grand River Ditch had proceeded feverishly in 1883, and on May 16, 1883 the ditch was opened. Construction continued, but Matt Arch had run out of funding. In August 1883 the Colorado Land and Trust Company granted a \$75,000 loan for further work. Theodore C. Henry, company president and holder of W.E. Hilder's Fruita Town Company, purchased Arch's interest in the project for \$20,000 and hired Fisher as general manager. By the spring of 1884 the entire project was completed, including the mainline and Fruita branch.

In November 1884 the Bureau of Land and Trust interest in the Grand River Ditch was sold to Trustees Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut, and by May 1885 Trustees had become the major stockholder. Efforts were undertaken by February 1886 to consolidate the Mesa County, Pioneer Extension, and Independent Ranchmen's ditches into one corporate entity with the Grand River Ditch. The consolidation occurred, but financial problems confronted. Trustees purchased the ditch in 1888 as public action and the Grand Valley Canal Company was incorporated. Former owner Colorado Land and Trust Company, incensed by the public sale, filed suit. "Null and void" was the judicial verdict, and the property returned to the individuals who had owned it before Trustees. The unincorporated water owners formed the Grand Valley Irrigation Company and acquired the company from John D. Brockway in 1894. The canal was again under local ownership.

In 1894 Frank, Ben and Joe Kiefer began a Hrivak extension of the Grand Valley Canal highline. They met with a Hrivak Irrigation representative and agreed to utilize waste water from the Grand Valley Canal, making it possible to irrigate 12,000 acres of new land under irrigation in the Lyons and Mack area. In January 1879 the Kiefer Extension merged with the Grand Valley Irrigation Company.

With the acquisition of the Kiefer Extension, today's Grand Valley Canal system includes 100 miles of ditch, providing water to nearly 50,000 acres of land. Agriculture is still the major use, though emphasis has switched toward growing food for humans, rather than animal consumption.

By the early 1800s about 40,000 acres of land were under irrigation in the Grand Valley. Thousands of acres still lay out of reach of existing irrigation projects, and public discussion began as early as 1889 about building a "Highline" canal to water lands north of the then-present

system. Early attempts to build such a canal failed in 1888 (the Grand Valley Water Users offered to provide \$134,000 against \$125,000 from the federal government). With approval, construction began the following year. A change of administration slowed another delay, and construction did not resume until October 3, 1942. The canal was 57 miles long, with three tunnels in the first six miles. Total project cost was estimated at \$4,900,000.

The decision date for the Highline project is eight miles east of Palisade, located after an experimental German design and the largest such structure in the United States at the time of construction. The only significant delay occurred when the ship carrying the German-fabricated rollers



The Highline diversion dam above Palisade was modeled after an experimental design. It was the largest ever built in the United States. John Day was appointed chief engineer of the Highline Project in 1915.

Edward Valley General Collection

was sunk by a British warship during the growing war in Europe. New rollers arrived, and the first water to seep under the ditch was turned into the canal in June 1915. Water for crops as distant as Fruita was flowing through the system by the next growing season. Ditch construction was completed in 1917 and 1948 and the main artery of the canal was completed.

The Highline eventually began supplying water to the Price and Clark ditches in Fruita. The existing Orchard Mesa Canal was replaced in the 1920s when a siphon was built under the Colorado River to take water from the Highline south to the Orchard Mesa system.

The Orchard Mesa Irrigation District had originated in 1905, building a dam nine miles upstream from Palisade. Water was pumped along a wooden flume to a power plant near Palisade. The Bureau of Reclamation took over the district in 1922, with rapid response on potential land productivity. In 1941 the Bureau's annual report noted the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District at the top of non-perennial value of water on all its projects. In March 1993 this ditch attracted national news when a landslide caused the collapse of Tunnel Number Three. Crews worked day and night to repair it so that crops would be irrigated, water was running again by May 16, 1990 and the peaches and field crops were saved.

In January 30, 1894 John H. Willington was divided land by the Union Stock Investors. His land was split between a section irrigated by the Grand Valley Canal, and an area to the west known as Moseley Heights, uphill from the Canal. In November 1894 he received permission to build a huge wooden water shaft, placing it in the ditch to lift water and deliver it (transversely) through a wooden flume to his orchard.

The Lower Valley was the first served by Independent Ranchmen's Ditch, then by the Grand Valley Canal and the Highline Canal. There are also smaller ditches, Glad Park, Glasnow, and Whiteoaker were built, primarily owned ditches. In De Beque there was the Mountain, the Latham added an extension, operating it much like those of the Grand Valley.

In Palisade, Valley farmers had to build reservoirs to maintain an adequate water supply. Most of the reservoirs on Grand Mesa were literally dug by hand and with horse teams and scorpers. The first four were on Big Creek, an area now part of Grand Mesa National Forest. Bertha and Ardisson Reservoirs were the first, built between 1888 and 1903. When the Ardisson Reservoir dam failed in 1911, water flooded on Big Creek and Piatina Creek, resulting in the most recorded damage prior to 1942.

One ditch that may be said to have failed was the Sunnyside Ditch, located in the Barstow Mesa area. Local rain built the ditch to divert



John A. Williams, a local engineer, secured permission to build his waterwheel in 1896. Found in the Grand Valley Grand a tidal water in the orchard ward of present-day Montezuma Heights. (via Joe Robinson)

water from Bassett Creek and carry it in flumes and ditches to the Southwest. The first ditch, begun in 1905, was soon filled with adobe, but Jim Clever pointed and had water running in it for two years. Several people bought land, planted trees and thought they would have another Eden. However, conflict developed in the company. Clever gave up, and lawsuits were filed. The ditch and water were soon gone.

The Redlands Irrigation Company was founded in 1905 (incorporated in 1906). A pumping station was built on the Grand (now Colorado) River, and by 1907 the land was under irrigation.



This photograph is identified as the farmhouse of the first Grand Junction waterworks. It was built by N.J. Emery in 1885-1887. (Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction)

A private company was formed which built a pumping station on the Grand River near the present site of the Fifth Street Bridge. This station provided tap water in 1888. By 1890 the standpipe on Seventh and Curry had been built, so there was enough pressure to extend the lines. A controversy arose — get water from the mountain (expensive), or get it from the Colorado River (not as good as mountain water), so

in the middle of this town battle, the women started a drive for a sewer system and won. By 1902 the town had a system which dumped its waste into the Colorado River, sewage filtration developed later.

The town water question was still not resolved. Some irrigation wells had been dug, but they proved impractical, although a few are still used. The mountain water proposal was put on the shelf and a municipal pumping station was constructed on the Grosvenor Flats, pumping water to a reservoir on Bassett Hill. This plant was working in 1905.

Water supplies were still inadequate, so trucks were again used to get good water, and Grand Junction decided to take water from Kenneth Creek. The town acquired it by eminent domain, but not without having to fight the Kenneth Creek farmers who wanted payment. Although neither side was satisfied, both the town and the farmers abided by the court's decision. Grand Junction celebrated Water Day on August 4, 1911, when mountain water flowed through town pipes. The system has been expanded to include reservoirs on the top of Grand Mesa. Many of the outlying districts are served by Use Water, which takes water from the Colorado River side of Grand Mesa. The Use Water Conservancy District was formed in 1954.

Other municipalities have solved their domestic water problems in differing ways. Coffman taps a spring and pumps its water to a reservoir above town, using gravity to deliver water to the houses. Mesa has a deep well. Gateway is served by private wells.

According to a 1908 report, Palisade had a water works with a reservoir two miles east of town and 250 feet above water came from Palisade Creek. In 1911 a new flowline from Palisade to the reservoir was completed. Clifton established a water district in 1951 and, complete with Grand Junction, built a municipal water treatment plant, taking water from the Colorado River.

Fruita's system has been venerable. Over 25 miles long and established in the first decade of the century, it took water from Pines Mesa, through a pipeline across the Colorado National Monument, across the Colorado River under the old Frisco bridge, before delimiting it to the town. Financed in 1927, it has changed little, other than having to adjust to course changes of the Colorado River. Currently, Use Water supplies the Fruita system.

For decades farms had centers filled with irrigation water. Long handled pumps that always needed priming served many small farmers. After Grand Valley Rural Water Lines came into being in the mid-1930s, pressure systems became increasingly available. Artisan well centers began to sell water to rural residents. In 1980 there are 29 artisan wells in the Grand Valley area and others on Glade Park.

Two elaborate fountains for animals were built at Fifth and Reed and on Seventh between Main and Colorado Avenues in 1908. The city wanted them when a group of local women asked the National Humane Alliance for them. This national group would give a preferred fountain to the local government if it would be installed for animal use. A half fountain is currently displayed outside the Museum of Western Colorado.



Silvan Smith, a 1902 graduate of Grand Junction High School, was a leading water rights lawyer. He helped anchor the Colorado River Compact, secured with voting several conservation interests. Western Slope water projects, and helped anchor Mesa County's stock-raising agreement. He assisted with the founding of the Grand Junction Livestock Club, writing up its first constitution. Grand Junction of Western Colorado Grand Junction

Commerce and Industry

During its first century, Mesa County's economy was being largely dictated by rains "boom and bust" cycles. Although statistics such as rising unemployment figures indicate the current economic downturn was underway by early last year (1982), the slump was exacerbated by the pullout of Exxon USA from development of its oil shale holdings in adjacent Garfield County on May 2. The announcement of the shutdown is known locally as "Black Shedsley." Other boom/bust periods have involved agriculture and uranium.

Early Mesa County promoters prophesied the area would grow, with Grand Junction developing into a commercial and manufacturing center. Time, money and energy went into promotions ranging from entries of agricultural produce in national fairs to pamphlets describing benefits for businesses relocating in the region.

With the railroad's arrival in Grand Junction in 1882, the town began developing as the retail center of the Western Slope. Stores were established to serve an area reaching from Grand, Colorado to Price, Utah. The first stock of goods arrived December 18, 1881, and the first store opened. William C. Johnson, owner of the Grand Junction House (near the Randall House), in January 1882.

By the summer of 1882, the town contained four general stores, one drug store, two blacksmith shops, three hotels and restaurants, and seven saloons. Among the stores arriving that September were the Granddall brothers who opened the first brick building on Main Street and handled the first bank in the Mesa County. In 1894, the retail community numbered 60 businesses.



From 1884 to 1941, the J. E. John Harris Block in Bassett Canyon offered rest and food. By 1935, an inn was officially established, furnishing excellent chicken dinners. Before World War II, it was headquarters for Cheyenne Field Museum paleontologists working in the vicinity. (Wild West Museum of Grand Junction, Colorado)

Other Mesa County communities also grew rapidly. Platteau City in its early years had an academy (later Host-Ross Business College). Coffman grew to include over 100 homes by 1925. In 1908, Palisade was described as having "a little line of business stretching from the train depot about five blocks." In 1980, the same year that the Interstate reached Fruita, Mabel Skinner was crowned queen of the National Apple Show.

Fruit marketing groups were incorporated in Palisade and Grand Junction. The Grand Junction Fruit Growers Association was formed in 1894 to market Grand Valley fruit. Palisade growers organized their own cooperative in 1904 and in 1911 became the Western Slope Association. The nonprofit cooperative United Fruit Growers Association was formed in 1913. In 1939 the Board of Control (Fruit Administration) Committee was created. These organizations helped farmers obtain higher prices for their products through group bargaining.

The Lattin-Groves Chemical Company was established in Grand Junction in 1905. The company, one of the largest in the United States, manufactured chemical and oil products, and exports. From Palisade to Fruita a great carbon operation often took water one mile of a valley's narrow scope. The Curtis Cartridge Company opened in 1912 in Grand Junction, it was purchased by Kuno-Emerson in 1935. Camerico also mined in Fruita and Loma, where in 1943 the Sabatier company was active.

Early mining booms in the Unsworth Canyon before the turn of the century resulted in the two best towns of Pearl City and Copper. Gold



The four Fraser brothers, Paul W., Fred, Lee G. and Clarence, opened Western Colorado's first "automobile" in 1919. From its Grand Junction inception, the City Market chain has grown to 28 stores in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. (via Marie Gilchrist)

was found in small quantities on Bassett Creek in 1882 and on the Colorado River in 1914, as well as in the Unsworth area. Oil shale booms have occurred in the 1920s, the 1950s and the 1970s. Whitewater in the early 1920s served as a shipping point for vanadium ores, and Grand Junction became the center of the uranium boom in the early 1950s. In March 1953 bank deposits in Grand Junction alone were predicted to be \$1.5 million. The county population was approximately 24,000, and for a 22-year-old, its production was staggering. In 1954 its manufactured products (including dairy products, frozen corn meal, sugar, canned goods, etc.) were valued at \$1,330,000, its mining (gold and oil) at \$58,000, and agricultural products (fruit, honey, potatoes, sugar beets, alfalfa, livestock and cereals) at \$4,372,000. Elmer Hubbard, a noted figure of the day, called Mesa County "one laughing garden of flowers and fruit."

Early banks followed the pattern of settlement. Within the first six years, the Bank of Grand Junction (eventually the First National Bank), Grand Junction Building & Loan, Frisco Building & Loan (later Mesa Federal), and the Mesa County Bank were organized. The Bank of Grand Junction began operations in a store, as did the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Fruita. The J.W. Hagan chain operated a bank in correlation with their store at Palisade; a Hagan store was also operated in Clifton. Eight conventional banks, eight savings and loan associations and four irregular banks are listed in the 1983 Grand Junction city directory.



"Operation Foreigner" changed Grand Junction's aging Main Street into a retail destination shopping center in 1962. Fruita's became the premier one completed without federal assistance; it earned the town the designation of "All-American City." (via Paul Glendon of Commerce Collaborative)

All the major communities have had downtown shopping areas. To permit its downtown to effectively compete against a growing trend toward shopping centers, Grand Junction began remodeling Main Street in 1962. "Operation Foreigner" turned the shopping area into a walking outdoor mall, with trees, flower beds, and covered benches for weary shoppers. Sevens and most improvements stopped the retail and water problems that had been a major cause of collapse. The National Municipal League and Look Magazine named Grand Junction All-American City in 1983 for the most beautiful development of a downtown.

area without federal or state aid, especially noted was the close cooperation between city, county school director, and Mesa College. In September 1965, sales figures revealed the payroll 53.6% for the dormitories area, 11.5% Teller Area area, 15.1% North-Aurora, and 19.8% for the rest of the city.

Shopping centers have become an important part of Mesa County. Teller Area, the first, was built in 1968, followed by Engauge Mesa Mall, the first indoor shopping mall in the area, opened in 1979. Several shopping centers are being completed in Clinton in 1985. Wholesale and jobbing businesses in the county have been prominent in growth years. One early jobber was R.J. Derry, a tobacco, cigar and confection house which opened in 1890. C.C. Smith moved to Grand Junction in 1900 and took over a small retail drug store. In 1910 a wholesale drug house was opened.

Permeating the advantages of doing business in Mesa County has always been important. Chambers of Commerce and other promotional organizations have been formed in virtually every section of the county. Chambers currently exist in Grand Junction, Palisade, Fruita and the Platte Valley area.



One of the proprietors of the Hotel Whitewater was Mrs. M.E. Wright. In 1920, rooms were 17c and 30c, and breakfast made 25c. Long distance connections are available through the Colorado Telephone Company. (Photo Courtesy: Mrs. Robert Stewart, Grand Junction)

The LaCour Hotel in Grand Junction was famous for its cuisine, its dining room could seat up to 270 persons. Other early hotels included the St. Regis Grand Junction, Jordan Inn (Palisade), the Whitewater Hotel, the Oms (Collbran), the McDowell Hotel (De Beque), the Platte City House, and the Utah Hotel (Mack).



Eaton family in a former lobby named romantically James Hotel. A five-roomed apartment area in 1880 housing by Chas and Hester. It was purchased by Mary and Fred in 1906, and it was managed by James and Doug Stewart. (Photo Courtesy: Mrs. Robert Stewart, Grand Junction)

Gray Building operates a hydrocarbon cracking facility outside Fruita to produce oil products. Local electronics companies, which began making major centers for the vacuum tubes in the 1950s, are now making a variety of meters and other sophisticated hardware. Atomic Engineering and General Motors became Dinosaur, Incorporated, making meters and other electronic paraphernalia at a facility on Orchard Mesa. Other electronics companies include Tri-Star, Capson and Ultronic.

Teller Mesa County is known for a few luxury items as well as the ordinary. Erstrom's Candles is known internationally for its alcohol soaps. Marston Mountain Works produces ultra-tagged sleeping bags and outdoor wear that have reached the summit of Mt. Everest. Headlines in 1980 revealed jewelry, dresses, and accessories in the local economy. Despite the factors indicated, Mesa County construction kept a steady dynamic pace. Buildings under construction or completed in 1980 totaled \$137,427,338.00. The largest was the \$9 million Grand Junction Hilton Inn located near Interstate 70 on Horizon Drive. Mesa Mall reached tenant occupancy, and the Mesa Forum (68 million) and Plaza (35 million) shopping centers were being built. Ruskies Towers (62.5 million) was under construction, ground had been broken for the new state office building (65 million), and Mesa County School District #51 had spent more than \$20 million on new schools and improvements.



J.S. Shaw's Mines, Inc. was one of the first automotive dealerships in Grand Junction. In 1920 it advertised line of cars and trucks included Studebaker, Endless Six and Pierce-Arrow. In 1980 Mesa County dealers handle all domestic and foreign makes. (Photo by Mrs. J. Earl Shaw, Colorado)

Transportation

The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad has played a vital role in the economic development of Mesa County than any other railroad or alternative form of transportation. One of the largest and longest lived railroads, it has not only shipped produce, livestock and manufactured goods to nationwide markets, but has also served as an inland conduit for seafarers, supplies and communications.

Early in the fall of 1881 the Denver, South Park and Pacific (DSP&P) and the Denver and Rio Grande (DR&G) railroads both completed across into the Grand Valley. The DR&G acquired half the stock in the Grand Junction Traction Company (to ensure a continued commitment of aid to the town) and in late November 1882 ransue gave Mesa County Grand Junction from the south over what the Grand Junction News called the "longest railroad bridge in the state." On March 30, 1883 the railroad reached the Utah line. Mesa County was on a transcontinental corridor.

Grand Junction, as the joining point of two major rivers, provided a natural division point for the railroad. A roundhouse, Queen Anthony depot, coal loading facilities and repair shop were built in the town yards. In 1883 numerous supplies were removed from Grand Junction, and a year later most of the repair work was transferred. A depot was also constructed at Whitesave.

In 1886 two other railroads, the Union Pacific and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, were apparently interested in constructing lines in northwestern Colorado, especially through the Grand Valley. To forestall competition, in 1889 the DR&G and rival Colorado Midland created a new organization, the Rio Grande Junction Company, to build a jointly-owned standard gauge railroad from Rifle Creek (offshore New Castle) to Grand Junction. It purchased the Green Creek T&N Road (between De Beque-Carleton) as a railroad spur, and in November 1890 the Rio Grande Junction was opened to traffic; the rails were subsequently widened to Salt Lake City.

When the railroad arrived from the east, it encouraged the development of the upper valley. In 1892 the Hatchback post office was named Collins in honor of the Colorado Midland's general manager; this was apparently an unsuccessful attempt to attract a railroad line to the Platte Valley. De Beque became a major livestock shipping point. In 1914, 742 carsload of beef, 20 of horses, 20 of sheep and several of hogs were sent from there.

Throughout its first century of local operation, the railroad has been affected by local, state and national events, as have all other segments of the economy. By 1921 some 603 workers were employed locally during the Great Depression; this number fell sharply, increasing again during World War II.

The California Zephyr, established in 1949, offered transcontinental convenience and domed observation cars for passengers to observe the spectacular scenery. The DR&G luxury train was replaced in April 1983 by Amtrak.

With diesel introduction in the early 1940s, engine types changed and fuel consumption declined. In April 1983 passenger and freight service from Grand Junction to Salt Lake City was temporarily suspended and one-half of the work force was laid-off when a landslide near Tinsdale, Utah closed down rail traffic for several months.

Another small railroad, the Little Book Club, connected Grand Junction with W.T. Carpenter's coal mines and copper mine. Bookkeeper Carpenter, completed in 1902, it hauled coal to the terminal on West Main. The line housed many excursions including family-oriented annual Memorial Day trips. During periods could the "gravel" (a collection of boards bolted together and attached to handcar wheels, coasting into Grand Junction, staying and staying at a thrilling speed. "Bookie" Ericson Isaac Wyman acquired both mines and railroad in 1944. In 1957 Mountain Equipment Company acquired the property from Princeton University and scrapped the line.

The Utah Railway ran from Mack to Dugout, Utah to haul glaciolite in a featured series of the steepest climbs of any railroad in the world. In the six miles south of Beaver Pass (named for Fred Bauer, surveyor), the grade fell 2,100 feet. The railroad's peak rate was 192 when 34,511 tons of glaciolite were transported from the Utah Basin mines over the Bookkeeper to the junction with the Denver and Rio Grande Western at Mack. The line had nine engines, six flatcars, three boxcars, three sleeping cars and two coaches. The last run on the Utah rail Mack Roadster, May 18, 1939.



The Utah Railway was constructed in 1904 to haul the only commercially important deposit of glaciolite in the world from Dugout, Utah to Mack. (Photo Courtesy: Mrs. Robert Stewart, Grand Junction)

The first public municipal transportation, a horse-drawn streetcar, operated in Grand Junction from 1890 to 1905. Its line extended from the DR&G depot up Second Street to Tinsdale, along to Tenth Street, and from Second Street east to connect with the Little Book Club. The operation was acquired by the city in 1893.

When the streetcar tracks were taken up, Grand Junction was without public transportation. Six years later, May 22, 1898, electric streetcar service began, running down Main Street to Tinsdale, along to Tenth Street, Guavavina Avenue and Fourth Street. Built by the Colorado Springs Electric Railway Company, it was financed in part by Colorado Springs investors.

The formation of the Grand Junction and Grand River Valley Railway Co. was in 1909. It purchased local providers, including electric, gas



The Rio Grande "California Zephyr" was one of the most photographed trains in the U.S. The last great luxury train without government subsidy (DR&G 1903) made its final run to Grand Junction in March. It was replaced by Amtrak's "California Zephyr." (Photo Courtesy: Mrs. Robert Stewart, Grand Junction)

and ice plants and became the holding company for the street car, public utilities and interurban propositions.

In 1928 Utah Railway's Public Service Company purchased the utility company, including electrical line and interurban. After the structure failed to find a man in 1936, Western Slope Motor Way took the place of attention for a short time; Public Service covered the route from 1928 to 1932.

The Interurban, hauling passengers and freight, commed from Grand Junction to Fruita. Dedicated July 34, 1902, it was specifically designed to haul freight in refrigerate cars from orchards to terminal. Further excursions were planned, but not completed.

From its inception, the Interurban ran from 6 AM until the last train left Fruita at 11 PM. Fares were low but stiff, stop were frequent, and there were special excursions and a school bus. Interurban passenger service continued until 1928, and freight until 1935, when the line was dismantled.

A variety of bus and freight services have served Mesa County. The Platte Valley Stagecoach, founded before 1850, carried mail, freight and passengers from Grand Junction until 1883, a similar operation served Carleton and Union (Montrose) County. Bus service between Palisade and Grand Junction was reportedly in operation around 1921. Western Slope Motor Way, a Rio Grande subsidiary managed by Vic De Mendonca, briefly operated the city passenger service in 1926, and took over Interurban passenger service in 1928. Public Service Company ran the municipal passenger service from 1926 to 1932. John Hayden's Utah Stage Line served the Western Slope Motor Way line until 1944. The Stage, a county-fund operated in mass transit, ran for one year beginning in January 1962, succeeded by Utahair, a transportation program for the elderly. Trailways Incorporated, a national bus system, has served the county for 49 years.

Many Indian trails guided settlers in the beginning. One of the earliest roads in Mesa County was the Salt Lake-Wagon Road, crossing the area before it was open for settlement. On April 26, 1861, the county commissioners decided that "roads be established on all section lines of Mesa County and the three existing roads be improved."

One of the first roads built connected Grand Junction with Harrah (Collbran), over Rapid Creek and the Highback. Another 1899 road was completed from Main Street to Tinsdale, up Main to Seventh, and from Second Street east to connect with the Little Book Club. The present route (Highway 65) was completed in 1911, when State Representative contests were brought in to put the first 1-1/2 miles of the road on the north side of the creek. This route, connecting with De Beque Canyon (Platteau Creek) to De Beque, was the main highway between Grand Junction and De Beque before the road in De Beque Canyon was finished; it was later part of the Pilot Peak-Oxmoor-Oxmoor Highway.

The Ross Creek Toll Road, between Grand Junction and Glenwood Springs, was proposed by investors in both towns. Built on the north side of De Beque Canyon, it was first traversed on December 14, 1865,



A lady being swept to sleep by Dr. W. E. A. de Beque's daughter Eliza on her first trip to Colorado, ca. 1880. On January 21, 1889 de Beque recorded in his diary, "Marie this night informs me that she was her best friend in honor of my family." (Courtesy of Bruce Colclough)

and was used by the Grand Junction stage as well as private wagons. Even though the toll was \$2.50, the road did not make money, but added up to \$38,000 when the D&RG purchased the right-of-way in 1899. After the railroad was built on the north side of the Colorado River, a horse road on the south side was widened and cleared for automobiles. Later graded and improved, it is today the I-70 route through De Beque Canyon.

The first automobiles arrived in the county before 1900. Makes included Ross, Parkards, Chevrolts, Ramblers, Cadillac, Michels, Overlands, and the most common, the Model T Ford. Fewer of both sexes, all occupations, could and did drive cars. By the 1930s trucks were common.



This car, owned by the Stone family, was an E.M.F. shipped from Philadelphia in 1914 and was one of the first in the Gateway area. (Gift of Mrs. J. Earl Stone Colclough)

In 1909 the new State Highway Commission approved building two state roads in Monto County: one from Grand Junction to Montrose, the other from Grand Junction to the Utah line. By 1910, talk of a transcontinental highway had developed. The federal government had announced it would sponsor such a highway, to be surfaced in both or concrete. Grand Valley automobilists backed the Millard Trail. They participated in a survey of the route from Mack into Utah, for \$700 to \$1,000 that portion of the highway could be and was completed in September 1912. Grand Valley cars and drivers took eleven days to go from the end of that road to Salt Lake City. Despite these efforts, federal funds were to the Overland Trail, north of Colorado. Yet the Millard Trail made a start. Grand Junction was no longer isolated from the rest of the nation by a lack of highways. The National Highway Association, a private organization, established a Millard Trail Department and a Blue Book Overland-Ocean Department, headquartered in Grand Junction, to promote transcontinental travel. In 1911 those routes became part of Highway 24.

The first pavement in Grand Junction was a four-block section of Main, paved by 1903. In 1910 the community joint county commissioners in participating the Forest Service to build a road across Grand Mesa, following the old Skyway Road of 1915. The Forest Service contributed \$12,000, the local governments, \$4,000. In 1920 and 1921, roads to Rangely and Gateway were built. Part of Douglas Pass was completed in 1924.

During the Depression, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) were utilized in road construction. Projects included Lark's Ford Road, a bridge over the Colorado River on Highway 50, the Fifth Street Viaduct, Rimrock Road in the Colorado National Monument, and a part of the De Beque Canyon. In 1936 intensive highway work approved and construction on I-70 began. Work continues through De Beque Canyon on the suspension, not far from the old Roan Creek Toll Road, Monto County's first highway.

On November 9, 1885, bonds for building a bridge across the Grand River ran in conjunction with the Ozarkian were approved. Abutments on either side were built on the present Fifth Street Bridge. The first bridge to the Redlands was built in 1895, the old steel bridge at the end of Main by P&G. The first Clifton Bridge was also built in 1912. Most recent is the Goude's Drive bridge, part of the Redlands Parkway, to be opened in 1994.



1-20, Mack in the Utah State Law (Blairstown Valley), was a Federal Highway Award in 1924. The first price was for extending Highway 1 in its rural setting and environment. (Courtesy of Highway Dept. Department, State of Colorado Colclough)

The air age came to Monto County in the late 1920s, although businessmen and air exhibitions had appeared earlier. In 1928 the Grand Junction City Council discussed the need for an air facility; through their efforts and those of the Chamber of Commerce, land was acquired some five miles northeast of the city. A small airport was under construction by 1929 and in 1930 Monto Air Transport established the first commercial flight service at the field.

Edgar Douglas, "Mr. Aviation of Monto County," arrived at the end of the 1930s, he taught citizens to fly in a Monto College-affiliated program. With the outbreak of World War II, his course became a training program for Navy cadets.

Under CAA direction, the federal government provided \$300,000 in 1941 to help increase the airport's size; more land was purchased and cleared, and two paved runways were built. In 1942 the airport was officially named for Walter Walker, publisher of *The Daily Sentinel*, who had been vitally concerned with the development of local airport facilities.

Western Airlines provided early commercial airline service, and Montoair provided regional connections. Western's route was taken over by United in 1961; Montoair, Challenger and Arroyo Airlines merged to form Frontier in 1976. In 1981 Walker Field is serviced by Frontier, Continental, United, TransWestern, Sky West and Rocky Mountain Airways.

In 1949 the city built the first terminal. The tower, the third air control tower in the state, was completed in 1962 for \$306,200. The present passenger solar terminal, opened for business December 15, 1982, the \$4 million, 87,000 sq-ft. structure, designed by local architect John Ponce, is financed largely by oil shale trust fund revenues.

Corporate offering charters, rental, sight-seeing, flight training and other aviation services from Walker Field in 1981 included Montoair, Horizon, Western Aviation, Mile Hi, Commuter and Peace Aviation. A number of helicopter companies provided surveying, aerial mapping, sightseeing and transport for oil field crews and individuals conducting impact studies. Airphoto Services and Global Engineering also operated from Walker Field. Members of the Rocky Mountain Coast Squads of the Coast-County Air Force work at Walker Field to restore classic aircraft. Lovell Valley Air Service is based at the Mack Mesa Airport.

The Walker Field Airport Authority Board has set the course for airport operations since 1971. The seven-member board is composed of three members appointed by the Grand Junction city council, one of whom may be a member of the council; three members appointed by the Monto County commissioners, one of whom may be a commissioner, and one community representative appointed by the other members of the board. The airport manager attends the twice-monthly meetings, but has no official vote. In 1981 the passenger load was 130,495, and the budget, \$1,286,742. Charles "Mac" Baggis succeeded Paul Blevins as airport manager in 1981. Jeff Worland served as administrator.



Walker Field is a major regional transportation center. The aging terminal built in 1949 was replaced by an 87,000-sq-ft modern facility in December 1982, making efforts to city, county and chamber officials for some 20 years. (Courtesy of Monto County, 1982) The Basin City of Grand Junction

Mining

Small amounts of gold were discovered by the first settlers who crossed the county. Flatter claims outnumbered all the Colorado and Oklahoma Rivers, but little of value was found. By 1936, 187 mines had been found in the county.

Several small copper mines were opened in Uncompag Canyon. Enough copper and silver were mined to support a small smelter in Fort Collins. However, the ore ran out and the mines were closed by 1914.



This new photograph, taken around 1900, shows the first shaft in Park City, which, along with Capitan, was an early mining town in Uncompag Canyon, south of Whitewater. (Courtesy of United Colclough)

In 1912 a pyritic iron smelter was built in Grand Junction. One required to be in sufficient quantity to support such an enterprise. A 1904 wind-tunnel revealed that buildings, but they were inconsiderable in fact, only to be closed in 1905, at the one simply described.

Even though Monto County has a large supply of coal, the first local residents suffered through winters without a coal. George Smith discovered good deposits in the Bookkoffs in 1888. Mines were opened from Mack to De Beque Canyon. West to east, they run: mines near Carletons, Steve Carletons, Farmer's, Harlow's, McGeeley, Carletons, Black Diamond, Book Cliff, Garfield, Mr. Lincolns, etc., ending at Canaan with Stokes and Canaan. There were also several small mines on the Redlands. The Farmer's Mine was a cooperative venture whose members dug out their own coal. Harlow Mine, worked in late in 1914, had the longest continuous operation. The Bookkoff Mine was thought to be the richest of bands who had robbed the Colorado Trust Office around 1924. The Canaan and Bookkoff Coal Mines are located at Canaan. The Canaan Mine, last operated from 1939 to 1962, was acquired by the Powderhorn Coal Company, which was established in 1962. The Bookkoff continues operation in 1981 by Powderhorn Coal. Good-quality estimates at least 500 square miles of coal lie in the Bookkoffs waiting to be mined.

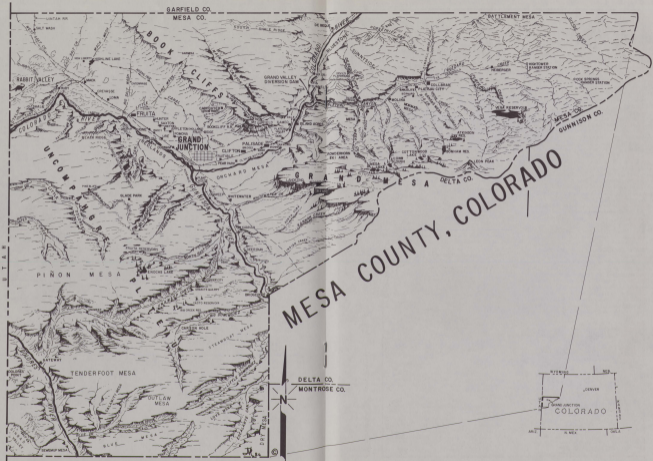


After its purchase by Isaac W. Brown in 1899, the Little Park Cliff Railroad, shown here January 4, 1905, became the Book Cliff. The company name was Brown successively at Bookkoff, Carpenter and Island Springs. (Courtesy of Bruce Colclough)

Several "boom and bust" cycles in Monto County have centered around the utilization of oil shale. In 1927 Harry Savage began locating oil shale claims in the Finance Basin above De Beque, building a resort in the claims which produced until the 1930s, although never a commercial quantity. The accompanying boom had faded by 1925. In the 1940s the News began an operation at Arvid Hill, Garfield County. Another boom in 1957 resulted from new technology, but it was short-lived. Recently, at the end of the 1950s, Exxon, Unisac, and Occidental, with other companies thought they had access to the extraction problem. Workers arrived in Monto and Garfield counties and the population soared, but on May 21, 1962, Exxon pulled out and another "boom" period ended. In 1981 Unisac and Occidental closed their limited operations.



De Beque has been the center of oil shale booms in the 1920s, 1950s and 1970s/1980s. The first mine in process of shale in Colorado was constructed on Dry Fork, south of the town, in 1917. (Courtesy of Bruce Colclough)



MESA COUNTY, COLORADO

DELTA CO.
MONTROSE CO.





Grain Elevator Company was formed in 1871 for the purchase of the Fruita Railway formerly owned by American Colonist. Actually, its products include 13,500 barrels of wheat. (See also Wikipedia photo)

The elements radium, uranium, and uranium are closely connected geologically and occur on the Uncompanghe Plateau. While not found in quantity in Mesa County, they have played an important role in local economy because it has served as a supply and shipping base. After the Curtis discovered radium in 1896, Morrison County began supplying their needs. Local plants processed radium until 1925 when a better supply was found in the Belgian Congo, and the Uncompanghe mines closed. With World War II uranium was needed to create steel, and the mines opened again. A uranium mill was erected near Loma during the 1940s. Other mills in operation were Gateway Alloys and U.S. Uranium.

Uranium, a frequent companion to uranium, was considered practically worthless until World War II with the top secret development of the American atomic bomb Code Name Manhattan Project. On August 16, 1943 the War Department acquired land south of Grand Junction to build a small uranium refinery. There, from 1943 to 1945, the radioactive element was further concentrated from the green sludge received from refining treatment plants at Durango and Urasco. Union Mining Development Corporation (UMDC), a contractor to the Manhattan Project, simultaneously set up a field exploration office to map all uranium-bearing exposures on the Colorado Plateau. The Manhattan Engineers District (MED) facilities and government facilities were transferred to the Atomic Energy Commission (later the Department of Energy) on midnight, December 31, 1946.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s uranium "boom" in the region. A few independent prospectors became millionaires, including Charlie Steens, Robert Sayre, and Vernon Pick. Clinton Unsworth of Grand Junction was the first mill specifically designed to recover uranium, and the Atomic Energy Commission was the only authorized purchaser of the ore. Quotas were established but there was still too much ore. In the 1960s the value of ore produced in the county was \$13,346,000. Eventually uranium reached overland, and the government ceased buying much of the radioactive element. In 1980 data acquisition for the NURE (Nuclear Uranium Resource Evaluation) Program ceased, and in 1981 final information dissemination and personnel transfer was complete. The Grand Junction Office Area involvement with UMTRA (Union Tailings Remedial Action Program) and the clean-up of over 6,000 local sites intensified. (See also Sugar Beet Factory)



Before mills were common, World Series fans gathered before The Daily Sentinel to watch the outside scoreboard, updated using by message board on wire service information. The newspaper moved from the 600 block of Main to South 7th in the early 1970s. (See Sentinel Collection)



Shown in 1980 is the headquarters building for the Department of Energy Campus in Grand Junction. The site was originally purchased for the top secret Manhattan Project during World War II. (See also Wikipedia photo)

Natural gas and mineral oil deposits have been discovered in Mesa County, particularly near De Beque, Vega Reservoir, and Mack. A thin-bedded gravel and some industry dominates the county's non-mineralic mining sector. From a rock quarry in Unsworth Canyon blocks of pale, fire-grained granite were cut in the 1930s and shipped east to build Denver's city hall. Gem quality amethyst is also mined in Unsworth Canyon.



A variation mill saw both south of Loma in 1940 by William G. After sale of Dallas, Texas. It could process about 25 tons of ore per day, and employed some 30 men. (See Sentinel Collection)

Communication

The earliest forms of communication in Mesa County were the telegraph and post office (see federal government). The first newspaper published in Mesa County was the Grand Junction News, edited by Edwin Tice, a first appeared on October 25, 1882. The Grand Junction Democrat (later Mesa County Democrat) began publication in 1883, and Ranch and Range in 1891. The Fruita Times, published weekly, traces its history to the Mesa County Mail which apparently was begun by the Keller brothers in adjacent Cleveland (now part of Fruita) in 1882. The Palatka Tribune, established in 1901, is one of the oldest continuously published weekly newspapers in the state, preceded from 1900 to 1903 by the Palatka Courier. Clifton has been served by the Clifton Sun (1908-1940) and the Valley Citizen (1970-1980).



Before mills were common, World Series fans gathered before The Daily Sentinel to watch the outside scoreboard, updated using by message board on wire service information. The newspaper moved from the 600 block of Main to South 7th in the early 1970s. (See Sentinel Collection)

The Colfax Leader, printed weekly in 1892 and 1893, was apparently the first paper in the Patuxon Valley. A number of other newspapers were published in Colfax including the Patuxon Voice (1905-1925), continued as the Patuxon Valley Voice (1929-1942). The first De Beque newspaper was the first (1906-1898), and the last published, the De Beque News (1923-1928). Mesa was served by the Patuxon Valley Leader (1896-1898) and the Mesa Enterprise (1911-1923).

The Daily Sentinel is, and has been, Mesa County's foremost newspaper. Established in 1891 by Howard T. Lee and Isaac Newton Bunting, by

1903 it had six employees and a circulation of 500. In 1907 the paper was purchased by former Sentinel reporter and editor Wilbur Walker. Walker became a leading force in the community, not only publishing the paper, but sponsoring numerous projects and investing in ventures such as the Anker Theatre.

After his death, his son Preston became publisher (1936-1970), Ken Johnson acquired the paper after Preston's death, and sold the paper in 1959 to the Cox Newspaper Chain. James C. Kennedy serves as the present publisher. Current circulation is 11,059 daily, and 15,719 on Sundays.

County residents who have served as presidents of the Colorado Press Association are Wilbur Dyer (1893), I.N. Bunting (1902), J.A. Barclay (1903), Preston Walker (1903) and Ken Johnson (1968). Preston Walker was named Colorado's outstanding editor in 1968.

The Associated Press maintains a Grand Junction office, and two "advertising only" papers are published. Two magazines printed in Mesa County are Directors and the Colorado Courier. In 1981 Mesa County housed both a press and an advertising club.



This was the first pattern when Western Colorado's first television station signed on the air on May 22, 1954. Formal dedication for the 500 seat station occurred at day later. In 1956 the call letters were changed to KREX. (See also Wikipedia photo)

Radio came to Grand Junction when Rex Howell began operating KPNZ later KREX from its first studios on Hill Street in January 1921. The first site of the present building was constructed in 1942, at which time the power was increased to 1,000 watts. KREX-FM went on the air in 1960. These are presently state radio stations headquartered



Mesa County Sheriff Charles Landry arrested Grand Junction resident Bill Moxley in 1929. A member of the Hoagly gang also known as George Healy, he had helped with the Laramie Bank a year earlier. (See also Wikipedia photo)

in Mesa County. These are KREX-AM and FM, KQJL-FM, KCIC-PM, KQJL, KQJN, KREX, KSTP, and KMSA-FM. KMSA is the Mesa College station, and KCIC and KCJG are Christian, non-commercial stations. National Public Radio (NPR), is scheduled to come to Mesa County. An election has already been achieved and broadcasts are scheduled to start in June of 1984.

Formal dedication for Western Colorado's first television station, KFNZ-TV (changed to KREX-TV in 1956, was May 31, 1954. KREX-TV, Channel 5, is one of the first stations in the nation with live transmission to two national networks (NBC and CBS). KREX-TV signals are broadcast through translators to KREY-TV, Montrose, and KREZ-TV, Durango.

Channel 8, KCKT-TV, is affiliated with ABC and was first aired on October 22, 1959. It is broadcasting its signal into the Montrose area. Channel 3, KCWS-TV, Glenwood Springs, is preparing to go on the air at the end of 1983. United Cable TV of Western Colorado provides a hookup to a variety of channels including four stations from Denver and various premium channels.

Conspicuous services are available at the end of 1983, providing telecommunication and time sharing. Six telephone answering service and eight mobile, or towery, telephone companies are also in operation.



Fruita telephone personnel in 1909 included Dora C. Belden, N. Faye Nugent, A. Paul Skansen, and Mollie B. Ballard. (See also Wikipedia photo)

Utilities

From the time the railroad arrived in Grand Junction in 1880, telegraph provided immediate access to the world outside. On February 11, 1883, ore confirmed the impending creation of Mesa County to local residents. It was not long afterwards that electricity was available to high homes, and the first electric plant was built in 1888. Grand Junction Electric and Gas Company began supplying electricity in 1901. In 1909 the company, the gas and oil plants were purchased by the Grand River Valley Railway Company. These interests were managed by Colorado Springs traction until sold to H.L. Roberts (Public Service) in 1926. Ongoing maintenance were served by Grand Valley Rural Power in 1977, the first rural power association in Colorado. The federal government supplied the money; Public Service initially provided the power. The Lower Valley, which had electricity after the arrival of the Interstate, benefited from farm-home lighting programs in the late 1930s. Patuxon Valley in the 1940s. By the end 1950s almost every farm and area in the county was served by electricity, except where cost was prohibitive.

Originally, homes were heated with coal. The first gas company was Citizens Gas and Coke, founded in 1906. Natural gas production was investigated early when deposits were discovered west of Mack and in the Pioneer Basin (Kirkland County). No way was of transporting the gas was available. Grand Junction's first gas pipe began operating in 1931. Today residents of many outlying areas in the county use heated gas. Telephone services are available when Western Slope Telephone and Supply Company began operation. Colorado Telephone took over with 52

mountain about 1904. At first, each subscriber had a terminal for every other subscriber, and made his own connections, including rings. In 1904 operators and switches were installed. Colorado Telephone merged with Tri-State in 1911 to form Mountain State Telephone and Telegraph Company (all the official company names of Mountain Bell). In 1913 Mountain Bell acquired 3,125 residences and approximately 4,600 business accounts. It also handled all long distance calls. Gateway continues to be served by an independent company.



St. Mary. At left is an emergency method service showing assistance to remote region of several miles. It made 450 flights in 1913. Roy Morgan is credited with saving the service. (Copyright Howard, K.V., was the first coordinator. Photograph courtesy of St. Mary's Hospital)

Health Care

The first Monte County physician was Dr. H.E. Stroud. He opened the area's first pharmacy in Grand Junction, which he had to go east for issuing, returning in 1895, by that time he was one of six doctors. At the turn of the century, most diseases were handled by the family and each had a favorite horse cure for anything from pneumonia to scurvy. Among the more popular ingredients in those early remedies were quinine and cow dung.

Dr. Herson Bull, Sr., and Hiram Carr of St. Joseph Catholic Church initiated a drive to have the Sisters of Charity of Loretto, in Kansas, start a hospital. In 1895 Sister Barbara Farrell and Sister Louisa Madler came to Grand Junction to establish a hospital to care for the sick and disabled. Their first task was obtaining land. They soon purchased three town lots and held title to these donated lots between Eleventh and Twelfth on Colorado Avenue. The first frame hospital opened on May 22, 1896. Since that time, the Sisters have carried out still more building progress, replacing the first hospital with a brick addition in 1912 and moving to 7th and Patterson (Rose Hill) in 1951.

The Sisters agreed to take widows' patients even before the first hospital was opened. Early sickness included typhoid, consumption and pneumonia. In 1926 the Sisters started their own nursing school, the only one on the Western Slope, now part of Mesa College. In 1948-19,



Dr. S.M. Dudley was one of the few doctors to practice in Monte County. He arrived around 1892, and served as president of the Western Colorado Academy of Science (founded 1893). He apparently studied earlier information before the Bureau was established in Grand Junction in 1895, and is credited with arranging Silver Mountain and the Columbian Hotel (now the Hotel Monaco of National Historic) in the area (see Education).

during the flu epidemic, the Sisters had to work seven-to-four hour days. Those Sisters died from the flu. The present St. Mary's Hospital & Medical Center is again building the new "Project Clinical Care", to be completed in 1985.

Throughout the early decades, the Western Slope was plagued as having a healthful climate, particularly for consumptive and other so-called long lung problems. Second pieces of literature urged folks to come to the Grand Junction area for their health. Many did. Many still come for the clear, dry air.

Early health crises came from impure water which initially was taken from the Grand River. Typhoid and dysentery were common. Smallpox was dreaded. After a smallpox epidemic at the turn of the century, Mesa County built a pest house here. [It] is now the Radcliff, where those who had no family or who were infirmed with smallpox could live until they were cured — or died. A sewage treatment plant was built here.

Dr. E.H. Massa, who became the County Health Officer in 1912, pushed for vaccinations. His first success was with diphtheria, the first large scale vaccination of schoolchildren in Colorado. He continued working until smallpox and typhoid were also greatly reduced. The Mesa County Medical Society, founded in 1903, supported his work as did the school system.

Other hospitals were built in the county. Frazer, Lower Valley Hospital was begun in 1907 with four beds, a drug store, laboratory, and a x-ray unit. It is primarily a hospital and nursing home, with 75 residents of low income housing and services for the elderly. Mesa Memorial is now part of St. Mary's Hospital & Medical Center. Grand Junction Community Hospital, until recently Grand Junction Osteopathic Hospital, was founded in 1946 by Doctors B.C. Myrland, A.R. Myrland, and K.L. Gannon, with six beds, x-ray facilities, a surgery, delivery room, x-ray and laboratory.



The efforts of community leaders Walter Walker, Chas. Egan, Charles Rapp, and R.C. Karp to possess a veterans' hospital for the Western Slope were realized in 1947. Today the VA Hospital and Medical Center serves veterans from Eastern Utah and Western Colorado. In 1962, over 200 veterans, from 23 organizations, contributed over \$2,000,000. (See The Veteran photograph)

In 1949 the Veterans' Administration Hospital building opened on North Avenue. It was designed to serve 11,000 veterans in twenty-five Colorado and five Utah counties. In 1965 the Hoover Commission recommended the hospital be closed but Colorado congressmen protested and a new commission decided it could remain open. It uses for an average of 2,135 patients a year.

Pleasant Valley has a convalescent clinic which includes a nursing home and emergency center. The Congregational Church helped build the clinic, which incidents had wound since the late 1800s. From a doctor coming to Colburn to do wholesale transactions to the modern facility now in use, the clinic has been fought for and provided for by the town and farming community. It was renovated in 1957, added to in 1959, and closed briefly in 1979 after Dr. H.H. Zepf died in 1976 and as a state doctor could not be found. Dr. Charles King is now the resident doctor.

In 1950 the Mesa County Charity for Crippled Children and Adults began rehabilitation services for physically handicapped people. After changing its name to Hilltop Rehabilitation Hospital, it moved to its present location in 1978. Services include complete nursing, rehabilitative instruction and care, hospital care, and learning disabilities center.

Parents and doctors have coordinated care to the State Home and Training School (a sheltered living center for the severely handicapped,



The Association Fair in Hilltop Independent Living Center's annual fund raising event. Recumbency means "recline" and Hilltop provides opportunity for severely disabled individuals to have a central office in much higher potential. (Information courtesy of Hilltop Rehabilitation Hospital)

providing care for patients. Grand Junction was the first city in Colorado to fluoridate its water (1951). The Mesa County Dental Society was formed in 1920 and began dental health education programs in 1935, concentrating in public schools.

Physical fitness and preventive medicine became a national focus during the late 1950s. Early checkups, proper nutrition and exercise were stressed. A resurgence in health food and diets also occurred. By 1963, 13 different facilities are operating including the Grand Junction Athletic Club and the Crossroads Nutrition. Before the turn of the century the Rabbit Health Club (1894), a swimming club (1898), and the Grand Junction Athletic Association (1897) were established. The Tern Veterans was formed in 1893, and the Young Men's Christian Association the previous year. In 1906 the YMCA, financed by community funding, opened a recreation building at Fifth and White from the site of Valley Field in Grand Junction. The Mesa Mountain Stables, a working club, currently promotes health, education among its members and sponsors a variety of races within the community.



After his 1885 arrival, Dr. Herson R. Bull, Sr. was one of the first known pioneer Mesa County physicians. A primary focus behind the establishment of St. Mary's Hospital in 1896, he was a founder of the Mesa County Medical Association in 1903 and served as president of the Colorado Medical Association in 1906. (Information courtesy of Western Colorado University)

Education

The schoolhouse was always among the first buildings erected in a community. In Mesa County it was often a cabin, built the same way as the houses — a dirt floor, four rough walls, solid paper windows, canvas or blanket door, and/or no roof. Almost as soon as the school started the community would begin building a better schoolhouse, frame or log, which had a door, stairs, six-foot, and windows of real glass. A teacher was hired, usually a single girl, although in Mesa County several men were among the early teachers. Men were called "professors" but women only attained schoolteachers status and could no longer teach if they married. As a rule, young teachers did not stay long because many were

soon married to the community's young bachelors. There are touching stories of courships on horseback, with the gentlemen often escorting the teacher to a dance held in the cabin of one of the settlers. At the time the Mesa County community started schools, a teacher had to have a certificate which she obtained by examination, showing she knew how to read, write, and do arith. After 1867 the county superintendent checked teachers' credentials and academic standards.

School attendance and session length was dominated by the farm community's needs. Even into the 1920s there was pressure from ranch-lords who needed their children's help to harvest fruit. Some of the early schools were in session for only four months of the year; some had as few as three pupils. Books and supplies were limited — a child might use the same reader for several years. Among the teacher's duties were mending the fire, closing the schoolhouse, and providing any appearance of moral deviance.



These are students from Mack School, District #44, about 1923. (Photograph courtesy of Dept. Road)

Subscription schools were not uncommon at first schools. In Grand Junction the first school was on the corner of Fifth and Colorado with Newton Blain as teacher. The families of the attending children paid the teacher and rented the building. The cabins were made of corrugated poles placed straight up in a trench with canvas for a roof. There were thirteen children. Miss Blain also began the first Sunday School at that building in July, 1882. Stores, open seven days a week, closed during the Sunday sessions; the entire town was encouraged to attend. In 1882, the Methodist Episcopal Church South took over the Sunday School.

The Grand Junction town planners set aside school lot bordering the four original parks. The first public school was built in 1884, in the center section of the first Lowell School (6th and Knott). It became there were 200 students and four teachers in the two-story building, canvas or blanket door, and/or no roof.

At the time Mesa became a county, 1891, one of a county's elected officers was the county superintendent of schools. He was responsible for keeping records on all county schools, checking teacher qualifications, administering tests, disbursing some monies, and visiting each school periodically. In the years from 1885 to 1951, there were fifteen county superintendents.

In 1908 the Colorado state legislature passed a statute mandating construction of consolidated school districts with elected school boards, separate from county officials. There are now three school districts in Miss County: District 49, De Beque; District 50, Platteau Valley; and District 51, covering the rest of the county. When District 51 was formed in 1951, it included 17 smaller districts. There are now 20 elementary schools, six junior highs, four high schools, and two special schools in the system, as well as one K-12 school at Glenwood. The other five high schools in the district are Palisade, Grand Junction, Central, and Frisco Mountains.



Students of Coats Creek School are shown for the year 1904-05. One of seven schools on Coats Creek, it was the first one, closing in 1971. (Photograph courtesy of Blaine Isler)

The first self-contained high school in Grand Junction was in the Franklin Building, one of the present county courthouses. This school, the largest building in town when erected in 1891, served students from the entire county; it had three floors, 12 rooms, and a bell in the belfry. It was condemned in 1927 because of a crumbling foundation.

Frans Union School served students from the Lower Valley. Application School, the first consolidated school district and high school, was established in 1951. Colburn and De Beque both had high schools by the early 1900s; today one serves De Beque (District 49) and another Platteau Valley (District 50). Some of the Christian schools also have high schools.

The DKS high school course of study was academically oriented. Any extra-curricular activities took place after school with teachers donating their time. Courses included English and American literature, algebra, plane and solid geometry, trigonometry, advanced arithmetic, geodesics, history, zoology, mineralogy, astronomy, physics, chemistry, English history, Greek, Roman, medieval and modern history, colonial economy, Latin, German and French. Sixteen credits were required for graduation. In 1898, at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition in Omaha, the county school system won the highest award for a general display of school work.



The Franklin High School building, dedicated February 27, 1891, was Grand Junction's largest structure for many years. It was on the site of the present courthouse, and was demolished in 1947. (Data: Journal Collection)

The Hoop Business College opened in Platteau City in 1902. S.C. Hoop opened the school, which he moved to Grand Junction in 1909. In 1946 Robert Ross succeeded him and the school was renamed Hoop-Ross Business College. After Hoop retired in 1927, it became Ross Business College. Ross was a prominent member of the Grand Junction community, known for his kindness and fair judgment. The school's standards were high — a student could not progress until the task he was studying could be passed perfectly. Upon Ross' death, C.H. Burleigh purchased the school, which finally became part of Mesa College. A private business college, Western Colorado School of Business, is presently operating in Grand Junction.

A nursing school was established in 1916 at St. Mary's Hospital (then at 1103 and Colorado). The Sisters were not numerous enough to run their facility with only nursing Sisters and therefore opened the school to teach young women nursing skills. It was students for a time; students often continued at the hospital, some of them at the hospital when it moved to Rose Hill in the 1920s. Several graduates served with distinction in World War I. Student nurses immediately began patient care; each was paid eight dollars a month for buy shoes and uniform material. In addition to formal studies, students scrubbed patients' rooms, changed beds, stired mattresses, and rocked babies. Nursing education eventually became part of the Mesa College curriculum, student training continues in area hospitals, including outpatient work.



In 1916 St. Mary's Hospital inaugurated a school to train nurses to replace its staff. Mesa College began a two-year school to replace with the hospital in 1962. (Photograph by early nursing students courtesy of Mrs. Alice Carter)

Interest in a state normal school for the Western Slope became apparent in 1895 when local committees applied for one to the state legislature and governor. Gunnison was selected as the site in 1898. In 1921 Ollie Benninger, state senator from Grand Junction, introduced a legislative bill for a junior college in Mesa County. Early efforts failed; however, a similar bill passed in 1935 and the college was established in the first Lowell School building on Bond Avenue.

Five year courses included freshman English, college algebra, trigonometry and analytical geometry, beginning French, modern European history, economic history of England and the United States, and physical education, all taught by five faculty members. During the first 12 years, the college, including salaries, was entirely supported by local funds. It grew rapidly and a new campus was approved by the legislature, with a tax base for state support allocated in 1938. Houston Hall, the first building on the new campus at 14th and North Avenue, was financed through bonds issued that year. The first classes opened in September, 1938. After 49 years as a junior two-year college, Mesa College became a four-year institution on July 1, 1978. Several new buildings have been erected. The latest addition is the student union building on Elm Street, and a new library is the current project.

Other opportunities for advanced education in Mesa County are health, dentistry and vet. science schools. Many seminars and conferences are offered through the college. Museums of Western Colorado, school district, local hospitals, and Western Colorado Center for the Arts.



The original portion of the first Lowell School building was completed in 1894. From 1923-39 the structure housed Mesa College, and in 1940 Junction Community Center Building. Today it is part of the Grand Junction City Hall complex. (Photos courtesy of Western Colorado College)

In the 1880s, Senator Henry M. Teller and Representative James W. Beckley successfully lobbied for an Indian school to be built on the present site of the Grand Junction Regional Center formerly State House and Training School. Grand Junction citizens donated 100 acres to the U.S. Department of Interior. In 1886 the boarding school opened its doors to an all-male student body; girls were admitted in later years. Although it was supposed to serve the Ute Indians, very few wanted to take advantage of its opportunities; it was not students that they came to the school. Instead, some of the wives to the work sent their children, notably the Heist people.

The Grand Junction Indian School, affectionately known as Teller Institute, grew to 144 students representing nine tribes by 1908. The largest enrollment was 300 students in 1895, two of the superintendents were Theodore Lenneman and a Mr. Burton.

The young men were good athletes, playing against the young men of Grand Junction High School. The Heist daughters taught music during their father's tenure; the school's band performed many times in parades and fairs in Grand Junction. Other subjects taught were mathematics, ranging from cooking to stock raising on the school's farm.

On July 1, 1961 the Indian school was closed; government policy now deemed that Indian education would be best handled on reservations. The land remained idle or minimally used until World War I when local interest began in a State Home and Farm for Mental Defectives. The state approved that usage in 1929. Allard had stepped throughout the acreage and the Bureau of Reclamation avoided the land before it could be leased. The buildings had been well constructed and did not require much reconstruction. During the early 1960s, 180 patients were contained there. In 1923, children from Ridge State Home near Denver were transferred to the facility.



The Western Colorado Center for the Arts and Great Outdoors, known as Heist Farm one of the more local educational facilities. The Mesa County Fine Arts Center was inaugurated in 1950; the Center moved into its quarters in 1960. Dedication for the expanded, unrelated project.

It was operated as a general residence for the mentally handicapped until the 1880s, at that time many patients were moved to group homes if it was felt they were able to function under less supervision. This relocation both saved money and moved many individuals out from an institutional environment. The Regional Center continues to care for those unable to function without full-time supervision.

Religious groups have and do sponsor private schools in the county. The first parochial school (1867) was St. Joseph's Parish, Seventh Day Adventists had an academy in Vineland in 1906. Recently fundamentalist Christians have been organizing schools from kindergarten through high school; in 1996 Intercommunal Bible Church was established across 12th Street from Mesa College with an agreement that students could take some courses "across the road" in the 1980s ICB moved to a new campus on Patterson Road. It continues to train young men and women to serve various denominations.



The Grand Junction Indian School, known as Teller Institute, was organized in 1886 and closed in 1961. It became a home for "mental defectives" in 1923. It is now the Grand Junction Regional Center formerly State House and Training School. (Photos: Journal Collection)

Sports have been an important part of the school program. Strictly non-competitive, they took place only in non-school hours. Barry Walsh, Genevieve and George Waring taught local high-school football players on Saturdays as early as 1923; often that team played the boys from the Indian school. Raleigh High coached Grand Junction High's first championship game in 1936; most early matches were played on a field in what is now Lincoln Park. There was less concern for player safety and less protective equipment in those days; although good sportsmanship was stressed on the field, sometimes there were fights after the games over rough tactics.

Baseball was first considered a girls' sport and played on courts outside the school. Denver young ladies sometimes used their elbow or tripped that opponent. After the completion of the YMCA gymnasium, practice was moved indoors and the sport became attractive to young men as well. The Grand Junction High gymnastics team was built in 1918.



Facility 1978 was the July. The Mission of Western Colorado organized since a 1981 church continues to attract scores. They and Catholics. Builders have: Abbot the Mission and community members. It and CDF are Christian Church are on the National Register of Historic Places. (Data: Five Wagoners and Don Green photographs)



Library societies were established in most Mesa County communities before 1900, one in De Beque in 1892. Among its activities, it sponsored book sales, plays, dances, and musicals. *Photo by Bruce Colburn*

The old Armory was used for basketball and wrestling. Frank Dorsey was one of the wrestling coaches. Town was pitted against town on the basketball diamond. Today's high schools offer a full athletic range, including football, basketball, track, wrestling, golf, tennis, volleyball, gymnastics and swimming. Track meets are at Lincoln Park in the spring.

Nothing was more enlightening to a community than a school fire. In De Beque, the old stone schoolhouse burned while school was in session. A student returning from the outdoor social fitness coming from the roof. The first grade teacher, before marshaling her students out of the building, handed them her homework to carry as they were visible. Mesa County's rural heritage is still apparent in the school system. Future Farmers of America chapters are active at the high school level, along with Future Business Leaders of America. A sign at the entrance to Thousand Mountains proclaims HORSES PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES.



Wagon Elementary School, on South Camp Road in the Parkers, was started construction in 1902. It was part of \$12 million spent by Federal Disaster Relief during the year on new schools or improvements. *Photo: Bruce Colburn*

Churches and Organizations

Corner lots on White Avenue were provided free of charge for the construction of churches by the Grand Junction Town Company. The first recorded church service was held by the Methodist Episcopal South in 1882. The first church in Fruita was the Union Congregational, 1898. Two of the oldest extant church buildings are the Mesa United Methodist (1921) and the Collins Congregational Church (1931). In 1963 there were 138 synods, assemblies and churches in Mesa County, including the Jewish Community Center and Hebrew School.

From the first, organizations within the county have facilitated social interaction, served as support groups and provided funding for a variety of social service and community projects. The Grand Valley Grains, founded in 1882, became part of the State Milling (1883). The Grains, Mesa Lodge #15, was established in 1881, the Mesa County Horticultural Society and the Western Colorado Stock Growers Association in 1894. A Library Association and a Pioneer Historical Society were formed in 1893, and the De Beque Library Society in 1892. In 1892 a lodge of the Woodmen of the World (WOW) was formed in Fruita, and in 1901

a brass band was organized in Collins. Two of the oldest extant voluntary organizations are the Grand Junction Women's Club (Grand Mesa Women's Club, 1894) and the Revision (Township-Century Club, 1895). The first veterans organization, the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic), was established in 1881. Chapters and posts of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans Veterans of America, Last Squad, and WWII Veterans, Branches #212 have been founded in the county.



Members of the Hands Chapel were one of the early organizations provided a job center for by the Grand Junction Town and Improvement Company. Directly connected with the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1893, the chapel, constructed in 1912, is a well-known local focus point.

Fraternal organizations include the Odd Fellows, Masons, Shriners, Eagles, Moose and Elks; and for women, Beta Sigma Phi and F.E.O. Civic clubs include Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis, Sereneta, Optimist and Civitan, and Alhambra, Soroptimist and Junior Service League for women. Among the religious groups is the United Church Women of Grand Junction, political organizations include the League of Women Voters. Hobby clubs abound, among them the D&K, Mazie Lockers, Camera, Stamp, Concrete, Knit and Fork and social game clubs. There are organizations devoted to horsebacking, two chapters of the American



Orville Gardner of the Clifton Pig Club is shown with his champion boomer. In 1911, just 64 pig clubs, with an enrollment of 28 hams, were started. *Photo: Bruce Colburn*



The impressive YMCA building was constructed in 2008. After World War II, the structure was briefly operated by American Legion No. #141; later it was known as the "Innery Building." It was torn down in 1981, way for Valley Federal Plaza. *Photo: of Western Colorado Grand Coalition*

Business Women, and a Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Promotional organizations include the Plaza and Kanabak Creek Cosmetics, the Beach Administrative Committee, Western Slope Horticultural Society, Chamber of Commerce in Grand Junction, Fruita, Palisade and Florence Valley, Club 20, Hotel and Motel Owners, and two representing Grand Junction merchants — BDA (DownTown Development) and the North Avenue Association. Art clubs include Brush and Palette, musical organizations are Wednesday Music Club, Grand Junction Symphony and Symphony Guild, and the Grand Junction Choral Band. There are also numerous history, natural history, and scientific groups (see trade cover), and health-oriented organizations (see Health). Educational groups include Delta Kappa Gamma and a variety of parent-teacher organizations. Other social organizations have included the Redfish Club and Bookfish/Book Club. Several singles groups have also formed. At the end of 1981, over 250 clubs and other groups were listed by the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce.



Among organizations and activities assisting seniors are the Older Americans Center (1970) Center, founded in 1967, and Day Center which provides about 100 meals per day throughout the county. *Photo: Bruce Colburn*

Area youth belong to a variety of organizations including 4-H, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Seniors join RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, the Older American Center and OGRE (Council of Retired Executives). Community fund drives support Red Cross, Heart and Cancer Societies, the Domestic Violence Center, Remedial Cinema, and Salvation Army among others. Many of these groups are supported by funds raised by the annual United Way Campaign.

Mesa County residents also belong to a variety of professional organizations and unions. Professional associations include the Mesa County Bar and Medical associations, advertising and press clubs, unions representing the grocery workers, musicians, railroad bookbinders, plumbers and

Mrs. Josephine Ramsey (Mrs. Child) Ryan has been a civic leader since her arrival in Grand Junction in 1904. Her accomplishments include serving on the boards of Mesa College (17 years), Goodwill Industries, Inc., and the Mesa County Foundation. She helped lay the groundwork for Hilltop Rehabilitation Hospital, was a founder of the Western Colorado Center for the Arts, and, with Verne Jensen, founded the local Girl Scouts.



Photograph courtesy of Western Colorado Center for the Arts

professionals, steel workers, teachers and state employees (CAPE). Mesa County employees belong to the M.C.E.A.; Grand Junction city workers to the City of Grand Junction Employees Association.



The Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1970 as the Mesa County Symphony. It offers free subscription concerts, hosts a choir of 100, and is affiliated with the Grand Junction Musical Arts Orchestra. *Photo: courtesy of Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra*

Recreation and Entertainment

Springing events, plays, musicals, arts and craft shows, parades — all have and continue to showcase the considerable talents of the people who live in Mesa County.

One of the first gala celebrations was held on the day Mesa County was created in 1891. An impromptu parade and bonfire highlighted the occasion. Other memorable events included a performance by Buffalo Bill and the Wild West Show (1908), when mountain water came to Grand Junction (1912), and when the Interoceanic reached Fruita (1913). Fourth of July parades and fireworks, school band concerts, and students' association parades colored city streets.

And the circus trained Boys learned down to South and North to help us up, unroll depots and graffiti, water and find them, all for a five ticket. They would then scurry to Main Street to watch the parade and run back to see the show. The Denton & Rio Grande run a special train from Glenwood for the event. The Shrine Circus continues to visit Grand Junction, setting up in Sector Stadium.

Horse racing has been popular throughout the county. Early tracks were at Lincoln Park, above Collins, on Orchard Mesa, at Whitewater and on Glade Park. Quarter horse and thoroughbred races are now held at Linwood Downs in Venters Memorial Park. Many horse shows for a variety of breeds are held in the area, districts include English and Western pleasure and equitation as well as halter classes. Hilltop Rehabilitation Center sponsors a yearly horse show, and Mesa County Wranglers sponsor trail rides.

When the heat of summer made life unpleasant in the Grand Valley, those who could afford the time went to Frisco, Mesa or Grand Mesa. Grand Mesa signs were advertised after the railroad came through DeBeque Canyon in 1888. The motorist would ride from Grand Junction to the Flamingo Valley stop, alight and be transported by coach or wagon up the narrow road to Mesa Lake. The traveler would settle into the hotel or one of the cabins and fish, hike, and cool off. There are approximately one hundred lakes on the mountains, shared between Mesa and Delta counties, most of them man-made and stocked with trout. Cong Creek Trail is a national recreation trail serving hikers.

The area is also a favorite place for canyoning. However, the major attraction has been the Colorado National Monument (1903). Each year thousands of visitors are attracted to the "Grand Canyon" of Colorado. In 1983, 795,189 visited the Monument's 23,449 acres.



With the many Grand Mesa reservoirs, streams and creeks and the Colorado, Gunnison and Dolores Rivers, Mesa County is a favorite recreation area. The Kanosh Creek area near Whitewater was especially famous for camping and fishing during early decades. ©L. Melton Colburn

Kanosh Creek was also once a popular camping and fishing destination. The author felt sorry to double-check in the Grand River issue, Colorado. In later years a fish fry was a popular annual event in Lovell.

Briefly during the 1940-50s there was a zoo in Grand Junction's Lincoln Park. Presently two places in Mesa County feature exotic animals which can be viewed by the public. On Moon Farms, north of Fruita, one can wander through child-size houses representing different cultural groups and see farm animals and a few exotics; the Kanosh Creek Zoo near Whitewater has several animals and birds.

Bicycling was a popular summer sport. Long distance bicyclists came to Grand Junction as soon as roads connected the county to other areas. In 1987, Mike and Alan Strubbe won an International Bicycle Race in Denver. Intentional attention has been focused on Mesa County since 1982 when the Coors Classic began holding the Tour of the Moon race on the Colorado National Monument, and a criterion is downtown Grand Junction. This is one step on the international circuit.

Early automobile races were endurance contests sponsored by car manufacturers, particularly the Ford Motor Company. The first Ford End Race was held on July 4, 1940. In the 1941 race, Louis Livier won with a 30.6 mile per hour average. The original sponsoring body for the race was the American Automobile Association. After World War II, a hill climb was sponsored locally, but it was not until 1962 that the race was officially revived. It is now held as a benefit for St. Mary's Air Life, and is sponsored by the Colorado Hill Climb Association (CHCA). The course, called the "league distance between two points" by Livier, is eighteen miles off Lincoln End Road to the main top, with about fifty turn-offs. Other races are held at Cactus Park Speedway near Whitewater.



The Lincoln End Hill Climb, which originated in July 4, 1940, was first organized after the 1941 race by World War II. The race was revived in 1962, and is now sponsored by the Colorado Hill Climb Association.

©L. Melton Colburn

Swimming in the river was dangerous, and the canal could be swamped. In 1922 the William Moses donated money to Grand Junction for a pool, the Natatorium, which would have at least one free day for children, an extension to Meyer Pool was built in 1956. The new Orchard Mesa and Palisade pools were dedicated in 1981. There is an

unheated municipal pool in Fruita, and indoor pools at Mesa College, Fruita High School, and Hilltop Rehabilitation Center. The Dolores is a country-wide water club. Swimming is allowed at Highline Lake and Island Acres State Recreation Area, but is not advised at Viga or the lakes on Grand Mesa, which are deep and very cold, with unknown currents.

The Colorado has been a challenge for riding since Major John Wesley Powell followed it in 1869. A four-foot trip in any direction will bring one to whitewater. The most thrilling rapid in Mesa County is near Gutawa, at State Line Rapid. Wild spring and snow skiing are becoming popular at Highline Lake. Many local residents spend winters hiking at Lake Towad in Utah.



Colorado Governor Oliver H. Shoup was among those attending the dedication of Major Stanislaus, June 8, 1922. The 125,000 Grand Junction pool was donated by Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Moore with the permission that children swim free on Wednesdays and Saturdays. ©L. Melton Colburn

Grand Junction owns 16 parks, with four additional areas undeveloped. Lincoln Park has 42.6 acres. Other communities have small parks and community buildings, such as Palisade Park and the community park in Collinsville. Viga Reservoir, Island Acres, and Highline Lake are Colorado State Recreation Areas.



The Highline State Recreation Area near Lovell provides boating, swimming and fishing opportunities to about 24,000 visitors from April to September. It and an auxiliary pool were constructed in 1960 and are fed by scenic irrigation water through canals of Colorado State Department of Parks and Recreation.

Fairs were started to promote the region's produce. A fair was begun about 1887 in a temporary structure at the Patagonia (Lincoln Park). In 1905, 10,000 Frisco Day visitors arrived on special railroad promoted. Entertainment included horse races, rodeos, parades along Main Street, and regattas. The pioneer Coors Fair is held annually at Vidorra Izarramizola Memorial Park.

In fall, settled turned to indoor entertainments. Nearly every community had a Literary Society and put on plays with performances given by ladies and gentlemen who "went" for their neighbors. Chautauquans were traveling tent shows who featured a variety of performers. Grand Junction's first was in 1906. Locusts provided lectures and concerts. In 1985, concerts, such as nationally prominent narco, took place at Grand Junction High School, Two Rivers Plaza and Stocker Stadium.

Lincoln Park Audatorium, known as the "Barn", was built in 1904 in Grand Junction to house fair exhibits. The Audatorium was threatened with destruction in 1933, but community response to a "Save The Barn" campaign raised enough money to refurbish the building. Stocker Stadium is where the Mesa College Mavericks and local high school teams play. Grand Mesa and Uncompaghe National Forests, and the Colorado National Monument are owned and managed by the federal government, including the Bureau of Land Management. It manages areas such as the Lake City C&W Wild Horse Refuge and Rabbit Valley (see federal government).

There were also several marching bands. Before schools had enough students to make up a marching band, adult groups provided the parade music. Among those groups were Professor Malpas's Cornet Band (1883), S.M. Beyer's Grand Junction Military Band (1894), the Teller Institute Band, the Ladies Columbian Band (circa 1900), the Western Woodmen (1903), and a brass band at Colburn (1903). There was also a drill team of young women called the Amazon Guards. In the 1920s the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce sponsored a band concert. Today, schools from throughout the region compete in a similar gathering each October. The Grand Junction High School Band under Auden Strong was the first school band (1924). New uniforms, similar to Southern California's Trojan Band, were purchased by their trip to the Hill Convention in Los Angeles in the 1920s. The Central High band has performed on tours of Canada.

Early settlers hunted for sport and meat. Although there were game laws in 1893, one enforcement official had to cover an enormous area. The first deer license was issued in 1905. Elk, deer, bobcat, and bear were plentiful, particularly in the De Beque area. Game guides and outfitters make Mesa County their headquarters, and offer their service to hunters from all over the United States, but especially California and Texas. The season has expanded to include bow and arrow and waterfowl, resulting from the loss of August and mid-December. Coyotes, like the annual Turkey Shoot, held in Gutawa, demonstrate hunters' skills.



During the 1940s radio station KPZO later KRCO broadcast live from the St. Regis Hotel balcony in Grand Junction. The well-regarded and long-established balcony was at 338 Colorado Avenue and was then operated by owner Harry Burnett.

©L. Melton Colburn

Dancing was, and continues to be, a favorite form of entertainment. A similar would push back when Uncle Sam was in bed, and in its neighborhood. Someone always knew how to play the fiddle, soon the place would be swinging to the do-do-do of a caller. In Colburn the Stocken's Ball is an annual affair. Began in 1922 with a dinner at the Oats Hotel, the ball opened afterwards in Dr. Zinke's Audatorium, the large white building on Main Street still used for the dance. Another Colburn's Ball began in Fruita in 1948. A Grand Junction dance riot, reported by the 180s where the Mesa Theater is presently located. Across the street

the ballroom in the Massey Building became the site of dance marathons. During the big band era, dances were also held in the Coppens, Crown Laramie, Milerson, Cochrin's on Orchard Mesa, and the outdoor dance floor of the Grand Back Street in Patagonia Canyon. Today, favorite locations in Grand Junction include the Sun Avenue Rose, the Grand Junction Hilton, Henry My's, the Dallas Club, the Old American Corner, and private lodges such as the Elko and Moose. During the 1930s several local orchestras were formed including those of Hal Harris and Armand de Beque. The traditions of these groups are carried on today by bands whose shows are the few nights around Grand Junction.



The Stocken's Ball and Banquet is an annual event sponsored by the Patagonia Valley Stockmen's Association. Began in 1922, the 1922 the first banquet was held at the Oats Hotel, and the dance in the adjacent Colburn Audatorium.

©L. Melton Colburn

Roller skating, movies, and concerts by local and nationally-known bands were and are favorite pastimes of Mesa County residents. Susan Carpenter started a conservatory in Grand Junction in 1881. Concerts were given at the Academy and, later, the Park Opera House. Performers who played in Grand Junction included the Merriweather Quartet (1893), Madeline Scherman-Henk (1917), John Phillip Sousa (1907, 1928), and the Bolter Brass with Arava Davkota (1925). By 1922, the opera house was no longer structurally safe. Walter Mahay, William Meyer, Clyde Bagg, Olin Davidson, and J.H. Rankin became the board of directors of the new Auden Theater (Copper Theater), which opened in 1926. Shows included vaudeville, concert, and the new "talkies." Cornrows, bobes, exhibits and theaters are sponsored by Mesa College, the Moonen



Respect derived costumes for an instructional program during Grand Junction's 75th Anniversary Celebration. Mesa County's diverse ethnic groups also include Germans from Russia, Italian, Mexican, Chinese, Japanese and Indonesian refugees.

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of Western Colorado and its Cross Orchards Living History Farm, and the Western Colorado Center for the Arts. Current organizations in 2013 include the Grand Junction Symphony, the Grand Junction Community Band and Valley Bluesgrass Society.

Dowdell Mining was first attempted on the southeast slope of Land's End Hill in 1936-37. "Old Powderhorn" was developed after World War II, fourteen miles above the town of Mesa, and was called Mesa Creek. By 1950 new runs were developed, one 130 feet, the other, 200 feet. Dating its peak, it recorded 1,800 skier days. Groups from Grand Junction would drive as far as they could, then load their wooden skis on a sled or their backs, and climb the rest of the way. Two rope tows were installed. The Forest Service gave permission to Powderhorn Corporation to develop a modern slope at Beaver Creek Bowl, dedicated in 1966. One program sponsored by Powderhorn, the Handicapped Ski Program, has opened the slopes to many who never dreamed they could ski. Both cross-country skiers and snowmobilers utilize the top of Grand Mesa.



Skier riding has been enjoyed on Grand Mesa since the mid-1930s, first at Land's End, later the Mesa Creek area. Powderhorn Ski Area opened in 1966, and has been expanded several times since. (60 Look Cozzari)

The JUCO National Junior College Baseball (World Series) Tournament has been held in Grand Junction since 1959. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Grand Junction, it features teams from the National Junior College Athletic Association in a ten-team double elimination tournament. Other community organizations with



Mesa in its 20th year, JUCO National Junior College Baseball Tournament is one of the major annual sporting events in Grand Junction. Local businessmen Sam Sappleton, also a life scientist, is a major promoter of the event. (Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce Collection)

a special impact on youngsters are the Special Olympics, Scout jamborees, 4-H programs, and the several Little League sports groups.

Many people also visit Mesa County for its recreational aspects: deer to hunt, a large proportion of those coming from either the senior citizen or the young family segment of the population.

Archaeology

In other regions of the state, the prehistoric record of west central Colorado was first documented by amateurs, perhaps the most well-known of these in the Grand Junction area being Al Lusk. Early on, Dr. C.T. Horst, Dr. E.B. Renaud, H.N. McCoveill and others in the state banded together to form the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS), dedicated to discussing the interests and efforts of amateurs in the preservation of archaeological resources and data.

In the late 1930s and 1940s, CAS was the driving force in an archeological research in Colorado. Their magazine *Southwestern Lore* (SWL) remains an excellent reference and forum for both amateurs and professionals. Early research efforts in west central Colorado published in SWL include those of Hasler (SWL 309, 395), Hasler and Hasler (SWL 394, 395), C.T. Horst (SWL 194, 46 and 194), P.H. Lister and Dick (SWL 195), H.D. and Armand (SWL 267, 413). Many of these articles report work done by university staff and graduate students.

From this early work there evolved the framework of a prehistoric cultural sequence. Recognized stages included the PaleoIndian (ca. 8,000-5,000 BC), the Archaic (ca. 5,000 BC - AD 500), the Formative (Formative/Anasazi (ca. AD 500-1,500), and the Protohistoric (Historic Rio) (ca. AD 1,500-1800).

Equally well known and used as *Southwestern Lore* are the *Denver Museum of Natural History's* publications on excavations in the region. Marie Wronneman authored several of these, among them *DMNH Proceedings* No. 1 (1939), which concerned the excavation of Fremont sites in west central Colorado and eastern Utah, and *DMNH Proceedings* No. 2 (1956), coauthored with Lister, which dealt with the investigation of sites on the Uncompaghe Plateau. These works described the Fremont Culture and defined the Uncompaghe Plateau Complex as a Late Archaic regional variant of the Desert Culture.



Work on the Taylor-Lusk archaeological site in Uncompaghe Canyon in 1952 by Robert Lister and Al Lusk. Marie Wronneman started local excavations of the site in 1939.

In the 1960s, William Buckles excavated several sites on the Uncompaghe Plateau and prepared his dissertation (1971), including Wronneman and Lister's Uncompaghe Complex. He described the Uncompaghe Complex as a continuous, slightly changing occupation of 800 years' duration whereby aboriginals practiced a hunter-gatherer lifestyle.

The signing in 1971 of Executive Order 11591 - which requires an archaeological inspection of public lands prior to their disturbance and makes government agencies responsible for cultural resources under their jurisdiction - has resulted in the surveying of thousands of acres and the recording of numerous archaeological sites throughout the West.

Where sites are to be adversely affected by projects, licenses have been required to mitigate these effects (frequently through scientific excavation), and to report the findings to the appropriate federal agency. Several excavations have contributed greatly to our knowledge of the local prehistory.

Two sites dated by excavation by Jerry Creek Rosewater Number 2 were excavated by Grand River Institute in 1978 (Martin et al. 1981). Shortly thereafter, the BLM commissioned the test excavation of a site near De Beque Canyon known as the De Beque Rockshelter (Roed and Nickens 1980). At both sites, C-14 dating, pollen analysis, and other data recovery techniques were employed to gain a clearer understanding of not only when the region was occupied but what the environmental conditions were through time. The De Beque Rockshelter produced information from the Early and Middle Archaic stages (although as chronologically diagnostic artifacts were recovered, the Jerry Creek sites produced evidence of Late Archaic, Fremont, and Protohistoric occupation).

The excavation of Sanghis Rockshelter east of De Beque, conducted as part of the I-70 highway construction project, produced numerous diagnostic artifacts from stratified cultural deposits (Gooding and Shedd 1981) and evidence of structure building by Late Archaic peoples (ca. 450 BC). Prior to this excavation, there had been no C-14 dated sequences for local projectile point types; researchers had depended on geowisological associations and the comparative use of point typologies developed elsewhere).

Excavations at Bartlett Mesa near Ector, in 1982 yielded evidence of a Late Archaic Pit structure - the oldest recorded in Colorado, with a C-14 date of ca. 1800 BC (Kinney and Langley, in progress). The partial remains of a Formative (Fremont) pit house (ca. AD 700) were uncovered here as well. A recent excavation by Nickens and Associates near Whitewater produced evidence of a surface structure from the same period (report in progress).

Our understanding of local prehistory has been greatly enhanced and solidified by the contributions of these studies, but there is much to be learned. In the 1980s, a movement among professional and avocational archaeologists is underway to teach the public that prehistoric remains are not renewable resources.



Joe Brown, a member of Quabok's Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, prepares to take a pollen sample during a recent archeological excavation. Such prehistoric and historic cultures and paleontological resources on public lands are protected by state and federal laws beginning with the 1966 Antiquities Law. (Steve's Great Images)

Paleontology

The first people in Mesa County to sortie and collect fossils were the various aboriginal inhabitants. Native Indians made flinted some of their chipped stone tools from agate, chert and rhyolite boulders, and agated wood. Trade beads containing segments of local chert were and other fossils were found for adornment.

In an 1899 letter to Elmer S. Riggs of the Chicago Field Museum, local dentist Dr. S.M. Bradley stated that dinosaur bones had been known in this region since 1865 and collected in earnest. In 1894, a local newspaper documented the discovery of "agitated bones of the mastodon (sic)" overlying that nearly was a case with 6 mammalian bodies of the great Hare 11 feet tall. Such local legends and mis-identifications abounded. It was not until 1900 that the first scientific work was conducted in the county.

Riggs collected a forelimb and shoulder blade of *Carnotaurus* near what would become Colorado National Monuments; he also uncovered the first, or type specimen of, *Basilosaurus* at Riggs Hill on the Rockies. Returning in 1901, he uncovered two-thirds of an *Apatosaurus* (then named *Dinosaur*) Hill near Fruita. These specimens were taken. Chicago to be exhibited in the Field Museum.



The partial mounted *Apatosaurus* (then named *Dinosaur*) in the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago consists of material collected by Elmer Riggs from Fruita in 1901. Material from other specimens was added later in this exhibit to reconstruct an entire skeleton. (Field Museum of Natural History Collection)

On his way to collect dinosaurs at Dinosaur National Monument in 1909, Ed Douglas stopped in Mesa County to make the first scientific collection from the Platteau Valley's Deltapine Formation (also known as Washakie Formation) beds. In 1915 he returned to collect more extensively. During 1921, Jenks Healderson of the University of Colorado Museum collected in both the Green River and DeBeque Formations of the county. That year, Ray Moode published a book on paleontology in which he described a belemnite and retained his Riggs' *Apatosaurus* find.

By 1924, more local people had been involved with making scientific discoveries. Al Lusk began making finds in both the Morrison and DeBeque Formations of the county. Ed Fisher found his first partial skeleton of *Basilosaurus* (also in the DeBeque). These discoveries inspired Bryant Harrison of the Chicago Field Museum to begin his study of the Platteau Valley area. Staying at the Harris ranch in Platteau Canyon, Harrison carried on his field collecting intermittently from 1932 to 1947. During the 1935 visit, Fisher found a *Ursus* bear tooth and Lusk found the skull of the herbivore *Sonoriaceras* (also in the DeBeque).

Harrison returned in 1935, collecting many skeletons including the *Spinosuchus* (also in the DeBeque), *Haplodontosaurus*, *Baryonyx* Avianiforms, and *Pachycephalus* (also in the DeBeque). That year, Lee Edward Hill began collecting for his University of Colorado Master's thesis in the Grand Valley's Morrison Formation. A local collector, Ed Hanson, found fragments (not vertebrae) at Riggs Hill, local fossils had to be sent to Sappleton, Altona, and Fred (also in the DeBeque). In 1938 Riggs returned to the Grand Valley for dedication ceremonies at both Riggs and Drewser Hills. Hill led by Lusk,

Riggs, and the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce, a bronze plaque commemorating Riggs' early discovery was erected at each locality. Locks Hill and others attempted to acquire and protect the second Riggs Hill quarry as an in-situ exhibit, but the bones were stolen by souvenir hunters.

Patterson returned to Mesa County for his fifth field season in 1939, working there again in 1940 and 1941. His final field season was in 1941. Isaac Kladder, a Grand Junction lawyer, made finds in both the Morrison and DeBeque Formations. He systematically collected animal localities, most of which he discovered, later donating this scientifically important collection to the Museum of Western Colorado.

The Douglas Pass area (although in Garfield County, Grand Junction BLM district) yielded many important fossils during the 1950s. Many new species of insect larvae, ants, and bees were found, including three oldest known butterflies. Bird feathers, bird tracks, and fossil leaves were also found at several localities on the northern border of Garfield County.

Finds in the Green River, DeBeque, and Morrison Formations continued in the 1960s, but were generally not associated with museum or university expeditions. In 1968 Jan Jensen of Brigham Young University excavated a *Camptosaurus* at the Dominguez-Jones Quarry (originally discovered by Ed and Vivian Jones of Delta). In 1971, the first expedition began to the Jones family locality of Dry Mesa Quarry above the Gunnison River. These Jensen found many bones of a diverse fauna including the huge meat-eating *Troosaurus* and the great "Supersaurus". In 1971 he found the even greater "Ultrasaurus".



In 1927 the Latta Dikins family were finding a series of dinosaur material in the Morrison formation. Perhaps more significant is the *Camptosaurus* mentioned found by them in 1935, the skull in the second found and the later preserved the first was found in the late 1980s near Canon City, Colorado. (photo courtesy of The Delta Sentinel)

Callison conducted a paleontological resource survey of Colorado National Monument in 1977. He and his team noted twelve dinosaur-producing localities on the Monument, but little else is known of these finds.

In 1979, Erikson studied a set of dinosaur tracks in Canyon Park, determining that two types of carnivorous dinosaurs had left their footprints in the area. Working at the Bookshills, he also uncovered parts of both a mammalian and a plesiosaur. A theropod dinosaur femur and claw teeth were found in a locality of the Barro Canyon Formation near Whitewater.

Allen J. Kihm began field work for his Ph.D. dissertation on the vertebrate fauna of the DeBeque Formation in 1978 through the University of Colorado at Boulder, working many of Patterson's and Kladder's localities as well as finding a number of his own. Though his efforts, certain collections were further identified and systematized. Patterson revisited the area in 1977 to aid Kihm in preparing several localities. The BLM subsequently contracted for Kihm and Helen Armstrong to conduct a literature search and field survey for vertebrate fossils in the Grand Junction area, assessing the 21 deer-locks and two new localities of the Morrison and Barro Canyon Formations. They also addressed the paleontological potential of all geologic formations in the area.

In 1981, Erikson and the BLM's Gloria Taylor found fossil remains of the oldest known trout fishes in the world. Handbooks have now been found in the Barro Canyon Formation on the Uncompaghe Plateau. A new species of early mammal, *Procyon pratensis*, was named after the important location (Pratt's) of its discovery.

March 11, 1981, Rex Meyer and John D. Moore began work on an amazing discovery at Rabbit Valley, remains of a *Camptosaurus*, *Allosaurus* (sauropod broken neck), and a very large *Apatosaurus* in a mudstone layer. Digging at the quarry for the Museum of Western Colorado was discontinued when vandalism to two plaster-jacketed vertebrae was discovered in early 1983. To protect the uncovered material, the BLM buried the site.

During the 1970s and 1980s, a great deal of paleontological work was conducted in the area, much of it by the local Museum of Western Colorado. Alfred T. Look and the Dow Chemical Company donated a new



John D. (J.D.) Moore (above) and Rex Meyer together made an unusual find in what the material is a mudstone. Since their 1981 Rabbit Valley discovery of parts of a *Camptosaurus*, *Allosaurus*, and *Apatosaurus*, other significant discoveries have been made in this site, including Mary and Walt Averett's Iguanodon. (photo courtesy of Rex Meyer, Colorado)

experimental plastic to help the Museum construct a mounted *Allosaurus* one skeleton. Other locally oriented paleontology exhibits also were put together.



Liz McIlwaine, Grand Junction Area BLM Geologist, points out the Rabbit Valley *Camptosaurus* embryo being bred below which the fossil large part of the animal's skull. Finding dinosaur skull material is rarely, other than bones were much less massive and more fragile than other large body parts. (photo courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management)

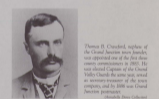
Liz McIlwaine, Area Geologist for the local BLM, discovered an important dinosaur find in 1982. Investigating an exposed *Camptosaurus* skeleton in a sandstone ledge at Rabbit Valley, she recovered five skull fragments containing parts of teeth from the talus in the drainage below the ledge. Notably that year, Margorie and Walter Averett were taking an afternoon walk when Mary spotted small shiny teeth. Tracing them uphill to the source, a partial skull in a sandstone boulder, Mary reported her find to the BLM's Taylor, who in turn asked Grand River Institute's Armstrong to verify the find. Verified and collected, it was tentatively identified as a plaster-casting *Camptosaurus*. Later investigation by leading expert Dr. Robert T. Bakker and others revealed it as perhaps the oldest known Iguanodon (tooth) in the world.

Over one hundred years of paleontological work in the area has produced more exotic, beautiful, and scientifically important finds. As work continues on our paleontological heritage, the people of Mesa County and our neighboring friends can look forward to learning more about our past.

Politics

The first recorded election in Mesa County (then part of Grantston) took place on June 1, 1883 when the holdover's ticket defeated the married man's list seats on the newly formed school board. A month later, on July 16, voters gathered to nominate a mayor and trustees for the town of Grand Junction. Charles F. Shanks was elected the city's first mayor.

In the fall of 1883, the steady growth of Grand Junction and the contiguous area led to a desire for the partitioning of Gunnison County. A mass meeting of citizens was held in Grand Junction on December 28, 1883 with the purpose of sending "a petition to the Legislature praying for a new county, with Grand Junction as the county seat." A suggestion was made by George A. Crawford that it be named for William Jackson Fisher of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.



Thomas D. Crawford, nephew of the Grand Junction mayor, headed, was appointed one of the first three county commissioners in 1885. He was elected Captain of the Grand Valley Guards the same year, served as secretary-treasurer of the area company, and he later was Grand Junction postmaster. (photo courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management)

The bill authorizing the creation of Mesa County was signed by Governor Grant on February 18, 1883. The Democratic and Republican parties each nominated a full set of county officials, which, according to the *Grand Junction News*, the governor ignored in making his appointments.

Nominations for the first elected county officers were made during October 1883. By all accounts the campaign that followed was exceedingly bitter, and resulted in the election of the entire Republican slate with the exception of A.J. McCraw, a Democrat, who was unopposed. The Republican victory proved shaky as the county also experienced one of its first "upsets."

In 1885 (before Grand Junction attorney James Beckin was the first representative elected to the Colorado legislature. He represented the counties of Pitkin, Gunnison, Montrose, Delta and Mesa in the Ninth Congressional District).

The Republican and Democratic parties have been the most active political organizations throughout the history of the county, but other groups have been involved. In the 1950s a Populist governor was elected,

and Mesa County was a leader in the Free Silver movement. At the 1899 Hatch Day Festival Grand Junction Wilcox Jennings Beers served as keynote speaker.

On September 8, 1908 a crowd of nearly 1,000 was drawn to the Park Opera House in Grand Junction to hear Eugene V. Debs, the Socialist Party presidential candidate, speak. The Debs party had arrived by train the day before on the "Bad Special." From 1911 to 1913 the *Mesa Evening News* (Mesa, Colorado) was published by William von Mueller—a was the official paper of the Socialist Party in Mesa County.

The WCTU (Women's Christian Temperance Union) was founded locally in 1881. Prata and Whitewater were established as "dry" communities, and the Prohibition Ticket was gaining support by many of Grand Junction's leading citizens. In 1909 Mesa County voted "dry." Many Mesa County men and women have served at all levels in their political parties. Among the more active have been Wayne Astjorn and Walter Walker.



The Mesa County courthouse replaced a structure in the 500 block of Main Street in Grand Junction. This building, between 5th and 6th on W 4th, had its cornerstone laid in 1912. The county's assessed valuation was \$27,713,880 in 1912, and \$42,611,630 in 1992. (See the Wikipedia photograph.)

Mesa County Government

Mesa County is located in northwest central Colorado and comprises some 1,311 square miles. It was established on February 14, 1881, carved from Clarion County which had formerly been filed from the Sagrado Mountains to the Utah line. The adjacent counties of Delta and Montezuma were also separated from Clarion in 1881, and Garfield County was taken from Summit County that year. Upon establishment, Mesa County immediately assumed its share of the former county's indebtedness, \$7,228,031. In 1914 the county's assessed valuation was \$22,773,900, in 1993 it is \$42,611,630.

The first county commissioners were appointed by Colorado governor James F. Grant. They were George W. Thustasin, Thomas B. Crawford, and Benjamin F. Carr. In November 1881 voters selected J.M. Russell, C.A. Bent, and J.F. Brink from Parana Valley as the first elected commissioners. Most county commissioners have been residents of Grand Junction, and, to date, 63 individuals have been elected as opposed to this office. Monroe Allen, George White and Dick Dink are the 18th incumbents.

The original three-commission structure of county government continues, but some elected offices have disappeared. For instance, when the State Reorganization and Consolidation Bill of 1968 was implemented in Mesa County in 1971, it made the office of Superintendent of Schools obsolete. In 1983 elected county officials are Earl Sawyer, clerk; Gene Hendersen, treasurer; Jan Farley, assessor; L.R. "Dick" Williams, sheriff; Roger C. Head, surveyor; and Alex K. Thompson, county liaison. In 1983 Gordon T. Harvey was selected county administrator, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Carl Windeman.

In 1983 the county work force includes some 481 full-time and 21 part-time employees. The largest department, that of the Sheriff, operates with

a force of 115 and a budget of \$3,045,082; the Road Department has 85 employees and was allocated \$9,020,035.

Official county business was conducted in private residences and businesses until the first courthouse was constructed at 6th and Main in Grand Junction. The present building, between 5th and 6th on Blvd, was under construction in 1912.

By 1883, county commissioners' initiatives indicate the county was maintaining a hospital, large, it supported a poor farm and a post office on the Railroad. The site of the poor farm was acquired by Mesa College in the 1940s as a site for teaching agriculture.

Around the turn of the century, Prata citizens petitioned the state legislature to form another county at the west end of present Mesa County. However, the legislature turned down their petitions, and after the Interstate reached Prata in 1910, the desire for a separate county evaporated.

County Superintendents

Harison S. Stroud, 1881; George R. Colwell, E.D. Brown, M.C. Whitehead, Ello A. Walker, Z.B. McClary, C.S. Sargent, Elizabeth Houston, Frank N. Wiley, Bob Bishop, Delgo, Steve Hopper, Dale Lundy, Lucille Mahanick, Bud Knight (1991).

School Districts

#1 - Grand Junction, #1 - Prata, #3 - Whitewater, #4 - Parry Mesa Elk, #5, #11 - L.P. - Callahan, #7 - Home, #8 - Bull Creek, #9 - Mesa, #12 - De Beque, #11 - Frick-Edwards, George Cary, Boulder, Simon, George, #13 - "New" Vero, #14 - Albia, #14 - Vega-Haberger, George, #15 - Canon, #16 - Columbia-Elbow Park, #16 - East Park, #17 - Dalar Basin, #18 - New Hope, #19 - Two Falls, #19 - Tolaoka, #20 - Garfield, #21 - Clover District, #21 - Eagle, #21 - Loma, #21 - Lisle Creek, #21 - Homer, #21 - Canon-De Beque, #22 - Star, #23 - District, #25 - Lincoln Orchard Mesa, #26 - George Mesa District, #31 - Red Mesa (1899), #31 - Florence, #31 - J., #34 - Lisle Park Club (1898), #35 - Mt. Lincoln High - Tolaoka, #36 - Clifton, #37 - Mack, #38 - L.P. - Consolidated District, #40 - Grand Junction, #41 - Glade Park, #41 - Callahan, #41 - Clifton, #41 - Mack, #41 - Six.

State Government

Mesa County was established seven years after Colorado achieved statehood in 1876. It is one of 63 counties and is bordered on the east by Delta, Pitkin and Gunnison, on the south by Montrose, and on the north by Garfield.

Since January 1, 1970 the state has funded the county's probation department, district and county courts. The county is in the 2nd judicial District, changed from the 3th in 1970. Court cases in 1981 included 1,294 domestic, 1,644 civil, 150 juvenile, and 508 criminal. Judges in 1981 were Charles A. Don, James R. Carter and William M. Ed.

On January 1, 1985 the "new" county court system was created, incorporating the former judges of the peace courts and part of the old county court system, with the district court assuming the remainder. County judges in 1985 were Vance Kilewey and Ann Smith. David A. Tompa was appointed court referee for both the district and county courts. In 1985 the county system handled 601 small claims, 3,059 civil cases, 629 criminal infraction cases, 2,574 traffic violations, 881 misdemeanors, and 38 felony cases.

Mesa County is in the 3rd U.S. Congressional District. Colorado House District #54 and #55, and Senatorial District #7. State legislators representing the county in 1985 were Thirion M. Bishop, James Robb and Vidler L. Armstrong.

On March 13, 1881, the Grand Valley Guards, also known as Company F, was mustered into the Colorado National Guard. The unit was commanded by Captain Thomas B. Caswell. In December 9, J. Hendersen, 2nd Lieutenant J.C. Brown, and Lieut. Eugene T. Clayton. The second unit of the Guard was formed in 1891 and was given the



A \$4,000,000 steel office building was under construction at 222 South 6th in Grand Junction at the end of 1983. (See the Wikipedia photograph.)

same name and designation. In January 1891 the Unit received the first armor built in Grand Junction, on Colorado Avenue between 5th and 6th Streets. On January 28, 1895 all equipment was packed up and shipped back to Denver, ending local activity until 1911. The present local unit is C Battery, 1st Battalion, 157th Field Artillery.

In 1918 the Colorado State Legislature passed a bill to create the former Lincoln School in Grand Junction ("Lincoln Institute," 1895-1910) to a State Home for Mental Defectives. The Home was established the following year. Because of a growing awareness of the needs of the mentally handicapped, the name of the institution was later changed to the State Home and Training School. It was operated as a central residence for the disabled until the early 1980s when many patients were moved to group homes. The Grand Junction Regional Center continues to care for those who require lifetime supervision.

A bill authorizing the creation of a state highway commission passed the Colorado legislature in 1930, effective January 1, 1931. Counties were asked to submit maps showing boundaries and indicating those routes most heavily traveled. Between 1930 and 1974 \$1,274,782,868.14 was spent on road construction in the state, and \$360,480,695.06 on repair and maintenance. From 1959 to 1974 William Weber was the only county resident to serve as a member of the State Highway Commission or of the Highway Advisory Board. His term of service were 1921 to 1925, 1928 to 1934, and 1937 to 1943.

The Division of Wildlife also maintains an office in Grand Junction. The Division and the Colorado Wildlife Commission are charged by law to carry out the state policy for wildlife, including management of



The Los Moran photograph features Colorado Senator Edwin C. Johnson (the left) and Franklin D. Roosevelt (the right) special train in Grand Junction, July 12, 1908. Other visiting chief executives have included Teddy Roosevelt.

some 960 species, 747 of which are nongame. In 1985 it was estimated that wildlife generated nearly \$2.6 billion in economic activity in Colorado.

In Mesa County the Department of Parks and Recreation manages the Highline, Island and Vega Reservoirs as well as a few smaller lakes. Other state departments represented locally include the Division of Employment, Services for Blind and Deaf, Driver License, State Patrol, and Local Affairs. In 1993 a new state office building is under construction in downtown Grand Junction, scheduled for opening in 1994. The state also funds many of the health and social services in Mesa County.

Colorado Facts and Symbols

Territory Created February 28, 1861

Date of Statehood August 1, 1876

Order of Entrance into Union 36th

State Capital Denver

Symbol:

Song "Where the Columbines Grow"

Flower: Columbine

Bird: Park Bunting

Tree: Colorado Blue Spruce

Animal: Bighorn Sheep

Fish: Rainbow Trout

Rock: Sanguinaria

Federal Government

Seventy-two percent of Mesa County, 2,385 square miles, is owned by the federal government. The state owns eight square miles, the county, in joint ownership with the various counties, 121 and 813 in private custody. The three federal agencies primarily involved in managing the land are the Forest Service Department of Agriculture, the National Park Service Department of Interior, and the Bureau of Land Management (Department of the Interior).

In 1892 the federal government set aside the Bartleson Mesa Forest Reserve. Land was purchased or donated. There was bitter resistance to the forest boundaries, and negotiation with the citizens, particularly in Parana Valley, were endless. The conflicts were resolved when the boundary was set roughly where it is today. The name was changed in 1924 to Grand Mesa National Forest, which administered the forest on Grand Mesa, Bartleson Mesa, and a small section on Pitkin Mesa. The Uncompagme National Forest was formed on June 16, 1905.

In 1911 President Taft signed a bill creating the Colorado National Monument. John Otto had purchased the park since 1893. The park protects huge red sandstone monoliths, unique rock formations and hot springs. It spans 20,449 acres, and in 1893 contained 179,180 visitors.

On June 24, 1914, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Taylor Grazing Act (TGA). This act ended privately held and ungrazed grazing use of the public lands and introduced federal protection and management of the lands and their resources. The TGA was implemented through the concerted efforts of the livestock operators and the newly created Division of Grazing. In 1946 the Division became the U.S. Grazing Service, and in 1966 increments of the Service were combined with the Government Land Office to create the Bureau of Land Management. Both the Grand Junction Area and District Offices are located in Grand Junction.

Since 1981 Grand Junction area rancher Barbara F. Burkhead has served director of the BLM. He is a Mesa County native, and a graduate of Parana Union High School (now Parana Mesa) and the Colorado School of Mines. He is a former state legislator, and in 1979 served as speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives. Burkhead is the first local resident to serve in a sub-national level post.

During the Great Depression a number of federal programs were authorized under New Deal legislation. These included the Reclamation



At Look point at the Colorado Formation in the Colorado National Monument. The National Park Service administers Mesa County's "Ladle Mine Canyon", created in 1951. (W. Lee Goffman)

Administration which helped relocate qualified persons in the lower valley during the mid-1930s. The WPA (Works Progress Administration) greatly assisted community and library services by providing paid personnel and furnishing equipment not otherwise available. Locally, it aided the establishment of the Mesa County Public Library in the former Lovell School Building in 1940. It provided salaries, shelving, and, for one year, the county's first bookmobile.

In 1935 the federal government authorized the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in an attempt to relieve hardship resulting from the prevailing harsh economic conditions and to conserve the country's natural resources. The establishment of the CCC was made the duty of several federal agencies including the Departments of Agriculture, Interior, Labor and War.

The CCC opened its first camps in Colorado in 1933. By 1935 problems of administering the 40-acre camps resulted in the formation of the new "Grand Junction District." The parent district was designated "Fort Logan District," at Fort Logan, Colorado. The local district embraced all the territory on the Western Slope of the Rocky Mountains. The headquarters, located on the present site of the VA hospital, consisted of an administration building, commissary, clothing warehouse, property warehouse and garage. Projects undertaken locally included repair and maintenance of the Grand Valley Canal, work on the diversion dam and canal at Palisade, the Green Creek Road project, and construction of the Barrook Highway in the Colorado National Monument. Camps were located in Grand Junction, Palisade and Fruita.

The first post office established in Mesa County was the Grand Junction one. It originally opened in February 1862 as "Ute." The Headquarters Post Office (changed to Colleton in 1862) was established in August 1862. The Fruita Post Office originally Mesa in 1863; the Whitewater opened in 1866, the De Beque (first known as Rawden) in 1868, the Moss in 1867, the Palisade first established in 1861, and the Midway (first known as Seapack) in 1868. Other existing post offices and their dates of founding include Clifton (1900), Loma (late March) in 1903, Gateway (first

opened 1903, then 1904), Glade Park (1903), and Meek (1904). Post offices have also been located on Rapid Creek, the Harlow (1890-93), Bodfish or Capstone (1890-93), Copper (1898-1899), Barred (1902-1903), and Pine Bluff on Glade Park (1913-1914).

The Tri-River Area Extension Service is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Colorado State University, and the counties of Mesa, Delta, Montrose and Cimarron. It was established in 1961, and locally replaced the Mesa County Extension Service which had operated since its founding in 1914.

Tri-River is jointly funded by the federal and state governments with operational support provided by the counties. It is designed as an outreach program to allow for the dissemination and encouragement of new knowledge developed at Colorado State and other land grant universities, and to provide coordination among Extension staff members located on the Western Slope and branch experiment stations. As an Extension Service, it makes available the technical skill of its staff to serve agricultural needs, avoid future economic and bioterrorism, and sponsor 4-H programs for youth.



Yearly from the federally funded Colleton Job Corps contributed over 700 hours in emergency relief during 1963 summer flooding. Throughout the county, some 1300 students were temporarily housed, and property damage estimates were around \$2 million. (City and Region newspaper)

A federal program currently serving Mesa County is the Civilian Job Corps. Founded in 1963, it offers vocational and educational training to poor, unemployed youth and women between the ages of 16 and 21. The Colleton Center primarily serves students from Colorado.

Federal agencies with offices in Grand Junction include the Forest Service (1906), Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation (1918), Soil Conservation Service (1936), Social Security (1937), Internal Revenue Service (1948), Farm Home Administration (1934), Atomic Energy Commission (1947), new Department of Energy, Federal Aviation Administration (1967), Federal Bureau of Investigation (1950), Army Reserve (1960), Army Corps of Engineers (1958), Oil Shale Office of the Geological Survey (1974), and Fish and Wildlife (1980).



Leo Hahn, Harold Woodard James Meyer fell in sight were among those who died during the Japanese surprise attack on Hawaii and the Philippines, December 7, 1941. Harold Colburn and Earl Johnson were taken prisoner and returned to Okinawa March 1945.



Members of American Legion Post #211 are shown in a recent photograph at Mesa. The post was formed in 1920, the first in Mesa County and was named for George H. Roberts who died in World War I. Other posts were founded in Grand Junction, De Beque, Fruita, Palisade and Colleton. They are also posts and chapters of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and Veterans Veterans of America. Barrook #602 and the Lost Spauld on World War I veterans' organization. (City and Region newspaper)

From the service of Jack Tom and Charles Kesterman in the Spanish American War, 1898-1899, to that of Kevin Spertini of Grand Junction and David White of Fruita in Lebanon and Okinawa in 1965, respectively, thousands of Mesa County men and women have served during America's role in and out of world wars. During World War I, Mesa, including Midway, suffered unusual hardship along... In order to improve morale from the Philippines, Major Homer H. Howard flew missions over Italy, Collett Linnaman was highly decorated for service in both the Pacific and Europe, and Joe Sage lost his life over Germany. Annually, the Grand Junction Lions awards a scholarship to Grand Junction High School in his honor.

In honor of Mesa County's World War I veterans, the Mount Garfield chapter of D.A.R. compiled a volume documenting those who had served. Mesa County entered a record of World War I veterans and women listed on family subdivisions, and American Legion Post #211 produced a volume listing servicemen and women who served during the war. The Mesa County Civil History Project also has interviewed many veterans from all wars and is currently participating in a special Vietnam project under the direction of Bruce Sherman.

Armed Bill Brown (above, right) and local naval personnel Gray Knell (left) were among the thousands of Americans to serve in the Korean Conflict, 1950-53. USIA employee Mike Badger (right) served with MASH #877, and nurse Susan Lee with South Korean Army. (Bill Brown Collection)



Arvy Goffin, Larry Delgado, Raymond Lee Hopkins, and Sam Daniel were among the over 11,000 killed in America's longest war, 1964-70. American Legion Post #202 was named for Oscar Alan White, Chapter #75, Vietnam Veterans of America, incorporated Veterans Veterans (late 1 and 2 1982) and 1983. The DAV Vietnam Veterans Outreach Center, Bone Place, and the VA after their veterans and their families (specialized treatment) (Mesa County Veterans Club)

Colorado's Second Annual Vietnam Veteran's Day



Vietnam Interpretive Memorial Park was founded on December 26, 1989 by a small group of community leaders in a restricted neighborhood. In 1992 it was purchased by Mesa County to assure its perpetual existence. (M. Loper photograph)



Shown are a few of the more than 700 Mesa County men and women who served in World War I. Robert McMillan and George A. Roberts were among those killed. American Red Cross Captain Harold Appleby died of typhus, and Raymond English was wounded. (City and Region newspaper)



The "Grand Valley District" of the CCC was established on August 1, 1935. The 1936 staff at work.

Members of the CCC in Colorado, Summer 1935

Wayne Norviel Aspinall (1896-1983)

Aspinall was Mesa County's most prominent political figure for more than 50 years. He was elected to the Colorado legislature in 1932, and in 1948 to his last two-year term representing the Fourth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. After his reelection in 1950, he was named to the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. He became chairman of the committee's irrigation and reclamation subcommittee in 1975, and subsequently headed the powerful, 181-member House subcommittee from 1978 to 1979.

Aspinall's contributions to the reclamation and development of the western U.S. were numerous. He was the author of the Colburn Project Bill, which authorized Vega Dams, and played a key role in Colorado River Storage Project legislation to open up development in Western Colorado. This authorized the San Juan, the Flamingo Project, the Smith Forks Project near Crawford and the Florida Project near Durango.

In 1968, Aspinall sponsored the Colorado River Basin Project Act, which authorized the Dallas Creek, Arroyo-La Plata, West Divide, San Miguel and Dolores projects in Western Colorado, along with the Central Arizona Project.

Aspinall continued to win bipartisan support until the legislature reconstituted the state in 1972. He was defeated for reelection that year, and a year later returned to Colorado to join the law firm of Aspinall and Aspinall, which has also served as a consultant and Washington representative for several groups.

Among his many awards, he was named "Mr. Democrat" by the Mesa County Democratic Central Committee in 1981, "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" by the Palouse Chamber in 1963, and Club 275 "Man of the Year" in 1978. The Federal Building in Denver and the University of Colorado named him in his honor, and the Aspinall Foundation established at Mesa College in 1968. It annually provides students and members of the public the opportunity to learn about world affairs from experts in specific fields.

Born in Ohio, Aspinall came to Colorado in 1904 with his parents. He graduated from Palouse High School and received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Denver. He also served in both World War I and World War II.

William J. Moyer (1859-1943)

One of Mesa County's leading businessmen and philanthropists during the first century was William J. Moyer. For more than 40 years his Fair Store was the leading mercantile establishment in Western Colorado, and his generosity to the underprivileged, legendarily.

Moyer, a Pennsylvania native, moved to Grand Junction in 1890 and founded the original Fair Store in a room measuring 12' by 27', with \$300 in stock. The Fair grew rapidly, and was soon housed by an imposing three-story building at 333 Main. It was equipped with the city's first elevator.

Moyer also organized and invested substantial amounts in the Grand Valley National Bank, just as the Fair became a symbol of the finest retail merchandising in Western Colorado; the bank came to symbolize the corner of Western Colorado's finance. The bank (now First National), on the northwest corner of 5th and Main, was a recipient to Moyer's unending gifts in the future of Western Colorado and the Grand Valley.

He served as an unofficial and confidential advisor to many merchants, and was always fair on the list of potential charity contributors. He provided the majority of the funding for the construction of the YMCA, helped finance the building of the Douglas Fun and Unwaxed Roads, and acted at least 18 local fairs through college. He was also a charter member of the Grand Junction Rotary Club.

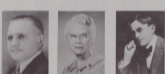
An acknowledged John Dill in Moyer's life occurred in June 1922 when the \$3,000,000 Moyer Dam was dedicated in Lincoln Park. He and his wife donated the gold with the stipulation that there be free days for children.

Moyer's quality control seemed based on his store — and the 1930s. During the Great Depression he was hospitalized.

Mary Rait (1894-)

Among the best known educators and historians in Mesa County is Mary Rait. For 42 years she has influenced directly as a teacher at Grand Junction High School, and as a Mesa College faculty member. Indirectly, she influenced generations of researchers by creating one of the most definitive volumes on Mesa County, "Development of Grand Junction and the Colorado River in Palouse from 1881-1911" (unpublished thesis, University of Colorado, 1911).

Rait, a Kansas native, moved as a young girl to Palouse with her family. She completed high school in the Palouse area, and taught schools for a few years. She completed B.A. and M.A. degrees at the University of Colorado and her post-master's work was completed at CU, Columbia and Northwestern Universities. In 1903 Rait received an honorary doctorate from her alma mater, CU. She taught high school from 1902 to 1911, and college at Mesa from 1905 to 1940 and Cooper College in 1944 and 1945. She became dean of Women at Mesa then Grand Junction State Junior College in 1915, and Vice-President in 1937. She received the CU Distinguished Alumni Award in 1957, was recognized as "Teacher of the Year" in 1939 by the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs, and was awarded the "Learner — and Learner" award by Colorado's book-casting industry. The first Mesa College dormitory, opened in 1948, was named in her honor. She retired from the college in 1943.



Harold Bryant (1894-1950)

Mesa County's unique natural environment was rewarded with great creativity by artist Harold Bryant. He painted both animals and cowboys with great diversity, creating in his work a humanitarian sympathy for wildlife and a realistic rendering of modern "cow country."

Bryant, a Nebraska by birth, grew up marveled in the Appleton area west of Grand Junction. He graduated from Appleton High School and attended the Chicago Art Institute. After serving in World War I, he worked in both Chicago and New York as a commercial artist, spending reactions at his cabin on Piton Mass. He spent the last decade of his life in the Grand Valley.

Bryant was one of the few important Western artists of his period. One tribute to his marvelous talent was that he was one of the few living artists to stage a one-man show in the Grand Central Galleries in New York City.

Walter Walker (1883-1956)

Walter Walker, publisher of the Daily Sentinel from 1911 to 1956, influenced nearly every aspect of regional development during his lifetime. Through his efforts the paper became a nationally powerful voice for the Western Slope, and made great advances in promoting local cultural and economic development.

Walker, a Kentucky native, followed his father to Grand Junction in 1903 after the elder Walker sold the Crested Pine. He (Walker) served briefly as the Daily Sentinel's only reporter, and returned in 1911 to become publisher after the death of founder L.N. Bunting. In 1917, he and his wife purchased the paper.

The scope of Walker's community involvement ranged from relief for the needy to a campaign for a Veterans Home for the Western Slope. He repeatedly used his influence to bring nationally known speakers and entertainers to the area, and in 1923 was principally responsible for establishing the Appleton (now Grand) Theatre. Walker was an active supporter of Mesa College, was influential in promoting what was to become the Grand Junction Regional Center, and was at the forefront of the establishment of the airport. He was also a charter member and twice president of the Grand Junction Rotary Club.

Walker, a lifelong Democrat, was active at state and national levels. He served as a delegate to eight national conventions, and was a presidential elector in 1936. He served briefly as a U.S. Senator filling the seat of the deceased Charles Watson.

The Grand Junction Airport was named in his honor in 1942, and he was selected by the University of Colorado in 1949 as the state's outstanding alumnus. The new Mesa College performing arts center was named in his honor in 1949.



Dalton Trumbo (1905-1976)

Trumbo, a 1924 graduate of Grand Junction High and former cub reporter on the Daily Sentinel, moved Grand Junction when his first novel, *Edge*, was published in 1915. The character came truly despised residents of the town. For a time, *Edge* was banned in the area, although a book business was done under cover. No one was more surprised about the banishment than the author.

He struggled to break into the motion picture industry in Hollywood, succeeding when he wrote the screenplays for *Red Gang* and *Law Began* at Twenty. His powerful anti-war novel, *Johnny Got His Gun*, received the American Bookellers Award in 1939 for the most original novel. In 1947 his life changed when he was questioned by the House Committee on Un-American Activities about membership in communistic organizations. Since he would not reveal other names and since he had been a member of some sport organizations in the 1930s, he was sentenced to one year in prison for contempt of Congress. After that, he was blacklisted in the film industry. He assumed other names and continued to write, moving an Oscar for *The Bone* (in 1957) under the name of Robert Rich. Other film credits include *Memories*, *Jackie*, *Hawaii*, *Dark Angel*, *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo*, *Exodus*, and *Happen*.

Geno Saccomanno, Ph.D., M.D. (1915-)

A native of eastern Utah, Doctor Saccomanno originally came to Grand Junction following his medical training at St. Mary's University. In 1948, he established the pathology department at St. Mary's Hospital and the Veterans Administration Hospital, and provided pathology service to most of the hospitals and physicians of Western Colorado and Eastern Utah. He was chief pathologist at St. Mary's until 1978, when he stepped down to devote more time to his long career research, but he remained chief pathologist at the Veterans Administration Medical Center.

During the years that Doctor Saccomanno has worked at St. Mary's, the field of pathology has seen significant change and progress. Doctor Saccomanno has played a key role in the formation and development of modern cytogenetics, and is known and respected throughout the entire community. His method for processing urinary samples bears his name — the "Sacomanno Technique" — and is used worldwide in processing lung cancer. His research with urinary tumors, which spans over three decades, has allowed significant advances in the ability to diagnose very early lung cancer. This research has also provided information in the role of radon exposure in the development of lung cancer, and data on harmful, as well as safe, levels of radon exposure. This information is important to the uranium mining industry in establishing standards for maximum permissible exposure levels in the mines, and may contribute valuable data that can be used to assess the potential health risks associated with the seepage of high levels of radon into homes in various areas of the country.

Doctor Saccomanno has appeared when he speaks of the beauty of the region and its people. He has worked on state community projects, and serves on the board of local financial institutions. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce, and was one of the original founders of UIC (Educational Development Inc.).

His work and contributions have been recognized locally and nationally, and include Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen Award, Mesa County Medical Society Volunteer Service Award, Saltwater Army Outstanding Service Award, Disabled American Veterans American Service Award, Louis University Foundation, Our American Future Award in Medicine, American Cancer Society National Service Award for Significant Contribution to Cancer Research, and the American Society of Cytology Epidemiology Award.

John Otto (1879-1952)

On May 24, 1911, President Taft signed a proclamation establishing the Colorado National Monument. It was through the efforts of John Otto that this awe-inspiring area was set aside for all to enjoy.

Otto fell in love with the region after he was a powder monkey on the Frisco pipeline. He began to write letters and campaign locally to have the area preserved, and because the cost was a dollar a year, he lived in the canyon, without cash, during the winter, accompanied by his horse and two hawks. He was married in a makeshift wedding, performed at the site of 536-foot Independence Monument with the bride and groom standing in a trough after the groom had contracted. The marriage lasted three months less when the bride returned to Boston. Otto went on to build trails in "Tom" park and on Grand Mesa, parks which are still in use.

Otto remained in the Monument area after his dismissal as custodian, promoting his vision of a transcontinental highway which would follow the track. In 1919 Renwick Road was authorized, and as Otto worked, and eventually built, the road, he lost his health. He died in 1952, and denied him that he left in 1935, going to California where he died in 1952.

The Renwick Road, begun by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, was finished in 1950. Initially the road followed the famous Trail of the Serpents, now a hiking path. Visitors may study along the rim, stopping at pullouts and viewing Otto's trails. In 1981, 795,180 people visited the monument.



Flouring through, Wheatcroft, ca. 1940
(With Harvey Sadek Collection)



Salvation Army, 1940, Grand Junction
(With Harold Johnson Collection)



Armenian School Pupils, Grand Junction, 1933
(Group A. Baker, Jr. Collection)



Frank Lantry Clark, sitting in
 Lighthouse area, ca. 1900
(D.A. Clark Collection)



Pilgrims for Pilgrims, 1912
(Harold Lantry Collection)



D.A.R., Indian Bore, La Cien Head, October 7, 1942, Grand
 Junction
(Daughters of the American Revolution Collection)



Dr. David John Borkhoff, Mont. 1912
(Harold Lantry Collection)



School days, Cameron, 1912
(Harold Lantry Collection)



Grand Junction Police Department, 1940
(Harold Lantry Collection)



City Hall of City Department, ca. 1940



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Fey Gibson, ca. 1910
(Harold Lantry Collection)



C.D. Jack Sade Fremont, Pilgrims, 1911-1912
(Harold Lantry Collection)



Ford Street, Grand Junction, ca. 1912
(Don England Collection)



Miss Annie Derry, 1906
(Harold Lantry Area Chapter of Lantry Collection)



Mont Hall, Grand Junction, 1911

(Don Tom Wagoner photograph)



Enduring Colfax style

(Grand Junction Area Chapter of Lantry Collection)



Setting of site of Lantry Junction's largest established businesses
 1874 present



Timothy case, Hall of Justice, County Courthouse
 (No Lantry photograph)



Christmas lights, American Grand Junction, ca.
 1940
(With Harold Johnson)



Salvation Army 7th site, Thurgood in the Railroad
(With Anne photograph)



1960s voter-based Photo Trust Hall

(With Anne photograph)



Nellie Murray BSA International award winner, 1937
(With and Marie Brown Collection)



Quick shopping local convenience store, 1940s
(Clara Brown photograph)



Miss Marysville, 2nd place NCAAA National Tournament, 1942
(photograph courtesy of Miss Clayton)



1940s of July Photo
(With Anne photograph)



America in action, Grand Junction Athletic Club
(through courtesy of C.D.)

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