

Doc 344
76

Mr. & Mrs. Balmer 107
by
E. Cairns

ELIZABETH CAIRNS

Mr. and Mrs. William Balmer are old time residents of Denver and Pueblo. At present they are living at 519 Veta Avenue. Mr. Balmer is a retired steel-worker.

Mr. Balmer has not been in Pueblo as long as some of the other people I have talked with, but has seen the city grow from a mere settlement down on the river bottom to a widely scattered population. He was very amused when he told me that he remembered an advertisement which came out about 1900, stating that the population of Pueblo was 60,000- and he said, "The last census that I saw, which was for the year of 1930, said that the population of Pueblo was still 60,000. I guess Pueblo has just spread out during the past 32 or 33 years, no one has come to make their home here."

Glasgow, Scotland is Mr. Balmer's old home. Here he was born in 1848, on the 22nd. day of May. Feeling that the chances for a young man to make good were better in the United States than in Scotland, he left his home in 1884 and came to America. His first home in this country was in Chicago, where he was interested in cement and smelting concerns. From Chicago he came to Denver, where he lived for about a year. In 1900 he came to Pueblo, and found work at the steel works. In 1915 he made a trip to the old country, visiting Ireland, England, and Scotland, however, before he was able to reach the mainland war was declared and he decided to return to this country. He had difficulty in arranging passage back for the boat which he had come over on, the Aquatania, had been made a transport ship. Finally he managed to get passage on a Canadian freighter and returned to this country.

Mrs. Balmer will soon be 84 years old , and has lived around Pueblo for the past 50 years. Her first husband was Mr. A.N. Croll of Denver. Mr. Croll was a contractor in Denver for many years, but after being awarded some contracts in Pueblo, about 1884, he and his family moved here.

(Mr. Balmer was retired in 1915, and since that time has not been connected with any business firms. Since his retirement the Balmers have lived a rather secluded life- very seldom leaving the house. As a result of this lack of interest in what is going on about them they have become rather forgetful and childish in their ways. They were so completely upset over my visit that they could not remember the events of the past- that is, other than happenings relating to their own personal lives and interests.)

~~#####~~

ELIZABETH CAIRNS

JAN 16-1934

Having heard that Mr. and Mrs. S. Townsend, pioneers of Beulah were in Pueblo, I went to call on them at their home, 217 W. 6th. Mr. Townsend is the son of Major W.F. Townsend, who was known as a pioneer in the Pueblo region. Both Mr. and Mrs. S.W. Townsend are writers, and are especially interested in writing the history of Beulah and vicinity. Mrs. Townsend is historian for the local D.A.R. chapter, thus all most all of the material in the D.A.R. files has been compiled by her. Mrs. Townsend also writes magazine and newspaper articles, and at present is collecting a special group of material which is to be published for the Mining Convention that is being held here in Pueblo.

For many years both Mr. and Mrs. Townsend have been busy interviewing pioneers in this region, hearing their stories, then writing the material up in publishable form. Some of this material they are getting ready to publish, so I didn't see all of the work that they have compiled. However, they both were very nice about giving me material of both a useful and interesting nature. All of the facts that Mrs. Townsend gives she has verified by at least three sources, thus her material is more nearly correct than any that I know of. She and her husband have lived in the Beulah region for a good many years, and are really acquainted with all of the people they have interviewed. They are both considered authorities about the history of Beulah as they have made such a detailed study of the region.

Major Townsend has been dead for over a period of thirty years, but his son S.W. Townsend has carried on with the work that he started, by way of making Beulah a health resort, a playground.

W

x No history of the Pueblo region is complete without reference to Beulah, known in the early days as Mace's Hole. According to competent authority the early development of the region centers itself around the St. Charles River and its tributaries. For it was along the river trails that the early white trappers and the numerous Indians ventured. Usually exploration, profit or adventure brought these men to this route, which was an avenue of heavy travel. x

x (The foothills below the site of the present Beulah were the scene of many Indian battles. The Utes, a mountainous tribe, were always at war with the prairie Indians. This never-ceasing warfare was of concern to both tribes as the quarrel was over the game and the fur-bearing animals that were to be found in the foothills.) x

A trading post known as Fort Pueblo was maintained where the Fountain and the Arkansas Rivers meet. The St. Charles river was located near to the junction of these two rivers. (The fort at Pueblo was supported with varying success) and Washington Irving says this about the fort, "The warm, sunny rendezvous on the Arkansas, at the mouth of the Fountain where adventurous bands of American fur traders and free trappers spent the winter."

(Many minor fur trading posts were established before Bent's Fort on the Santa Fe Trail was constructed. These forts were found up as far as Canon City, and even on up into Hardscrabble creek.) Naturally the branches of the St. Charles were followed, for they were near to the trading posts. Thus it is easily seen that the earliest social and business life of the West was found at the trading posts- the trappers made the first explorations and the first trails to be followed by white men.

111

7

As a result of this trapping and trading post period the early white settlers, upon coming into the mountain valleys found the region somewhat developed and not entirely strange. Here they found men who lived in the mountains, men who were of French, Spanish, and American nationality. From the mountain men the new-comers learned the names of the streams, the mountains, the valleys, and the peaks.

Many of the names were found to have been taken from the Spanish language. (Southern Colorado has an abundance of Spanish names, some of which are : Cuerna Verde, Sierra Mohada (early name for the Greenhorn range), (Rio Nepesta (the Arkansas river), Huerfano, San Carlos, Sangre de Cristo, and many others. (The St. Charles river was first named the San Carlos, or the "Third Fork" by General Zebulon Montgomery Pike.) He is also said to have referred to the Rocky Mountains as the "Mexican Mountains", and Pikes Peak as, "Blue Mountain". Other parts of the Beulah valley were named by traders, settlers, and explorers.

Among the first settlers of what is known as Beulah valley, were Mexican sheep-herders and cattle men. Many romances and thrilling traditions are centered about the early history of Beulah. Official verification for some of these stories however, cannot be found.

(Don Juan Mace, for whom "Mace's Hole" was named, was a Mexican outlaw. Together with a small band of his Mexican renegades he managed to escape his native Mexico, where a bounty was on his head, and come to Colorado. Having established a residence in the mountain strongholds, Mace started out to plunder and steal. He held the valley under his sway, and managed to steal cattle from the ranches along the streams, from the passing overland travelers,

and from the more distant fur trading posts. The livestock that he had taken were driven to the "Hole" and there kept until he found a buyer for the cattle.)^x

At the northern end of the valley is Signal Mountain. This mountain provides the narrow entrance into the valley, and it was on this mountain that Mace kept a lookout, someone to watch for approaching strangers. From the lookout one could see many miles, and if the person coming was an enemy or a stranger the cattle were hastily driven up into a lateral blind where they could not be detected. When this blind became crowded with the stolen cattle, one of Mace's men would drive part of the herd up farther into the mountains to a park that is today still known as Second Mace. From Second Mace the cattle were taken down into the Arkansas valley where they were sold.^x

(Many stories of Mace's career are told and the following portion was taken from a pamphlet published by the Townsends in 1905.)

("Not alone content with horses, cattle and goods, Mace and his robber retinue stole and kidnapped women. But this led to their undoing, and in a reckless raid into the homes of their southern relations they were entrapped and eight of them hung to one tree, while a ninth one on promise of revealing the outlaw's haunts, had his ears clipped off and was set free. The captive women were rescued, all the stock and valuables removed New Mexico and Mace's hut burned to the ground. This happened, as nearly as we can learn, in 1861.")

Other stories of his death are told by pioneers that disagree with this version. Mace was a clever scoundrel, and many stories are told about his joining a group of angry cattle men who had lost their cattle. He would help them search for the cattle, meanwhile assuming the most innocent air indifference. Mace was a deadly shot, and was said to have been fearless. Another story has it that a priest,

5

watching Mace roam up and down the Arkansas River , first suspected him of being a bandit and cattle rustler. Some people contend that he was shot, others prefer to tell the story of his being hung with some of his fellow-bandits. There are no court records that can be summoned to prove either story, as the primitive law of the day did not provide for courts.

In the following year in 1862 a trading post was started at Mace's hole , but Mexicans still gave trouble. A murderer hid in the marble caves for a period of two days and was pursued by a band of horse-thieves from California Gulch who rode into the hole and out again to be met by death at Cucharas.

(The St. Charles River is notable from the fact that many caves are found along the limestone cliffs that bound the stream. Many of these caves have mysterious and shady histories, but the one that is said to have been of service to Mace and his rustling activities is located about eight miles east of Beulah, and about 200 feet from the river. The stolen cattle and sometimes even Mace himself found shelter in this cave which is said to have been discovered about 1860.)

Camping peacefully in the valley were the Utes, and the story is told by a pioneer of the region of how one evening he rode into their camp and was in turn invited to share their evening feast. He declined the invitation when he noticed that the main course was made up of roast dog. The Utes were not offended at his refusal of the invitation, the pioneer says that the chief of the tribe even went so far as to make the following statement, " Fat dog no good for white man- good for Indian." At this time the Utes were unusually peaceful and the whites had little trouble with them.

6

In 1863 the peaceful habits of the Utes were interrupted by a small band of Arapahoes and Cheyennes who came to the Ute camp and left with some of the Ute horses. Then the Utes, who were camping about a half of a mile north of Beulah hill, set out to search for the Indians who had stolen their horses. The Utes stopped at the Sease ranch on the St. Charles river and told of their loss. Ula was the Ute chief and he told the Seases that he and his band were going to Fort Reynolds to report their loss. The Utes arrived at the fort on the Huerfano river and told the commander of the fort about their stolen horses, but the commander advised them to return to their Beulah camp as there were far too many Indians in the other hand for them to try to attack. He told them that they would be far outnumbered, and that they had better go back peacefully to their camp and forget their loss. The Utes rode away, apparently satisfied with his advice, but as soon as they got out of sight of the fort they turned and pursued their enemies with the greatest of speed. It is said that the next day Ula, and his band of braves came back into their camp at Beulah, but their trip was not in vain for with them they brought not only their stolen horses but also six scalps.

Excitement ran high in Beulah valley at this same time. Encamped in the valley was a very large expedition, sent out by the American Fur Trading Company to look for a hidden treasure. According to old, old stories an immense amount of coined money had been buried during the Indian massacre of 1844, and the men of the expedition had been sent out to find the cache. The trip was most unsuccessful, and to this day the treasure still lies buried. The failure to recover the fortune was laid upon defective charts and maps.

1

After the event of the Civil war many white settlers came into Beulah valley. The inducements were especially good- the discovery of gold in Colorado, and the broad, liberal land policies of the federal government. Many settlers were attracted by the advantages of pre-emption, homesteading, timber grants, and other privileges granted by the government after the war. Not the lure of riches, nor the hopes of wealth brought many into the valley- some came because of the unusually fine climate, the health-giving altitude, and the desire to conquer the unexplored.

(Permanent settlement of the valley came when Peter Dotson, in 1865 succeeded in constructing a wagon road into the Beulah valley. To build the road Peter Dotson had to blast the rim rock of silica that practically encloses the valley. With the opening of a road permanent settlers came to the valley.)

The first white settlers that came to the valley were two men, by occupation hunters and trappers, known as John Root and Almon Coburn. These men were of a rather migratory nature and soon left, (but right after them came Sam Sease and Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Sease with a son John, and a daughter Mary. This was in 1869 that the Sease family moved into the Beulah valley, they had been located on the St. Charles river since 1863. After the Sease's pre-empted in the valley the Perry Murray family from the St. Charles district also came to live in this section of the country. (Early in the '70s both Mr. Murray and Mr. Sam Sease acted as County Commissioners. It was during their term in office that the land for the present site of the Pueblo County Court House, and for Centennial school was petitioned.)

8

J. J. Sease homesteaded the land that is today just about the center of the valley. Up on Squirrel Creek (a little above the cement bridge) two sons of Juan Mace had a cabin. They had a special tree that they used for target practice, and today if one goes out on Pine Drive just about where the fox farm is now located he may see the tree that the Mace's used for practising their marksmanship. The marks and blemishes on the tree show where the lead was dug out of the tree to make new bullets.

(Oliver Boggs with his family, consisting of four sons, came to live in the valley and bought the Coburn land; they also homesteaded the western section of the valley tract. Oliver Boggs' father Professor John L. Boggs was also closely allied with the upbuilding and improving of the valley. Prof. J. L. Boggs was a graduate of Columbia College, in Boone County, Mo., where he was graduated in 1839 at the head of his class, which numbered 37 members. He came to Colorado in 1860, but resided in Denver, where he practiced law, until 1868. After participating in the Indian war he came to Buelah.) He was closely connected with public interests in Pueblo, and served as deputy sheriff for sixteen years, was deputy assessor for six years, and justice of the peace for three terms. He practiced law in the valley, and had a fair clientage. He was considered an able phrenologist and followed that profession to some extent.

(Many other families followed and by 1871 the population was large enough to warrant a school. Eliza Davis, later Mrs. Hammond Pollard, was the first school teacher that the valley had. In 1871 the school house was also erected. The building was a log cabin, and today is one of the rooms in the Buelah Country Club.)

(Mary Sease, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Sease, died in 1869,

A

and her body was the first one to be buried in the Beulah cemetary. At first the cemetary consisted of a government plot, but later this land was enlarged by the gift of an acre of ground by J.J.Sease, and an half an acre by L. A. Mansfield.)

(For a period covering sixty-five years Beulah valley has never been without a saw-mill. The first mill, constructed by Peter K. Dotson, on Squirrel Creek,) would be today just where Pine Drive and the lower villiage road meet. Dotson was one of the most enterprising of the pioneers in this country, and although his land was located on the St. Charles River, he was always concerned with the growth of Pace's Hole. His ranch became famous, and is today still known by its brand- the 3R. This ranch was also one of the largest known in this part of the country. His ranch was started in 1865, but his mill was set up in 1863. (To furnish a market for his lumber Dotson built the first real road into the valley. This road , built for wagon traffic, was used by him and his drivers as a route to Pueblo where he found a market for his logs. One of the first loads of logs brought into Pueblo by Peter Dotson was used by Klaas Wildeboor in constructing his first home here in Pueblo. This first road was to the left of the present highway, and went down the "big rocks", coming out of the creek below the big bridge. Dotson and Patterson both used the so called Pine Drive in getting timber out of the Beulah distriect. The freighting of lumber was done with oxen mostly as they were stronger than mules. For a load of timber a three yoke of oxen could haul a 5,000 pound load, whereas it would have taken eight mules to do the same amount of work. Steers that would haul a load used to bring two times as much as steers sold for butchering.

(About six miles from Pueblo is located a flat, marshy country, known as "Boggs' Flat". This section was not named for any of the Boggs' that settled in the valley, but rather for a freighter who wintered his stock on the flats. His stock was watered by a spring that is just northwest of the highway.) The most prominent as well as most profitable industry of the pioneers was cattle raising. They also raised a great deal of grain and hay so that their cattle would not suffer from the lack of food during the winter months.

Mountain dances were a source of considerable diversion from the routine of the life of most of the settlers. The fiddler was always the most popular man at the dance, for it was his contribution to the dance that made the affair an event to be remembered. "Perched on a box, the fiddler played and called with much gusto to be heard above the gritty shuffle, while he made the cat-gut howl! The fiddler was popular in town too, for a Pueblo news item of 1869 reads, "Tom Willey came down from the mountains to play the violin for the dances."

(Gust Krenzke came to live in the valley in 1871. At this time the D. & R. G. R. R. was just building into Pueblo, and needing ties to carry on the work with the company gave the contract to Gust Krenzke.) The A. T. & S. F. being built about this same time also needed ties. This demand for timber brought prosperity to Mace's Hole. Just above Panther Creek and on North Creek a thriving community was built up. Here tie-cutting was the most popular occupation, and it was here that a large grange hall was erected for the use of the people. To quote an old-timer, "The big log grange hall with two stone fireplaces, was built by the people who came from all the country around for a vacation, and it was a great gathering. Krenzke himself was the champion cutter and got elected justice of the peace, which was needed."

At the site of all the tie-cutting business many enterprises were started, among them a commissary which was owned by the Bartell Bros. A Frenchman, owned the gambling joint at North Creek. This Frenchman and his close associate, Haven Hall an outlaw figured in many episodes characteristic of a tie-cutting camp. Haven Hall owned a beautiful black horse, and both Hall and the horse were featured in many of the spectacular horse stealing cases. It was said that Haven Hall was so good a shot that he could "cut a clothesline at 40 yards", and was so clever that he managed to arrange for a bandit friend to be the judge at the Mace' Hole school entertainment as a debate judge, while the county officers searched the valley in vain for him.

Krenzke homesteaded land up on North creek, and later on the Ute Indians on their way to attend meetings in Denver, would spend some time at his place. Denver at this time happened to be the territorial capital.

(Some of the other families that can be said to have made early history in Beulah valley are: the Pattons, who first established a hotel; the Lyles, the Aquila Davis family, the Mynicks, Mr. and Mrs. Job Davis. Aquila Davis was the first village postmaster and storekeeper, while Job Davis was a Civil war veteran, who had been wounded in service. Mynicks had land along Middle Creek, in the lower valley.)

(Early in the '70s the mail was carried to Beulah by a roundabout way. Twice a week the mail was delivered to the settlers of the valley. The mail was carried from Canon City, by horseback, to Greenhorn, which is about 120 miles-the round trip. The route went from Canon City, along Hardscrabble, over North Creek, through

Mace's Hole, out of the valley to Dotson's ranch, then called the Osage postoffice, and on to Greenhorn. If the weather was bad a week was required to make the trip as there was nothing but a trail to these places.)

In 1876 Mr. C.N. Sellers came to the valley, and upon seeing it at once started to beautify the surrounding country. For a time he was the teacher in the old log school house, then he ranched for a while and finally became the owner of the land which is now occupied by the village of Beulah. His vision of beautifying the valley culminated in his planting 4,000 trees at his own expense. Today these trees shade the lanes and avenues of Beulah.)

(Beulah is indebted to the Rev. Gaylord who first proposed the name Beulah, feeling that the name of Mace's Hole inadequately expressed the beauty of the surroundings. The name was voted on at a social gathering, and the name of "Beulah" won by a majority of two votes over the other proposed name of "Silver Glen.")

Today the population of Beulah is about 300 in the winter, and about 1500 people in the summer season. Beulah has grown since the earlier days and is today a famous resort. In 1879 Major Townsend discovered the advantages of Beulah as a health resort, and from that time on sought to promote the valley as a perfect haven of rest. Since then Beulah has enjoyed progress and prosperity.

Beulah is but 28 miles southwest of Pueblo, and the roads leading to Beulah are of the best. The curves and high wagon roads of the past have been leveled and straightened, until today the trip may be made at any time of the year with the greatest of safety and ease.

98

Beulah enjoys the privileges of her natural beauty. She is located in the Greenhorn Range of the Rocky Mountains, which are sometimes referred to as the "Wet Mountains". The supposition upon which this name is said to have been based states that the name was taken due to the fact the mountains of the region are fortunate in having numerous streams, and that the plant life approaches that of semi-tropical regions.) To the South of Beulah may be seen the Spanish Peaks and the Sangre de Christo range, to the north may be seen Pikes Peak. (Right in Beulah are located several mineral springs, the largest of these being designated as the "Soda Springs". These springs are of both soda and iron, and the value of the mineral qualities of the springs is attested by many of the users. The "Soda Springs" were, in the early days, bequeathed to the County of Pueblo by Major W. F. Townsend. Since that time the County has provided the upkeep for the springs. Townsend started a hotel up Middle Creek and stressed his place as a resort where the mineral springs would aid in restoring health.)

(Beulah is rather well known because of its abundant supply of marble and lime rock. The marble that is taken from the Beulah country is especially beautiful. The marble has a gray background through rose and orange streaks are liberally distributed. The wainscoting in the State Capitol at Denver is of Beulah marble.) Beulah marble is expected to come into its own in the near future.

Farming is still carried on in the valley but not to as great extent as in earlier days. The ranchmen of the valley raise cattle, sheep, horses, and harvest sufficient amount of grain and hay to care for the feeding of their cattle throughout the winter months. Beulah wheat is well known, having won the first prize for the best

14

122

wheat of any of any country in the world- this honor was won at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition .

However, the big thing as far as Beulah is now concerned is its popularity as a summer resort. Every season more and more cottages are built, and more attractions for the summer tourist are mentioned. Year after year many of the same people return to enjoy the splendors of Beulah as an ideal summer resort. Altitude (6,500 feet) alone draws many people who are in search of a cool, restful place.

Tourist trade brings much to the residents of the valley. There is always a demand for good riding horses, and many ranches provide horses for the summervisitors. The need for supplies, and camper's wants gives a great deal of trade to the valley merchants, and makes their summer seasons both profitable and pleasant. Amusements found in Beulah - Gayway Park (originally the site of Lake Tucita, which had both a boathouse and boats. This lake has long since gone down, and now the bed of the lake is a baseball diamond.), Beulah Country Club, and many other places that attract summer trade.

A newspaper , in speaking of Beulah, says, "In all Colorado there is probably not a single mountain resort that offers the manifold inducements to tourists seeking the genuine natural attractions of hill and valley. Nature greets the seeker of health and pleasure the moment he enters the Beulah valley. The rippling streams extend a laughing welcome and the high canon walls seem to nod and say, ' Hello, come in.' "

#####

Doc 344
13
ELIZABETH AIRNS
JAN 11 - 1933

G. L. Graybeal 123
Pan 344-*

Mr. and Mrs. John Graybeal started across the plains in May, '73. With them were their seven children, three girls and four boys. Today two of the boys, Granville and Roby are living in Pueblo, at 1144 Beulah Ave. Both were but mere boys when they came across the plains, but today are quite old. Mr. Granville Graybeal will be ~~eighty-two years old the twenty-second day of October~~, and Roby Graybeal will reach his sixty-fifth birthday this year. Both men are engaged in the Coal and Grain business here in Pueblo, their business being known as the Graybeal & Cline, Coal & Grain Co.

" My father was John Graybeal, a native of North Carolina. In 1850 he married Miss Jane Perkins, also of North Carolina. After their marriage my father continued to farm in North Carolina until 1866 . In 1866 he decided to take his family "west", and we all came to Miami County, Kansas, which is thirty miles south of Kansas City. My mother had not been well while in Kansas, and fearing that her condition might become serious and turn to consumption, father again decided to make a change- this time to Colorado. We found friends who also wanted to come to Colorado, so a train was made up to take the trip. In this train there were fifteen wagons, and many of the men rode horses, acting as scouts along the trail. Many of the women drove the wagons across the prairies while their men rode ahead on horse-back.

We started from our home in Kansas on the 1st. of May, 1873, heading for the great "west " that we had heard so much about. Our anxiety to reach our new home was increased when we realized that Mother's health was failing fast. After about six weeks on the trail Mother became so weak and ill that we decided that she should be sent on if she were to reach her new home alive. The weather had been rather bad, rain and high water had made traveling conditions miserable. We separated- part of us staying back with the cattle, and the other part hurrying on to our new destination. Mother was taken to a railroad center, and with a group of friends went to Denver by train, and from there to Greenhorn Crossing, in Pueblo County, by wagon. I was one of those left to drive the cattle through to the new land. The herd of cattle consisted of about a hundred head, and with draw-back travel was slow. We didn't reach Greenhorn Crossing until July 4, 1873, while the others had arrived some time in the middle of June. The rest of our family had stayed at Greenhorn Crossing until we got there. At the Crossing there were a few rude log huts that could be used by those desiring them.

About the first thing that we did upon arriving was to buy out a Mr. Millschlager's crop. This crop we harvested, and got our feed, for the cattle, ready for the coming winter. Mr, Millschlager's farm was above Rye, but we continued to make our home at the log cabin at Greenhorn Crossing. Shortly after we got to Greenhorn Crossing Mother became much worse, and

the doctor said that her condition was serious, she had taken cold on the trip. The long trip and the exposure to all sorts of weather had caused an aggravated case of quick consumption, and there was nothing that we could do to help her. She died Nov. 1, 1873, and was buried in the Brookside Cemetary at Rye, Colorado. Her body was the sixth one to be placed in the Brookside Cemetary.

To help us forget our loss we started building a new farm-house. We bought the Tom Nichols ranch, and raised a new house. All of that winter we worked whenever we could, and by spring the house was ready to move into. This house was made of hewed logs, and was a story and a half high. We sawed the pine blocks and made pine shingles to cover the roof. The making of the shingles was almost the hardest job that we had in the whole construction. We also built an ell on the back of the house to be used as a kitchen. In this house we lived for many years. Later we built the house to two stories, built a large barn and other outbuildings, fenced and ditched the ranch, and made a lake on the land. Our land was very fertile and every crop that we raised we had good luck with. We also kept fine cattle, and were quite successful in our dealings with the stock.

(Mrs. Cynthia Fisher, whom I interviewed in the last assignment, was with the wagon train that Granville Graybeal was with.) The only fright that we got on the whole trip was the time that we mistook a herd of buffalo for a band of Indians.

If Mrs. Fisher told you that the women were frightened, she was also speaking for the men. All that we could see was a great band of what looked to us like Indians on horse-back; the atmospheric conditions caused a great many mirages, and I was of the personal opinion that this was but another mirage. The closer the buffalo came the larger they looked, and by the time we had thrown together our wagons as a fortress against an attack we knew that our "Indians" were buffalo. The buffalo were headed for water, and we let them come closer and closer until we thought we could go out and shoot a couple. Most of us jumped on our horses and went out into the midst of the herd, that had divided by this time, to try and bag a calf. I was successful in getting a two-year old, but when I fired the shot + fired above my mare's head, and scared her so badly that she had to be tied up for several days- she went crazy. The train was greatly excited over our hunt as we had been living on very short rations, trading with hunters now and then for jerked buffalo meat. Along the trail it was not uncommon to see hunters who offered to sell you meat- this was their way of making a living, and during this period many, many buffalo were killed and thrown by the way-side- deliberately destroyed. The fresh meat added to our meager supply of food and added a change from the dried meats.

V

(We had a saw-mill on our place that was operated by water power. The Greenhorn creek ran through our land, and deciding to make use of the water we placed a water-wheel in the stream, and the power that we got came from the force which the water in the stream gave. We did quite well with our water wheel saw mill, and took care of lots of timber with this equipment.)

Our best crop that we raised was potatoes,; they seemed to be at a premium on the markets in town. One time I brought 1,000 pounds to Pueblo to sell. I managed to sell these potatoes for 5¢ a pound, this bringing in \$50.00 for the load. Fifty dollars at that time was considered a young fortune.

I remember the 4th. of July, 1881, as that was the day that we received the news of the assassination of President Garfield. We had a big Fourth of July celebration in Rye, a dance and all, I was the Marshall for the event. I can distinctly remember a Mr. J. Moody coming to the hall to tell me about the assassination. Garfield had been shot July 2, but it was the 4th. before we heard the news. Garfield didn't die however until September 19.

About 1895 I came to Pueblo, where I was engaged in the dairy business for a period covering 13 years. The dairy was on Buelah avenue where I live at present. I had a large dairy and often had as many as 90 and 95 cows at the dairy. From the dairying business I went into the coal and grain business and have been in it ever since."

#####

ELIZABETH CAIRNS
JAN 12 - 1934

G W Bentley

D.C. 344
19

The early irrigation projects of the Arkansas Valley claimed the attentions of Mr. G. W. Bentley, 428 W. Orman Ave. Bentley, now seventy-six years old, has been interested in the Bessemer Ditch Company since 1890. In that year he came to this town from the state of Iowa, where he had resided for the fourteen years prior to this time. His birthplace was in Illinois, but he left this state when he was but 14 years old.

(After coming to Pueblo, Mr. Bentley located a job with the Bessemer ditch Company and was with this Company until his retirement in 1927. The Bessemer ditch project had been started earlier in 1889, but it was the spring of '90 before the work was completed. It was in May '90 that the first water was let run through the ditch.)

"Traces of the old original ditch may be found in some parts of Pueblo, if one knows where to look for them. (The first irrigating canal that was built in South Pueblo was built under the supervision of the C.C.&I. Co.) The C.C.&I. was at that time a separate company controlling the coal holdings of this part of the state, while the C.F.&I. held the steel holdings. These two companies after a time became known as the C.F.&I. - this was after the consolidation. However, the C.C.&I. had large tracts of land west of town and also down on the St. Charles Mesa. This land was nothing more than a vast arid prairie, so to commercialize this land the C.C.&I. decided to make irrigation possible. The first ditch followed the contour of the surrounding hills, and as a result

the ditch was a very crooked affair. This old ditch gave a lot of trouble as there was a large hill located near the site of the ditch, and at times the hill gave way and slid down into the ditch, causing the water to flood the lower land. This ditch has largely been covered up now, but there are traces of it around some parts of town. After the consolidation, the new ditch was built, and while this new ditch followed somewhat the route of the old ditch changes were made so that some of the old difficulties were avoided.

At first the ditch was built from west of town down to what is about the city limits south of town, but later the ditch was extended down through the valley, and through the land known as the St. Charles Mesa. This first Bessemer ditch was practically controlled by the C.C.S.I.CO. which had 23,000 shares in the Company.) Irrigation was a subject that very few people of the early days really understood, for those first ditches were built so as to accomodate even more water than flowed in the Arkansas River, the source of their water supply. About all that the first ditch was used for was to water the cotton-wood trees that were planted in the early days of the city. The land south and east of town was considered as waste, for without irrigation the people didn't know how to farm. Today this land, part of it under cultivation is irrigated and the rest is dry-farming land. Before 1900 farming was done on a very small scale, about all of the crops that were raised were for personal use. After sugar beets were found to have such a ready market, this land rapidly became a farming community.

The paramount idea of beginning a system of irrigation came, from the start, as a desire to furnish an aid that would be of mutual benefit to all. The C.F.&I. Co. felt this would stimulate activity and organization in the valley. Pueblo naturally stands as the gateway to the mountainous west, and as the ^{easiest} way to the great Arkansas valley.

For a while the people of eastern Colorado thought that they could depend on the sparse rainfall in the vicinity to provide sufficient moisture for their crops, but after a time this reasoning was found to be faulty, and they came to the conclusion that some system of irrigation was an absolute necessity. According to a report in 1903 the Arkansas river has a drainage area of 24,910 square miles, and has only to provide irrigation for 706,229 acres. This shows that irrigation should be a success in the Arkansas valley.

Irrigation, if systematic is the surest way of raising a successful crop. The farmer does not have to depend on the rainfall for his success in raising profitable crops. When his crops need water he turns on the water from the ditch, and waters his land in a systematic way. If his crops do not need water, to give it to them would be detrimental. Another advantage of irrigation is found in the fact the crops never suffer in dry spells, and they always have the sunshine pouring down on them while they are being watered. This combination is invaluable to a successful crop.

The old head-gate of the Bessemer ditch Company was located about a mile west of the present head-gate. Then the ditch was not as complete as it is now. The old-timers built the ditches

so that they would hold an immense amount of water- as I have said before- even more than the Arkansas river has. The Bessemer ditch has been decreed 368 -second feet of water, and that is much more than is in the river at the present time. The Colorado Canal has been decreed 700 second feet by a late priority. Of all of these ditches and canals the aggregate amount is in many cases much more than is in the rivers.)

Assesments on a pro rata basis are now levied to take care of the actual operation expenses of the ditch. At first it was estimated that one share would irrigate one acre of land, and one had to have land accessible to the ditch to obtain stock. Many stock-holders had large tracts of land in the Company and the amount of shares that they held determined the amount of water that they were entitled to.

Today the Bessemer ditch is provided with spillways and syphons to care for excess water in case of emergency. In the old ditch wooden syphons were laid underneath the streets, but these rotted and had to be replaced. Now galvanized pipes and a storm sewer care for the water in the event there is an excess amount in the ditch. "

"My wife has been dead about two years and I am living here in the old family home that I built in 1898, with my two daughters. My wife was one of the first teachers in the Wet Mountain district and before her marriage her name was Miss Schmidt. I met her while out working on the ditch, for her father was interested in land along the ditch, over by the old headgate. Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt, were before coming to this country, members of the American legation in Paris, and it was in Paris that my wife

was born. Both Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt spoke French and German, and for a time Mrs. Schmidt served as an interpreter in the Legation. They came to this country, landing in New York City, where they stayed until they arranged plans to make the trip to the West.

In addition to my work I have also been interested in farming, having a farm of my own on the St. Charles Mesa. This land I farmed by proxy while I was connected with the Bessemer Ditch Company. From the period covering the years 1900 to 1920 I made a good deal of money on my crops, but since that time the land has not been as productive, and the prices being lower I have not made as much profit."

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Mr. M. Shepherd,
March 7, 1934. 133

MR Shepherd
506 Veta Veta ave
Doc. 344

Pam 344-20

ELIZABETH CHIRMS
MCH 7-1934

Mr. Shepherd has been in the garage business in Pueblo since the first garages were put into operation. Since 1916 he has operated his own garage at 506 Veta Avenue, and at present still has his own place although many buildings and residences have made their appearance in this vicinity.

Mr. Shepherd came to Pueblo when he was 13 years old, and shortly after got a job as a messenger boy for a Pueblo retail store.

In 1902 he opened a bicycle shop in Pueblo and stayed in the business until 1905. The age of the bicycle brought an increase in sales, and the demand for this popular vehicle made business better than it had been. Mr. Shepherd had repaired many wheels before he went into the business. His shop was located at 215 N. Main Street, and as a method of advertising a large bicycle was displayed at all times in front of the store. The bicycle had an immense front wheel and a smaller back wheel. This unique advertising brought a lot of publicity to the shop. Bicycle business was at its height in Pueblo when the first automobiles were introduced in town.

The first automobile that made its appearance in Pueblo was a car that belonged to a Mr. C. W. Fowler. This car was an Oldsmobile. Mr. Fowler later brought in another car known under the trade name of St. Louis. Incidentally Mr. Fowler was the first automobile dealer that Pueblo can claim.

Later in that same year other automobiles made their appearance. The Gudyback, a high wooden wheel chain drive affair was a novelty in Pueblo. In 1903 Dr. E.D. Walter had the honor of driving the first Rambler through the Pueblo streets. The first Packard that appeared in Pueblo belonged to George Benz, a prominent Pueblo assayer.

The second automobile dealer was Lew Walker. Then A.W. Markshuffle made his way into automobile selling. At present Mr. Markshuffle is an automobile dealer in Colorado Springs.

With the opening of these various business houses the sales were greatly increased, and many new makes of cars flooded the market. It was during this time the Columbia and the Marion made their first appearances in Pueblo.

In 1907 Mr. Shepherd left the bicycle shop and went to Salida where he engaged in business for the next two years. Upon coming back to Pueblo he got into the automobile business. He worked in the first automobile shop in Pueblo. This shop was located at the corner of 5th. and Court streets. Later George Inebel, proprietor of the shop, moved to the Ideal Motor Car company on W. C. Street.

One of the most eventful things that happened in Mr. Shepherd's life was the parade that was held in honor of Pres. Taft. It was during the fall of 1909 that the President came through here on a trip, as it was State Fair time the President was invited to attend. The city outdid itself to make the welcome for the President a hilarious occasion, and a big parade was staged in his honor.

The President was met at the train by the whole populace of Pueblo. The finest thing in the line of cars was engaged to see that the President reached the Fair Grounds in comfort.

The driver of the car was Harry White (son of Ausbury White of the White & Davis Company). The car was a Stoddard-Dayton, and the last word in modern automobiles.

Mr. Shepherd remembers the parade as he was one of those riding in the line of cars making up the parade.

|||||