

The Archaeological Survey of Paradox Valley and Adjacent Country in Western Montrose County, Colorado, 1931

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The State Historical Society of Colorado, with the assistance of the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, D. C., made an archaeological survey of western Montrose County, Colorado, during the summer season of 1931. This report is made to both institutions simultaneously describing the scope of the work undertaken and the nature of the sites of archaeological interest discovered in that section.

At the end of the 1924 expedition of the State Historical Society of Colorado, Jeancon and Roberts had reached Paradox Valley in their survey of western Colorado. Lack of time prevented an exhaustive treatment of this area. Since this section of western Colorado lies on the periphery of our present knowledge regarding the distribution of prehistoric sedentary tribes in the state, it was thought advisable to begin this season's work at the point where the 1924 expedition terminated—namely, with Paradox Valley. Permits were kindly granted by the United States Departments of Agriculture and Interior to work upon government land in this region.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the many individuals who so kindly assisted us and furthered the progress of this survey. We wish to express our appreciation to Jean Allard Jeancon for putting at our disposal his field notes of the 1924 expedition. Mr. R. C. Coffin, who mapped this region for the Carnotite deposits, kindly gave us his excellent maps and notes for our use. Mr. Niedrach of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, who had visited this valley in the course of his work, gave us much helpful information. During our stay in Paradox Valley Mr. Earl Wilcox, Jr., allowed us to camp upon his land and assisted us greatly in many ways. Mrs. Lizzie Monroe, Postmistress of Paradox, Mr. Lou Waggoner, Mrs. W. S. Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Shideler greatly facilitated the progress of our work and obtained for us valuable local information. During our sojourn in the San Miguel-Dolores River re-

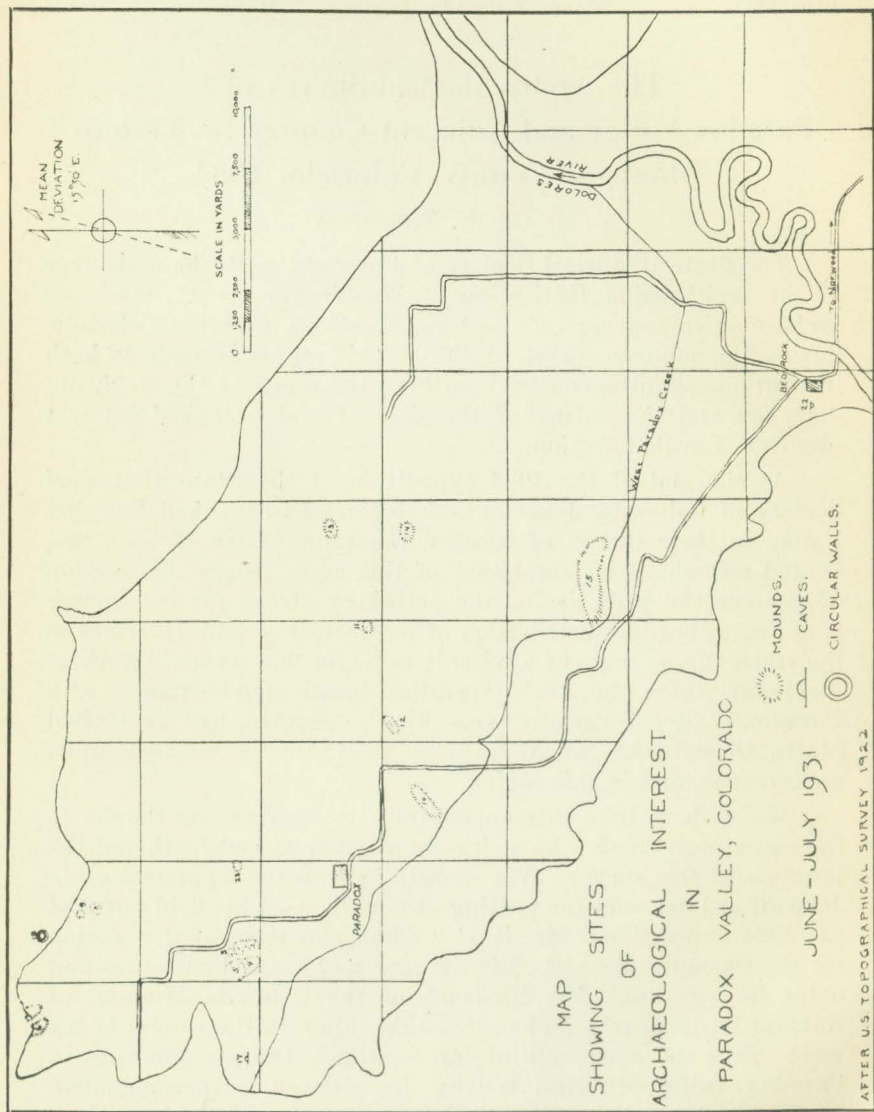


FIG. 1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MAP OF PARADOX VALLEY, COLORADO

gion, Mr. Edward Lavender of Norwood generously allowed us the use of his Club Ranch, where Mr. and Mrs. Keith Getty extended to us the most cheerful hospitality and gave us the benefit of their knowledge of the surrounding country.

We wish to thank Mr. Earl H. Morris for his assistance in identifying the potsherds recovered and Director Figgins and Mr. Miller of the Colorado Museum of Natural History for their identification of the animal bones.

So many individuals have assisted us in this survey that to enumerate them all would entail an extensive register and if specific acknowledgment appears lacking, our appreciation is none the less sincere.

PARADOX VALLEY

Paradox Valley, the scene of this summer's archaeological survey, is situated in the extreme western end of Montrose County, Colorado, and is about 50 miles due north of the Mesa Verde and only a few miles east of the Colorado-Utah state line. The only feasible approach to the valley by road is from the east via Norwood and Naturita, Colorado, along Highway 20. The valley may be approached from the Utah side by the same highway but the road is very poor and frequently dangerous.

The physical features of this valley are so unique as to deserve comment. The valley is about 25 miles long, extending in a northwest-southeast direction, and varying in width from two to five miles. On all sides, except the southwest, abrupt and often sheer walls of naked rock rise to a height of from fifteen hundred to two thousand feet from the valley floor. These walls, fantastically eroded in banded red and gray sandstone, present strange and unearthly aspects in the changing lights. The Dolores River enters the valley through a narrow canyon in its south wall and after meandering across the valley floor makes its exit through an equally narrow canyon to the north. It is this paradoxical feature that gives the valley its name. The two halves of the valley thus naturally separated present entirely different physical features. West Paradox contains the only two towns in the valley, Paradox and Bedrock, while East Paradox does not contain even a single inhabited house. West Paradox is moderately well watered by perennial springs that rise under the cliffs at the extreme western end of the valley and by West Paradox Creek, which traverses this section on its way to join the Dolores River. On the other hand, East Paradox is for all practical purposes a desert. There are no constant springs of water there and only after a heavy cloudburst does East Paradox Creek run at all, and then for only a few hours.

The former Uncompahgre Indian Reservation embraced this valley and it had from time immemorial been a favored hunting ground of the Ute Indians. About 1881 the land was opened for settlers and the first homesteads taken up. Since that time all irrigable land and much that is not has been filed upon and considerable cultivation attempted. Except for a short-lived development of the Carnotite ores which abound in this region and a sporadic oil excitement a few years ago, the valley has been consistently devoted to small farming and the winter pasturage of cattle.

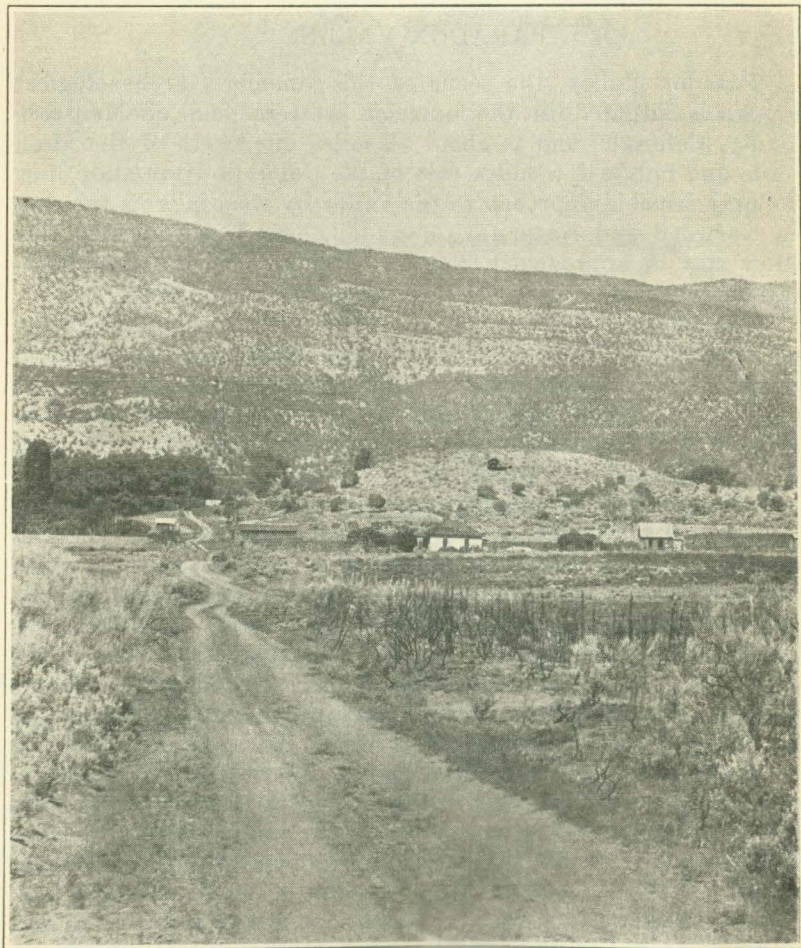


FIG. 2. PARADOX VALLEY SHOWING MOUND II (a)

THE GENERAL SURVEY IN PARADOX VALLEY

The survey work began with a study of the general topography, water supplies and contours of the valley floor as a result of which West Paradox Valley was selected as the most auspicious spot to begin the more detailed work. Then an examination was made of all locations likely in any way to show traces of early occupation. By dint of inquiry from the local ranchers and cattlemen we were guided to spots where potsherds, metates, arrowheads or traces of ruins of any kind had been observed and, without exception, the information thus derived proved wholly accurate. It was not at all an easy matter to identify ruins in Paradox Valley, due to the fact that cattle have been ranged all over the valley for the past forty years. House walls have been overturned and the building stones strewn about in chaos; potsherds have been trampled into minute fragments and over all a heavy deposit of windblown dust laid down by the summer sandstorms has quite masked the remainder of the surface evidence.

Each site bearing definite traces of occupancy was plotted on a map prepared for the purpose by means of compass bearings (Fig. 1). At the same time notes regarding any especial feature of the situation were made. It soon became apparent that the low natural mounds which rise from the valley floor had been extensively utilized for habitations. This was especially evident of the mounds that were located near some constant supply of good water. Here broken metates, building stones, flint chips and potsherds of the Pueblo I and II type were recovered. In a few instances short sections of house walls could be vaguely seen among the chaos, but in no case could even the general arrangement of the ruin be clearly discerned. The relatively large amount of surface debris indicated that the mounds referred to as numbers 2, 10 and 15 on the accompanying map (Fig. 1) were the largest and most important in this area.

THE SOUNDING TRENCH

The material recovered from the surface examination of the sites found in the valley proved to be so scanty that it was deemed advisable to make a sounding trench into one of them. The great similarity of these sites indicated that what might be found in one would probably be typical of the others also. Accordingly, a trench was started on the western aspect of Mound 2 at the western end of the valley (No. 2, Fig. 1). This appeared to be a typical site and one that stood a reasonable chance of yielding good results. A trench four feet wide was started at a distance of fifty-four feet from the shoulder of the mound and dug down to the native sandstone formation. At first the deposit en-

countered was only one foot deep, but as the trench was advanced uphill it became progressively deeper and showed abundant proof that the deposit had been formed by the sweepings and rubbish from dwellings higher up. Charcoal, burned and charred animal bones, chips of flint and the few pieces of potsherds recovered made this conclusion reasonable. As the trench was advanced toward the top of the mound the deposit deepened to six feet and on the shoulder of the mound a well-laid-up stone wall was encountered. It had been solidly built and was found in a very good state of preservation, although it was evident that the wall stood at only a fraction of its original height. This wall was cleared on both sides and then followed around to obtain the dimensions and ground plan of the room it bounded. Eventually the outlines of two contiguous rooms were disclosed as is shown by the scale drawing represented in Fig. 3.

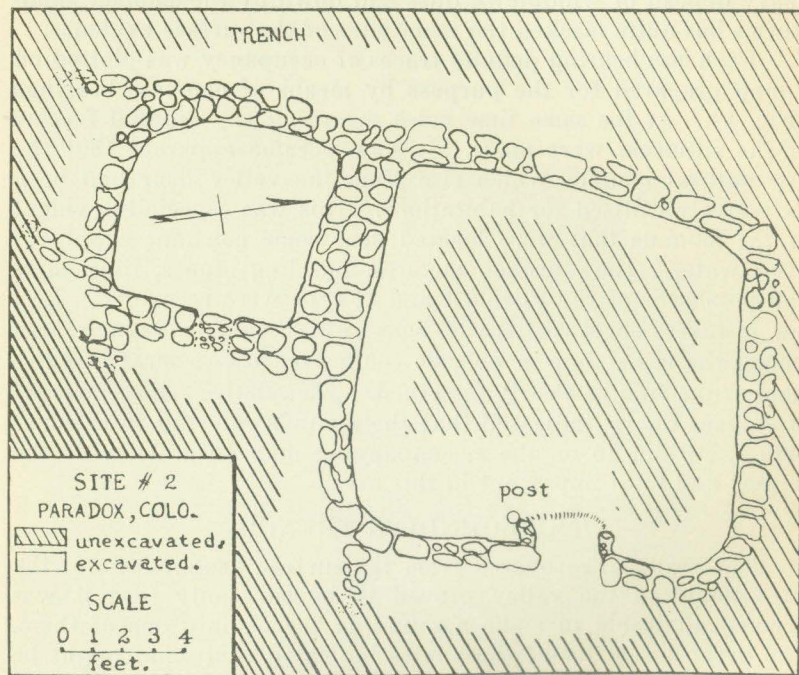


FIG. 3. SITE NO. 2, PARADOX VALLEY, COLORADO

ROOMS

The larger room and the one first cleared was nearly square in outline, measuring sixteen by fifteen feet in diameter. The walls were well constructed of roughly dressed sandstone blocks

laid up in adobe and at the highest point (east wall) were found to stand three and one-half feet above the floor level; the lowest height was found on the west wall, where they stood at only two feet. How high these walls had originally been is a matter of conjecture, for it was clear that they were found at only a fraction of their original height. On the inside the room had been carefully plastered with adobe and the manner in which the corners of the room had been rounded off indicated that it was done merely for ease in plastering rather than with any thought of deeper significance. There may at one time have been plastering on the outside of the walls, but no distinct traces were discernible.

In the east wall of the room a small doorway was found which was built with the threshold raised eight inches above the floor level, and necessitated a step down. On either side two small adobe pilasters supported the wall from within and near the southern one the remains of an upright post were unearthed. The timber was not in a good state of preservation but it was possible to recover the specimen. It has been sent to Prof. Douglass of the University of Arizona to see if he can give us any information of the age of the ruin from the tree rings. As yet Prof. Douglass' report has not reached us. When this post was first found there was a great quantity of tubular bone beads near it lying on the adobe floor. Unfortunately, every one of them had been so crushed and shattered that a reconstruction was impossible; however, it was possible to discover that they had been made from the leg bones of some large bird, perhaps turkey, and that they must originally have numbered upwards of one hundred beads.

The floor of the room was of the usual hard-packed adobe, three to four inches in thickness, and exhibited a rather smooth, undulating surface. Scattered here and there over the floor and throughout the fill small fragments of Pueblo I-II potsherds were found and also charred and broken animal bones.

Separated from the larger room by a sturdy partition wall, two feet thick, another smaller room was uncovered. This room, as can be seen from the plan (Fig. 3) lies directly south of the room just described. The original form of the room had been square, although the west wall had sagged out of plumb quite badly. The walls were of the same construction as those of the larger room, plastered the same way and stood higher on the east (three feet) than on the west (two feet). There was a doorway in the east wall similar to that found in the larger room. This doorway had been roughly walled up and plastered over

from the inside, and from this it was concluded that access to the chamber must have been through a hatchway in the roof, since no other aperture was visible in the side walls. The adobe floor was identical to that previously described, except that by the doorway no pilaster or post was found.

Excavation around the outside of the walls of these two rooms just described showed that there were at least two more adjoining rooms. These we did not excavate. Their existence, however, did demonstrate that the two rooms cleared were but a part of a larger building comprising at least four adjoining rooms, showing the ruin was a complex of several chambers.

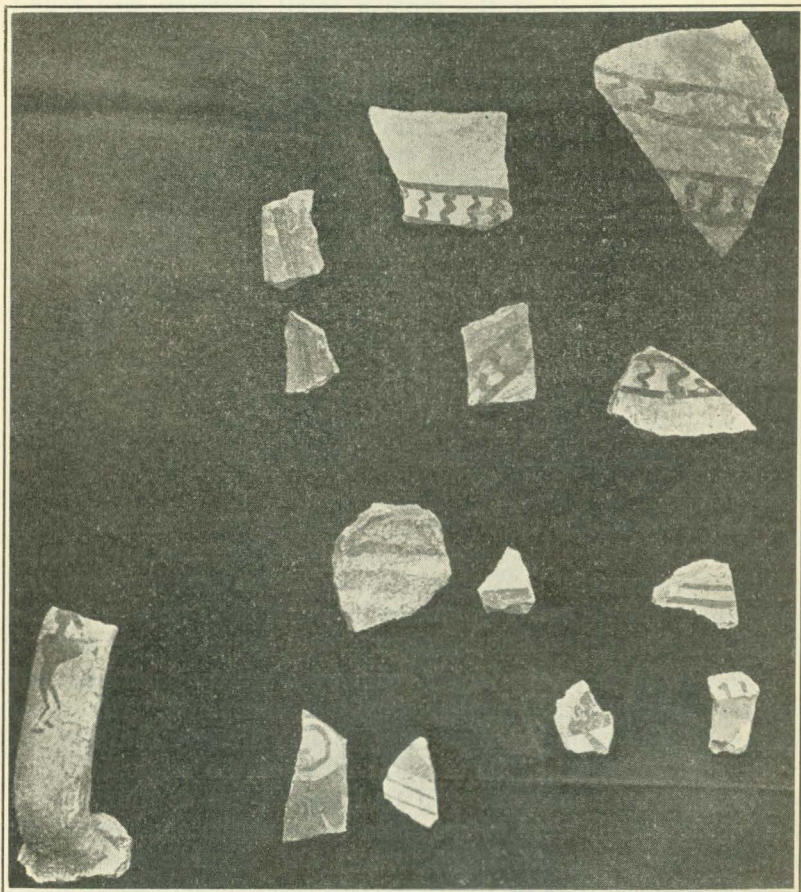


FIG. 4. EXAMPLES OF BLACK ON WHITE WARE FOUND IN SOUNDING TRENCH, MOUND II

ARTIFACTS

POTTERY. The evidence given by the pottery proved an item of the greatest importance in determining the identity of these ruins. No whole pieces were found, in fact every piece recovered had been so broken that it was impossible to reconstruct the form of a single whole vessel. The potsherds, of which a fair number were recovered, were, however, able to give the desired information. They represented black corrugated ware, black on white, and black on red wares (Figs. 4-5) and seemed to be of the late Pueblo I or early Pueblo II periods,¹ which corroborates the evidence given by the buildings themselves.

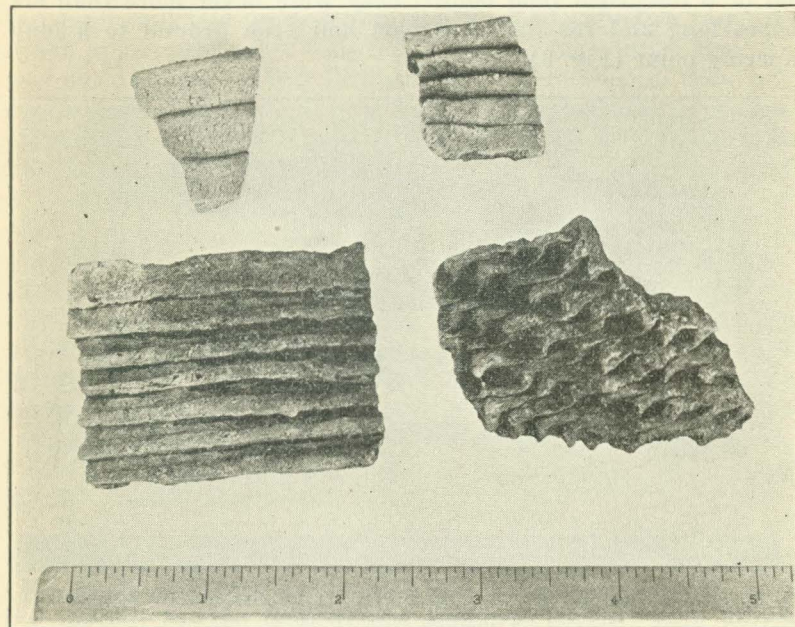


FIG. 5. EXAMPLES OF CORRUGATED WARE FOUND IN ROOMS OF SOUNDING TRENCH ON MOUND II

STONE. Throughout the excavation knapped flint and quartzite occurred abundantly. Such specimens as were in a whole condition were either small arrowheads of the variety known as "bird points" or crudely worked side scrapers. The flint was of

¹Divisions formulated by the Pecos Conference of 1927:

Pueblo I, or Proto-Pueblo—the first stage during which cranial deformation was practiced, vessel neck corrugation was introduced, and villages composed of rectangular living rooms of true masonry were developed.

Pueblo II—the stage marked by widespread geographical extension of life in small villages; corrugation, often of elaborate technique, extended over the whole surface of cooking vessels.

A. V. Kidder, *Pottery of Pecos*, I, 5 (1931).

poor quality, black with red striations. At the foot of La Sal Mountain we found great heaps of rejected flakes, nodules and rough blocks of this same variety of flint and judged that it must have been the site of a "workshop" where flint was probably prepared for transport.

Sandstone objects were represented by broken metates and several manos. The metates were of the usual round and oval varieties. The manos were of the small, single-handed, oblong type and usually showed signs of wear on both sides.

BONE. Several bone awls were found which appeared to have been made by the simple expedient of grinding down one end of a discarded food bone. They were never more than six inches long and for the most part had been ground to a long tapering point (Fig. 6).

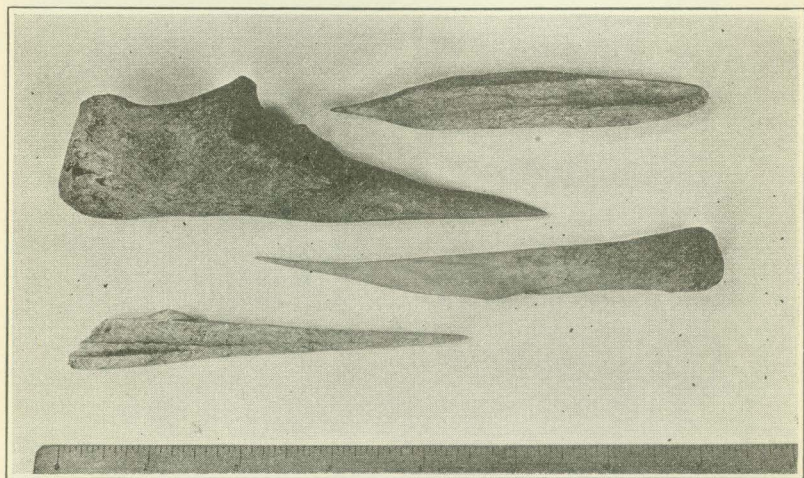


FIG. 6. EXAMPLES OF BONE TOOLS FOUND IN ROOMS IN SOUNDING TRENCH, MOUND II

Two small oblong platelets of bone were found which seemed to have served as gaming pieces. One of them was convex on one side and flat on the other, while the other specimen was smaller and had one surface covered with finely incised lines like a tally stick (Fig. 7).

FAUNA. There were a great number of animal bones, but with the single exception of a fragment of an occipital, no example of human remains was found. The number of splintered animal bones found seemed to indicate that game was abundant and that it was frequently used as an article of diet. These bones have been identified as representing Bison, Mountain Sheep, Cottontail

and Jack Rabbit and Gray Wolf. Several specimens of Pocket Gopher appeared to have been introduced into the site by an owl's nest.

OTHER SITES IN PARADOX VALLEY

The pueblo ruins found in Paradox Valley are undoubtedly the most important as well as the most abundant type of archaeological evidence found, there being in all sixteen in number; however, in a detailed examination of the valley floor several other kinds of sites were discovered which deserve comment.

A low circular masonry wall was located high up on the talus slope at the north side of the valley (No. 18, Fig. 1). The wall had been well laid up and although it stood only two feet high it had apparently never been much higher. The entire structure was not over twelve feet in diameter. There was no trace of a doorway, and since it had been built upon naked rock, the possibilities of further information by excavation were eliminated. The location was perhaps the most novel feature of this ruin. It is located some four hundred feet above the valley floor on the edge of a precipitous cliff and can be approached only with the greatest difficulty. This situation caused it to be referred to as a "fort" by the few ranchers who had visited it and from its location it could certainly not have been a comfortable dwelling place. No artifacts of any description could be found anywhere in the vicinity and none had ever been found there before our arrival, so far as we were able to discover. Subsequently, another very similar structure was located overlooking La Sal Creek and still others were reported from the neighborhood of the San Miguel-Dolores confluence.

Two caves were found on the valley floor that bore some evidences of occupancy. One, located near the town of Bedrock (No. 22, Fig. 1), bore indications that it had been used by hunting parties, for the floor of the cave was covered with burned and broken deer bones. No artifacts could be found here at all, and from the fact that the cave could not accommodate more than two people, it cannot be considered a site of the first importance. Another cave found in the extreme western end of the valley (No. 17, Fig. 1) had apparently been used as an emergency shelter. It was a very small "blow out" in the sandstone formation and across the entrance a low wall of small stones had been laid up. Inside, a great quantity of shredded cedar bark was found, and from the size of the chamber it could not have accommodated more than one person at a time. Here also no artifact or other trace of the nature of the original occupants could be found.

While West Paradox yielded evidences of the valley's early occupation by sedentary Indians in prehistoric times, East Paradox produced not the slightest sign of archaeological material. Except for one spot where a corrugated cooking pot had been dropped and broken, this end of the valley gave no indication of Indian life. It seems logical to assume that these same desert or similar conditions prevailed in prehistoric times and that then as now the western half of the valley was much more favored than the eastern.

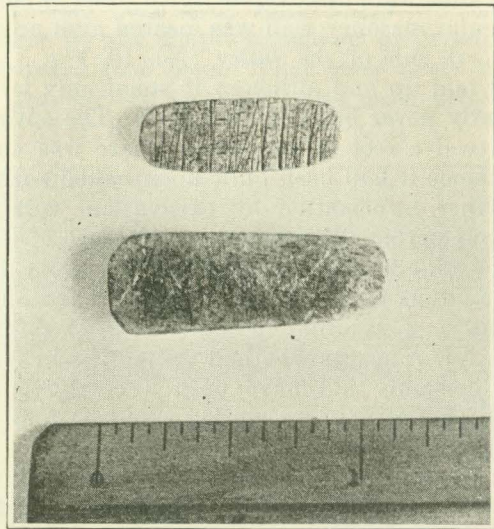


FIG. 7. GAMING PIECES FOUND IN ROOMS OF SOUNDING TRENCH, MOUND II

The high rim that hems Paradox Valley in on the north, west and south sides is composed of a red sandstone formation in which the processes of wind and rain have eroded innumerable caves. Although shallow, these caves were for the most part large and sufficiently commodious to house a considerable number of people at a time and it was thought that an examination of them might yield some trace of their early occupation. The caves in the high cliff at the extreme western end of the valley appeared to be the most promising and accordingly an extensive investigation of them was made. In all, some fifteen caves in this locality were examined, with results that were uniformly disappointing, for the situation that pertained to any one of them pertained equally to all. Close examination proved that these caves had been formed in a certain sandstone formation, which although it had every appearance of being of a durable and lasting

nature, was in reality extraordinarily soft and friable. The floors of these caves were strewn with fresh falls of rock after even a slight shower, and when dry the rock could be easily crumbled between the fingers. In short, the process of erosion in this formation is both rapid and constant. It was, therefore, impossible to determine if they had ever been used for habitations, for any traces that might have at one time existed had long ago been buried under tons of fallen debris or washed out by heavy rains. In no instance was it possible to find any trace of former occupancy.

LA SAL CREEK CANYON

A mile or more to the south of Paradox Valley and running parallel with it is La Sal Creek, which, rising in Utah, flows into Colorado to join the Dolores River a few miles south of the town of Bedrock. The canyon is accessible from Paradox by a road which climbs over the intervening "hump" and then follows along the bed of the canyon toward Moab, Utah. This route is a continuation of Highway 20, previously mentioned.

In 1924 Jeancon photographed and described a petroglyph in this canyon which he found on the homestead of Mr. Jess. Sumner. We re-examined this petroglyph and found it in approximately the same condition and state of preservation that Jeancon described. The only unexpected item was the appearance of a new type of vandalism which we had not noted before in connection with petroglyphs. It is more or less commonplace to find them mutilated by bullet marks and cut over with the initials of visitors. The La Sal petroglyphs had suffered to some extent from this usual fate, but in addition some inspired person had made a faithful copy of some of the human and animal figures on an adjacent rock. The forgeries had been so well executed that were it not for earlier photographs of the originals and for the obvious freshness of the pecking, it is doubtful if their authenticity would ever have been called into question. These forgeries bore the appearance of having been pounded in the rock, which is a soft red sandstone, with the back of a prospector's hammer, and were really of excellent workmanship.

While we were in this region Mr. Martin, an old prospector, described to us what he considered to be an "Indian fort" which lay on a promontory of the rim rock just east of his cabin at the junction of the Paradox-Moab road and La Sal Creek. From the compass bearings and the description that he gave there was no difficulty in reaching it beyond a hard climb of five hundred feet up vertical talus slopes and cliff. A small promontory or extension of the Nyswonger Mesa projects at this point over La Sal

Creek Canyon and can be reached only from the mesa top. On all other sides sheer cliffs drop away to a depth of several hundred feet. Across the neck of this promontory a low stone wall was found which effectually isolated the projection from the mesa top. The wall was of substantial construction, three feet high at its highest point and commanded the approach in a most strategic fashion. Through this wall a small doorway gave the only access, while behind it several small heaps of stones had been collected as though for ammunition. The promontory



FIG. 8. CIRCULAR WALL, LA SAL CREEK

proper was only seventy-five by one hundred feet in dimensions and on it only one structure was found that could be attributed to human workmanship. This was a circular wall (Fig. 8), one foot thick, three feet high and twelve feet in diameter; identical in every respect to the one previously described on the north side of Paradox Valley (No. 18, Fig. 1). Like that site, this was built upon bare rock and located in a nearly inaccessible position. Similarly, also, no artifacts of any description could be found. Again local opinion which held this to be a "fort" seemed justified by the extraordinary location, for there were no signs of water supply, or any workable land nearby or any other evidences that this had been a fixed dwelling place. We subsequently learned that one of the early settlers in this region found on this site a quantity of empty .44 rifle shells, but other than this no information could be gained locally.

THE DOLORES RIVER CANYON

From the Bedrock Post Office a rough wagon road winds up the left bank of the Dolores River toward the now abandoned Cashin Copper mine. On the right hand side of this road, three and six-tenths of a mile from Bedrock, there is a large sandstone boulder upon whose surface there are several pecked-in petroglyphs. They are in a good state of preservation and represent birds, animals and human figures, together with bear tracks and a few geometric designs of doubtful significance (Fig. 9). In many ways they are reminiscent of the petroglyphs in La Sal Canyon and could well have been executed by the same people.

The canyon of the Dolores River is at this point quite narrow and deep, with its red sandstone cliffs deeply eroded into innumerable rock shelters and caves. Here also, the processes of erosion are great and rapid and any traces of human occupancy that might have been found in them have been long obliterated under fallen debris. Beyond the single boulder bearing petroglyphs, there were no other signs of early human habitation in this section.

THE SAN MIGUEL-DOLORES CONFLUENCE

North of Paradox Valley the Dolores River is joined by the San Miguel, flowing in from the east. The Dolores flows through a narrow, inaccessible canyon to this point and entrance to the region can be obtained only by following down the San Miguel River from Naturita, Colorado, toward the "Club Ranch."

The cliffs which form the walls of the San Miguel River canyon near this confluence are again composed of this same soft red sandstone formation previously encountered and have been greatly eroded into caves and rock shelters. An investigation was conducted into the caves along the right bank of the river from the point where Atkinson Creek empties into the San Miguel to the San Miguel-Dolores confluence. Nearly all of the many caves and shelters in the cliffs showed at least some sign of habitation. Inside they were strewn with chips of flint, burned deer bones and charcoal and ashes in great abundance. In several cases a metate of the crudest form was found together with a number of single-handed, oval manos. No pottery was encountered and from the fact that the deposits were exceedingly shallow, seldom deeper than three inches, a high antiquity could not be estimated for these habitations. Some of the sites appeared to have been so recently occupied that it was concluded that they were traces left by the Ute Indians who habitually frequented this territory until comparatively recent times. This as-

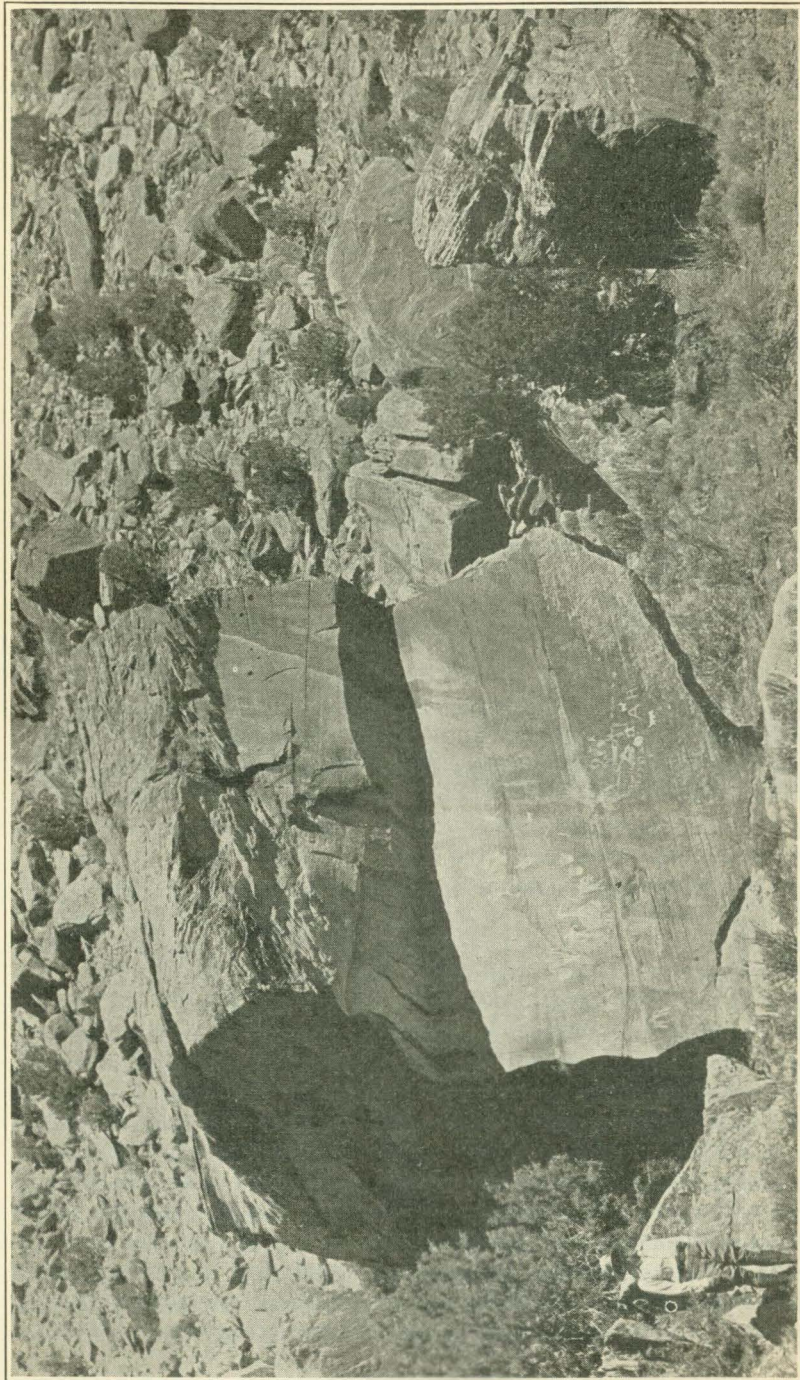


FIG. 9. ROCK SHOWING PETROGLYPHS, DOLORES CANYON, NEAR BEDROCK, COLORADO

sumption was further borne out by reports of old settlers in the region who recalled the days when the Utes came here in great numbers to hunt deer, and who utilized these caves as temporary shelters.

Two miles up Atkinson Creek from its confluence with the San Miguel, a high sandstone bluff rises on the right bank of the stream. In a narrow niche in this bluff a small, very crudely constructed "cliff dwelling" was located. After considerable difficulty it was reached and examined. Cattlemen had found this site many years before and had probably removed whatever they had found, for it was picked almost clean. The "dwelling" consisted of only one room, located in a narrow niche and protected by the overhang of the bluff. A low wall of dry masonry ran along the edge and thus formed a long, irregular room five feet wide and thirty-five feet long. The entrance to the room was through one end, where a pair of crudely made metates, a few manos and cedar bark indicated the living quarters of its occupants. At the farther end half a dozen small stones stood in a circle surrounding a heap of ashes and charred wood. This, it would appear, was the cooking department. The shallow deposit of dust, ashes and wood-rat dung which covered the floor contained crude quartzite scrapers and flakes, broken bones of bison and mule deer and a few fragments of charred wood. No pottery was found or any artifacts, and from the similarity that it exhibited with the caves in this region the assumption seems justified that this "cliff house" might well have been inhabited by the same people.

Circular, low stone walls of the same description as found in Paradox and La Sal Creek were reported to us by local cattlemen to exist on the promontory between Spring and Burro creeks. We were unable to visit this region.

NATURITA CREEK

A ruin near Norwood, Colorado, was reported to us which bore evidence of being an item of interest, and so it was visited and examined before quitting the region. It is located four miles west of Norwood on Highway 20 on the property of Mr. Ben Williams. At this point Naturita Creek flows through a deep canyon on top of whose precipitous right bank the ruin was located. It proved to be the remains of an extensive Pueblo covering in extent about an acre and a half and was situated on the very brink of the canyon. Ranchers in the neighborhood have known of its existence for many years and have used it as a quarry for building stones. As a consequence it is in lamentably poor condition.

Twenty years ago, we were told, the walls stood at a height of four or five feet above the ground. Now they have been leveled and only the vague outline of the structure is visible. The general plan of the building, as near as could be ascertained without excavation, was oblong with one of the long sides running along the brink of the canyon. No definite idea of the number or size of the individual rooms could be gathered beyond the obvious fact that there had been a considerable number. A heavy growth of cedar trees is now covering this ruin and the fallen needles and boughs have hidden all surface evidence of the material culture. In fact, not even a potsherd could be found to serve as identification of the position of this site in the cultural chronology. It seemed clear, however, that this was a permanent habitation, and doubtless of the Pueblo type.

CONCLUSIONS

The survey work in Paradox Valley and adjacent territory has delineated the present known limits of the Pueblo cultures in their farthest northern extension in Colorado. There are several indications that this distribution can eventually be traced still farther north and east in the state, and it is hoped that subsequent work will do so.²

This section of western Colorado is difficult territory to explore, for roads are few and often bad and the terrain is broken by cliffs and deep canyons. Water is scarce and hard to find. For these reasons it is natural to expect that the progress of our archaeological information from this section of the state will be slow.

The results of the survey may be summarized as follows:

1. The Pueblo I-II culture was shown to have once extended as far north as the Paradox Valley. It is evident that the valley at one time supported quite a large Indian population.
2. Small circular masonry structures, located upon heights of land, were found in Paradox Valley and La Sal Creek. Their builders and function are unknown.
3. Caves and rock shelters were found along the San Miguel which showed signs of relatively recent occupation, and from the fact that the Utes recently occupied this region, they may have been used by them.

²Ruins have been reported from the canyons of the Yampa and Green rivers in northwestern Colorado, but as yet their archaeological significance is not clear.

4. A small and crudely built "cliff house" was located on Atkinson Creek near the Dolores-San Miguel confluence which showed affinities with the cave occupation above mentioned.

PUEBLO I-II SITES IN PARADOX VALLEY

The plotting of the Pueblo I-II sites in West Paradox Valley proved to be one of the more important results of the 1931 survey of this region and for that reason a list of the sites found is appended to this report. The details here given may prove of value in subsequent work carried on by others in this territory. The sites are indicated by numbers which correspond to those found on the map of the valley illustrated in Figure 1.

MOUND 1. Previously described by Jeancon and Roberts under the same number (unpublished MSS., Jeancon, 1924). It is a small, flat-topped mound bearing on its summit traces of ruins but has been badly damaged by local pot hunters and cattle.

MOUND 2. Previously described by Jeancon and Roberts under the same number (unpublished MSS., Jeancon, 1924). It is a slightly larger mound than 1, with a flat top approximately an acre in extent. The ruins are in better, although still very poor, state of preservation. The 1931 sounding was made in the western slope of this mound. Ruins are extensive and extend across the intervening ridge to connect with those on Mound 1.

MOUND 3. This is a small mound adjacent to Mound 1 which shows rather indistinct traces of a small ruin.

MOUND 4. This is a long, rather narrow, ridge extending out into the valley. On its highest point there are traces of a small circular ruin.

MOUND 5. This is a rise of ground higher and north of Mound 4, on whose summit there is a trace of a small circular ruin.

N. B.—The mounds described under numbers 1 to 5, inclusive, are located on the property of Mr. Earl Wilcox. This property is usually known as the "Wray Ranch" and is located in the western end of the valley. Under Mound 4 there is a constant spring of good water.

MOUNDS 6 AND 7. Located in the extreme northwestern end of the valley, on property known locally as the "Brooks Ranch." They are parallel ridges extending

from the valley wall and are so narrow that they seem unsuitable for any extensive habitations, but show evidence of some occupation. Between them flows a stream (Cottonwood Creek) of good water.

MOUNDS 8 AND 9. These are two very small mounds located on the property of Mr. Tom Talbert. They show indications of ruins, although they have been repeatedly plowed over.

MOUND 10. This is a long, high ridge extending north and south, located just west of the Paradox cemetery. On its highest point there are evidences of extensive ruins. West Paradox Creek flows around one end of this mound. This is one of the three most important sites in the valley.

MOUND 11. This is on the property of Mr. George McGaughey and consists of a small round eminence bearing traces of a single ruined building on its top.

MOUND 12. Is a long mound bearing on its summit traces of an isolated ruin. It is on the property of Mr. Talmadge Smith.

MOUND 13. This is located on the property of Mr. W. E. Baird and shows traces of a single small ruin.

MOUND 14. This bears traces of a small group of ruins on its highest point. It is on the property of Mr. Charles Coate.

MOUND 15. This is a long, low ridge extending along the left bank of Paradox Creek on the property of Mr. Earl Wilcox. It appears to be a large site. Numerous traces of ruins occur at about the middle of the ridge where the elevation reaches its highest point.

MOUND 23. This is located on the John Colombo ranch. It is a small, conical elevation with what may have been a small ruin on its top. It has been badly damaged by relic hunters.

TYPES OF SITES FOUND

For ease of reference to those interested in particular items resulting from this survey the following tabulated summary has been arranged.

PUEBLO SITES: Sixteen ruins located in West Paradox Valley were of the Pueblo type of sedentary habitation, and from the potsherds collected, were identified as belonging to either late Pueblo I or early Pueblo II period. The pueblo site found on the rim of Naturita Creek appeared similar to those in Paradox but no potsherds could be recovered to identify the period to which it belonged.

CIRCULAR WALLS: Small circular walls were located on lofty and inaccessible spots on the north side of Paradox Valley and on La Sal Creek. Both were identical in size and nature of location but no evidence was furnished as to their purpose or builders. Similar structures were reported from the neighborhood of the Dolores-San Miguel confluence.

CLIFF DWELLINGS: One example of a habitation built into a niche in a cliff wall was located up Atkinson Creek in the vicinity of the Dolores-San Miguel confluence. There was nothing found in it to indicate any great antiquity.

CAVES: Two small caves in Paradox and several in the Dolores-San Miguel confluence region showed some slight traces of human habitation. Nothing was found in them to merit the belief of great antiquity. In general, the formations in which caves occurred were unfavorable to the preservation of evidences of human habitation.

PETROGLYPHS: Two groups were found. One on La Sal Creek which is described by Jeancon (*Colorado Magazine*, Vol. III, No. 2, 1926) and one south of Bedrock in the canyon of the Dolores River.

Pioneer Experiences in Southern Colorado

P. G. SCOTT*

I came to Colorado from Kansas, landing at Kit Carson August 1, 1870. I had come from Canada to Kansas expecting to be benefited in health, but finding Atehison county full of malaria I though best to go to a higher altitude. My objective was anywhere along the eastern foot of the mountains, so I landed at Kit Carson.

In Kit Carson at that time were situated the commission houses of Otero, Sellers & Co., Chick, Brown & Co. and Webster & Cunniffe, as that was the point on the Kansas Pacific Railroad where

*This article, from the private papers of the late Mr. Scott, prominent pioneer of the Arkansas Valley, Colorado, gives an interesting sketch of his early experiences in Colorado. A portion of his diary was published in the *Colorado Magazine* of last July.—Ed.

shipments of goods from the East to merchants in southern Colorado and New Mexico were transported by wagon trains to their destination.

I had a letter from a man in Atchison City, Kansas, to Webster & Cuniffe. They were very kind, told me that they would be loading a train for the south before long and in the meantime I could sleep in their store and thus save hotel expenses. Webster, of the firm, had a son about sixteen years of age and he was kind enough to help me to look for something to do in the meantime, so one forenoon he came to me with the information that he guessed he had got a job for me. I asked him what it was and he explained that at the Blue Front Saloon there was a row last night and the barkeeper got shot and killed, and now they are looking for a man to take his place. I explained to him that I had come to Colorado for my health and it did not seem to me that that was the proper course to take. He explained that I need not get into a shooting scrape, and if I didn't do that I was in no special danger. Still I turned the job down.

Kit Carson was a lively place at that time. Looking back, it seems to me that a large proportion of the buildings were saloons, dance halls and other places of amusement, and one of the strange sights to a tenderfoot was that almost every grown man had two six-shooters hanging to his belt. However, a large legitimate business was being done.

The West was totally new to me. I had never seen a Mexican or heard a word of his language spoken, and the greater number of the freighters at that time, and wagon drivers, were Mexicans who were as ignorant of my language as I was of theirs. By the kind assistance of an interpreter, I took passage in an ox wagon train for Trinidad, and was advised by the wagon boss, who knew a little English, to take my bed to their camp and thus avoid having to pay hotel bill.

In two or three days the wagons in our train were loaded and we started south. The morning of the second day our wagon boss quarreled with one of his drivers and in order to enforce what appeared to be his commands, though I could not understand a word of what was passing, the wagon boss used the butt of his black-snake and knocked the driver down. As soon as he regained his feet he went to his wagon, took out his bed and carried it over to a train that was close by. This left us with five yoke of oxen and no driver. The wagon boss then came to me and asked if I thought I could manage the team and, as several years of my boyhood had been spent in the backwoods of Canada, where the most of the work was driving oxen, I told him I could. I was then and there pro-

moted to the responsibility of a driver and given a whip with a very long lash and a very short handle.

I could see how the other drivers handled their whips, making them pop like the explosion of a pistol. My best efforts in that direction usually resulted in the winding of the lash around my neck. Anyway, the oxen were quite safe. I enjoyed the work and though the fare was common it was ample and I gained strength from day to day until when we reached Trinidad, after an uneventful trip, I felt almost capable of doing a man's work.

The wagon boss urged me to go with him to Santa Fe, New Mexico. He was loaded with government supplies for that place, said he had a ranch nearby and if I would go with him he would later help me to go into business. However, I left the train at Trinidad and while looking for work I met a ranchman who lived at that time where the city of Raton now stands. He had there a home station for a stage coach, a herd of cattle and quite a large hay ranch nearby. My salary at first was my board and lodging. I made my board as expensive for my employer as possible as I had a splendid appetite. My lodging did not cost him anything because I spread my bed at the side of an old hay stack.

When haying started I was promoted to a man's work with about half a man's pay. That did not worry me, however, because I was steadily gaining in health and ability to work, and by the time the hay was in stacks I was ready for another job. My boss then put me in charge of his small herd of cattle. I was to occupy the cabin that we used while putting up the hay and I was to live there alone and do my own cooking. Riding after cattle was to my taste and everything was agreeable except I was somewhat lonesome and then I had never done any cooking before. That, however, did not matter so much because I did not feel like kicking at my own cooking and I got along somehow.

By and by, however, I began to think I could do something a little better and decided to return to Trinidad and look for a position more in accordance with work that I was used to and that I thought would pay me better. In looking around the city of Trinidad I learned that Mr. John S. Hough, manager of the store of Prowers & Hough, needed help, as he had sent his clerk to meet his brother, Si Hough, who was on his way from Texas with a herd of cattle. With him I secured the position of bookkeeper, a job that I knew how to handle, but otherwise I was of little use, as I was ignorant of the Spanish language and about four-fifths of his customers knew no English.

I stayed in the store at Trinidad until the spring of 1871, when the herd of cattle belonging to Silas and John Hough was moved from Crow Creek, New Mexico, to Timpas Station, then in Bent

county, Colorado. I had helped to move the cattle and when they were located at Timpas, Mr. Hough put a small stock of goods in a room there and left me in charge of that and the cattle.

To make up for my ignorance about the cattle business I had two expert Texas cowpunchers that had been raised at the business and knew every move to make. I stayed there all summer but towards fall I had sent word to Mr. Hough that I did not want to stay there all winter as I wanted something better to do. He called me back to Trinidad and told me that he had arranged for me to go to Boggsville, where his partner, Mr. John W. Prowers, was located, that I was to teach school and help Mr. Prowers with his books or anything else that he wanted me to do. I reached Boggsville September 1, 1871, where I found the first schoolhouse in Bent county in course of erection. I had taught school in Canada and in Kansas and knew rather more about the necessary furniture than the school directors did. I therefore was put in charge of the finishing and furnishing of the room, which was, in due time, ready for occupancy. I found Mr. Prowers to be a broad-minded, intelligent gentleman, and I had a very pleasant time with my duties under him.

Before assuming my duties as teacher I had to undergo an examination by the county school superintendent. I went to his home for that purpose and found him busy branding a lot of calves and in order to expedite the work, as he was short of help, I took hold and helped. At the noon hour the superintendent produced a book that evidently had been got together by some one fifty or seventy-five years before. In it there were questions for prospective school teachers. The examination began by asking me questions from this book. I explained to my examiner that that was not the modern way of teaching that particular subject. We went from subject to subject in much the same way. I had shown him the certificates I had received before teaching in Canada and Kansas, then as there was a good deal of work to do yet in the corral, he decided that I was all right and could get a first grade certificate, so we ended it by adjourning to the corral to finish the work, which we did before dark to our mutual satisfaction. The examination had some of the elements of a farce, for I believe I asked the superintendent more questions than he asked me.

When the pupils were assembled I found my roll consisted of two whites, four half-breed Mexicans, five quarter-breed Indians, three half-breed Indians, and one colored child. Among these pupils were four of the family of Kit Carson, the celebrated frontiersman. On the whole they were good average pupils. We had

no trouble in getting along with the pupils, or they among themselves.

When spring came the school was dismissed and the teacher got a job as a cow puncher for Mr. Prowers. There were no fences in those days; in fact, there was not a mile of fence between the Kansas state line and Nepesta, and we rode the river from the one point to the other.

In the fall of 1873 the Arkansas Valley branch of the Kansas Pacific Railroad was built from Kit Carson to the site of the present town of Las Animas, and that fall Las Animas was laid out. The town site was owned by D. H. Moffat, Jr., and R. M. Moore was his agent.

Being farther south than Kit Carson, the forwarding and commission business left that place and came to Las Animas. Kilberg, Bartels & Co. and Prowers & Hough were the two houses that handled the forwarding and commission business. I took a position with Prowers & Hough as forwarding clerk. That is, the southern merchants would order their goods from the East, and have them consigned to Las Animas, in care of Prowers & Hough. We received the goods from the railroad, paid the freight, hired teams, mostly ox teams, and shipped the goods in that way to their destination. Las Animas was a very, very busy place in those days, as there was a large territory south not yet penetrated by any railroad. This was the shipping point for government freight to all their posts south and southwest, while the merchants in southern Colorado, New Mexico and part of Arizona got their goods through one or the other of the houses in Las Animas.

Some three years later the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad was extended from the Kansas state line to Pueblo, and a branch from La Junta to El Moro was built. That took the forwarding business away from Las Animas. It also took my job.

In 1875 the Bent County Bank was organized by M. D. Thatcher, John A. Thatcher, John W. Prowers and John S. Hough, and I was offered the position of bookkeeper and entered on my duties as such on June 1, 1876. On May 1, 1878, I was appointed cashier in place of G. G. Siddens, who went from here to open a bank for the Thatcher Brothers at Ouray, Colorado. From that date my fate seemed to be sealed, for I never managed to get away from that day to this, July 1, 1921.

The Origin of the Denver Mountain Parks System¹

SETH B. BRADLEY²

Prior to 1910 sporadic efforts had been made by Mr. John S. Flower and Mr. Elmer W. Merritt of the Denver Real Estate Exchange to enlist the interest of Mayor Speer and the City Council and the public bodies of Denver in the subject of scenic Mountain Parks and roads west of Denver, but the first official step leading to the organization of the Mountain Parks System was taken by the Denver Real Estate Exchange in the fall of 1910 under my administration as President of the Exchange. About November 1, 1910, Mr. John Brisben Walker, who had the idea and vision of roads and parks through the mountains west of Denver, called on me and said he had just called upon the President of the Denver Chamber of Commerce and asked him and the Chamber to sponsor such parks and roads on behalf of the people of Denver. The President had replied: "The Chamber is not in the promotion business. You had better see Seth Bradley, President of the Denver Real Estate Exchange, as the real estate men are promoters." After a full talk with Mr. Walker, during which I was impressed with his arguments in favor of this enterprise, I told Mr. Walker that I would present the matter to the Directors and members of the Exchange and invited him to address the luncheon of the Exchange on November 9, 1910, on this subject. On this occasion Mr. Walker made an eloquent plea for the Mountain Parks, stating that he had just returned from Kansas City, where he had the pleasure of going over its new parks and boulevards and sunken gardens, and it had created a new public spirit in Kansas City and was bearing fruit in attracting many wealthy people from different sections of the country, who had erected beautiful homes near the parks and boulevards, and he thought we had a much better opportunity to develop such a system in the mountains west of Denver. He also spoke of the boulevards which Colorado Springs had built in the adjoining mountains.

The Minutes of the Secretary of the Exchange for November 9, 1910, show that a motion was made and carried that this matter should be referred to the Board of Directors, with the request that they authorize the President to appoint a committee to investigate this subject and, if it was found feasible, to organize and promote said parks and boulevards. The Directors a few

¹The later development of Denver's Mountain Parks is presented in *Municipal Facts* (Denver), March-April, 1931.

²Mr. Bradley, Denver citizen, prominent in real estate matters and in civic improvements, prepared this brief article at the request of the Historical Society. He has presented to the Society a valued scrapbook of original documents and data upon the development of the mountain parks system. See Scrapbook P-372-D, Historical Society Library, State Museum, Denver.—Ed.

days later authorized the President to appoint a committee of ten, to which Mr. Elmer W. Merritt was added later. (See also Minutes of the Exchange for November 23, 1910, for above proceedings initiating this movement.)

In a letter dated November 23, 1910, I appointed the following committee: K. A. Pence, Chairman, Alfred Crebbin, Victor R. Olmsted, Armour C. Anderson, O. L. Malo, William H. Malone, Harry K. Brown, O. D. Cass, Frank S. Tesch, Henry B. Babb.

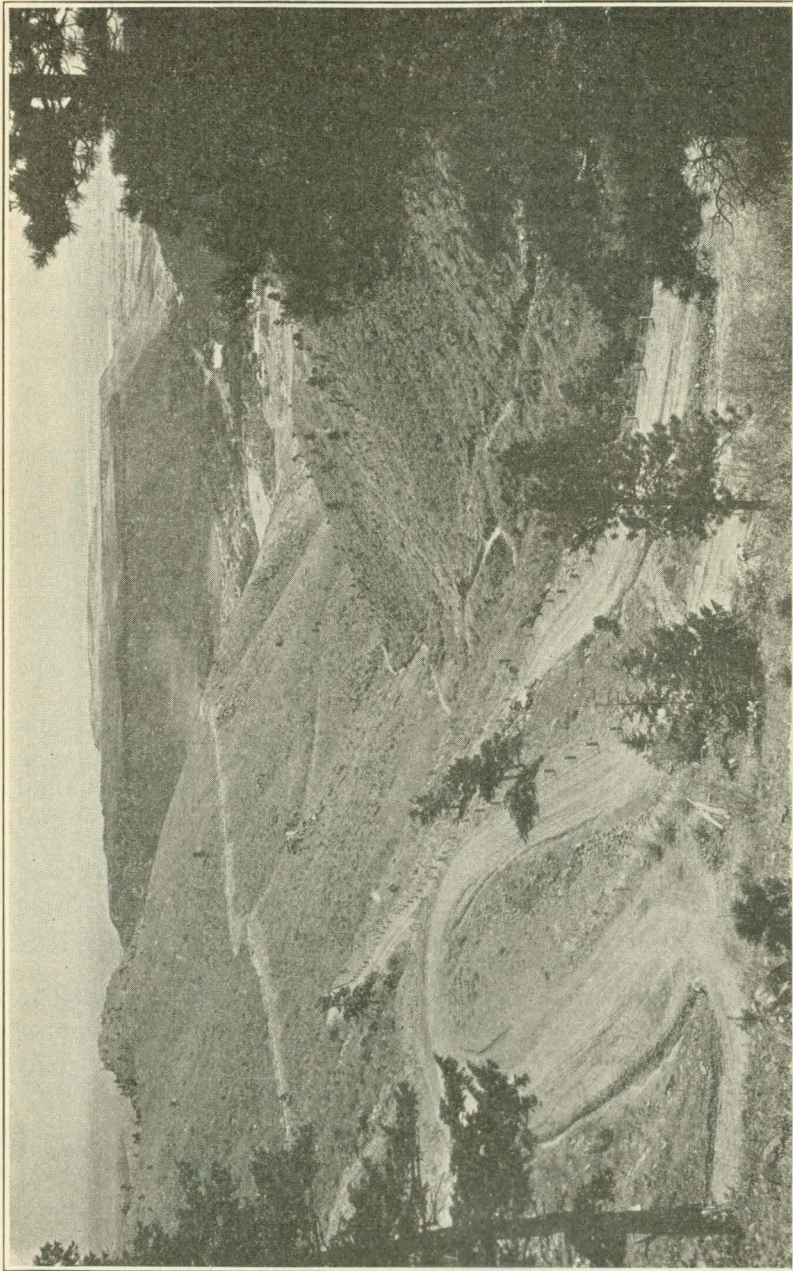
After a careful investigation for several months the committee recommended the project to the Exchange and then the committee took active steps to investigate the slopes of Mount Lookout and raised funds by private subscription and by donations of public bodies to employ an engineer to survey the grades and route for the present boulevard to the top of Mt. Lookout and of the parks and roads in the mountains, including Bear Creek Canyon and Mt. Vernon Canyon.

After our committee had made these investigations and recommendations and had aroused public sentiment through the press and otherwise, other public bodies became interested in the movement and lent hearty co-operation; that is, the Motor Club, the Highway Commission, the Denver Chamber of Commerce and the Mountain Parks Department of the City of Denver, which finally took over the management of the Mountain Parks System and made many appropriations for the development of the system.

At an election in Denver on May 21, 1912, the proposition was overwhelmingly carried to make a half-mill levy annually for five years on Denver property for building the Mountain Parks. In the campaign previous to the election a battery of real estate speakers and their friends addressed audiences in all parts of Denver and on election day young ladies dressed in white with colored sashes and streamers handed out circulars and boosted for the mill levy, and a large committee of real estate men worked all day getting out voters.

An amendment to the State Constitution was necessary to enable Denver to acquire land outside of the limits of Denver and to operate roads thereon, and at the Denver election to take advantage of the provisions of this amendment the proposition was carried by a majority of 8,000.

Mr. K. A. Pence, chairman of our committee, was truly the "Father of the Mountain Parks," giving most of his time for several years to this work. The Denver Mountain Parks Department recognized his work by creating and naming for him "Pence Park," and he was the only one of the original promoters of the parks who was so honored.



THE ROAD UP LOOKOUT, DENVER MOUNTAIN PARKS *Courtesy Colorado Association*

It is a remarkable fact that Mayor Robert W. Speer, while a great, constructive mayor, could never be interested in the organization of the Mountain Parks, nor of the Colfax-Larimer Viaduct leading thereto, and the writer, while President of the Board of Public Works of Denver in 1912-13, in the administration of Mayor Henry J. Arnold, organized the viaduct.

The Minutes of the Denver Chamber of Commerce, dated November 4, 1910, contains the following:

"A communication from Mr. John Brisben Walker regarding a proposition for the city to purchase eight square miles of territory in the vicinity of Morrison for \$750,000 and turn it into a public park, was read.

"On motion it was laid on the table."

The Minutes of the Chamber dated December 8, 1911, contain the following:

"Joint Meeting of the Mountain Park Committees of the Chamber of Commerce and the Real Estate Exchange and the Motor Club with the Board of Directors, Friday, December 8, at 11:30 A. M. Present, of Joint Committee: Messrs. Warwick M. Downing, M. B. Biscoe, G. W. Brown, F. R. Dutton, C. H. Howe, F. L. MacFarland, H. M. Stoll, F. L. Harnois; of the Board of Directors: Messrs. T. E. Tilliams, F. R. Ross, L. B. Bridaham, W. C. Nevin, G. H. Knifton, Allison Stocker, E. J. Yetter."

The Minutes on the above date contained an 8-page report of the Joint Committees of the above organizations outlining and recommending the Mountain Parks movement and submitted by Mr. Kingsley A. Pence, chairman.

The Minutes of the Chamber for December 18, 1911, contained the following:

"On motion of Mr. Callis, seconded by Mr. Nevin, the sum of \$250 was voted to the Mountain Park Committee to be used in connection with its work of establishing a Mountain Park near Denver. This sum was granted with the understanding that an equal amount has been voted by the Real Estate Exchange and the sum of \$150 by the Motor Club."

Thus the Denver Real Estate Exchange took the initial steps and organized this great Mountain Parks System.

These mountain parks and roads and boulevards were so popular that there was no stopping the movement, and the road was continued to the top of Mount Evans in the year 1931; and I predict that these roads will ultimately be continued to the Rocky Mountain National Park and to Pikes Peak.

The Story of Tin Cup, Colorado¹

S. E. POET*

In the summer of 1860 James Taylor, Ben Grey, Charles Grey and Gus Lamb left Granite, Colorado, then an outpost for mining adventurers, to prospect the western side of the Continental Divide. They came in by the Red Mountain trail, camping one evening on the bank of a little creek now known as Willow Creek, which flows into Taylor River about thirty-two miles from Gunnison, Colorado. The next morning they were unable to find their horses and James Taylor went out to hunt for them. In his search, as he was going over a divide into the next gulch, he came upon a small wash where the sand looked especially good. The gulch being dry, he decided to take a sample of sand back to camp in a tin cup that he happened to be carrying. This he took to Willow Creek camp and here it was carefully panned. Gold! Gold discovered in quantities enough to warrant the slow process of placer mining with poor facilities. During the rest of the summer and the early autumn the men camped near the claim and collected small quantities of the yellow gold. As winter approached they deemed it necessary to seek another camp. They trekked over the pass back to Granite, enroute laying plans for their return early the next spring.²

Late March or early April found the miners again enroute to the placer workings of the previous summer. As they sneaked out of camp, for sneaking out was necessary inasmuch as others were always more than willing to gain at another's expense, they were followed by Karl and Fred Seigul and Fred Lottis. The route this time was over Poncha Pass and Cochetopa Pass, then up Quartz Creek. At the forks of Gold Creek and Quartz Creek those following lost the trail; instead of going on up Quartz Creek as the others had done, they went up Gold Creek. They located placer claims in Dutch Flats and Union Park. Taylor,

¹Data for this article were obtained from the following newspapers: *Gunnison Daily Review*, 1881-1889; *Gunnison Tribune*, 1896-1904; and *Tin Cup Record*, 1882. Information and help was also received from Prof. C. E. Hagie, A. M. Thomas, and M. A. Deering of Gunnison, Simeon Irie of Pitkin, and Mr. Neiderhut of Tin Cup.

*Mr. Poet, Principal of the Junior High and the Elementary Schools at Victor, Colorado, has taught school for ten years and has frequently worked in the mines during vacation periods.—Ed.

²The early history of Tin Cup as here presented appeared in the Prospectus of the Tin Cup and Gold Hill Mining and Milling Company in 1879, written by Colonel O. H. Violet. A variation from the story should be noted—B. C. Grey is sometimes given credit for the first discovery instead of Taylor.

The district received its name from the tin cup in which the sample of sand was brought back to their camp. As another story goes—the men on discovering this wash sighted a hand-made tin cup on a stump. This cup was supposed to have been left there by white men previously. Mr. Neiderhut is said to have owned this cup until recently, when it was accidentally thrown into the Gunnison River by a maid who was cleaning house.

Lamb and the Greys arrived at their claims and settled down to the interesting but tedious task of placer mining. During the summer they worked out the claims and went elsewhere to seek the precious metal.

Some minor placer workings were carried on in the Tin Cup District until 1878, when the famous Gold Cup mine was located. The returns from the Pueblo and Leadville smelters showed high values. Was a second Leadville to be located in the Tin Cup region? The people thought so, and a great number of miners and adventurers flocked into the locality around the headwaters of the Willow creeks.

The village of Tin Cup was not the only town in this district to show a rapid and a spectacular growth. Hillerton, Virginia City, Garfield, and later Abbeyville sought their share of the in-rushing prospectors. Henry Olney,³ with his newspaper, the *Hillerton Occident*, painted the possibilities of that part of the region with Hillerton as the important center. Joe Cotter,⁴ with his newspaper, the *Garfield Banner*, portrayed the advantages of Garfield. Likely the most interesting race for supremacy in 1879 was between Hillerton and Virginia City. Lots which sold for \$75 to \$150 were placed at \$600 to \$1,000. It is possible that each of these towns had a population to exceed 1,500 people by the last of May. The miner had not come to buy a home; he was startled away by a new rush to Gothic, Colorado, and the towns of the Tin Cup region were virtually deserted within a few days.

Tin Cup, situated about forty miles to the northeast of Gunnison, Colorado, was more fortunate than the other towns. It is situated in a pleasant park surrounded by stately evergreens. It grew more slowly than some of the other towns, but because of its central location with reference to the mines it proved to be the most enduring. In 1880 it was the leading mining town in the county. The census of May, 1880, showed the population to be 1,495. It is interesting to note that only forty-two were females. It is estimated by some that by the close of the year there were 4,000 people in or near Tin Cup.

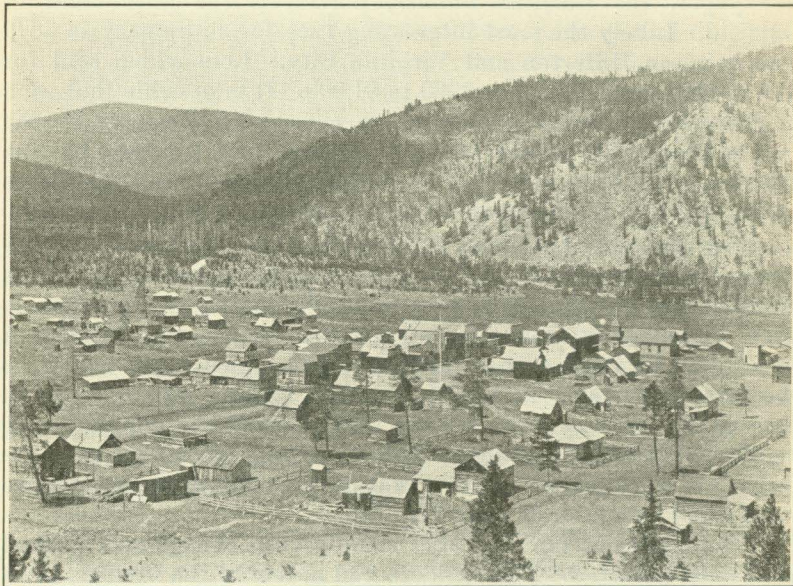
The houses of Tin Cup were usually built of logs and finished with native lumber. The builders had access to the lumber, laths

³H. C. Olney and wife came into the Tin Cup District in 1879. They visited the Gold Cup and noted the possibilities of the camp. Mr. Olney decided to bring in a newspaper; this he did, but not without trouble, including the upsetting of the press in Taylor River. He set up the press in an unfinished shack and collected items for his first paper. The miner and tenderfoot of Hillerton enthusiastically received the first issue of the *Occident* on the evening of June 23, 1879. The paper was published until October 14 of the same year; then it was discontinued to start again as the *Tin Cup Record* in the year 1881.

⁴Joe Cotter afterward moved to Tin Cup. There he edited the second paper to be published in the town of Tin Cup, the newspaper known as the *Tin Cup Banner*. Joe Cotter was elected in November, 1881, as Treasurer of Gunnison County. He continued active work in the Tin Cup District through the early eighties.

and shingles put out by the sawmill of Alex Thomas, which was built in 1879, one mile south of the town.

Besides the houses there were numerous business buildings, hotels and saloons. Some of the leading merchant establishments in Tin Cup in 1882 were as follows: The General Merchandise and Grocery Store, owned by C. A. Freeman; Harris Brothers, General Merchandise; C. F. Abbey and Company, Groceries and Mining Supplies; Campbell, Stahl and Company, Hardware and Mining Supplies; and the People's Store, owned by J. Wettengel. J. D. Stevens owned the St. James Hotel, where one could obtain room and board at ten dollars a week. Of the twenty saloons, perhaps Frenchy's Place was the most notorious. LaTourette and Whitefield owned a saloon and a large billiard parlor. It is needless to add that the town had its numerous dance halls and gambling places.



TIN CUP IN EARLY DAYS

The town was laid out carefully, with broad, straight streets, some of the important ones being Main Street, Grand Avenue and Washington Street. Water was piped into the town and fire plugs were conveniently placed. Tin Cup got its telephone by 1891. Good roads connected it with Quartz, St. Elmo, Aspen and

Gunnison. As to railroads, the closest was twelve miles away at St. Elmo, Colorado.⁵

Even the mining town, with its disrespect for law as overstressed by the novelist, must have some sort of municipal control. It is true that in the early days might made right, even in Tin Cup, and there the side-arm usually was the might. However, in 1880 the town had its mayor, a council and a marshal. In 1881 and 1882 a more elaborate organization was set up. C. F. Abbey was the Mayor; Charles E. Whitefield, Clerk and Recorder; A. O. Burnard, C. A. Freeman, W. H. Harris and A. M. Thomas,⁶ Trustees; R. L. Cochran, Treasurer; Sam Mickey, Street Commissioner; D. B. Spencer, Police Magistrate; Sam W. Mickey, Marshal; D. B. Spencer, Justice of Peace; Mat Bullock and Sam W. Mickey, Constables; A. F. Pettingell, C. H. Ray and D. B. Spencer, School Trustees of District No. 6; and W. H. Wahalan,⁷ Deputy Sheriff.

With the arrival of those interested in vein mining, the placer mining of Tin Cup lost its prominence. The first gold bullion ever run in the district was a half-pound bar by H. D. Pearsall in November, 1881. This gold was collected from the placer workings in Bertha Gulch. As late as 1887 B. C. Grey, one of the discoverers of the original placer, was working in the gulch. About the same time A. D. Robinson and S. S. Sutton, the latter the only inhabitant in Abbeyville, were washing the precious sands of Bertha Gulch. The last great placer project carried on near Tin Cup was by the Columbine Gold Dredging Company near the old site of Hillerton. These later workings took place between 1908 and 1912. The project was a financial loss. It is estimated that altogether the placer mines yielded 20,000 ounces in free gold.

Vein mining became prominent after 1878. The large returns from the Gold Cup had brought in miners and capital. Claims were staked, shafts and tunnels extended. Many persons were to be disappointed; claims usually are not mines—very few, in fact, became producers. Many of the claims were worked ex-

⁵In 1883, after the railroad from Gunnison had gotten as far as Almont, Colorado, a distance of about thirty miles from Tin Cup, the financial interests in Tin Cup and Gunnison used their influence to get an extension to Tin Cup. Mr. Little, the committee chairman of the Tin Cup group, explained to the railway board the needs of the camp. In his argument appeared the fact that by 1883 the mines of Tin Cup had produced a million dollars' worth of ore.

In the later boom of Tin Cup, in 1904, funds were even voted to carry on a Taylor Park Railroad. This road was to extend from St. Elmo to Tin Cup by means of a tunnel through the divide; then on to the farthermost mining areas of Taylor Park. This road was never built.

⁶Alex Thomas was mayor of Tin Cup in 1883. Mr. Thomas is now a resident of Gunnison, Colorado. He has been in Gunnison over forty years. He still thinks of Tin Cup with pleasant reminiscence.

⁷Wahalan, as deputy sheriff, especially established his reputation by the capture of five cattle rustlers near Tin Cup. The sixty head of cattle were returned to their owners in Fairplay, Colorado.

tensively; some of them became producers of valuable ores. By 1882 there were a number of important mines or prospects being worked. On Gold Hill the important ones were the Josephine, the G. Z., the El Capitan, Mary Mather, Jimmy Mack, Little Elmer, the M. C. R. R., the Badger and the Gold Cup; on West Gold Hill the Hunkidori, the E. Z., Forest Queen, Little Carbonate, the Drew, the Ontario and the Silver Queen; on East Gold Hill the Chrysolite, Oro, Rooler, Minnie Simmons, Whitehorn, Bonanza and the Olyannia; on American Mountain the Green Horn, the Last Chance and the Garfield; on Seigul Mountain the Arctic and the Casino; on Anna Mountain the Narrow Gauge, the Queen City, the Anna Treasure, the Anna Dedricka and the O. K. In the display at the Gunnison County Exposition held in Gunnison in 1883 the Gold Cup, Jimmy Mack, El Capitan, the G. Z., the Mayflower and the Cumberland had high grade ore on exhibit.

The Gold Cup, the greatest producer of the District, is situated on Gold Hill about three miles east of Tin Cup. It was opened in 1878, when the advertising of the richness of its ore brought miners and adventurers into the camp. The mine is worked by means of an incline tunnel.⁸ The tunnel has been driven into the mountain for a thousand feet. A network of drifts was extended from the main tunnel. Deep mining did not pay in this mine, as was also true in the other mines of the District; the veins lost much of the gold-bearing ore as depth was reached. In 1883 some of the ore from the mine shipped as high as 191 ounces in silver and seven ounces in gold. The same year a piece of ore weighing 227 pounds was sent to the company office in New York; this piece was estimated to contain more than \$100 in silver. The Gold Cup consistently remained a producer until 1891. Since that time very little ore has been shipped, though at frequent intervals crews of men have carried on development work. A great deal of the work of the mine was carried on by Captain T. G. Hall, one of the original locators of the mine. Later Robinson and Andrew Lejune, as superintendents of the Gold Cup, directed the work.

The Jimmy Mack, the second largest producer of the Tin Cup District, is located on Gold Hill. The Mack was worked through an incline shaft. A whim was used in hoisting until 1889; in that year a fifteen horsepower electric hoist was installed. In 1883 the mine was 120 feet in depth; when it closed down in 1893 it had reached a depth of 515 feet and seven drifts had been extended from the shaft. Simeon Irie was one of the last foremen

⁸The tunnel of the Gold Cup was driven on the original Springfield property once owned by Simeon Irie. Mr. Irie now lives in Pitkin, Colorado. He lived in Tin Cup from 1880 to 1893. He came to Pitkin in 1901, after having spent eight years in Cripple Creek, Colo.

to have charge of the mine. He will whisper to you that there is some ore on the upper levels; this you might find if you are willing to do a little prospecting. Ore from this mine has shipped as high as \$500 a ton. During a considerable period of time ten tons of ore were produced daily.⁹

The El Capitan on Gold Hill produced considerable quantities of ore. The Anna Dedricka on Anna Mountain early became famous for the 2,800-pound piece of ore that was shipped to the Colorado Mining Exposition at Denver in 1882. This piece of ore was valued at a little less than \$500.

The G. Z., located by Joe Taylor in 1880, was located just south of the Jimmy Mack. This mine produced some valuable ore. Others that produced some ore were the Little Glasgow, the Silver Cup, the Tin Cup and the Mary Mathers.

The ores found in the Tin Cup District were usually in complex metallic compounds. This made them difficult to smelt, which in turn made treatment charges relatively expensive. Various carbonates, sulphurates and chlorides were common. The ores were often mixtures of gold, silver, lead, iron, copper or still other metallic compounds. To add to this problem there was the added expense in getting the ore to the smelters. Ore necessarily had to carry values to exceed \$30 a ton in order to be paying ore. Even with so high a value, veins had to be large so as to lessen the cost of production.

It was necessary to have the ore hauled out by the best possible means so that it could be shipped to smelters in Leadville, Pueblo or Denver. The method of transportation usually used in 1879 and 1880 was the pack-saddle on an indolent burro. By means of these strong-backed and sure-footed little animals, the high grade ore was taken to St. Elmo, Colorado, a distance of twelve miles. From St. Elmo it was hauled by wagon or sleigh to Alpine, Colorado; then it was loaded into cars for shipment to the smelters. By 1881 the South Park Railway had extended as far as St. Elmo, thus making a shorter haul. As the production of the mines became heavier, a toll road was built. Over this road a six-horse team hauled the ore. The toll for each wagon load was \$3.50. In 1882 the South Park Railway was extended to Quartz, Pitkin and on to Gunnison. As soon as this connection was made most of the ore was hauled by wagon in summer and sleigh in winter to Quartz. This haul, being a distance of about

⁹In connection with the Jimmy Mack was a smelter operated by C. F. Abbey. The smelter was brought into Tin Cup and set up ready to work late in the winter of 1881. The little village of Abbeyville grew up about the smelter. More than one hundred men were on the payroll. The camp did not produce enough to make the smelter pay; it closed down in 1883. Later, Abbey became interested in the Emma mine at Aspen, Colorado. While on a business trip to New York, he had the misfortune to fall down an elevator shaft and was killed.

ten miles from the producing mines, was shorter than the haul to St. Elmo. A great deal of the passenger traffic, commercial freighting and the mail continued to come from St. Elmo, as this route made a quicker connection with eastern points.

Tin Cup became a connecting link on the road from St. Elmo to Aspen, Colorado. The daily stage from St. Elmo was a fine Concord coach drawn by six spirited horses. Passengers paid \$3.50 for the ride of twelve miles, and sometimes all passengers walked or both walked and pushed. The stage would bring its passengers to the Pacific House, owned by John Weston; here new passengers would take the stage for points in Taylor Park or still farther on to Aspen, Colorado.

Winter added to the hardships of travel; movement into or out of the District was restricted by the deep snows. The mail continued to come in daily until 1912. Alex Parrent carried the mail into Tin Cup for several years. A toboggan was drawn over the snow; as the snow deepened the trail became packed and the horse and the toboggan traveled on top of the drifts. Great skill was required by the driver and the horse. Woe betide the luckless horse if he should miss the beaten trail and cover himself in the deep snow. With considerable digging and great effort the horse could be brought back again upon the beaten path. However, these mishaps were not frequent; through the swirling and drifting snow caused by the high winds the United States mail continued to go into and out of Tin Cup.

The social conditions in Tin Cup were about the same as those in similar mining towns. There were those who sought the best things for themselves and the camp, also those who were there to get all they could by any means they chose to use. The town had its saloons with gambling tables, its dance halls with their frivolity. It also had its schools and its lodges. The first school was built in 1879; the second and last school was built in 1882. The doors of this school were not closed until 1912. The Masonic Lodge, No. 52, A. F. & A. M., carried on in those early days its work of brotherly love, charity and cooperation. This lodge was especially active; it had a large membership for the size of the town and a hall that a larger town could well be proud of possessing.

An interesting partisanship is shown at the community cemetery. This was located just over the hill south of the town. Four separate knolls were designated in this plot of a few acres. These were the Community, Jewish, Catholic and Boot divisions. The last was especially designed to be the final resting place for those who died gloriously or otherwise in the thick of the smoke from guns. These escapades were not altogether uncommon in the

camp. The life of the earlier marshals would not be a source of envy for an ordinary minded person.

By 1884 the interest and enthusiasm in the mining game was waning in Tin Cup. The small number of producing mines could not put on crews large enough to keep up the old time payroll. Ruby Camp, Gothic, Tomichi and Aspen had called away the wandering prospector to renew that zest and undying faith in the possibilities of really making a strike. In 1886 Tin Cup could only boast of 400 inhabitants; these were connected with such mines as the Gold Cup, the Jimmy Mack, the G. Z., the Silver Cup and the Anna Dedricka. The stage still ran daily through to Aspen, but the passengers who stopped over in Tin Cup were ever in decreasing numbers.

Those in the camp during this period still believed in the possibilities of the choice locations. Mr. Andrew Lejune still directed the work of the Gold Cup and the mine yielded some of the precious metal. Mr. S. G. Devenish, the only banker in Tin Cup in 1887, carried on the activities of banking and took part in the financial partnerships of likely prospects. No individual was of more help to the miners than Dr. MacGowan, who cheered them when they were discouraged and assisted them through sickness back to health.

The camp seemed doomed; even the newspapers¹⁰ with their characteristic enthusiasm could not bring back the good old days. The miner as he followed the veins deeper into the earth found the gold content lessening and a larger per cent of silver. The end came quickly in 1893 with the depreciation of silver. Silver that at one time would demand a value of \$1.27 per ounce now could not be sold for \$0.70 an ounce. The mines closed down and it seemed that the town of Tin Cup was doomed.

The Gold Cup mine still continued to attract the prospector and the investor. It was now necessary to find an ore that would carry itself primarily through its gold content. It seemed that by 1900 Tin Cup would be another ghost town of the Rockies, but by 1904 the craze for gold and a renewed faith in the camp started a second boom. This time large capital, especially large stock companies, became interested in developing the mines. New life came into the old town; 2,000 people again could be found in the revived camp. However, gold could not be found in paying quantities and the companies finally went broke or became discouraged and sought other places for investment. By 1910 much

¹⁰The *Hillerton Occident* was the first paper in Gunnison County. The *Garfield Banner*, edited by Colter in Garfield, later came into Tin Cup as the *Tin Cup Banner*. The *Tin Cup Record* was early published by Colonel Violet. Mr. Fredrick was one of the last editors of a Tin Cup paper. The last paper edited was the *Tin Cup Times*. Mr. Lore was the editor of this paper in 1896.

of the work had ceased and by 1912 the camp was virtually deserted.

The larger companies that carried on work during the later boom were the Brunswick Milling and Mining Company, that carried on the project of extending the Blistered Horn Tunnel sixteen hundred feet to reach the Jimmy Mack vein; the Woods Mining Company, under the control of C. F. Judy, that carried on development of the Pieplant mine; the Enterprise Gold Mining Company, that worked as many as twenty men on No. 3 shaft of the Enterprise mine. The West Gold Hill Mining Company worked as many as ten men on the Gold Cup and erected a fifty-ton mill and a sawmill; the Forest Hill Consolidated Mining Company directed and carried on extensive workings; the Columbine Gold Dredging Company carried on a placer project, but this failed to bring substantial returns. Many of the prospects produced valuable ore, but not in quantities large enough to pay.

The last boom has passed. The great establishments of Neiderhut, Gallagher and the gay past of Frenchy's Place are obliterated by healing fire. Each summer Mr. Neiderhut and his wife return to Tin Cup to enjoy the climate and to, in part, live over the past. The hotel and cottages attract the tourist, who comes to fish and enjoy the cool mountain breezes.

But what of winter in Tin Cup? It is the true ghost town of the Rockies. The snow swirls down through the little park, yet no paths are broken. Ghosts need no paths, the eternal quietness of the cold mountain winter brings a silence deep, beautiful and lasting. Perhaps in the dead of winter those courageous men and women who rest in the quiet cemetery over the hill stalk through the silent village, enjoying life this side of hereafter. Will the town boom again? We do not know. If silver could come back into its own, the ghost town of Tin Cup would in a measure enjoy a new life.
