

A BIT OF HISTORY

In Comparison With the Hard Winter of 1879-80, the Present Winter Reminds Old Settlers.

The old settlers, the pioneers of the Ashley Valley, have often compared the present winter with the winter of 1879-80, familiarly known in local history as the hard winter

True, this winter has already been a hard one and many a farmer, prospector and stock raiser is waiting anxiously for the advent of that enchanting season known as spring. But the prospects are that a number of days, and perhaps, but we sincerely hope not, weeks must elapse before the farmer will be able to brighten his rust eaten plowshare in the fertile soil, the prospector will hie away to the high hills and the cattle, now eating \$10 hay, will be driven to range or pasture

The snow this winter has been almost as deep as it was the "hard winter" But this has been a very mild tempered one, while the other was extremely frigid Ten degrees below zero has been the lowest temperature registered this winter and many a day has been warm enough to melt the snow in southern exposures Again, the people now have comfortable homes, feed for stock and constant communication with the rest of the world, while such was not the case in 1879

The comparison of the two winters has led us to interview old settlers a little and give a few of the leading incidents of that memorable period in the history of Uintah County. However, we realize that the sketch will not be complete and we cannot hope to make it free from errors, but it may serve as a nucleus to the history of the early settlement of this valley.

The settlement of the Ashley valley dates back to 1877. The first settlers located along Ashley creek and their holdings were more in the nature of stock ranches than farms During 1878 a number of mormon colonists made their advent into the valley and in the spring of 1879 the Ashley Central canal was commenced The individuals who first diverted the water and placed it

1906-03-10

upon their land were Lycurgus Johnson, A. J. Johnston and David Johnson. The route of the canal constructed by them was the present route from the point of diversion to James Hacking's corner. The time occupied in taking out the water and placing it upon land in Vernal was about three weeks. The first land irrigated in Vernal was near the site of the new Stake Tabernacle.

During the season of 1879 a number of new settlers arrived and raised crops. There were three deaths during the summer of 1879 that we will mention. They were Mrs. J. H. Black, wife of Grandpa Black, Mrs. Clara Westover, a sister of Mrs. Caroline A. Stringham, and Robert Snyder. He was struck by lightning and instantly killed. Mrs. Black was the first person whose remains were interred in the Vernal cemetery.

During September 1879 the Meeker massacre occurred at Meeker, Colorado. At that time there was a reservation in the western part of Colorado with the Agency at Meeker. All the male employees including Colonel Meeker, the agent, were killed and the women and children taken prisoners. It is an open secret that a number of the Uintah Utes joined their cousins at Meeker and a general massacre of all the white settlers in this whole section of country was planned by the Indians. But some of the old chiefs of the Uintahs, who were friendly with Uncle Jeremiah Hatch and the late I. J. Clark, among them Jacob Arapine (Yanks) and Tabby, rode over in the night and warned Hatch and Clark that the settlers must gather together, otherwise the friendly chiefs might be unable to control their young men. This advice was acted upon by the settlers without delay. Over twenty families collected here at Vernal, the Dry Fork people fled to old Ashley. In these two places most of the people remained until the excitement subsided. Many of the families remained there all winter. There was also a small group of families who spent the winter on White river above Ouray. This was before the Uncompahgre reservation had been created.

The winter of 1878-9 had been a very mild one and early settlers of this valley believed that stock would winter here easily without hay or shelter. But the winter of 1879-80 disabused their minds of this mistaken idea. The first snowstorm occurred November 2, 1879 and before January there was over eighteen inches of snow on the ground. The weather was so cold that the spirituous liquors dispensed by Mr. Bently, our only liquor vender, sometimes froze solid enough to burst the bottles. For nearly three months the sun had little or no effect on the south side of the houses. All communication with the outside world was cut off for about two months, there was no mail

carried either in or out of the valley. When the mail carrier managed to snowshoe it over the range to Green River city and brought the long delayed newspapers the people were amused at the information that early in the winter they had all been massacred. Another condition was scarcity of provisions. Money there was, but it would not buy the staff of life for there was none here to be purchased. However, there was the grain raised in the valley the proceeding summer, but no roller flouring mill. At this juncture Bill Reynolds, our present miller at the Reynolds & Fletcher mill, conceived the idea of bulking a mill with materials available. Among the settlers was a stone cutter, by name of Moroni Taylor. Under Reynolds direction he cut out a pair of burrs from two large hard boulders. The carpenters built the frame work and a mill capable of reducing the wheat into meal was completed and attached to a horse power. For a time horses formed the motive power but toward spring, when most of the horses had passed to the great beyond, men and boys were substituted as the propelling force.

This mill ground every thing that was placed in the hopper and as the wheat that season was very smutty the product was a meal as black as the proverbial ace of spades. Upon this unpalatable, coarse, black bread, rich and poor alike subsisted for about four months. It was not uncommon for people to invite each other to Sunday dinners and in every instance the bill of fare consisted of one article—black bread. There was one remarkable feature of the whole community being reduced to a common level, viz: there was no class distinction, or jealousy over each other's wealth. The people were united and happy. In fact at that time they were very thankful to be numbered among the living.

One of the great misfortunes of the settlers that winter was the heavy losses of cattle and horses. A few killed part of their cattle in the early part of the winter. It was a common saying. "We will kill our animals to save their lives." When spring arrived the reports of settlers who were searching the range for stock were simply appalling. Out of forty or fifty head it was not unusual for a man to come out with one or two animals. A number of the settlers had only one horse left in the spring. So the next crop was planted under the most difficult circumstances imaginable. A number of expeditions were made that winter after deer and antelope, which were very plentiful here at that time. But before mid-winter these animals were so poor as to be valueless for food. Early in the spring or about the first of April a large company of settlers left the valley via the Strawberry Valley route. They were unable to get to Heber City until the latter part of May. I. J. Clark, who went with that company to Heber City to secure provisions, did not return until July 4th.

n- company to Heber City to secure pro-
er visions, did not return until July 4th,
o 1880 He was detained by the snow in
on the mountains and on the return
th journey by the high water in the Du-
le chesne river. The first provisions to
r, reach the valley were brought from
an Green River City, Wyo , 150 miles dis-
n- tant, and were delivered here some
k- time in May. Before the teams arriv-
e consumed So the return of the party
of who went after supplies was the most
s welcome event of the year All the
he people were out to participate in the
le general welcome

J. The health of the people was good
e during the winter. The only deaths,
he we are aware of, was two of C. C.
at Bartlett's children, one of them, a boy,
r, died from brain fever, and a girl who
e died from diphtheria Their coffins
n were made from the rough boards of a
e wagon box, as it was the only lumber
ly obtainable These two children were
e the second and third persons whose re-
y- mains repose in the Vernal cemetery.
le On July 4, 1880, nearly all the children
d- of a gentleman by name of Henderson,
ed were siezed with an attack of diph-
a- theria and eight out eleven children
e succumbed to the dread disease within
y- two months.

re The advent of spring was very late
y that season and the farmers were un-
il- able to begin operations until the first
er week in April. It is perhaps well to
r. note in passing that during the winter
ed the initial steps looking to the organiz-
a- ation of a new county were taken and
n- early in the spring of 1880 Uintah
re county was organized.

on The settlers who remained in the
ld valley produced abundant crops during
y the season of 1880 and that summer the
r, old grist mill owned by the Reynolds
st family was erected. Since those days
e the progress of the county though not
th phenominal has been healthy and con-
on- tinuous We are unable to give a
or- ccomplete list of families who were in
ll the county that winter, but so far as
we know at present they were as

follows:

AT DRY FORK.

Men with families, Thomas Bingham, Sr., David Bingham, Jr, William H. Perry, Chell Hall, Leo Hall, Charles Nye, Orsen Nye, Iowa Hall and Fletcher Hammond

ASHLEY AND VICINITY:

Pardon Dodds, Lycurgus Johnson, Alfred Johnson, William Gibson, James Gibson, G. W. Vangundy Philip Stringham, Al Westover, S D Colton, Ed Colton, John Fairchild, Wm Powell, Louis Kabeil, Roch Gill, Mr. Hawkins, Alma Taylor, T. Taylor, William Britt, John Bentley, Richard Veltman, Bill Hayden, Samuel Miller, Mrs Wm. Preece and family, S P. Dillman and Mr. Thorne

VERNAL.

I. J. Clark, Jeremiah Hatch, A. A. Hatch, James Hacking, Nelson Merkley, J. H. Black, A. J. Johnstun, David Johnson, Thomas Karren, Bradford Bird, Peter Peterson, Jesse Clark, John Clark, Ephriam Perks, Levi Dougherty, William Ashton, George Freestone, W. H. Gagon, Lafayett Harris, Lamoni Taylor, Maroni Taylor, Mr. Henderson, C. C. Bartlett, James B. Henry, John Harper, David P. Woodruff, William Reynolds, Martin Oaks, Heber Timothy.

AT WHITE RIVER

Samuel Campbell, Joseph Campbell, Heber Compbell, Jerome Merrill, Porter Merrill and Rodney B Remington.

AT MOUTH OF BURH CREEK ON GREEN RIVER

Judge Isaac Burton and family, Charles Smith, Jacob Burns, Lars Jensen and Jack Stevens

ATL, UINTAH COUNTY, UTAH, SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1906.

This Solves The Problem.

No more groping in the dark, in an endeavor to procure water for the Dry Gulch district for this season. The following telegrams tell the story. Of course the directors as well as everyone interested in the Dry Gulch Irrigation Company, are feeling good. They will now get busy and by enlarging Indian canals get the water out for irrigation, and the settlers will be able to raise something this season. Our Congressmen have worked persistently for the reversion homesteader, and have forced matters until they have accomplished their purpose. "Water by May '06" was the motto:

Washington D. C., April 6th, 1906.

R. S. Collett, Vernal, Utah.

Secretary of Interior will approve your right of way to-day. Agreement will be submitted as soon as prepared. RESP SMOOT.

Washington, D. C., April 5, '06.

R. S. Collett, Vernal, Utah.

Secretary has approved your application to enlarge and use Bench canal, Canal No. 1, and Uintah canal. Details later. MAIL.

Washington, D. C., April 5, 1906.

Ed F. Harmston, Vernal, Utah.

Secretary of Interior this morning granted settlers right of way across Indian Grazing Land to go into effect at once.

GEO. SUTHERLAND.

NO MORE

Will Be Necessary \$600,000 1 struck

If the Indian White river to during the ear to their credit Treasury when them they work charity, is the Teller.

If the money paid for the they formerly able, it would Indian bureau for an appropriation which to construction systems for on the former tion.

We have had a letter written

ey for for de- zht to unting ighn T, W. O' This owner- vor of ll costs d child ted by . The known RS. S Lx- on A All of

1906-04-07

Myton News.

The new drug store building of Lloyd and Brownfield is completed and looks very nice, a very handsome counter and shelving adorns the inside, all the work of Mr. John Wills our genial townsman and carpenter. Everybody will welcome the new drug store and wish it success.

Great excitement prevailed here the last week owing to the ice accumulating at the bridge and forming great size. The bridge was in great danger of being taken away and only owing to the persistent and hard work of some of our townsmen with the use of plenty of dynamite the bridge would have certainly gone.

Reasons Why

The townsite of Independence was selected after weeks of careful consideration with the idea of making it the principal city on the reservation. (Its promoters were confident that somewhere there would rise a large city. This was apparent to everyone, for aside from the principle feature of thousands of acres of the finest soil the sun ever shone upon, there were immense mining and grazing interests bound to develop. And Independence was brought into existence for the purpose of making that city.) Its promoters are Colorado capitalists, who have been connected with large enterprises, and they have had their plans carefully. They first determined that the location would certainly be on the Moffat road and they were informed by one high in authority that there was no reason why it should not be the principal city on that road between Denver and Salt Lake.

They also realized that a pure water supply was essential, and they therefore filed on Utah river water to be brought through the Bench ditch, which is a ridge ditch and into which there is absolutely no seepage. This will be brought into the town as pure as melted snow by means of a pipe line.

A large reservoir also below the end of the ditch was applied for and an easement granted to it by the Interior Department. When completed, this will afford, with its 200 feet of fall, a sample fire protection. It will also make a beautiful lake covering over 200 acres only a mile from the town.

The company means business and if you are business you will investigate. Many are arranging to go into business there. Why not you also?

For lots or information see
Ernest H. Wilson,
 VERNAL Agent.

INDEPENDENCE

The Coming Center of the Reservation

Buy Lots! Buy Lots Now!!

Get in on the ground floor at INDEPENDENCE. These lots are bound to increase in value very rapidly.

WHY?

Because it is the natural point for the best city on the reservation, being adjacent to 150,000 acres, comprising the best farming land to be found anywhere.

Because it will be directly on the Moffat road.

Because the company has the best chance to get pure mountain water for domestic purposes.

Because it will bring this supply in at once.

Because the people back of it are pushers and will leave no stone unturned for its betterment.

Because they are spending a large sum NOW in buildings that will be substantial.

Because arrangements are being made for schools, and parks and trees.

Because an electric light plant will be established.

Because a two story hotel of eighteen rooms will be built at once.

Because everybody is talking about it and many are now arranging to go into business there.

BUY LOTS NOW.

For lots or information see
J. R. Downey,
 INDEPENDENCE Agent.

What is Doing?

Several officers of the company have recently been on the ground and they decided to build at once a good two story hotel as well as two or three store buildings, and plans are now out for these and the contracts will be let at once and the buildings pushed to completion. The hotel is already leased and furniture is now being purchased. During the week eleven different persons have either bought lots upon which to build or have made arrangements with the company to build for them and will go into business as soon as accommodations can be furnished, then.

An electric light plant is being planned and will be installed.

The company has ordered a large six horse sled and the streets will be put into first class condition at once. A ditch will be run through the town and it is planned to line a number of the residence streets with hardy trees.

With all this, there are busy times around the town of Independence, and it is predicted that it will have a thousand inhabitants by fall. Think what this means. Think how values are sure to double, and triple and quadruple. Think what a drive it offers to the man making a fortune for himself. So now, \$10 now may mean \$500 by September. Come over and see for yourself. Mr. Downey will be pleased to show you around.

Reasons Why

The townsite of Independence was selected after weeks of careful consideration with the idea of making it the principal city on the reservation (its promoters were confident that somewhere there would rise a large city. This was apparent to everyone, for aside from the principle feature of thousands of acres of the finest soil the sun ever shone upon, there were immense mining and grazing interests bound to develop. And Independence was brought into existence for the purpose of making that city.) Its promoters are Colorado capitalists, who have been connected with large enterprises, and they have laid their plans carefully. They first determined that the location would certainly be on the Moffat road and they were informed by one high in authority that there was no reason why it should not be the principal city on that road between Denver and Salt Lake.

They also realized that a pure water supply was essential, and they therefore filed on Uintah river water to be brought through the Bench ditch, which is a ridge ditch and into which there is absolutely no seepage. This will be brought into the town as pure as melted snow by means of a pipe line.

A large reservoir site below the end of the ditch was applied for and an easement granted to it by the Interior Department. When completed this will afford, with its 200 feet of fall, ample fire protection. It will also make a beautiful lake covering over 200 acres only a mile from the town.

The company means business and if you are business you will investigate. Many are arranging to go into business there. Why not you also?

For lots or information see

Ernest H. Wilson,
VERNAL Agent.

F
E
G
to incl
V
E
adjuce
anywh
E
E
for do
E
E
turnce
E
substa
E
B
B
B
go into

INDEPENDENCE.

The Coming Center of the Reservation.

Buy Lots! Buy Lots Now!!

Get in on the ground floor at INDEPENDENCE. These lots are bound to increase in value very rapidly.

WHY?

Because it is the natural point for the best city on the reservation, being adjacent to 150,000 acres, comprising the best farming land to be found anywhere.

Because it will be directly on the Moffat road.

Because the company has the best chance to get pure mountain water for domestic purposes.

Because it will bring this supply in at once.

Because the people back of it are pushers and will leave no stone unturned for its betterment.

Because they are spending a large sum NOW in buildings that will be substantial.

Because arrangements are being made for schools, and parks and trees.

Because an electric light plant will be established.

Because a two story hotel of eighteen rooms will be built at once.

Because everybody is talking about it and many are now arranging to go into business there.

Buy Lots Now.

Si
rece
deci
stor
buli
thes
once
plet
and
Di
pers
whic
men
then
as r
then
At
ned
Th
horu
into
ditei
it is
resic
W
arou
it is
and
this
sure
ple
the r
So is
Sept
your
to sh

IN

What is Doing

Several officers of the company have recently been on the ground and they decided to build at once a good two story hotel as well as two or three store buildings, and plans are now out for these and the contracts will be let at once and the buildings pushed to completion. The hotel is already leased and furniture is now being purchased.

During the week eleven different persons have either bought lots upon which to build or have made arrangements with the company to build for them and will go into business as soon as accommodations can be furnished them.

An electric light plant is being planned and will be installed.

The company has ordered a large six horse engine and the streets will be put into first class condition at once. A ditch will be run through the town and it is planned to line a number of the residence streets with hardy trees.

With all this, there are busy times around the town of Independence, and it is predicted that it will have a thousand inhabitants by fall. Think what this means. Think how values are sure to double, and triple and quadruple. Think what a chance it offers to the man investing in real estate for business. So invest \$10 now may mean \$500 by September. Come over and see for yourself. Mr. Downey will be pleased to show you around.

For lots or information see

J. R. Downey,
INDEPENDENCE Agent.

Not Government Agents.

The following communication from the Honorable Commissioner of the General Land Office has been handed to us by Messrs DeMoisey and Colton. As it clearly defines the rights of settlers upon unsold government townsites, we invite our readers to give it a careful perusal

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
General Land Office, Washington
D C , April 21, 1905
Register and Receiver,
Vernal, Utah

Sirs —In referenco to the sale of lots in the townsite of Stockmore, Utah, by C W Thompson and H Stockman, representing themselves to be government agents, I have this day written Mr Frank Moudry of Bingham Canyon, Utah, as follows

'Neither M^r Stockman nor Mr Thompson have any authority from the government to dispose of lots in said townsite

"I am very anxious that all persons settling upon any government townsite for trade and business shall be fully protected from all fraudulent schemes to extort money from such settlers by any unlawful means I am unable, however, to find any criminal statute of the United States which would authorize the government to commence criminal action against the parties so disposing of lots, unless they have been sending circular letters or other communications through the mail, for such purposes, and in which circulars they make false and fraudulent representations to accomplish their ends

"The fraud is not against the government, but against the individuals to whom they are selling the lots, and such parties should be the ones to make complaint against said parties to the state authorities for any criminal violations of the state laws they may believe have been perpetrated. I can only recommend that the facts be laid before the prosecuting attorney of the county and the United States district attorney for the district, with a request for prosecution "

The foregoing is sent you for your information that you may be able to furnish all inquirers with the opinion of this office relative to the procedure they should take. Very Respectfully,

(Signed) W. A RICHARDS,
Commissioner

1906-15-15

1906-05-19

Ed F. Harmston moved his family over to Roosevelt Monday. While Mr. Harmston still has property here and business interests which will bring him back quite frequently, yet Roosevelt will no doubt be the future home of the family. Mr. Harmston is generally recognized as being at the top of his profession, that of surveyor and civil engineer, and we are always sorry to record the loss of an old resident and citizen of this class, from Vernal. We wish Mr. Harmston success in his new townsite venture at Roosevelt, and certainly believe it will make a prosperous little town, as it is in the heart of the Dry Gulch farming land.

c
l
P
d
A
k
l
S
L
9
L
c

At the meeting of the settlers of the

Independence Sparks.

Ira S. Bryant has established his residence on his homestead one mile south of town. He has been busy hauling logs for his house the past week.

William Greer, the popular clerk at the Independence Mercantile company's store, has 12 acres ready to sow in rye or wheat this fall, as he believes it can be raised without irrigation.

W. I. Fisher expects to cut his oats the first of the week. He has a splendid crop.

L. N. Shanks and F. Shelley went to the mountains to spend several weeks prospecting up the Strawberry river.

Independence can boast of the visit of two Colorado land experts who stated that Independence certainly has the best soil of the reservation and also has the best crops. They are very anxious to buy and settle in this vicinity, but it seems there is no land for sale just now.

J. N. Peacher has just returned home with a load of logs for his new barn.

Mrs. Kate Jean Boan, of Moffat, was calling on Independence friends last week.

Misses Emma Batty and Melva Glines, of Vernal, visited with Mrs. Hurt one day last week.

August 9, 1907

Myton Items.

Myton is having warm weather now .

The river has gone down four feet in the last week.

Mr. and Mrs J. D. Taylor got word Friday morning to come to Vernal to attend the funeral of Ruben Taylor. Miss Ethel Taylor and Mrs Locket are taking care of the hotel while they are away.

H. G. Clark went to Theodore Tuesday for his trial He was not guilty and went free.

Mr. J. F. Babcock has gone out of the saloon business at the Post. He is going out on his homestead to bui'd.

Myton has a bathing resort. The girls and boys go swimming every afternoon. Two of the young ladies almost got drowned Saturday. They went down twice but Miss Myra Todd and Morgan Calvert caught them.

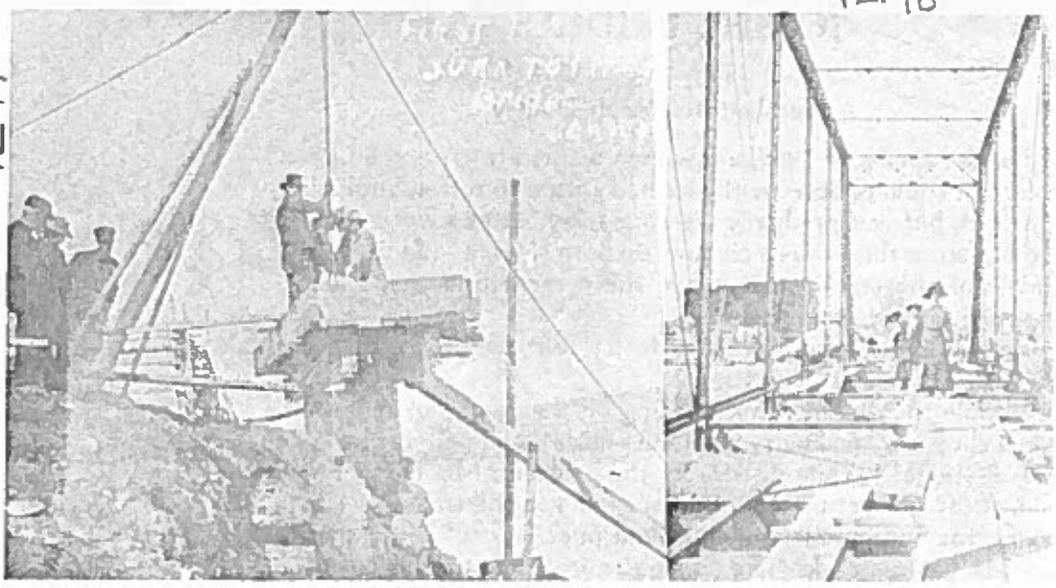
Myton had a dance Friday night for the ditch camp and surveyors. A crowd of Roosevelt's young folks came down.

1907-18-16 V.F.

4248

4247

The Jensen citizens held a jollification in honor of the efficient work of Representative John N. Davis and Senator Brinkerhoff in securing the appropriation for the bridge to be built at Jensen. 1909



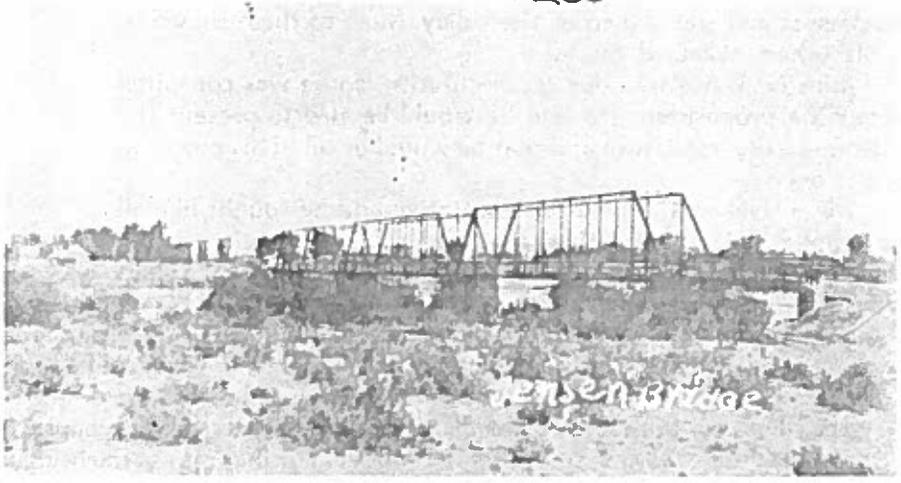
First Tube sunk to the bridge.

4250

4249



Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Oliver, builder of the first bridge.



Atta Hotel.



Post Office and New York store.

STEAMBOAT MAN BOOSTS FOR VERNAL

Takes A Former Townsman to Tack—Gives an interesting Review of Local Business and Natural Advantages.

Editor Pilot—I notice an editorial in the Moffat County Courier of the 21st from which I quote:

'Hayden, Steamboat Springs, Meeker and even Vernal have electric lights and they are in no better circumstances than we'

Now, for the enlightenment of Mr. Spencer of the Courier and to show him there is no comparison between the towns of Vernal and Craig I would say the city of Vernal is second to none as the most progressive and up-to-date town in the West. The Vernal Milling and Electric Light company has been in operation for over five years, it cost over \$57,000, and was all subscribed by local people, and gives the best of service at nominal cost, 10, 20 cents per month for each 16 c p light the cheapest in the state of Utah. In connection with the light plant is operated an electric roller mill, which turns out the finest grade of flour at a cost to the consumers of from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per 100 pounds, and pays cash to the farmers on delivery of their wheat at the mill, and the company has already repaid over half of the cost of establishment and has reserve power for a plant of 10 times the present capacity.

The city water works, completed in 1910, supplies the city with an unlimited supply of the purest mountain water, and the system is now about to be extended to supply residents who live beyond the incorporated limits. The works cost about \$50,000 (also subscribed locally) and are of ample capacity to furnish abundant water for a city of 10,000 inhabitants which Vernal will have within a few years as she has the farming and fruit country tributary not to mention the other vast resources of Uintah county.

The town has about 10 miles of asphalt paved sidewalks and the village is being constantly increased, and a majority of the residents are laying asphalt walks around their houses and yards. The streets are lined with beautiful shade trees, which with the running water along the sides, make it delightfully cool and refreshing even on the very hottest days in summer.

The residents of Vernal have belief, confidence and pride in their town, which exceeds in beauty, modern improvements, and as a business center, any town of its size without railroad facilities in the West, the streets are not infested with 'knockers' and 'calamity howlers' and every newcomer receives a genuine hearty welcome, not with the object, as in some places I could name, of getting as much money he may have, but to enroll him with the rest of the community, who all work together for the benefit of the town and the surrounding country.

There has been over \$350,000 spent

in improvements in Vernal within the past five years and it has been subscribed by the residents, who have something to be proud of to show for their money. The next improvement they will undertake will be a magnificent \$100,000 hotel to accommodate the crowds now headed this way, and steps are being taken to have the building ready for occupancy during 1912.

A daily automobile freight and passenger service is in operation between Dagon, the terminal of the Utah railway and Vernal, a distance of 65 miles, the mail and passengers are conveyed in high power machines covering the distance in three hours or less, while several electric auto trucks handle the inward and outward freight—and the gasoline does not cost 50 cents a gallon to small consumers.

'Even Vernal' has a \$25,000 brick county court house; 'even Vernal' has 14 churches, costing from \$1,000 to \$5,000 each, 'even Vernal' has three houses of worship costing over \$50,000, 'even Vernal' has two banks with deposits of half a million, and six general stores, the stock of any one of which is equal to the stocks of all the stores in Moffat county, and the goods are sold at reasonable prices, too.

Let Mr. Spencer try to learn a little before he makes slighting remarks about his superiors. Having lived so long beyond the reach of civilization his brain is incapable of comprehending what a live town and a progressive community is. However if he ever takes the trouble to investigate, whether or not he will admit it, he will find that Vernal, Utah, is the ideal place to live.

Yours truly,
A FORMER RESIDENT OF CRAIG

1911-10-13 VE

9
USE VERNAL MACHINES ON
COLTON VERNAL ROUTE
y
e
t
s

Three Vernal automobiles will leave here Monday morning for Duchesne, loaded down with mail and express, Vernal-Colton mail route which is to begin operations at that time

Rock Pope, a member of the company to which contract was recently awarded, has engaged W. W. Truitt, with his 40 h p Oldsmobile, Ernest Smith with his 24 h. p. Stevens Durycia and Claude Horn with his 20 h p Ford. The engagement is temporary and the run by Smith and Truitt is to be between Vernal and Duchesne Horn will run on the other end They will leave here at 8 a m and returning arrive the next day at 2 p m.

Two other machines, Buick, will reach Colton from the factory in time to make the start from that end Monday morning, arriving here Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Nov. 29. 1912

S
I
F
S
t
O
F
I
F
J
c
c
c
t
v
r
S
-
I
t
I
c

SELL LEETON STORE

Henry A Lee, one of the heavy property owners of the Uintan Basin, is offering for sale. The Leeton Store, The Watson Store, one half interest in the Alwilda Hotel (Vernal Utah)

Anyone wishing to invest in a good business can not overlook these propositions. Prices are right and terms easy. For further information write H. A. LEE, Dragon, Utah (Advertisement.)

November 27, 1912

1916-12-17 VE

In the prize fight staged in the Opera house at Myton last Saturday night Arthur Olson of Price landed on his opponent **John Babcock** of Nine Mile with sufficient force to cause his death a few hours later

---Correspondence---

LAPOINT

Joseph Marx has purchased the brick from J C Hacking and the Lapoint Mercantile company with which he will build a brick residence once. He will also build his store building of brick. At present he is outside making arrangements for the shipment of Portland cement for the foundation of his two buildings.

John Kimmel and family have gone to Aspen Colorado for the winter. They intend to make their home in Oklahoma.

Mrs Campbell the teacher at the South Liberty School has been a resident of Berkley California for several years. She has had sixteen years experience as a teacher.

Ephraim Rasmussen is putting on a coat of shingles over his malthold roofing. The malthold was becoming a little the worse for wear on his residence.

Bart Merkley has recently purchased the home of Benjamin Cook at a cost of \$750. The Cook homestead is located near the Red Narrows in North Liberty, and the amount of land involved in the deal was forty acres. It is the intention of Mr Merkley to make his home there when he returns from Salt Lake City in October.

Little Charles Glines the son of Mary Glines, is almost entirely restored to health. When Mrs Glines returned to her home, over a week ago, it was thought that another

1916-09-29

operation would be necessary. But he has done so well lately that he will no doubt escape the ordeal.

Mr and Mrs Linnel Johnson have just returned from a visit with Professor and Mrs Earl Douglass at Jensen. The Johnsons and Mrs Douglass are old acquaintances.

Erastus Workman Jr, has sold the relinquishment to his homestead in North Liberty, to Frank Bassett formerly of Colorado. Mr Bassett and his father are already on the place. They like the country and intend to make their home there.

Cal Duke is in this district with a romper gathering clover seed.

Cyrus A Thompson has had the misfortune to lose two of his registered shorthorns. One a calf was killed by alfalfa bloat. The other a fine registered cow died from the effects of eating green oats. She had been running on the stubble.

Ira Burton it is reported intends to go east and purchase a carload of Hereford bulls in the near future.

Mr Dodson the Hereford breeder of Upper Deep Creek has just lost his herd bull a fine individual. The cause of death was green bloat. It is a serious loss not only to Mr Dodson but to cattlemen in general as the Dodson herd was looked upon as a source of supply for pure bred Herefords.

Stake Clerk George A Davis was

Stake Clerk George A. Davis was a visitor at Lapoint and North Liberty last Monday

John Moosman of North Liberty is working for President William H. Smart. He is on the mesa by mountain at present.

Mason Lyman has brought the cattle down from the forest reserve. The losses though light were heavier than usual.

Jim Marshall and Clyde Foster have moved their families over to the Pack Allen coal mine where they will live this winter. The men will work in the mine as they have had considerable experience at that kind of work.

Bishop Horace Morrill has purchased a new Kimball piano. He went down to Fort Duchesne Saturday for the instrument.

James C. Hacking has just purchased a new Ford Auto.

Some of the enterprising citizens of Lapoint have been clearing the cobblestones off from the Lapoint dugway.

James J. Cook has sold his crop of honey to Mr. Gruelle. Mr. Gruelle is selling it over in Routt county, Colorado. He left the first of the week for Colorado with his second load.

Albert Daniels will always remember the Ute Indian fair at Fort Duchesne. While at the fair Mrs. Daniels presented her husband with a fine boy. In fact about the only boy, so Albert thinks in the whole Lapoint country.

They have a new boy at the home of Harrison Justice. When two weeks old he weighed fifteen pounds.

Joseph Nollson is putting a roof on his house just below the canal.

Mr. Nyberg is also putting the finishing touches on his house.

June 22. 1917

UINTAH COUNTY LIBRARY
REGIONAL ROOM
FILE FOLDER
NO. 1457. —

STOCKMORE ROAD TO BE COMPLETED

State Road Commission Plan to do
Work Next Year—Federal Aid
Will Be Enlisted.

The letter from Secretary of State Harden Bennion published elsewhere in this issue of the Express contains news of vital importance to the people of the Uintah Basin. It also clears up the position of the State Road Commission more than anything they have heretofore given out for publication.

In that letter the Secretary of State makes it known that the Stockmore-Woodland road will be finished next year.

This statement coming from such high authority discloses another fact and that is that the state will pursue a liberal policy toward the people of the Uintah Basin and that the road that will eventually become a great artery of trade between this great undeveloped empire and our state capital will have some of the attention it merits during next year's road building season. We do not expect all three roads to be built in one year.

Again, while a concrete road into the Uintah Basin would almost equal a railroad and would always be of untold value, we do not expect the state to build it now. What we do expect is that with the shortest possible route from Salt Lake City to Vernal located and developed to a point where it is ready to receive the concrete surface this can be done little by little as the funds become available.

Should it happen to be the route

ultimately chosen by the Pikes Peak highway association there would be numerous interests working for its development. There would be the general government, the state, the counties and the highway association. In each locality it would be supported by the people living near it. With all these organizations interested, the concrete surface will eventually be within reach.

We have no antipathy toward either the Price Myton or the Duchesne-Helper roads. They should be kept up as local freight roads which they really are. But when we thought they would be made to supplant the great short trunk line to Salt Lake we protested and we still feel that the development of a short main line to Salt Lake City is the next important thing to be done to connect us directly with the large cities of the state.

No doubt all parties concerned will see the futility of forcing travel to go 240 miles via Colton when a road 140 miles via Stockmore is available. We believe that the state should look the situation over, select the shortest and most feasible route and develop it regardless of what town it hits or what town it misses. All the Basin would then benefit equally. We are thankful that the state road commissioner is giving the shorter route serious attention. Judging from what the Hanna correspond-

ent of the Myton Free Press stated as published in this paper, the Stockmore route to Salt Lake City is the least expensive one. Another thing, from Woodland there are now good auto roads to Salt Lake, Ogden, Provo and Park City. This fact should not be lost sight of.

THE NEW TOWN OF STOCKMORE IS GROWING

WEST FORK DUCHESNE, Oct. 7.—
Reports from Stockmore, one of the
new towns in the Uintah Valley,
speak of the activity of the Western
Homeseekers' association, a concern
now busy in building up that town. A
new hotel is about completed, a tem-
porary postoffice is established, and
in addition to the general store now
open several others are soon expected.

The water of Stockmore is espe-
cially fine. In the park are warm
springs, the medicinal properties of
which are said to be excellent. The
neighboring towns are to join with
Stockmore in the construction of ex-
cellent roads. The mineral resources
of the region are not yet determined,
prospecting being in its infancy, but
specimens of gold, silver, copper and
coal are being brought in daily from
the surrounding country.

THEY MUST TAKE OUT LICENSES AS RETAILERS

The Salt Lake City revenue office is
issuing out circulars in accordance

UINTAH COUNTY LIBRARY
REGIONAL ROOM
FILE FOLDER
NO. 14574

*Oct 12
1905
Eastern Utah
Advocate*

Mt. EMMONS

First of Our Series of BOOSTER Articles on the Towns
in The Uintah Basin

Situated in the central part of Duchesne county, at an altitude of 6000 feet, the Mount Emmons district was first settled in 1907, but it was not until 1915 that the town of Mt. Emmons began the development which converted it into a thriving community center. A community house entalling an expenditure of \$12,000 was erected, and the residents built a fine school house by donating their labor, the site being donated by Eugene Daniels.

Diversified farming is practiced in this district to a greater extent, perhaps, than in any other section of the Uintah Basin. Grain, hay, fruit, berries and garden produce are staple products of the irrigated tracts.

When first settled this region was predominately given over to livestock raising due to the wide expanse of open range available for grazing purposes, but gradually the pioneer enterprise has been giving way to the agricultural and horticultural industries. But every farm carefully attends to the business of maintaining a band of sheep and a herd of range cattle in, addition to the dairy stock. The district has so far advanced in the faith that pure bred livestock is the only class entitled to be called the best that among its flocks are numbered two of the prize-winning Ramboulette rams of the state. A band of registered Cotswold sheep is also owned in the district.

Dairying has developed to the extent that the weekly revenue of the forty-four families of the Mt. Emmons district reached a total of \$1000, and the industry is still increasing its scope. One of the district's dairymen during the past

summer imported a registered Jersey cow direct from the Jersey Isles, thus bringing to the basin a strain of this famous breed of dairy cows which will have a marked influence in the course of a few years.

The poultry of the district, claims a chapter all its own, for it is very doubtful if any other section of the basin equals it in excellence.

During the summer of 1926, registered chickens to the number of 700 were imported and an appreciable number of pure bred turkeys were shipped in. Turkey flocks are due for a large increase, as the fame of Mt. Emmons turkeys has reached the point where in excess of a carload are annually shipped to the most discriminating markets of the country. It is not an uncommon sight to see great flocks of bronzed turkeys roaming the range and fields of this section, and that they thrive here unusually well is proven by the fact that one farmer shipped a dressed turkey last year weighing 30 pounds.

While some alfalfa seed is marketed, the growing of hay is more desirable due to the dairy industry. The honey industry adds a considerable sum to the district's annual income, the alfalfa fields supporting many hives.

Church and school facilities are amply provided for, and social activities in the community add to the enjoyment of the residents of the people living at the foot of one of the state's highest mountains.

The scenic attractions of the district, combined with the unexcelled fishing and hunting, will in time make Mount Emmons one of the greatest tourist attractions in northeastern Utah.

BLUEBELL

Second of Our Series of BOOSTER Articles on the Various Basin towns
in The Uintah Basin

A strip of ranch land, 4 miles wide and six miles long, with a great depth of rich soil lying over a clay subsoil, with people engaged in agriculture, horticulture and dairying on lands not so many years ago densely covered with sage brush and an equally dense growth of native bluebells—this describes meagerly the Bluebell district.

First settled in 1906 the region has become a factor of importance in the development of Duchesne county and by no means the least important of the activities of its residents is furthering of the dairy business. Bluebell is located 12 miles south of the Ashley national forest boundary with a strip of fine Indian grazing land between the district and the forest and this splendid advantage offered was grasped by the farmers without delay. Dairying on a scale commensurate with the advantages at hand was started, with the result that at present the cream station at Bluebell pays out between \$800 and \$900 weekly to farmers. Crops may grow and crops may fail, but when a farmer receives from \$15 to double that amount each week for cream produced by his own cows he has no fear that a wolf will appear at his door—not in the summer nor in the winter. Bluebell dairy farmers are not in the least averse to showing their dairy stock, for pure bred and high grade

cows are the rule, all of them of selected dairy type. Extreme care is exercised in the selection of the sires in order to constantly improve the herds.

Dairying combined with the sheep industry and the raising of beef cattle makes hay growing the chief agricultural industry on the 3000 acres under cultivation. However, pears, plums, apples, cherries and other varieties of fruit are grown and produce fine yields. Garden products yield profuse and harvests each year, and small grains do equally as well.

Irrigating water is obtained from the Lake Fork river, and the development of the Moon Lake reservoir will furnish additional water in quantity sufficient to irrigate twice the present cultivated area.

School facilities at Bluebell will be greatly improved, as under the recent Bond issue voted for this county, a part of the money will be used to erect a new school building.

There is no question that the dairy business is the dominating factor creating the prosperity of the Bluebell district, but it is acknowledged by all that diversified farming as practiced here must be given its full share in the results obtained by the residents of the district. This proves that dairying on farms does not necessarily occupy all the time and that other farming activities need not be neglected.

1927-02-02 UBS

De
Ca
Di
Ac
Bl
Ce
Cl
De
E:
Fu
M
Re
Sa
Te
Ja
Al
M
Fu
Bl
C:
LJ
N:
N:
N:
N:
Fu
in
he
in
w
re
ti
of
an
te
an
p:
la
w
e:

BONETA

Third of Our Series of BOOSTER Articles on the Various Basin towns
in The Uintah Basin

Resting on table land at an altitude of nearly 7000 feet is found the Boneta district, with 2000 acres of land under cultivation. The village of Boneta, the community center, has splendid school and church buildings and a post office serving the people of the far-flung district. The Central high school is also located at Boneta.

Boneta claims the distinction of having retained the largest percentage of original settlers of any community in the basin. and this seems to be proof positive of the worth of the land and the certainty of success.

The livestock industry is a factor in the growth of the Boneta district, the open ranges providing plentiful supply of forage for grazing herds. As in other districts of Duchesne county, the farmers of this section invariably own small bands of sheep and some range find it a highly profitable investment to do so. Poultry and hog raising are also advocated

and practiced here, the latter being somewhat of an innovation in many Uintah basin districts. Boneta farmers are trying out the experiment of raising hogs on gradually increasing scale, and there is no doubt that they will be successful in the venture.

Dairying is progressing in scope and the creamery checks received at the present stage of the enterprise represent a not inconsiderable amount in the total of revenue annually coming to the district.

Grains of all sorts are raised, with good yields the rule, and fruit of every variety is grown that lack nothing in quality to compare on an equal basis with any grown in the basin.

Boneta has established a record of cooperation, of community spirit, entering into every phase of activity affecting the welfare of the people residing in the district. with such a spirit predominating adverse conditions are easily overcome and success is assured to every undertaking.

NEOLA

Fourth of Our Series of BOOSTER articles on the Various Basin towns
in The Uintah Basin

Pioneers established Neola, and they became so addicted to the habit of pioneering that they never ceased in their worthy endeavors to make of their section of the homeland, one of the most remunerative districts in the Uintah Basin. Expansive meadows are a feature of the Neola district and these naturally led to the founding of a dairy district by the farmers and at present Neola lays claim to being the best developed dairy district in the basin. The Uintah Meadows Dairy Association was formed several years ago, and the members now owning 700 dairy cows, and deriving from them a weekly income of \$1500. The Uintah creamery, located at Neola, purchases the product of the dairy herds, receiving stations being supplied at various points. The dairy farmers are operating under cooperative rules, the association providing the testers and weighers. A small amount is deducted at the creamery from each check and the aggregate sum thus provided is used to defray the expenses incident to conducting the association.

The association is firm in the belief that pure bred stock is essential to the best interests of the dairy industry, and in carrying out this determination low grade and scrub stock is not seen in the herds of the district.

The town of Neola is well

equipped with school and church facilities, but increase of population will soon make necessary a larger school.

An indication that grain raising in this district has reached formidable proportions is given by the fact that three threshing organizations maintain headquarters in Neola. Alfalfa of course, is grown in enormous quantities in conformity with all well regulated districts. Alfalfa seed growing more than likely will be continued, but on a reduced scale, for in this district, hay production is the paramount requisite.

Small grain, fruit of all variations, and garden products yield excellent harvests in this district, located at an altitude of 6000 feet. The climate is modified by sheltering mountain ranges and the growing season is not appreciably curtailed by the altitude. Proof of this is given by the fact, that peaches of the finest quality each year are harvested and that berries of all varieties mature to finest quality.

Good roads lead to the district, plenty of irrigating water is available, present land prices are within the reach of modestly equipped buyers, telephone connection is provided—and the word "isolation" is never mentioned by the people of the Neola district, all of whom are prosperous, happy and content.

to in
the
com
Mr.
shou
ary
U
urall
the
tains
than
may
Utah
and
latio
from
has
or r
in t
Pres
for
share
Co:
R:
ber
D. Y
Salt
cond
near
the
pital
calle
tures
skull
show
indic
the
a co
undo
provi
nqite

MT. HOME

Fifth of Our Series of Booster articles on the Various Basin towns
in The Uintah Basin

1927-02-23 UBS

The Mt. Home district lies at an altitude of 7000 feet above the sea, its agricultural land spreading out from the canyon from which the Lake Fork river emerges. Climate conditions at this altitude are modified by the air drainage from the canyon, and every variety of agricultural and horticultural products is grown on the irrigated acreage of the district. Wheat, barley, oats, alfalfa, apples, cherries, pears and berries of all kinds are staple products on the 8000 acres under cultivation.

The village of Mt. Home is the nucleus from which has been developed a splendid farming and livestock enterprise, in one of the first irrigated sections of the old reservation domain. The reservoirs supplying the irrigating water hold 4000 acre feet of water, and as the storages are near the cultivated lands loss from seepage and other waste is not as pronounced as is the case in districts where canals cover more mileage. The cultivated area numbers the members of forty families as residents, and it is apparent that an influx of newcomers ready to engage in farming will quickly develop this section into one of the most prosperous of Duchesne county.

Extensive range facilities are available north and west of Mt. Home have forced the livestock industry to the front in this region

as a matter of course, and even the farmers, almost without exception, own a small band of sheep and a few head of range cattle. As in other localities, the farmers are rapidly improving their flocks and herds and it is but a matter of a few years until only high bred and high grade livestock will be seen on the Mountain Home ranges and farms.

Dairying has advanced to the stage where \$900 each week is distributed to the farmers of the district, the income from this source averaging more than \$22 per week for each family of the district, this revenue being derived from only one phase of farming activity. Expansion is the order of the day with the dairy men of this region, as the market for the product of dairy cows is unlimited.

Poultry, honey and alfalfa seed are other sources of revenue for the farmers of the district, and these products habitually are recognized as of superior quality in the market to the extent that they command a shade better than the regular prices.

The district has daily rural mail delivery and is connected with all other points, both near and long distance, by telephone lines.

At the request of Owen Bennion of Mt. Emmons, the Bennion resolution favoring a school equalizing fund will be made special order of business at 2:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon in the house of Representatives.

CEDARVIEW

Sixth of Our Series, of Booster Articles on the Various Basin towns
in The Uintah Basin

Located in an altitude of 5500 feet above the sea, the Cedarview region is favored by a climate best described as ideal. While winter season at times are somewhat rigorous, the summer months never fail to be perfect for the growing of products of the soil indigenous to the Uintah basin. The terrain consists of low level benches, interspersed with small valleys, and the area is studded with fertile farm lands.

The supply of irrigating water is led by canals from the Uintah river and from reservoirs constructed by associations of farmers. The region was first settled in 1906 shortly after the reservation was opened to the whites. The agricultural products of Cedarview farms include corn and all varieties of small grain. Gardens and orchards give good yields, peaches grown here being of an exceptionally fine flavor. Alfalfa growing, both for hay and seed, has proven remunerative. When the various sections of Uintah basin come into their own by

operating dairy farms on the basis warranted to make of the basin the greatest dairy section of the state, Cedarview will be found in the ranks of men and women taking part in the movement, for the region has every qualification needed to successfully engage in dairying.

Cedarview has at its doors a vast area of timber on the mountain to the north, lumber at the saw mill, and unlimited potential water power from the Uintah river. The roads are being improved continuously, and daily mail service by motor car is the rule throughout the year, with but few exceptions during the winter months.

Churches and schools are provided for spiritual and educational advantages, and social activities are not lacking.

At Cedarview there is no limit to expansions of cultivated areas, and sufficient irrigating water from sources supplied by the snow-capped peaks of the Uintah mountains, will be available for all farmers. The open ranges are near for grazing of livestock and additional grazing advantages are provided by national forest lands not far distant.

WHITEROCKS

Sixth of Our Series of Booster Articles on the Various Basin towns
in The Uintah Basin

This community with its environment having a population of about 400, is the seat of a boarding school for the children of the Ute. Uncompahgre and White river Indians residing on the Uintah-Ouray reservation. The school is under the management of Earl Woolridge, principal, with a staff of able teachers assisting in the education of the Indian pupils. The school is conducted with a curriculum equal to that of district schools, is equipped with a gymnasium and is electrically lighted and steam heated. The attendance is in excess of 140 and the records show that the pupils are earnestly striving not to miss classes for trival reasons.

In recent years the government has expended \$100,000 on the school and in creating other facilities to give the Indian children all the advantages possessed by the children of the whites. The school in addition to the regular classes, is teaching the children modern methods of domestic sciences, agriculture, horticulture, gardening and livestock raising. That the pupils are eagerly taking advantage of all subjects taught is attested by the many awards they win at county and state fairs as well as in subordinate livestock and products shows held in Duchesne and Uintah counties.

The Indians are developing a fine herd of Hereford cattle, droves of pure bred Duroc Jersey hogs, and splendid sheep and horses. A saw mill is operated in the mountains to supply lumber to the gov-

ernment buildings, and a government-owned coal mine furnishes fuel needed for the buildings. Many of the Indian farmers have reached such a point of proficiency that they are delegated as teachers to instruct fellow tribesmen in the intricacies of modern agriculture.

A well equipped hospital is part of the government's activities at this place, and is supplied with all modern medical and nursing facilities. Church facilities are provided at Whiterocks as are facilities for social activities.

Productive fields in the vicinity yield an abundance of products of every variety possible to grow in this climate. Farmers of both races labor in cooperation and harmony, and from each other learn how to apply the methods best suited to obtain and garner the most lucrative yields. The major portion of the acreage in the Whiterocks region is owned by Indians, but under an arrangement directly controlled by the government, many tracts are leased to white farmers for stipulated terms. The region is rapidly increasing in population as more white farmers with their families obtain leases in Indian lands, with the result that expansion of the cultivated areas is spreading farther and farther each year. Converting of sage brush lands into cultivated areas being at all times and in all localities a signal mark of progress no one can deny that the Whiterocks section of the Uintah basin is doing its full share in the development of the great homeland of northeastern Utah.

Note—Our Next Booster Article will Be About Altonah

for
—
—
F
go
me
Mi
Fr
ev
an
the
lac
dis
an
to
tio
ass
we
me
Bo
the
pre
of
ter
high
the
ru
me
va
fre
he
in
\$3
Er
da
St
de
in
bel
of
str
tal
re
ve
ch

LEETON-BENNETT

Eighth of Our Series of Booster Articles on The Various Towns
in The Uintah Basin

Situated at an altitude of 5400 feet above the sea with a terrain consisting of bench and lowlands, the climatic conditions are exceptionally healthful in the Bennett-Leeton district, and the residents of the section have taken full advantage of the endowments nature has bestowed. Vast tracts of erst-while sage brush land have been converted into fertile alfalfa and grain fields, into gardens and orchards. Notwithstanding the altitude, corn has become a staple crop here, and wheat fields have produced from 40 to 50 bushels to the acre of the grain from which the staff of life is made. The alfalfa seed industry has become one of the most important endeavors of the farmers in this district, and the quality of the product raised here compares with the best elsewhere in the basin.

Livestock thrives in the district, for the pasture tracts are augmented by summer and forest reserve grazing areas within easy distance. Dairying destined to become one of the principal industries of the Uintah basin, has proven its worth here as a remunerative undertaking. Owners of dairy herds have consistently imported pure bred

sires and dams, and the number of pure bred and high grade cows is increasing each year. Beef cattle, horses, sheep and hogs are also becoming a source of increasing revenue, as is poultry of all classes. Turkeys, particularly, from this section have gained wide fame on the Salt Lake and Eastern markets.

Honey raised here commands higher prices in the open market, this being due to its clarity of color, its exceptional flavor and its weight. Alfalfa and sweet clover fields, combined with the large buffalo berry tracts abounding in this vicinity, furnish bees with a variety of sustenance unexcelled in any region.

Bennett-Leeton has a splendid school building, modernly equipped with an artesian well on the grounds. All grades from primary to and including the ninth are taught, and the Duchesne county high school is located within a few miles. The community has an L. D. S. church (other denominations also holding services in it occasionally), a post office with free rural delivery service, a number of religions and social organizations and a Union Sunday school.

HIGHLAND

Ninth of Our Series of Booster Articles on The Various Towns in The Uintah Basin

Highland is located between Myton and Roosevelt, on the famous North Myton bench. Agriculturally it is further advanced than most of the basin districts. They have a good grade school, a farm bureau, a Sunday school—the beginning of a prosperous community.

Everything which is produced in the Uintah basin is raised in this fertile district, where nearly every acre is growing something at a profit and nearly every farmer is making money.

The principal products for export are: honey, alfalfa and clover seed, dairy products, good orchards, while not numerous, give evidence of what the land will do, even apricots, peaches and pears produce well. The elevation is about 5100 feet. The increasing of dairy herds is now one of the main questions before the people, and the movement is on foot to get two or three carloads of pure bred cows. Many of our farmers get \$30 per month, or more, for milk sold to the local creameries. Many good homes testify to the permanency of farm life, and rapid improvements are being made. Several homely bachelors are still vainly looking for partners, and judging from the fertile acres and good returns, they should be rewarded in the near future.

The prospective home-seeker will

find here good inducements because nearly every farmer has more land than he can rightly handle. Our excellent location and many advantages make us optimistic for the future, and even without a railroad we can make money, when the Iowa and Idaho farmers cannot. The average farmer has from \$500 to \$2000 annual seed check, from \$200 to \$500 from turkeys, as much as a carload of honey. Besides these we have sheep, in small bands and ample beef and pork. Were it not for the fact that Myton and Roosevelt, two thriving communities, are located one on the north and one on the south of our district, only eleven miles apart, we should have had a prosperous town. As it is we shall soon have good community activities and a small town.

The State road, passing between Myton and Roosevelt, comes down through our district for a distance of six miles, thus insuring us good mail service and convenient communication with either of the two towns. This fertile bench is irrigated by one on the nine canals owned and operated by the farmers. This water costs us \$20.00 an acre. Our canal comes from the Lakefork river where a permanent supply, during the driest years, is assured because of the storage capacity of the famous Moon Lake, the largest one of more than a hundred lakes in the famous mountains.

tance
Ma
of U
this
that
this
Color

An

The
chesn
held
Frida
work
jects
has b
schoo
pecte
morn
progr
The
ler, D
The
Bober
letic
Mr. ;
comm
the
Lamb
winne
which
Illino
en w
the c
depar
Mr. ;
very
opera
come
ing
tions.
cupie
kinds
dance
the t

UPALCO

Tenth of our Series of Booster Articles on The Various Towns in The Uintah Basin

Upalco lies in the heart of Duchesne county, twelve miles west of Roosevelt, twelve miles northwest of Myton, seventeen miles northeast of Duchesne and twelve miles south of Altonah.

No settlement or town has grown faster than Upalco during the past five years. From a sage brush flat, it has been developed into a little town of 385 people. A large amusement hall in the center of town is surrounded by the farms and homes of the people. In connection with the hall is a motion picture machine which shows from one to two pictures weekly.

Our store is located in town and a good stock of all staple goods are carried.

Until recently farming and seed growing were the chief occupations but now dairying leads. The people are now getting better milk cows and better pastures which is bringing more money into town. The pay checks amount to about \$1500.00 monthly and will continue to increase as more and better cows are brought in.

Alfalfa seed is also proving a big factor in the development of our town, with an average yield of four hundred fifty pounds per acre.

Other farm products yield about the following: hay, four tons per acre; potatoes, seven hundred bushels; wheat, forty bushels; corn, one hundred. A number of orchards with a good assortment of fruit brings many fruit buyers, with no better fruit to be found.

A short distance from town can be seen Upalco water falls, known the Basin over for their beauty as a landmark. These falls afford the best water power possibilities in the country, only waiting for some one with money to harness them and put them to work.

At present Upalco has no water works but the town soon expects to pipe a spring, two and one-half miles to town. Said spring has volume enough to furnish water for a town much larger than we have at present.

Upalco is furnished with electricity by the Uintah Power and Light company and every needful electrical equipment is found in a large number of the homes. The name of Upalco was taken from the first letters in Uintah Power and Light company, meaning light.

We invite visitors, and home seekers, to come and look us over and make their home with us.

R
O

the
thr
the
Ch
ula
Ma
anc
sea
pri
one
uce
J
Lal

by
tio
sta
Sea
pla
of
suc
out
eme
set
cha
rea

mal
C.
Inst
exe
Put
A
the
Wh
Ced
Arc
Mrs
pha

ce
ool
lay
ob-
6
eld
led
in-
he
nd
ete
m.
gh
n;
ard
nd
wo
ut
are
ck-
ill
ip.
be
ite
ho
st
er-
ell
ril
n-
as
or-
ne
g-
n-

BLUE BENCH

Eleventh of our series of Booster Articles on The Various Towns in The Uintah Basin

Traveling north of Duchesne scarcely two miles, an abrupt elevation brings one to the lower end of Blue Bench, a beautiful tract sloping gently southward and comprising about nine thousand acres. The soil is a deep sandy loam and was covered originally with a heavy growth of sage brush, which, at certain seasons of the year, gives the bench a soft bluish tinge, that created the name.

The Knight Investment company has spent thousands of dollars in developing this bench. About three thousand acres are now in cultivation; farmed by the latest scientific methods and producing all kinds of crops in temperate regions. We are raising this year six hundred acres of alfalfa seed, which has been our most valuable crop. We are interested in the wool industry and feed many thousand head of sheep with our hay during the winter. These sheep are usually kept on the alfalfa fields from which we plan to raise seed, until June 1st. This method seems to be beneficial to the growing of alfalfa seed. There is probably no better alfalfa producing land in Utah. While we grow other crops very successfully, we have proved by careful experiments that the soil is especially adapted to the growing of sugar beets and alfalfa seed. The beets test a higher percentage than any others in the state, in sugar content.

We are confident that when the canal systems completed so as to insure the delivery of water to

these fertile acres, Blue Bench will be one of the most sought after sections in the Uintah Basin.

We have a water system that now supplies running water in our feed yards and some of our cottages. We have electricity in our cottages, barns, machine sheds, blacksmith shops and our shearing plant is operated by electricity. We have purchased very recently, one of the largest type of improved seed hullers and this will be operated by electricity. So you see that a home on Blue Bench may have the comforts and conveniences of home life in the large cities and in addition to this, we have the finest air in "God's out of Doors."

In the winter time we are supplied with water from a well. We pump it from a depth of two hundred feet and it is very splendid water. Hence, you can see, Mr. Home Builder, that all the essentials of the fine homes are obtainable on Blue Bench.

North from Blue Bench are Talmage and Mountain Home, adjacent to the mountains where timber is abundant and lumber is obtainable at eighteen dollars per thousand less than thirty miles away; while northwest, up the Duchesne river, about the same distance abundance of coal of the finest quality can be purchased at three and one-half dollars per ton.

Any further information can be obtained by addressing R. E. Allen, Secretary of the Knight Investment company, Provo, Utah.

side
lath
"V
F
Ove
P
N
D
S
ope
com
in t
of l
atte
incl
east
as
tow
che
Far
pri
"U
aug
nal
\$12
slo
to
in
ing
in
ish
con
bas
by
Th
pre
the
arr
tlo
vel
gro
wel
lig
lig
cou

PURPLE BENCH

Eleventh of our series of Booster Articles on The Various Towns in The Uintah Basin

Few people traveling through the Uintah Basin see, or even hear, that there is a Purple bench, located as it is on a high bench or table land, twelve miles north and two miles west of Duchesne. Looking from that place in a northerly direction the traveler sees a mountain of red sandstone ledges. The bench slopes from the Rock Creek divide in a southeasterly direction to the Blue Bench sand ridge and the Redcap Breaks and is cut off from the mountain Home Boneta country by Pigeon Water or Big Hollow Creek. The average length of ten miles wide and width of five miles gives a total of 15,000 acres of tillable land.

Probably the most astonishing feature of the locality is the climate, when account is taken of the elevation, which ranges from 6000 to 7000 feet. After years of comparison it can truthfully be said that this section is as free of frosts and has more moisture fall than does Salt Lake county.

This community is well supplied with water with the completion of the Farnsworth Canal system, which now waters more than 3,000 acres and can water thousands of acres more. A recent decision of the courts gives the people of this section, the right also of an exchange of water with the Indian lands, between Lake Fork and Duchesne rivers.

There are now about fifty families here, with a total population of approximately three hundred people. The first settlers came here fifteen years ago and from a very few, have grown to the present population. There is yet room for several times the present number of residents and it is hoped, with conditions so favorable, this may soon be realized.

Almost any crop that can be raised in a temperate climate, can be raised here. Until now most attention has been given to raising hay and small grains. Many other crops have been tried out until it has been positively demonstrated that no better quality or quantity of temperate crops can be raised any where. In addition to those named are the root crops, beets, carrots, and potatoes, squash, onions and in fact all garden crops; alfalfa seed and many others. The small fruits grow as if they were intended especially for here, even apples, peats and cherries do very well. There are apple trees now coming into bearing that have borne heavy crops of that fruit four years consecutively.

Virtually all the people belong to the so-called "Mormon" church and as a consequence that is the only active church here. A ward organization has been in operation a number of years. A meeting house 55 feet long, constructed of sawed

col
stil
tio
tar
cha
fut
pot
mi:
sor
pre
:
of
Mr
the
ad
con
ty
su
sit
wil
wi
Mr
the
to
cou
wo
:
sec
res
rel
ava
is
is
su
pa
—
an
an
str
pa
:
str
fol
ro
ro
a
up
th
wc

New Bridge Spanning Dry Gulch Creek East of Roosevelt Opened

Friday forenoon, the grading of the Dry Gulch bridge was completed sufficiently that cars could be permitted to cross. The quietude of Main street was broken by the shriek of car horns when Fred Jensen and D. O. Rybec drove through town, with the American flag flying. A number of citizens immediately drove to the bridge. The grading was soon completed and traffic allowed to use the bridge

instead of having to go around the detour.

There is still some work to be done on the bridge before it will be formally accepted by the State Road Commission. This includes removal of forms and the smoothing up of the structure which will be done as soon as Mr. Reynolds of the Whitney-Reynolds company, contractors, arrives from Springfield.

History of Jensen

When I was a young woman about twenty six years old my parents were converted to the Latter-day Saint religion and we came across the plains from England to Utah. We came across the plains with horse teams and settled in Salt Lake at the time when the Saints left their homes when the Johnston Army came in which was in the year 1857. We went to Mantel from there and I was married to a young man about my age. After we had been married a few months my husband was called on a mission to England. During the time he was gone I had to go thru the hardships with the rest of the pioneers. I often worked all day in the field gleaning wheat for bread.

I had brought some lovely linens from England with me and I found it necessary to sell these prized pieces for a very small price for the necessities of life.

When my husband returned he worked as mill wright for years and as he was exceptionally adapted to this work he was called from place to place to build grist and saw mills. When he was doing this work he always had a crew of men working for him and I cooked for them. During this time seven children were born five of whom we raised to manhood and womanhood. As these years went by all the families working diligently

together going thru hardships yet growing nearer and dearer to each other and working the soil and overcoming the water rights making the land produce grain hay fruits of most every kind. Prospectors finding many valuable minerals in the different hills and mountains some engaged in live stock and now we can see the mountains and plains covered with sheep and cattle which are bringing millions of dollars in to this state of ours. So each little community has grown and when I went I went to live with some of my children who had settled in Jensen. I found there one of the best producing parts of the country I had seen. Altho at the time I came the people were scattered and many things were yet to be improved.

These few settlers that had come first stayed raised their families gave them all the opportunities they could all the time working to that same end to make their community one of the best. They have succeeded some of the very best producing farms in the Uintan county are found along the Green river at Jensen. It seems to have the weather advantage here too as the season is about two weeks earlier in the spring and two weeks later in the fall which is a great benefit to the crops the farmers raise.

The place now has a good four room brick school house and hire four school teachers a school bus is run to take our students to the high school. A good brick ward house two good grocery stores and Post Office, these places both being lit by the Delco lights and they can furnish the community and tourist which cross the four span bridge at Jensen with all the general necessities. There is also a lunch room run in the summer time in connection with one of these stores. There is a good hotel where you can get good meals and lodging. All these things I have lived to see accomplished and enjoy. It is people like I have worked with and lived with that has made Jensen. In fact the whole state of productiveness beauty and loyalty a state of which we can boast and be proud that we are one of its builders.

1928-12-13

Be name ruzand has one BROTHER HOOD!

CHRISTMAS! All Nations rejoice to the THRILL of it—

Fathers and mothers the rich and the poor

Spirit of Love—may we bow to the WILL of it—

Then we'll have CHRISTMAS the whole year around

(© 1928 Western Newspaper Union.)

Perhaps it is simply human nature that a man isn't half so angry when his radiator suddenly fails to function during a little convention as he is when it is stuck during the critical moment in a prize fight.

History of Fort Duchesne

Fort Duchesne has been for many years an oasis in the desert especially so in the years when it was the only place or town between Heber City and Vernal. Leaving Heber one traveled through sand and sage brush all day perhaps not seeing a living soul. It took a week from Salt Lake City to Vernal by team and Fort Duchesne was the camping place for everybody.

Fort Duchesne was founded in 1886 the soldiers coming in from Bridger Montana. Captain Hatch was in command, and they lived in tents the first year then houses were constructed of adobe later better ones were annexed to these. Still later in the early nineties the large pretentious fronts were built on making what was called the officers quarters. Trees were planted lawns made and all in all it became a pretty place.

Many different army officers were in command here between 1886 and 1910. Colonel James Randlett was an eccentric, quick tempered old fellow. An instance is told of his failure to understand a telephone message which might have brought about a critical condition for his nephew who was in charge of the Randlett Indian Boarding school. The Indians were hunting over Blue Mountain in Colorado when one of their number was killed by a Colorado game warden. When the news reached the White River Utes they rushed into Randlett in an angry mob. The telephone office was filled. Mr. Clark the Colonel's nephew was at a loss to know what to do or how to get word to his uncle to send troops down to take care of the situation. He realized if he telephoned the Indians would hear what he said and then no telling what would happen. He decided to try spelling it out over the telephone. This he did telling his uncle to send troops immediately. The spelling of the message sounded to the old man's ears like his nephew had gone crazy. He shouted back "What is the matter with you? Have you gone crazy? I always thought you were a little off and now you have gone completely off the earth. What in the devil are you trying to say?" The young man shouted his spelled message again and again with no avail. His uncle gave it up and shouted back, "You blathering fool shut up. I've troubles enough of my own. The skunks got in my hen house last night and killed all my young turkeys."

There were years when the water supply for Fort Duchesne was hauled

in barrels and delivered to the people. On one occasion Hugh Owens was driving the water wagon and failed in some way to please the Chinese. He looked at the officers' mess. The cook was very angry and hid behind the water barrel thinking he would shoot Owens when he came by but Owens smiled Mr. Chinaman first and came around the other way with a shovel with which he spat him so hard that Mr. Chinaman went right through the window alighting in the middle of the table among the food and dishes sending the astonished officers in all directions.

In 1910 and 1911 the soldiers were taken away and the post turned over to the Indian department for an Indian agency. J. D. Martin was then sent in as agent. In 1914 he was transferred and Peter Rosecrants served three months. A. K. Kneale then came and stayed nine years and he and Mrs. Kneale won the hearts of many friends. The Fort became a pleasant community. The first school was established and through the permission of Mr. Kneale it was held in the guard house. The cells were still intact but after remodeling and building it over a good four room school house was made. Mr. V. T. Rice was the first principal in 1916. Lloyd Panter is now principal.

After Mr. Kneale Fred A. Gross was agent for three years. During his time the Uintah Basin Industrial Convention was begun which has now become a big annual event. Thousands of people come every year to enjoy the pretty shady cool and all-together delightful little town.

George Wilson is post master. Henry M. Tidwell is agent and Dr. Seward White is the ninth doctor since Dr. H. B. Lloyd left nine years ago.

The Experiment farm is becoming a source of farm knowledge for the industrious Indian. It is one mile north of here and was established three years ago by the Utah Agricultural College.

One year when the water supply was short an old Indian woman could not get enough water for her melon patch. She complained to the Indian agent about it. "I know why no water," she said, "White woman use it all washing clothes."

This year Mrs. Daniels and the Indian farmer complained to the agent because she could not get water to save her garden. When she was told by the agent that he was powerless to help her she smilingly asked him to teach her his whistle and she would push herself through the world.

History of Tridell

Tridell belongs to the Whiterocks precinct and was established about 1908

Tridell ward was organized in the year 1916 under the name of Liberty ward, with C B Bartlett, bishop and Horace Merrill and John Merkle, counselors Harmon Mullins ward clerk. The ward proper consists of three dells or draws (East, West and Center Dells) and a section of country to the west, situated upon Whiterocks bench.

The first public building was a school-house in center draw built by citizens donation. The building was of logs and was long used as a community center to which the settlers gathered for meetings, dances, theatricals and socials. This old community home was torn down only two years ago, and though the people were glad to replace it with buildings more pretentious and fine, yet in some cases tears of tender memories were shed at the sight of the demollishment of the old house.

A goodly number of boys and girls who were pupils there are now numbered among the useful citizens of the State of Utah.

Sixteen high school and elementary school teachers of Utah have enlisted from Tridell, most of whom are now teaching in various parts of the state.

The L D S church of the ward has sent out to the Northwestern states two missionaries to the central states, one and one to the southern states and one to California.

Within the boundaries of Tridell voting precinct are over 10,000 acres of arable land. Alfalfa, alfalfa seed, wheat, oats, corn, vegetables and fruit thrive here.

Because of our sunny southern exposure corn does exceedingly well.

Some of our best bronze turkeys are shipped from Tridell annually to various parts of the basin for breeding stock.

Our close proximity to the forest reserve and cattle ranges has led to the development of small herds of beef cattle in the community and also herds of sheep and many excellent dairy cows.

The earliest settlers of Tridell were from Vernal and brought stands of bees from Vernal. Apiculturists of the community now ship hundreds of pounds of honey to different sections of the United States.

The first settlers here were natural intrepid and determined. The incidents of their early experiences would make interesting history with veins of both humor and pathos. For instance, one lady relates that at one time (about the year 1910 or 1911) while she was living in a tent a terrible storm the type of which the settlers call "cloud bursts" broke over the country sending the people to seek safety upon "rises" or higher patches of ground than that upon which they were camping. As soon as the storm abated the good woman hastened to resume the belongings of a neighbor, a fellow tenter who with her family was on a trip to Vernal. When the brave Samaritan returned to her own tent, to her dismay she found that her own entire stock of household goods was several feet under water. Water was running out of her flour box and sewing machine drawers.

Another lady, for these were "ladies" of the truest type, hunched up

her husband's team while he was gone away to earn some clothes for the family wardrobe, and plowed, harrowed and planted twenty acres of land, which produced a fine crop of food supplies for the ensuing winter.

The spirit of the settlers in this part of the basin like that of the settlers in most other parts has been the spirit of progressive endeavor. They have laughed away the lesser worries and held on to the bigger motives.

This feeling has been expressed in verses which were written by a local writer and read at the first meeting of the U B I C in the year 1923 entitled "Utah's Eastern Empire."

At the foot of the Old Uintahs
Sparkling with lakes and hills
Lies Utah's Eastern Empire
Circled round with purple hills

Broad reach of vale and bench lands
Beat virgin 'neath the sun,
While thru their lowland basins
The winding rivers run

And those who delve in the empire
Say that brooding over all
Is a spirit whispering softly
To those who heed its call

Tis the spirit of the home lands
It rises from the soil
And it lives for those who struggle
And breathes for those who toil

And to those who've caught the spirit
The rugged "he way" appears
Comes courage, hope, contentment,
And faith in the future years

And these will build the Empire
With courage, brave and high
Will build this Western Empire
North Utah's eastern sky

1928-12-13 VE

Interesting and Valuable In-formation Given on Beautiful, Fertile Ashley Valley

The Ashley Valley area occupies the central part of the Uintah county which is situated in the northwestern part of the State of Utah. The area is about 20 miles west of the Utah-Colorado line about 40 miles south of the northern boundary of the state and about 125 miles east of Salt Lake City. The boundaries of the area are fr-

trouble so a small detachment of soldiers was maintained for several years at a post known as Fort Thornburg about two miles west of the settlement of Ashley at the mouth of the canyon of Ashley creek. At that time mail and supplies were brought into the valley by teaming over the Uintah mountains from Fort Bridger in Wyoming. Vernal the county seat of Uintah county is located in the western part of the area and has a population of 1399 (1920 census). Maser is a small settlement a few miles northwest of Vernal and Naples and Jensen are similar settlements to the southeast. Jensen is situated on the west bank of Green river.

There are no railroads within the area. Watson Utah the northern terminus of the Uintah railway (narrow gauge) about 55 miles southeast of Vernal is the nearest railroad connection and from that point the greater part of the freight and express into the valley has in the recent past been transported by automobile trucks. Price and Helper are stations on the main line of the Denver and Rio Grand railroad about 135 miles southwest of Vernal. A considerable part of the commodities received by the local merchants is shipped by parcel post through Price and considerable of the passenger traffic into and of the valley is by automobile stage through Helper and Price. Within the Ashley valley good earth roads are maintained along most of the section lines and a few wagon roads lead northward into the Uintah mountains. A fair stage road leads from Vernal to Watson and the Pikes Peak auto highway now known as U. S. 40 crosses Green river at Jensen. Graveled highways extend westward to Heber Salt Lake City and other points. Aside from these main lines of travel roads that are often but little better than trails lead to various parts of the adjacent territory.

gan with the digging of a small ditch in the spring of 1874 to irrigate land on the Captain Pardon Dodd ranch in Ashley. A second ditch was dug within a year by two or three settlers who took up ranches near Dodd's ranch and formed the settlement of Ashley. Little more was done until the fall of 1877 when settlers came in from Salt Lake City. In the spring of 1878 three town sites were laid out one at Incline (now Jensen) one at Vernal (formerly called Ashley Center) and one at Dry Fork which is just outside the area to the northwest. During this year (1878) irrigation ditches were built to serve the lands in the neighborhood of each townsite. Before the close of the summer of 1880 three large canals—the

The boundaries of the area are irregular. Green river passes along the eastern and southern sides of the area and the remaining boundaries have been drawn to include all land now under irrigation and land which it is reasonable to expect may be brought under irrigation at some future time either by extension of the present canal systems or construction of new ones. The area covers about 150 square miles or 96,000 acres.

The Ashley valley area includes all the agricultural land within the valley of Ashley creek, known as Ashley valley and in addition the mesa lands between Ashley creek and Green river and an area of land of uneven topography south of Ashley valley. The agricultural lands of the region are terminated on the north by the lower slopes of the Uinta range of mountains and on the west and southwest by Asphalt ridge and associated ridges and mesas.

The lower slopes of the Uinta mountains consist of strata of sedimentary rocks that dip sharply to the south and southeast and disappear beneath the lower alluvial soils of the Ashley valley or beneath masses of shales that form the outlying mesas.

Ashley valley lies between Asphalt ridge on the west and the mesa just east of Ashley creek and extends from the base of the Uinta mountains on the north to a semi-detached spur of Asphalt ridge that extends in the channel of Green river about 7 miles southwest of Jensen.

Ashley creek which traverses the area from the northwest to southwest meanders through a narrow flood plain parts of which are often overflowed during the spring floods. Be-

cause of this region consists however of a series of small flat-topped mesas which are separated by steeply sloping sides and by lower lying areas of varying extent where the local drainage courses have developed a more or less uneven topography. This mesa region lies from 100 to 300 feet above the alluvial lands along Ashley creek and from 200 to 500 feet above the flood plain of Green river.

Most of the land is too uneven for irrigation consisting for the most part of a prominent ridge extending from the base of Asphalt ridge southeastward to a relatively narrow body of soil along the north bank of Green river, and to three or four small benches on the north and eastern sides of the ridge.

Ashley creek is a permanent stream which rises in lakes or the streams of the Uinta mountains. For a distance of about 6 miles after it enters the area the channel is rather shallow and with it are associated a number of smaller channels which carry water only during floods. During the spring months, when the melting of snow in the mountains becomes rapid the stream often carries a large volume of water and the lands along its course in the northern part of the area are frequently overflowed and more or less eroded and the location of the channel may be changed for short distances. During the summer season the flow of the creek is small but continuous. Before the diversion of water for irrigation the flow sank into the gravels within a short distance below the mouth of the canyon. South of a point about due east of Vernal the stream has cut a

to various parts of the adjacent valley.

The mean annual temperature at Vernal according to official records of the weather bureau for a period of 19 years is 45.9 degrees Fahrenheit. During the summer months which normally include about 75 percent of the growing season the average temperature is a little over 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Summer temperatures of over 100 degrees are very rare and the nights are always cool.

The winters are not severe. Violent winds are almost unknown. Strong westerly winds occur during the spring months, in the heated season these winds are often of short duration and accompany or precede the summer afternoons or evenings. Thunderstorms are very rare. Occurrence during the summer season in the mountains just north of the area, and occasionally sweep across the area in an easterly direction. Agriculture in the Ashley valley be-

townside. Before the close of the summer of 1880 three large canals--the Central Ashley Upper and Rock Point--had been built. In 1882 there were about 400 people within the area. From the first settlers found it necessary on account of their isolation and bad roads to make the communities self-supporting. The first crops grown were corn, wheat, and potatoes. By 1890 several hundred fruit trees had been planted and some fruit was produced within the area. Then as well as now there was no immediate cash crop. Livestock and animal products being the source of cash income.

The Ashley valley area is well adapted to the production of livestock raising and poultry raising. This is due not only to the excellent summer pasturage afforded by the Uinta mountains but also to the fact that a relatively large acreage of the mesa soils is generally being used for the cultivated pasturage.

been tortuous channel through the flood plain that is usually of sufficient capacity to carry the entire flow of the stream. Ashley creek furnishes the water for irrigation the land with- in Ashley valley and part of the irri- gable lands above Green river near Alhambra.

Brush creek which also rises in the higher part of the Uinta Mountains traverses a narrow, winding depression and alluvial valley cut through the shale in the eastern part of the sur- face. This creek enters the area sev- eral miles east and a little north of Vernal and flows in a southerly di- rection to its junction with Green riv- er about three miles north of Jen- sen. Brush creek is a permanent stream and its flow is directed for the irrigation of and in the vicinity of the town of Jensen.

Green river whose channel forms the eastern and southern limits of the area rises on the eastern slopes of the Wind river mountains in Wyo- ming and flows southward to its junction with the Colorado river some 150 miles south of the area. Within the area of this survey this stream has a meandering slightly de- pressed channel which is bordered by narrow strips of alluvial soil. At the normal and low-water stages of the stream the water is several feet be- low the level of the adjacent lands but during the periods of flood local areas of the bottom lands are subject to overflow.

Some of these bodies have no sur- face drainage outlet and remain wet and swampy throughout the year. Al- though this stream carries a consider- able volume of water at all times the conditions are not favorable for a frarily diversions of water for small ir- rigation projects. One small pumping plant in the extreme southern part of the area lifts water for irrigation of a small area of land adjacent to the stream. This is the only utilization of the waters of Green river for irri- gation in this area.

The elevations of the lands in Ash- ley valley range from 4850 to 5500 feet in the mesa region east of Ver- nal. The maximum elevation is about 5500 feet. The lower lands along the Green river have an elevation of about 4700 feet above sea level.

Utah county was organized in 1880 from parts of Wasatch and San- pete Counties. In 1917 the western portion of Utah county was annexed to Duchesne county and all of that part of the county north of the crest of the Uinta mountains was taken to form Daguerre county.

Settlement in this region was be- gun by a few settlers who located the town of Ashley about 1 1/4 miles north- east of the present site of Hager. The Indians gave the settlers considerable

Green the creek and the base of the Uinta mountains the surface slopes uniformly to the level of the flood plain and is traversed at intervals by the channels of intermittent drainage courses west of Ashley creek. The country consists of a series of rolling ridges and isolated mesas traversed by numerous well-defined drainage ways. Throughout the greater part the surface is only moderately rolling. Along the foot of Asphalt ridge and the terrace slopes above the flood plain of Ashley creek the topog- raphy becomes too rough for culti- vation and irrigation. This part of the valley lies from 50 to 75 feet above the flood plain of Ashley creek and rises toward Asphalt ridge at the rate of about 70 feet per mile. Throughout the northern part the ridges become more prominent but the greater part of the land is under cultivation or is capable of being farmed. In the southern part erosion by local drainage has been severe pro- ducing a very uneven surface and leaving only an occasional small iso- lated mesa with a uniform surface. East of Ashley creek and extending nearly to Green river nearly horizon-

The Honey Industry

1928-12-13

The honey bee industry of the Uintah basin is of great dear more importance than many suppose Last year's crop brought about \$40 000 into this basin from other states That is worth while This industry represents an investment of \$40 000 There are about forty apiaries containing about 5 000 hives of bees Last year they averaged better than two cans or 120 pounds of honey to the colony This is a low estimate That means 10 000 cans 60 000 pounds for 30 tons of honey

Bees are free from disease and the owners will endeavor to keep them

The babassu nut of Brazil is said to be so hard that it requires a pressure of 1 000 pounds to break it In no other respect does it have the slightest resemblance to our early cantaloupe

Carrier pigeons made an average speed of 70 miles an hour from Lyons to Boston And to think that carrier pigeons were once used because they were swift!

We wonder what a retiring president who has had his fill of the job thinks of the eager candidates who are looking for work, worry and trouble

that way by discouraging shipment of colonies from other parts of the country where there is much foul brood

An increase in the acreage of alfalfa and sweet clover has resulted in the increase of apiaries and in the very near future the honey crop should be worth \$100 000 annually A large part of the honey shipment is made by auto trucks to the nearest railroad station A number of the beekeepers and merchants have recently been shipping by parcel post and auto trucks

Uintah basin honey has no superior It wins the prizes when placed upon exhibition at county state and world's fairs More than once it has been awarded first prize at the annual convention of the International Bee Keepers' Association Ashley valley is one of the most ideal sections in the United States for bee culture The climatic conditions make it such Sweet clover and alfalfa are the two principal sources from which the busy denizens of the hive gather the delicious nectar that is ripened into this product of high quality Many farmers of this section who do not pretend to make a specialty of bees produce a great deal of honey for the market Alfalfa blossoms contain the very best nectar As a result many farmers are raising bees and making money from alfalfa and honey at the same time

Those who know what good honey really is will appreciate the fact that the article in this basin is so heavy that it weighs twelve and one-half pounds to the gallon The color is what is known to the trade as "water white" and the flavor is more delightful than that of the much praised white clover honey of the eastern states A little while ago the honey from one of the well-known apiaries in the Ashley valley found its way through the channels of trade to Hamburg Germany The dealer took the address from the label and wrote to the manager of the same apiary to ascertain if he could obtain honey from that source regularly Today the honey from this basin finds its way to most parts of the United States and to many foreign countries

It is generally recognized that William Powell was the first man to import bees into the Uintah basin which he did some time during the early eighties His first colony, however, proved to be affected with the dread disease "foul brood" This colony of bees together with all fixtures was consigned to the flames and since that time there has not been another case of foul brood The dealer who furnished the bees to Mr Powell replaced them free of charge The next importation of bees was made soon after that by the late Bishop George Freestone and consisted of three colonies Those few hives of bees were the small foundation upon which one of our most profitable and promising industries has been built

1428-12-15 VT

Vernal, the Largest City in The Uintah Basin, is Most Modern Inland City in U. S.

Hundreds of people to whom the Christmas number of the Vernal Express finds its way each year are anxious that it shall contain a new picture of the Uintah basin, a description of the Ashley valley and information regarding Vernal the biggest city in the basin. This issue of the Express therefore becomes a great factor in the growth and development of this section of the state and we are anxious that the information given shall be accurate in every respect.

With reference to Vernal the county seat of Uintah county it is located on the Victory highway the main street of America and lays its claim to distinction not because of its unique setting in the productive valley of Ashley but rather because it is the most modern and up-to-date inland city in the United States. Vernal is known from coast to coast wherever tourists travelers and men of business gather. With an approximate population of 1400 Vernal's peculiar location makes it serve a population of fully 12000 an analysis of the volume of business transacted showing this to be a fact.

turkey for Thanksgiving and Christmas like the New York market with several car loads. The same with the Los Angeles market.

Dairy farming has become the all year around industry bringing in several thousands of dollars each month to the industrious farmer. Constant effort is being made to bring the various dairy herds to the highest perfection by the importation of pure-bred sires and dairy calves. Sweet cream has been shipped as far as Denver.

Oil is a possibility in the valley and preparations are being made for development along this line at several fields. The Utah Oil and Refining

Company early in 1926, struck a tremendous flow of gas, estimated at 40,000,000 cubic feet per day at their oil well 11 miles from Vernal. Application has been made to supply Vernal City and Salt Lake City with natural gas from this well.

Among the natural resources are the ranges of the Ashley National forest and the immense timber supply the greatest in Utah the high water sheds and a supply of irrigation water throughout the year. The recreational value in some of the most sublime scenery to be found in America with its myriads of lakes and streams with the speckled trout large game preserves for the protection of the deer and game fowl. The immense deposits of phosphate which will provide immediate tonnage for the railroad. Wonderful sites for electric power and many other resources the value yet undetermined and scarcely dreamed about go to make the Ashley valley one of the places where a living is easily made and where one can live in as modern homes as any place in the land with the best schools for their highest order at all times.

Within Ashley valley surrounding Vernal there are 10 public schools with 60 teachers and over 1600 pupils This includes the \$115 000 new Senior and the \$50 000 Junior Uintah high schools located on the same campus The capacity of these two schools is over 800 pupils The Vernal Central grade school houses over 500 pupils The remainder of the schools have two to eight rooms each The L D S church also maintains a seminary

In Vernal there is Episcopal Catholic and Congregational church buildings with two L D S churches and a large L D S tabernacle with a seating capacity of 2500 also a capacious congregational community house There are several fraternal orders clubs and societies with a strong Lions club organization

Added to Vernal's substantial business blocks there are three modern garage buildings costing from \$12 000 to \$30 000 the new Senior high school, and the new Federal building site and building costing \$50 000 the new First ward chapel costing \$40 000 and store and office buildings under contract. At least 20 modern bungalows, costing from \$2000 to \$6000 each have been completed The commodious Commercial hotel is modern in every respect as is also the Grosvenor hotel since it has undergone many changes

The Victory highway from the center of town west is paved with native asphaltum while five miles of sidewalks have been paved this year Nearly all of the business blocks court house schools and many buildings are of brick The native gypsum plaster is nearly as hard as cement and finishes a beautiful gray cream color Coa' in abundance is mined in the nearby mountain

the nearby mountain

For some fifteen years Vernal bore the distinction of being a city without taxation. Yet blocks of asphaltum sidewalks and street paving were accomplished. Today its streets are well graded and maintained, sprinkled and lighted with 100 electric lights.

The climate of the Ashley valley makes this a most desirable place to live. There is practically no wind except in the spring. The change of seasons is gradual, not being subject to sudden changes of heat and cold. Nights are cool and refreshing. The altitude of the valley varies from 4725 to 5500 feet.

The resources of the Ashley valley are so varied and extensive it is a difficult matter to tell of any one and its future possibilities without making it seem as though one in the telling was overstepping the bounds of truthfulness.

Because of the great deposits of almost pure phosphate in the surrounding hills and the deep soil the ground is one of the most productive in the west, raising any crop to perfection that can be grown in a temperate climate and where intensive and careful cultivation has been practiced making almost incredible yields. Because of inadequate transportation facilities no great development has been made in the crops which bring the richest returns from the soil and only sufficient is raised to meet the local consumption.

Rich alfalfa fields make returns in hay for the livestock industry which has been the principal one and very lucrative too. The sheep industry brings over one-quarter of a million dollars annually in this valley alone. Cattle is second only in importance.

With the Uintah basin coming first and as an alfalfa seed producing section second to none in the United States the Ashley valley is making long strides in this field. The J. C. Peppard Seed company has built a large seed cleaning plant to handle their contracted acreage.

There is also a smaller seed cleaning plant owned by the Vernal Milling and Light company. Some of the richest alfalfa seed yields recorded have been in the Ashley valley. The new industry, one of easy and cheap transportation ranks now with the sheep industry and bids fair to surpass it.

As soon as rail transportation is assured a sugar refinery will be built in the valley. The Amalgamated Sugar company having a test made of the sugar beets this year. Adequate water for irrigation will bring this and other intensive agricultural crops to high production as soon as the railroad is built.

Here do remarkably well here the alfalfa bloom for seed creating a tremendous flow. The excellence of Vernal honey is known all over the United States and has been shipped to Europe because of its especially pleasing flavor.

Within the last few years the raising of turkeys and capons has come to the front and the Uintah basin

1931-10-08 VE

OUR PIONEERS

George Davis Merkley And Phoebe Ann Merkley

George Davis Merkley was born July 14 1859 at Salt Lake City just across the street from the old University building in the north part of the city He was the son of Nelson Merkley who came to Utah in 1848 in the Amasa Lyman company and a grandson of Christopher Merkley who came to Utah in 1849 in the Enoch Reese company Mr Merkley's grandfather filled eight missions and assisted in building the Nauvoo, Salt Lake and Logan temples He was also an Indian war veteran Mr Merkley's father was a veteran of Echo canyon war They lived at Salt Lake a number of years and then moved to Morgan Valley Cedar Valley Cedar Fort and to Vernal where they have resided ever since

In October 10, 1881 he was married to Phoebe Ann Hacking who was born December 8 1860 at Cedar Valley Mrs Merkley is the daughter of John Sampson Hacking who was born September 18 1833 at Peterson, Lancashire England and came to Utah in 1851 in Captain Cardon's company Mrs Merkley's father settled first in American Fork and then moved to Cedar Fort in 1833 Went with Gunnison party to California in 1854 thence via the Isthmus of Panama and New York to St. Louis, where he married returning to Utah with his wife and latter's parents in 1856 He served as militiaman in Walker war, during which time he drove the "Bow"

cannon from Provo to Salt Creek (now Juab) He served on home guard in Black Hawk war and was director of Cedar Fort Co-op store 1868-78 for which he was purchasing agent 15 years, director of water board 25 years and has been watermaster since 1860 until his death He was a school trustee nine years a blacksmith and farmer

The Merkley and Hacking family traveled together to Ashley Valley in four covered wagons. When they were a short distance from Duchesne Mr Merkley was out rounding up the livestock and had a number of letters he was to send back to Salt Lake with the first outfit he met Seeing a horseman coming like mad across the country, he hailed him. The man rode up all excited and informed Mr Merkley that the Indians had overpowered the soldiers killed Meeker and his men and were coming into the Utah settlements He said he had five hundred head of cattle in the Basin but would not risk his hide even if he had to abandon them. Mr Merkley carried the word back to camp and a consultation was held It was decided to go on the journey to Ashley Valley They hardly saw a redskin on the entire trip

Arriving in Vernal in the fall of '89 there was not a single tree to be seen There were a few willows along the creek The flat was covered with sage and shadscale The first night Mrs Merkley walked to a high ridge and counted but two lights as far as she could see They located on homesteads near the

old historic Hacking corner and began to cultivate the soil and clear it for planting

(To Be Continued)

OUR PIONEERS

George Davis Merkley and Phoebe Ann Hacking

(Continued From Last Week)

Speaking of lighting facilities in the days before the advent of the lamp or electric light into Ashley Valley, Mrs. Merkley said during the first winters they had to depend on a crude light made from the use of a button covered with rag burned in deer tallow. The button was covered with the rag and the ends cut off then placed in a dish filled with the tallow. Later candles were brought by some of the settlers. When lamps were brought in they were considered a luxury. The supply of coal oil ran low and Mrs. Merkley only had one quart to last all summer. In order to conserve the supply all the chores had to be done before sunset.

Many of the pioneers wore buckskin suits. Oftentimes when a suit of clothes commenced to wear buckskin was used to reinforce the worn out parts and in this manner suits were made to wear many years longer. Mrs. Merkley was unusually skilled in the making of buckskin gloves and during her early married life made many pairs for the settlers. Shoes were worn by many but some used buckskin moccasins.

"Many a dance we attended we would pay our ticket in produce," said Mrs. Merkley. "Pete Peterson used to play and some of the happiest times of our lives were spent in good wholesome dances."

The summer of '79 was exceptionally dry and the following winter more than 18 inches of snow fell. The snow stayed on the ground until March. The Prairie dogs were buried so deep with the snow that they burrowed through and would be seen sitting on mounds of snow and dirt.

Their cattle, which had been brought in from Utah county, were not used to the rugged conditions in the new country and the severe winter proved disastrous to many a head. In one place in the Twists there were twenty-four carcasses piled up in one spot and until a few years ago the bones were still to be seen.

When the soldiers were being moved from Ft. Thornburg they stopped for a rest in front of the Merkley homestead and Mrs. Merkley refreshed the entire contingent with fresh cool milk, many of the soldiers filling their canteens with the generous supply.

"The first harvests were made with crude implements," said Mrs. Merkley. "Our crop of wheat was cut with a seven inch cradle the first year. Later threshing outfits were brought in."

Ashley was the first town in the valley and also the county seat. When the town of Vernal was organized there was quite a fight between Ashley and Vernal for county seat, but Vernal won out and the change was made. The old town of Ashley was near the Orson Hall farm in Maeser. At this place there was store saloons, postoffice,

(Continued from page one)

**GEORGE D AND PHOENIX
ANN MERKLEY**

(Continued on page eight)

courthouse and many other buildings which since have been torn down or moved

Mr Merkley was a counselor in the bishopric of Mill ward he also served in the high council of Uintah stake for many years For his stock in the Ashley Co-operative company he contracted the plastering work for their first office He served as county commissioner and was county treasurer until the time he left for a two year mission to Great Britain in 1892 When Mr Merkley left for his mission, Mrs Merkley carried on the work in the treasurer's office until the term expired Mr Merkley is at present a director in the Uintah State Bank and the Ashley Co-op

The row of trees on the south side of the road near the Merkley and Hacking corner were planted in 1891 by Mr Merkley They were taken from the banks of Green river at Jensen. For the sum of \$30 paid in wheat Mr Merkley purchased the land from the Bank of Vernal to the Penny store which he turned over to his father When they proved up on their homestead they paid the fees in wheat which they had cradled

Mrs Merkley was stake secretary of the Relief Society for 12 years.

Their children are George A. of Maeser, Eleanor Allen, Jane Colton, John Henry of Lapoint Parley of Phoenix, Audrey Richens, Olive Bodily (deceased), Morgan, Mary Elizabeth (deceased).

Curry Merc. Company Store at Ouray Changed Hands on August 1st

The Curry Mercantile Company store at the famous Indian Trading post at Ouray was purchased last week by Clifford A Broome who took possession on August 1st. The Curry Mercantile company was established forty-eight years ago or in 1885 by Oran Curry, who established what was known as 'The Kentucky Store'

Later his brother the late Louis W Curry afterwards state Senator from this district took over the management of the establishment. In 1909 Mathew W Curry known to all as 'Mat' arrived from the home of the Currys in Harlodsburg Kentucky and later became the principal owner the name then being changed to the Curry Mercantile Company.

For years the business was a flourishing one and two rival stores sprang up, one near the present plant owned by James Mease and one across the river owned by L. H. Woodard. To perfect their business the Currys bought out both these establishments and since have been unhampered by competition.

The new store will be known as the C. A. Broome Store. Mr Broome has been chief clerk in the Curry establishment most of the time since 1909. His clerk will be L. T. Bennett a former farm agent of Uintah-Ouray Indian Agency at Fort Duchesne. Mr Broome and Mr Bennett are both well known throughout the Basin.

The change also involves Mr and Mrs Albert Murray colored who have been running the Ouray hotel a part of the Curry holdings. Mrs Bennett will take over the hotel. Mrs Murray has been in the employ of the Currys for over 40 years fifteen of which was in their Kentucky home. Mr Murray also came to Utah in the exciting days of Copper in '90 as an aide to Colonel George Tim one of the owners of the Utland Mining company's copper mining and reducing plant at the now abandoned Utland postoffice some miles south of Ouray.

Mr Curry contemplates going in business at Vernal in the near future.

1933-08-03 VE.

Maeser Town Approved by Commission

Maeser Community Incorporated as a Town. John L. McGonkle Appointed President. New Town to Make Extensive Improvements in Community.

At the meeting of the county commissioners held on Saturday the petition of the citizens of Maeser for the incorporation of a town, was sanctioned. John L. McGonkle was appointed president and William P. Vernon and Andrew J. Vernon trustees until an election is held.

One of the first major improvements of a civic nature to take place in the newly formed town, will be the installation of a modern waterworks system and the securing of a better supply of water. A number of other needed improvements will be undertaken later on. Considerable federal funds will now be available to Maeser which could not have been secured before incorporation. Maeser has the honor of being the second incorporated town in Uintah county.

In order to combat cutworms and other insects that have been making inroads on crops of the county, the commissioners authorized County Clerk F. L. Noel to distribute to people of the county the arsenic powder owned by the county, at the rate of two pounds per garden.

Dr. Weldon K. Bullock made a strong plea for a county hospital and in a vivid manner told of conditions existing in the county which could be remedied by such a county institution. He referred to the splendid arrangement made by the government to pay 65 per cent of the cost of such an institution. He said the plan for a hospital would cost the county about \$12,000. The county would also be responsible for the maintenance of the hospital.

Superintendent L. O. Noble and Clerk Driver E. Smith of the Uintah School District presented the school budget for the coming year. The board decided that the same levy as last year would remain 14 1/2 mills.

O. R. Lund, county ERA manager, informed the commissioners at a meeting June 28 that those on relief in the county who showed a willingness to work and help themselves will be given work by the relief office but those who do not work will receive no government help. To relieve unemployment, Mr. Lund suggested new projects for road work at Randlett, Jensen and Davis. To help carry out the FEA work a government truck could be secured, the county manager said.

'Did Joan inherit her beauty?'
"Yes, her father left her a drug store."

1935-07-04 VE

Maeser Town to Get \$20,000 P WA Waterworks

1936-09-17

The town of Maeser has secured a PWA loan of \$20,000 for the waterworks system, according to a wire received from Senator Wm. H. King by John L. McConkie, president of the town board. Maeser town was recently incorporated. Other members of the board are William Vernon and Andrew Vernon.

According to information, \$11,000 is a loan and \$9,000 a grant from the PWA. The town will be paid from revenue received from water rents within the townsite and is payable through a long term of years.

The town board has been working on this project since last fall, a year ago. It was necessary for the incorporation of Maeser town to enable them to comply with the provisions of the PWA.

It is expected work will start in the near future or as soon as the legal matters can be complied with.

Ouray Cattleman Buys Jensen Store

1944-12-14 VE

Harry AuMiller well known Ouray cattleman will go to Salt Lake this week-end on a purchasing trip prior to re-opening the E E Heaton store at Jensen purchased this week by Mr AuMiller

Mr AuMiller originally a native of Rio Blanco County Colorado has been a resident of the Uintah Basin for the past twenty years His whitefaced range cattle are now owned by Tom Layton of Layton Utah He says he will continue a line of 'general merchandise' at the Jensen store The store was originally owned and managed by the late Ben P Kelly who sold his holdings there to Mr Heaton due to falling health Mr Heatin was forced to close the store two years ago when his health also failed

**Lionel Babcock
funeral to be
held Saturday**

Feb 10 1964
Funeral services will be held Saturday at 1 p.m. in the Myton Presbyterian Church for Lionel Alfred Babcock, 76, who died Feb. 6 in a Granger nursing home of causes incident to age.

He was born March 31, 1892 in Everett, Wash. to John F. and Nellie Green Babcock.

He married Naomi Brown Nov. 21, 1921 in Myton. He was a former postmaster, a member of Basin Lodge #20 a dairyman, a U. S. Army veteran of World War I and a member of the Myton American Legion post.

He is survived by his wife

Myton; sons and daughters, Allan, Hunter; Lowell, Midvale; Mrs. Nile (Robin) Rasmussen, Salt Lake; Mrs. James (Nina) Armstrong, Honolulu, Hawaii; John David, Del Ray, Calif.; 14 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren.

Friends may call at the Oplin Mortuary in Roosevelt Friday evening and Saturday prior to services.

Burial will be in the Myton cemetery.

Babcock

The Herald 10/17 N3 9/17
Elsa Z. Odeklrk
Elsa Z. Odeklrk, 89, died September 16, 1985, at her home in Salt Lake City, Utah.
Born September 12, 1896, Payson, Utah, a daughter of John and Helma Vester Ziker.
Married Isaac Warren Odeklrk, March 5, 1922, in Myton, Utah; marriage later solemnized in the Salt Lake LDS temple. Elsa was a loving wife, mother, and devoted homemaker.
Surviving are her husband, Warren of Salt Lake; two daughters and two sons, Helen Clark, Provo, Utah; Susan Odeklrk, Jerry R. Odeklrk, both Salt Lake; and Carl J. Odeklrk, St. George, Utah; 18 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren; two nephews, Lawrence Ziker, Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Wally Ziker, Paris, Colorado. Preceded in death by two sons and a daughter.
Funeral services Saturday, September 17th, 2 p.m., at Lakeside Sunset Lawn, 2150 East 1300 South, where friends may call one-half hour prior to services. Interment, Wasatch Lawn Memorial Park.
10/17/85 N1 9/17



Doi
Dar
Mard
Bo
cemb
Verni
Isaac
Hans
Odeklrk
ried C
nest
April
the
LDS I
died
1937
memb
La Gr
for I
where
and I
memb
Regis
years
Sun
ford I
(Mink)
(Doris
City,
Den,
ter, Fi
in des
great-
sisters
Odeklrk
John,
Sue Da
Calif.
Tune
Thursd
Grand
land,
Brothe
East,
Thursd
for I
Laka C

UINTAH COUNTY LIT
REGIONAL ROOM...
FILE FOLDER

NO. 0105

o
s.
if
n
n
l-
l-
l-
o
n
d-
n.
in
all
on

6 Vernal Express Thursday, January 27, 1977



FRIENDLY VISITORS gathered at Golden Age Center are, left to right, Katie Horrocks, Phyllis Warby, Elvira Slough, Iva Gray, Blaine Lee and Charles Lewis. Second row, Donnell

Dow, Della Cook, Opal Davis, Lavonia Burke, Anna Pearson, Hilda Faulkner, Edith Jensen and Norma Damon.

1977-01-27 VE



FRIENDLY VISITORS gathered at Golden Age Center are, left to right, Katie Horrocks, Phyllis Warby, Elvira Slough, Iva Gray, Blaina Lea and Charles Lewis. Second row, Donnell

Daw, Della Cook, Opal Davis, Lavana Burke, Anna Pearson, Hilda Faulkner, Edith Jensen and Norma Damon.

Echoes from the dust

History of Ashley Valley

Alfred Harvey Westover

Alfred Harvey Westover was born in Vermont, May 8, 1851. His father was Moses Westover and mother, Mary Ann Oliver. His mother died when he was five years old and his grandparents raised him until he was 13 years old, when he started west. The first stop was New York City. From there he came west to Chicago.

He went up on the train with Custer to the Black Hills where Custer was killed. When he was twenty-three (in 1874) he, with Jimmie Rneman, drove a herd of cattle for the Government to Ashley Valley. The cattle were for the Indian Agency. They crossed Green River at the old Indian Ford, Escalante Crossing.

THEY THEN went back for more cattle and on June 10, 1874, he again returned to make his permanent home settling on what was later the old Ira Burton place.

He met Miss Clair Josephine Crouch from Salt Lake territory. She had come out here with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Snyder. On the 23rd day of Sept., 1877, in Salt Lake, he and Miss Crouch were married. They came back to Ashley Fork, as it was then called, to make their home.

On Sept. 15, 1878, a son, Alfred Clair, was born. He was the third white child born in the valley. His mother died a few

days after his birth.

IN THE WINTER of 1877, he made a trip to Rock Springs, Wyo., with a cart made from the back wheels of a wagon for flour for the settlers who were out of food.

Alfred carried mail over the mountain between here and Rock Springs on snowshoes. For this service, he was paid 25 cents a letter. On one of these trips, he was snowblinded. Mr. Westover was one of the first trustees of Union Ward, being in

office when the school house was built. He and Heber Campbell, Billie Powell, Harry Yarnell, Louis Kabell and Ben Heater built the old Spring Creek ditch, also the White Wash Canal. The Rock Point was built later and these two canals were put into it.

He was one of the first directors of the Rock Point.

On December 31, 1881, in Ashley Fork, he was married to Jennie Elizabeth Allen. To this union, six children were born. Alfred died March 4, 1922 in Vernal.

A BIT OF HISTORY

In Comparison With the Hard Winter of 1879-80, the Present Winter Reminds Old Settlers.

The old settlers, the pioneers of the Ashley Valley, have often compared the present winter with the winter of 1879-80, familiarly known in local history as the hard winter

True, this winter has already been a hard one and many a farmer, prospector and stock raiser is waiting anxiously for the advent of that enchanting season known as spring. But the prospects are that a number of days, and perhaps, but we sincerely hope not, weeks must elapse before the farmer will be able to brighten his rust eaten plowshare in the fertile soil, the prospector will hie away to the high hills and the cattle, now eating \$10 hay, will be driven to range or pasture

The snow this winter has been almost as deep as it was the "hard winter" But this has been a very mild tempered one, while the other was extremely frigid Ten degrees below zero has been the lowest temperature registered this winter and many a day has been warm enough to melt the snow in southern exposures Again, the people now have comfortable homes, feed for stock and constant communication with the rest of the world, while such was not the case in 1879

The comparison of the two winters has led us to interview old settlers a little and give a few of the leading incidents of that memorable period in the history of Uintah County. However, we realize that the sketch will not be complete and we cannot hope to make it free from errors, but it may serve as a nucleus to the history of the early settlement of this valley.

The settlement of the Ashley valley dates back to 1877. The first settlers located along Ashley creek and their holdings were more in the nature of stock ranches than farms During 1878 a number of mormon colonists made their advent into the valley and in the spring of 1879 the Ashley Central canal was commenced The individuals who first diverted the water and placed it

1906-03-10

upon their land were Lycurgus Johnson, A J. Johnstun and David Johnson. The route of the canal constructed by them was the present route from the point of diversion to James Hacking's corner. The time occupied in taking out the water and placing it upon land in Vernal was about three weeks. The first land irrigated in Vernal was near the site of the new Stake Tabernacle.

During the season of 1879 a number of new settlers arrived and raised crops. There were three deaths during the summer of 1879 that we will mention. They were Mrs. J. H. Black, wife of Grandpa Black, Mrs. Clara Westover, a sister of Mrs. Caroline A. Stringham, and Robert Snyder. He was struck by lightning and instantly killed. Mrs. Black was the first person whose remains were interred in the Vernal cemetery.

During September 1879 the Meeker massacre occurred at Meeker, Colorado. At that time there was a reservation in the western part of Colorado with the Agency at Meeker. All the male employees including Colonel Meeker, the agent, were killed and the women and children taken prisoners. It is an open secret that a number of the Uintah Utes joined their cousins at Meeker and a general massacre of all the white settlers in this whole section of country was planned by the Indians. But some of the old chiefs of the Uintahs, who were friendly with Uncle Jeremiah Hatch and the late I. J. Clark, among them Jacob Arapine (Yanks) and Tabby, rode over in the night and warned Hatch and Clark that the settlers must gather together, otherwise the friendly chiefs might be unable to control their young men. This advice was acted upon by the settlers without delay. Over twenty families collected here at Vernal, the Dry Fork people fled to old Ashley. In these two places most of the people remained until the excitement subsided. Many of the families remained there all winter. There was also a small group of families who spent the winter on White river above Ouray. This was before the Uncompahgre reservation had been created.

The winter of 1878-9 had been a very mild one and early settlers of this valley believed that stock would winter here easily without hay or shelter. But the winter of 1879-80 disabused their minds of this mistaken idea. The first snowstorm occurred November 2, 1879 and before January there was over eighteen inches of snow on the ground. The weather was so cold that the spirituous liquors dispensed by Mr. Bently, our only liquor vender, sometimes froze solid enough to burst the bottles. For nearly three months the sun had little or no effect on the south side of the houses. All communication with the outside world was cut off for about two months, there was no mail

P
t.
li
n
o
s.
s.
u
n
w
a
h
w
t.
s.
le
v
r
E
N
c
v
li
tl
J
c.
r
G
t.
ti
e
tl
c
w
w
P
E
d.
w
B
d
d
w
w
ol
tl
n
O
ol
w
tl
st
ti
tl
al
w
n
tl
al
e
c
v
tl
ol
fi
tl
p
ti
c
tl
v

carried either in or out of the valley. When the mail carrier managed to snowshoe it over the range to Green River city and brought the long delayed newspapers the people were amused at the information that early in the winter they had all been massacred. Another condition was scarcity of provisions. Money there was, but it would not buy the staff of life for there was none here to be purchased. However, there was the grain raised in the valley the proceeding summer, but no roller flouring mill. At this juncture Bill Reynolds, our present miller at the Reynolds & Fletcher mill, conceived the idea of building a mill with materials available. Among the settlers was a stone cutter, by name of Moroni Taylor. Under Reynolds direction he cut out a pair of burrs from two large hard boulders. The carpenters built the frame work and a mill capable of reducing the wheat into meal was completed and attached to a horse power. For a time horses formed the motive power but toward spring, when most of the horses had passed to the great beyond, men and boys were substituted as the propelling force.

This mill ground every thing that was placed in the hopper and as the wheat that season was very smutty the product was a meal as black as the proverbial ace of spades. Upon this unpalatable, coarse, black bread, rich and poor alike subsisted for about four months. It was not uncommon for people to invite each other to Sunday dinners and in every instance the bill of fare consisted of one article—black bread. There was one remarkable feature of the whole community being reduced to a common level, viz: there was no class distinction, or jealousy over each other's wealth. The people were united and happy. In fact at that time they were very thankful to be numbered among the living.

One of the great misfortunes of the settlers that winter was the heavy losses of cattle and horses. A few killed part of their cattle in the early part of the winter. It was a common saying, "We will kill our animals to save their lives." When spring arrived the reports of settlers who were searching the range for stock were simply appalling. Out of forty or fifty head it was not unusual for a man to come out with one or two animals. A number of the settlers had only one horse left in the spring. So the next crop was planted under the most difficult circumstances imaginable. A number of expeditions were made that winter after deer and antelope, which were very plentiful here at that time. But before mid-winter these animals were so poor as to be valueless for food. Early in the spring or about the first of April a large company of settlers left the valley via the Strawberry Valley route. They were unable to get to Heber City until the latter part of May. I. J. Clark, who went with that company to Heber City to secure provisions, did not return until July 4th.

n- company to Heber City to secure pro-
er visions, did not return until July 4th,
o 1880 He was detained by the snow in
on the mountains and on the return
th journey by the high water in the Du-
le chesne river. The first provisions to
r reach the valley were brought from
an Green River City, Wyo , 150 miles dis-
an tant, and were delivered here some
n- time in May. Before the teams arriv-
k- ed, however, every morsel of food of
re the people here in Vernal had been
of consumed So the return of the party
s who went after supplies was the most
he welcome event of the year All the
le people were out to participate in the
J. general welcome

re The health of the people was good
he during the winter. The only deaths,
at we are aware of, was two of C. C.
r, Bartlett's children, one of them, a boy,
re died from brain fever, and a girl who
n died from diphtheria Their coffins
re were made from the rough boards of a
ty wagon box, as it was the only lumber
re obtainable These two children were
y the second and third persons whose re-
le mains repose in the Vernal cemetery.
d- On July 4, 1880, nearly all the children
ed of a gentleman by name of Henderson,
a were siezed with an attack of diph-
re theria and eight out eleven children
y succumbed to the dread disease within
re two months.

re The advent of spring was very late
y that season and the farmers were un-
il- able to begin operations until the first
er week in April. It is perhaps well to
r, note in passing that during the winter
ad the initial steps looking to the organiz-
a ation of a new county were taken and
n- early in the spring of 1880 Uintah
re county was organized.

on The settlers who remained in the
ld valley produced abundant crops during
y the season of 1880 and that summer the
r, old grist mill owned by the Reynolds
st family was erected. Since those days
re the progress of the county though not
th phenominal has been healthy and con-
on tinuous We are unable to give a
or complete list of families who were in
all the county that winter, but so far as
we know at present they were as

follows:

AT DRY FORK.

Men with families, Thomas Bingham, Sr., David Bingham, Jr, William H. Perry, Chell Hall, Leo Hall, Charles Nye, Orsen Nye, Iowa Hall and Fletcher Hammond

ASHLEY AND VICINITY:

Pardon Dodds, Lycurgus Johnson, Alfred Johnson, William Gibson, James Gibson, G. W. Vangundy Philip Stringham, Al Westover, S D Colton, Ed Colton, John Fairchild, Wm Powell, Louis Kabell, Roch Gill, Mr. Hawkins, Alma Taylor, T. Taylor, William Britt, John Bentley, Richard Veltman, Bill Hayden, Samuel Miller, Mrs Wm. Preece and family, S P. Dillman and Mr. Thorne

VERNAL.

I. J. Clark, Jeremiah Hatch, A. A. Hatch, James Hacking, Nelson Merkley, J. H. Black, A. J. Johnstun, David Johnson, Thomas Karren, Bradford Bird, Peter Peterson, Jesse Clark, John Clark, Ephriam Perks, Levi Dougherty, William Ashton, George Freestone, W. H. Gagon, Lafayett Harris, Lamont Taylor, Maroni Taylor, Mr. Henderson, C. C. Bartlett, James B. Henry, John Harper, David P. Woodruff, William Reynolds, Martin Oaks, Heber Timothy.

AT WHITE RIVER

Samuel Campbell, Joseph Campbell, Heber Compbell, Jerome Merrill, Porter Merrill and Rodney B Remington.

AT MOUTH OF BURH CREEK ON GREEN RIVER

Judge Isaac Burton and family, Charles Smith, Jacob Burns, Lars Jensen and Jack Stevens

ten by himself he said: "I was appointed agent under \$20,000 bond under President Andrew Jackson."

The journal reads that he reached Whiterocks on Christmas Day, 1868, where the Uintah agency was established. (Whiterocks is the oldest settlement in Uintah County, not counting, of course, the old trading posts. Critchlow succeeded Dodds as agent in 1872. Then Pardon Dodds came back as agent as a stockman to Ashley Valley in 1873 on February 14. With him was Morris Evans and Dick Huffaker. They erected the first house ever built by white men in 1873. All of the work from timber to dirt roof was done by them; the windows were brought from Salt Lake. The main part of the building was first built to afford them shelter and as time permitted, the lean-to was soon added. The house served as a home for the Dodds family from 1873 to 1897 when a large frame house was erected.

Mr. Dodds went with Major Powell on one of his trips down the Colorado after he retired from government service. He was appointed by an act of legislature, a Selectman in and for Uintah county, Utah. He was appointed by Governor Eli H. Murray in 1880. In 1883, January 18, he was appointed prosecuting attorney for Uintah County, by Governor Murray.

John Blankenship joined the Dodds party and during their journey they fell in with Professor Marsh and a group of students from Yale University, who gave the name of Marsh Peak to the prominent mountain top usually called "Baldy." Captain Dodds died Sept. 4, 1921 at the age of 84 years.

Alfred Harvey Westover and Jimmie Rineman came here together June 10, 1876. John Kelley was the first man to build a house this side of the creek where the Ira Burton place is. This was the second house built and Jimmie Rineman built the third.

SNYDER FAMILY

Robert Snyder arrived in the Ashley Valley on the 16th of November, 1876. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Snyder, daughter Ida, who was one year old, and a girl by the name of Clara Crouch who came to work for Mrs. Snyder. She later married Al Westover. She and Miss Crouch were the first white



THE SNYDER FAMILY

First child born in the valley.

women to come to the valley to make a home and blaze a trail for all who are now living here, enjoying comfortable homes and surroundings.

Mr. Snyder came to the Basin with cattle about a year before he moved his family in. They settled on Ashley Creek on the place where David Timothy lived. The snow of winter came and shed its white blessings over the valley and mountains. Major Critchlow and wife of Whiterocks came to visit the Snyders that winter. She was the only white lady they saw all winter.

Spring came with its long, sunshiny days and on May 11, 1878, a baby boy brightened the little log cabin of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Snyder. This was the first white child born here and was named Robert Ashley Snyder.

On the 16th of June, 1878, Robert Snyder was killed by lightning in his dooryard, leaving Mrs. Snyder with two children to pioneer the wilderness. March 22, 1881, at the age of three, little Robert died. In the fall of 1881, Mrs. Snyder married William Preece and remained here to make her home. Being public-spirited, they did much for our valley and are outstanding characters of our early history.

EARLY PIONEER FAMILIES

During the coming summer autumn of 1876 and 1877, a number of persons moved in, among them were: Mr. and Mrs. William Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. John Fairchild, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hardy, Mr. and Mrs. Alma Taylor, William Powell, Lewis Kabell, Al Westover, S. P. Dillman, Jimmy Aiverman, Perry Decker, Pat Lynch, Robert Blakenship, Mr. Mason, Mr. Downing, William Britt and Fin Britt, and James Gibson.

Once a week carriers, riding horseback or wearing snowshoes, brought the mail in from Green River City, Wyoming. The Gibsons and Dodds had stores on their ranches; later Gibsons moved their store to old Ashley Town. Lycurgus Johnson also had a store there. Church was held in the homes of the people. The first Sunday School was organized on Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22, 1880, with Alfred Johnson as superintendent. Later, a log schoolhouse was built from donations by the Latter-day Saints; it stood just south of the old David Timothy farm. William Britt taught school in an old schoolhouse on Gibson's farm in 1878. Other accounts acclaim Mr. Britt the first teacher. Mr. S. P. Dillman said: "I moved to Ashley Valley in September, 1877. In the fall of '78 we built a log schoolhouse near the center of what is known as the Nathan C. Davis farm, a little east of Joseph Hardy's. That winter William Britt became Ashley Valley's first schoolteacher and taught a three-months' term of school."

In 1879, while the Indian excitement was on, the Indians advised the people to move together. Those who moved their cabins to Old Ashley Town were: W. C. Britt and wife, Alfred Johnson, Dick Huffaker and wife, Joseph Hardy and family, Lycurgus Johnson and wife, Charles Bentley and wife, Allen Davis and wife. (S. D. Colton came with his family but did not move into town), Vern Gundy and daughter Cora, and Minnie Jasperson. The single men were: S. D. Dillman, Finn Britt, John Steinaker, John Blankenship, Dan Brucil, Pat Carrell, James Rineman, Louis Cabell, Alfred Westover, Mr. Hall, James Barker, Francis Hiatt, and John Kelley.

It seems evident that the first settlement centered near the Pardon Dodds ranch and is known as Old Ashley Town, which is some two or three miles northwest of the present Vernal City. Another settlement on Green River near the present town of Jensen, and a neighborhood community in the Dry Fork, all seemed to evolve before the town of Vernal emerged. However, in 1879 and 1880, there were several families on the site where Vernal afterwards was located. To Old Ashley Town we turn our attention where we get a mental picture of the first places of business.

The business places in '79 were: the Britt store and postoffice with an attic room where the boarders slept; Gibson's store, and Bentley's saloon. Huffakers also had rooms upstairs for extra cattlemen that came to town, among whom were: A. C. Hatch (Judge), Will Willis, Charles Jasperson, George Baser, Andy Strong, Jack Edwards, Griff Edwards, Charles Hill and a brother Dave, Dan Mosby, Fletcher Hammond, Charley Grouse from Brown's Park, etc. In 1882 Brown and Luxen started a saloon. "Curg" Johnson also started a store.

THE BINGHAM PARTY

In 1877 another company came to Ashley Valley under the direction of Thomas Bingham, Sr. He had been a member of the Mormon Battalion and at this time was living in Weber County. In the summer of 1877 he with his son and some others came to look over the Valley. He returned to his home in Huntsville in Weber County and made a report of his findings to President John Taylor. From him Elder Bingham received permission to organize a small company and aid in the settlement of Ashley Valley. They left in November, 1877, and coming over the Uintahs via Evanston and Brown's Park, arrived in the lower end of Ashley Valley on the Green River in December, 1877.

The party consisted of Thomas Bingham and wife, David H. Bingham and family, Enoch Burns

and son, Frederick G. Williams and family, Alma Taylor and two children, Joshua Chell Hall and wife, Lola and child, Orson Hall, Charles Allan, Charles A. Nye, Ben Lofgren, Neils Lofgren, Charles Jensen and John Nelson and family. At Evanston these were joined by a party who came along with the Bingham party. They were Allen Beceus, George Carry, Richard Veltman and Bill Bunnell. After contacting the people who had preceded him, he took a complete census of the whole population and sent it to President John Taylor at Salt Lake City.

At a meeting held on Green River in January, 1878, Thomas Bingham, Sr., was chosen by those present to preside over them. Thus he became the first presiding elder in Uintah Basin.

Deseret News, May 25, 1878:

There are about 100 inhabitants in this precinct . . . The roads that lead to this place, whether by Fort Bridger or Heber, are very rough and twenty hundred is a heavy load for four animals . . . There are as yet no mills in the country . . . We have applied for a postoffice and mail route to this place and expect it will be established this summer."

In the early civil and ecclesiastic affairs the Bingham family played an important role. Thomas Bingham eventually moved to Dry Fork, an account of which appears later.

Mr. and Mrs. William Gibson landed here from Kamas on the first day of November, 1877. They located on the place where they now live. They brought 35 head of cattle and enough provisions to do them for a year or more. The winter was very mild and they lived in a house without doors or windows. While Mr. Gibson was away after supplies two years later, the Indian troubles began over the line in Colorado.

Mrs. Gibson, being afraid, went to Old Ashley Town where the rest of the settlers had gathered. When Mr. Gibson returned he moved their sawed log house which they had built on their ranch during the summer (sawing the logs with a whip saw) to Old Ashley Town, where they lived for a year, then returned to their ranch. They sold their house in Ashley Town to the county for a court house. It was used for this purpose four or five years. The county then moved it to Hatch Town, which is now Vernal, where it was used for many years as a county building. Being remodeled, it is still a neat looking building and stands on the corner just east of the Uintah Railway Office.

"In 1878 the first Fourth of July celebration was held. There were only five women present: Mrs. William Gibson, Mrs. Robert Snyder, Mrs. Chell Hall, Mrs. George W. Hislop, and Mrs. Alfred Johnson (all deceased.)

3. On Sept. 23, 1886. a postoffice was established and called Vernal.
4. T.H. Mitchell was the first Postmaster.
5. In February, 1887. Ashley Cooperative Store was opened. It is well to call attention to the fact that there were several stores, a postoffice, etc., in Old Ashley Town several years before there were any in the New Ashley Townsite.

The business places of Old Ashley town in 1879 were: the Britt Store and postoffice with an attic room where the boarders slept; Gibson's Store, and Bentley's Saloon.

Huffakers also had rooms upstairs for extra cattlemen that came to town, among whom were: A.C. Hatch (Judge), Will Willis, Charles Jaspersen, George Daser, Andy Strong, Jack Edwards, Grill Edwards, Charles Hill, and a brother Dave, Dan Mosby, Fletcher Hammond. Charley Crouse from Brown's Park, etc. In 1882 Brown and Luxen started a saloon. "Curg" Johnson also started a store.¹⁵

Later there was a blacksmith shop, an abstract or land office, and a school house.

The first school was on the Gibson ranch, and the term was for three months. (See Appendix 2) Church was held in some of the homes until the school was constructed, after which it was used for church purposes. (See Appendix 3) There was also a trading post at the Dodds ranch.¹⁶

Vernal had several names before the present name of Vernal, such as, the "Bench", because of its location away from the creek and no trees were there. The first people believed to live in Vernal was the Hatch family, and for a time Vernal was known as Jericho, then Hatchtown, then Ashley Center until this conflicted with Old Ashley Town.¹⁷

¹⁵Smith's of Uintah, pg. 12

¹⁶Gee. E. Long, Old Ashley Town ... pg. 1

¹⁷See page 4 in reference to the naming of Vernal.

RECOLLECTIONS.

Personal Reminiscences of an Old Settler of Ashley Valley.

An Interesting and Reliable Description of Our Valley in 1877.—

Cut it Out and Paste it in Your Scrap-book.

Thinking a short history, or a plain unvarnished tale of facts in reference to the settlement of Ashley Valley and adjacent country might be interesting to some of your readers, I will introduce the subject by saying:

When I, in company with S. P. Dillman and my brother first saw what is now this beautiful and fertile valley I thought we had arrived at the jumping off place, or, in plainer language, I thought it the most desolate, God-forsaken desert land that the eye of mortal man e'er saw. It was such an evening in September 1877 as is seldom seen outside of the valleys of the Garden Territory of the Great West, that, coming from the west through what was then called "the Gap" in the northwestern part of Ashley Valley. Our eyes rested with disappointment on the Mecca of our hopes, and although we did not prostrate ourselves in prayer as the pilgrims to Mecca do yet to a certain extent it was a relief to our feelings and full of hopes that we might be agreeably disappointed after a more thorough examination of the valley and surroundings, we proceeded across what was then a desert of sage brush, greasewood and shadscale to the stream called Ashley, where we encamped for the night.

1892-08-25

The next morning we proceeded to explore the valley. The first place we visited was the ranch of Pardon Dodds, the first actual settler in the valley. Here we found Mr. Dodds and George Basor who gave us some information in regard to the country, its advantages and resources, and this was a strong factor in causing us to remain in the valley, at least for the winter which we finally concluded to do. Here our struggles and hardships began. We took up some claims and commenced preparations to improve them. It soon came on winter and we worked on the mountain until spring getting out house logs and building material for use as soon as the weather grew warm. The winter was very severe, intensely cold but very little snow in the valley. We had no intercourse with the outside world, no mail service and the only way we ever heard from friends outside of the valley was by hunters, trappers or stockmen who made occasional trips to Green River City Wyoming and brought our mail in with them.

I remember among the old timers John Fairchild, T. Taylor, Robt. Snyder, James Rinaman, Ben. Doke, Jno. Blankenship, Wm. Gibson, P. Dodds, Geo. Basor, Charles Bentley, S. P. Dillman, Charley Jones, Fin Britt, John Steinaker and several others. This was the small nucleus around

which the future settlers of the valley concentrated. On looking back I can still see the log cabins of the first settlers and recall the good and hard times we have had together. Some of the persons above named have gone across the great divide to explore the unknown land. The majority are still residents of the valley with no thought, as far as I know, than laying down to their eternal sleep in the now beautiful and transformed place which on first sight seemed so utterly desolate. Truly time works wonders. When I look around me I see now a population of over three thousand people, I see thrifty orchards, groves and fields of waving golden grain. Land which then could be had for the taking is today worth from \$20 to \$50 per acre. Flouring mills furnish us our breadstuffs, thrashing machines and self binders add their busy hum and click to vary the monotony. Churches and schools have sprung up as if by magic. Railroads and telegraph lines are talked of, and Vernal, destined in the near future to be the county seat of Uintah County, is fast putting on metropolitan airs,

Upon awakening from a retrospective dream one can imagine that the whole valley has been touched by the wand of an enchanter and that he is indeed in Fairy-land. It is hard to realize that so many changes could have taken place in so short a time.

Now a few words in conclusion. Uintah County will soon take a front place in the ranks of Utah's counties. It is undeniably rich in many minerals. There are also immense beds of coal, gypsum, gilsonite and other valuable deposits that will, when capital is enlisted in their development, add materially to its weight and general prosperity.

materially to its welfare and general
prosperity.

We have an abundance of timber
for improvements, good soil, good cli-
mate and one of the most healthful
counties in Utah; the country is grad-
ually settling up with good citizens
and the growth is steady and perma-
nent. The social status of Uintah
County will compare favorably with
any place in the West. The majority
of the people are poor but honest and
are laboring hard to make themselves
homes. There is still some vacant
land that can be utilized for farming
and water is abundant. By building
reservoirs and boring artesian wells
(which has been much talked of of
late) an ample supply for all the agri-
cultural land in the valley can be had
at a comparatively small cost.

In this paper I have tried to illus-
trate the difference 15 years has made
in the visual aspect of the valley. In
my next I will try to show a corre-
sponding if not more radical change
in the mental or educational condition
of the pioneers and their families.

Ouray Cattleman Buys Jensen Store

1944-12-14 VE
Harry AuMiller well known Ouray cattleman will go to Salt Lake this week-end on a purchasing trip prior to re-opening the E E Heaton store at Jensen purchased this week by Mr AuMiller

Mr AuMiller originally a native of Rio Blanco County Colorado has been a resident of the Uintah Basin for the past twenty years His whitefaced range cattle are now owned by Tom Layton of Layton Utah He says he will continue a line of 'general merchandise' at the Jensen store The store was originally owned and managed by the late Ben P Kelly who sold his holdings there to Mr Heaton due to failing health Mr Heatin was forced to close the store two years ago when his health also failed

Item Search and Display

04/08/2013

Uintah County Towns and their Improvements

Shadow title:

N

Label 1	Value 1	Label 2	Value 2	Label 3	Value 3	Label 4	Value 4
Rec_Type	a	Bib_Lvl	m	TypeCtrl		Enc_Lvl	
Desc		Entrd	130325	Dat_Tp	n	Date1	
Date2	.	Ctry		Illus		Audience	
Repr		Cont		GovtPub		ConfPub	0
Festschr	0	Indx	0	Fiction	0	Biog	
Lang	eng	Mod_Rec		Source	u		

Tag Ind. Contents

245	Uintah County Towns and their Improvements
300	Folder containing newspaper articles about the smaller communities of the Basin
696	Folder <i>1457</i>
696	Babcock, John F.--Babcock, Lionel A.--Myton, Utah--History--Uinta Basin, Utah;
696	Odekirk, Elsa Z. 1899-1988
696	Buildings--Saloons--Schools--Wong Wing's Trading Post--Uintah County, Utah--History;
696	Death of an Outlaw--George E. Stewart--The Strip--Uintah County, Utah--History;
696	Silver Gate District School--Vernal Express--November 11, 1899;
696	Stockmore, Utah--Uintah County Towns--History;
696	Greer, William--Independence Merchantile--Independence, Utah;

- 696 Colton-Vernal Mail Route--US Mail--Pope, Rock--Truitt, W.W.--Smith, Ernest--Horn, Claude--Vernal Express--Vernal, Utah;
- 696 Lee, Henry--Hen Lee--The Leeton Store--Leeton, Utah;
- 696 Dry Gulch--Bridge--Uintah Basin Standard 1927-03-23;
- 691 Booster Articles on Towns in the Uintah Basin--Uinta Basin--Uintah Basin Standard, 1927--History--Uinta Basin, Utah;
- 691 Curry Mercantile Company--Curry, Mathew W.--Broome, Clifford A.--Industry--Stores--Uinta Basin--Uintah County, Utah;
- 691 History of Ashley Valley--Vernal Express--Jan 27,1977--History;
- 691 The Hard Winter--Vernal Express--1906-03-10;
- 691 Early Pioneer Families--Builders of Uintah--History--Uinta Basin;
- 691 E.E. Heaton Store--Ben P. Kelly--AuMiller, Harry--Stores--Jensen, Utah;
- 691 Merkley, George Davis--Merkley, Phoebe Ann Hacking--Settlers--Pioneers--Uinta Basin;
- 691 Independence, Utah--History--Uinta Basin History;
- 691 Jensen, Utah--History--Uinta Basin History;
- 691 Ft. Duchesne, Utah--History--Uinta Basin History;
- 691 Tridell, Utah--History--Uinta Basin History;
- 691 The Honey Industry--History--Uinta Basin History;
- 691 Vernal,Utah--History--Uinta Basin History;
- 691 Maeser, Utah--History--Uinta Basin History;
- 691 Electricity--Electric Light--History--Uinta Basin;
- 691 Old Ashley Town--History--Uinta Basin;

ten by himself he said: "I was appointed agent under \$20,000 bond under President Andrew Jackson."

The journal reads that he reached Whiterocks on Christmas Day, 1868, where the Uintah agency was established. (Whiterocks is the oldest settlement in Uintah County, not counting, of course, the old trading posts. Critchlow succeeded Dodds as agent in 1872. Then Pardon Dodds came back as agent as a stockman to Ashley Valley in 1873 on February 14. With him was Morris Evans and Dick Huffaker. They erected the first house ever built by white men in 1873. All of the work from timber to dirt roof was done by them; the windows were brought from Salt Lake. The main part of the building was first built to afford them shelter and as time permitted, the lean-to was soon added. The house served as a home for the Dodds family from 1873 to 1897 when a large frame house was erected.

Mr. Dodds went with Major Powell on one of his trips down the Colorado after he retired from government service. He was appointed by an act of legislature, a Selectman in and for Uintah county, Utah. He was appointed by Governor Eli H. Murray in 1880. In 1883, January 18, he was appointed prosecuting attorney for Uintah County, by Governor Murray.

John Blankenship joined the Dodds party and during their journey they fell in with Professor Marsh and a group of students from Yale University, who gave the name of Marsh Peak to the prominent mountain top usually called "Baldy." Captain Dodds died Sept. 4, 1921 at the age of 81 years.

Alfred Harvey Westover and Jimmie Rineman came here together June 10, 1876. John Kelley was the first man to build a house this side of the creek where the Ira Burton place is. This was the second house built and Jimmie Rineman built the third.

SNYDER FAMILY

Robert Snyder arrived in the Ashley Valley on the 16th of November, 1876. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Snyder, daughter Ida, who was one year old, and a girl by the name of Clara Crouch who came to work for Mrs. Snyder. She later married Al Westover. She and Miss Crouch were the first white



THE SNYDER FAMILY

First child born in the valley.

women to come to the valley to make a home and blaze a trail for all who are now living here, enjoying comfortable homes and surroundings.

Mr. Snyder came to the Basin with cattle about a year before he moved his family in. They settled on Ashley Creek on the place where David Timothy lived. The snow of winter came and shed its white blessings over the valley and mountains. Major Critchlow and wife of Whiterocks came to visit the Snyders that winter. She was the only white lady they saw all winter.

Spring came with its long, sunshiny days and on May 11, 1878, a baby boy brightened the little log cabin of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Snyder. This was the first white child born here and was named Robert Ashley Snyder.

On the 16th of June, 1878, Robert Snyder was killed by lightning in his dooryard, leaving Mrs. Snyder with two children to pioneer the wilderness. March 22, 1881, at the age of three, little Robert died. In the fall of 1881, Mrs. Snyder married William Preece and remained here to make her home. Being public-spirited, they did much for our valley and are outstanding characters of our early history.

EARLY PIONEER FAMILIES

During the coming summer autumn of 1876 and 1877, a number of persons moved in, among them were: Mr. and Mrs. William Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. John Fairchild, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hardy, Mr. and Mrs. Alma Taylor, William Powell, Lewis Kabell, Al Westover, S. P. Dillman, Jimmy Aiverman, Perry Decker, Pat Lynch, Robert Blakenship, Mr. Mason, Mr. Downing, William Britt and Fin Britt, and James Gibson.

Once a week carriers, riding horseback or wearing snowshoes, brought the mail in from Green River City, Wyoming. The Gibsons and Dodds had stores on their ranches; later Gibsons moved their store to old Ashley Town. Lycurgus Johnson also had a store there. Church was held in the homes of the people. The first Sunday School was organized on Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22, 1880, with Alfred Johnson as superintendent. Later, a log schoolhouse was built from donations by the Latter-day Saints; it stood just south of the old David Timothy farm. William Britt taught school in an old schoolhouse on Gibson's farm in 1878. Other accounts acclaim Mr. Britt the first teacher. Mr. S. P. Dillman said: "I moved to Ashley Valley in September, 1877. In the fall of '78 we built a log schoolhouse near the center of what is known as the Nathan C. Davis farm, a little east of Joseph Hardy's. That winter William Britt became Ashley Valley's first schoolteacher and taught a three-months' term of school."

In 1879, while the Indian excitement was on, the Indians advised the people to move together. Those who moved their cabins to Old Ashley Town were: W. C. Britt and wife, Alfred Johnson, Dick Huffaker and wife, Joseph Hardy and family, Lycurgus Johnson and wife, Charles Bentley and wife, Allen Davis and wife. (S. D. Colton came with his family but did not move into town), Vern Gundy and daughter Cora, and Minnie Jaspersen. The single men were: S. D. Dillman, Finn Britt, John Steinaker, John Blankenship, Dan Bruceil, Pat Carrell, James Rineman, Louis Cabell, Alfred Westover, Mr. Hall, James Barker, Francis Hiatt, and John Kelley.

It seems evident that the first settlement centered near the Pardon Dodds ranch and is known as Old Ashley Town, which is some two or three miles northwest of the present Vernal City. Another settlement on Green River near the present town of Jensen, and a neighborhood community in the Dry Fork, all seemed to evolve before the town of Vernal emerged. However, in 1879 and 1880, there were several families on the site where Vernal afterwards was located. To Old Ashley Town we turn our attention where we get a mental picture of the first places of business.

The business places in '79 were: the Britt store and postoffice with an attic room where the boarders slept; Gibson's store, and Bentley's saloon. Huffakers also had rooms upstairs for extra cattlemen that came to town, among whom were: A. C. Hatch (Judge), Will Willis, Charles Jaspersen, George Baser, Andy Strong, Jack Edwards, Griff Edwards, Charles Hill and a brother Dave, Dan Mosby, Fletcher Hammond, Charley Grouse from Brown's Park, etc. In 1882 Brown and Luxen started a saloon. "Curg" Johnson also started a store.

THE BINGHAM PARTY

In 1877 another company came to Ashley Valley under the direction of Thomas Bingham, Sr. He had been a member of the Mormon Battalion and at this time was living in Weber County. In the summer of 1877 he with his son and some others came to look over the Valley. He returned to his home in Huntsville in Weber County and made a report of his findings to President John Taylor. From him Elder Bingham received permission to organize a small company and aid in the settlement of Ashley Valley. They left in November, 1877, and coming over the Uintahs via Evanston and Brown's Park, arrived in the lower end of Ashley Valley on the Green River in December, 1877.

The party consisted of Thomas Bingham and wife, David H. Bingham and family, Enoch Burns

and son, Frederick G. Williams and family, Alma Taylor and two children, Joshua Chell Hall and wife, Lola and child, Orson Hall, Charles Allan, Charles A. Nye, Ben Lofgren, Neils Lofgren, Charles Jensen and John Nelson and family. At Evanston these were joined by a party who came along with the Bingham party. They were Allen Beceus, George Carry, Richard Veltman and Bill Bunnell. After contacting the people who had preceded him, he took a complete census of the whole population and sent it to President John Taylor at Salt Lake City.

At a meeting held on Green River in January, 1878, Thomas Bingham, Sr., was chosen by those present to preside over them. Thus he became the first presiding elder in Uintah Basin.

Deseret News, May 25, 1878:

There are about 100 inhabitants in this precinct . . . The roads that lead to this place, whether by Fort Bridger or Heber, are very rough and twenty hundred is a heavy load for four animals . . . There are as yet no mills in the country . . . We have applied for a postoffice and mail route to this place and expect it will be established this summer."

In the early civil and ecclesiastic affairs the Bingham family played an important role. Thomas Bingham eventually moved to Dry Fork, an account of which appears later.

Mr. and Mrs. William Gibson landed here from Kamas on the first day of November, 1877. They located on the place where they now live. They brought 35 head of cattle and enough provisions to do them for a year or more. The winter was very mild and they lived in a house without doors or windows. While Mr. Gibson was away after supplies two years later, the Indian troubles began over the line in Colorado.

Mrs. Gibson, being afraid, went to Old Ashley Town where the rest of the settlers had gathered. When Mr. Gibson returned he moved their sawed log house which they had built on their ranch during the summer (sawing the logs with a whip saw) to Old Ashley Town, where they lived for a year, then returned to their ranch. They sold their house in Ashley Town to the county for a court house. It was used for this purpose four or five years. The county then moved it to Hatch Town, which is now Vernal, where it was used for many years as a county building. Being remodeled, it is still a neat looking building and stands on the corner just east of the Uintah Railway Office.

"In 1878 the first Fourth of July celebration was held. There were only five women present: Mrs. William Gibson, Mrs. Robert Snyder, Mrs. Chell Hall, Mrs. George W. Hislop, and Mrs. Alfred Johnson (all deceased.)

3. On Sept. 23, 1886. a postoffice was established and called Vernal.
4. T.H. Mitchell was the first Postmaster.
5. In February, 1887. Ashley Cooperative Store was opened. It is well to call attention to the fact that there were several stores, a postoffice, etc., in Old Ashley Town several years before there were any in the New Ashley Townsite.

The business places of Old Ashley town in 1879 were: the Britt Store and postoffice with an attic room where the boarders slept; Gibson's Store, and Bentley's Saloon.

Huffakers also had rooms upstairs for extra cattlemen that came to town, among whom were: A.C. Hatch (Judge), Will Willis, Charles Jaspersen, George Baser, Andy Strong, Jack Edwards, Grill Edwards, Charles Hill, and a brother Dave, Dan Mosby, Fletcher Hammond. Charley Crouse from Brown's Park, etc. In 1882 Brown and Luxen started a saloon. "Curg" Johnson also started a store.¹⁵

Later there was a blacksmith shop, an abstract or land office, and a school house.

The first school was on the Gibson ranch, and the term was for three months. (See Appendix 2) Church was held in some of the homes until the school was constructed, after which it was used for church purposes. (See Appendix 3) There was also a trading post at the Dodds ranch.¹⁶

Vernal had several names before the present name of Vernal, such as, the "Bench", because of its location away from the creek and no trees were there. The first people believed to live in Vernal was the Hatch family, and for a time Vernal was known as Jericho, then Hatchtown, then Ashley Center until this conflicted with Old Ashley Town.¹⁷

Journalists of Uintah, pg. 12

¹⁶Geo. E. Long, Old Ashley Town ... pg. 1

¹⁷See page 4 in reference to the naming of Vernal.

UINTAH PARAPPOOSE

2 VERNAL UINTAH CO. UTAH THURSDAY JANUARY 14 1892. NO 54

UINTAH PARPOOSE.
Every Thursday. Terms, \$1.25 per year
ing rates made known on application.
-UTAH.

at the P. O. at Vernal as Second
letter, Jan. 29th 1891.

W. C. BERTIN.

Attorney at Law

TARRY PUBLIC

ions made. Real Estate Bought and sold. Pat-
ent.

R. E. GASKIN.

COUNTY ATTORNEY.

ions made on easy terms, Real Estate
nd Filings a specialty.

Office near the Vernal school house.

We made a few remarks on our re-
s last, week, we thought it appropri-
give a short sketch of the enterprises
they.

valley has three thriving villages,
ernal the largest, Ashley Town the
y Seat and Jensen a live trading
Among the foremost of the enter-

a stranger when he considers that the
country has been settled only a very few
years. Among the most prominent resi-
dences are those of Messrs Ashton, Ben-
min, Bartlett, Wouluff and Carter, and
others too numerous to mention at pres-
ent.

The two halls situated in Vernal furnish
amusement and as each week there is a
dance it one or both halls it gives a good
chance to tip the light fantastic toe.

School houses being scattered through-
out the valley, and the free school system
being in vogue, education is placed within
the reach of every one. The Vernal
school house being the largest and best
is built of brick and deserves special no-
tice, as it shows the enterprise of the
people of so small a place as Vernal.

Mill Ward will have a large brick school
house ready for the ensuing year which
it is said will be an ornament to the valley.

And last but in the future not to be the
least is the Parpoose, which is to be the
chief medium of advertising the resources
and enterprise of Ashley Valley.

of Mexico to the Parahelpina Telegraph
says, came to that city recently and told a
most remarkable story. He says that he
had occasion to visit a town twenty-five
leagues south of Toluca, and a small moun-
tain or high hill between the towns of
Tenancingo and Tecuacoya, without warn-
ing exploded with a most terrific report,
and immediately an immense volume of
water commenced to flow from the newly
formed crater, and inundated much of the
surrounding country. The Indians fled
to the hills, and the church bells in the
surrounding villages were rung violently.
A general panic ensued.

The water soon found its level and pour-
ed through a gorge 150 feet deep, and
continued so to flow until the next day,
when Mr. Loiza left. The inhabitants
were so frightened that they would not
approach the stream. Loiza did not
take the temperature of the water, but
supposes it was hot, as he saw vapor rising
from it on a warm day. The crater
formed by the explosion was quite large,
and rock and earth were scattered far and
wide. Loiza is not a scientific man, but
he is intelligent, and is one of the most

OLD ASHLEY

THE COUNTY SEAT AND PIONEER SETTLEMENT
OF THE VALLEY.

1892-02-11 VE
Old Ashley is four miles north west of Vernal. It was laid out in 1876 by Richard Huffaker. It is located on the banks of Ashley creek and it is no exaggeration to say that the position is one of the most pleasant in the west. The county seat still remains there.

Two stores supply the upper end of the valley with merchandise.

G. W. CROUCH

Runs the oldest store in the county. It was started by Jas. Gibson in a cellar on Wm. Gibson's ranch in 1878. Mr. Crouse keeps a large and varied assortment of goods. People in the vicinity of Ashley do well to patronize him.

FRANK MOORE

Keeps another store at the county seat. His stock consists of clothing, hats, caps, dress goods, groceries etc. Everyone is invited to call, examine and purchase. You can get whatever you want of him at the lowest terms.

RECOLLECTIONS.

Personal Reminiscences of an Old Settler of Ashley Valley.

An Interesting and Reliable Description of Our Valley in 1877.—

Cut it Out and Paste it in Your Scrap-book.

Thinking a short history, or a plain unvarnished tale of facts in reference to the settlement of Ashley Valley and adjacent country might be interesting to some of your readers, I will introduce the subject by saying:

When I, in company with S. P. Dillman and my brother first saw what is now this beautiful and fertile valley I thought we had arrived at the jumping off place, or, in plainer language, I thought it the most desolate, God-forsaken desert land that the eye of mortal man e'er saw. It was such an evening in September 1877 as is seldom seen outside of the valleys of the Garden Territory of the Great West, that, coming from the west through what was then called "the Gap" in the northwestern part of Ashley Valley. Our eyes rested with disappointment on the Mecca of our hopes, and although we did not prostrate ourselves in prayer as the pilgrims to Mecca do yet to a certain extent it was a relief to our feelings and full of hopes that we might be agreeably disappointed after a more thorough examination of the valley and surroundings, we proceeded across what was then a desert of sage brush, greasewood and shadscale to the stream called Ashley, where we encamped for the night.

1892-08-25

The next morning we proceeded to explore the valley. The first place we visited was the ranch of Pardon Dodds, the first actual settler in the valley. Here we found Mr. Dodds and George Basor who gave us some information in regard to the country, its advantages and resources, and this was a strong factor in causing us to remain in the valley, at least for the winter which we finally concluded to do. Here our struggles and hardships begun. We took up some claims and commenced preparations to improve them. It soon came on winter and we worked on the mountain until spring getting out house logs and building material for use as soon as the weather grew warm. The winter was very severe, intensely cold but very little snow in the valley. We had no intercourse with the outside world, no mail service and the only way we ever heard from friends outside of the valley was by hunters, trappers or stockmen who made occasional trips to Green River City Wyoming and brought our mail in with them.

I remember among the old timers John Fairchild, T. Taylor, Robt. Snyder, James Rinaman, Ben. Doke, Jno. Blankenship, Wm. Gibson, P. Dodds, Geo. Basor, Charles Bentley, S. P. Dillman, Charley Jones, Fin Britt, John Steinaker and several others. This was the small nucleus around

which the future settlers of the valley concentrated. On looking back I can still see the log cabins of the first settlers and recall the good and hard times we have had together. Some of the persons above named have gone across the great divide to explore the unknown land. The majority are still residents of the valley with no thought, as far as I know, than laying down to their eternal sleep in the now beautiful and transformed place which on first sight seemed so utterly desolate. Truly time works wonders. When I look around me I see now a population of over three thousand people, I see thrifty orchards, groves and fields of waving golden grain. Land which then could be had for the taking is today worth from \$20 to \$50 per acre. Flouring mills furnish us our breadstuffs, threshing machines and self binders add their busy hum and click to vary the monotony. Churches and schools have sprung up as if by magic. Railroads and telegraph lines are talked of, and Vernal, destined in the near future to be the county seat of Uintah County, is fast putting on metropolitan airs,

Upon awakening from a retrospective dream one can imagine that the whole valley has been touched by the wand of an enchanter and that he is indeed in Fairy-land. It is hard to realize that so many changes could have taken place in so short a time.

Now a few words in conclusion. Uintah County will soon take a front place in the ranks of Utah's counties. It is undeniably rich in many minerals. There are also immense beds of coal, gypsum, gilsonite and other valuable deposits that will, when capital is enlisted in their development, add materially to its weight and general prosperity.

materially to its welfare and general
prosperity.

We have an abundance of timber
for improvements, good soil, good cli-
mate and one of the most healthful
counties in Utah; the country is grad-
ually settling up with good citizens
and the growth is steady and perma-
nent. The social status of Uintah
County will compare favorably with
any place in the West. The majority
of the people are poor but honest and
are laboring hard to make themselves
homes. There is still some vacant
land that can be utilized for farming
and water is abundant. By building
reservoirs and boring artesian wells
(which has been much talked of of
late) an ample supply for all the agri-
cultural land in the valley can be had
at a comparatively small cost.

In this paper I have tried to illus-
trate the difference 15 years has made
in the visual aspect of the valley. In
my next I will try to show a corre-
sponding if not more radical change
in the mental or educational condition
of the pioneers and their families.

1896-09-17

A Jensenite came to town this week and said Vernal was not in it with Jensen for improvements, as they had three hotels at that place now. On the east side of Green river there was Hotel DeSouth, Hotel DeNorth and on the west side Hotel Sombria. All are run on the European plan and the best the country affords is served to the guests.

1898-08-04 VE

T. T. Holdaway and Al Johnston have gone to the Dry Gulch, to get a saw mill, which was sold by the government last summer. The mill has not been used for some years, but is a good one and can be put to much use for the people of this valley.

THE CLAIM IN SEVERAL STATES

All Kinds of News.

A good coal mine to let. Enquire of Richard Veltman.

All kinds of blanks and blank books made to order at this office.

The Home Dramatic Club have temporarily postponed their play *The Private Secretary*.

Dance every Wednesday night at Roberts Hall in Merrill ward. Extra good music and floor to dance on.

The owners of the Big Four have one of the surest paying propositions that there is in Uintah County to-day.

Miss Ada Rich took charge of the Silver Gate district school Monday. We wish her success in the undertaking.

There has been an unusual number of Utes in town this week. Provo Dick was the most noted one among them.

The best line of shoes, boots, ladies' and gents' rubbers, felts and over-shoes, is now just opened at Coltharp & Company's.

For the next twenty days I will

George Bennet and wife from Salt Lake.

Dr. and Mrs. Bjornson sang on the outdoor stage day morning.

President Bennion started day morning for the reservoir to look after his sheep.

Nathan Henting is down Dyer mine. He was held before the district court.

Why not be in style? Coltharp & Company have the ladies' capes and jackets.

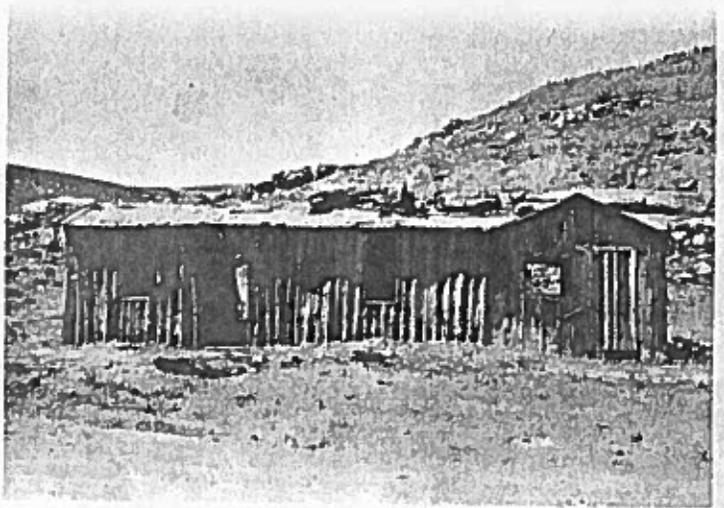
Mr. A. J. Coltharp, father Coltharp is over from Rang his intention to spend the Vernal.

The fore part of the week services were held over the of the infant child of Hugh beth Snow.

The ball given last Monday in the Opera House Jakes benefit was well Everything went off smooth had a good time.

Don't Freeze, when you high grade clothing at bottom prices at Coltharp

1899 Nov 11



DEATH OF AN OUTLAW

The outlaw in this case was Utah's famous Strip where neither state nor federal jurisdiction prevailed. And the gun in the hand of the "outlaw" was the infamous Babcock Place . . .

THE GLASSLESS windows stare with rheumy eyes across a land of desolation. A treasure seeker has ripped up the floor and dug—hunting, I suppose, for gold coins he thought might have been dropped years ago by drunks who couldn't keep track of their money. Aside from this, the old buildings, untended for all these years, remain intact. Even the cellar with an entrance behind the bar and with wall built of earth-tamped beer barrels, is almost as it was in the old days. Most would pass these buildings by, believing them to be the shebang of

BY GEORGE E. STEWART

Photos Courtesy Author

some lonely homesteader who starved out long ago, leaving nothing behind worth finding—hence their preservation.

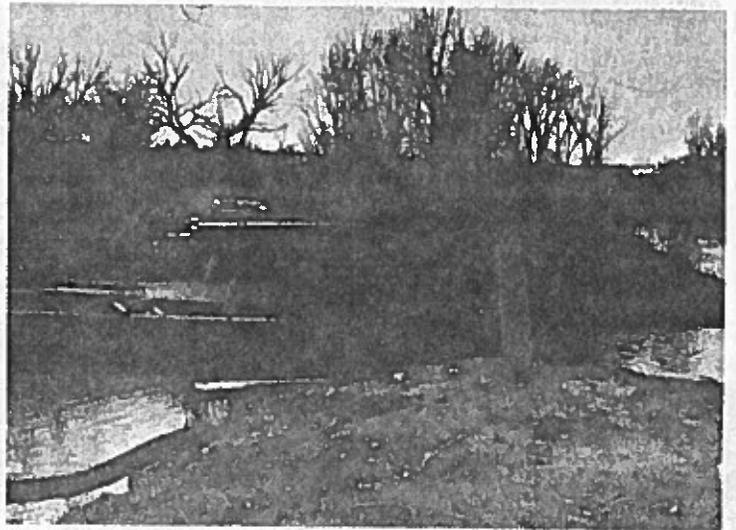
But in the decades around the turn of the century, this was "The Babcock Place"—a saloon, gambling den and bawdy house. A place of sin located beside the Post Road, an army-built public highway which ran between Fort Duchesne and Randlett in the "Big Uintah

Country" of northeastern Utah, it was built on land which, due to its unique title status, was out of bounds for ordinary law or for any ordinary law enforcement officers. This place was wild, an outlaw, on the legendary "Strip," and it all came about because of a mine.

Angling through the sandrock of the desert was a vertical fissure vein of a hydro-carbon ore called gilsonite. This peculiar type of mineral is found in Uintah Basin and nowhere else in the world. By experimentation, Samuel Gil-

(Continued on page 55)

Ghosts are the Babcock Place's only clientele today. Clockwise from top left: the brothel (left) and saloon on the post road; front of the saloon; the saloon interior; and remains of the Red Bridge across the Uintah River, with Fort Duchesne site on horizon at right.



Death of an Outlaw (Continued from page 17)

son, from whom the substance gets its name, found that the finest paints, lacquers, and varnishes could be made from this product from Uintah.

In far away St. Louis, Missouri, lived Adolphus Busch of the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company, makers of Budweiser beer. To help the widow of a very close friend by the name of Murphy, Busch bought into the Murphy Paint Manufacturing Company. Through the paint business, gilsonite came to the notice of Busch, who hoped to acquire the carbon vein. The trouble was that the gilsonite along the entire length of the lode, was on the Ute Indian Reservation. No white man could be given title to it or ever mine it.

Somebody was powerful in the halls of Congress, for an act was introduced excluding from the Ute Reservation, by purchase, 7,000 acres of dry, barren land. The purchase, according to the act, had to be ratified by two-thirds of the enrolled, adult Indians on the reservation. The price to be paid was the unbelievably generous sum of \$20 per acre. The land included the gilsonite vein.

The act passed Congress, President Cleveland signed it, the Utes ratified it in 1888, and title passed to the government of the United States of America. The Gilson Asphaltum Company, headed by Adolphus Busch and Mrs. Murphy, soon acquired under the mining laws the chony mineral of Uintah, after which the St. Louis Mine, the first gilsonite producer in the world, went into operation.

Busch was a remarkable person. In 1888 gilsonite was a speculative product. Neither its future nor the quantity of the lode could be predicted. Considering everything, the purchase of the land was more than fair.

NOW CAME an unparalleled situation.

The eight mining claims, each 600 feet wide and 1,500 feet long, went into the private ownership of the mining company over which the territorial law and law officers had jurisdiction. But the vast excess acreage was held by the U. S. government by right of purchase, and it was not a part of the public domain. As the laws stood then, neither the territory of Utah, Uintah County, the military of Fort Duchesne, nor the Indian Service had the right of law enforcement outside the mine property. On the excess acreage of purchased land, the only laws which applied were federal statutes, and

there was none of these in those days covering common crimes. The land acquired from the Utes became the famous Strip. It was a no-man's-land, as wild or wilder than anything since Tombstone or Deadwood.

Sharp men, knowing the legal implication, started pleasure palaces off the mine property, but on the excluded land. They were mere squatters so they built nothing plush, just shakedown, using the sticks and stones the country afforded. They were rough, frontier establishments, but they are a page from the past of the Old West; a unique and rich page, now famous and legendary. The Babcock Place was one of these.

On the military reserve of Fort Duchesne beer was served at the canteens but the enlisted men were forbidden to have anything stronger. As a consequence, the soldiers, a hard-bitten lot, gathered at the bars on the Strip during their off duty hours. Here they drank, gambled and visited with the ladies. There were times, especially after pay-days, when the golden stream of coin ran fast and free with all the rambunctious hilarity which that implies.

By the Uintah River near Fort Duchesne, at either end of the "Red Bridge," were campgrounds. Freighters and travelers, driving the road between Price and Vernal, camped here for one of their overnight stops. After the long, dusty miles across the deserts of the Indian reservation, most men were ready to wash the dirt from their throats with something a little livelier than clear river water. These men were wont to try the bright lights of the pleasure emporiums on the Strip and add their voices and money to that of the Boys in Blue.

There were always the curious, some from far away places, who stopped to watch the goings-on at the wild, boisterous houses, growing more notorious as time went by. Sometimes these men got more than they bargained for. Not that the people at the dens of iniquity were especially quarrelsome, it was only that a man could get what he wanted, be it drink, a song, or a fight.

THE STRIP stood athwart the "Owl Hoot Trail," used often by wideloopers, longriders and handits heading for the safety of Robbers' Roost in southern Utah, Brown's Hole in northern Utah, or the Hole in the Wall in Wyoming. As they moved from one hideout to another they stopped at the bars on the Strip to dally awhile. They could drink, play poker or visit without fear of a lawman shoving a gun in their ribs. To the outlaw, this was a safe haven.

Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid, Elzey Lay, Harvey Logan and others, all members of the noted band of outlaws called "The Wild Bunch," were seen quite often at the saloons on the out-of-bounds land.

Elzey (Elza) Lay, Butch Cassidy's right-hand man, and Pat Johnson had been partners in a saloon on the Strip before both chose the outlaw trail. Elzey, after he was pardoned from New Mexico State Prison, returned there to deal cards for Tom Nichol at Tom's gaming tables. It was here Lay decided to go straight,

Harry Tracy, the mad-dog killer, the Dillinger of his day, spent a long time at Babcock's while the heat cooled on his back trail. He robbed and bent a well-liked Chinaman near Fort Duchesne and had to break and run for the Northwest and ultimate death in a wheatfield. In his lifetime he had killed more than twenty-two men.

There were many mysterious riders using the names of Smith, Jones or Brown who rode in, stayed an hour, a day or perhaps longer, then rode out again. Nobody ever knew who they really were, where they came from, or where they went.

At times there was music on the desert air, some fiddler having come to scrape away till dawn. There was the thrumming banjo. Always there was the harmonica and Jew's harp. Occasionally there were sweet-voiced strangers such as Tommy Birchell, later the celebrated "Cowboy Baritone," who sang the tear jerkers "Lorena," "Aura Lee," "Genevieve," and other sentimental melodies.

Often the coyotes howled from the top of the big, brown hill, either in answer to the music below or at the lamplight streaming across the barren land from the windows. Sometimes the roistering went on until the lamps faded in the morning sun.

THERE WERE FIGHTS, many with fists and some with guns. Records show ten deaths by lead poisoning, but these cover only the demises in which Indians from the reservation or soldiers from Fort Duchesne were involved. There were others, and no authority had the right to investigate them. These went unnoted, except by those who were there and saw them. Today they lie in the realm of hearsay. There was no boothill; the dead were buried not far from where they fell. By now the wind and sand have obliterated all marks of the graves.

The ill fame of The Strip reached all the way to the offices of the mighty along the banks of the Potomac. It was vowed to the Mormon elders that this Sodom and Gomorrah in their midst would be destroyed at the first opportunity.

True to their word, the lawgivers in Washington put the land of the Strip up for sale at \$1.25 an acre. As soon as the land was purchased and went into private ownership, regular law became effective on the purchased land. Beginning in 1901, piece by piece the old Strip died.

A townsite was formed called Moffat, after the railroad magnate responsible for Moffat Tunnel through the Rockies. Many of the business houses moved to the new town. Finally, in 1905-06, the rest of no-man's-land was thrown open for homestead entry. Law came to all the outlaw land. The Babcock Place was hard hit, it gasped for breath, but it stayed on, paying fines regularly to the proper authorities of Uintah County.

The final stroke came when Fort Duchesne ceased to be an active army post. Its soldiers marched away in 1909, leaving behind them empty houses and barracks. The Indian service filled them, but one couldn't sell liquor, not even beer,

to Indians without risking a trip to the federal pen.

The Strip had a short life at best—only twenty-two years. Then, like some of its human, outlaw counterparts, it was shot down in the full vigor of life. The Babcock Place was the last to fall.

All traces of the other wild, old establishments have vanished since 1910, leaving nothing behind to show where they were. Only this isolated place by the side of the road still stands.

DRY GULCH WANTS VOTING PRECINCT

VE
1912-01-26
7161

Messrs C H Pearce and Matthew Betts of Dry Gulch or from the district a mile east of Roosevelt in Uintah County were here to the County seat last Saturday lobbying with members of the County Commission to get favorable action on their petition for a voting precinct. These gentlemen represent that there are 350 voters in the proposed precinct. These must go sixty miles to stand still—to vote. This is vexatious to the citizens since their neighbors at Roosevelt in Wasatch county only a mile and a half distant can vote in their own door yard.

The precinct seekers aver that no other section of the reservation has any desire to set up a claim antagonistic to them so that looked at from all sides there is no reason why the Commissioners should delay for two years only to be spurned with contempt from the foot of the throne. It is understood from the throne. It is understood that Commissioner Bracken favors the petition and will try to get the precinct created at the next regular meeting.

* * *

Shearing April First

The annual meeting of the stock holders of the Uintah County Sheep Shearing Co was held at the Uintah Abstract office at 1 o'clock p m on Monday January 22. The reports of the manager and treasurer showed the affairs of the company to be in excellent condition. The officers of last year were reelected. The list standing as follows: Inos Fennion Pres and director, Ed D Samuels vicepres and director, John H Reader, John C Bates and Wm H Siddoway directors, John C Pates was retained as general manager and secretary and W H Coltharp as treasurer. All arrangements for this years shearing were made and April first set as the time for beginning the work.

soap was wasted, and the water was thick."

Addresses on other subjects were delivered by other women interested in relief society work.

THE NEW TOWN OF STOCKMORE IS GROWING

WEST FORK DUCHESNE, Oct. 7.—Reports from Stockmore, one of the new towns in the Uintah Valley, speak of the activity of the Western Homeseekers' association, a concern now busy in building up that town. A new hotel is about completed, a temporary postoffice is established, and in addition to the general store now open several others are soon expected.

The water of Stockmore is especially fine. In the park are warm springs, the medicinal properties of which are said to be excellent. The neighboring towns are to join with Stockmore in the construction of excellent roads. The mineral resources of the region are not yet determined, prospecting being in its infancy, but specimens of gold, silver, copper and coal are being brought in daily from the surrounding country.

THEY MUST TAKE OUT LICENSES AS RETAILERS

The Salt Lake City revenue office is sending out circulars in accordance with the recent ruling of the commissioner of internal revenue regarding the sale of alcoholic compounds, advertised and sold as medicine under the name of whiskey, bitters, tonic, cordials, etc.

It is claimed that many of these are composed chiefly of distilled spirits,

and cuffs likewise. The back ranged with two tucks either the center, these following lines and the fulness at the

UNCLE SAM NEEDING SOME MORE GOOD

Civil service examinations following positions are announced by the civil service commission, held in Salt Lake City on the 11th named:

November 1st—Examination of eligible persons from which to issue certifications to fill a vacancy in the position of assistant superintendent and two vacancies in the position of inspector of seed warehouses and distribution in the bureau of plant industry, department of agriculture, salaries ranging from \$100 per month.

Also to fill vacancy in the position of farrier at \$840 per annum in Juan, Porto Rico, and \$720 per annum as farrier at Washington in quartermaster's department large.

Also for the position of a steam engineer and electrician in the United States penitentiary, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., at a salary of \$1,200 per annum.

October 18th and 19th—Two vacancies in the position of an examiner in patent office at a salary of \$1,200 per annum.

PROVO FIGURING ON BIG SUGAR FA

Plans are said to be under way for the construction of a beet sugar

UINTAH COUNTY LIBRARY
REGIONAL ROOM
FILE FOLDER
NO. 1457

Oct 12
1905
Eastern Utah
Advocate

1906-01-06 #5

William H. Burton has great faith in the future of the Dry Gulch country. He says that he has often crossed the reservation since the fall of 1877 and has invariably found green grass there after the grass in other parts of the reservation had become frozen and shriveled. He is certain that the Dry Gulch will become the greatest fruit growing section of the state of Utah.

1906-01-06 #5

Three young men viz Marion Wall, Ole Peterson and Thomas Jenkins were arrested January 3rd for disturbing the peace at a dance, New years night. They plead guilty and were fined \$6.75 Each, by Justice of the Peace James O'Neil. They refused to pay the fines and are now languishing in the county jail.

1906-01-12 VF

502 Dry Gulch Homesteaders.

The Dry Gulch Irrigation company is still making progress that is highly satisfactory. One day during the week over 1,000 shares of its capital stock were subscribed for. Up to date over 12,800 shares of stock have been taken by landholders on the reservation.

The Settlers Protective Association has rendered every possible assistance of late, in getting the settlers to become members of the company. Wednesday the officers of the Protective Association signed for stock for all settlers, who have given the association a power of attorney to act for them. Last week copies of the articles of incorporation and circular letters were mailed to over 500 homesteaders who have taken farms in the Dry Gulch district.

While mailing these documents it was ascertained that there are 502 homesteaders in the Dry Gulch district. Of these 139 are residents of Vernal, 32 of Fort DuChesne, Myton and White Rocks, 160 from other Utah points, 171 from places outside of Utah.

The company has secured eight original water filings, which antedate all other filings, except those of the Indians.

A communication has just been received from the state engineer to the effect that the notices of the above mentioned filings will be advertised in the near future.

HELP BUILD UP UINTAH.

Townsite, Mining and Water Companies Ready for Active Work.

We find this interesting story concerning the new townsite, in the Salt Lake Tribune, taken from the Denver Mining Record:

"Colorado Springs and Pueblo people, who formed a combination at the opening of the Uintah reservation, says the Mining Record, for the purpose of securing a townsite, water and mining properties in the reservation, have been successful beyond their expectations, and the varied interests have been segregated into three corporations.

"The Independent Townsite company has received Government title to its land and 160 acres have been platted into 1000 lots. Of this number 150 have already been sold. The town is located in Dry gulch, four miles southwest of Fort Duchesne and half way between Moffat and Myton. Pueblo capitalists have arranged to erect a hotel and stores in the town as soon as spring opens, and if present plans are carried out Independence will become a county seat. C. T. Fertig of this city is president of the town company.

The Independence Mining and Milling company is the name of the corporation that will control the mining interests of the combination. The company has already secured 300 acres of coal land, 1440 acres of asphalt, 60 acres of elaterite, 80 acres of gilsonite and 180 acres of copper land. The officers are S. S. Stewart of this city, president, Mrs. Noble of Pueblo, vice-president, W. J. Jackson of Pueblo, secretary, and J. Tour, Pueblo, treasurer.

"An immense natural reservoir of 800 acres and 1000 acres of ranch land has been turned over to the Uintah Water, Land and Development company and water from the Uintah river has been filed upon to the extent of forty-two cubic feet per second. There has already been constructed ten miles of irrigating ditch and the work will be extended in the spring so as to place the entire tract of 1800 acres under ditch. The reservoir is located two miles above the town of Independence and will furnish the town with water for domestic purposes and ample power for generating electricity. The officers of this company are S. L. Roland of Pueblo, president; I. C. McKilip of Pueblo, secretary and treasurer.

1906-02-17 V.E