

M. Krauss & Co. Salt  
3/26/1934 Charles E. Peterson. Doe 353  
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Charles E Peterson was born on a farm five miles west of Windsor, on July fourth 1879. He lived there until he was fifteen or sixteen years old. He punched cattle for Ebb Davis when he was eight years old, and spent long hours in the saddle gathering up stock. All the southern part of that country was prairie all the way to Johnstown. Ebb Davis had two Indian ponies which he rode a great deal and they became a little frisky after they'd been turned loose on the range a while. He finally caught one one day, and shortly after he had mounted it, it started bucking with him, throwing him off into some cactus.

" Get up old "Barney Bob ", or I'LL knock your horns off ", was all he said.

Once when he and his <sup>COUSIN</sup> brother were out hunting cattle they both used blankets on their horses, securing them with sursingles, and tied their lunches on under these straps or put them in their pockets, one or the other, anyway they lost them, and became so hungry that they stopped at a prairie house to get something to eat. An older woman came out and bargained with them. They had to gather cow chips for wood for her and as they were just small boys and had to work a long time in order to bring in enough " Kindlin " to satisfy her they became very hungry and tired. At length she began to fix something in the kitchen and came out and handed each of the boys a sandwich of old salt pork between two thick pieces of bread, which they boys decided to eat.

At the age of fifteen, Mr. Peterson was riding for J. M. Buckingham who had some cattle west of Loveland, so he went out in the spring on the Round-ups. A little later he came to Fort Collins where he secured work in the " Sam Clammer and Plummer Livery Stable ". The U. P. Depot now occupies that spot. He spent some time riding bucking horses at the Fair grounds at Prospect Park.

Mr. Peterson has had the unique experience of being one of the first people operated on for appendicitus in norther Colorado. An appendicitus



operation was a very new thing at that time, and few of the first cases lived. It was performed by Drs. Kickland and Lee, He laid in bed fifteen weeks and went to skin and bones, but is now husky enough.

Mr. Peterson attended the Agricultural College for a short time and while in Fort Collins he joined the Elk's Lodge, at the time they had their Lodge headquarters in the Ault Hall. The men who put on the work at his initiation were Judge Garbutt, the Exalted Ruler, Charlie Wills, Oscar Mc Gin, Al Whittaker, Frank and Bob Miller who had a place across from the Commercial Hotel, Murdock Nelson, Frank Burnett, and one of the Garret boys.

In 1902 Mr. Peterson married Bessie Schaffer, and he and his father ran his father's farm together. Later on he rented it for himself, and lived there four years.

He then went east, attending the Dana Musical Institute at Warren Ohio, where he earned his tuition by firing a furnace in one of the buildings, and playing a slide trombone in the school organizations, and he also paid part in cash.

Mr. Peterson next turned to railroading and secured a position on the Baltimore and Ohio line. He worked up to the position of Conductor within six months to the day.

Then he became a sheriff of Weld County, and for nine years he had the enviable record of always "Bringing them back alive". He worked in harmony with many other sheriffs of neighboring counties, some of whom were BYRD HALLIGAN, Bill Morgan, and Elmer Cook of Larimer, and Bob Ransom of Weld. His usual work in case of a telephone call which usually concerned some cattle or lost horses, was to get into a horse and buggy or into the saddle and locate them, and he usually worked alone. Then he used autos, later and finally a motorcycle. HE RODE A TOTAL MILEAGE OF 132,000 MI. He handled the strike in the coal fields during Mc Afee's ( sheriff of Weld county) administration.



( Page 3. Charles E. Peterson. )

He thinks it does not pay a man in average circumstances to hold a public office, as it is hard to get a new start in another business after you have devoted so much time to an office.

Mr. Peterson is the proprietor of the Ford Garage at Windsor. His wife assists him in some of the office work. He is the son of Mr. Peterson, a Windsor pioneer and a nephew of the late Lake Peterson of Fort Collins, Colorado. The Petersons live at ~~ON WALNUT ST.~~ Windsor Colorado.

*Chas E Peterson*

Interviewed by Lucille Foltz.

March 26, 1934.



*W. B. Middleton*  
( Del Middleton )

( Mrs Laybourn's Brother. )

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Del Middleton was born in Coshocton County Ohio in 1869.

His parents moved here in the fall of 1870 as this was a new country offering greater opportunities for the hardy pioneer. They came by train over the old line from Cheyenne to Greeley. The country was barren as there was no irrigation at that time. However the family settled on some land.

He saw the Ute Indians being taken over to the White River Agency on the Western Slope. He thinks that the Meeker massacre resulted partly from this action.

Mrs. Middleton's father, Mr Briggs came here in 1859, after he'd returned from the California gold strike in 1849. He had a gun which he'd bought in Council Bluffs, Iowa, before he came West, and it is now such an old make and a curiosity, that Mr Middleton keeps it in the front of his store where people can see it. Mr Briggs used this gun when <sup>he</sup> drove twenty five hundred head of cattle to Boulder.

Mr Middleton has owned this Hardware and Furniture store for twenty five years. It is on the main street of Windsor. Mr and Mrs Middleton live in Windsor, one block west and one block south of the main street.

*W. B. Middleton*

Interviewed by Lucille Foltz,

Dated March 20, 1934.



Lucille Holtz

Mrs M H Laybourn.

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( Nee Felicia H Middleton.)

Mrs Laybourn's middle name is just an "H." because she couldn't be named after both her <sup>GRANDMAS</sup> ~~Aunts~~ whose names were Harriet and Hannah. She was born July 1st, 1866, in Coshocton County Ohio. They came to Colorado <sup>IN</sup> 1870; the father, coming with <sup>HAD COME</sup> (The Greeley Colony, in the spring) and the mother and children following about six months later. Her "Uncle Ben" Eaton had been a forty niner and his several trips to and from Ohio had stirred a desire in them to come and try their luck in the west. Their Uncle Eaton's accounts hadn't always been reassuring ones, as he had had some harrowing experiences such as the one in which he and his partner Jim Hill had almost been forced to fry and eat their boot-tops after getting lost in New Mexico. Their Mother's reception to Colorado was an equally memorable one since she stepped off the train into a large bed of cactus. There were three children in the Middleton family. Beside "Uncle Ben" Eaton there were Grandmother Eaton, Aunt Emily, the pioneer members of that well known Colorado family.

All the young people of those days were married, so their social gatherings were at dances or "Hoe-downs" and every couple brought "tittles" or had box suppers. Their music was furnished by Mr. Middleton who played the violin and sometimes other communities would send for him to play for them, as musicians were scarce. So sometimes he and Mr. <sup>BRIGGS</sup> would be sent for in Greeley, and once in a while they'd find someone who played a banjo, who'd play too. They had the old fashioned Singing School where they'd get together and sing under Professor Birdsall's direction. Literary Societies had their vogue a little later, and the Grange was popular and a necessary part of the community life.

The town was founded partly upon land which was bought from Hollister and partly on the Lake Supply Ditch Company's land. ( They owned a section of land. ) The town was organized and incorporated with Dr. McKibben as first Mayor, Mr. Laybourn, George Osterhout, Mr. McNeil and Mr. Hahn were the first town board.



There is the remnant of an old Fort one mile south of Windsor. It was crumbling and old when the Laybourns came. The old settlers lived around it. There also are some adobe walls <sup>WITH A WINDOW OR TWO IN THEM</sup> left standing. <sup>SOUTH OF WINDSOR</sup> where The settlers HAD camped several nights on the bluffs during an Indian scare.

The Methodist church was the first in Windsor and the Reverend Wright was the minister. Mr. Robert Dickey presided over the school and Mrs. Laybourn was the assistant Primary Teacher. The first store building was owned by J. M. Cobbs an old pioneer, who sold out to Mr. Woodard. In it was a hardware store, and they also sold coal and lumber. They had a set of wagon scales. Mr. Secknor bought them out. The first postoffice was run by Mr. L. W. Teller Sr., and the first store was the Teller store which was run in connection with the postoffice.

One interesting early pioneer was Robert Harris who was the proprietor of the " Hotel De Harris ". Hunters from Denver and Greeley and all over the country stopped there. The lake afforded good <sup>DUCK HUNTING</sup> fishing, and travelling men preferred to have him cook their ducks for them and they had a great time.

Land has grown in value and the sugar factory with the help it employs in the beet industry has developed the town considerably.

Mr. and Mrs. Laybourn have lived here forty six years, only changing their place of residence once from walnut street to the four hundred block on Elm. They have two daughters and four sons , all married. One boy has a state position in Washington.

*Mrs M H Laybourn*

Interviewed by Lucille Foltz.

March 26 , 1934.



Lucille Foltz  
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A. R. Ross.

1. A. R. Ross was born in Randolph County in southern Illinois, in 1858 in the town of Eden near Sparta.
2. His boyhood days spent in Illinois until twelve years of age.
3. He came to Colorado with his parents, W. D. and Margaret H. Ross in the month of May 1871 where they located in Evans Colorado, then the county seat of Weld County. (The town of Evans was a colony town, laid out and plotted by the St Louis Western Colony. The President of this Colony was Rev., Todd, Secretary James Pinkerton and Treasurer John McCutcheon.) The County Seat was moved to Greeley in the late seventies.

A vast and unlimited range in the eastern part of Colorado made the cattle business very profitable. Some farming being done on the low lands along the streams. Large herds of "Long-Horn" cattle grazed over the plains. They were driven here in the late sixties over the Texas trail. Illif was the "Cattle King" of Colorado at that time, numbering his herd at sixty thousand. I took to the cattle business like a duck takes to water, herding and handling cattle when quite young, riding mostly in the South Platte territory and tributaries, and along the Arickaree and Republican rivers.

Our amusements were dancing, horse raceing, wrestling, boxing, and riding broncs. Dances were well attended by the cowboys from miles around. The old square dance, schottische, waltz, heel and toe polka, Virginia reel, and money musk. There were no objections to dancing with half breed Indian girls. In fact they were preferred rather than a spurred booted and schapped "He Man" with a handkerchief tied around his left arm to denote sex.

(Roundups were large in the early cattle days of Colorado. The largest one being in 1878, beginning on the Republican and crossing over to the South Platte river. This was the largest in Colorado's history, forty wagons with five riders and a cook to each wagon, and



ten horses to each rider, making a pretty well mounted cavalcade. Each rider had two cut-out horses, one rope horse, two or three common horses, and the rest unbroken.

The group of horses each cowboy had was called his "String of Horses". Each cowboy had to be a veterinarian, because, in riding so much, his horse would often get a "Set-fast", which is a cone-shaped core which forms on the horse's back just where the saddle rubs it so much, and these set-fasts have to be removed or the sore won't heal. It had to be removed by cutting around it and pulling it out, then wagon grease was applied to the wound. If it didn't heal, he changed horses and put this horse back with the rest of his "String", and let it go unriden until it was in good shape again.

For the roundup, cowboys came from each outfit with their cook wagon and strings of horses. They'd start the roundup at several different points-- at Julesburg, or on the Republican river, and work the cattle back into Colorado. They would first ride out for the cattle that had gone the farthest from home. ( The cattle almost always wandered toward the Southeast when on the range ). When the roundup started, the outfit would assemble and elect a Captain, who'd boss the roundup. The Captain would say to some of the riders, " You take five men and go out this way and circle for ten miles and then bring these cattle in". These cowboys would do this and would bring the cattle to a certain designated place, where all had agreed to bring them. They would then separate their cattle into what was called their " Cayy-yards ". Each group of separated cattle was known by a name as the Fort Collins cayy-yard etc.

The usual procedure of a typical roundup was as follows:- Early on a summer morning the five designated cowboys would separate and each would ride in his territory, in a circling manner and about five miles out from headquarters seeking cattle in this region- in this way



they'd cover that area. It would take till noon to get the cattle in a bunch. They would ride a colt or common horse at this time and would eat dinner which was ready for them when they returned to camp. The cowboy would then mount his cut-out horse which knew at much about the work as his rider did. The Captain would say " Five or six of you men go in and cut out and the rest of you hold the bunch". After a certain length of time, he'd tell them to come out and tell as many more to go in, and those who had just came out, would be told to hold the bunch. They'd alternate this way until they'd worked the bunch completely. After these cattle had been thoroughly "worked over", and all the stray cattle had been separated, they'd be turned loose as they belonged on that range, and these cattle were called "Home Cattle", because they belonged on this, their home range. Then the cowboy changed his common horse, throwing him back into the horse bunch, and the horse wrangler then gathered all the loose horses that hadn't been ridden and started ahead for the next place of the roundup. The cook wagons had proceeded these horses as they always started ahead first. Following the horses were the "Cavy-yards", and so the procession arrived at the point of the next day's roundup.

The "Cavy-yards" had to be night herded, after they'd arrived, and the night horse wrangler took charge of the saddle horses till morning. The day cavy-yards were held in just the same way as the roundup bunch, by men of the "Mess" ( Mess wagon ), ie, by five men, while two of them did the cutting out the other three " held " the cattle. Then the two who did the cutting out joined the three who were holding the cavy-yard and after they'd changed their cut-out horses, they'd all claim their own cavy-yards and then they'd push their cattle on to the next roundup point which would be ten or fifteen miles further on.

The next morning the horse wrangler brought in the horses and they sought up their circle horses, after the boys had their breakfast, and taking their instructions for circle from their Captain, they'd start



the same routine all over again.

The wagons were loaded with camp equipment, groceries, horse feed, and bedding. A cowboy was dressed up when he had on a good pair of high-heeled boots and a good stetson hat. Provisions in a cowboy's camp consisted of bacon, salt side, and beans, prunes, dried apples or raspberries, biscuit and spoon bread, COFFEE, AND "COWBOY FRIED POTATOES."

The farmer surrounded the large cattle man in 1884. He either cut down the number of his herd, or moved to Wyoming or Montana, or some other less civilized country where the nesters were not so many.

Indians were numerous on the South Platte in seventy three and seventy four. They were of the Sioux Tribes mostly, coming down from the Dakota's to hunt buffalo which came down from the north and were killed for their hides those two winters. I drove a four-horse team from down the Platte hauling dry buffalo hides to Greeley. There were four tannerys in Greeley. We secured, or killed, if I must say, several buffalo with from one to three Indian arrows in them that had not struck a vital spot.

The Indians did not bother the main body of the roundup but occasionally cut off a rider out alone and made him fight for his life. If well equipped in the way of fire arms, he had a chance to reach camp. If fully equipped, he would have in addition to his six-shooter, a forty four winchester carried under his saddle skirt. An Indian never crowded a cowboy very hard if he carried a winchester. Holen Godfry, an old settler and Indian fighter tells the story of **The** Indian fight at the " Old Wisconsin Ranch ", that was located near where Brush now stands. He was out on the range and was attacked by a small band of Indians who tried to cut him off from the ranch. He said he was forced from his horse several times and when they were getting too close he would lay the winchester across the saddle and shoot a few of them and then get on and ride fast. Having checked them for a



few minutes, he succeeded in reaching the ranch, and held them off all day, his wife and daughters keeping the guns loaded and shooting at intervals. A boy named Perkins stole out in the night and walked to Fort Morgan for help and succeeded in getting back before day-light with three soldiers. They held them off and won the fight. That ranch now goes down in history by the name of " Fort Wicked ", and Holen Godfry bore the name of " Old Wicked " , until the day of his death. The Indians named him that because he put up a wicked fight.

In 1875 I was working farther up the Platte when there was an Indian scare. I received word from my brother-in-law to come down and help him gather his horses from the range, as the Indians were running them off, but not to come alone, and to bring my side-arms with me. I met the stage in Greeley which was loaded down with guns. There were also about twelve or fifteen horsemen all armed. And as we rode at good speed around the stage, we met many ranchmen coming up the Platte with their families in wagons driving at a fast rate of speed. I began to think there might be something to this Indian scare after all. We reached Green City about four oclock where I met my brother-in-law, John Frazier, whose ranch was three miles farther down. Our object was to gather the horses and reach Green City before dark and stay with the crowd as they had congregated for the purpose of defence. We were late and only reached the ranch when it was extremely dark. We corralled the horses and put saddle horses in the stable and cooked our supper and were sitting outside the door debating whether we would attempt the trip to Green City or stay where we were until daylight. The moon had just rose and as we were talking something came out of the barn and came straight toward us. Johney says, " I'm going to halt him ". I replied, "O.K." He had his winchester rifle to his shoulder, and when he said " Halt", the object stood still, but started up again. He did this three times and said to me, " Now I am going to shoot." I sat



( No. 6. A.R. Ross. )

farther out from the house and saw more than he did. I said " Wait a minute Johney, thats one of our saddle horses ". If you have never seen a horse coming straight toward you in the dark you cannot imagine how much like a man it looks. We caught the horse and found he had broken his halter rope. Knowing the horse, this looked suspicious.

Johney says " There has some-one been in that barn, Now Kid", he says to me, " What do you want to do? One of us must see to taking that horse back to the barn. I'll give you your choice. I'll go and tie him in and you must cover me with the winchester, or you go and I'll cover you". I said "I'll go, you are a better shot. I might get rattled and shoot you!". Well, I led the horse slowly back to the barn and as I looked back I saw Johney, true to his promise, with the winchester at his shoulder. I led the horse in the barn, found his stall and the other end of the tie rope and tied them together. I then began to feel a little nervous when I turned my back to walk out. There were two things in particular that bothered me. A knife thrust from an Indian, if he was in the barn, and the other was that Johney would mistake me for an Indian as I came out, for we were doing all this silently. As I came out Johney was still standing there. I said not a word but gave him the military salute which was understood. It is needless to say we ransomed that part of the country P.D.Q. We also had a full count on the horse herd.

Mr and Mrs Ross are living at their home at 827 Remington St., and have been very active workers in civic and church affairs, and are highly respected residents of our city. They are both well worth knowing and I believe Mr., Ross has an almost inexhaustible fund of authentic and entertaining stories of the pioneer period.

*A.R. Ross*

*Mr. Ross's written paper for -* This paper was compiled by Lucille E Foltz. *from* Mar., 22, 1934. *possibly prepared for this*



Lucille Faltz  
3/15/1934

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KATHARINE P. KIRBY ( NEE, KATHARINE PHILIPPI)

Katharine P. Kirby was born July 29th, 1878, in Fort Collins, Colorado, in the home which was across from the Stone Hotel on Jefferson street. Her father's store building, the "Philippi Harness Shop", still stands, and is used as the east end of the present Shauer's Bakery.

Katharine <sup>called KATIE IN CHILDHOOD</sup> attended (the first Kindergarten in Ft. Collins which Judge JAY Bouton organized in a building on the corner of Jefferson and Pine Streets.) Miss Katharine then continued through the grades at the Remington and Franklin schools, and completed the 12th grade in High School but did not receive a diploma as she objected to the regular course as containing too much Latin and German. She had been taught German by her father, and could see no special use for acquiring any more Latin. Miss Philippi therefore elected a special course eliminating these languages.

In the grades Miss Philippi was a member of the Franklin Girl's Baseball Team, and in H. S. she was in a drill class which used wands and went through military tactics--the boys class drilled with guns and all had uniforms. The girls wore dark gray skirts and Eton jackets, white waists with leg-o-mutton sleeves which were stiffened with fiber chamois, a sort of paper stiffening. The jackets were trimmed with black braid, and black shoes and stockings completed the costume. They wore their hair braided or around their heads like a crown or in a Grecian or Psyche knot at this time--1895.



Mrs. Kirby remembers when the city was young before the city water works was installed, that they always had to catch water in rain barrels for washing purposes. Her father carried their drinking and cooking water from the mill-race or bought it from Mr. Doolittle who came around in a wagon with a water tank on it. At this time the city jail was located in an alley between Chestnut and Linden Streets, and it was in use all the time, and was known as "the cooler". The main city jail was on a corner of Mason and Oak Streets.

An irrigation ditch ran along the NORTH side of East Mountain Ave. ( a main street of the town) and her father sank a barrel in it just in front of his home, so he could dip water for his trees. Everyone planted trees on their parkings and front yards. He also dipped her in once to frighten her as she was always lying face down over the edge of the bank fishing for crayfish, and he was afraid lest she would be accidentally drowned in the deep water in the BARREL. The Philippi children's main pastime was skating on the Cache La Poudre River, down at the "Big Bend" Dam just above the river bridge at the end of Lincoln Ave. ( The Gidding's brothers cut ice for the city ice supply and packed it in houses on Jefferson street, and when they commenced this work, the skating was spoiled.) The river was much higher than it is now, but the lakes were considered much more dangerous for ice skating.

They drove a horse and buggy, sometimes using the family phaeton or the two-wheeled road cart as they had both, and when



they went walking, they could walk on the board sidewalk which extended as far as the Agricultural College grounds. The people who interested her and whom she thought were (the main business men of the town were: Frank Morrison, the barber; John Schroeder, and Tom Beach Butchers; A. Blackmer; Gus Kluver and Howard Grocers; Mr. Kutcher, a baker; Charles Sheldon, banker; J. C. Evans, grocer; Louis Daough, an early grocer). [Mr. and Mrs. Kirby have one daughter and a grandson. This couple lives at 337 East Mountain Avenue, Fort Collins, Colorado.

*Katharine P. Kirby*

Interviewed by Lucille E. Foltz

Dated March 15th, 1934.



Lucille Faltz

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MR. CHRISTIAN PHILIPPI

Mr. Christian Philippi, Mrs. K. P. Kirbys' father, was a pioneer in Larimer county. He was born July 6th, 1851 in Chillicothe county, Ohio, and died in his 82nd year in 1933. He came to Colorado when he was 19 years old. He was of German extraction; his father and mother both having been born at Frankfort on the Rhine. They came to America in 1868. Mr. Philippi married Miss Alice H. Falbot in Boulder Colorado, July 30th, 1876. Mrs. Philippi was an English girl, having been born in Manchester, England in 1850. The couple came to Ft. Collins in 1877, where Mr. Philippi helped to build up the town as a pioneer. He had the first application for the city water, and he served two times as an Alderman. He was a harness maker by trade. Whenever he sold a harness his wife would "lay by" \$10.00, and if he sold a saddle she would put \$5.00 of that money aside so they could get a start in life.

When Katherine was one year old Mr. Philippi built his first home at 334 East Mountain Ave., in 1879 and it is still standing and in use--a neat home, and it is directly across the street from Mrs. Kirby's present home at 337 East Mountain Ave. He lived 27 years in the first home, and 54 years in the 300 block on East Mountain Ave. Mr. Philippi made all of his own harness, but sent away for the saddles and leather used in his trade. He did all kinds of repair work, and he made a plain harness all hand sewn and presented it to Mrs. Philippi for her favorite carriage horse and buggy.



Mr. Philippi had a brother Fred who located in Boulder, Colorado. This brother was a Pastmaster in the Boulder Masonic Lodge. Mr. Christian Philippi himself was initiated into the Oddfellows Lodge in 1878, and had the honor of receiving the 50 year Veteran Jewel, having been an Oddfellow for 54 years, and having been through all the chairs.

Mr. Philippi had four children, two girls of whom are living, namely; Mary Alice Graham, Mrs. George Graham, and her girl and boy and their children; and Mrs. K. Kirby and her daughter and a grandson.

Note: Mrs. Kirby has a picture of her father and mother at the respective ages of 12 and 16, and an anniversary picture of each of them just below the two pictures taken in their youth all framed in one large picture in a group of four photos, very strikingly showing the changes through the years. She may allow this to be re-photographed for the State Historical Society's use if you would think it worth while.

*Katharine P. Kirby*

Interviewed by Lucille E. Foltz

March 15th 1934



Lucille Foltz  
3/15/1934

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JOHN E. KIRBY

John E. Kirby was born at Bell<sup>E</sup>vue, Iowa, September 29th, 1868. He left there when he was 7 years old. His father and family settled in southern Kansas for four years where their crops suffered so much from successive attacks of chince bugs, grasshoppers, and army worms that they were forced to come to Colorado. They arrived in La Porte, Colorado, on John's 13th birthday, where they settled on a farm. As a boy John worked for two years around La Porte in neighbors gardens; for Mr. Cleave and Mr. John Nugent. The next spring he worked for George Stearly as a rider, looking after Mr. Stearley's cattle. He then worked for Frank Routt, and ex-governor Routt as a cowboy caring for their cattle. His cowboy associates working for the ex-governor Routt at that time were neighbor friends; among them were; Fred Bear, the Roberts boys, Charlie Gilpin Brown, Billy Barnes, Raymond Willis, Bill Newton, Frank Foster, the Calloways, and Poland, whose daughter married G. Johnson.

Mr. Kirby next went to Wyoming for four years working for the "Flying<sup>E</sup>" <sup>the</sup> Matt-Murphy Cattle Company which was the biggest cattle company in Wyoming territory. He punched cows in summer and worked with his fathen a contractor for irrigation canals, each winter, and worked all the time.

Young men made their own amusements. On Sundays they'd go up into the hills above the town and round up range horses and try to ride them. The boys would usually make up a purse, betting the rider he couldn't ride the horse, and he received the



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purse if he did.

As to pay, a common laborer on public works would get from \$2.00 to \$2.50 a day, and if he worked on a ranch, he'd get \$25.00 to \$30.00 a month and his keep, including his food; he carried his own clothing with him, and he was told to sleep "anywhere on this 160".

The cowboy grub was good if you worked for a big outfit. The outfit for ex-Governor Routt was a good small one, but there were no complaints from the cowboys about their food. Although there were no fresh fruits to be had, if any man made a remark that he liked a certain food or dish and they didn't happen to have any of it, the next time they went to town, they got it-- nothing was too good for the cowboys. The wages for a common cowman were \$40.00 a month, and his keep, and if a man had a rep. job, meaning he was a "top-hand" who was sent out to ride with another outfit than his own in order to watch out for his bosses' stray cattle, he was paid \$50.00 a month which was big wages for those days. This work sometimes took him as far as 200 or 300 miles from his bosses' outfit.

Cowboys thought nothing of riding 40 miles to a dance, riding one horse straight through, and riding the same animal back the next morning after dancing all night.

The City Council of Fort Collins passed an ordinance that cowboys had to leave their guns hanging on their saddles when they came to town. (The cowboys usually threw the reins on the ground and the horse stood; hitching posts were for carriage hor-



ses or teams). Prior to this edict the cowboys had always carried one or two guns on them all the time. The cowboys thought this measure was a disgrace and the country had gone "Hay-wire".

A cowboy on the round-up, when he worked for a certain outfit, was allowed a string of saddle horses for his own use from 9 to 16 head. They traded horses with fellows working for the same company but couldn't trade outside of the company. They weren't herding cattle, as these cattle were loose and wild on the range and the cowboys work was to brand the calves and they then gathered the beef and trailed it to the railroad. They looked after their employer's interests. A wagon boss or foreman had 10 to 15 men under him and was paid from \$100 to \$115 a month.

A good many of these cattle weren't raised in Wyoming, but were trailed from the Pan-Handle district in Texas over the old Chisholm trail. Those cattle were from 2 to 4 years old Long Horns, and averaged from \$3.50 to \$10.00 a head. At that time cattle ran the ranges and made their living off of Uncle Sam's land--no cattle feeding to speak of, and no sheep feeding whatever. Cattlemen hated sheep and there were no "woolies" in this country.

*J. E. Kirby*

Interviewed by Lucille E. Foltz

Dated March 15th 1934



Lucille Faltz  
3/15/1934

JAMES P. KIRBY

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John Kirby's father was born in Tipperary Ireland, and went to California at the time of the gold-rush. He became quite wealthy for those days and struck it twice in mining there in the Eureka and Grass Valley country. After he sold out the 2nd time, he went down to Iowa where his mother lived at that time; his father was dead. He married and settled in a little town called Bellvue, 20 miles south of Debuque, on the west side bank of the Mississippi. Then he bought three farms there with his California gold and stocked them and had renters on them who worked on shares with him. With the California money he had left, he ran a grocery, saloon, and restaurant all under the same roof. Owing to the depression in cattle and hogs, it overtook him and he had to move to Kansas. He bought land and started to raise wheat and went broke and, as Mr. Kirby jokingly commented, "We've all been broke ever since." This trouble caused him to move to Colorado where he became a contractor <sup>BUILDING DITCHES AND STONE EXCAVATING BOTH PIETY STONE</sup> ~~HAULING DIRT~~. He had three different contracts on the North Fork ditch and 2 or 3 contracts in the Larimer County Canal (Mr. Kirby used the old record books in court and then burned them several years ago.) He was <sup>ONE OF</sup> the main contractor on the Routt Ditch that came out of the Poudre Canon to water the Routt ranch. (Cliff and Zook were other contractors at this time)

The Sourvin Ditch, on a branch of the North Fork, was another contract he procured from "old Carter Cotton". Mr. Cotton



was an important promoter of undertakings for the improvement of the country. He benefited the country in the WAY PROMOTERS DO, but circumstances bested him, and although he was an influential man he lost out. After a large part of this ditch was completed, he left the country and never paid his contractors and left them all "broke" with their men to pay. The usual arrangement was; after a contractor had worked a month or so, he drew a certain per cent or an estimate, but before 70% of the accomplished work had been paid Mr. Cotton left.

Fort Collins had 15 saloons and La Porte had 4 when the Kirbys came here and it was distinctly a cow-country, and although men were rather "wild", nobody was hungry at any time.

Some of the well-known old-timers were: "Uncle Benny" Whedbee, who owned a large amount of land, and was a director in the Poudre Valley Bank; Joe Mason was a wealthy man; Rocque Bush was quite an interesting fellow, a farmer, and old-timer; Peter Dehon and old John Provost. Rocque Bush, Peter Dehon and John Provost all married Indian women, but these girls all went back to the Indian agencies at Standing Rock, Dakota, or the Red Cloud Agency (the Provost woman). These men all had second wives when Mr. Kirby came to La Porte and they were white women.

Louis Provost, the son of John and his squaw wife, was on the police force at the Indian Agency. When ~~JOHN~~ grew older he ran a saloon and tavern. His Indian treachery grew more pronounced as he grew to manhood and he made his old father lots of trouble. He possessed a <sup>SHRILL</sup> clear resonant voice and on a clear morning Ft.



Collins residents state in all honesty that his call has been heard in this town. JOHN would mount <sup>STEP TO THE DOOR</sup> a hill 5 miles north of here, and call out his <sup>SON'S</sup> name "He-loo-ee" (Louis) in order to get <sup>YOUNG LOUIS</sup> to hear him. He was always into some "devilment". His Indian blood cropped out when he obtained liquor and he became "red-eyed" as the men termed it.

An old character of interest was "old man Minkler" an old-time gambler who lived near the Red Store Quarries near Bellvue. He had been a noted gambler, one of the best in the county, and even when he became bedridden for years and was growing older, he called his friends around him and gambled in bed. Walt Haines inherited a greater part of his estate and property, **AS HE WAS A NEPHEW OF MRS. MINCKLER.**

(An Englishman named Wilson, with a considerable amount of capital, opened up the Red Store Quarries and spent quite a lot of money in doing it.) He shipped out some stone, and amongst it was an order from N. Y. City for a single piece of stone for a city watering trough for the horses. Mr. Kirby's used teams in his ditch work and Mr. Wilson called upon him to furnish the teams to move this heavy rock to the railroad. At one time they had to use 24 head of horses to haul this rock along the road, and the stone cut through the road badly. When they reached the bridge, Mr. Wilson insured the team of horses for \$350 so if they went into the river, the loss would be covered. The two horses pulled on a block and tackle which was anchored to a tree. The rock weighed 13 tons and it was hauled on a 4 1/2 in.



wagon owned by the company. This bridge was constructed of 2 inch planks which were so cut up that no travel was permitted over this road until the bridge was refloored. They had no trouble in loading it into the ~~FLAT~~ - ~~CAR~~ which stood on a side-track. Mr. Kirby died May 7th, 1908 while living at his son John's.

*G. E. Kirby*

Interviewed by Lucille E. Foltz

Dated March 15th 1934



*Lucille Jolly*  
Mrs. Atta Clegg (Nee Atta Frances Kern)

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*Boe 29*

Mrs Percy Clegg was Born at Hartford Wisconsin, September 21<sup>ST</sup>, 1864. Her folks came here in August 1871, so they could say they had ridden on the new railroad which had been just completed. The first railroad had been built between Cheyenne and Evans, while the new addition to this line had been laid from North Platte to Denver and then on to Evans, thus meeting the original Cheyenne - Evans line.

There was no depot in Denver except a frame building which stood on a hill formed of Platte river sand which had not yet been graded. Mrs. Clegg remembers how her family appeared as they stepped off the train. Her father had his hands full, while her mother carried one baby on an arm, and led another small child by the hand, and Atta was supposed to follow, but she couldn't climb the sand hill alone so her father finally had to help her. The family continued the trip by the Greeley Route, where they were met by an Uncle who had previously come West and was living on a farm near the present town of Windsor. Pioneer travelers usually stayed overnight in Greeley before continuing their journey, so this Uncle had made arrangements to bring the family to Dr. Scott's home while the later was absent in Estes Park a few days. This Uncle had come here for his health as he had contracted Lead Consumption while working as a finisher and painter in Mr. Kern's shop back East. Mr. Kerns was a carriage maker by trade and three of the brothers had been in business together.

The family proceeded on their journey and settled on a farm West of Windsor, where the present "Kern Dump" is located. Mrs. Clegg said she saw great herds of buffalo all along the journey from North Platte to Windsor.

Soon after they arrived, they walked over to view the new Greeley Lumber two ditch, which had just been put in that summer. It looked like an ordinary irrigation ditch and was filled with black and muddy water.



(Mrs Kerns' father built the Lake Canal Ditch and helped " to get other ditches out ", the work being done with the help of oxen.)

The Cache La Poudre river was used for lots of Tie-driving during the early days, as there were some saw mills in the mountains. Extra men came to help during these drives.

When the Poudre river flooded or there was an extra high water condition often-times people on one side of the river would need supplies and couldn't get across to get them as there were no big bridges then and the foot bridges would be **PULLED OUT** during that period. They would communicate across the river by means of oxen. They would tie a package of mail, etc., between the horns of the ox and drive him into the water toward the opposite shore; the ox always held his head high above the water as he swam, thus keeping the messages etc., dry. The people on the other side would catch the ox as he came to shore, get the messages, and would in turn tie the groceries or anything required by the other people between the horns and drive the ox back again into the water toward the other side.

Once when there had been **two** excessively cold winters the buffalo, antelope and coyotes came right into peoples back yards. The Kerns kept their eight cattle well fenced up at this time, and finally drove their stock with the exception of one milch cow up into the mountains, as they could get better shelter and feed at certain places up there.

People used U. S. Government wagons for travelling, and the wagon-box was so high that women and children had to use chairs to step up into them. The men usually walked to help drive the oxen. When they came to a steep place the women and children would usually climb out, using the chairs again, as one never knew just how fast the oxen would go down a hill. When they came to the Poudre river the women would get out and cross it on one of the small foot-bridges, as the river was almost waterless in the spring and after the ditches had been taken out. **They**



rode any kind of a way in those times and Mrs Clegg would ride horse-back to Fort Collins to take her music lessons when she was thirteen years old. She studied on the organ and she believes they had the first one in the country.

They had Sunday School services on Sunday mornings but no regular church or preaching. They sang their Hymns out of a mixed collection of Hymn books, which were brought by different members from their homes. Each song book contained songs familiar to its owner and associated with thoughts of the folks back home and many members of the congregations cried more than they sang. (The first stationary Pastor who lived in the Parsonage, was Rev. <sup>LINDERMAN</sup> ~~Newton~~ Wright. The Parsonage was built in eighty two and the church in eighty four.)

When Mr. Kern was a younger man he had enlisted with the forty fourth N. Y. Ellsworth Adventurers and had served during the Civil War. He therefore was interested in the Western organizations and joined the Thomas Post in Fort Collins and later, the R. V. Hayes Post in Windsor.

(Windsor was not a town until the railroad decided to make a station there as it was the half-way point between Greeley and Fort Collins. The railroad had made the statement that they intended to place a station there and they had already begun to grade the road. The Rev. Windsor had come from Fort Collins to preach the sermon one Sunday at the time when a name for the town was being considered. After the service the men were sitting around talking things over and making plans for the town and suggesting suitable names for it, when the Reverend laughed and said, " Why not call it New Windsor?" The " New " part seemed a little long but the name " Windsor " was decided upon.)

(Mr. Hollister had filed on the farm land that afterward became the town site. He began to lay out the town and to mark off lots and sell them. He only marked out a square three blocks wide; a rather small



town plan. There were no saloons as Mr. Hollister was originally one of the Greeley colony people and the town was governed by the same laws Greeley had. The town was organized and incorporated by a few citizens who met together for this purpose. Dr. Mac Kibben was the first Mayor. Mrs Clegg's father was instrumental in getting the Hartford Insurance Company to donate two city blocks of their land for the City Park which Windsor has enjoyed for forty years.

Windsor  
City  
Park  
?

When Miss Kern ( Mrs. Clegg ) first went to Fort Collins, there was no railroad there, and she later went there to live while she attended the Agricultural College; this was when she was seventeen years of age. She tells how she was excused from classes through a friend who obtained the permission, in order that she might see the first train when it arrived in Fort Collins. She was allowed to ride in the engine cab, and she rode in it all the way to Windsor as the train backed its way to that town. When it pulled out it went forwards in the usual way back to Fort Collins.

The town has a good Library in a former residential building; a fire-department; two hospitals, the " Windsor Hospital " and the " Dr. Bertz Memorial Hospital " , and fine consolidated schools of which they are justly proud. There are no saloons within or without the city limits. The license fee has been raised to one thousand dollars in an effort to discourage liquor interests. They are to vote on the question soon and very much interest is being evinced.

Mr. George Osterhout has lived in Windsor a long time and is an interesting personality. He is a University Graduate and poor health caused him to move to Colorado. He had an Uncle here who was a wealthy old gentleman and the owner of a lumber yard. The younger Osterhout had built several houses and has thereby helped to develop the town. He is a great botanist and has published a book on the subject which is considered an authoritative work on Colorado flora. He has found and



( Page 5. Mrs Atta Clegg.)

classified many Colorado flowers and has aided the Colorado Agricultural College Botany Department in research work. Harrison Teller was an outstanding personality also.

Mrs. Clegg lives on <sup>401</sup> Elm St., in the town of Windsor.

*Atta J. Clegg.*

Interviewed by Lucille Foltz.

March 23, 1934.



*Lucille Foltz*  
*3/22/1934*  
B. F. Flowers.

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B. F. Flowers was born in Parkersburg, West Virginia, June 22nd, 1861. His parents came to Colorado May 1st, 1873, when the boy was twelve years old. At that age he was allowed to carry a gun. The family came from Kansas City to Denver by train. This trip was made on behalf of a Kansas City Farmers' organization which was sponsoring a colonization movement to Colorado. People wanted some place to go and all were convinced the West offered greater opportunities. This organization's first venture had been the Horace Greeley expedition which had founded the thriving little Colony of Greeley. This encouraged others to come here to settle. His father, Mr. Jacob Flowers, was one of a committee sent out to investigate the country around Greeley with the idea of founding a second colony. Another committeeman was Mr. Laidlaw.

One morning Mr. Flowers and his son drove to Fort Collins with a horse and buggy. There was only one house on the road and that was called the "Half-Way House". Mr. Flowers liked Fort Collins and the family lived here one year. Then they moved to a farm on the present site of Bellvue. They purchased this land from Mr. Joseph Mason. Mr. Flowers believes this land had been first filed upon by E. C. Collone. x

x There was not much at which to make a living, so the men put in saw-mills in the mountains to the west of them and traded lumber for groceries. This was the beginning of Mr. B. F. Flowers' busy and useful life spent in utilizing the natural resources of the near-by mountains and in developing his fertile farm lands in the valley around Bellvue. The lumbering business grew into a paying industry and they sold lumber throughout Larimer and Weld counties. x

x When the valley became fairly well settled by farmers, Mr. Flowers built the first Bellvue store and trading-post to meet the needs of the community, and he maintained this store along with his other enterprises. As soon as there was a small village center, the elder Mr. Flowers and



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his son decided the town should be incorporated, so they founded the town of " Bellvue ", but accidentally mis-spelled the name which is correctly spelled " Bellevue ", from the French word meaning " Beautiful View ". However as the town had been established under the former name it was not changed. Mr. Flowers served as the first Mayor and a board of Aldermen was appointed. A Post Office was established and the mail was carried by buggy for years after. The village acquired one small hotel, run by a Mr. Washburn, and later two saloons were opened but Bellvue did not grow much larger and remained a quiet village.

Mr. Flowers said clothing was a simple proposition as most of the boys wore buckskin shirts and pants at that time. x

They depended largely upon the old time picnics for most of their good times. The boys would get together and hold horse races during the day and the night of a picnic would be spent in dancing on a platform constructed on the picnic grounds. Sometimes the boys would go to the Wellington district and catch range horses, and try to break them in for use as saddle ponies.

They used oxen or cattle at first for hauling purposes but these were gradually replaced by horses and mules. Freighting teams were commonly used.

There were few Indians and they were not often seen but they occasionally stole a little from the farmers. x

Joshua Yeager took out the first ditch in " Pleasant Valley ", and it was the first in the country so far as Mr. Flowers can remember. Irrigation was a new idea then and Mr. Yeager dug a small ditch from the Foudre and put this water on his land to irrigate it. No big systems had been built and the farmer just made small ditches along the river.

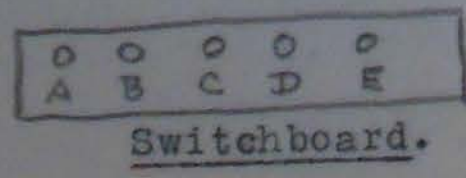
Some of the interesting men of those times were:- (Antoine Janis, who lived one mile west of La Porte on the first patented place in the



County. Antoine was one of the party who hid the powder on the river from which the Cache La Poudre derived its name. This is all told on the marker that marks a spot near where this powder was supposed to have been hidden.) John Provost who conducted a hotel and saloon under one roof, on the south side of the Poudre river at La Porte at the spot now known as the " Herring Ranch ". When Mr Flowers first came here he said he had to pay Mr. Provost a fee in order to cross on the toll-bridge Mr. Provost had built over the Poudre river at his place. The bridge was an old wooden arrangement and had some stone masonry under it. Other men who settled the " Pleasant Valley " around Bellvue were Captain Post, C. W. Herrington, Louis Blackstock, and William Willes, /George Fischer.

(Other interesting people who lived farther north, but not in this valley were the Roberts brothers who owned the Forks Hotel, and Russell Fisk who owned the Road ranch at Livermore.)

Mr. Flowers helped to establish the first telephone lines in Fort Collins, as he solicited for the telephones and furnished the poles which were used from Fort Collins to Loveland, and from Fort Collins to Greeley. He had these poles brought from his saw mills. The telephone system in Bellvue was established at the same time the Bell system was introduced in Fort Collins. At that time the exchange did its own connecting at each individual switchboard in each home. There was no central, and a person plugged in on his own switchboard and made so many rings for his party. The switchboard was on every telephone and it consisted of a board with a line of plug holes, alphabetically lettered from left to right.



Mr. Jacob Flowers and his son obtained the first appropriation for building the Poudre Canyon road from the State through J. C. Evans, while he was State Senator, and Mr. Flowers continued with the construction



of this Poudre Canyon road until it was finished.<sup>x</sup> He estimates that it has cost over a million dollars but that it is a great asset to this country.

Mr. Flowers is now engaged in the Real-Estate business and he and Mrs. Flowers live at 1400 La Porte Ave.

*B F Flowers*

This paper compiled by Lucille Foltz.

March 22, 1934.

*From an Interview*



Mr. Flowers says he and Mr. Willis<sup>1145</sup> played together in the hole where the powder had been hidden, when they were small boys. The hole was located 200 to 300 yards West of the spot where the marker now stands. Mr. Willis was present when he made this statement and verified it. Mr. Flowers said they could furnish me with enough facts to keep them talking for 2 weeks, but he is a very busy man. He says it's a shame <sup>the way</sup> they are neglecting Harmaqua, near Loveland, and Mariana Modena. I don't know exactly what he meant about these subjects but I will try to see him again, as he knows all about them and they seem to be of more than passing interest to him.



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