

THE COLORADO MAGAZINE

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NO. 2

Colorado's Golden Jubilee

An Address by His Excellency, William E. Sweet, Governor of Colorado*

It is very gratifying, indeed, that so representative a group of Colorado's citizens has met to consider the question of celebrating in 1926 the fiftieth anniversary of the state's admission into the Union.

As you well know, the first exploration of Colorado was made by the Spaniards. As early as 1550 they had explored the region from the Mississippi River as far west as Colorado.

In 1761 a search for gold was made in the present San Juan section of Colorado, a district which has since added many millions of dollars to the nation's wealth.

About 1773 Father Serra, in charge of the Spanish Missions in California, urged that a road be built from Santa Fe to his missions, and in 1776 Father Escalante was given authority to head such an expedition into California. His exploring party started on its journey in a northwesterly direction and entered what is now Archuleta County, in this state, on August 5, 1776. They gave to their encampment the beautiful name of "Our Lady of the Snows", which was doubtless suggested by the snow-capped peaks of the San Juan range. In this same year the Thirteen Colonies declared their independence of Great Britain. Exactly one hundred years later, Colorado, the Centennial State, was admitted to the Union.

Fifty years is a very brief time in the history of most states, but when a state has accomplished as much as Colorado has, in fifty years, then its golden anniversary becomes an occasion worthy of note.

The census of 1870 gave Colorado a population of 39,864; Denver had 4,759. Compton's Guide to Colorado, a reliable

*Delivered in the House of Representatives Chamber, December 15, to a group of representatives meeting in response to the call published on page 51.

source of information, states that Colorado Springs had 40 people in 1871 and Pueblo had 400 in 1869.

John L. Routt was the Territorial Governor when Colorado was admitted to the Union. The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad was completed to Canon City in 1874 and to La Veta on July 4, 1876. Manitou was our only pleasure resort. As a child, I lived in Colorado Springs and one of my earliest recollections is drinking the water of the soda and iron springs which we used to carry away in stone jugs. At that time small bands of Utes and Arapahoes roved the mountains and plains and they occasionally gave us a scare, just to let the "pale faces" know that they were still around.

But it is not my purpose to indulge in reminiscences, for doubtless there are those in this chamber whose residence in Colorado extends back to the 60's, even to the time of the gold excitement, to the days of the scout, the pony express and the stage coach. The portrayal of these events will give to our proposed celebration a romantic interest to be found only in the far west.

The people of Colorado can well be proud of its development in the past fifty years. Her railroads lead up the water courses and down over the passes and in 1926 her rails of steel will have pierced the main range of the Rockies.

Our mountain torrents have been made to furnish electric energy with which to light our cities and drive the wheels of industry. Thousands of square miles of desert land, on which the cactus, sage brush and soap weed were the only signs of vegetation, have been made to blossom like the rose as a result of our modern irrigation methods. Colorado has produced millions of dollars' worth of precious metals. Our mining men with undaunted faith agree that with new processes of ore reduction now being developed, Colorado will again take her place as a leading mining state.

Colorado possesses the greatest deposits of coal of any state west of Pennsylvania. In 1876 we produced 117,666 tons of coal, while in 1922 the production was 10,003,610 tons, for a constantly widening market.

In a very notable address Vice-President Baldwin of the Burlington Railroad recently said that they were led to locate their new shops in Denver because people like to live in Denver. What is true of the Capital City is likewise true of the whole state. What man who has ever lived in Colorado and been absent any length of time does not eagerly look forward to the time when he can return? Our wonderful sunshine is more golden than that of

any other place in the world, because we are a mile nearer its source. No other state affords such a playground as Colorado with its hunting, fishing, mountain climbing and auto touring. Her snow-capped peaks lure the tourist and traveler in America, as do Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn in Europe.

The form that Colorado's Golden Jubilee shall take, if it is decided to have such a celebration, may well be left to the judgment of the people of the entire state. Those who are responsible for this meeting have no plans to thrust upon you. However, such a celebration should be dignified, broad and comprehensive in its plans and purposes and in every way worthy of the occasion. Many excellent ideas have already been advanced and I am sure that many more will be forthcoming. With the whole state acting together we shall know neither north nor south, neither east nor west—just COLORADO.

CALL ISSUED BY THE GOVERNOR

Dear Sir:

The fiftieth anniversary of the admission of Colorado to statehood will be August 1, 1926. It is hoped that the Moffat Tunnel will be completed in that year. Recently I invited about twenty representative Denver men to meet with me and discuss the question as to whether a fitting celebration of these events should be held. A temporary committee, consisting of the following gentlemen, was appointed to decide upon those to be invited to a meeting for the discussion of the project and, if approved, to decide upon the kind of celebration and form a permanent organization for the carrying out of the plan:

Cass E. Herrington, Chairman	A. B. Trott
Charles A. Johnson	Clare Stannard
Clifford C. Parks	Calvin Morse

You are cordially invited to be present at a meeting to be held on Saturday, December 15, at 2:00 p. m., in the House of Representatives, in the Capitol Building, for the consideration of these questions.

The committee suggests that the name "Colorado Golden Jubilee" be adopted. No decision on this or any other question has been made. The committee desires that if the event is commemorated, it shall be in a manner thoroughly representative of and satisfactory to the citizens of the entire state. Invitations to the proposed meeting have been sent to the mayors of all cities and the presidents of all commercial organizations in Colorado.

The Brown Palace Hotel has invited the delegates to a complimentary banquet to be given by the hotel on December 15, at 6:30 p. m., after the meeting held at 3:00 p. m.

In case the mayor of any city or the president of any commercial organization finds it impossible to be present, he is requested to select someone to attend in his place.

The committee will make suggestions at this meeting as to how all parts of the state may share in this state-wide celebration. It is hoped that every section of the state will be represented so that the Jubilee, if held, may be enthusiastically participated in by every citizen of the state.

Will you have the kindness to write to my secretary, Hale Smith, at the earliest possible moment, whether you will be present at this meeting and banquet or, if it is impossible for you to attend in person, the name of the man who will attend in your place?

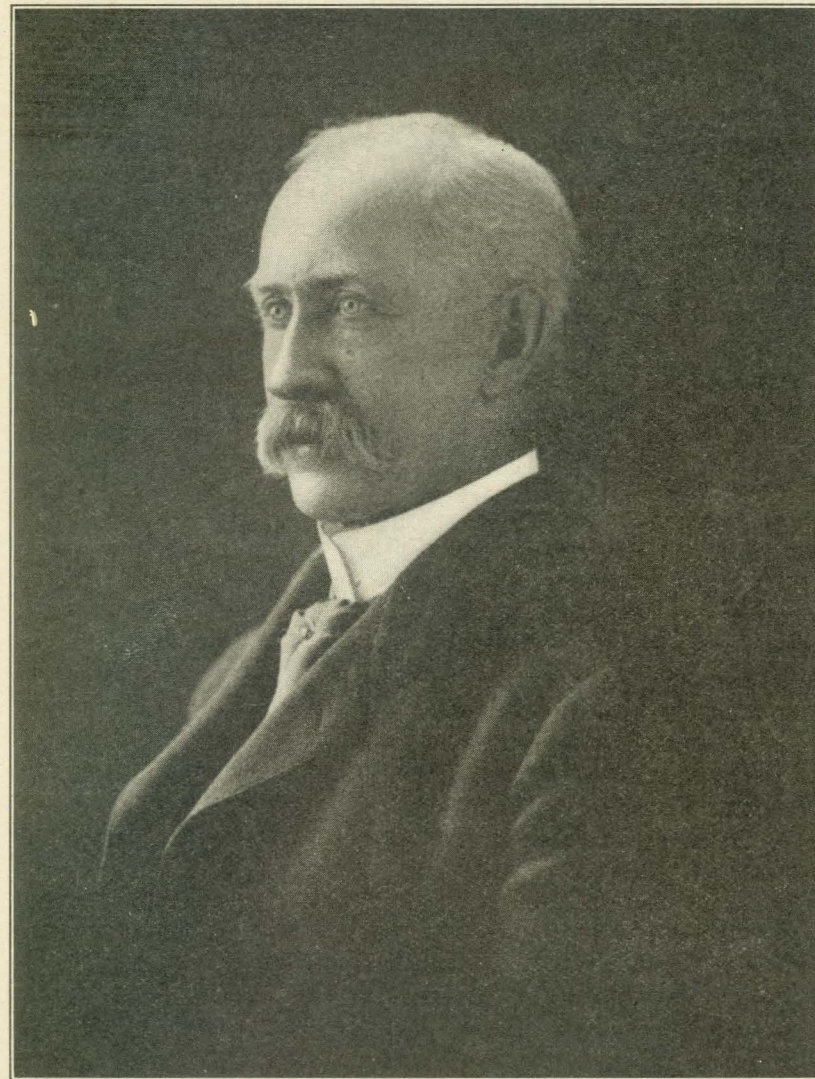
Very truly yours,
WILLIAM E. SWEET.

Hugh R. Steele

There's a vacant chair down in the Pioneer rooms, for the secretary, Senator Hugh R. Steele, has "passed over the range" into the Great Beyond.

Mr. Steele had suffered for nearly a year from a complication of diseases that kept him confined to his bed. His condition had been of such a serious nature that the end was anticipated by relatives and friends at any time during the past summer months.

The old settlers that assembled daily at Pioneer headquarters in the Charles Building were a happy lot, each in turn relating his hair-breadth escapes from the Indians, floods, and prairie fires, and each describing his bear hunts, and more particularly his experiences during the first great gold strikes. Steele was a good story-teller, and his many experiences as a boy up in the mountains in the little town of Empire were highly interesting. The writer of this article attended school with him in Empire in the early 60's; his brother, Charles, and two sisters, Cornelia and Mary, also attended the same school during that period. One of the latter, Miss Mary Steele, is now living in Denver at the old home on Umatilla Street; and it was the faithful attendance and tender care given by this sister during the many months prior to his passing away that gave to her brother great relief.



Hugh Ribison Steele

Hugh Ribison Steele, the oldest child of Robert W. and Susanna Nevin Steele, was born July 1, 1849, in Fairfield, Iowa. He came across the plains with his parents in a covered wagon drawn by horses, arriving in Denver, May 24, 1860. Within less than two years the members of the family moved to Empire, where they lived two or three years, his father, R. W. Steele, having been appointed Provisional Governor of the Territory of Jefferson, now the State of Colorado. With the exception of about ten years, from 1865 to 1879, during which time he attended school in Iowa and Missouri, Mr. Steele spent his whole life in Colorado. He lived at short intervals at different times at Georgetown, Breckenridge, Montezuma, and at Cripple Creek, where he served as mayor in the 90's.

The major part of his years were spent in Denver, where he was widely known and had many friends. For the last fifteen years he was secretary of the Society of Colorado Pioneers. He was a worthy and patriotic American, with an exceptionally bright mind.

In 1917 he was elected to the lower house of the Colorado General Assembly, where he served two terms. Then followed his election by a large majority to the State Senate, where he was a member at the time of his death, November 2, 1923. On that sad and memorable occasion, national and state flags were displayed at half mast in recognition of his worth and services. His interest in the welfare of his state was intense to the last moment of his life. Every measure in the legislature pertaining to the growth and development of the community in which he lived, was carefully studied by him, and received his support or opposition in accordance with his viewpoint of state benefit. His work and speeches in the two houses were of inestimable value among his co-laborers, and their influence will reach far into the future. When the Moffat Tunnel is completed, and the State of Colorado has become a great central point in transportation between the East and the West, the Steele Bill, championed by this honored senator, will be one of the objects to which the people of the state will look with pride in connection with that great railroad enterprise.

Senator Steele was elected to the Board of Directors of the State Historical and Natural History Society in 1916, and served in that capacity till the day of his death. Since his whole life, from early childhood, had been closely interwoven with public affairs, and his acquaintanceship with men and measures of his adopted state ran back over a period of sixty years, his opinions and advice in matters pertaining to the interests of the Society

were of inestimable value in Board meetings and councils. The Society which this Magazine represents holds in highest regard and kindest remembrance the life and services of this beloved citizen and pioneer.

CLARENCE E. HAGAR,
Secretary of the Society of Colorado Pioneers.

**Resolutions of Respect Appertaining to the Demise of
Hugh R. Steele**

Adopted by the State Historical and Natural History Society of
Colorado, November 17, 1923

WHEREAS, Death has recently entered the ranks of the State Historical and Natural History Society, removing a most useful and distinguished official, and

WHEREAS, We, the body of directors of which the deceased was an esteemed member, desire, in recognition of his character and services, to express our appreciation of him and his accomplishments; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That his remarkably close relationship with our commonwealth, reaching back to its initiatory stages, with his own parent as highest executive; his later important business relationship with originators and moulders of industrial ventures; his valuable services and unflinching devotion to the group of fraternal pioneers to whose interests and welfare he gave so many years of his life, as secretary; and finally his outstanding honorable career in the two legislative chambers of his adopted state,—all combine to make his long and useful life a pattern to be pointed to with pride by his fellow citizens and retained as a precious memory by his friends and kindred.

RESOLVED, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the relatives of the deceased and another be placed among the records of the Society.

A. J. FYNN,

E. M. AMMONS,

WM. G. EVANS,

Committee on Resolutions.

A Side Glance At Early Colorado History

BY A. J. FYNN, DENVER, COLORADO

No one, for a very great length of time, can trace the history of Colorado without being impressed by those many external and indirect agencies which both helped and hindered the establishment and growth of the state. It is commonplace enough to assert that a fragment of history, literature, or art, must be examined and judged in the light of contemporaneous conditions in order to have justice done to the object or event under consideration. As a caution ever to be kept in mind by writer, reader, and critic, the experiences of far remote ages caused to be coined a significant and trustworthy phrase, "Remember the times".

Colorado stands out as a striking example of the necessity for such consideration. Few, if any, of our other commonwealths could reveal so much of the spectacular, so much of the unpredictable, so much of the incidentally important. No state of the Union has been more aided or buffeted by circumstances. Innumerable influences focusing from all directions, influences contemporaneously little heeded and often entirely disregarded or unknown, have contributed immensely to the vicissitudinal career of this great western state. Its geographical centrality, elevation, and variety of surface features attract the attention of everybody; but the "times and circumstances", less understood but no less vital, deserve material consideration.

Colorado has been a state of this Union for less than fifty years, a period of time somewhat less than half of the days of our Republic; but the territory of which it is composed was traversed by white men two decades before the Mayflower sailed into Plymouth Bay. Its statehood period, therefore, is a comparatively short part and the less spectacular part of its history. Many of the streams of an incidental nature, which have contributed largely to the flood of Rocky Mountain history, have remained comparatively unnoticed on account of the larger, more conspicuous, and easily observable currents.

Colorado historians generally have given a casual glance at the "Panic of 1857", but the significance of that event as a contributing factor to the initiatory activities of the state has not been duly recognized. Without attempting to maximize or minimize the relative influence of that important episode in comparison with the numerous other direct and indirect instrumentalities connected with the trend of events, a brief review of those times and conditions may not be amiss.

Before the middle of the nineteenth century, panics were not unknown to the people of the United States. Financial disturbances, nation-wide and local, had appeared at intervals and disappeared when the causes for them had disappeared. The origins of the interruptions in business circles in 1857 were similar to those of previous years. The social and political life of the nation was at fever heat during those eventful times. The great West was especially much noticed. In 1850 the Mexican War had just closed, and adjoining territory more or less associated with it had flashed into view as a field over which fierce forensic battles were to be waged at the National Capital for many years to come. California, which had recently experienced stormy times and had become a state in the mid-century year, was attracting the attention of the world with the products of its newly found gold fields. Fremont was in the midst of his continent-crossing expeditions, and was destined soon to become an aspirant for the Presidency of the United States. The compromises of 1850, the enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law, the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, and the heated election that gave Buchanan the Presidency, followed one another in rapid succession.

During the first six years of the half century, beginning with 1850, a season of unusual prosperity prevailed. Year after year customs revenue increased rapidly and the surplus in the National Treasury grew to be an immense pile. From the time when Franklin Pierce took the oath of office as President in 1853, to the first summer of Buchanan's administration in 1857, the national debt had decreased from sixty-nine million to twenty-nine million dollars. During the seven years, from 1850 to 1857, imports increased from one hundred and seventy-eight millions to three hundred and sixty millions, and exports from one hundred and thirty-seven millions to three hundred and thirty-eight millions. The tonnage of shipping across the oceans and along the coasts of the Western Hemisphere increased marvelously.

Of course, the financial institutions of the country were on the alert. The state banks, especially, saw their opportunities, and increased from eight hundred and fourteen in 1850 to fourteen hundred and sixteen in 1857. Their capital and their loans kept pace with their growth in numbers. The California mining fields held the center of the stage in the realm of precious metal productions, and almost fifteen million dollars in gold were added to the coinage during each of those eventful years. Bills were passed regulating the relative value of foreign coins, and much confusion and annoyance were brushed aside by creating con-

venience in the handling of United States money, through the rapid sinking out of circulation of the troublesome, variously valued mediums of exchange. In those fitful years there were many portentous clouds, but the skies above the business centers seemed serene.

This fortune-smiling period, however, was greatly overdone in the way of business enterprises, and prosperity was actually more imaginary than real. Everybody was anxious to get rich, and all sorts of reckless money-borrowing schemes were inaugurated. Legitimate business moved along at a break-neck pace, but was incontestably outrun by unwarranted speculation. Steamship lines were put into operation when trade did not justify their existence. Thousands of miles of railroads were built through sparsely settled and unpromising regions. The increased means of transportation stimulated the introduction of manufacturing, with no markets in sight; and so one enterprise, depending upon the success of another, built its ropes of sand and erected its air castles. On the first of January, 1856, railroad reports showed that, during the previous five years, the increase has grown from eight thousand six hundred to twenty thousand seven hundred and sixty miles. Wildest speculations, big and little, were entered into with all the assurance of certainty, although no money was in sight. Like the young lawyer in Will Carleton's poem, everybody "was living on what he expected to do".

The result of this kind of financing could not be long in doubt. Distrust and fear arose in a night, like two specters. An appeal for money burst forth all over the country, but the appeal was in vain. Cash was withdrawn and closeted. Railroad stocks became a glut on the market. Even the soundest roads of the country felt the collapse and experienced the results of the recent foolishness. As examples, the six per cent stock of the New York Central Railroad dropped to eighty-five. The seven per cent stock of the Illinois Central Railroad was sold at sixty-two. Wild-cat banks went out of commission like bicycle tires running over carpet tacks. Wall Street was in a panic. Banks and bankers, big commercial houses, and smaller enterprises by the dozens, were swept to ruin daily. A shock went over the whole country when the Ohio Life and Trust Company of Cincinnati failed in August, 1857, for seven million dollars. Big, long-established banks, one after another, closed their doors. Manufacturing plants in New England, produce establishments in the middle states, and cotton houses in the southern cities, suspended business. As the fall and winter of that year approached, thousands of laborers were thrown out of employment or were given work

for only a small percentage of the time. Temporary plans were instituted to relieve the situation. Donations were made liberally to stem the tide of suffering. The situation was not improved by the wild-eyed agitators who took the occasion to condemn the government and abuse its best citizens.

During those distressing days, a whisper of relief from any source was listened to with eager attention. Men from every occupation of ordinary life were among the sufferers. Former employers and employees, college graduates and ditch-diggers, stood side by side among the great throngs on the street corners and along the country byways, looking for something to do.

It has already been noticed that the great but comparatively little exploited West, especially the great Middle West, had suffered intensely by the recent run of events. During that memorable fall, poor farmers west of the Alleghanies moved about in the midst of their piles of produce and wept like children, as they had no money to pay for shipments. Paralysis seized the lines of transportation. Within a month fourteen railroads, mostly trans-Alleghanian, collapsed.

While business, on the Atlantic seaboard especially, revived somewhat during the winter, the great masses of sufferers felt little relief. Reports of gold in the Rocky Mountains had been scattered over the country to a greater or less extent since the beginning of the opening of California mines; but those reports had been vague and only half trustworthy. With the experiences of six months of bankruptcy and suffering behind them, it is natural that the victims of those reverses should listen with more credulity than ever before to the half fabulous accounts that had been borne across the plains to the lands of the rising sun. One easily recalls how, in 1629, notable bodies of immigrants flocked to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, for, after the dismissal of Parliament by Charles I, the conditions of England were repellent to the Puritans; but, by 1641, the influx had almost ceased, as the Cromwellians were practically masters of the situation, and for nearly twenty years this improved condition held them to their native land. So, in the later fifties, a strong repellent force existed on the lands between the Atlantic and the Mississippi, and any favorable winds from the West would be listened to with eagerness. Mr. Smiley, in his History of Denver, admirably expresses this state of affairs: "It is probable that had conditions in the states been different at that time, there would have been no such streams of eager, visionary humanity flowing across the plains to a region in which fancies, growing out of these fabulous stories, and pictured golden fortunes lying await for everybody

who would or could come here and take possession of them." Let us keep in mind that this remark applies to the time immediately after the breaking out of the panic and before the discoveries of the Russell brothers in June of the following year.

The story of the Russell brothers accompanied by their band of Cherokee Indians is well known. In the early summer of 1858 gold in paying quantities was found in Dry Creek, near the present site of Denver, and, with the repellent conditions to the east of the Mississippi and the lure of the most notable and precious metal utilized by the human race in the regions of the Rockies, it is no wonder that the plains were crossed by a hundred thousand men, in 1859, before the snows of winter were settling on the flanks of the Great Divide. That immense throng of eager travelers presented a remarkable variety, but among them were multitudes of the best of humanity whom fortune had recently forsaken but who dauntlessly plunged into the wilds of a strange land to retrieve, under new skies, new fortunes and to build a glorious commonwealth. Their names are perpetuated by mountains, streams, and lakes, by streets of our cities and costly edifices along them, and by institutions scattered here and there over Colorado plains, plateaus, and towering ranges.

The Old-Time Prospector

(Interview with Dan O'Connell by Thomas F. Dawson for the State Historical and Natural History Society of Colorado, Denver, April 2, 1923.)

Time was, and not so very long ago, that when you would find two old-time prospectors together you would hear a conversation something like this:

"Have you been to Aspen?"

"To be sure I have; everybody goes to Aspen."

"And have you met Jumbo, the gambler?"

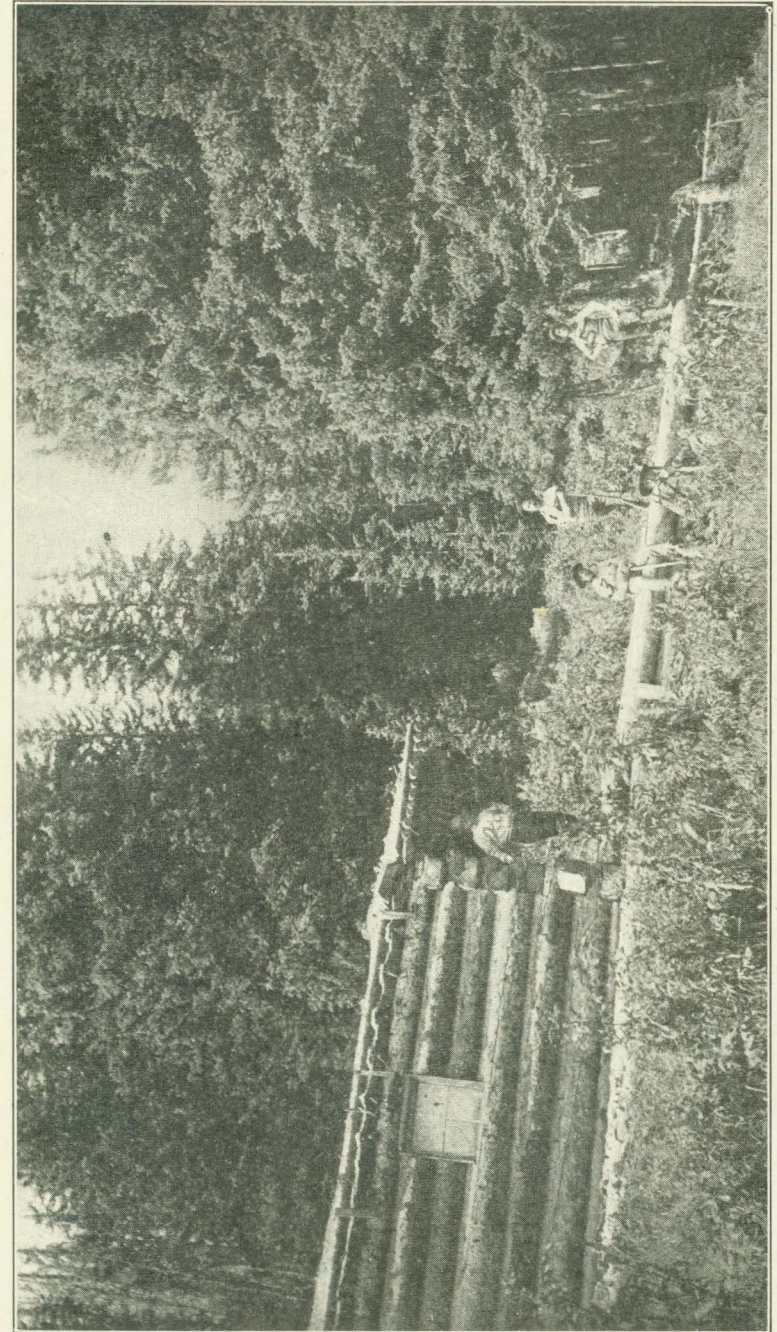
"Assuredly."

"And Danny the prospector?"

"Never."

"Then you haven't been to Aspen."

"Danny" is Dan O'Connell. He is still "Danny the Prospector", and one of the few of the old kind left. He is a fit representative of a class which has had much to do in developing the mineral resources of the state, and when he came into my office in the State Historical and Natural History Society today I asked him a few questions for the purpose of drawing out and



Dan O'Connell's Cabin, Porphyry Mountain, 12 Miles North of Aspen, About 1898. 1. Dan O'Connell. 2. Jim Fleming. 3. Henry Kniff. 4. Dutch Henry. 5. Tom Llewellyn.

preserving some facts regarding his calling. Many causes have conspired in recent years to produce a cessation of activity on the part of the prospector, and there are those who predict that the time will come when he will no longer be known in the land, which God forbid.

Mr. O'Connell is a son of the late Patrick O'Connell. He was born in Missouri in 1859 but came to Colorado in 1863, living in Denver for several years during his boyhood, not, however, longer than was necessary to bring him to an age when he could earn his own way in the mountains. He has been a prospector since he was fifteen years of age, or for more than half a century, and is still going strong in that line. He is known everywhere as "Danny the Prospector" and he is proud of the title. When he is not called "Danny" he is addressed as "Dan" and his visiting cards are engraved "Dan O'Connell". He spends much of his time in winter in Denver, but his home is at Alma in Park County. At Alma he has made his headquarters since 1905, but for some years previous to that time he called Aspen home. Even in Denver to this day he wears top boots and presents the appearance of a man of the out-of-doors.

But pshaw! no pent-up town could have held Dan O'Connell during all these years! He was fourteen years old when he made his first expedition into the mountains. He went from Denver with a friend of the family, named Frank Hall, who had a horse and wagon. He was chosen for the expedition because of his love of the wild life. Strangely enough Danny's first ramblings with Mr. Hall took him to Park County and he was a party to the selection of the townsite of Alma, where he now makes his home. That was in 1873. The couple found themselves in Fairplay, the county seat of Park County. For some reason—Mr. O'Connell does not remember what—Mr. Hall was engaged by some men in Fairplay, of whom O'Connell thinks Judge Pease was the leader, to proceed to the mouth of Buckskin Joe Gulch, six miles above, and hold the place as a townsite until it could be occupied as such, and this they did without difficulty.

Mr. O'Connell says that when he was first on the Alma site it was the center of a prosperous and populous region. There were several good villages in the neighborhood, including Fairplay, Dudley, Quartzville and Hamilton, and such mines as the Moose and the Dollie Varden were running full blast. The townsite was only two miles down the gulch from the location of the even then long abandoned town of Buckskin Joe, which once held its five thousand or more gold seekers. It was known to be a rich region and it was believed that the location was an

auspicious one. However, he says, "I was then too young to pay attention to such matters. After wandering over South Park for some time with Hall, I came back home, but I had got the fever. Nothing could keep me out of the mountains long after that, and the next spring saw me out on my own hook."

The tellurium boom was just beginning in Boulder County and young O'Connell caught the fever. That was the spring of 1874 and he was just fifteen years old. Then began the man's career as a roamer of the hills in search of treasure, and he has been so engaged ever since. Business centered about Magnolia and Sunshine, but fortune did not favor the young man and he remained only one or two seasons in the tellurium camps. Reports from the San Juan country had begun to be enticing and he spent the summer of 1876 in that section, mining some and doing any odd job which presented itself. For instance, he and his brother plastered the first house ever plastered in Silverton. The early snows drove them out of Silverton, and after wandering about promiscuously during 1877, Dan was ready for the Leadville furore which began in 1878. The next year found him in Ten Mile. He was one of the three thousand who participated in the Mount Pisgah mine salting boom. After many wanderings he drifted back to Alma, then to Ruby City and after that worked back and forth between Park County and Pitkin County, making his home either in Aspen or Alma. In the meantime he paid visits to Breckenridge and worked down the Blue. In short, he went everywhere that "finds" led him. At last he settled down in Alma and there he now spends his time combing the adjacent hills.

"It is a wonderful region," he says. "If Mount Bross, Mount Lincoln, Loveland Mountain and Pennsylvania Mountain with their mines were in Leadville or some other well developed camp where there are ore-treating facilities, there would be ten thousand men working. I would bet my life on the camp and I mean to stay with it in confidence that it will come to be appreciated some day. We have both lode and placer gold mines and in addition to the gold, the veins produce silver and lead and some copper."

Mr. O'Connell is the owner of two promising claims situated just above old Buckskin Joe, and he expresses confidence that they will add appreciably to the world's wealth in time.

O'Connell does not profess great personal knowledge of old-time conditions in the Alma section. He says, however, that when he first went there in 1873 mining was in a comparatively flourishing condition. The establishment of the business in the section generally—the section near the head of the Platte and

Mount Bross and Mount Lincoln—was due to the discovery of the mines in Buckskin Joe Gulch and around the old and long since abandoned town of Montgomery. Of these mines the Phillips was the principal one and it was responsible for the creation of the town of Buckskin Joe which in the very early "sixties" was one of the largest centers of population in the territory. But even when Mr. O'Connell first entered the region Buckskin Joe and Montgomery were mere memories, as were also Tarryall and some other towns farther down in South Park. P. H. Stancell, one of the early owners of the Phillips, was still working the property, but he was practically the only resident. It was a great pocket which gave the Phillips its reputation and, when that was exhausted, the camp was abandoned by practically all of its people. Stancell still got returns from the vein and held on, and Mr. O'Connell says that even recently the mine has been worked on a lease.

Laurett was gone and practically forgotten. Dudley was much such a village as it is today. Hamilton was making some pretensions and Fairplay was flourishing. But Fairplay was not so very old. They were still telling of how the place was established at the expense of its neighbor, Hamilton. According to this story some of the founders of the latter town conceived themselves affronted by the treatment received from the leaders at Hamilton and moved onto the Platte in a body and staked out a new town. "Here," they said, "we'll have fair play."

"Fairplay! That's it."

And so they named it Fairplay and the name has held.

Alma began its existence soon after the locating visit of Hall and O'Connell. It got its name from the daughter of one of its first settlers. His surname was Jaynes, and the first proposition was to call it Jaynesville. To this selection there was some opposition. Not so when someone suggested that the honor be conferred on Mr. Jaynes's popular daughter Alma, which cognomen was accepted without demur.

Mr. O'Connell speaks with enthusiasm of the aspect of nature when he first went into the upper Platte country. South Park was entrancing, as always, and the mountain sides were resplendent in their robes of flowers and trees. The streams were crowded with trout and game was plentiful. In crossing Red Hill, he drove through a band of eight hundred antelope and there was an abundance of deer and elk in the wooded regions. Later and farther over in the hills he killed three silver tip bears within five minutes. They were a mother and two yearling cubs. He got all of them before they knew what was happening.

(To be continued.)

Further Archaeological Research in the Northeastern San Juan Basin of Colorado, During the Summer of 1922

BY J. A. JEANCON AND FRANK H. H. ROBERTS

Excavation Work in the Pagosa-Piedra Field During the Season of 1922

BY FRANK H. H. ROBERTS

(Continued from the November Number)

In the group of house remains lying 50 feet south of the first mound discussed is one of the circular depressions previously mentioned. The circle is entirely too large to have been a kiva, and from the work done at this point there was nothing to indicate its purpose. The remains of a cobblestone wall were uncovered on the west side of the circle, but there was no indication of flooring, no house dirt, or other remains to suggest the interior of a dwelling. The earth along the base of the wall showed signs of having been packed or tramped down for the purpose of making a smooth surface. This feature, together with the size, the fact that there were no signs of roofing, and no indications of use as a dwelling, has led to the tentative theory that these large depressions were simply enclosed dance plazas similar to those found in other localities. There are a number of rooms to the west of this depression which were established as living rooms or dwellings by the fact of the finding of house dirt, roofing material, bits of sherds, signs of walls, and a fireplace in one of them (Plate 6, upper right, Figure 3, D). The shape of the mound indicated that rooms had entirely surrounded this depression. In the report for the 1921 season Mr. Jeancon called attention to similar depressions reported from the Mimbres Valley in southwestern New Mexico and practically nothing more than has already been said can be added at this time.⁹

In going down the river to the other sites worked during the summer of 1922, one passes the Pargin Ranch tower and the Harlan Ranch pithouse, both excavated during the 1921 season (Sketch Map, Fig. 2, A and B). The Pargin Ranch tower may be briefly described in passing. It stands on the second bench

⁹Archaeological Research in the Northeastern San Juan Basin of Colorado During the Summer of 1921. Denver, 1922. Page 7.

above the river, is roughly 15 feet in diameter, and has walls which were constructed of cobblestones. From the amount of debris in and around the tower it would seem that it was not less than 10 feet in height and possibly more than that. A foundation of adobe had first been laid along the ground, forming the outline of the intended building, and the cobblestone wall built on this. Owing to the contour of the cobbles, which presented almost no extensive flat surfaces, and the fact that all of them had been more or less smoothed off by friction and rolling about the river bottoms, it was necessary to use large quantities of adobe mortar. As a result, the walls are unusually thick, being almost three feet across in places. While this building was circular in form there were no indications that it had ever been used as a kiva, and, from the fact that there were many potsherds of the cooking ware variety and a few crude stone articles found inside the walls as well as about the mound, it may be concluded that this was a dwelling.

The next point passed is that of the Harlan Ranch pithouse. This dwelling had contained six and probably eight rooms, all very small and irregular, the walls being built in part of cobblestones and in part of horizontally laid slabs. The cobblestones furnished the base for the slab walls. This feature will also be

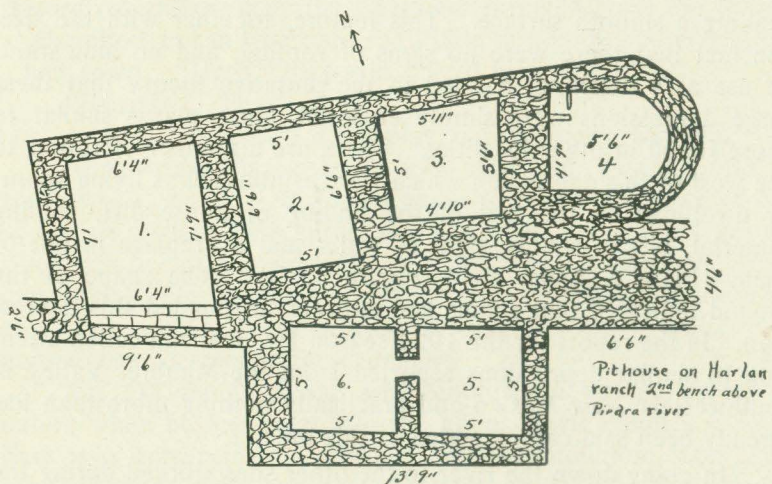


Figure 5. Harlan Pithouse

noticed in other structures, Piedra No. 1 and Piedra No. 2, of this region. There is a large central wall separating the two rows of rooms (Figure 5). Passing on down the river the two lower sites worked during the 1922 season are reached.

Piedra No. 1

This ruin is located at a distance of about two miles south of the No. 3 group described above and is situated on a similar bench to the east of the river. Piedra No. 1 is one of a group of mounds lying on a spur jutting out from the general elevation which terminates in the Piedra Parada or Chimney Rock mesa (Sketch Map). The weathering caused by the washing of surface water across this site made it impossible to determine the appearance

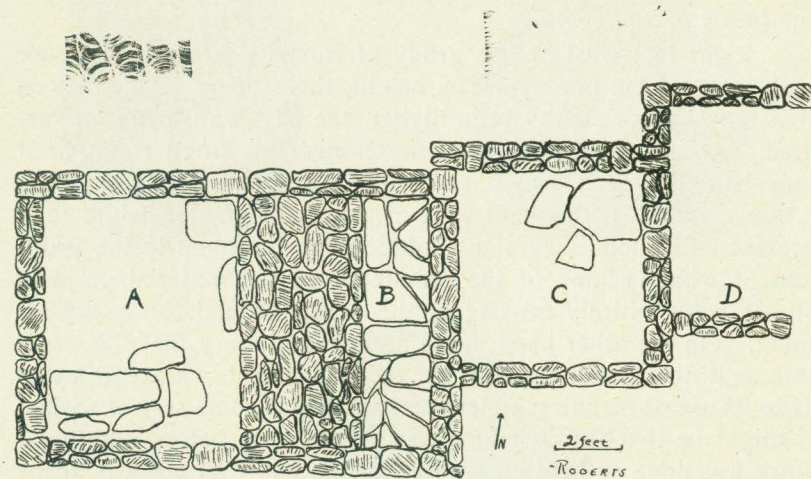
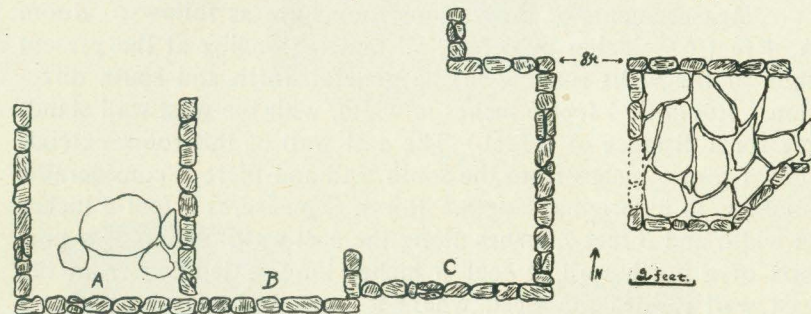


Figure 6

and entire extent of the original building. The north wall was entirely gone and portions of the other walls had also disappeared (Figure 6, upper).

The walls average between 6 and 7 inches in thickness, are of the slab type of construction, made of sandstone laid, in some cases, on a cobblestone foundation and, at other points, on an adobe base. At the highest portion now standing, they rise only 18 inches above the surface of the ground. The type of masonry here observed would place Piedra No. 1 in the group of houses

rather late in the chronology, in all probability group 5. Room A (Plate 6, lower left, Figure 6, upper) has cobble paving, while the small inclosure eight feet to the east was paved with slabs.

The debris which filled the rooms of this group consisted of burned material from the roof (not sufficient, however, to give an idea as to the type of roof construction), stones from the walls, drift sand, adobe from the plaster and roof, and a thin layer of ashes and charcoal lying on the floor.

Measurements of the various rooms are as follows: Room A, 4 feet 6½ inches by 6 feet, all that is standing at the present time of the walls running in the general north and south direction. Room B, 4 feet 6 inches in width, with the west wall standing for a distance of 6 feet. The east wall of this room extends only 1 foot 6 inches from the south wall and there is considerable doubt as to its original length. Room C measures 5 feet 4 inches in width and 6 feet 7 inches along the east wall. There is a portion of a north wall, 2 feet 6 inches long, extending from the east wall toward the west, where it turns and runs north for a distance of 2 feet. All of these measurements were taken from the inside of the rooms.

Eight feet west of this group of rooms is a small inclosure with walls of but one course in height, there being no indications that they had originally been higher, the east wall being obliterated. As has previously been mentioned this small room, if it may be called such, was paved with thin sandstone slabs (Plate 6, lower right). If the walls were originally of greater height than present indications suggest no solution can be found to the problem of what became of the remainder of the material, as wall stones were entirely missing in the debris around this compartment. On the other hand, if we accept the theory that the structure as it now stands presents the original height, we are at a loss as to its use or meaning, unless perhaps it was some sort of shrine. It might be that the structure was started and, before additional work was done or before completion, the entire group was abandoned, leaving the inclosure as found. The fact that there were no signs of use, no house dirt, no burned roofing material, no artifacts of any kind found in the excavation would support such a theory.

The inside measurements of this inclosure are: North wall, 3 feet 4 inches; west wall, 5 feet; south wall, 2 feet 5 inches; southeast wall, 1 foot 4 inches; and an extension of wall running east from this point, 1 foot 2 inches. The gap between the end of the north wall and the corner of the southeast wall and the small portion running east measures 3 feet 3½ inches.

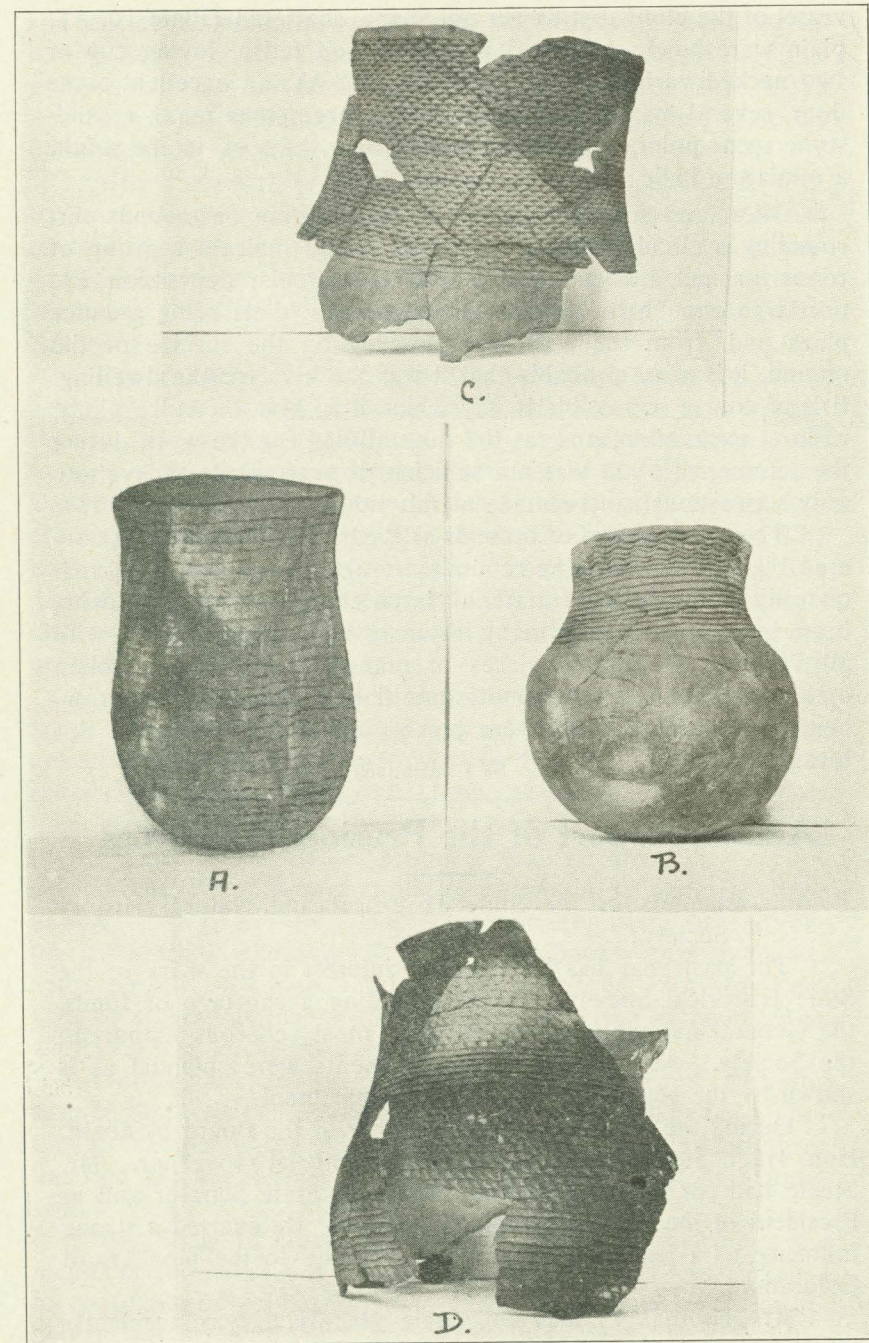


Plate 10. Coiled Ware

Artifacts found in this group of rooms consist of: coiled ware vessel of the elongated flower pot shape, shattered (Plate 10, A), plain ware bowl, shattered; petrified wood fetish, loving cup or two necked variety of pot (Plate 7, No. A), an excellent stone door, several manos, pecking stones, a large stone maul, a sandstone spear point, and several feet outside the ruin, to the south, a miniature ladle.

West and south of this ruin was a group of mounds surrounding a circular depression which would indicate a group of rooms around a kiva. In this case the circular depression was not large enough to warrant the suggestion of its being a dance plaza and, from the wall tops showing on the surface of the mound, it is more probable that it was the kiva for the dwelling. It is of course impossible to say which it is, kiva or dance plaza, without excavation, and, as the time allotted for the work during the summer of 1922 was not sufficient to warrant its excavation, only suggestions can be made at this time.

The entire group of mounds at Piedra No. 1 location is covered by sage brush. The mounds are also covered with a great quantity of burned roof material, large chunks of adobe showing beam impressions and in many instances the imprint of bark, with all varieties of sherds, pieces of manos, one or two broken metates, and a vast number of stone flakes. Several fine arrowheads and cutting edges were picked up on the surface at this locality.

(To Be Continued)