

A HISTORY OF THE WILLIAMS FORK VALLEY

by

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PART 1. EARLIEST HISTORY

### The Area

The Williams Fork is a fairly large area of varied interest located in southern Grand County, Colorado. Situated between Townships 1 North and 4 South and Ranges 76 West and 79 West (see Plate 1, p. ), it is enclosed on the south, west, and east by the Williams Fork Mountains (also called Blue Ridge) and the mountains forming the Continental Divide and on the north by Cedar Ridge. Including the watershed of the Williams Fork River with its numerous tributaries, the region has timbered mountains, sagebrush flats, and natural parks and hay meadows. Lying at high altitudes (all between 7500 and 13,500 feet above sea level), winters are long and cold with deep snow. The growing season is short (less than 65 days on an average year), but ample to grow feed for the animal life existing in the region. Access to the valley in early times was one of several passes. Ute, Little Ute, and Ptarmigan Passes connect with the Blue Valley, and Saint Louis, Jones, Bottle, and Vasquez Passes come over the Divide from Clear Creek.

## CHAPTER I

### The Indians and Early Exploration

The Ute and Arapaho Indians were the first inhabitants to visit the valley, evidenced by the arrowheads, knives, and other relics still to be found in lake bottoms and on the hillsides where they hunted. Probably they traversed the area in the summer, moving in winter to areas where game was easier to find and deep snow did not hamper travel.<sup>1</sup> The Williams Fork seems to have been a favorite place to gather tepee poles. The poles would be cut by summer visitors and left to cure until the next year, at which time they would be packed out for use.<sup>2</sup>

The Williams Fork also has traces of evidence that it was a meeting place for horse races between factions of the Ute tribe. One track used for such purpose was the L. J. Wade ranch (see Plate 2, p. 37). As late as 1923 the marks of the track were discernable, as was an Indian trail running from the Blue over Ute Pass and into the valley.<sup>3</sup>

Much of what happened between the Indians and the early settlers has been forgotten in the veil of time. Even the oldest residents can only remember what they were told about what may have happened. One

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<sup>1</sup>"History of Grand County School Districts," (Grand County Superintendent of Schools, 1940), p. 3.

<sup>2</sup>J. L. Glendening, "Forest History," (Unpublished Forest Service History of the Hot Sulphur Springs District, 1923), p. 50a.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

of the biggest sources of mystery and contradiction involves an Indian battle ground situated on land owned by the Denver Water Board located on the shores of the Williams Fork Reservoir. Almost all of the local residents have visited the area in search of the beads scattered during the fracas, and in 1920 several of the young men of the time remember being taken to the spot and finding the skeletal remains of twelve to fifteen horses.<sup>4</sup> That a battle took place is clearly evident, but the tribes or groups involved and the cause are not accurately known. Several written accounts are given. One says, "Battle Creek... recieved (sic) its name from an Indian Battle which took place on its banks near the present site of the Williams Fork Dam," but no names or dates are given.<sup>5</sup> One consensus found in talking with residents of the area is that the battle occurred on the Fourth of July about 1875 between two factions of the Ute tribe as a result of horse races in Hot Sulphur Springs. An account of the period does show that racing between the Indians and the settlers took place on the Fourth of July, 1875, so in that respect the accounts concur.<sup>6</sup> In another account given to school children in 1940 by Fred A. Field, he stated, "In 1868 there was a battle between the Utes and Arapahoes about a mile from the mouth of Battle Creek, which gave the creek its name. Battle Hill was named from this same source as the Ute trail crossed at this point. Because the Utes were victorious they then used the park for their

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<sup>4</sup>Milton Wood, private interview in his home, Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado, March, 1970.

<sup>5</sup>"History of Grand County School Districts," op. cit., pp. 2-3.

<sup>6</sup>Lela McQueary, Widening Trails (Denver: The World Press Incorporated, 1962, p. 42.

camping place and the name of Ute Park was given to the park."<sup>7</sup> The statement is backed by still another account in which Barney Day and his family living on a ranch on the Grand (Colorado) River somewhere below Parshall were awakened by sounds of a skirmish coming from up the valley running south from the ranch to the Williams Fork. Arapahoes soon appeared along the banks of the river and began to dig trenches. When the Utes appeared, two days of nearly continuous fighting began. After two days, the Indians disappeared during the night. Where they may have gone is uncertain. The exact date is not known either, although it is set somewhere between 1868 and 1875. Reports later were heard that several years after the skirmish, rains uncovered three graves from which a skull and other relics were taken by local residents.<sup>8</sup> If this story is true, no one remembers hearing about the occasion. The only relics definitely found were a hand-carved silver headdress and a gold and ruby brooch evidently taken from a white woman and picked up by the Field brothers.<sup>9</sup>

Records of any other Indian fighting have long since been lost. From stories handed down to them, several residents claim that at the time of the killing of the Indian chief, Tabernash, and the subsequent retaliation (the killing of Abraham Elliott in Kremmling) in 1879, fires set by the Indians to drive out game frightened into the high country by the white men blackened much of Blue Ridge.<sup>10</sup> Numerous scars and

<sup>7</sup>"History of Grand County School Districts," op. cit., p. 6.

<sup>8</sup>McQueary, op. cit., pp. 47-51.

<sup>9</sup>George Field, private interview, Kremmling, Colorado, April, 1970.

<sup>10</sup>Milton Wood, loc. cit.

fire lines are still visible. Some of the fires are recorded; most are not. There are accounts which state that numerous fires - "many obviously set" - raged through the hot, dry summer of 1879 while game was slaughtered without thought and left to spoil. Another series of fires began with the arrival of Company D of the Ninth United State Cavalry, a Negro Unit sent to settle the unrest.<sup>11</sup>

No fights between white and Indians were ever recorded. Because of its remoteness, the area was fairly late in being settled, and few Indians remained after the Meeker Massacre in 1879 caused the majority to be moved to reservations.

Rich in game animals, fur animals, and fish, the valley was probably visited by trappers and hunters, but just who may have been the first white man in the valley is unknown. Thomas Jefferson Farnham came through Middle Park in 1839, as did John C. Fremont on his second expedition in 1844. Their principal routes came down the Blue River.<sup>12</sup> Side explorations may well have carried them onto the Williams Fork, but if they did, no records exist. The first recorded exploration of a white man into the valley was that of a Kentuckian, Colonel Beverly D. Williams. Coming from Arkansas to Colorado in 1859 as superintendent of Russell, Majors, and Waddell's Leavenworth and Pike's Peak Express and Stage Company, Williams was sent as a delegate from Jefferson Territory (Colorado) to Washington where he was instrumental in getting the name

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<sup>11</sup>R. C. Black, Island in the Rockies (Boulder: Pruett Publishing Company, 1969), pp. 129-130.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., p. 18.



of the territory changed to Colorado Territory. Back in Colorado in 1860, he came over Vasquez Pass and down the river now called the Williams Fork while surveying a wagon route for getting supplies to government troops in Utah.<sup>14</sup> While it is not a fact, the supposition that the area bears his name is supported by the fact that no name appears on maps of the region until approximately 1863, while those areas named for Bill Williams, a trapper killed by the Utes, appear much earlier.<sup>15</sup>

By 1863, the trail taken by Williams was built into a pass a few miles southwest of Vasquez Pass.<sup>16</sup> Built by John S. Jones of Empire, the inconveniently high pass was dedicated to forcing a route directly from Clear Creek to the Williams Fork to encourage development of the farm country beyond.<sup>17</sup> It consisted of a trail barely passable, but later it was used to transport the first stove into Middle Park by pack train down the Williams Fork where it was somehow broken.<sup>18</sup> Later yet, ore from mines was packed to Empire the same way.

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<sup>14</sup>McQueary, op. cit., p. 18.

<sup>15</sup>R. C. Black, private interview, Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado, April, 1970.

<sup>16</sup>McQueary, op. cit., p. 8.

<sup>17</sup>Black, Island in the Rockies, op. cit., p. 58.

<sup>18</sup>Glendening, op. cit., p. 24.

## CHAPTER II

### Early Settlers

The Homestead Act passed in 1862 to provide a settler with 160 acres of land and enlarged by 1873 to provide 240 acres, plus the discovery of gold on Pike's Peak stimulated settlement of the Williams Fork. Joseph and William Coberly were among the first. They came from Denver in 1878 to homestead 160 acres of Muddy Creek and later moved to a site on the area which became known as Coberly Flat where they were soon joined by others.<sup>19</sup>

In 1881, Bohan William Field (see Ill. 1, p. 41) arrived with his eleven year old son, Fred. By 1883 he had homesteaded on the site which was later to become part of the Williams Fork Reservoir. The ranch was known as the Cedar Mountain Ranch.<sup>20</sup>

Albert Scholl, born in Newburg, Germany, arrived in 1882 to homestead and give his name to the site where the first post office was to be located.<sup>21</sup>

R. T. Williams and his family homesteaded near Parshall in 1883 and moved to the Williams Fork in 1903. His daughters soon married to start the idea that everyone on the Williams Fork is related to everyone else. One became Mrs. Simon Olson and moved with her husband, another early homesteader, to a new homestead. Another married Earl

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<sup>19</sup>"History of Grand County School Districts," op. cit., pp. 6-7.

<sup>20</sup>Black, op. cit., p. 241.

<sup>21</sup>Scrapbook, (in possession of Mrs. Earl McQueary), n.p.

McQueary whose family was said to have "taken the country away from the Indians."<sup>22</sup> Yet another married Nels Kronquist who came from Sweden to take up a homestead sometime around 1900.<sup>23</sup>

A. P. Brown was another whose daughters married to bring a close relationship to the people. Coming from South Dakota in 1900, he settled down at what later became Scholl, Colorado. Of his daughters, only Nora did not marry. Clara married Leonard Wold, Alma married Russell Wood (who came from a family which rivaled the McQueary's in size), and Minnie married George Field (see Ill. 2, p. 42). Brown's only son, Adolph, died in boot camp during World War I.<sup>24</sup>

Beam Burtcher, Oscar Cole, "Old" Gus Boham, Henry Wilson, and others were not necessarily as early but contributed to the folk lore through their actions and reputations.

Beam Burtcher lived on a homestead above what is now Hasty Flat. Living most of his life by himself, he was known for being one who did not particularly like having his property invaded, intentionally or otherwise.<sup>25</sup> He is said to have had several mailorder brides, none of which ever stayed for more than two or three days.<sup>26</sup> Whenever he rode he always wore two pistols and carried his violin to play for those unfortunate to be deprived to music due to a lack of instruments.

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<sup>22</sup>Black, op. cit., p. 310.

<sup>23</sup>Scrapbook, loc. cit.

<sup>24</sup>Alma Wood, private interview, Kremmling, Colorado, April, 1970.

<sup>25</sup>Leon V. Almirall, From College to Cow Country (Caldwell: Caxton Printers, Limited, 1956), p.

<sup>26</sup>May McClung, private interview, Kremmling, Colorado, April, 1970.

His musical talent was not confined to visits but often was given, especially to some of the young ladies of the area, over the telephone, a fact that had its aggravating as well as its humorous side.<sup>27</sup> When he became ill in 1934, he must have realized that his time to die was near. Before going to the hospital he set four posts to be the corners of his grave. It is in that grave in a timbered ravine on his homestead that he was buried several weeks later.<sup>28</sup>

Henry Wilson was probably the most colorful of the several "characters" who lived on the Williams Fork (see Ill. 3, p. 43). More commonly known as "Rooster," he was half Cherokee Indian. Deriving his name from the fact that he was the night wrangler in Wyoming who always brought his horses back to camp at daybreak, he ranged in Wyoming and all over Colorado before coming to the Williams Fork in 1907 to work for the Forest Service and ride for the Curtis Cattle Company.<sup>29</sup> He was quiet but friendly and soon had many friends. Six feet tall and slim-waisted with black hair and eyes, he rode from experience as though he belonged to his horse.<sup>30</sup> As a stock inspector and game warden he managed to be the law and a friend at the same time. In 1929 he homesteaded next to Lysander Williams, another old homesteader, where he ranched until his death in 1934. His funeral was one of the most unique ever staged in Grand County. With pallbearers dressed in full cowboy regalia and lariats on the casket, the funeral music included "The Last Roundup," and the pallbearers rode

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<sup>27</sup>Alma Wood, loc. cit.

<sup>28</sup>Scrapbook, loc. cit.

<sup>29</sup>Ibid.

<sup>30</sup>Almirall, op. cit., p. 281.

cow ponies to the cemetery in Hot Sulphur Springs where he was buried.<sup>31</sup>

William Coberly is not very well remembered, but Joseph Coberly is another story. "Uncle Joe" Coberly, as he was known to everyone that knew him (adults included), was tall, gaunt, and stoop-shouldered. Described as "a fine type of old-time cowman," he owned a large spread.<sup>32</sup> He was very fond of children, but his habit of kissing them with a long beard full of tobacco juice soon caused them to run and hide when they saw him coming.<sup>33</sup> His one peculiarity was his treatment of his wife, and this one quality involved Oscar Cole who worked for Coberly before marrying and homesteading on his own. Mrs. Coberly's origin is uncertain, but she was attractive and rather full of fun. Whenever Coberly left, he locked her in the cabin where she remained until he returned to release her again. The hired men managed to stay out of the affair until Oscar Cole finally passed the point of being able to watch and stand by silently. On one particular day when Coberly locked up his wife and left for Kremmling, Cole released her and her two small boys, loaded them in a wagon, and took them through Little Ute Pass toward Dillon to board the narrow gauge railroad for Denver. Someone who passed them rode to Kremmling and told Coberly what was happening. Mounting Star, a horse who had a wide reputation for speed and stability, Coberly rode for Dillon. Although he tried his best, he came into the station just as the train pulled out, and he was unable to catch it. Mrs. Coberly went to Denver where she sued

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<sup>31</sup>Scrapbook, loc. cit.

<sup>32</sup>Almirall, op. cit., p. 274.

<sup>33</sup>McClung, loc. cit.

for divorce and later remarried. Coberly remained single for the rest of his life, and Oscar Cole shortly married and moved to his own homestead. As far as anyone knows, they never spoke to each other again.<sup>34</sup>

Gus Boham, known commonly as "Old Gus," provided another interesting legend backed by people who knew and spoke to him. Probably the human being who disliked water the most of anyone in Grand County, he was an old-time trapper and miner. "Rooster" Wilson once told Fred Field that he had seen Boham fall into the river and come out shedding water worse than most ducks because of the dirt that always covered him from head to foot.<sup>35</sup> He was also very superstitious. Mining and prospecting around Williams Peak one day, he came upon the ruins of a cabin and a pole box hanging in a tree. He had heard that an Indian had been known to live in the area; an Indian who had built a casket of pine poles and hung it in a tree so that he could crawl into it when he was ready to die without being disturbed. Boham went to investigate and knocked the box to the ground. According to his story the box split, and the bones fell to ~~the~~<sup>out</sup> ground. Whether he jumped the canyon surrounding the area or not was never made clear. At least he claimed he was on the other side when he wcke up.<sup>36</sup>

One man about whom very little is known is William Darling. A person described as "very educated," Darling was seen very little and kept mostly to himself in a cabin away from civilization and

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<sup>34</sup> McClung, loc. cit.

<sup>35</sup> George Field, loc. cit.

<sup>36</sup> McClung, loc. cit.

trapped for a living.<sup>37</sup> One account indicates that he may have had some kind of a tragedy in his life that caused him to shun contact with humans as much as possible.<sup>38</sup>

Two incidents mar the events in the history of the region. Both are told by residents but are undoubtedly backed by court records of the inquests held. One involved a suicide, and the other was a murder. Earl Hasty, who owned a large spread on the flat above Battle Hill was involved in the suicide. Mrs. Hasty, a former teacher whose origin was unknown, had been married to Hasty only a short time when a former boyfriend arrived to pay her a visit, found she was married, and killed himself with a gun on her doorstep. Needless to say, the community was shocked and saddened at the events.<sup>39</sup>

The other event concerned a man described as an "outlaw."<sup>40</sup> Known only as Kelly (no one remembers a first name), he lived as a trapper and was suspected of rustling cattle, particularly those of Nathan Shore.<sup>41</sup> He was accused several times, but nothing was ever proven. One morning he was found dead by his spring from a bullet in the back. No one was ever punished for the crime.<sup>42</sup>

Of course, these are only a few of the people that lived in the area. All were important in their own way, but those mentioned are probably of the most interest. The rest must be set aside for the present because of lack of time and space.

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<sup>37</sup>Alma Wood, loc. cit.

<sup>38</sup>Almirall, op. cit., p. 278.

<sup>39</sup>Leonard Wood, private interview, Williams Fork, April, 1970.

<sup>40</sup>"History of Grand County School Districts," op. cit., pp. 1, 8.

<sup>41</sup>Field, loc. cit.

<sup>42</sup>Russell Wood, private interview, Kremmling, Colorado, April, 1970.

PART 2. THE COUNTRY GROWS



## CHAPTER III

### Education and Religion

As soon as families began to arrive, schools became a necessity. Records of the earliest school on the Williams Fork have been lost. An unofficial account states that the first school began on Coberly Flat in a log cabin with a sod roof built by a Mr. Gives (see Ill. 4, p. 44) in 1890. School was held only during the summer months until 1912 because the children had to help on their families' ranches with haying in the fall and feeding in the winter. Mrs. Lena Groves was teacher at a salary of \$38 per month and at least seven pupils.<sup>43</sup> Apparently the school was moved in the next six years about half a mile west to a Eubanks cabin where Ada Eubanks was the second teacher.<sup>44</sup>

About 1912, school was moved to the Wold ranch, a ranch now owned by American Metals and occupied by Joe Spacek. The school-room was just large enough to hold teacher and pupils, and the door was left open to improve the poor light and ventilation.<sup>45</sup>

By 1897, written records show that District 7 was officially organized as Willow View School with Lena Eldred Grove as teacher.<sup>46</sup> A year later, in 1898, a new school was built on the ranch of L. P. Williams (later the "Rooster" Wilson homestead and presently owned

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<sup>43</sup>"History of Grand County School Districts," op. cit., p. 8.

<sup>44</sup>Ibid. <sup>45</sup>Ibid., pp. 1, 8.

<sup>46</sup>Records of the Grand County Superintendent of School, Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado.

*Roy Hilly*  
 by Dr. C. C. Shoffner). Miss Dora Wendling (Mrs. Fred Field) was the first to teach there.<sup>47</sup> Approximately this same time, school took up in a building in McQueary Gulch just north of the Leonard Wood ranch. The school became known as the Columbine School mainly because "there were no flowers within a mile, and the teacher thought *she* needed a name to make up for it."<sup>48</sup>

In 1908, with two schools in the area, District 7 was divided. Willow View became District 7 with Columbine School becoming District 17.<sup>49</sup> No immediate changes in the system occurred, but in 1910 Willow View was moved to the foot of Battle Creek Hill where five years later a frame building was constructed (see Ill. 5, p. 45).<sup>50</sup> Sometime later two new schools were built, one in each district. In District 7, Ute Park School, a frame structure located on the southwest edge of Ute Park, was built on the site of an old Indian camping ground. The Hermosa School was built on the ranch of the same name in District 17 (see Ill, 6, p. 46).<sup>51</sup>

The quality of education in those days was good considering the hardships faced. The students were scattered and often had to ride or walk several miles to school. Textbooks were few, teachers were changed almost every year, and money for improvements was

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<sup>47</sup>"History of Grand County School Districts," op. cit., p. 8.

<sup>48</sup>McClung, loc. cit.

<sup>49</sup>Records of Grand County Superintendent of Schools, loc. cit.

<sup>50</sup>"History of Grand County School Districts," op. cit., p. 1.

<sup>51</sup>Ibid., p. 6.

non-existent.<sup>52</sup> Water was either carried from the creek or pumped by hand from an outside well. The only sanitary facilities consisted of outdoor restrooms. At times all eight grades (there were no high school classes as such) were taught by the same teacher in the same room at the same time. In winter the temperature of the building got as low as thirty degrees below zero when the children arrived before the wood stove had been started.<sup>53</sup>

The schools continued for many years before they succumbed, one by one, to progress. The Hermosa was the first to go, followed by Ute Park, Willow View, and Columbine. Hermosa was eventually destroyed. Ute Park School was taken in 1947 to the site of the Columbine School where it found use as living quarters for the teachers, and Willow View was transported to Kremmling after 1940, when the teacher had two of her own children and only two other students, to become the music building at West Grand High School.<sup>54</sup>

In the earliest days, community church services "were wholly spasmodic."<sup>55</sup> When observances began to be held in the scattered community, churches or Sunday Schools were held in various places, and the sermon was given by one of the local people or by Reverend Thomas Houston of Hot Sulphur Springs or Reverend John Reini of Parshall. The two ministers often walked or rode through storms to reach the

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<sup>52</sup>Lorraine Gould, private interview, Hot Sulphur Springs, March, 1970.

<sup>53</sup>Margaret Wood, private interview, Williams Fork, March, 1970.

<sup>54</sup>Leonard Wood, loc. cit.

<sup>55</sup>Black, op. cit., p. 375.

site of the services.<sup>56</sup> The first really organized Sunday School was started by Nathan and Sarah Shore about 1910 in the Willow View School. Services were held during the summer with music for the singing supplied by Mrs. Oscar Cole and her violin and later by Edna Shore on her organ.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>56</sup>"History of Grand County School Districts," op. cit., p. 10.

<sup>57</sup>McClung, loc. cit.

## CHAPTER IV

### Transportation and Communications

The first settlers who came rode horses or drive wagons over trails that were barely passable. With no bridges, they had to find places to ford the rivers. If the rivers were high from spring run-off, the crossing would either have to be delayed or forgotten. Bayard Taylor became one of the first white men to cross Ute Pass when high rivers forced him to cancel a visit to Hot Sulphur Springs and go over the Pass in 1867 on his way to Dillon.<sup>58</sup> Two fords across the Williams Fork River, one at the Field ranch and the other at the Tyndall ranch, allowed easy crossings.<sup>59</sup>

Roads, as such, were not built until the coming of the automobile. The trails usually ran in the straightest possible line from one ranch to the other. Not only convenient, this system allowed everyone to know where everyone else had been or were going.

By 1912 there were three automobiles, and roads were being built for them. L. J. Wade's purchase of a Model T in 1915 and the transportation of mail by W. H. Carr to the distant Wade ranch stimulated Mr. Carr to build the road up Battle Hill.<sup>60</sup>

Mail was slow in reaching the region. Inhabitants had to get

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<sup>58</sup> Bayard Taylor, Colorado: A Summer Trip (New York: G. P. Putnam and Son, 1867), p. 105.

<sup>59</sup> "History of Grand County School Districts," op. cit., p. 9.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid., p. 5.

their mail from Hot Sulphur Springs to which it came from Empire by stage, or from the post office at Troublesome, Colorado.<sup>61</sup> A. P. Brown began an unofficial postal service upon his arrival in 1900. Acquiring the mail in Hot Sulphur Springs, he transported it to his ranch and stored in until the people picked it up.<sup>62</sup> Then in November of 1901 an official post office was established at the Brown ranch under the name of Scholl, Colorado with Ole Langhollen as the postmaster. In 1904 Leal, Colorado was established at the Wade ranch with Charles F. Barker in charge. Interestingly enough both sites applied to be called the Williams Fork Post Office, and both were turned down. Together they served about 80 persons.<sup>63</sup> Mail was taken to the two remote sites first from Hot Sulphur Springs and then from Parshall by an official carried by wagon, sled or snowshoes when the railroad arrived.<sup>64</sup> Both offices changed locations slightly between 1914 and 1915, probably to accommodate changes in postmasters which also took place in those years. Leal employed six postmasters before it was discontinued on March 22, 1930. Scholl had only two before it was closed on January 31, 1930.<sup>65</sup> By that time the residents had enough transportation and good enough roads to be able to receive their mail in Parshall.

Surprisingly telephones were fairly early means of communication. The Williams Fork Telephone Company was formed in April of 1911,

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<sup>61</sup> Ibid., p. 4.

<sup>62</sup> Alma Wood, loc. cit.

<sup>63</sup> General Services Administration, National Archives, Washington, D. C., March 13, 1970

<sup>64</sup> Alma Wood, loc. cit.

<sup>65</sup> General Services Administration, loc. cit.

but there were already five miles of line.<sup>66</sup> Most of the lines were the top wires of the barbed wire fences. High frames were built around gates so that the line would be out of the way of humans and livestock.<sup>67</sup> By the time minutes of meetings were being kept, regular lines had been or were being built. Land for the lines was donated by the owners in return for service.<sup>68</sup> Application for incorporation was filed in December, 1912, and a corporate seal was issued. (see Ill. 8, p. 48). The objects of the operation were "to construct, operate, and maintain a line of magnetic telephone from the town of Parshall to Leal." Capital amounted to ten thousand dollars which was broken into 100 shares of stock at \$100 per share. The first directors were Louis Fick, George Steele, L. J. Wade, and T. F. Dewitt.<sup>69</sup>

In 1913 several rules for telephone use were set down. Calls were limited to six minutes, with the exception of long distance calls. Five cents per call was charged to outsiders, and there was a fine of one dollar for those caught in the first offense of abusing the line or using "discourteous language." After the first offense, being caught again meant disconnection of the phone.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>66</sup>Williams Fork Telephone Company, Minutes of Telephone Owners' Meeting, April, 1911.

<sup>67</sup>Leonard Wood, loc. cit.

<sup>68</sup>Williams Fork Telephone Company, Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors, September 30, 1910.

<sup>69</sup>Articles of Incorporation, Williams Fork Telephone Company, December, 1912.

<sup>70</sup>Williams Fork Telephone Company, Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors, December 29, 1913.

In 1916 arrangements were made with Mountain States Telephone Company to tie in with their switchboard in Hot Sulphur Springs, and Mary Fick was hired as the first operator at fifteen dollars per month. With the switchboard at the Fick ranch, she kept track of the calls and charges and reported abuse or bad language to the secretary of the local company.<sup>71</sup>

By 1930 the operation covered the entire Williams Fork Valley and Parshall (see Plate 2, p. 37). The subscribers of the company took turns in maintaining and repairing the lines, as well as installing new lines.<sup>72</sup>

Of course, improving transportation and communications encouraged travel into the area, already known for its beauty and wild game. Industry in the form of mining was also stimulated, even though it came earlier than most of the transportation except the horse.

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<sup>71</sup>Williams Fork Telephone Company, Minutes of Meetings of Stockholders, April 15, 1911 and June 22, 1917.

<sup>72</sup>Ibid.



## CHAPTER V

### Recreation

In a ranching community such as this, the people worked hard, and they played hard whenever they got the chance. The timbered mountains and crystal rivers and strams provided excellent hunting and fishing. Ironically, it was not the residents who took advantage of the pleasures to be found in their area. Too busy with survival and making a living to worry much about entertainment, they soon found that the assets in their community were great enough to attract visitors from outside of the area.

Schools provided the first entertainment as students and parents gathered for spelling contests and holiday programs. Dances were also held at various places with local talent supplying the music.<sup>73</sup> Need for a centrally located gathering place prompted the building of a clubhouse near the Willow View School about 1910.<sup>74</sup> The site soon proved to be somewhat less than centrally located, so Maynard and O. B. Marble were hired as carpenters to build another clubhouse on a more convenient site (see Ill. 9, p. 49.) The two brothers, who had a house situated on the line between their neighboring homesteads, never crossed the line marking the boundary, and seldom spoke to each other,

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<sup>73</sup>Alma Wood, loc. cit.

<sup>74</sup>"History of Grand County School Districts," op. cit., p. 2.

managed to work together to finish the building.<sup>76</sup> Official dedication ceremonies on the mesa above the present reservoir drew 150 persons, including former governor Elias Ammons.<sup>77</sup> The clubhouse was used for various social functions and was later used as headquarters for a rodeo club.<sup>78</sup>

The outside interest in the area for recreation was stimulated as early as 1869 when reports of 40-66 pounds of trout ranging from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 2 pounds each taken in a half day's fishing in the Williams Fork River were recorded.<sup>79</sup> In the early 1900's several residents saw an opportunity to profit from the interest. The first was L. J. Wade who owned the ranch on which the Leal Post Office was located. Expanding his facilities to include 15 units in an operation described as "mammoth," he met the train with a wagon to transport guests to his Paducah Lodge (see Ill. 10, p. 50).<sup>80</sup> The pleasant atmosphere and good fishing attracted the business men of larger cities who often spent their entire vacation in the area.<sup>81</sup>

Another operation soon opened only a few miles from Wade's. Known as the Ute Park Resort, it consisted of 22 units (see Ill. 11, p. 51). The owners were O. E. and Emma Tuassig who operated the resort from 1903 to 1918 when they changed to ranching with their sons.<sup>82</sup> A

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<sup>76</sup>Kenneth Wood, loc. cit.

<sup>77</sup>Black, op. cit., p. 324.

<sup>78</sup>Leonard Wood, loc. cit.

<sup>79</sup>Samuel Bowles, Colorado: Its Peaks and Mountains (Springfield: Samuel Bowles and Company, 1869), p. 74.

<sup>80</sup>Alma Wood, loc. cit.

<sup>81</sup>Edith Strohmeier, private interview, Kremmling, Colorado, April, 1970.

<sup>82</sup>Thomas S. Chamberlin, ed., Historical Encyclopedia of Colorado, I (Boulder: Colorado Historical Association, n.d.), p. 1150.

third unit, Pennsylvania Lodge, was also opened with six cabins during this time period by the Hazeltons (see Ill. 12, p. 52.).<sup>83</sup>

Even though the lodges eventually declined, fishing remains good today. When the falls below the present dam were blasted out in preparation for building the dam, the natural barrier against suckers, a kind of fish nearly worthless which crowds out other fish life, was removed.<sup>84</sup> As a result, the fishing is not what it was. However, it still attracts many fishermen and tourists.

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<sup>83</sup>Edith Strohmeier, loc. cit.

<sup>84</sup>Allyn Wood, private interview, Williams Fork, March, 1970.

PART 3. INDUSTRY AND DEVELOPMENT

## CHAPTER VI

### Mining

Mining in Middle Park was once said to have existed without producing paying ore except for coal.<sup>85</sup> Perhaps little was produced in comparison with the gold fields of California, but mines existed and produced in the area for a number of years.

In 1874, the Williams Fork became part of Clear Creek County.<sup>86</sup> The southeastern portion of that county (including the head of the Williams Fork) was grouped as the La Plata Mining District and was reported to be producing gold, silver, and copper.<sup>87</sup> Numerous mines apparently existed in the area, but which were on the Williams Fork and which were in what is presently Clear Creek County is a source of confusion. Maps indicate that the headwaters of the Williams Fork River are between fifteen and seventeen miles west of Empire. These figures were used when no other legal description of the location could be found.

In 1880 the first mining company was incorporated. Gray's Peak Mining Company, located fifteen miles west of Empire in the La Plata Mining District, included the La Plata and Lucy Lodes and the La

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<sup>85</sup> Ovando J. Hollister, Mines of Colorado (Springfield: Samuel Bowles and Company, 1877), p. 325.

<sup>86</sup> McQueary, op. cit., p. 28.

<sup>87</sup> Charles Henderson, U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 138, ms. Denver Public Library, 1926, p. 123.

Plata Extension. Silver was obtained from two tunnels 100 and 507 feet in length.<sup>88</sup>

Official dates of the Ready Cash Mine are unknown, but in July of 1881 silver and free gold were being found there.<sup>89</sup> Igo Wiertz and Company, owners, were driving a tunnel on the vein by October of that year. At the Bobtail One and Bobtail Two, a tunnel being driven had run into streaks of high grade ore (see Plate 1, p. 36). Promising reports were coming from the mining camp of Hill City. Location of the camp was given as "about seventeen miles west of Georgetown." A 32-foot tunnel had been driven on the Luella Lode, and a list of mines containing superior ore numbered eighteen.<sup>90</sup> By 1883 "the new Bobtail Mine was worked 'feverishly' and the Ready Cash was pronounced "a veritable bonanza" in the higher elevations of the region.<sup>91</sup>

The next significant notes on mining are found in 1900 when equipment for a mill was being sent to the Bobtail Mines. Ore from the lode was transported to Empire by wagon and pack train and then by rail to Denver.<sup>92</sup>

Discovery of lead and copper in 1901 led to renewed interest in the La Plata District.<sup>93</sup> The owners of the Luella Group hauled new

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<sup>88</sup>Robert A. Corregan, ed., and David Lingane, ed., Colorado Mining Directory, (Denver: Colorado Mining Directory Company, 1883), p. 315.

<sup>89</sup>Denver Republican, July 30, 1881, p. 2.

<sup>90</sup>Weekly Rocky Mountain News, October 5, 1881, p. 6.

<sup>91</sup>Black, op. cit., p. 151.

<sup>92</sup>Denver Times, December 10, 1900, p. 9.

<sup>93</sup>Black, op. cit., pp. 300-301.

supplies into the area in which 2,000 feet of development work had been done.<sup>94</sup> In April, the Happy Dream Mining and Milling Company was incorporated. Three hundred thousand dollars worth of capital stock was issued at one dollar per share, and gold, silver, lead, and copper were listed as the main minerals to be sought.<sup>95</sup> Late in the year copper was discovered on Ute Pass. Wide veins and pay streaks led to favorable reports, even though the veins had to be uncovered before they could be exactly located.<sup>96</sup>

The Williams Fork Mining and Milling Company was organized and incorporated in 1902 with a million and a half dollars in capital stock to operate the Bobtail. Their holdings, including some timber on the Western Slope some 16 miles west of Empire, were producing gold and silver from placer grounds.<sup>97</sup> At the same time, location certificates were issued to the Happy Dream Mining and Milling Company for the Thomas E. Extension and the Happy Dream, Mountain Lion, Little Lamb, and Ollie Lodes in the Blue Ridge Mining District.<sup>98</sup>

By 1903, the Williams Fork Mining and Milling Company had driven 450 feet of tunnel, and crosscuts showed 28 feet of milling and smelting ores. A concentrating plant was still in the planning stages.

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<sup>94</sup>Denver Times, July 15, 1901, p. 9.

<sup>95</sup>Incorporations file, Grand County Clerk, Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado.

<sup>96</sup>Denver Times, November 22, 1901, p. 13.

<sup>97</sup>E. M. Warwick, ed., Mining Reporter, (Denver: Industrial Printing and Publishing Company, 1902-1903), pp. 60, 325.

<sup>98</sup>File of location certificates, Grand County Clerk, Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado.

but high grade ore was anticipated to push the need for the plant.<sup>99</sup> A year later the tunnel had progressed to 700 feet, and a four-foot vein of good concentrating ore and an eighteen-inch streak of silver and lead smelting ore had been opened. Mill equipment had been ordered and was expected to be in operation by the first of June.<sup>100</sup>

The mining excitement must have begun to fade after that. No reports were given again until 1909 when the Mollie Groves was organized as a mining company with two million dollars in capital. In the next two years 114 acres of eleven unpatented claims were acquired, and eleven pits and shafts ranging in depth from ten feet to fifty-five feet and five tunnels forty feet to seven hundred three feet long had been dug. The ore obtained was gold and copper, but Horace J. Stevens, a prominent mining figure, thought little of the site because of "alleged preposterous claims."<sup>101</sup>

The last mines ceased operation before 1930. In 1925 the Ready Cash shipped seven tons of ore, and a steam-driven mill and a boarding house had been built at the Bobtail.<sup>102</sup> These noteworthy items, however, are the last found which indicate mining activity. The fact that the area was so far from the railroad (the nearest being at Parshall) contributed to its fall as part of one of the busiest mining areas in Colorado.

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<sup>99</sup>E. M. Warwick, ed., Mining Reporter (Denver: Industrial Printing and Publishing Company, 1903), pp. 314-315.

<sup>100</sup>W. F. R. Mills, ed., Mining Reporter, (Denver: Industrial Printing and Publishing Company, 1904), p. 513.

<sup>101</sup>Walter H. Weed, The Copper Handbook, XI (Houghton: Horace J. Stevens Publishing Company, 1912-1913), 274.

<sup>102</sup>Black, op. cit., p. 355.



## CHAPTER VII

### Land Development

In a country with few fences and inadequate rainfall, the necessity of growing hay and keeping track of livestock prompted improvements on the land and in keeping records.

As cattle came into the area, the importance of branding with a registered brand became apparent. Records show that the first brand certificate was issued to Joe Coberly in 1883. Several others were recorded shortly thereafter.<sup>103</sup> The arrival of Frank Black and his Herefords in 1898 began the improvement of the quality of stock raised.<sup>104</sup>

Increasing numbers of stock resulted in the formation of cattle companies. Several small ones existed, but the largest and most important was the Williams Fork Land and Livestock Company. More commonly known as the Company Ranch, it was jointly owned by then-governor Elias Ammons and some banking friends from Denver.<sup>105</sup> The ranch was operated by a manager and ran Angus cattle. Other residents seemed to resent the fact that the owners did not care enough about the property to live on it themselves, and the fact that the Angus cattle did not respect fences or property led to the demise of at least one Angus bull.<sup>106</sup> For unknown reasons the company ran into

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<sup>103</sup>Reception book of 1883, Grand County Clerk, Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado.

<sup>104</sup>Chamberlin, op. cit., p. 744.

<sup>105</sup>Russell Wood, loc. cit.

<sup>106</sup>Almirall, op. cit., p. 466.

financial difficulty and eventually went bankrupt.<sup>107</sup>

The livestock also resulted in need for greater hay crops and more water to grow the hay. With adequate water in the Williams Fork River and a great need for water on the lower flats, plans for a large irrigation ditch began to take form. Alonzo Franklin Polhamus instigated the construction of the eleven-mile Williams Fork Ditch in 1902. The ditch was to carry enough water to irrigate several thousand acres of land.<sup>108</sup> Still in use today, it is larger and longer than the original one and is known as the Big Lake Ditch.

Even with the large ditch drawing water from the river, an abundant supply remained. Since Denver was lacking adequate water supplies and little more than two miles of some kind of line was needed to send Williams Fork water to Clear Creek and on to Denver, a plan was formulated in 1902 to divert the water through a tunnel some two miles in length under Jones Pass.<sup>109</sup> The plan was put into operation in 1928. Completed in 1939 at a cost of over one million dollars, the tunnel supplies water for Denver's disposal plant and for irrigation after clarification.<sup>110</sup>

Another form of development was the creation of the Leadville Forest Reserve on May 12, 1905. Formed mainly for conservation

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<sup>107</sup>Russell Wood, loc. cit.

<sup>108</sup>Denver Republican, January 23, 1903, p. 11.

<sup>109</sup>Black, op. cit., p. 321.

<sup>110</sup>LeRoy F. Hafen, Colorado and Its People, I (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Incorporated, n.d.), p. 526.

purposes, it included both slopes of the Williams Fork Mountains and those of Byers Peak.<sup>111</sup> In the spring of 1909, a ranger named Buchholz was sent to the Williams Fork to set up camp at Scholl.<sup>112</sup> Sometime shortly thereafter he moved camp to a site on the Williams Fork River just below where a permanent headquarters was eventually built (see Ills. 13 and 14, pp. 53 and 54). From this headquarters rangers in the following years built several campsites for tourists and became responsible for checking for violations of the grazing permits issued to local ranchers for summer grazing of their cattle. The region eventually became part of the Arapaho National Forest (see Plate 3, p. 38).<sup>113</sup>

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<sup>111</sup>Black, op. cit., p. 308

<sup>112</sup>Ibid., p. 309.

<sup>113</sup>Bruce Thomas, private interview, Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado, March 1970.

## CHAPTER VIII

### Epilogue

In recent years, the Williams Fork Valley has seen many changes. The many small ranches have been bunched together to form larger ones. Modernization has caused the loss of a large portion of the community spirit that has held the residents together against the forces of the outside world.

In a community once separated from the outside world by a lack of communication and transportation, progress was met with mixed reaction. The interest of visitors in the area did not die with the end of the resorts. Instead, the timbered slopes and hunting and fishing continued to draw visitors to the area.

In 1938, with the construction of the Williams Fork Reservoir, more travel was stimulated. Originated to provide water for sewage disposal in Denver, the body of water held by the 86-foot dam was stocked with fish to become a recreation area. Enlarged in 1959, the reservoir became a state recreation area, and improved campsites around the lake and on the upper Williams Fork were built. The residents have taken advantage of the area, but at the same time they have seen the end of the time when there was no need for locks and houses were left open for weary travelers. The country can no longer be considered remote. Jeep trails and roads have opened up even the most remote reaches of the valley until one cannot find a place where there

is not a danger of finding people. Perhaps the changes can best be described through this poem from an unknown source and taken from Leon Almirall's book, From College to Cow Country:

Ten thousand cattle straying,  
As the rangers sang of old;  
The warm chinook's delaying,  
The aspens shake with cold.  
Ten thousand herds are passing,  
So pass the golden years;  
Behind us clouds are massing,  
Like the last of the old frontiers. <sup>114</sup>

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<sup>114</sup> Almirall, op. cit., p. 471.

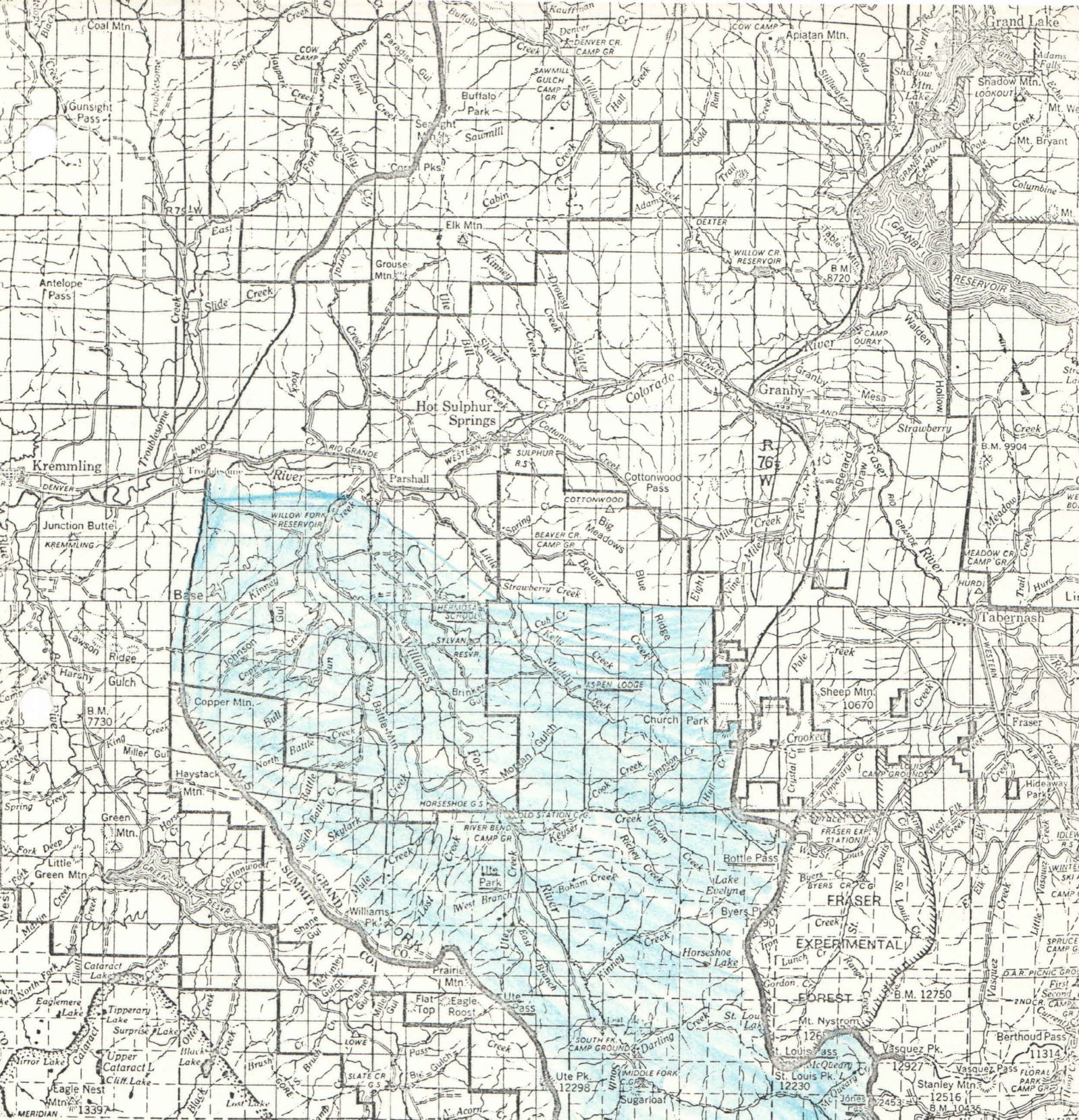
PLATES

See next  
Sheet

Plate 1

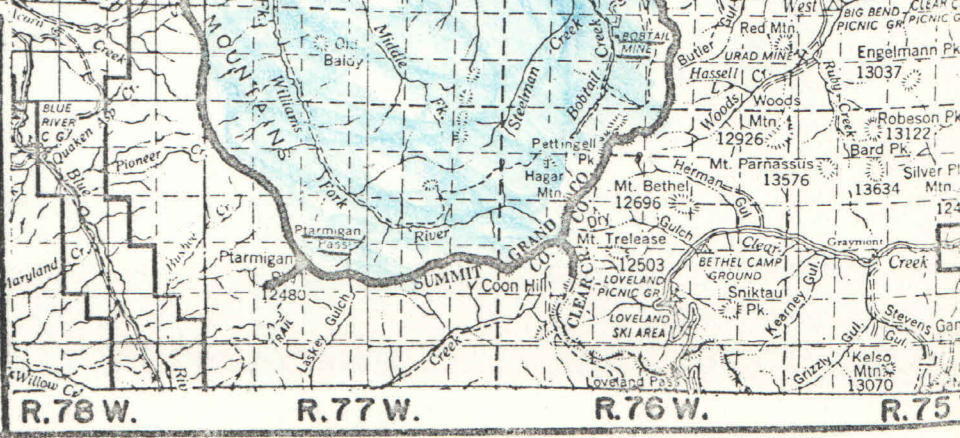
Map showing the Williams Fork Valley and various points of interest. <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Map courtesy of the Sulphur District of the United States Forest Service.



**R-2** Williams Fork Valley

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 FOREST SERVICE  
**SULPHUR DISTRICT**  
 ARAPAHO NATIONAL FOREST  
 COLORADO



R.78 W. R.77 W. R.76 W. R.75





Williams Fork Telephone Company  
Map of Lines in 1930

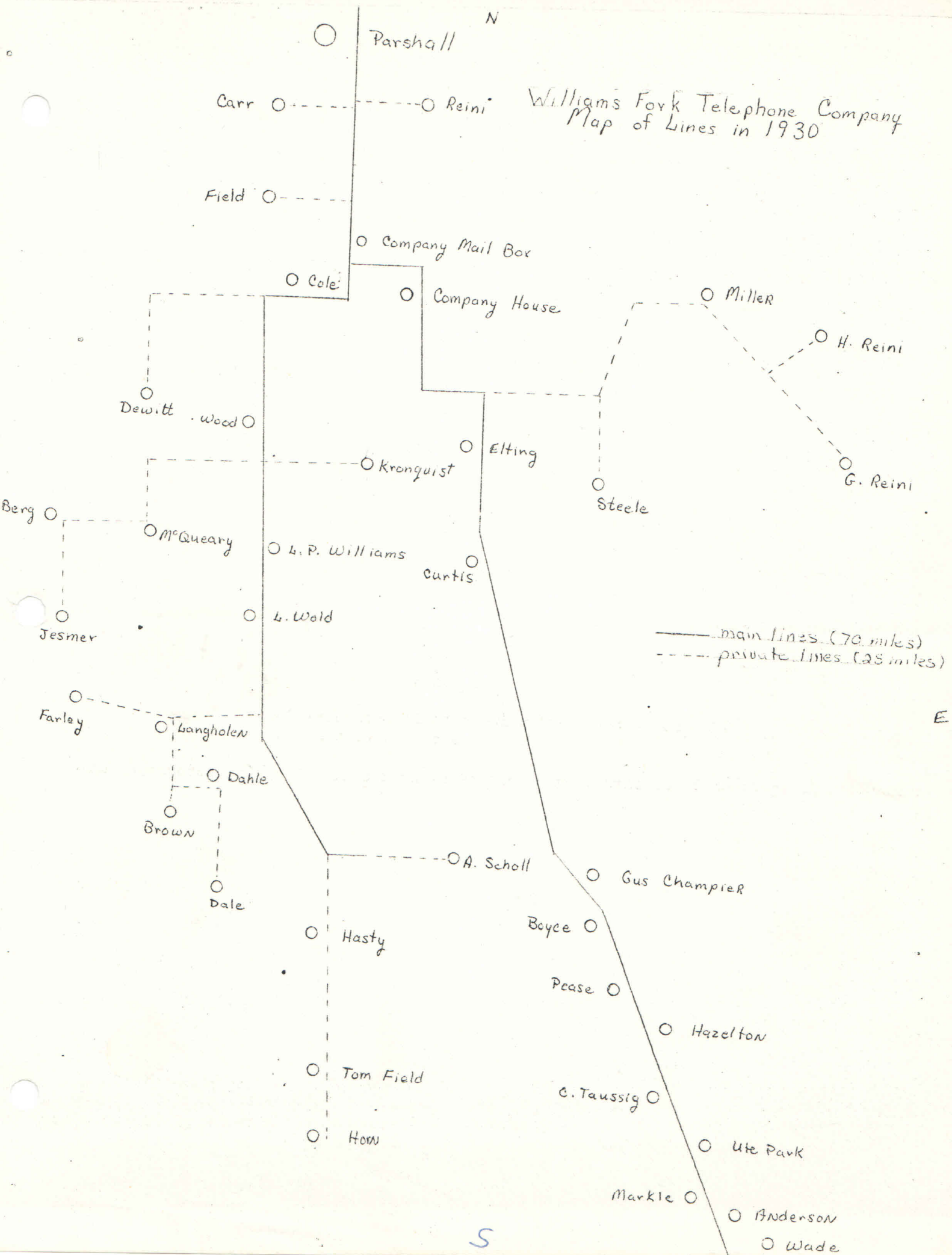
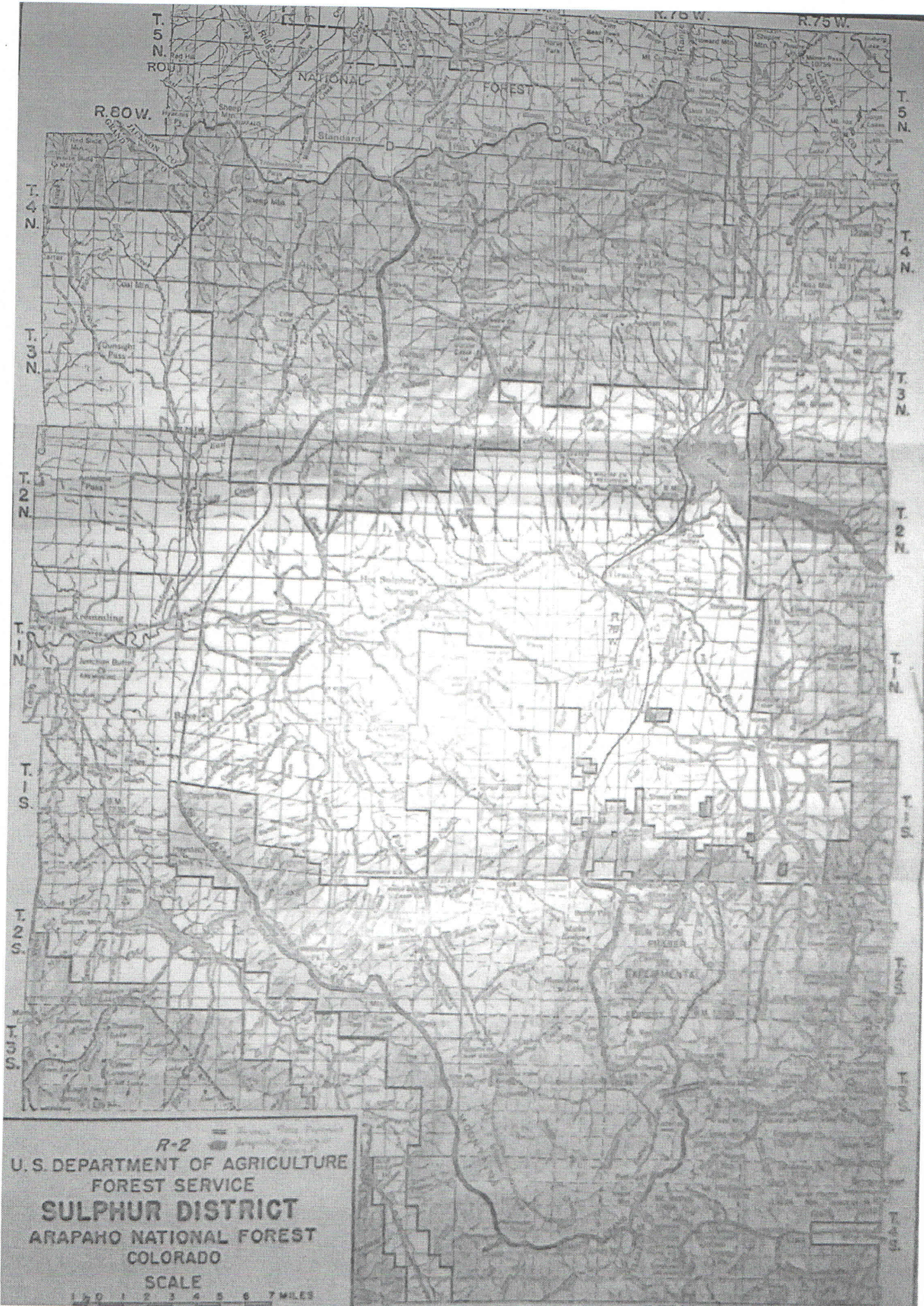


Plate 3

The Arapaho National Forest and the Jones Pass Tunnel.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>b</sup>Map courtesy of the Sulphur District of the United States Forest Service and the Grand County Surveyor.



R-2  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
**SULPHUR DISTRICT**  
ARAPAHO NATIONAL FOREST  
COLORADO  
SCALE  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 MILES

Plate 4d

<sup>d</sup>Postal records furnished by General Services Administration,  
National Archives, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Leal, Grand County, Colorado

Established on September 17, 1904  
Discontinued on April 30, 1930

Postmasters:

Charles F. Barker  
Gustavas O. Bailey  
Joseph M. Prueitt  
Miss Nina Frances Hospe  
Louis Wade  
LeRoy J. Beam (Acting)

Date of Appointment:

September 17, 1904  
January 21, 1910  
December 22, 1910  
May 5, 1914  
September 28, 1923  
March 22, 1930

Scholl, Grand County, Colorado

Established on November 27, 1901  
Discontinued on January 31, 1930

Postmasters:

Ole Langholen  
Miss Alma M. Brown

Date of Appointment:

November 27, 1901  
July 20, 1915

We can furnish for a total cost of \$1.40 electrostatic copies of geographical site location reports relating to the post offices at Leal and Scholl, Grand County, Colorado.

If you desire the histories of other post offices in the Williams Fork area of Grand County, Colorado, it will be necessary for you to furnish us with their names.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



National Archives and Records Service  
Washington, D.C. 20408

DATE: March 13, 1970

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: NNR

SUBJECT: Post offices at Leal and Scholl

Miss Nina L. Wood  
Box 35  
Kremmling, Colorado 80459

A reply to your inquiry will be found in the paragraphs checked below:

- See reverse of this page.
- We can furnish reproductions of records containing information about your inquiry. A description of the records and the cost of obtaining reproductions appear on the reverse of this page. Remittance should be made to us by check or money order payable to GSA (NNR) and mailed to Cashier, National Archives (GSA), Washington, D. C. 20408.
- Later information can be obtained from the Post Office Department, Washington, D.C. 20260.
- The records of the Post Office Department in the National Archives do not contain information about \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Requests for information about mail clerks and rural mail service should be addressed to the National Personnel Records Center, GSA (Civilian Personnel Records), 111 Winnebago Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63118.
- We are returning the material enclosed with your letter.
- You will receive an additional reply soon.

*Jane F. Smith*  
Director, Social and Economic  
Records Division



Post Office Department

FOURTH ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL

Washington

1/13/13

232

Sir: With reference to the proposed change in site of the post office named below, and in order that the office, if changed to the proposed location, may be accurately represented upon the post-route maps, it is requested that you furnish accurately the information called for below and prepare a sketch according to instructions on opposite side of paper, which should be returned to this Division as soon as possible.

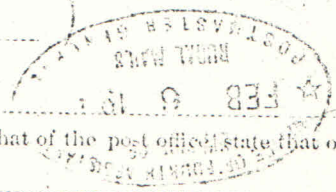
Respectfully,

FOURTH ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.

Post Office, Leal  
(Name)  
Grand  
(County)  
Colo.  
(State)

651-55  
54

The name of the post office is Leal  
If the town, village, or site of the post office be known by another name than that of the post office, state that other name here. Paducah



The post office, if changed to the proposed site, would be 2 1/2 miles, air-line distance, S.E.  
(N., S., E., or W.)

The post office would be situated in the N.W. quarter of section No. 8, in Township 3 S.  
Range 77 W., of the 6<sup>th</sup> principal meridian, County of Grand  
(N. or S.)  
State of Colo.

The name of the nearest river is Williams Forks, and the post-office building would be at a distance of 300 yards on the West side of it.  
(N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest creek is Darling, and the post-office building would be at a distance of 1 mile on the West side of it.  
(N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office on the same route as this post office is Scholl and its distance is 14 1/2 miles, by the traveled road, in a N.W. direction from the proposed site of this office.  
(N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office on the same route, on the other side, is Parshall and its distance is 2.5 miles, in a N.W. direction from the proposed site of this office.  
(N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office not on the same route as this post office is Hot Sulphur Springs and its distance is Five miles, by the traveled road, in a N.W. direction from the proposed site of this office.  
(N., S., E., or W.)

The post-office building would be on the South side of the Denver & Salt Lake Railroad, and at a distance of 20 miles from the track. The railroad station name is Parshall  
(N., S., E., or W.)

The post office would be 2 miles, air-line distance, N. from the nearest point of my county boundary.  
(N., S., E., or W.)

Signature of Postmaster:

J. M. Bennett  
Date: January 30<sup>th</sup> 1904



DIAGRAM, EXPLANATION, AND INSTRUCTIONS.

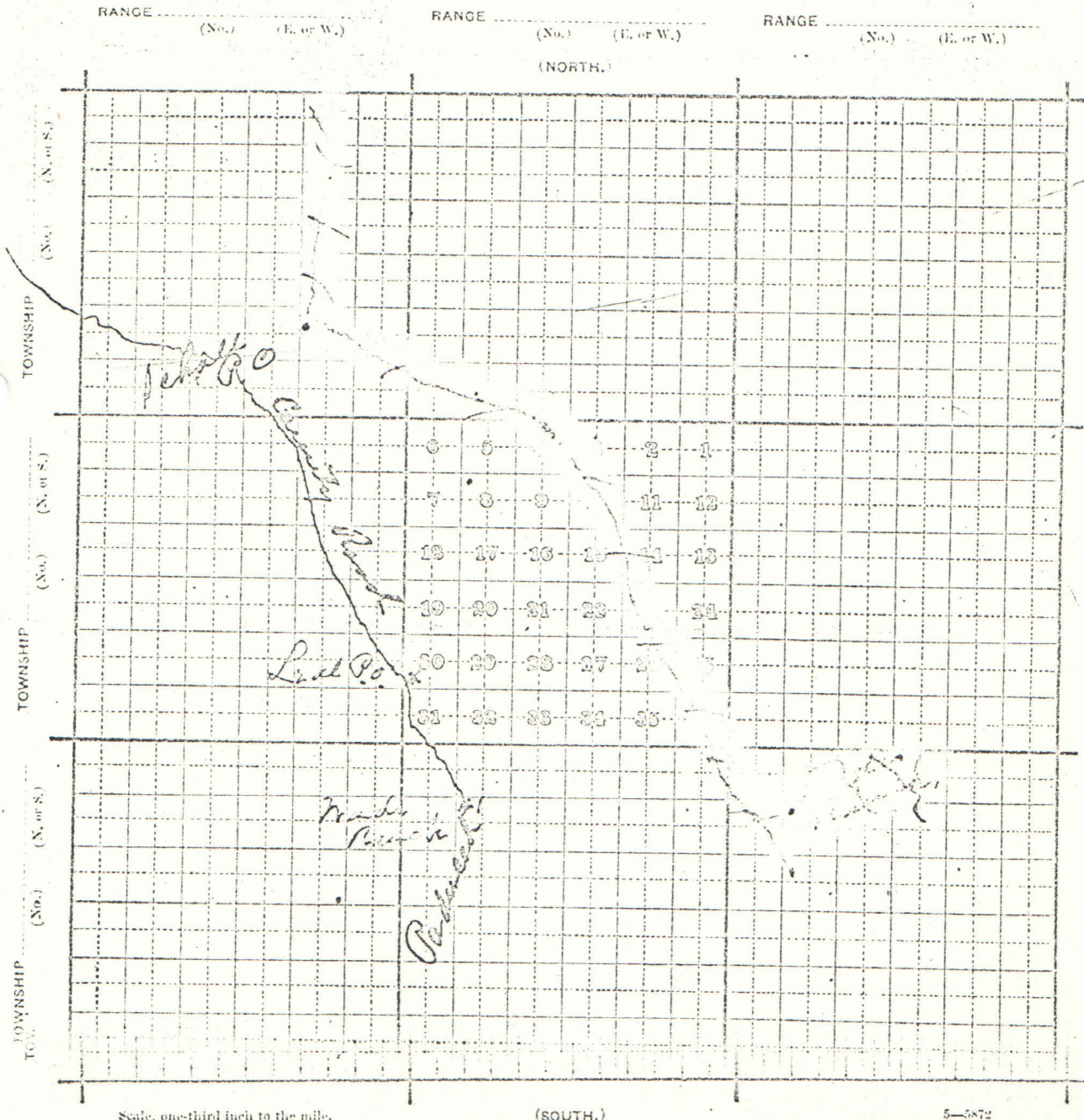
Indicate upon the diagram the proposed site of the post office by placing a dot in the proper quarter section.

The surrounding offices and the present site of this office should be accurately located and the names plainly written.

Draw distinctly the railways, roads, rivers, and creeks.

The post office would be situated in the *NW* quarter of section No. *8* in Township *3 S*, Range *77*, of the *6* principal meridian.

In localities not surveyed by the U. S. Land Office, a sketch map is requested.



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5

PROPOSED LOCATION OF POST OFFICE

DIVISION OF POSTMASTERS' APPOINTMENTS

IN REPLYING MENTION INITIALS AND DATE

Post Office Department  
FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL  
Washington

May 1915.

Sir:

With reference to the proposed change in site of the post office named below, and in order that the office if changed to the proposed location may be accurately represented upon the post-route maps, it is requested that you carefully answer the questions below and furnish a sketch according to instructions on opposite side of paper, which should be returned to the First Assistant Postmaster General, Division of Postmasters' Appointments, as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.

-----  
(Post Office.) (County.) (State.)

If the town, village, or site of the post office be known by another name than that of the post office, state that other name here .....

The post office, if changed to the proposed site, would be ..... air-line distance. .... (N., S., E., or W.) from its present location.

The post office would be situated in the ..... quarter of section No. .... in Township ..... (N. or S.)

Range ..... of the ..... principal meridian, County of ..... State of .....

The name of the nearest river is ..... and the post-office building would be at a distance of ..... on the ..... side of it. (N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest creek is ..... and the post-office building would be at a distance of ..... on the ..... side of it. (N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office on the same route as this post office is ..... and its distance is ..... miles, by the traveled road, in a ..... direction from the proposed site of this office. (N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office on the same route, on the other side, is ..... and its distance is ..... miles, in a ..... direction from the proposed site of this office. (N., S., E., or W.)

The name of the nearest office not on the same route as this post office is ..... and its distance is ..... miles, by the traveled road, in a ..... direction from the proposed site of this office. (N., S., E., or W.)

The post office building would be on the ..... side of the ..... Railroad, and at a distance of ..... from the track. The railroad station name is .....

The post office would be ..... air-line distance, ..... from the nearest point of my county boundary. (N., S., E., or W.)

Signature of Postmaster: *W. L. Humphreys*

Date: *May 25 - 1915*

If the State is surveyed designate the proposed site of the office on this page.

DIAGRAM, EXPLANATION, AND INSTRUCTIONS.

Indicate upon the diagram the proposed site of the post office by placing a dot in the proper quarter section.

The surrounding offices and the present site of this office should be accurately located and the names plainly written.

Draw distinctly the railways, roads, rivers, and creeks.

The post office would be situated in the NE<sup>1/4</sup> quarter of section No. 26 in Township 15, Range 79, of the 6th principal meridian.

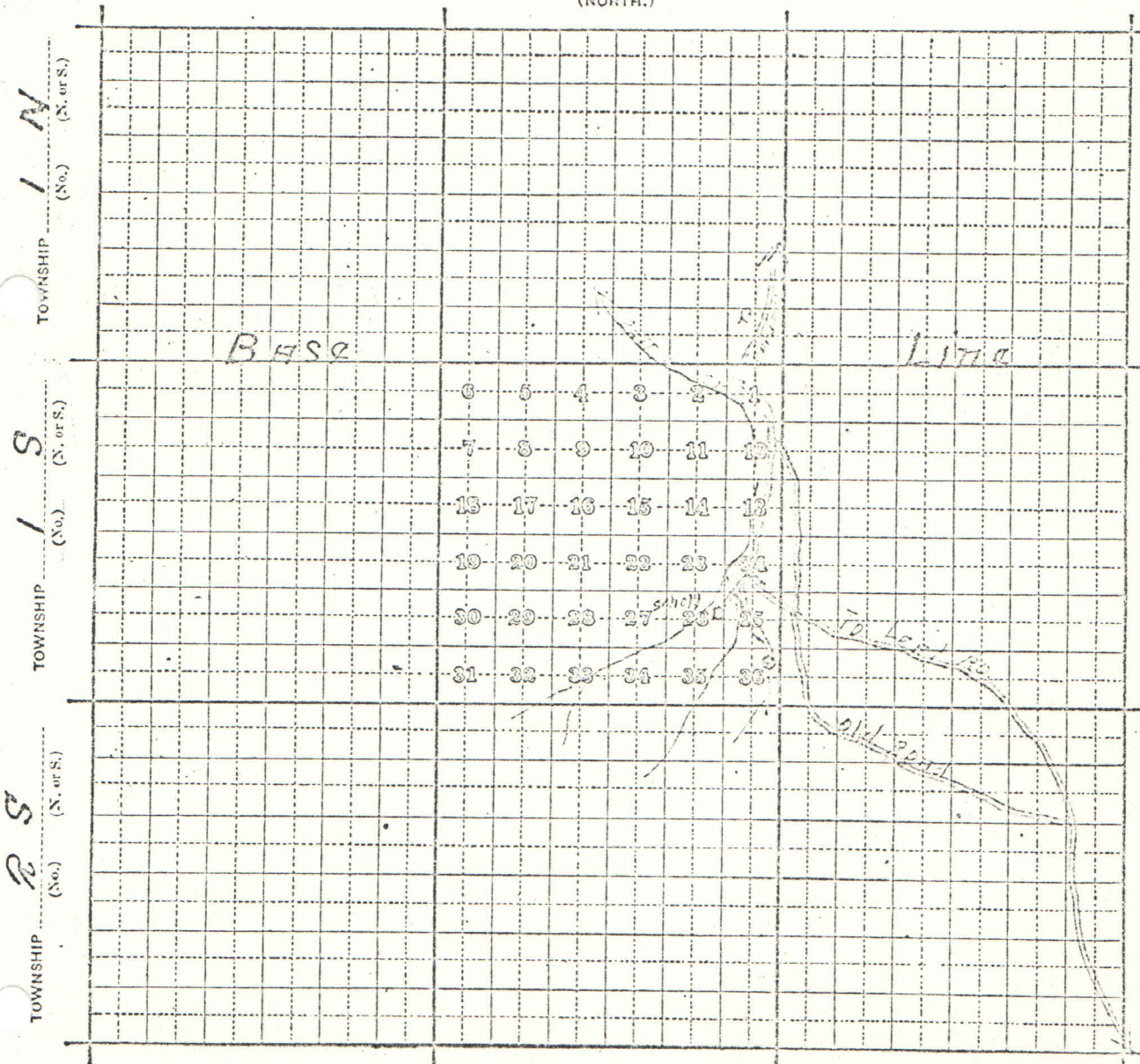
In localities not surveyed by the U. S. Land Office, a sketch map is requested.

RANGE 80 W  
(No.) (E. or W.)

RANGE 79 W  
(No.) (E. or W.)

RANGE 78 W  
(No.) (E. or W.)

(NORTH.)



Scale, one-third inch to the mile.

(SOUTH.)

5-5872

ILLUSTRATIONS



Illustration 1

Grand County Officials in 1894. Top row, left to right: B. W. Field, Assessor; George Bunk, Commissioner; Fred Perry, Surveyor; Williams Clark, Commissioner, Oliver Needham, Sheriff. Bottom row: W. P. Farris, Treasurer; David Bock, Judge; J. N. Pettingell, Clerk and Recorder; Frank Smith, Commissioner; William Pharo, Road Overseer.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Photo courtesy of Grand County Pioneer Museum.

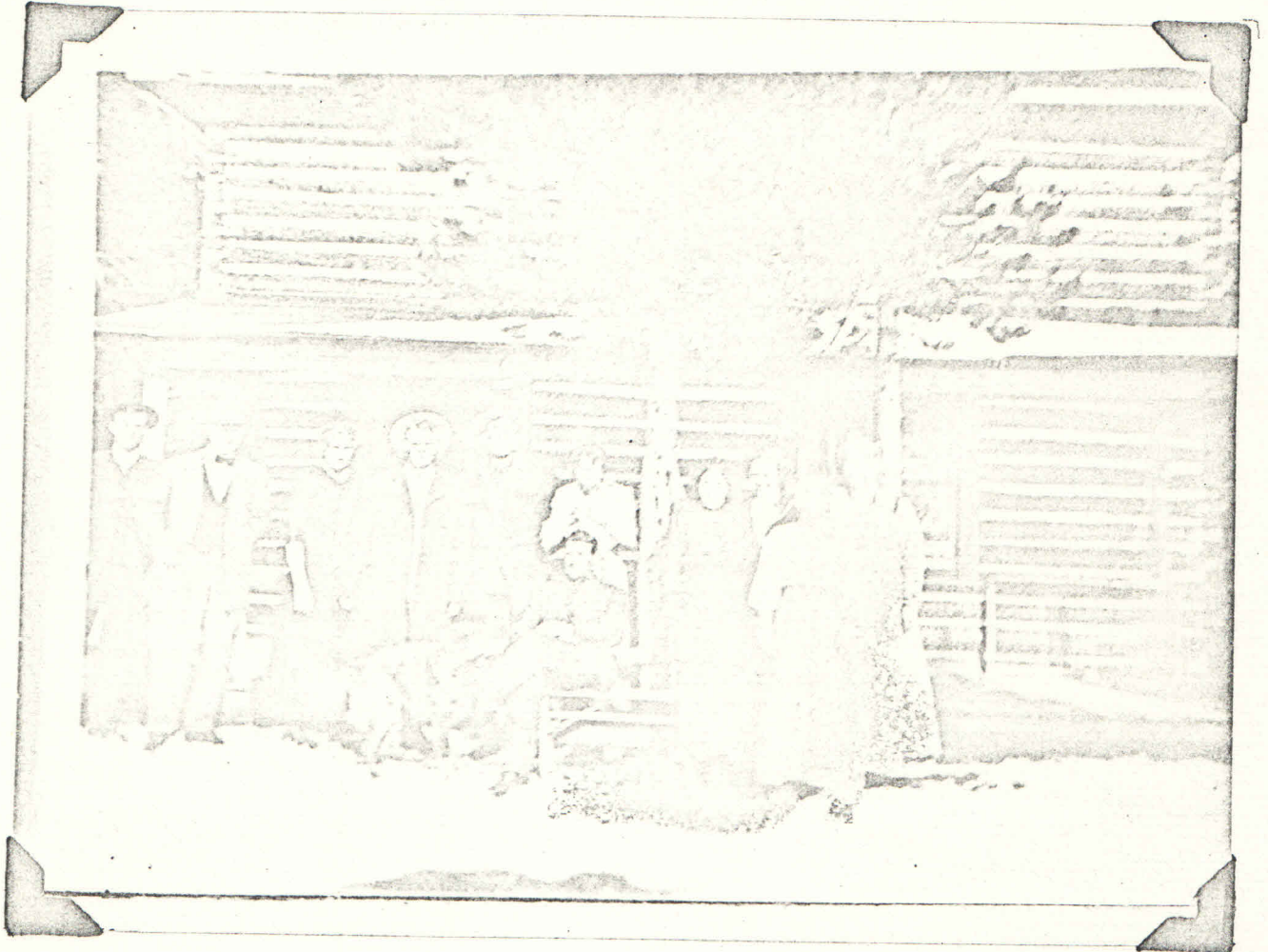


Illustration 2

A party at Leal, Colorado about 1912. Left to right: Arthur Wold, \_\_\_\_\_ Anderson, Frances Hospe, Leonard Wold, George Steele, Flora Brinker, Al Decker, Clara Wold, Alma Brown, Anna Robertson, Mrs. Wade.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>b</sup>Photo courtesy of the Grand County Pioneer Museum, Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado.



Illustration 3

Henry "Rooster" Wilson and friend on the porch of his homestead cabin on the Williams Fork. The picture was probably taken about 1930.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>c</sup>Photo courtesy of Mrs. George Field.

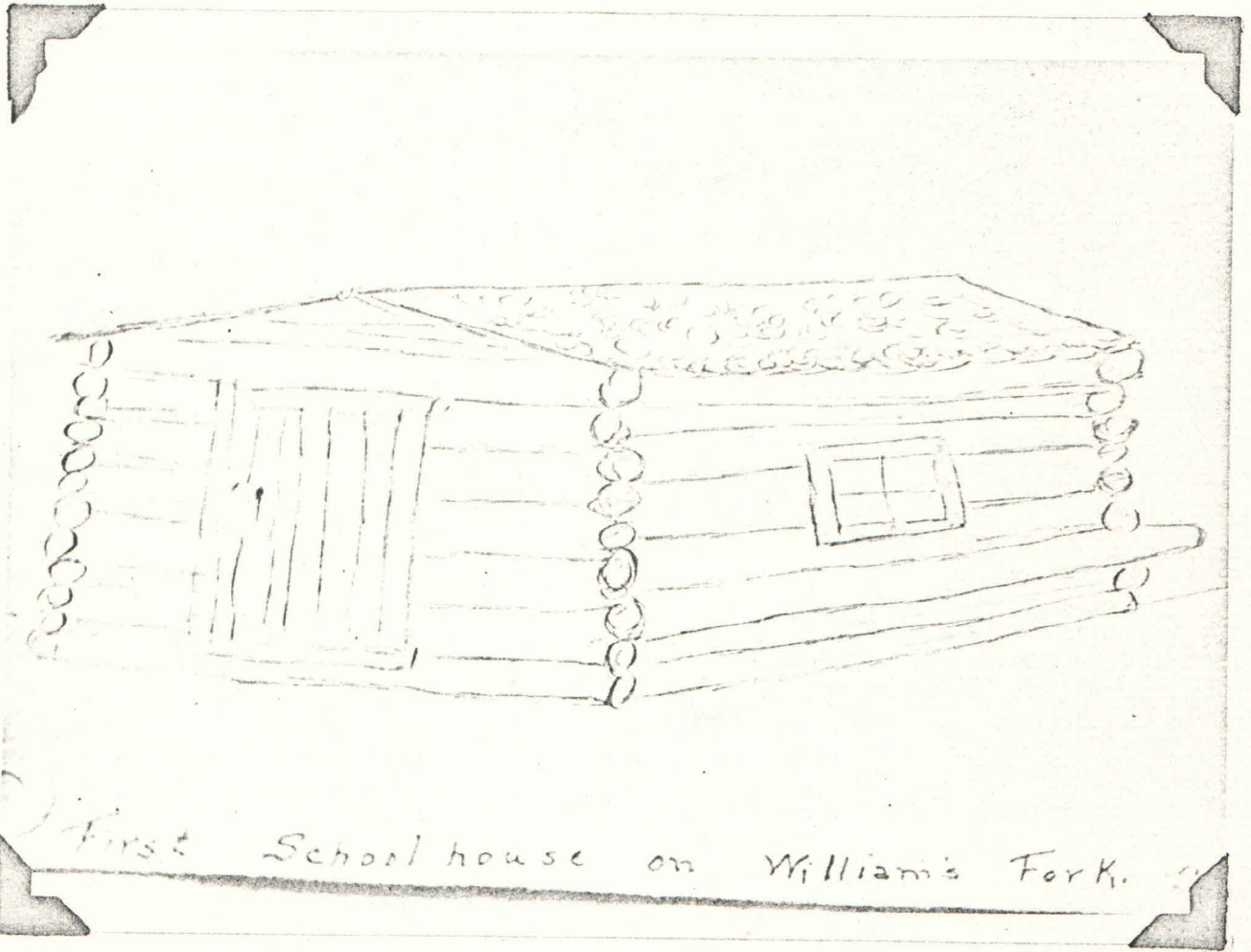


Illustration 4

A sketch of the first school on the Williams Fork, a log cabin located on Coberly Flat.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>d</sup>Photo taken from "History of Grand County School Districts" courtesy of the Grand County Superintendent of Schools.



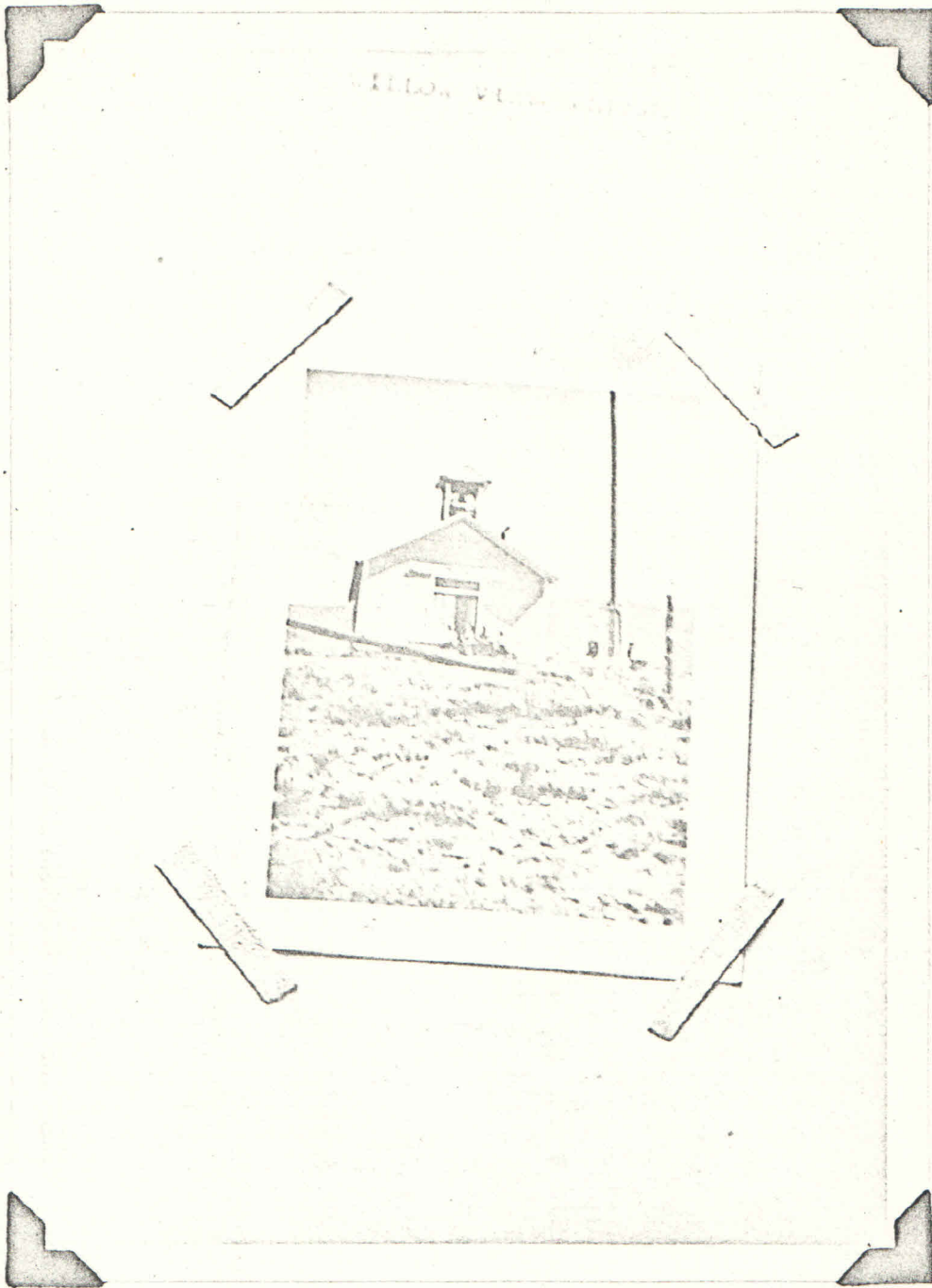


Illustration 5

The Willow View School on Battle Creek Hill with some of its students. Picture taken about 1940.<sup>e</sup>

<sup>e</sup>Photo taken from "History of Grand County School Districts" courtesy of the Grand County Superintendent of Schools.

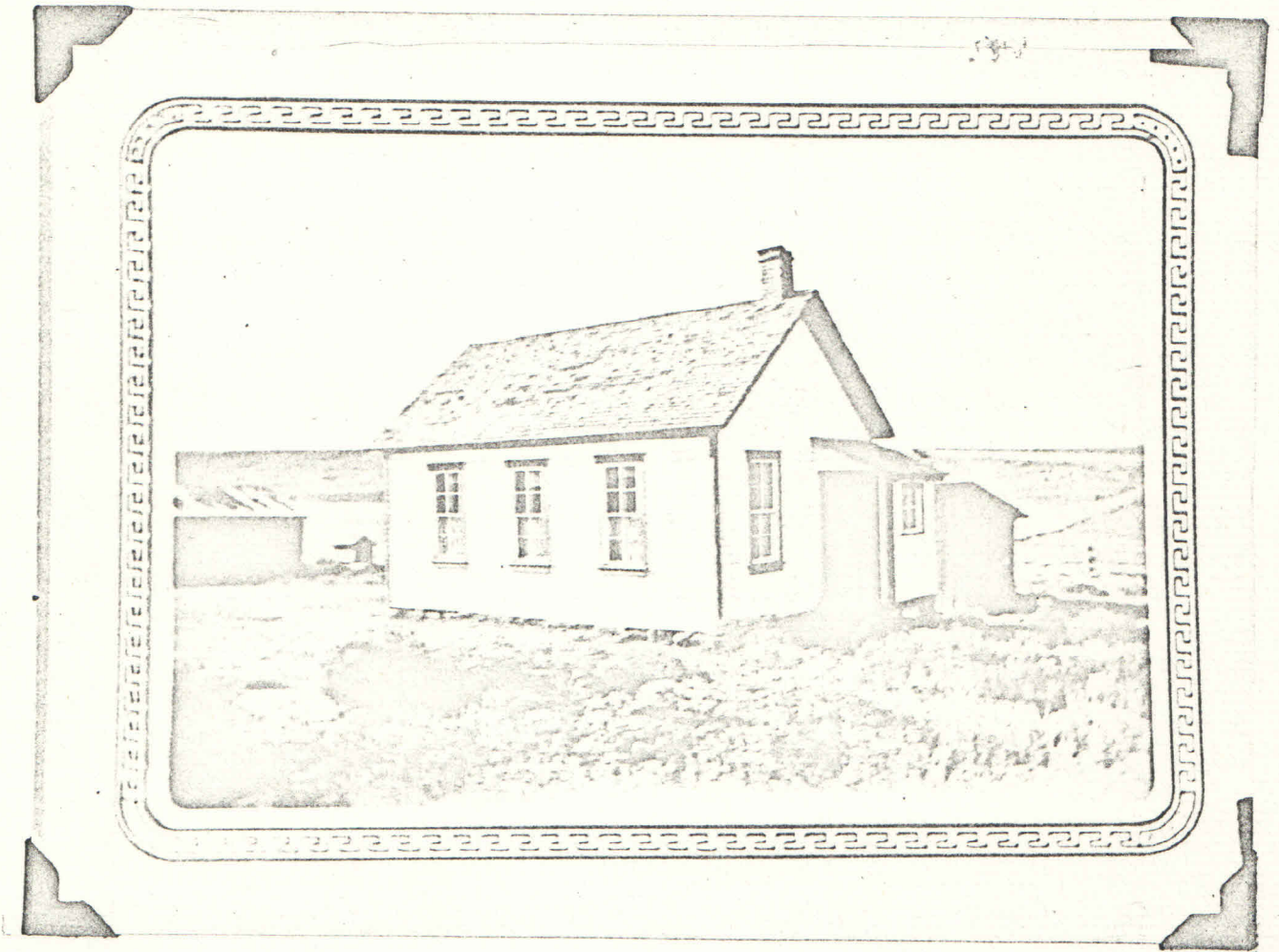


Illustration 6

The Hermosa School on the ranch of the same name about 1935.<sup>f</sup>

<sup>f</sup> Photo courtesy of Mrs. Josephine Wood.

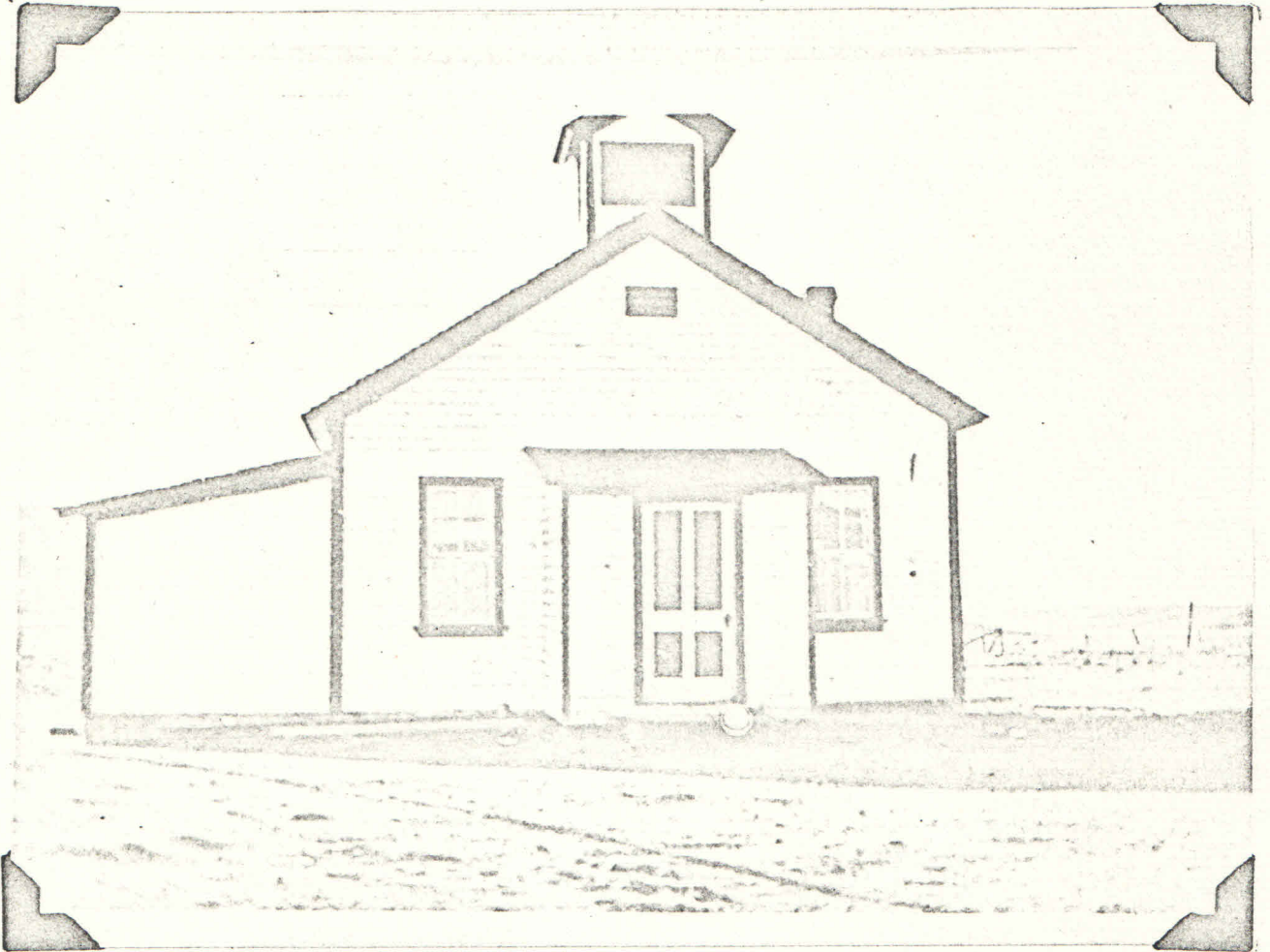


Illustration 7

The Columbine School pictured as it was built on Coberly Flat in 1914. The Ute Park School was later moved to this location.Ⓔ

ⒺPhoto courtesy of Mrs. Margaret Wood.

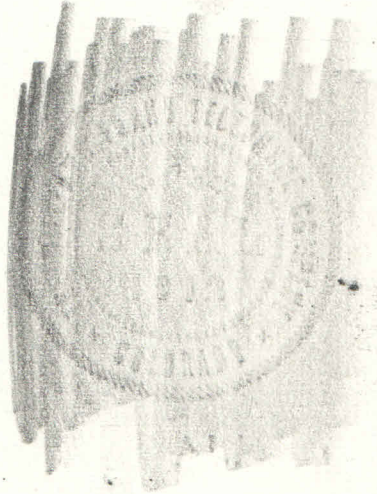


Illustration 8

Corporate seal of the Williams  
Fork Telephone Company.<sup>h</sup>

<sup>h</sup>Seal courtesy of The Williams Fork Telephone Company.



Illustration 9

O. B. Marble, one of the brothers who built the Williams Fork Clubhouse. The brothers were known not to get along very well together.<sup>i</sup>

<sup>i</sup>Photo courtesy of Mrs. Edith Strohmeier.



Illustration 10

L. J. Wade's Paducah Lodge at Leal, Colorado. It was the first of several resort units on the Williams Fork. The picture was taken on July 26, 1917. J

JPhoto courtesy of United States Forest Service, Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado, Sulphur District.

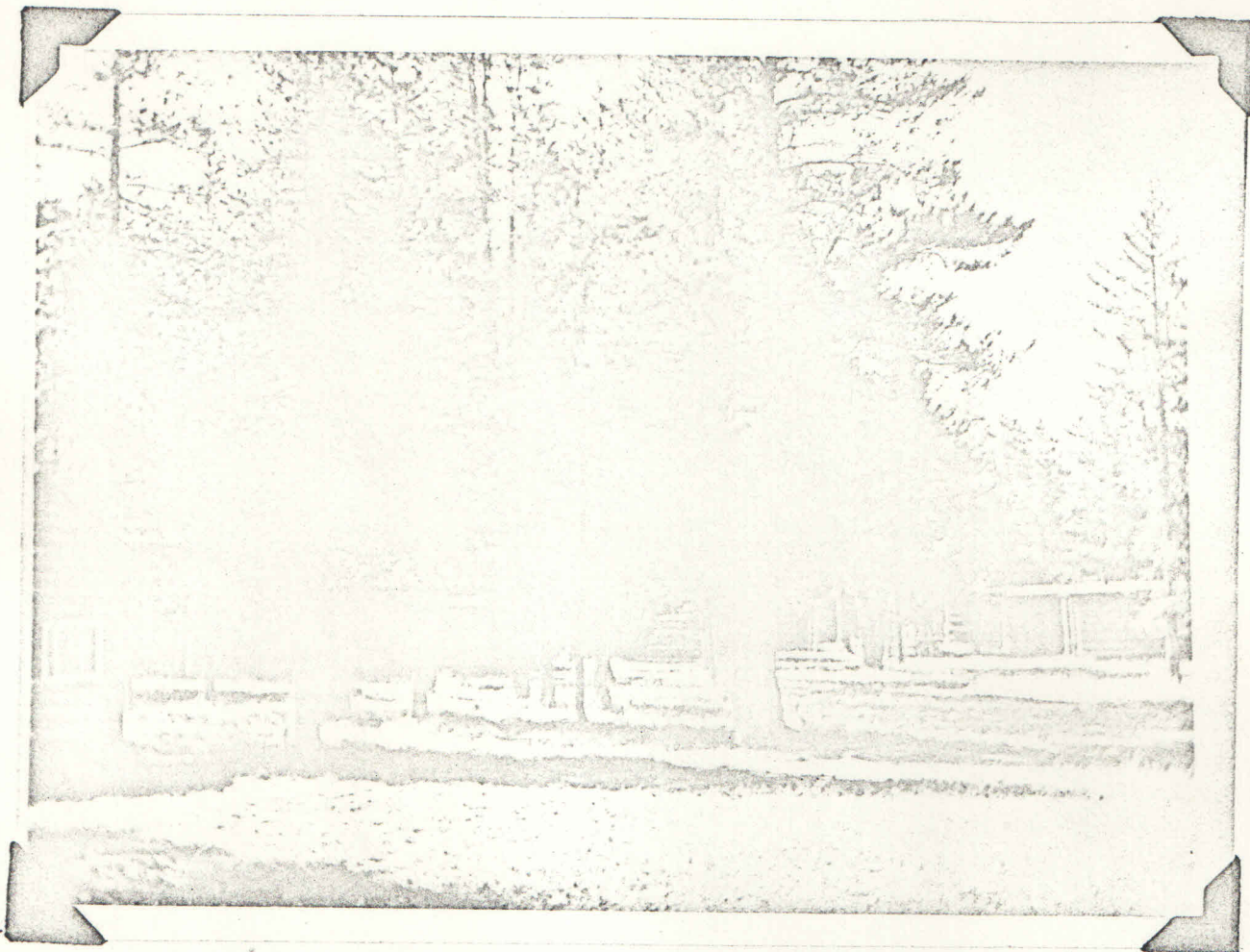


Illustration 12

Pennsylvania Lodge, the third resort area built on the Williams Fork. It consisted of six cabins.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Photo courtesy of Mrs. Edith Strohmeyer.

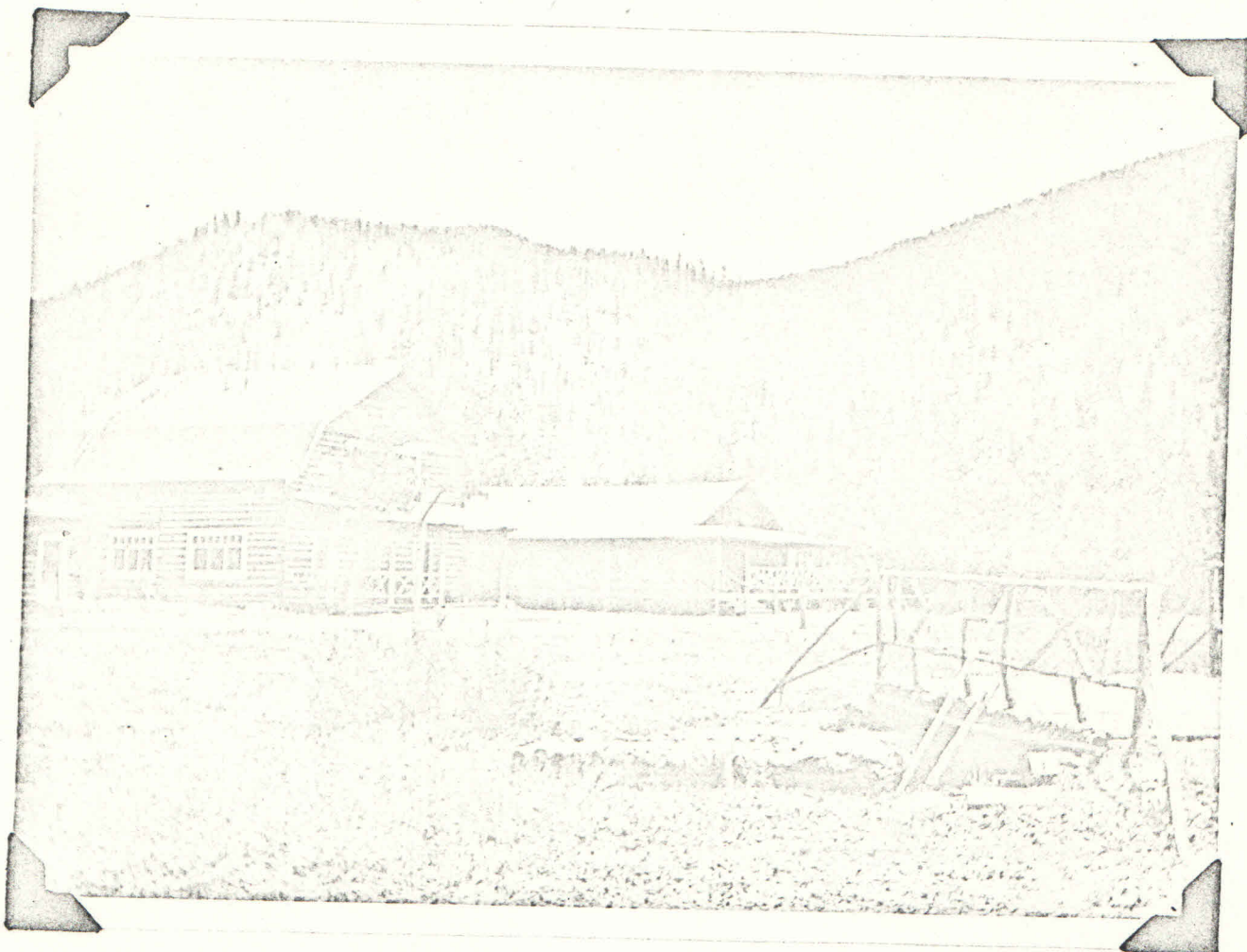


Illustration 11

The main buildings of the Ute Park Resort near Leal, Colorado, taken on July 26, 1917. It was run by O. E. and Emma Taussig.<sup>k</sup>

<sup>k</sup>Photo courtesy of the United States Forest Service, Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado, Sulphur District.



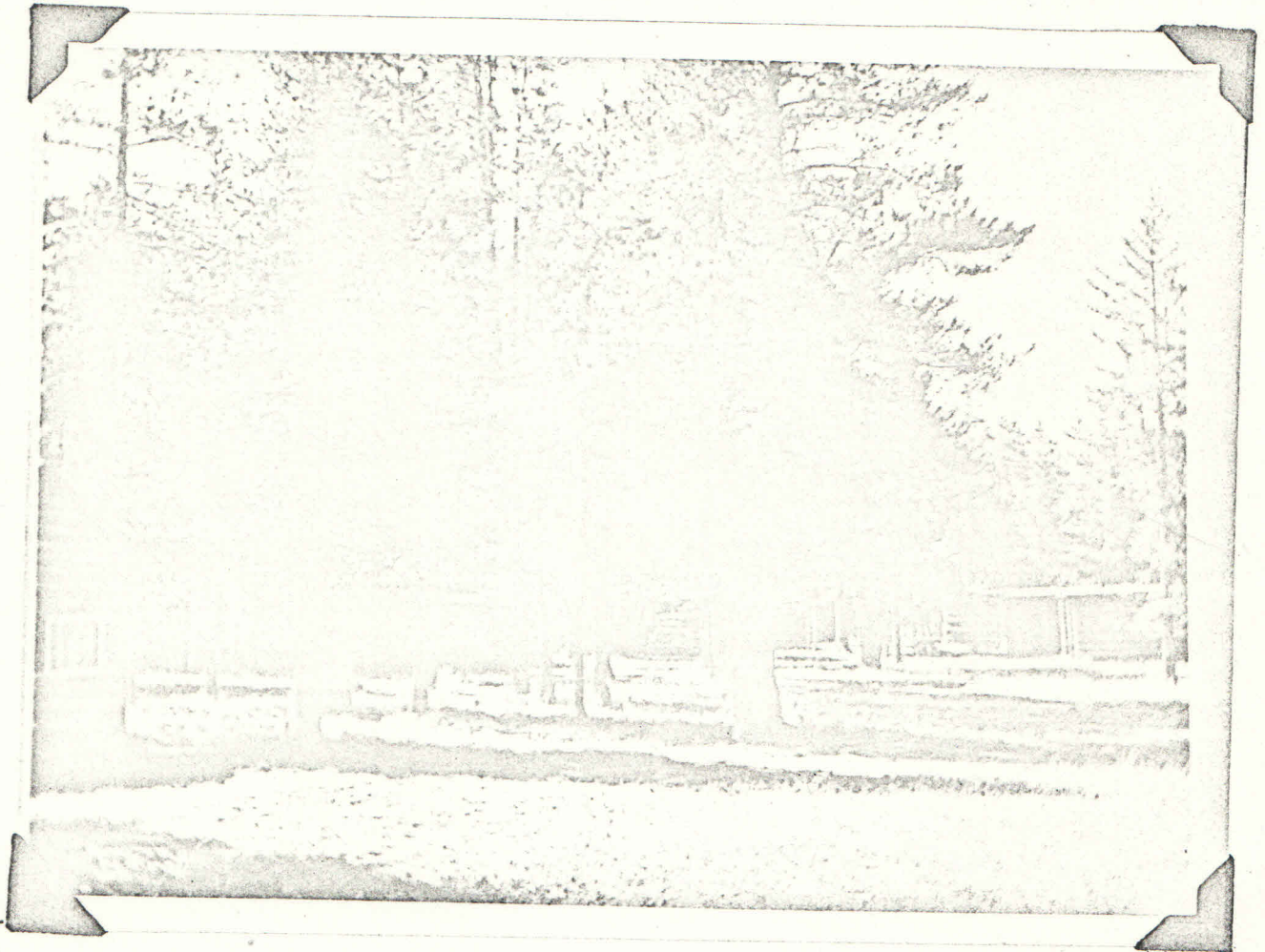


Illustration 12

Pennsylvania Lodge, the third resort area built on the Williams Fork. It consisted of six cabins.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Photo courtesy of Mrs. Edith Strohmeier.

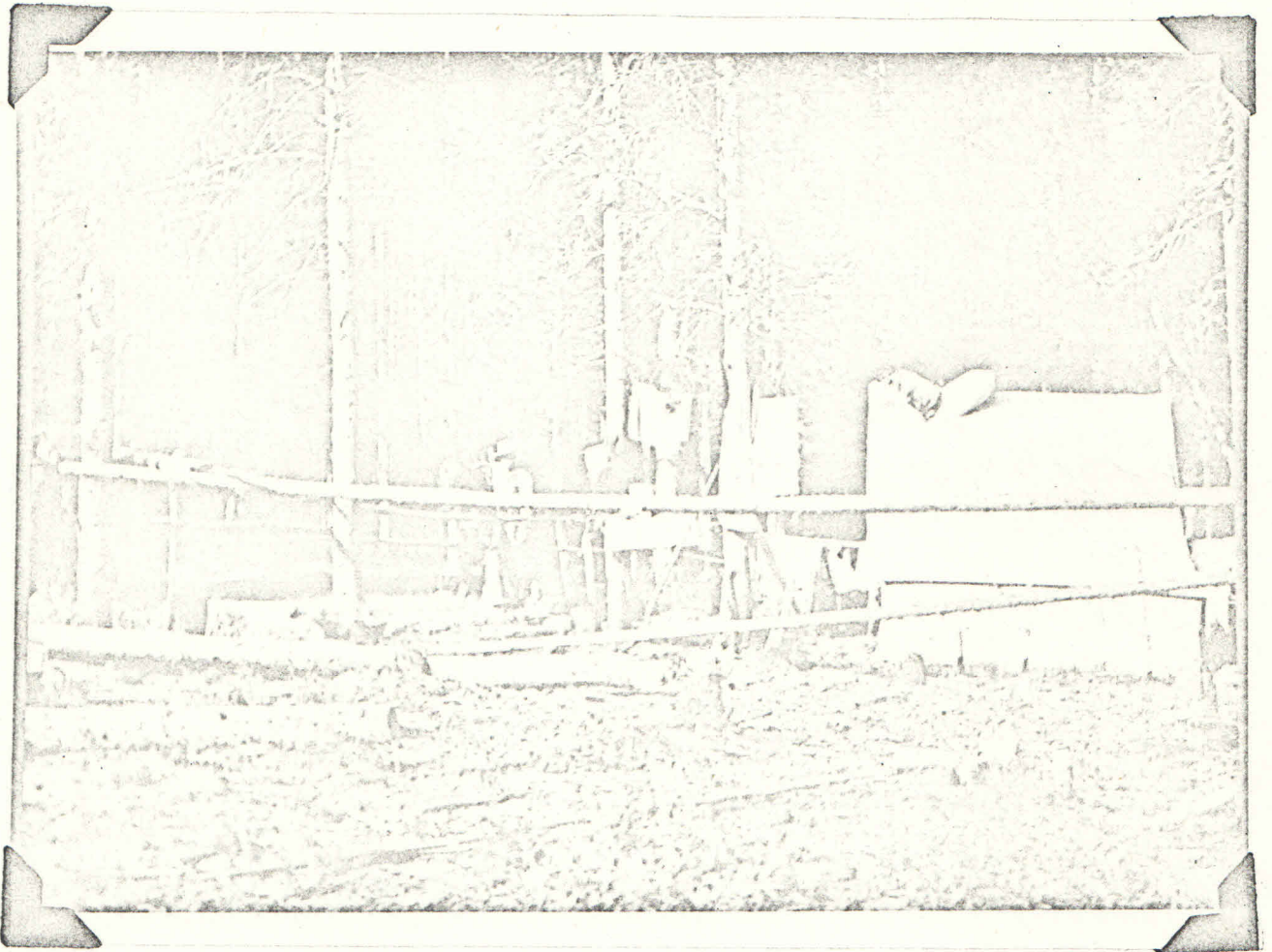


Illustration 13

Ranger J. O. Buchholz and his camp on the Williams Fork in  
Ranger District 8.<sup>m</sup>

<sup>m</sup>Photo courtesy of the United States Forest Service, Hot Sulphur,  
Springs, Colorado, Sulphur District.

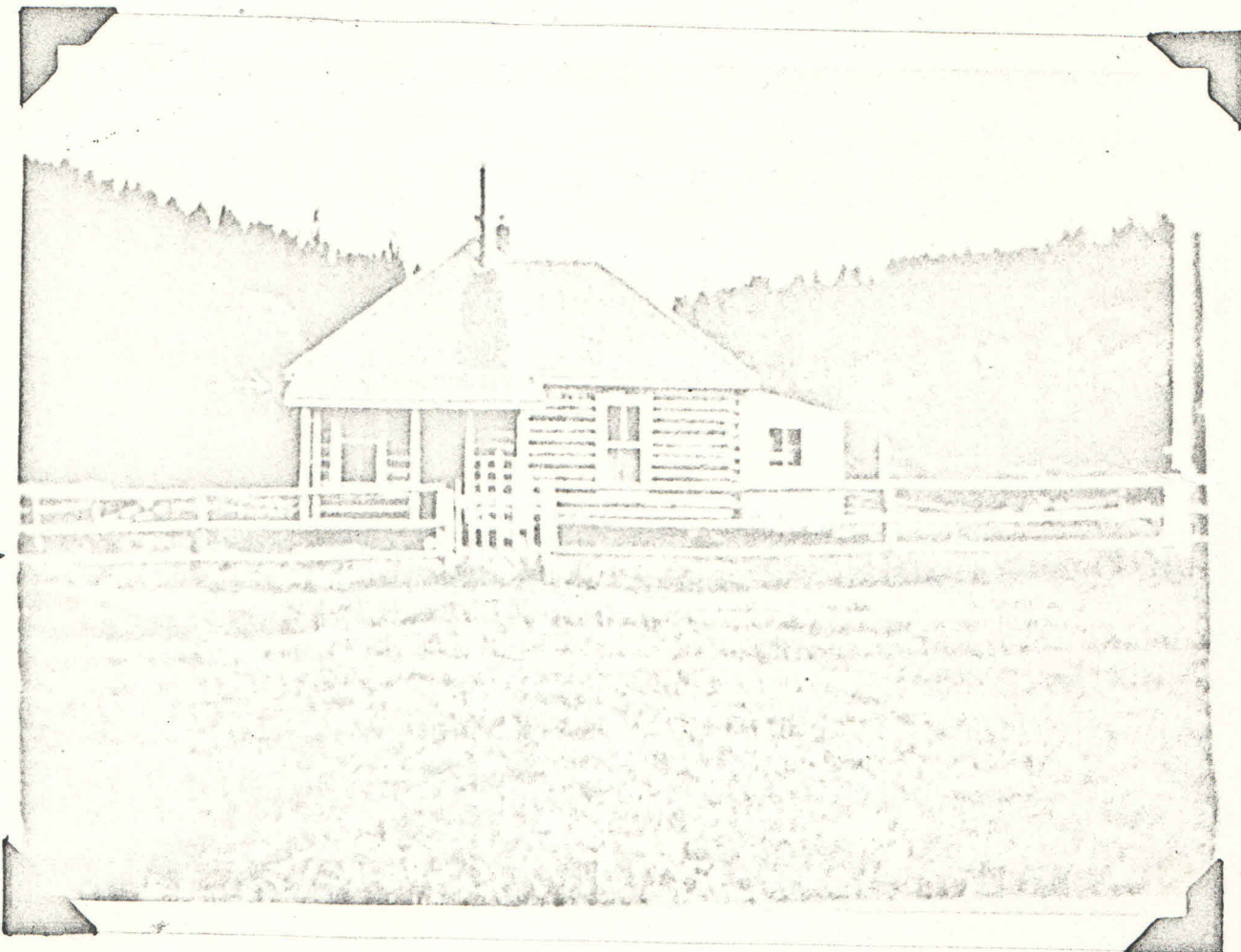


Illustration 14

The cabin built on the permanent site of the Horseshoe Guard Station near the original camp of J. O. Buchholz.<sup>n</sup>

<sup>n</sup>Photo courtesy of Mrs. Edith Strohmeyer.

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## Preface

Ironically, it is the backbone of American expansion and development, in the form of pioneer ranchers and small town settlers that are most ignored in the <sup>compiling</sup> compilation of the history of our nation. In time many of those hardy individuals are gone and much of their work and thoughts remain only through those who survive them. Without their attempt to civilize the remote reaches of the wilderness, our country would not be half of what it is today, and it seems unfair that these small, but important people should be forgotten.

✕ The Williams Fork area of southern Grand County, Colorado, is a region which fits into the category of those which have been neglected. Therefore the purpose of this paper is to gather the facts that remain in the most accurate way before any more of the history can be forgotten. It is hoped that the paper can, in some small way, be a memorial to those who paved the way for the rest of us to follow.

The author wishes to thank the Grand County Library and Pioneer Museum, the U. S. Forest Service, and Mrs. Lcrrayne Gould, County Superintendent of Schools, for the use of pictures and for the scrapbooks and information they supplied. Special thanks must be given to Mr. Robert C. Black III for his comments and suggestions on the project and to the pioneers and residents for their valuable time and the effort they have expended in helping to locate dates, picutures, and facts.

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STATE OF COLORADO, }  
County of Grand. } ss.

In the District Court.  
No. 223.

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SUMMONS.

The Community Consolidated Canal and Reservoir Company, a corporation,

*Plaintiff,*

v.

W. J. Thompson, The Water Supply and Storage Co., a corporation, Frank H. McMillan, R. T. Williams, Sr., Amelia Williams, Mary C. Mitchell, George A. McCartney, Walter R. Dedrick, George W. Carr, Ethel M. Carr, Richard W. McQueary, Price Switzer C. H. Nuckolls, Roy Adams, George Bunte, Ben Bunte, James Cairns, Mrs. Allie Sheriff, Frank A. Maxwell, R. C. Graves, J. F. Church, John Reini, Jesse William Hockett, James A. Bratton, W. Calvin Kinney, Frances Jesmer, Knudt Skretterberg, William E. Kinney, Lucy J. Black, Perry A. Musgrave, B. W. Field, Jake Tyndall, Henry Copeland, Joseph G. Coberly, and William D. Coberly, copartners, doing business as Coberly Bros., William Erwin, The Inter-mountain Water Company, a corporation, The Williams Fork Land and Live Stock Company, a corporation, Park A. Reed, L. J. Wade, E. E. Shepard, Delia Kinney Smith, Anna Landini, The Central Colorado Power Company, a corporation, James Diltz, Willis G. Moore, Martha A. Moore, Frederick Moninger, Samuel V. Moninger, Sarah E. Shore, Nathan Shore, F. A. Field, Samuel E. Eby, Oscar M. Cole, Ole Langholen, Arthur Wold, A. P. Brown, Leonard Wold, G. H. Wood, Gertrude P. Oleson, Charlotte C. McKinzie, Lars E. Anderson, Sol Jones, Frank S. Byers, Mary B. Robinson, P. H. Smith, S. J. Button, H. O. Button, W. Hampden, Charles Gustafson, Lizzie A. Boubel, James Stevens, J. N. Ostrander, J. A. Dunwoody, Nellita C. DeBerard, Thomas H. Schbert, Mrs. M. L. Burns, Grace Naughting, Ellen Foley, The Rocky Mountain Railway Company, a corporation, Benjamin O. Simpson, Edward J. Vulgamott, Gregor Reinhardt, Paul E. Temple, Willis Noble DeBerard, Emil Linke, Frank Rohracher, L. G. Tovey, Lawrence H. Tovey, Dominicus Capikowski, J. Fisher, George Jones, W. E. Ingram, F. F. Coolidge, F. Felch, John C. Daxton, Sidney L. Smith, George H. Church, Milton F. Vulgamott, Carl Just, A. A. Hunt, Lewis D. C. Gaskill, Peter Peterson, Iva M. Sheridan, Bertha L. Gaskill, C. R. Gardner, Chas. Jacobson, Homer Arnold, George H. Campbell, Silas W. Knight, E. M. Burr, E. D. Lemmon, F. T. Felch, V. I. Felch, A. H. Arnold, Mrs. S. L. Smith, M. K. Evans, The Bix Six Ditch Company, a corporation, Ralph Ord, Charles A. Rudesill, Lillian T. Curtis, Howard H. Tyron, Vina S. Tryon, Margaret L. Ferguson, Alfred H. Tryon, Sidney B. Tryon, Marion B. Tryon, W. B. Crow, W. Z. Cozens, M. E. Cozens, Sarah A. Cozens, H. M. Fowler, W. C. Fullerton, R. F. Ferguson, W. A. Hurd, N. S. Hurd, Lew Wallace, B. L. Chase, H. R. Burns, T. H. Johnson, Alva C. Sample, Hugh Mitchell, Charles Schleter, T. L. Gervens, Beem A. Burtcher, William S. Bethel, George L. Vail, George Meyer, Peter Cuneo, P. Gallagher, George C. McClellan, The Western Box & Lumber Co., a corporation, August Bohm, Sarah Barriger, The Middle Park Land and Live Stock Company, a corporation, Beem

A. Burtcher, Wm. S. Bethel, Geo. L. Vail, Geo. Meyer, Peter Cuneo, P. Gallagher, Geo. C. McClellan, The Western Box & Lumber Company, a corporation, August Bohm, Sarah Barriger, Harry W. Carr, Charles Barker, Albert Scholl, Lysander P. Williams, The Denver Northwestern & Pacific Railway Company, a corporation, W. E. Bates, E. M. Ammons, Frank W. Duffies, Sidney A. Sabin, Stella Sabin, William Shellaberger, Henry Helmbrecht, Gordon Jones, Gerald Hughes, The Big Lake Land and Irrigation Company, a corporation, N. O. Walker, Elizabeth J. Walker, James O. Phenev, Horace K. Devereux, Dorothy Devereux, Charles A. Eischans, Mary E. F. Wolf, Arthur E. Wolf, Simon P. Olson, George Olson, Ole Olson, Iver Olson, Gertrude E. Olson, Ingar K. Olson, Alfred O. Olson, Gertrude Olson, as guardian of Iver Olson, Gertrude E. Olson, Ingar K. Olson, and Alfred O. Olson, minor heirs of Peter Olson, decd., Louisa Stein, L. E. Clark, Carrie L. Clayville, Schuyler J. Button, as Public Trustee of Grand County, Anna Murphy, Lillie M. Curtis, Estelle Payne, Oliver M. Snider, George Snider, Alice Snider, Ida M. Snider, as guardian of Oliver M., George, and Alice Snider, minor heirs of S. M. Snider, deceased, George H. Harvey, Jr.,

*Defendants.*

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, to the Defendants above named, GREETING:

You are hereby required to appear in an action brought against you by the above named plaintiff in the District Court of Grand County, State of Colorado, and answer the complaint therein within twenty days after the date of service hereof, if served within this county, or if served out of this county, or by publication, within thirty days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of service, or judgment by default will be taken against you according to the prayer of the complaint, and if a copy of the complaint in the above entitled action be not served with this summons, or if the service hereof be made out of this state, then ten days additional to the time hereinbefore specified for appearance and answer will be allowed before the taking of judgment by default as aforesaid.

This suit is brought by the plaintiff against the defendants to obtain a decree of the said court quieting its title to and declaring it to be the owner of a priority of appropriation in and to the waters of First, Second and Current Creeks, tributaries of the Fraser River, and any other tributaries of the Fraser River draining into the Berthoud canal, for the Berthoud canal and tunnel to the amount and extent of 53 cubic feet per second of time, as of date of October 1, 1889. It is further sought to have the said plaintiff's priority of appropriation declared to be prior and senior to any appropriation awarded by any of the decrees of priority of appropriation heretofore awarded to any of the above named defendants as of dates later than October 1, 1889, by a certain purported adjudication decree entered in the district court of Grand county August 11, 1906, in a proceeding entitled, "In the matter of the application of L. G. Tovey for the adjudication of the priorities of the right to the use of water for statutory purposes in water district No. 51 in said state of Colorado." It is also sought in said action by the plaintiff to have its priority of appropriation declared to be prior to and senior to any of the priorities of appropriation claimed by any of the defendants to be of a date later than October 1, 1889, in those certain proceedings entitled "In the matter of the application of George W. Garr" and "In the matter of the application of the Denver, Northwestern and Pacific Railway Company" the same being respectively cases numbered No. 183 and No. 184 in the office of the clerk of the district court of Grand county. It is further sought by this action to obtain an injunction of this court in favor of the plaintiff's right to have its said appropriation of water satisfied in full when it can be obtained from the sources above named and when actually necessary for the use of the consumers of water under the plaintiff's system, when needed for irrigation or storage before any water is allowed to be diverted by the defendants having awarded to them or claiming to own priorities of appropriation of a date later than October 1, 1889. It is further sought by said action to compel the defendants

satisfied in advance of those of the plaintiff, to come in to this court and set up their respective claims and that  
said claims be decreed void and of no force and effect against the ditches, canals, and tunnels of this plaintiff.  
An injunction is also sought by said action against the defendant Theodore Rosenberg as division engineer of  
Water Division No. 5, and his successors and deputies in office and each of them, from in any manner interfer-  
ing with this plaintiff's diversion of water by means of the said canals and tunnel in favor of any party or par-  
ties, ditch or ditches, reservoirs or other means of diverting or appropriating water which have had awarded to  
them or shall have awarded to them or shall claim priorities or appropriation dating later than March 4, 1902,  
upon the Grand River or any of the tributaries thereof. Prayer is also made for other relief and for costs, as  
will more fully appear from the complaint in said action to which reference is hereby made and a copy of which  
~~hereto attached~~

You are hereby notified that if you fail to appear and to answer said complaint as above required the  
said plaintiff will take judgment against you by default according to the prayer of said complaint.

Given under my hand and seal at Sulphur Springs, in said county of Grand, state of Colorado, this 10th  
day of August, A. D. 1910.

(SEAL)

*H. J. Adams*  
Clerk of the District Court within and for the county of Grand.

EX-GOV. E. M. AMMONS, PRESIDENT  
C. F. BLACK, VICE-PRESIDENT AND GEN. MANAGER  
CALVIN FLEMING, TREASURER  
A. F. POLHAMUS, SECRETARY

5,000 ACRES LAND  
RANGE IN GRAND COUNTY, COLORADO



# MIDDLE PARK LAND AND LIVE STOCK CO.

## CHOICE HEREFORD CATTLE

PARSHALL, COLO. \_\_\_\_\_ 191\_\_\_\_\_

T. F. DE WITT, PROPRIETOR

W. L. CHAFFEE, MANAGER



# Hermosa Ranch

## Pure Bred Hereford Cattle



DEFENDER 14037  
IN SERVICE

First as 2 year old, World's Fair, 1904  
Reserve Grand Champion, World's Fair, 1904  
Grand Champion American Royal, K. C., 1905

THE HEIR 18895  
IN SERVICE

Grand Champion Colorado State Fair, 1906  
Grand Champion Denver, 1906  
Grand Champion Denver, 1907

Parshall, Colorado,

*April 27-1914*