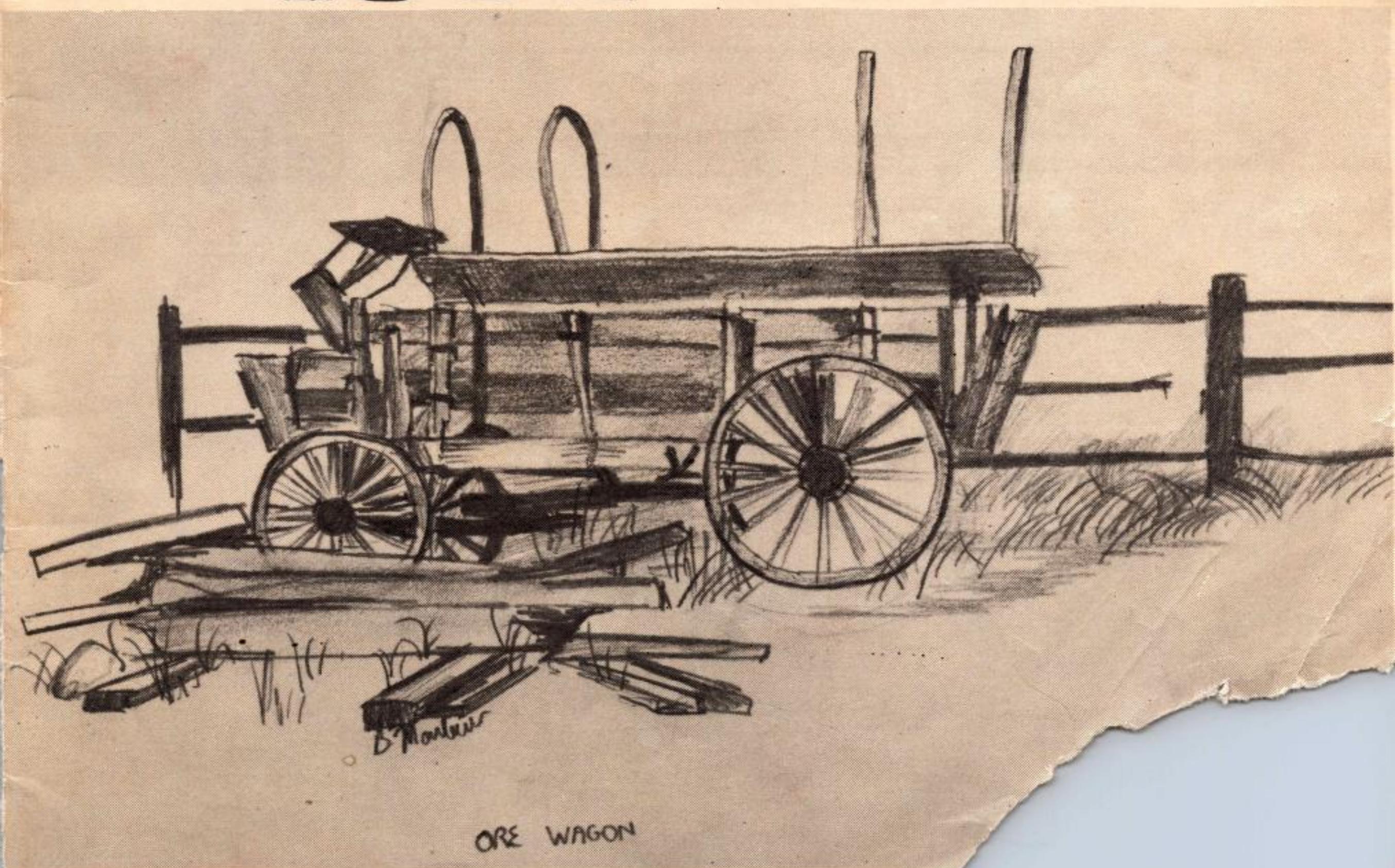


FALCON-WING

MORRISON
CENTENNIAL
1874-1974



ORE WAGON

Dedication

This magazine is dedicated to the people of Morrison, Colorado, on the anniversary of their 100th year, and to the people who so graciously helped us. May a portion of their wisdom and culture remain long after them to touch us all.

Acknowledgements

A project such as this reaches out and includes so many people. The idea grew out of the Foxfire concept, community involvement through historical research. As our Morrison project unfolded, we were able to unite our Bear Creek community with the Morrison community, thereby relating their history as closely as possible with our experiences of today.

I am indebted to Mr. John Musciano, the principal at Bear Creek High School. Without his support and encouragement this project would never have gotten off the ground. Thanks to Mr. Al Wilder, the assistant principal in charge of curriculum. It was he who planted the idea of the interdisciplinary approach which involved the following people: Miss Pat Lester, an English teacher who worked with students in editing the interviews; Mr. Lars Trahnstrom, an art instructor who was our art advisor; Mr. Bob Campbell, who represented the audio-visual department and spent considerable time in the field taking slides from old photographs; Mr. Ron Muzio, a film teacher who advised the students on filming techniques; Mr. Ted Rosen, a drama instructor who assisted in the direction of our play; and Mr. Tim McNeel, the sponsor of the school newspaper who advised us in the lay-out of this magazine.

Thanks to a very fine group of ninth-grade students who were involved in the history of Morrison, and to their parents who allowed them to participate in hikes, interviews and research excursions. For the past six weeks we have worked in Morrison and have met many beautiful people who allowed us to come into their homes and to share their wisdom, wit and remembrances of a past era. To these people we extend our appreciation for the hospitality shown us; and perhaps, in some small way, we have opened communication between members of very different generations.

Tom Hodges

Our thanks to these people for so kindly allowing us to enter their homes and give us a look into Morrison's past.

Mr. Stanford Renaud
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Jamieson
Mrs. Florence Smith Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Schneider
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Rooney
Mrs. Helen Manis
Mrs. Mercy Peinze (C.E.)
Mrs. Esther Pfeiffer
Mr. Frank Baker
Mr. Tom Pike
Mrs. Mary B. Sawyer

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Editors:

Cindy Glover
Alice Laffoon
Dean Cronk

Art: Cover by Bill Marlow

Illustrations by: Bill Marlow, Denny Hilgers and Darah Garrison

Faculty Advisor: Mr. Tom Hodges

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The Cliff House

George (Pete) Morrison

George Morrison who was of Scottish descent married Isabel Murray, a native of Edinburgh, Scotland in 1913 in Montreal, Canada. They were the parents of four, two of whom died in infancy. The other two were George Morrison Jr. who passed away a few years ago and lived in California and Thomas Sowan Morrison who was born June 22, 1847 in Montreal, Canada. He later married Ethel Shaffer on October 5, 1875. Thomas and Ethel live in Detroit, Michigan and are the parents of seven children.

After attending school in his native country, George learned the stone cutter's trade and crossed the American plains with an ox team. He left Alton, Illinois on the first of April 1859 and arrived in Denver in May of that same year.

George then went to Idaho Springs where he mined for nine weeks. Later he set up a small store and butcher shop above the present power plant. Then George moved to the Green Mountain Ranch in Jefferson County where he spent the winter of 1859-60. In the year of 1860 George Morrison moved to Mt. Vernon and opened his hotel. George also at one time was engaged in the manufacture of grindstones.

The town of Morrison, started in October of 1872, was incorporated in 1915 with a population of 295. It was named in honor of George Morrison.

George Pete Morrison died June 11, 1895 and Isabel Morrison died February 28, 1887. Both are buried in the Golden cemetery.

by Brek Brost

If you pass through the little town of Morrison today, you may see, off the main road and next to Mt. Vernon Creek, a large stone house almost hidden in the trees. Named after the cliffs under which it stands, the Cliff House was the residence of George Morrison. He built his three story home in 1873 of red and white alternated sandstone from the Mt. Morrison quarries. He and his wife and two sons lived there until Morrison's death in 1895. The house was then sold to John Swanson and it became the Cliff House Hotel.

The Swedish family ran the hotel and it became well known for its fine food, good rooms, and beautiful grounds. Inside were hard wood floors, a carved wooden staircase, parlor, and a sitting room with piano. It was furnished completely in antiques with outstanding overstuffed, green plush chairs. Outside, tall blue spruce and cottonwood shaded a large lawn, flowers and bandstand. People today still recall the number of farmers and travelers who stopped there and the good restaurant. The cooks specialty was squab. A Sunday dinner of chicken and noodles, pie and bread was priced at 35c.

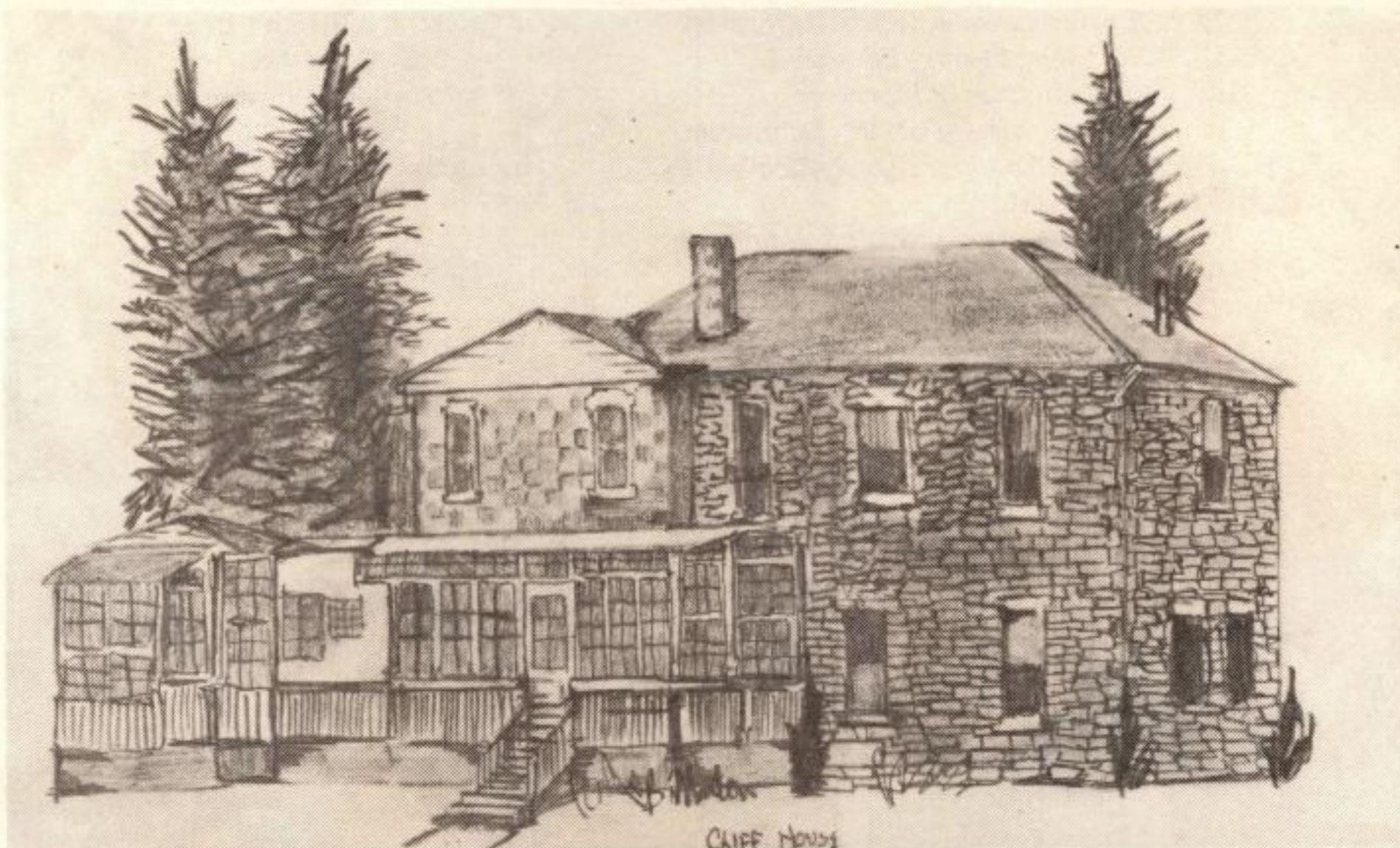
However this family was headed for disaster. Mrs. Swanson became insane and died in a sanitarium in Pueblo. Mr. Swanson committed suicide, because of his wife's confinement and was found hanging among the wagons in his barn. The barn was destroyed in the 1938 flood.

For awhile after their deaths, the hotel was run by Swanson's son, but was eventually sold to Charley Osteen. This new owner put up the additions you see today.

The Cliff House has now passed through several hands to the Crafts who reside there now.

You might say that the Cliff House, like the town has faded into near obscurity. Yet, when you talk to the people about past times and their eyes light up, you know that many things, like the Cliff House still live in their hearts.

by Deborah Samac



The Cliff House which is still standing in Morrison.

Morrison Rock Quarry

Mr. Morrison, a Quebec stone mason, came to Colorado in 1860. He saw some gypsum specimens found by a prospector and headed up Bear Creek to find the deposits.

He opened five quarries for white, red and blue sandstone of the finest quality, while two other quarries produced limestone and gypsum. The business was named "The Morrison Stone, Lime and Town Company."

The red and white sandstone was used to build the Swiss Cottage, a hotel in Morrison. The arches of the Union Pacific Depot in Denver was made of the redstone.

A sample piece was sent to the Centennial in 1876 and claimed first medal as the best sandstone, for building purposes, in the United States. When exposed to high temperatures, the sandstone would become almost like glass.

Next to the red stone was a large deposit of white sandstone. It was used for foundations and trimmings. Some limestone was found and used for making lime. The stone was dumped into a fifteen ton kiln. The lime was of good quality and the demand was so great that another kiln was built immediately.

West and adjacent to the limestone was a vast body of silica. The silica had no foreign matter and was of great value in making glass.

One quarter of mile east of Morrison was a deposit of gray limestone which was used with plastic clay, close at hand. The two were mixed and made a cement that hardened even under water.

In the same area, beautiful blue sandstone was to be found of the highest quality. It was among the finest material for building, and even surpassed the famous Amherst Stone of Ohio.

George Morrison has long since passed away, but the memory of him will live forever.

by Nate Philstrom

Mining in Morrison

In the area around Morrison there has been quite a history of mining. Different minerals such as copper, gypsum, limestone and uranium were found there.

From a transcript of January 20, 1875 we received the following information: In the Mt. Vernon District near Morrison, three miles southwest of the town, are the two mines called the Malachite and the Morrison which are running east and west. These mines have been tested and produce silicate of copper, carbonate of copper, black copper, and gray copper.

In the same transcript mentioned above we learned that the miners operating around the headwaters of Bear Creek in Jefferson County were taking steps for the organization of a mining district. Also south of Clear Creek Canyon a strong iron dyke was noted on Mt. Morrison. This was probably ilmenite and related to the other serpentine dykes in the vicinity.

Gravel was also mined near Morrison. Most of this mining was along the hogback immediately adjacent to the foothills west of Denver. In one case of strip mining in Turkey Creek Canyon near US Highway 285, southwest of Denver, the operation has been required to work the area so that the mine is not visible from the highway, and sandstone formations in the area are undisturbed.

Coal was also produced near Morrison but began to drop away by 1937. Only four mines were producing coal for commercial purposes. One and a half miles from the town of Morrison an abundance of bituminous coal was found. This was largely used by the South Park Railroad.

A rich uranium strike 14 miles southwest of Denver near Morrison in 1955 unofficially estimated as high as 20 million was confirmed by Four Corners Uranium Corporation. "We believe this discovery in the Morrison Hogback to be the most important yet made in Colorado," said Eugene H. Sanders, Four Corners President. "We are convinced we have enough ore, ourselves alone, to warrant the construction of a 4 million dollar mill, the first along the front range of the Rockies." Sanders conservatively declined to place any value on the huge ore body, but Stanley and Robert Stauss, who found it and blocked it out said \$20 million "wouldn't be out of line." "The prospecting is over," said Sanders, in announcing the new strike. "We are ready to go into production immediately, averaging between 50 and 100 tons per day. Our first shipment, 2 carloads of 120 tons, went out this week." 10,000 tons okayed: an ore body 40 feet wide and 25 feet thick has been blocked out by core drills for 600 feet along the hogback. Sanders said, "This was one mile southwest of Morrison and immediately west of Soda Lakes, on the eastern side of the hogback formation." The Stauss brothers, veteran Cripple Creek miners, sank a 75-foot shaft to a lateral tunnel extending into the ore body. Officials of the Four Corners Uranium Company reported to their stockholders that mining operations at a reported uranium discovery in Morrison, 12 miles southwest of Denver, would be underway within 45 days.

by Debbie Krieger

Interview with Mr. Baker

On April 23, 1974, several students interviewed Mr. Frank Baker, a resident of Morrison. Mr. Baker is retired from his garage business which he operated in Morrison for 36 years, from 1922 to 1959.

Mr. Baker pointed out that there has been a lot of mining around Morrison. Clay and coal were the most plentiful. However, limestone, gypsum, and even some uranium were found in this area. Most of the clay was formed into bricks which were manufactured right on a resident's land. Several years back oil was discovered near Morrison. Parafin oil was found in a two mile deep well. Mr. Baker commented that this type of oil was unique for this area. Pennsylvania oil is the most popular parafin oil.

Floods were a great menace to Morrison. Mr. Baker said that the floods were from cloud bursts just inside of the hogback. "They would hit a cold current and open up just like a channel," he added. The floods would start in Sawmill Gulch near Idledale and pass through Cherry Gulch and Mt. Vernon Canyon right into Bear Creek and into Morrison. The debris carried by the water would stop and back up water into huge lakes which would flood the town.

The agriculture has been different through the years in Morrison. Most of the land was used for farming but there were also apple and cherry orchards. John Hayden from Hayden, Colorado (near Steamboat Springs), owned quite a few acres around Morrison. He owned many cows and fine horses. At one time several lots of land were owned by J. C. Penney.

The boundaries or city limits of Morrison have been unclear to some people. Although Morrison did grow to the south and the west, it was "never outside the Hogback" to the east.

In Morrison, several people would gather and have races against the clock up a road called "Zig-Zag" to the top of Mt. Falcon. Mr. Baker added that he used to drive horse teams up this road for his father. Another well known piece of road near Morrison was called "Mile of Bad Curves."

After a little persuasion, Mr. Baker talked about moonshining. He said they used to hide their stills in haystacks for camouflage. Another way of getting liquor was to smuggle it in from wet states. They found that Cadillacs worked best for this purpose.

Mr. Baker said he does remember Indians around Morrison. They would camp at Red Rocks but not near a stream because of the fear of flash floods. Farther south of Morrison was a cave which belonged to an Indian chief. Cowboys would use this cave as a corral for branding cattle. It would accommodate 125 to 150 head of cattle.

On Creation Rock in Red Rocks Park Charley Rider and Jim Norman carved steps into the face of the stone to get to the top. On top you could picnic or just enjoy the view.

When asked if he knew any of the Morrison family, Mr. Baker said he knew Pete Morrison as a cowboy and a daredevil. He also said he knew John Brisben Walker who was a very nice man.

A certain structure in Morrison has housed everything from a college to an old folks home. This building was called Sacred Hearts College, Swiss Cottage, and is now Pine Haven Nursing Home.

An interesting thing Mr. Baker said was that before Morrison and refrigeration the people would cut blocks of ice off the lakes and store them in ice houses. These houses were insulated with sawdust.

Mr. Baker said that Johnny Van Gordon's sister, Mable Down, was a teacher at the Morrison school.

A current topic in the Morrison area is the Mt. Carbon Dam. This 187 foot structure is forcing many residents of the area to move to higher ground. Mr. Baker thinks that this dam is going to be for recreational use instead of it's proposed flood control purpose.

We would like to thank Mr. Baker, a long-time resident of Morrison for helping us to learn about this historic area.

by Karen Allen and
Debby Harrison

The Soda Lakes

Soda Spring Lakes are 14 miles southwest of Denver, Colorado. The lakes are made up of two bodies of water. The lakes were named because of the Soda Spring on the larger of the two lake's shore. For eons of time a strong alkaline has been pouring into the lakes. A white deposit of three to seven inches in depth was found on and around the lakes.

Caleb S. Burdsal discovered the lakes and analyzed the deposit. The soda was of good grade and could be used for household purposes. After 1864 pioneer settlers heard about the discovery. During this time the Plains Indians were trying to save their land for the red man. They had been dissatisfied with the treaties which had been drawn by the "Great White Father" in Washington, D.C.

Their worries grew when the white man brought their wagons and plows with them. The plows signified the white man would stay. The Indians knew that their supply of buffalo would grow less, putting them in jeopardy. Because of this the red man tried to stop the white man from coming, by attacking wagon trains bringing freight. Many were killed. After taking what they wanted the Indians would kill the remaining livestock and set fire to wagons.

Soda and other necessities were becoming exhausted. The settlers from valleys and mining camps came to the Soda Lake for a supply of the soda deposit. One settler hauled a wagon-box of the soda from the spring to his homestead in the Platte Valley. He divided this among his neighbors. Soda water was good for sufferers of stomach trouble.

The flow of soda water from the spring began to disappear in 1878. The settlers bought a pump which they installed in the spring. In 1884 the water stopped entirely. The problem was that the stand pipe needed to be put down deeper or the "bottom had dropped out."

Blasting had been done in order to remove the soda and limerock around the spring. As a result a ledge of soda and limerock were formed, dividing the two lakes.

In 1894, J.S.D. Bowles, James B. Grant, Greg Harri-man, C. W. Littleton and Henry W. Lakes bought the Soda Lakes site. They organized a company called the "Soda Lakes Reservoir and Mineral Water Co., for irrigation, industrial, hire and domestic purposes. They would also deal in lime, limerock and other stone.

Flood waters from Bear Creek were turned into the Soda Lakes. This made two large reservoirs holding 2,000 acre feet of water. Because water in the lake was too strongly saturated with soda and lime, a certain amount of the water was turned into Marsten Lake for ten years to purify the water. Records show that for several years the fluxing rock had been shipped. In 1913 the company sold 514 cars of rock. The shipments diminished. In 1917 they ceased entirely.

In 1937, on August 1, the Territorial Daughters of Colorado placed a granite monument near the upper lake shore to mark the historical spot that had benefited the pioneer settlers in time of need.

by Chris Paneitz and Sharon Malonson

Morrison's Early Newspapers

Between the years of 1888 and 1917 the community of Morrison had four newspapers. All of these newspapers were published in the town of Morrison, Colorado.

The first newspaper was the Morrison Bud, which lasted from 1888 to 1899. The next newspaper was the Jefferson County Graphic, which was from March 3, 1900 to August 24, 1906. The third newspaper, The Morrison Independent, lasted from 1912 to 1914. The fourth and final newspaper was the Morrison Monitor which existed from February 12, 1914 to January 25, 1917.

In both the Bud and the Jefferson County Graphic, the most important item was the agriculture news. However during the period of these newspapers eventful news was also very popular. The columns Washington News and Events in Washington and Transactions of Congress made good reading. County and local news seemed to be more important to the readers. Articles included county correspondents which involved small sections titled: (a) Conifer in the Pines, (b) Evergreen Twigs, (c) North

Turkey Creek, (d) Elk Creek Junction, and (e) Mount Carbon News Notes. Others were Colorado State Affairs, and Doings at the Capitol City. County commissioner proceedings and brief county items.

Editorials called the Graphic, Washington Letter-From Our Regular Correspondent, and Congressional Grist-Washington gossip also had a part in the newspaper Graphic.

Serials or continuing stories played a large role in these papers. Romance and/or adventure were the topic of most serials. Such stories were: Jephthah's Daughter; A Story of Patriarchial Times, Lost On The Veldt, In The Desert, A Sacrifice To Conscience, In The Fowler's Snare, Hallow Ash Hall, That Girl of Johnson's, The Fatal Request or Found Out, and Mrs. Harold Stagg. Most of these serials had from ten to fifteen chapters a story.

Advertisements made up a great deal of the Graphic also. The products ranged from shoes, potatoes, coffee, flour and starch to saddles, grains, and Winchesters to Bromoquinine and Kodol (which is a dyspepsia cure).

Popular interest was sort of a break in the news with such topics as wit and humor, popular science, local-lore, current topics and words of wisdom. Women made up a significant amount of the readers so once in a while the paper would have an article to interest the women such as wraps and gowns.

The Monitor and Independent changed slightly in the most important information. In these papers on the front page was the local happenings of the area. This was also divided up into sections: Evergreen, Morrison school, Montana, Cowan and Lakeland. News for the agriculture was fairly important to the readers. Also, the Dairy was a column for the news in the dairy field. Poultry and late market quotations (livestock and grains) were also regular features. Other news features were the Colorado State News and the world in paragraphs — a brief record of passing events.

As previously stated serials also were popular in these papers. The romance stories were such like Black Is White, The Romance of Elaine, and Love In A Hurry, Valiants of Virginia and the Broken Coin were the adventure types.

These newspapers had regular articles which catered to the women such as modes of the season (recent trends, hints, new materials) and the home beautiful (flowers, shrubbery — their care and cultivation).

In every paper there is always advertisements. Fletcher's Castoria, K. C. Baking Powder, Paxtine Powder, and Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Co. were just a few of the products being sold. Personal services were also solicited, such as doctors, lawyers, barbers, land attornies, and undertakers and embalmers.

by Dean Cronk

Interview with Mr. Pike

Morrison, a small community in the hogback southwest of Denver, was once a prosperous mining town. For many people the area brings back memories. Tom Pike, a retired rancer, has been a resident of Morrison for many years. Tom was born December 20, 1906, in Denver and then moved to Morrison in 1910. Tom still lives in the same cobblestone house on Rooney Road with his wife, Shirley, and his only daughter, Sandra. Talking with Tom today is an easy as pulling up a chair and propping your feet up on the porch. Tom talks free and easy about the good and bad times in the history of Morrison.

John Brisben Walker, a young Englishman from Pennsylvania, came to Colorado in 1879 to study the growth of alfalfa. He bought land cheaply and made a great profit when he sold it later. At one time Walker owned four thousand acres which included the town of Morrison and what is now Red Rocks Park.

Morrison was to be an outstanding summer resort area with Red Rocks staging concerts on Sundays. The central area in the resort was to be another castle, a summer home for the Presidents of the United States. This summer White House was to look down over Bear Creek Canyon. This was a millionaire's dream, but the years following World War I were hard ones financially and the Walker fortune dwindled. Finally, defeated and broke, Waler gave up his dream and on Mount Falcon only a tall chimney and some portions of the castle wall still remain. One part of the dream that was fulfilled was Red rocks Park and Amphitheater. This world-famous amphitheater is enjoyed by thousands of people from all over the world.

In 1917-18 coal mining was started and coal was taken from the mines up to the middle 1930's. On December 13, 1923, a terrible mine disaster occurred in which five men were killed. A fire had started deep in the mine. Five men went down to put in a bulkhead but there was an updraft. All five men died from breathing the poisonous gas fumes.

The Denver South and Pacific narrow gauge was built in 1873. Originally, there was a turntable in Morrison where workers would turn the trains around. Later a "Y" was built near Soda Lakes and the train would back into Morrison then go on to the limestone quarry and then to the Rooney Ranch mine. The next stop was the old mine shaft to the west on Alameda. After the flood of 1933 the railroad was abandoned and many bridges and portions of the roadbed were never rebuilt.

The 1933 flood was one of the many floods that did tremendous damage to the twon. Mr. Pike recalls the disastrous flood of 1938. As he puts it, "That was by far one of the worst floods we have ever had(The water came from Mount Vernon Canyon bringing tons of debris and boulders as big as cars." A marble soda fountain weighing around two tons was washed out the front door of the Snyder Drub Store and down the creek, never to be found again. Many weeks were spent clearing the roads with bulldozers and caterpillars brought in by the County.

Although the Indians were never a real problem, Mr. Pike relates several instances during his mother's childhood. As Mr. Pike says, "She would always tell of the times her mother would have Chief Colorow over for a big dinner and how they would marvel at the amount he would eat. She would say, "He'd come in here looking kind of slim and when he got through eating he'd have a big paunch on him and it would last him three or four days." Mr. Pike remembers the time when his mother was cpatured by the Indians. They wanted her very much, enough to offer two papooses in exchange for her, which of course was refused.

"Old Pete was quite a character," said Mr. Pike. George D. (Pete) Morrison went into western movies as a stunt man in 1908. Pete spent almost 30 years doubling for stars who couldn't ride and chasing villains in black hats. Pete was known for obtaining John Wayne's first part in motion pictures.

At one time Pete made a movie with Grover Denbo, another actor, in the Red Rocks Park. Mr. Pike related that Grover got on a pinto horse and was to ride bareback and come down through the park and fall off. They got him

on the horse and he started to whoop and holler like an Indian but he never fell off. They asked him what was the matter and Grover said, "Well, how can I fall off when I have all I can do to stay on?"

When the depression hit Hollywood, Pete brought his wife, Lillian, and his youngest son, Clifford, back to their small farm near Morrison in 1936. Whenever Morrison had a parade Pete always drove the local stagecoach dressed like a frontiersman. His older son, Douglas, stayed in California. Pete's wife died in 1971 and Pete one year later.

These are only a few of the events that have happened during the past century in the town of Morrison. They remain as memories in the mind of Mr. Tom Pike, a long time resident of the area.

by Sherry Wood



One of the first grocery stores in Morrison.

Early Business in Morrison

Morrison first started out as a trading post at the mouth of Bear Creek Canyon. A gambling house was built there in the late 1880's; then the gambling house was changed into the Sacred Heart College but closed because it was too far from Denver for the students to travel. Later it was a hotel known as the Hillcrest Inn, which failed during the depression. Frank Kerchoff bought it and donated it to the Sisters of St. Frances, which used it as an old folks' home, that opened in October 1944. The home had forty-six residents, that paid \$100.00 each per month. They had private rooms, twenty-four hour a day nursing care, three meals daily and private baths. There were seven nuns, four women, a caretaker and a chaplain who ran the home. It closed in May, 1953, when the last of the elderly guests moved to St. Joseph's Convent.

There were also a few newspaper businesses in the late 1800's and early 1900's, none of which lasted more than a few years.

South and Pacific Railroad from Denver to Morrison was established in 1873 but was abandoned after the Bear Creek flood in 1933.

In 1909, John Brisban Walker made a cog railway on Mt. Morrison as a tourist attraction. In 1929, it went out of business and was sold because the automobile became popular.

As the town grew, a library was organized, it first started in a small grocery store, then in a post office, and then moved into a hardware store. In 1942, the library moved into an empty store with 250 books, but was evicted when a liquor firm rented the building. There was not an empty store in town, so the librarian, Mrs. Holmes, packed the books away; then the Morrison School offered to convert its primary room into a library. It stayed at the school until Mr. Holmes, a retired contractor, made a library. It was opened in 1947. The cost for electric lights was 92 cents a month, \$1.00 for heating and \$10.00 a year for insurance. Odds and ends were paid by fines — five cents for the first week, ten cents for each week after.

With the town still growing, a powder company was added. It was in Morrison, from 1947 until 1949, when 150 pounds of nitroglycerine exploded in the mixing house. There was nothing left except a hole in the ground.

There was also a theater that was built in Red Rocks Park in 1952. It was a big success on the weekends when famous stars performed.

A grade school was added to the Red Rocks area in 1955. It had eight classrooms, all made of stone.

There was a country club called the Willow Springs Country Club. It burned down to the ground because of a fire in the kitchen. There were only a few bricks and a steel support left.

Douglas Hubbard created rides and attractions for some of the country's largest amusement parks. His son later owned a special effects store that made animated exhibits for the Magic Mountain Amusement Park in Denver.

There was also a Victorian frame house that was converted to a grocery store. Now it is the Deacons' Bench, which is a tea room, gift shop and restaurant.

These were some of the early businesses of Morrison, when it was a flourishing community in Colorado.

by Pam England



Inside view of Mr. Peinze's store.

Interview with Mrs. Peinze

"Yes, business was real good then; we were a real tourist town," says Mrs. Peinze, "but those days are all gone now." Mrs. Peinze was interviewed on the early businesses of Morrison. She has been a resident of Morrison for 51 years, since 1923.

When asked what some of the early businesses were, she stopped to think. She then told us that there were three grocery stores: one owned by the Schneiders that was called the Yellow Front; another owned by Mr. John Ross who is thought to be Morrison's first businessman; the third owned by the Pienzes. The Peinze Merchandise Company carried everything from groceries to Levis. The Pienzes pumped gas for fifteen cents per gallon. Their store was the only one with a bathroom in the back, Mrs. Peinze said.

Another thing Peinze's store supplied was the hamburger stands. Around 45 years ago five or six hamburger stands lined the main street of Morrison. There was a White Front, a Yellow Front and a Blue Front. There was also a Watermelon which was actually shaped like a watermelon, and an Orange that bore a great resemblance to the fruit. Still another was called the Log Cabin which was appropriately named. This was moved before the flood to a higher location up on the hogback. The hamburgers were only a nickel and according to some of the old timers, the stands did quite well.

Some of the other businesses were a shoe store, a blacksmith shop, six prospering saloons, one bakery and three hotels. In the twenties there was a shop sometimes called "the harness shop" where you could have your horses shod and buy other equipment from the German shoemaker who owned it.

Morrison also had a restaurant, a livery stable (which later became a garage), and a post office. There was also the Pacific Lumber Company, the Cavanaugh's riding stables, a meat market and the Cliff House at this time.

There was a drugstore owned by the Schneiders. In the flood of 1938 the marble soda fountain from the store was washed down Bear Creek. Mrs. Peinze said that "Someday, somebody is going to be digging to build a new house and they'll find the ol' fountain."

For early day entertainment the people did many things. There were radio shows like the Ben and Bernie show, the Amos and Andy show and the Fibber McGee and Molly show. The people of Morrison went to the local dance hall on Saturday nights where Mrs. Peinze exclaims they "really had some good times." They went on picnics to Lookout Mountain and to Buffalo Bill's grave.

They went shopping in Denver on Fridays or Saturdays by way of the narrow gauge train that used to run from Denver to Morrison and back, twice a day. They'd go to the vaudeville theater and to an expensive restaurant for dinner. To top the evening off they would go the Denham Theater and watch an evening stage production from New York. They could also go to school programs put on by teachers and children.

The town of Morrison had famous visting performers who played at the Hillcrest Inn. Some who performed were Lawrence Welk, Ted Weims, Lily Ponds, Ethel Merman and Perry Como. Some stayed in different homes in the town of Morrison.

Morrison, in its early days, had many businesses and was a booming tourist town, but as Mrs. Peinze says, "Those days are all gone."

by Debby Peterson and
Pam England



Mr. Peinze modernizes his store.

The Colorado and Southern Railway

The Colorado and Southern Railroad was first brought to Morrison in 1873. It ran for sixty years but was stopped by the flood of 1933. Many bridges and portions of roadbed were washed out and never rebuilt.

The Morrison Branch of the C&S would start in Fort Logan and run around the south side of Mt. Carbon. It came to Hampden and ran along the south side of it. It then came west until it was about one-fourth of a mile west of Kipling. There it crossed over to the north side of Hampden by the Wayed Ditch. It headed north to the Soda Lake Road and then on to Morrison Road. When the train reached Morrison Road it headed back south, crossing over to the south side of Hampden after running by the Mt. Carbon School House. After crossing Hampden, it came up on the south side of Bear Creek and up the hill.

On the top of the hill was an area called the "Y." This was where the trains could run through Morrison just past the intersection to Red Rocks, turn around and come back into town, on to the Limestone Quarry and then on to the Rooney Ranch mine. The train then ran on west to Alameda and on to the old mine shaft.

On this Morrison Branch there were eight stations. Fort Logan was first then Gilmans, also known as Balcom or Lakeland. Next came Bedford, Lee's Siding and Mt. Carbon. The next two were the Old Quarry Spur and the New Quarry Spur. The last was at Morrison where the train would turn around and return to Denver.

The freight transported by the C&S consisted of building stone from the quarry, some marble, lime rock, fence



The train that ran through Morrison until 1933.

posts and many cars of lumber from the saw mills along Bear Creek. Coal and gypsum from the mines and farm products were also taken from Morrison to Denver by train.

The train only ran up the hill once a week, therefore grass grew over the track. The train would come to the hill, go up and then slide down. It had to back up eight to ten times to get the grass cut enough to get up the hill.

The railroad proposed to build up Morrison as a tourist resort, and this was the reason broad gauging of the tracks was begun in 1909. The C&S provided transportation as far as Morrison Park where people picnicked and wandered through the Garden of the Red Rocks. Five C&S left Union Station daily from Denver to Morrison. The price of a round-trip ticket from Denver to Morrison, including admission to the Garden of the Red Rocks, was 60 cents. Usually there was enough time to turn the train around at Morrison though many times this portion of the

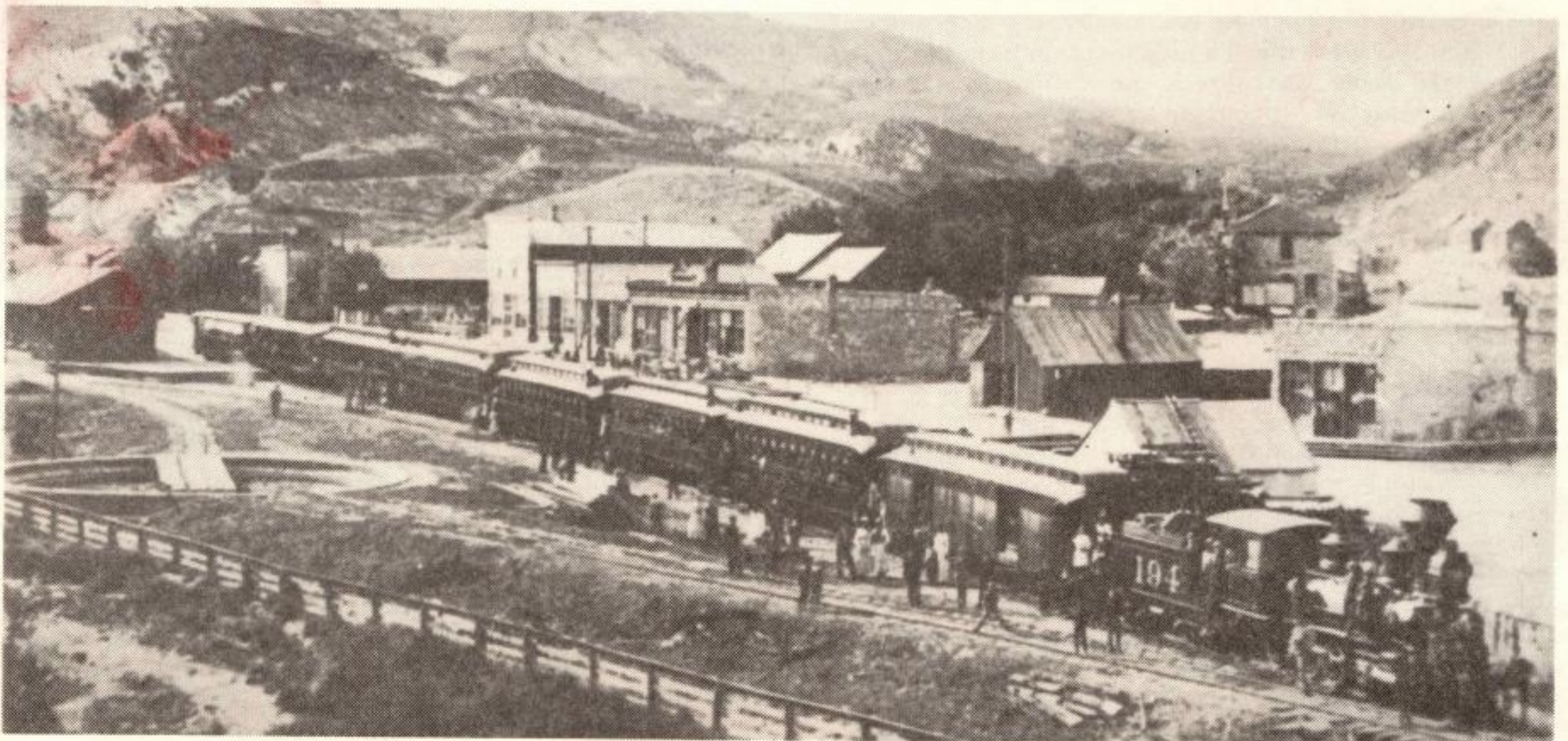
track was used for loading freight, and passengers returned to Denver riding backwards. The Morrison Sulphur Springs, the large hotel in Morrison, and the Gardens of the Red Rocks were all advertised by the C&S.

The train was removed from service in 1933, and the tracks taken out ten years later. This was because trucks were a cheaper and an easier means of transportation.

The train was a Colorado and Southern narrow gauge. The engine of this train now sits in front of the old depot in Idaho Springs. This train usually ran with two engines.

The train used to run through the Soda Lakes in the winter months. The lake would run dry in the late fall and into the early spring, and the train would run right through the lake bed. In the summer, however, when the lake was filled, the train was forced to take a longer route.

When the train was taken out, the rails were sold to Mexico. The ties were left behind.



The train unloading passengers at the Morrison Station.

Interview with Mr. Renaud

Mr. Stanford Renaud, born in Charleston, Missouri, in 1911, came to Morrison at the age of four. He and his family came to Colorado because of his mother's health.

Mr. Renaud's father got a job working on the railroad, but he had his heart set on farming. He and many of the neighbors then began construction on a house. This house was the Renaud's home for only a year and a half after which time they moved across the creek from Peterson Field and down toward Turkey Creek.

Mr. Renaud started school in 1917 at the Mt. Carbon school house where he was taught by Mrs. Olive E. Peterson, the only teacher at the school. Those students who lived further than half a mile away used horse and buggy or rode horseback as a means of transportation to and from school.

When Mr. Renaud moved he transferred to Mount View school. He remembers the teachers as very strict and commented, "you get away with a lot more than we did". He went through twelfth grade and graduated in 1929.

Mount View and Mt. Carbon are two of the schools Mr. Renaud recalls. He also remembers the Montana school where Bear Creek elementary school is now and Midway school at the entrance of what is now Green Gables.

Mr. Renaud explained that the train ran from Fort Logan around the south side of Mt. Carbon to Hampden. It then ran along the south side of Hampden west to about a quarter of a mile west of Kipling. After that the tracks crossed over to the north side of Hampden by the Wayed ditch. It then continued north to Soda Lakes road and ran on to Morrison road from there. After the train reached Morrison road it went over to the south side of Hampden after running by the Mt. Carbon school. The train then followed the south side of Bear Creek and continued up the hill. Trucks, said Mr. Renaud, forced the railroad out of business because they were an easier and better form of transportation.

Mr. Renaud used to jump on the train as it climbed the hill. On one occasion he fell and nearly rolled on to the tracks. "I thought I was a goner," recalled Mr. Renaud.

On busy days the train made six or seven runs to Morrison. Model T's were hired by tourists who picked them up at the station for a scenic ride through the Rockies. It was an eight hour trip beginning in Morrison and traveling to Evergreen, Bergen Park, Lookout Mountain and ending up back at the station, stated Mr. Renaud.

The Morrison Hotel as Mr. Renaud stated was "quite a popular place". He remembers when his father painted the entire hotel inside and out. He also recalls that in addition to people who worked in Morrison vacationers also stayed at the hotel.

According to Mr. Renaud limestone was quarried in Morrison and hauled to Denver by train. This limestone was then shipped elsewhere. Limestone was also brought out of Soda Lakes during the irrigation season. This was from late fall to early spring, said Mr. Renaud. He remembered that it was taken out in 10, 12, 14 or 18 inch thicknesses. The big lake was drained into the small one and this made it possible for the train to run through Soda Lakes. There it picked up the limestone material on flat cars and hauled it to Denver. It was then ground up and used for cement or building material. Some of the old buildings in Denver are made of this material, stated Mr. Renaud.

John Brisben Walker

John Brisben Walker came to Denver in 1876 upon request of the Secretary of Agriculture to experiment with the possibilities of raising alfalfa in the Denver climate. Reaching Denver he took up a plot of land now known as Berkley Farm, purchasing the plot for \$1,000. The idea of raising alfalfa was ridiculed by many of the Denver people, but Mr. Walker's venture proved them wrong for soon he became one of the most successful farmers in the nation. Twelve years later Mr. Walker sold his farm for \$325,000. However, he did keep some land which he donated for Regis College and Inspiration Point. In the 1880's Mr. Walker was using some of his land for River Front Park, Denver's first recreation park which he owned, built and maintained. Bike and horse races, Fourth of July shows and "spectaculars" such as the "Last Days of Pompeii" and the "Burning of Rome" were presented there. While in Denver Mr. Walker was very fond of the mountains and became familiar with the surroundings. Eventually he was introduced to the area of Red Rocks. It is said that one day in the 1880's Mr. Walker was strolling through the Red Rocks area with a group of friends. As they came between Creation and Steamboat rocks he shouted "Hallo." His voice echoed from the two rocks, ringing loudly and clearly. At that moment Mr. Walker's idea of an amphitheater came to life, and he was beside himself with enthusiasm. But then his idea was too far ahead of the times to be accepted. As a result of the sale of his farm and the money he made from River Front Park, Mr. Walker became wealthy and his restlessness drove him back East.

There he bought "Cosmopolitan," then a slow and unsuccessful magazine and turned it into one of the most popular magazines in America. His accomplishments were well rewarded, for in 1905, just six years after buying "Cosmopolitan" he sold it to William Randolph Hearst for one million dollars. Now he turned his attentions towards backing the automobile. In supporting the automobile, he built a plant at Philipse Manor, New York, and bought all the patents on the Stanley Steamer, and even sponsored a Stanley Steamer race through downtown New York. Still, his efforts were useless; the Stanley Steamers proved a failure. When his enthusiasm for backing the automobile diminished, he returned to Denver.

Mr. Walker had large holdings here and envisioned a tourist business greater than anyone dreamed. Reaching Denver he began devoting his energies to developing and boosting the state. He was full of plans for Denver and all of Colorado. Soon after coming to Denver, Mr. Walker purchased 4,000 acres of land including the town of Morrison, Mt. Morrison, Mt. Falcon and Red Rocks Park. On top of Mt. Falcon, Mr. Walker built his home. In 1910 he proposed the Mountain Parks System, which was to extend from Turkey Creek Canyon to Mt. Vernon Canyon, covering eight square miles. His idea was successful and he was very active in its promotion, donating land for parks and roads. He built a cog road up Mt. Morrison, and then a road up Mt. Falcon to his home on which he sponsored auto races in 1910 and 1913. Mr. Walker started a summer White House near his own home on Mt. Falcon. He thought that the beautiful and invigorating atmosphere of the Rockies would be an excellent spot for Presidents to come and rest. However, it was never completed because of fire. In 1913, Mr. Walker proposed that Denver spend one million dollars in an effort to bring settlers to the West, increasing the city's population by 50,000 and the state's

general business by 15 pct. He thought Denver needed to grow to realize its potential.

As he grew older, his great holdings slowly passed away from him, and soon he ran out of money in promotion of Morrison. He lost Red Rocks Park to John Ross who sold to the city of Denver. Finally, on a somewhat sad note, Mr. Walker returned again to the East. At the age of 83, he died in Brooklyn, New York, in 1931, where he had lived in retirement after leaving Denver. Mr. Walker lived an interesting and fulfilling life, and many of his accomplishments could be called big events in any man's life.

John Brisben Walker was a colorful, vibrant, active, and creative person who is considered to be one of Colorado's most influential pioneers. He was far ahead of his time because of his novel way of thinking and progressive ideas with regard to the promotion of Denver. By nature he was restless and energetic. The completion of many varied projects was for him necessary for his own personal satisfaction, and this resulted in many benefits for the city and state.

by Cindy Glover

John Walker's Dream

"The time has come when a president should know something of the West and its problems at first hand. He should spend at least a month of his summer vacation in Colorado, both for his own sake and contact at first hand with western problems." Such were the words of John Brisben Walker. John Walker was well known around Denver in the early 1900's. He was sent by the Department of Agriculture to Colorado in the early 1870's as an advisor on farming. He was the first man to propose the Rocky Mountain Parks idea, and become aware of the excellent acoustical qualities of Red Rocks. He helped get the floundering magazine *Cosmopolitan* back on its feet and then sold it to William Randolph Hearst for one million dollars in 1905. Walker was a man who made and lost millions of dollars.

In April of 1911 Walker began to promote his idea of a summer White House by holding Stanley Steamer races up Mt. Falcon to the proposed site for the President's summer home. This was a gay affair which attracted many Denver socialites.

For the location of the Summer White House, Walker chose to build near the top of Mt. Falcon. This site offered an excellent view of Morrison, Bear Creek Valley, and the plains above Denver to the east as well as the Rocky Mountains to the west. To the southeast stood Mt. Morrison which obstructed the view of the Hogback. Walker promised, "Some day I am going to cut the top off of that mountain!"

Walker proposed that the state buy a 100-acre tract of land from him at negligible cost. This would be for approaches leading to the castle.

For the design of the Presidential retreat Walker commissioned J. B. Benedict, a Denver architect. The castle, when drawn, resembled that of King Ludwig's, which overlooked the Rhine in Bavaria. It would be a 22-room mansion with four towers and a 60 by 80 foot courtyard. One of the towers was to be a living room that, at its edge, looked off a sheer cliff into Bear Creek Canyon 1,500 feet below. A second, smaller building was designed as a Presidential study.

The total estimated price for the Summer White House was 50 thousand dollars and 200 thousand dollars for ap-

proaches. To finance this undertaking Walker proposed that every school child in America should contribute one dime.

The cornerstone for the castle was quarried near Marble, Colorado, and made of Yule marble. And on it were inscribed these words, "To the Presidents of the United States, a Summer White House, from the people of Colorado." It was laid July 4, 1914. The President and Mrs. Wilson were invited to attend but only got as far as Denver. Still, it was a grand affair. A procession led by Stanley Steamers was formed on the side of Mt. Falcon, and drove to the site of the already laid foundation. After many speeches the stone was finally laid.

As America gradually was pulled into World War I people lost interest in the castle. Along with this, the stone masons were expensive because they had to come from Europe. Construction slowed down. Work was halted altogether when America entered World War I. To seal the death of the castle, Walker's beautiful home, which was also on Mt. Falcon, was burned in November of 1918. Many people believe that the house was struck by lightning and the fire resulted. "Not so!" said Mrs. Madeleine Blakeslee to the *Rocky Mountain News*. "Actually, the house was robbed and burned. I went over to the rooms as a little girl the next morning. There were tracks of cars going away from the smoldering ruins. In the woods, three hundred yards away, I found several of Mr. Walker's fine paintings that had been dropped by the burglars.

After this disaster Walker was heartbroken. His money was also running out. At this time Walker went to the Mayor of Denver to try and get a loan to finish the Summer White House. He was refused. Walker then offered to sell Red Rocks Park to Denver for a fraction of its value. He was again refused. At this point Walker was asked to resign from the Chamber of Commerce for forcing his views upon others. As a last final effort John Walker proposed to sell \$1,000 bonds to finish the Summer White House. The holders of these bonds would be entitled to stay in the castle when not occupied by the President. Luck was not with John Walker, and this plan also fell through. Meanwhile, Walker's beloved wife, Ethel died. She was buried near Mt. Falcon where she could see Bear Creek, as she wanted. With this, Walker moved to Washington, D.C. to live out the rest of his life.

Don't think John Brisben Walker had given up hope of completing the Summer White House, because at the time of his death he was working on a new road surface, utilizing America's vast cotton surplus. This remarkable man died in 1911 without seeing his dream fulfilled.

by Pat Porter

The Mt. Morrison Cog Railway

"Railway to the Peak," was the name of the Mount Morrison Cable Incline. This was a tourist attraction that people enjoyed from 1909 to 1929. The person responsible for the idea and construction of the incline was John Brisben Walker.

It was only 45 minutes from Denver to Morrison on the Colorado and Southern Railroad. A round trip ticket cost 60 cents. The fare from the park of Red Rocks to the Peak and return was \$1.00.

John Brisben Walker sent out 800 personal invitations for the opening of the railway on Saturday, August 7, 1909. The speakers who addressed the guests were: Governor Shafrote, former Senator Thomas M. Patterson, Joseph A. Thatcher and Alexis Dupont Parker, vice-president of the Colorado and Southern Railroad.

The way the incline worked was there were two cars, one at the top, and the other at the top, and the other at the bottom each being attached to opposite ends of the two 1¼ inch ropes. While moving, one of the cars was lowered, while the other was raised. The engine was then reversed and the cars were moved in the opposite direction, each carrying a load at a time. The trip took 20 minutes each way. The incline was able to carry 100 people. At the top of the peak it was 3000 feet above Denver.

The Mount Morrison incline railway lost popularity, as cars became common. It was sold in 1929.

by Karen Kane

Red Rocks Park

In the late 1890's John Brisben Walker, owner and founder of the famous Cosmopolitan magazine and successful realtor, obtained Red Rocks Park and what is now the famous amphitheatre for a small amount of money. Walker, always full of ideas, wanted the 1,400 acres of beauty to be a popular tourist attraction. He started right in to make the park and theatre what it is today. To start with, he built a road up to the park. Then he provided necessary facilities to accommodate the people. He even provided ladders for the ladies where climbing became difficult.

On Memorial Day 1906, the theatre was officially opened under the name of Garden of the Titans. Later on, it became known as The Garden of Angels. However, before this, Walker had already started holding Sunday concerts on top of Ship Rock, where he had built a platform. People from all over the state attended Sunday services and concerts there during the summer months. People coming from Denver to visit the park and its natural wonders would first ride a narrow gauge train to Morrison for a fare of sixty cents. From there they would hike or rent a burro to reach the park. Stage coaches were also available at this time. Then in October 1906, Walker became the official owner of Red Rocks Park.

In May 1911, Mr. Walker had as his guest, Mary Garden, a famous singer. He took her on a horseback ride up to the theatre and she sang between Ship Rock and Creation Rock and was pleased with the accoustical qualities of the theatre. She then told Walker that the amphitheatre would be famous, but down inside Walker already knew this.

Then in 1913 Walker started advertising the park and theatre as a tourist attraction. During this time, he also started having famous bands and singers perform in the theatre. After their performances, the artists would compliment the theatre for its' accoustical quality. Walker was so encouraged by all these compliments that he built a tea room on top of Creation Rock to attract more people.

During the early 1920's Mr. Walker ran into financial troubles while wanting to build a mansion on top of Mt. Falcon. He then offered to sell his Red Rocks property to the City of Denver for one million dollars. Before the city gave him an answer, many popular realtors started the rumor that the park would be a waste of money because it would cost many thousand of dollars after the purchase to fix it up. Mayor Stapleton, in spite of the realtors, still

wanted the city to buy the park, but he knew the city could not afford it. He then turned down Walker's offer.

On February 27, 1927, popular club leaders started giving speeches for the city to purchase Red Rocks. Mayor Stapleton then met with Walker about lowering the price on the unkept park. Walker said that he would sell the park as well as the water rights along Bear Creek for \$54,133. On August 9, 1928, the park, theatre and water rights along Bear Creek were purchased by the City of Denver. Walker used this money to build his \$50,000 mansion on top of Mt. Falcon.

In 1929 the city built a modern road up to the park plus five miles of scenic road in and around the park. Just after building the roads, the city ran into some financial trouble, and nothing was done to the park for many years. In 1936, George Cranner, the Commissioner of Parks for the City of Denver, obtained help from the WPA, the CCC, and the National Park Service to finish fixing the park and building the theatre designed by Burnham Hoyt, a creative Denver architect.

On June 15, 1941, the park and the \$750,000 amphitheatre was opened in front of 9,000 Rotarians for the Rotary International Ceremonies. The Master of Ceremonies was Freeman H. Talbert and the opening night singer was Helen Jepso, a famous soprano. Though the theatre facilities turned out to be very successful, the theatre was not used much in the years that followed.

Today the self-supporting Red Rocks Amphitheatre is popular world-wide. People from all over the world come to perform in the natural wonder. Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre were created as a natural setting for us to enjoy its majestic beauty and beautiful music that filters through the mountain air.

by Dean Robinson

Interview with Mr. Rooney

"In 1859 my grandfather, a farmer from Iowa, came to what is now the Rooney ranch." These are the words of Alex Rooney, a member of the third generation of Rooneys to live on the old stone ranch. Tough times hit the East and in the West newspaper headlines read "Gold in Colorado," "Pikes Peak or Bust." So the Rooneys came. No one would grubsteak Grandpa Rooney though, so as he came upon the wide rolling hill plateau returning to Iowa, he decided to bring his bride out and make their home here. Cedar trees just right for fencing were everywhere.

As Grandpa Rooney started to build he came upon some Indians down by the river just west of the ranch. Here he made his first deal with the Indians to share what they called their "Medicine Springs." It seems that this pond which they called "Medicine Springs" contained a blue clay which they would rub all over their bodies and let dry. Then when the clay cracked, they peeled it off, content that it purified them and prevented wrinkles.

Grandpa Rooney made many deals with the Indians and was always carefull to keep his word. At one time the Indians even went to work for him. In return for their labor Mr. Rooney promised each one who worked a noon day meal. However only about 5 of the 20 Indians worked. The others just sat and watched. When the time for the food to be handed out came all the Indians wanted to eat but Grandpa Rooney kept his word and only gave the ones that worked food. He wanted respect from the Indian: also .

Another Indian story Mr. Rooney told was about the time his Aunt Alice traded her little sister off to the Indians for a quiet papoose. It seems that Aunt Alice was watching over her baby sister, Nora Pike, when some Indians passing through traded a quiet papoose for her sister who just wouldn't be quiet. The baby was later retrieved unharmed near Camp George West.

At times the Indians would show up at the Rooney ranch with a pony. "We sell you horse?", they asked. Rooney explained that he couldn't use a horse like that and would take them into the corral and show them what kind of horse he could use. When the Indians would show up with a good horse, Rooney would pay them a fair price. The Indians could not count, but they knew he was honest. Other settlers would take the horse, show their guns and run the Indians off. A week or so later the settlers would find their barn or house burned to the ground. Word of the Rooney's honesty spread quickly among the Indians though.

The Indians also loved to trade. One day Chief Colorow came to the ranch wearing a tall black hat from Denver which was used for courting. He insisted on having Alice Rooney, she was 15 at the time, for his squaw. Mrs. Rooney angrily refused. Disappearing for a minute and reappearing with an Indian squaw he said, "Me trade for Alice." Mrs. Rooney again refused. This went on until Chief Colorow had three squaws to trade for Alice. By this time Mrs. Rooney was furious and was standing in the doorway with a red hot poker and chased him away. He was so angry that he threatened to burn the barn, but he never made his threat good.

Along about the 1860's Grandpa Rooney noticed black patches of rock on the hillside. He then started to dig and it proved to be coal. It wasn't until about 1868 though, that coal was actually being hauled out, at first by wagons and later on about 1918 by narrow gauge railroad down from Morrison. On Dec. 13, 1921, on the second level, 200 feet down, some clay fell on a pile of coal and caused a fire. Six men were killed. It took the Denver Fire Department 22 minutes to reach the site. Later, the Lidon Fire and Rescue Team was called out and all bodies were retrieved by six that evening.

For the building of the ranch the Rooneys imported tools from Germany. They also had to make a kiln for the lime and sand mortar they needed. The ranch still stands today, sturdy and strong.

To this very day Mr. Alex Rooney lives on the old ranch with his wife. Who knows how many more generations will continue to live there. All we know for sure is that it all started one day in spring, 1859.

by Dean Robinson and
Amy Laffoon and Jody Malloy

Tourism in Morrison

Many things brought people to Morrison. In the early days farmers and ranchers would come down into Morrison by wagon and stay over the weekend. It was a 20-25 mile drive for most of the men. At this time they would get their supplies for another week or month, whichever the case may have been. Many of the ranchers and farmers would stay at the Cliff House.

THE CLIFF HOUSE — MORRISON, COLO.

Headquarters for Wheelmen
Feed Stable in Connection

John Swanson-Prop.

This is an ad run in the Jefferson County Graphic, one of two papers published in Morrison on Saturday, March 24, 1900.

Before Colorado became a state, Governor Evans had big plans for Morrison. He wanted to turn the town of Morrison into a tourist resort with a spa and everything else he needed to turn Morrison into a booming tourist town. John Brisben Walker also had big plans for Morrison. Probably his biggest plan was the presidential castle atop Mount Falcon. This summer White House was to look down over Bear Creek Canyon. Mr. Walker thought this would turn Morrison into a tourist town if anything could.



The comfortable atmosphere of the Hillcrest Inn.

Another thing that brought people to Morrison was the famed Red Rocks Park. Until the amphitheater was built people would either walk up from Morrison or rent carriages. On Sunday afternoon carriage drivers made a fair sum. Two or three trains usually came out from Denver for those who cherished "Old Fashioned Sunday." Two favorite spots in the Red Rocks were the Cave of the Severn Ladders and John Brisben Walker's tea room on top of Ship Rock. The amphitheater was built by World War I veterans housed at the CC camp just above Morrison. At the first Easter sunrise service 35 thousand people came. However, only 10 thousand were able to get in. At noon cars were still backed up to the park.

Red Rocks Park was not the only place one could spend an enjoyable afternoon though. The Cliff House bandstand and lawn were just about as nice as you could get. Sunday dinner there consisted of chicken and noodles, homemade bread, and hot pie for just around 35 cents.

The picnics and need for supplies were not the only things that brought people to Morrison though. Music people spent a lot of time there because this small town

had a pleasant setting nestled in the mountains. One of the major places these musicians performed was the Red Rocks Theater. Such great opera stars as Mary Garden from New York showed off the great acoustics to many an interested listener. Elitches also had it's share of great musicians. Mostly it was the big bands who played there. When great names like Ted Wiems, Lawrence Welk, Lily Ponds, and Ethel Merman appeared in Morrison it had to stir up some tourism.

Most of the big bands stayed at the Hillcrest Inn. Here these great people could do everything from swimming to croquet to tennis or a horseback ride through the mountains. A ride up to the summit of Mt. Evans was also offered. Not all singers could stay in hotels though. The hotels weren't that big and there weren't enough to go around. For this reason people opened their homes to tourists passing through. These "tourist rooms" were very common in big homes. At one time Perry Como stayed in the big antique shop on the left-hand-side of the road as you come into Morrison from the East.



Hillcrest Inn, popular in Morrison long ago.

The stage coach for quite a while was the only way to mining towns such as Leadville and Fairplay. For a long time Andy Jordan drove the 4-horse stage.

In town tourists could also enjoy an evening dance. The old dance hall used to be just to the left of the present post office. Most of the time the music to dance by consisted of a 4-man cowboy band. For those who didn't enjoy dancing through there were always the famous steak fries up at the ruins of the old Castle. Peinze's store, now the Tabor bar, would supply these cube steaks for 10 cents apiece. Then these tourists would ride up to the castle and have a steak fry with a little down home country music.

Another thing Peinze's store supplied was the hamburger stands. About 45 years ago 5-6 hamburger stands lined the main street of Morrison. There was a White Front, Blue Front, and a Yellow Front. There was also a Watermelon, actually shaped like a watermelon and an orange with a great resemblance to one. Another one was called the Log Cabin which was appropriately named. This was moved before the flood to a location up on the Hogback. A nickle a hamburger was the price and according to some old timers they did quite well.

Present day tourism is booming again in Morrison and thanks to this fact Morrison is again growing. "The Fort" which is just 2 miles above Morrison is currently a big hit. Other restaurants in Morrison includes the "Country Fare Food and Drink," which looks like an old restaurant." The Morrison Grocery is open all day Sunday to aid picnickers and the Tabor Bar adds to the excitement of the town. Several gas stations speckle the main drag along with the usual tourist shops like "Moe's Art," "The Gold and Silver Shop," and several antique stores. A beauty parlor, a flower shop, and "Tom's Cabinetry and Upholstery" are a few of the upholding businesses in Morrison. These shops can be compared with what Mr. Schneider's recollection of business in 1889 was

- 1 Drugstore
- 3 Grocery Stores
- 1 Hardware Store
- 2 Blacksmiths
- 6 Saloons
- 1 Bakery
- 3 Hotels

With the efforts of Governor Evans and of John Walker, Morrison did become a tourist resort. It's setting was also a main factor though. Mountain travel used to be difficult. For this reason railroads only went as far as Morrison. It's always been easy to get to and it's always been secluded — that's Morrison.

by Amy Laffoon

Bars and Dance Halls

In the past history of the Morrison area, there have been three main bars and dance halls. In the town of Morrison there was the Morrison Dance Hall which was owned by John Sido. This dance hall was located across the creek from where the Dairy Queen is now, and was near the C & S Railroad depot. It brought in people from Denver, Golden and surrounding areas via the railroad. In the very early 1900's, the dance hall burnt down. Then Mr. Sido rebuilt it on the other side of the creek, where the post office and Dairy Queen are now located. Dances were only held during the summer because it was an open air place and the walls opened up into windows. There was really no age limit to the people who went to the dances because young teen-agers just didn't patronize. The dances were held every Saturday night, that was the only night of the week they had them. Kids today would never have liked the music, it was ole' square music. In the span of 30 years this dance hall was built three different times and it burned down three times.

It seems that in past history dance halls were prone to fires. The Midway Tavern and Dance Hall followed the same course. It was located in the area of what is now King Soopers and the filling station at Jewell and Wadsworth. The Midway tavern was open every night of the week for food and liquor, with dancing on Saturday. The Saturday night before it exploded, the people that were there had an 'awful' taste in their beer and their eyes burned because some gas got in the building that night. They had a gas line that ran down the west side of Wadsworth, it sprung a leak. The gas seeped in under the building, it exploded and blew the whole front of the building into the street, where it completely blocked it. Mr. Stan Renaud who was a volunteer for Bancroft Fire Department, hooked up his pickup to the part of the building in the street and cleared the road. The Midway tavern had been rebuilt two times, this being the third

building, it burned that next Sunday morning between 6:30 and 7:00. A gas explosion completely demolished the era of the Midway Tavern and Dance Hall.

The third major dance hall was the Hollywood Barn. This barn was originally built as a dairy barn, the Hall Dairy Farm. The Hall family could milk about 200 cows in the basement of this barn. The top part of the barn was where they stored the hay and feed. Because of all the new laws and restrictions forced on dairy farmers, they sold their dairy herd and converted the barn to a dance hall. The Hollywood Barn was open every Saturday night of the year. The music was supplied by the Howard Husic Band. They served sandwiches, snacks, and beer and were open from about 9:00 to 1:00. New Years Eve was an 'almost' all night affair.

It was 22 degrees below zero at 1:30 in the morning when the Bancroft Fire Dept. got a call that the Hollywood Barn was on fire. They got to the barn, immediately after they pumped the water out, the pump froze. They called in the Denver and Westwood Fire Departments. Denver strung fire hoses from the east side of Sheridan to the south side of Mississippi. Westwood hooked up next to Denver's hoses and they fought the fire with that. Bancroft Fire Department couldn't get their hose thawed to fight the fire. Somebody had broken in and set the building on fire. They went in from the basement. Mr. Stan Renaud went down to the basement and saw that the door was unlocked and partly open. This person, went in through the basement, up the stairway where the beer tap was, and set the fire in the entry way. If the Bancroft Fire Department would have had enough water, twice the water, they could have saved the building. The minute their water went out they lost complete control of the fire.

Dance halls back then had a terrible time with fires, each of the three past described dance halls burned down in some way three times each.

Now, it appears that people's leisure time activities have changed to such an extent as to make this type of dance hall obsolete.

by Debbie Peterson

Famous People

The present structure which is located at the foot of Mt. Falcon in Morrison, Colorado, is now called the Pine Haven Nursing Home. It has been many things and called different names. It has been a hotel, a gambling house, a college and at the present time is an old folk's home. It has gone by the names of Swiss Cottage, Sacred Hearts College and now Pine Haven.

Being such a resort, it has entertained many different and equally famous people. The most important of guests were the great Presidents, Theodore Roosevelt, Warren G. Harding and Herbert Hoover. When this structure was a hotel it served many famous entertainers. Mary Pickford, the starlet of the silver screen, stayed there. Big stars and their bands also stayed here. Such names as Perry Como, Ted Wiems and even Lawrence Welk are remembered as well as Marie Dressler, Russ Morgan, Raymond Scott, and Ozzie Nelson and Harriet Hilliard.

Pine Haven Nursing Home, built a century ago, has had a colorful and exciting past and is now serving as a home for many senior citizens.

by Brian Goplin

Interview with Mrs. Sawyer

Mrs. Mary B. Sawyer was born in Denver, Colorado, and has lived in Morrison since 1908. Mrs. Sawyer is 97 years old. She attended Bear Creek High School when it was a wooden-frame building, then known as Janitor's Corner. Her husband also attended Bear Creek High School where their relationship began. This resulted in their marriage.

Mrs. Sawyer's daughter, Mrs. Minnie Sawyer Moris, lives with her now, Mrs. Moris was born and raised in Morrison. She attended Bear Creek High School and graduated in 1933. Mrs. Sawyer told us that when she was a girl, the school burned at the end of her senior year. Mrs. Moris attended Bear Creek High School, in what is now Bear Creek Elementary School's gym. The wooden-framed Bear Creek was located in back of Bear Creek Elementary.

Mrs. Sawyer was one of the first "liberated" women. She had many different jobs, some of which were working at the post office in Morrison and working at John B. Walker's pavillion.

Mrs. Sawyer and Mrs. Moris reminisce about Mr. Sawyer, a solidly built man whose interests varied widely. Among his most exciting jobs were stage coach driver, police magistrate, deputy, town clerk and musician.

Among the Sawyer's many friends were John Brisben Walker and his first wife. Mrs. Sawyer reminisced about having lunch in the Walker castle with all its finery. She also told about the fire which burned the castle to the ground in 1918. The Sawyer's believe the fire was started by lightning although there have been rumors to the effect that burglars started the fire.

Mrs. Sawyer remembered well the beginning of the Summer White House. There were people of every class and position who had come out to Morrison to see the laying of the cornerstone.

Mrs. Sawyer told about the cog railway which started at Creation Rock and continued up to the top of Mt. Falcon. With pride in her voice she said, "Yes, I rode that three times. It was straight up and down, but once you got up there you could see all over!" She also talked about the pavillion which was erected in Morrison Park. Mrs. Sawyer worked there as a girl and she remembered people coming from all over the United States to see Red Rocks Park and to ride the cog train to the top of Mt. Falcon.

When Mrs. Sawyer was a girl the big event of the year was the picnic that the mission gave. The picnic was held where downtown Morrison is located now. Some of the kids from the city went by Mr. Baker's place, which is located outside of Morrison and picked the green apples and currants found there. Mrs. Sawyer said with laughter in her voice. "Don't ever eat them (meaning the apples and currants). I tell you I did and I was a very sick girl."

Mrs. Sawyer thought back to when the Indians were still in Denver. She used to hide under her mother's skirts until the Indians were through the town. She also remembered the gypsies that were chased out of town because "they weren't to be trusted". They used to camp outside of Morrison because they were banned from town.

Laughter filled the voices of Mrs. Sawyer and her daughter when they talked about moonshining during prohibition. They told us that there were stills in Turkey Creek Canyon and outside of Morrison in any available place or forest.

The Rooney mine brought back memories to Mrs. Sawyer and Mrs. Moris, Mrs. Sawyer told us how her husband was trapped in the mine accident on December 13, 1923. The gas in the mine was deadly. Another two minutes and the gas would have taken Mr. Sawyer's life, but he was rescued in time.

We also talked about Mr. Sawyer's job as a stage coach driver. It used to take 16 horses to pull the coach up the side of the mountain. It wasn't because of weight or load but because of the sharply inclined trails. Mr. Sawyer rode buckboards and never once thought of the dangers involved but took it as a matter of course. He used to stop at what is now known as the Deacon's Bench, a tea room, to water his horses and pick up passengers, he also enjoyed many meals there and told Mrs. Sawyer of its hospitality.

The part that Mrs. Sawyer played in Morrison for nearly 90 years contained history and adventure along with fascinating people. She and all her memories will be cherished for a long time by the people of Morrison.

by Mary Braukman and Valery Kerns

Old Time Recipes

SOURDOUGH STARTER

To make the sourdough bread and other things out of sourdough you first have to have a starter and here is how to make it:

4 cups flour
1 cake yeast
4 cups warm water
3 tablespoons sugar
2 teaspoons salt

Mix all ingredients together and place in a jar with a cap. Leave at room temperature and cover with a cheese cloth for 2 or 3 days until mixture begins to ferment. When it foams and bubbles it is ready for use.

NOTE: After some is used replace with half flour and half water to equal the amount taken out plus 3 tablespoons sugar. If starter seems to sour add 1 teaspoon of soda.

NEVER FAIL DUMPLINGS

Mrs. Peinze

2 cups flour
4 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
Milk to make stiff batter
Mix and drop by small spoonfuls in boiling broth, Cook without covering 15 min. Put on cover and cook 5 more minutes.

MINCEMEAT Marilyn Reau

2 lbs. cooked venison
4 lbs. chopped apples
2 lbs. raisins
4 C brown sugar
3/4 lb. chopped suet or butter
1/2 tsp. cloves
1 tsp. mace
1/2 tsp. nutmeg
2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. cinnammon

Marinate the game meat in your preferred sauce or fruit juice for 24 hours. Chop. Combine all ingredients with fruit juice or marinade, and cook very slowly until tender (about 1 hour) This will keep if processed 60 min. at 10 pound pressure. Put in either pint or quart jars and seal.

CHOCHECHERRY WINE

Betty Arington

Wash the cherries but do not remove the stems. The cherries should be medium-ripe with black showing. Place washed cherries in a wooden or crockery vessel and cover with a lid that fits down inside the container with a weight on top for pressure. Leave 24 hours, then strain. Cover juice and keep warm in place about 70 degrees F. until it is sufficiently fermented. You can arrest the fermentation at any point and bottle. Never overheat or boil the juice. For faster fermentation, add yeast and sugar.

SOURDOUGH BREAD

Pat Cudworth

3 cups starter
1 tablespoon fat
1 tablespoon sugar
2 teaspoons salt
2 cups warm water
flour to make dough stiff
Mix all ingredients well, turn out on boards and knead until smooth. Place in greased bowl let rise until double in bulk, about 2 hours at 80 degrees. When double in bulk, make into loaves and let rise again until double bulk. Preheat oven to 425 degrees and bake for 10 minutes.

LYE SOAP

Betty Arington

5 pounds cooking fat, or 6 pounds cracklings
2 quarts water
1 can lye
4 tablespoons borax (optional) cook all ingredients together in pot over flame. When it begins to thicken stir constantly. It should take an hour to become very thick and ready to remove from fire. After you take it away from flame beat it until it is too thick to move. Then spoon in to bar molds or bread pans and let stand until it is set. Cut into slices. If you want the soap to smell you can always add perfume to the brew.

WATER MELON PICKLES

Mrs. Peinze

FIRST DAY: Cut watermelon in pieces and wash. To each qt. of water put 1 ts. of powdered alum. Cover watermelon and bring to boiling point, then simmer 2 hours. Take off and wash thoroughly (to get alum taste out) Make syrup of 2 pts. sugar to each pt. vinegar. Make spice bag of heaping tsp. cinnomon bark and 1 tsp. whole cloves. Put into syrup and boil 5 min. Take off and let stand till next day.
SECOND DAY: Pour off syrup, heat and pour back and bring to boiling point. Take off.
THIRD DAY: Same as 2nd day.
FOURTH DAY: Pour off syrup, bring to a boiling point, Fill jars with pickles and pour syrup in jars. Cover and seal.

collected by Christie Cudworth

Fires in Morrison

The small town of Morrison west of Denver has been hit by many different fires since 1864 when it became a town. The first of the fires occurred on June 29, 1890. At this early point in time most of the buildings in Morrison were made of frame wood construction. At the time of the fire, Morrison was extremely dry with very high winds whipping through it. With these high winds and dry conditions the fire spread quickly from building to building. The fire broke out at 2 p.m. and in three hours Morrison lay in ashes. Firemen from the Denver Fire Department arrived at 4:30 p.m. but were too late to do anything but keep the fire from spreading to the edge of town. A firecracker is blamed for spreading the fire, when it exploded in the back of the post office and quickly spread to other buildings. When the fire was out there were a few buildings left. Included among these were a meat market, blacksmith shop, livery stable, three hotels and the Bud Newspaper and Printing office. An estimated damage was set at \$60,000.00 with about \$12,000.00 insured. This is by far the worst fire that has hit Morrison in terms of buildings burned but not in damage value.

The second of the Morrison fires took place in March of 1919. The fire broke out at 3 o'clock on Friday morning when thieves were ransacking the post office. The fire started with a premature blast of dynamite in which the thieves were using to blow open the safe in the post office. This explosion blew the whole front side of the post office out waking the people of Morrison. A second explosion occurred when a gasoline lighting system blew up. This explosion wrecked the barber shop and a drug store which were near by. The fire spread rapidly through the business section of Morrison. The fire consumed the post office, Pike Perry Store and four other buildings causing an estimated damage of \$25,000.00. It took two hours to put out the fire with the help of eleven fire fighters from Denver.

Still another fire hit Morrison on Monday, September 28, 1931. The fire started in the Bater-Smith garage at 4 p.m., Monday morning. The cause for this fire is still undetermined. The fire spread to four other buildings including the Red Front Cafe, Scott Store and Jim's Place. The fire consumed the post office causing \$3,000.00 in damage with \$1,500.00 dollars insured. The fire also consumed the transcontinental and western slope telephone toll lines. The fire burned the cable carrying some of Denver's transmission lines. With this cable burned, all communication out of Denver was cut off for some time. The fire caused an estimated damage of \$13,000.00 with about \$2,500.00 covered by insurance. The damage in this fire was not too high because around the 1930's brick buildings were built in Morrison. The Denver fire department Number 20 and the Golden Fire Department along with volunteers from Morrison were called in to help fight the fire. No one was hurt during the fire.

The last major fire in Morrison occurred on the night of February 21, 1958. The fire started at 8 p.m. on February 21 in the kitchen of the Willow Springs Club. The fire was reported at 8:30 p.m. and six fire departments totaling 150 men were called in to help fight the blaze. Within a few hours the whole Willow Springs Club was burned to the ground. After the fire was put out only a few bricks and some twisted steel remained. The damage in this fire was set at \$125,000.00; this loss was partly covered by insurance. This is by far the worst fire that has hit Morrison in terms of damage costs.

by Bob Baltz

Floods in Morrison

Morrison has had a long history of floods doing great damage to the town. The first big flood was in July of 1896 which totally demolished what little there was of Morrison in those days. An even worse flood came in 1938 wiping Morrison off the map. A less severe flood in 1941 caused several hundred dollars worth of damage. In 1955 there was another bad flood in Morrison when Bear Creek and Mt. Vernon Creek struck the town with a four foot crest of flood water. The town of Morrison usually has a minor flooding every spring during the normal spring runoff but those were some of the worst.

"When the sun rose over the Bear Creek Valley this morning it gazed upon a scene of desolation rarely seen anywhere in the country," related the newspaper story about the flood of 1896. That flood was the first major flood in the area, and it came in two spurts. The first came on July 4, flashing down the canyon with a ten foot crest of flood waters which crashed through the town. In its torrents it tore loose two bridges above the town and then came piling houses on top of another forcing them down the canyon. One of the few men who detected its coming



Mr. Jamieson's truck, buried in the sediment.

tried to warn the townspeople but he was too late and many people lost their lives. The next day many of the survivors were getting ready for the special two o'clock train to take them to Denver, when about one o'clock a bank of great black clouds gathered over the mountain. Almost immediately the townspeople went for high ground. The rain began to come harder and harder and the flood came down with a two foot crest but grew every instant. Those who didn't make it to high ground gathered on a stone platform in town. Then came the second rise which went right through the heart of town. Buildings that weren't washed away were covered also completely with mud. Though there was a great effort to save people from the flood many were killed, their bodies were found stripped and mangled in the debris. Over the period of those two days 27 people died.

The second great flood in 1938 wiped out everything except for two buildings and took its toll of 9 lives. On September 2 of that year seven inches had fallen and every tributary up Mt. Vernon Creek and Bear Creek was



Before . . .



. . . After

swollen over capacity. About 7 o'clock that evening people were starting to head for high ground and the clouds burst open sending their sheets of water down into the valley. The water had backed up behind a bridge up Mt. Vernon Creek and would soon break loose under the pressure. At 7:45 a deep rumbling could be heard up the canyon. The bridge had broken loose and a wall of water carrying timber and boulders with it came over-taking the town. Many of the residents barely escaped with their lives, grabbing onto window sills, climbing telephone poles and running from the town at the last minute. It went on a rampaging fit through town smashing through frame houses snapping telephone poles, and popping out windows and dorrs, but that wasn't all. The second and final flood disaster came that wasn't all. The second and final flood disaster came down Bear Creek Canyon this time multiplying the destruction. By morning the waters had subsided leaving three foot deep mud and debris everywhere. The flood carried at least 50 cars and trucks down the valley and left them twisted and wrecked. The estimated cost of the damage in a town of less than 200 people was \$500,000.00. The only buildings not shattered or completely washed away were the Post Office, Cy and Mary's Place and the A.M. Maxwell Restaurant. Again in 1941 there was another flood when Bear and Mt. Vernon Creeks became swollen in a bad rain and flashed through

Morrison causing minor damage. It didn't take any lives but left several inches of silt in its path. May people were grateful that it had been no worse.

The past few years there has been research on flood cycles. These are cycles which come about by the varying amounts of solar radiation hitting the earth. For instance, if there was a large amount of sun spots, the radiation from them could cause atmospheric pressure causing a number of bad floods. If the Morrison floods of 1896 and 1938 were part of a cycle we can expect to see another big flood before 1980.

by Dave Tobin

Interview with Mr. Jamieson

"A lot of the stuff I've gathered I've gathered from old times who are very good friends of mine . . . I delivered all over this area . . . I knew everybody in the country." These statements came from Mr. Ralph Jamieson, a resident of Morrison, Colorado, since 1931. Mr. Jamieson, who has retired from being a Conoco oil distributor, has for many years inquired into the history of his adopted home.

"The first Easter Sunday in Red Rocks (1947), there were 35,000 people there, but only 10,000 got in," remembered the self-made historian. They had no traffic regulations, at noon that day they were still trying to get out."

Mr. Jamieson is also interested in the geological history of Morrison. He has prompted some of Morrison's oldest residents to tell him about such things as the finding of a complete dinosaur skeleton in 1895 and other fossils Morrison residents have unearthed from the "fossil rich" hills.

Mr. Jamieson recalls the hogback as the Morrison formation. "It's surprising what you can find in that thing. My girl's found all kinds of fossils. One of them was a great big petrified clam shell . . . You can find sea shells all over so you can tell it was under water," he exclaimed. "If you get up on the hill up here you can see it is all volcanic. There are three distinct craters, this hogback, one south of here, the one on the north and there is a crater within a crater — in the ditch that goes out of the Bear Creek there was a whale that was pressed into the rock. But when they changed the ditch it was lost.

Though continually stressing that he is not an "old timer" the aging gentleman vividly remembers Morrison's two worst floods. "In the flood of '38 . . . when the flood got done you could step from the mud to the top of my tank truck. It was sure a mess . . . the flood of 1933 was the most water this town ever saw . . . But the 1938 flood was even more destructive because of the debris it left."

Mr. Jamieson, though not a resident of Morrison when the Colorado and Southern Railroad went in remembers much of the railroad's activities. "We used to get all our gasoline by tank car . . . It came out of Sheridan and it came right up the Bear Creek by the Soda Lakes. All this other stuff around here was spurs off that thing where they

loaded rock and silica . . . But when the flood came in 1933 it washed the bridges out."

Morrison's school house was built in 1876, in the same year Colorado became a State. It was built out of rock from this area. The walls in the school house are 26 inches thick and the ceiling is 11 feet high. When the school was in use it went from grade one to grade eight, then the children were sent to Bear Creek. Mr. Jamieson remarked that the number of children never exceeded 80 in the school and that there was a lot of difference between schools then and schools now.

Although insisting that he knew very little about the "cliff house," Mr. Jamieson told quite a story about the first owners of it, the Swansons. "Mrs. Swanson kind of lost her mind and they put her down in Puelbo. No one really knows what happened but Mr. Swanson hung himself out in the old barn."

The oldest family in the area are the Grooms. Mr. Jamieson exclaimed that he thought that every person in the county is related to the Grooms in some way or another.

Brickmaking really made it big in Morrison. There were bricks all up and down the "Rooney's road." Clay was very good here and some of it found its way to Holland for glazing china.

Banks did not prosper in Morrison. The only one to be noted as a bank became a borrowing bank. It didn't last long. The vault, though, is still in the Holiday Inn where the bank used to be.

Mr. Jamieson recalls that there was an epidemic of scarlet fever and an epidemic of diphtheria. Both took many lives of children and young babies. They were all buried up by what is now the war office. Mr. Jamieson remarked that there are also a lot of very old headstones of people who died when this country was getting started.

Morrison was started from tourism. "They used to bring the tourists in by train. A fellow by the name of Abull had a stage line outfit and he would pick them up or they would walk up to the Red Rocks. Then they would come back and catch the afternoon train to Denver."

John Walker originally owned the Red Rocks but when his millions were only memories he had to give it to John Ralston for \$5,000 that he owed him. Then John Ralston sold Red Rocks to the city of Denver for \$75,000.

Mr. Jamieson also remembers about the summer White House. No one ever got to live in it because it was struck by lightning when it was near completion. John Walker had plans for it to be a summer residence for the President of the United States. His idea was to build the house and run a cable from there to Red Rocks."

Pete Morrison once lived in the house that Mr. Jamieson lives in now. He worked for the railroad company. He became a stunt man for pictures and moved to Hollywood and worked a while, but finally moved back to Morrison.

Mr. Jamieson remembers that there was a lot of bootlegging during prohibition. Most of the actual making of moonshine was done in the mountains then hauled into town. He has a joke that when asked how to test the "moonshine," he answered, "you stick your thumb in it and if it doesn't take your thumb nail off you drink it and if it does you give it to a friend."

The doctor that did much of the "doctoring" here came in 1890. His name was Dr. Luce. He was the county physician in Denver before he came out to Morrison. He covered the whole mountain area with a horse and buggy and later with a Model T. During the flu epidemic in 1918 the doctor did wonders. All he ever used was aconite and belladonna and made his patients stay in bed. All he lost was two or three patients during the whole epidemic. The doctor lived to be about 94.

The Soda Lakes, Mr. Jamieson remembers, was used by the pioneers for soda. When the big lake is down low enough you can see the foundations of the soda works.

Mr. Jamieson also recalls where the radium springs are. "On the hogback there were springs. They used to bottle water out of there. It was very good water. As you go down the road in the winter there is a green spot there. All around is snow but in that one place."

Mr. Jamieson recalls the coal mine blow up and how a woman's husband and son were killed. "This day I came in to have lunch and we had a china closet and when the mine blew up it came out almost on its side. I thought it would topple over, but it came back to an upright position."

With this story Mr. Jamieson ended his tales of the history of Morrison. His personal memories helped give a clear picture of the town as it once was.

by Steve Glista and Larry Williams

Sacred Heart College

The Swiss Cottage went under several different names. Such as, the Sacred Heart College which opened in 1884 for its first year of education. The classes were held mostly in the halls. Father Dominic Pantanella, was in charge of the college with help from several fathers and bishops.

The Sacred Heart College started out when Bishop Machebeuf had a dream to open a Jesuit College. The first of three colleges started in Las Vegas, New Mexico during 1883. The college at New Mexico lasted only one year because there was no room to expand. Bishop Machebeuf therefore appealed to Rome to have another college built in Colorado. His request was denied, but he still was very determined. He then went to Rome to make his request to the Pope. He was given permission to open a college in Morrison, and allowed to go to the different colleges in Europe to get volunteers for his new college.

In the early summer of 1884, the Sacred Heart College was bought. During the fall of 1884, the school opened and the first students to enroll were John and David Walker. The first year the enrollment was small, during the second year 31 students, and the third year 59 students.

The students at the college were not allowed to go home for Christmas or Easter. Therefore, one of the mischievous students planned to set fire to the school. He set fire to some kindling wood outside the kitchen. The fire was spotted soon enough and put out. The student was caught and expelled.

Before the college was purchased a murder was committed there. In the middle of the third year the school became haunted. There were sounds coming from the chemistry room. The sounds continued for two weeks. After the sounds discontinued, a nauseating smell was present in the Chemistry room. This apparently was the room the murder was committed. One day a student found what was causing the smell. A mouse has fallen into a large brass vase. The noise was from the mouse trying to get out of the vase and the smell was from his body decaying. In the Dean's office there was a metallic scraping sound about every half minute. There are traces of blood on the carpet. The scraping sounds came from a clock. The metal key used to wind the clock would scrape against the back of the clock to make the sound.

The college at Morrison was too far from Denver for students to travel. The college therefore was closed and the closing exercises were held on June 27, 1888. The new college was almost built in Colorado Springs but Bishop Machebeuf wanted the college to be built near Denver. An English syndicate landowner wanted some publicity so he gave land east of Denver to the college. The new college was built there and later changed its name to Regis College.

by Dave Aparicio

Churches in Morrison

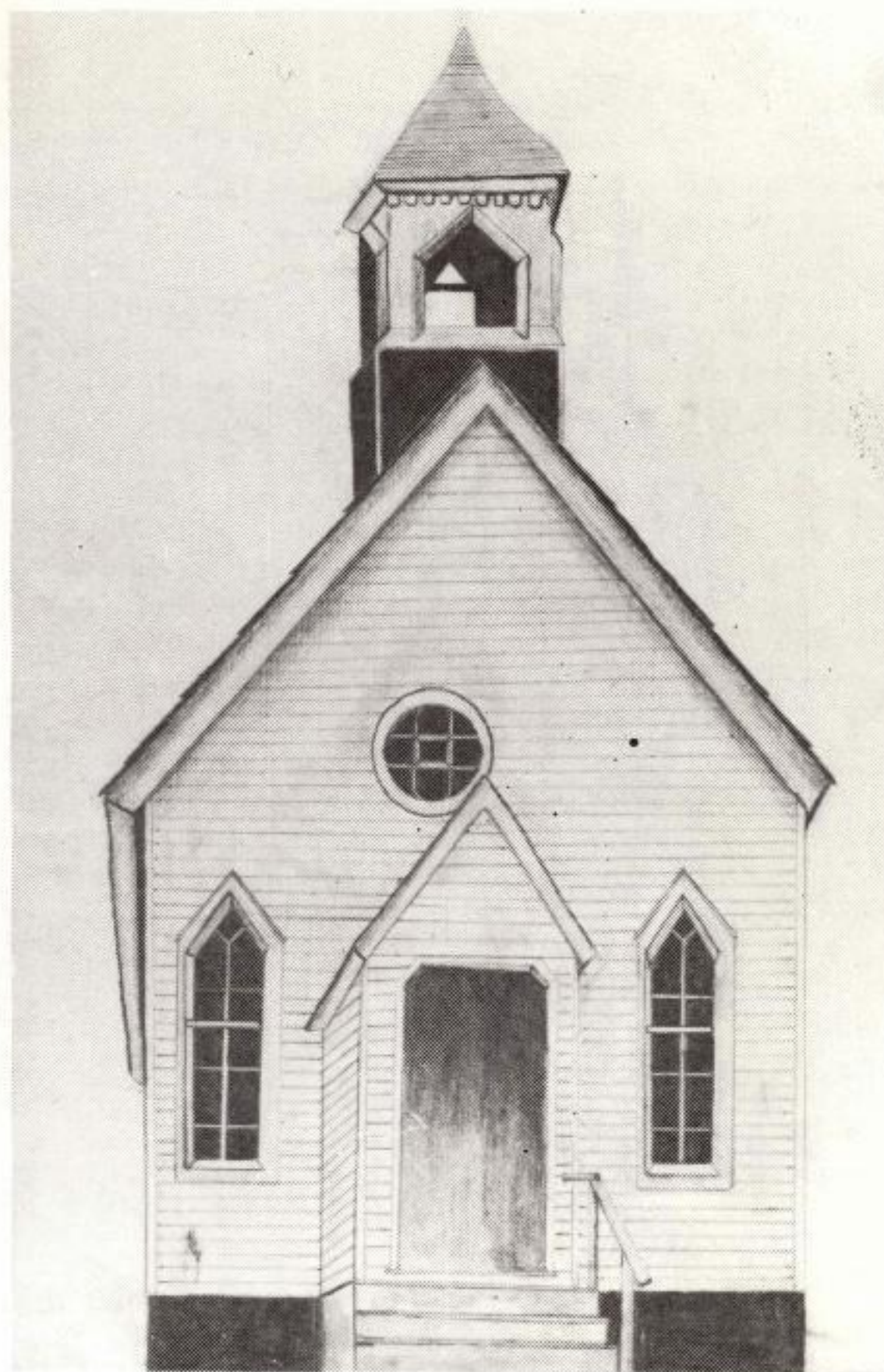
There have been three churches established in Morrison, Colorado. The first church was built in approximately 1895. This was a Methodist Church. It closed between 1900 and 1905. The people in Morrison sold this church to Mrs. White.

While playing the organ one day in church, Mrs. White had a vision that God wanted her to build a church and call it The Pillar of Fire. Her father was to be the minister. It was organized and opened in 1935.

The Pillar of Fire members did not believe in worldly or material things. The women wore black hats and black dresses "below the knees." Jewelry was not worn.

Mrs. White wanted to become the minister of the Pillar of Fire. The members of the congregation did not want a woman minister in the early days. The church was closed later, due to the lack of money. Mr. White still owns the church.

Another church in Morrison (after the closing of the Pillar of Fire Church) was an Episcopal Church. The minister or leader of the church was a lady by the name of Mrs. Ross. Mrs. Ross' husband owned a grocery store and held church and Sunday School meetings on the second floor of the store, known as the Tabor Bar in 1948. This church also closed down.



The Pillar of Fire

In 1923, during the depression, a C.C. camp was started. Injured men would stay in the C.C. camp. Sunday School was held in this camp for seven years.

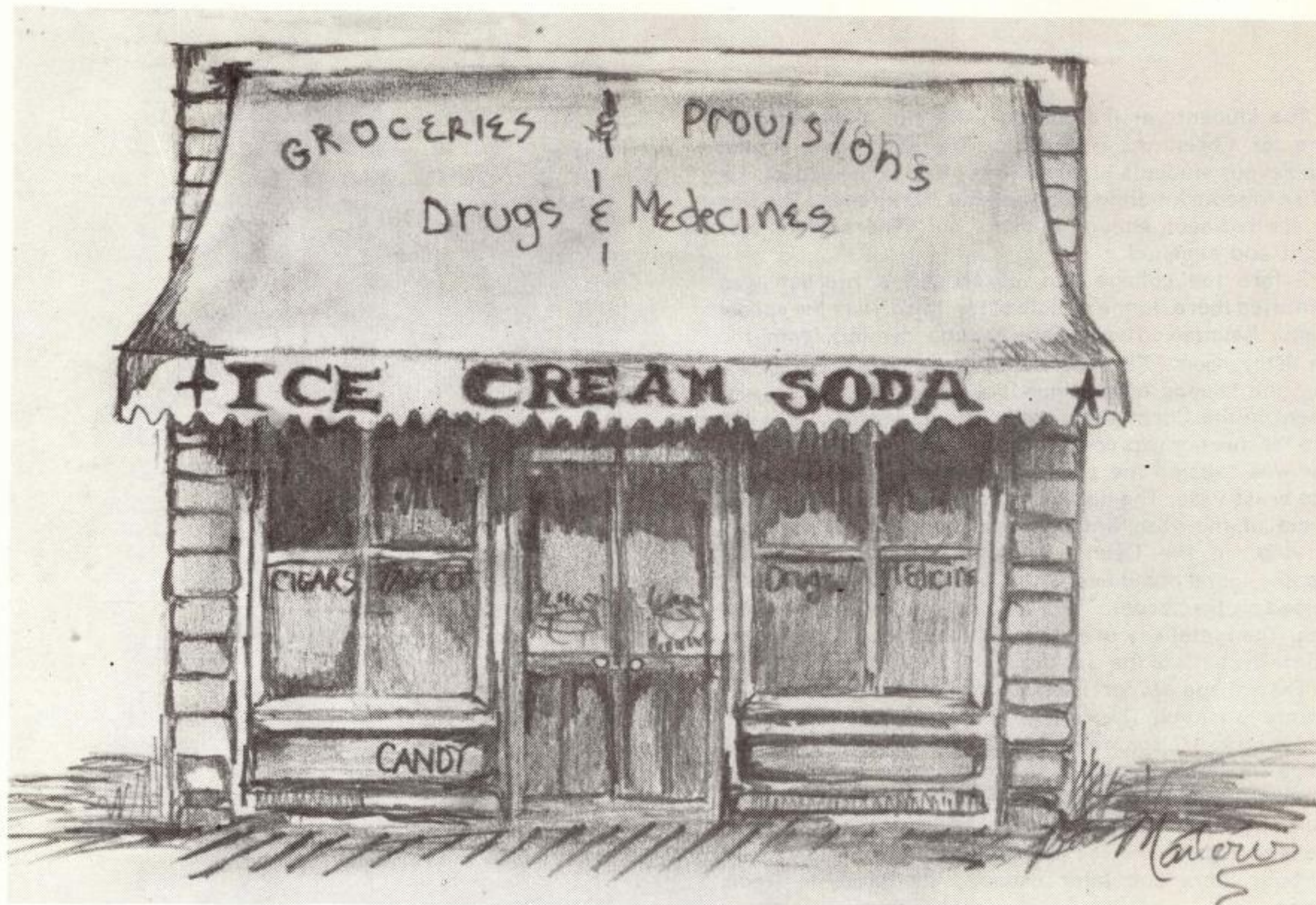
There is a Community Church in Morrison now near the Deacon's Bench. (1 hour for Sunday School, 1 hour for Church. At night they have Youth Group meetings, etc.) Churches didn't survive in Morrison because it was a tourist town.

by Walleen Wimberly

Interview with Mr. Schneider

"It's the best place to live in the whole world," commented Mr. Schneider of Morrison. He is a native of Morrison and was born there in 1910. During our short interview with him in his home he talked about his early life in Morrison.

Mr. Schneider was born in a small frame house in back of his father's drugstore. "My father started there in 1898 and I was there all my life," said Mr. Schneider. The stores in Morrison at that time were three grocery stores, two blacksmith shops, six saloons, a bakery and three hotels. According to Mr. Schneider other business in Morrison consisted of coal and gypsum mines, the rock quarry and numerous ranches in the area. These ranches produced cattle, hay and farm products. "Up further in the mountains they brought a lot of lumber down," he stated.



Mr. Schneider's Drugstore, open until last fall.

Mr. Schneider also stated the railroad was "quite busy" with six trains a day from Denver to Morrison. He explained that the reason for so many trips was that the train hauled coal and gypsum from the mines, rock from the quarry and lumber from the mountains. Cattle and other farm products were also taken from Morrison to Denver by train. The railroad, which went as far as Morrison Park, along with horse and wagon were the main sources of transportation.

Coal oil lamps lighted the homes as well as the schoolhouse which was built in 1875. Mr. Schneider stated that there were three rooms in the schoolhouse and grades one through eight were taught. Three teachers taught all the students in Morrison. "Each teacher was quite busy," commented Mr. Schneider.

Mr. Schneider could only recall one sickness that became an epidemic in Morrison. This was in the middle of World War I when the town was struck with influenza. "We had a wonderful doctor then," said Mr. Schneider. The doctor only lost one patient and "everybody had it," he stated.

"A lot of entertainment was right at home," explained Mr. Schneider. He remembers dances and other things such as taffy pulls. "You don't know what you missed," he said as he described the various forms of entertainment in those days. He recalled that most people played instruments and contributed music to the parties they had. Mr. Schneider also described how they rolled hoops and the movies in Denver where admission was five cents. "That was silent movies of course," he added. For the most part people of Morrison seemed to provide their own entertainment.

Life in Morrison, as described by Mr. Schneider, seemed to go at a much slower rate than it does now but Mr. Schneider stated, "We had a lot of fun."

by Alice Laffoon

The Old Morrison Schoolhouse

The old Morrison School House which was built in 1875 still stands on the bluff over-looking the town just beyond the hotel.

The school was built by the stone mason, George Morrison back in 1875. It is a tall, narrow, sturdy structure made of stone and consists of three rooms. Grades one through eight were taught in the three rooms. Then if a student wanted to continue his education he went to high school in one of the large towns in the area. Three teachers taught at the school, and each teacher was very busy. At one time there was a total of 60 students attending the school, which back in those times was a great deal of children.

There are seven families who live or have lived in the Morrison area long enough to have had three or four generations attend the old Morrison school. Among these families were Mrs. Effie Knoll who entered the school eleven years after it was built in 1886. Twelve of Mrs. Knoll's children also attended the school. Her grandchildren were also students there. Mrs. Knoll served on the School Board for 16 years. Otis A. Pike attended the school as did Mrs. Alberta Pike Boyd, his daughter. His grandson, Raymond Boyd was also a student in the old school house. Mrs. Julia Baker and her son William Baker both

attended the school. All of these former students were on hand for the ground breaking ceremonies for the new school.

The old school was lighted by coal oil lamps and each day the bell in the bell tower would be rung, bringing the

students rushing to class. The bell was later stolen. There has been some discussion about the old school being turned into amuseum, to hold on to part of our history, although nothing definite has been done yet.



The Old Schoolhouse part of Morrison for many years.

Interview with Mrs. Manis

The history of schools in Morrison is interesting when described by Mrs. Helen Manis, who taught first grade at Bear Creek from 1921 to 1936. Before 1920 there were five separate districts of one-room schools: Midway school, where Green Gables golf course is now; Lakeview school, on the grounds of Pinehurst Country Club; Mountain View school; Mt. Carbon school, and Montana school, where Bear Creek Elementary stands now. There was no high school in the area and boys desiring a higher education were forced to take a train to Denver, which at that time was much further away. High school girls lived with relatives or boarded in Denver. It was decided that a consolidation was needed in the Bear Creek area due to the money involved in train fares and boarding costs.

The men of Morrison argued against the consolidation, feeling that the boys had enough to do on the farm and they didn't need any more education. They were also concerned with the taxes. At that time they were paying \$33 school tax. If the schools were consolidated they would have to pay \$233 school tax and \$430 in all. The students' mothers, however, were in favor of the act because they wanted their children to have as good an education as possible.

When the consolidation was voted on in 1920, the mothers had won. A school was built housing all 12 grades, with an auditorium and a gym in the basement. Leo Slovens was the first principal, as well as the first superintendent of schools, and on top of that he taught history and athletics. The school had organized baseball, basketball, and track teams. The first track meet was attended by over 1,000 people. It took a little work to get the baseball team going, since the boys had farm chores to do while they weren't in school. Therefore they practiced on the weekends, holding the games on Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Manis informed us that the boys would bring tractors to the field in back of the school on Sunday morning and level it so it would be ready for the afternoon game. During the games they took up collection to pay for suits and equipment.

In 1921 the faculty consisted of five teachers, all between 20 and 29 years old. They were housed in a red brick building called the teacherage. That first year the teachers did their own cooking and cleaning. The next, however, saw two new arrivals: a home economics teacher and a coach. Slovens found it necessary to hire a cook, who prepared the meals and took care of the teacherage during the day.

There were five school buses to bring the 125 students to school. The fenders were removed because the roads were so muddy. As Mrs. Manis said, "It wasn't always easy going."

In 1921, a PTA was formed. Mrs. Donley was the first president. For a few years the meetings were held in the afternoon, then the time was changed to the evenings so the fathers could attend. The PTA organized dances, parties, and plays to raise money. Some of this money went to a library, chemistry equipment and red curtains for the stage.

In 1937, due to overcrowding, a new gym was built and classes were held in the original one. The new gym cost \$40,000 and was completed in 1938. The debt was finally paid off in 1954, when Jefferson County organized the R-1 District.

An elementary school was built on the other side of the school. When the original 1921 building burned down in 1959, classes and students were moved to the elementary until the high school could be rebuilt on the other side of the street, where it stands now. From the five students who graduated in 1923 to the more than 900 students graduating this year, Bear Creek has seen a lot of change.

by Rhonda Deem

Chief Colorow

Chief Colorow was a Ute of the tribe that roamed the game-rich mountains and valleys of the White River country. He was also known by the Utes as "too-p-weets," meaning "rock." It is said that Chief Colorow was not a Ute, but a Commanche.

Between 1810 and 1813 the Ute Indians raided the Commanches and returned home with a small boy, "too-p-weets." The Utes adopted this child into their tribe. Too-p-weets was different than the Utes. He was taller and seemed to possess all the qualities to make him a fine warrior. Later, the Utes called him Colorow, contracted from Colorado, the red.

Colorow became a sub-chief of the Utes, under Chief Ouray, the head chief. Colorow was not loyal to Ouray. In his late teens, Colorow slipped away to live with the Cheyennes. There he wooed and won Cheyenne maiden, Moon Flower. However, Colorow left the night before their scheduled marriage. Moon Flower's brother, Yellow Eagle, is said to have sworn revenge against the faint-hearted Colorow.

Although Colorow was still a chief he became a nomad and roamed around the mountains and plains, picking up renegades to form quite a troop. For years he and his troops stole cattle, guns, horses, and burned ranch houses and wagons. In the wintertime he and his group stayed in what is now known as Colorow's Cave, located in the Red Rocks area, southwest of Denver. This was supposed to be the favorite site of the chief. Here they placed teepees, 10 to 20 of them, and made use of the cave. They felt the cave was perfect for Council of War meetings because of the opening to let smoke pass through.

As an Indian brave, Colorow was considered very handsome, but he fell in love with white man's food and grew quite a paunch. It is said that biscuits were his favorite. One example of Colorow's gluttonous attitude was the time he was invited for supper at Rooney Rance. The Rooneys had been cooking all day and had a huge roast, bread, milk and potatoes ready. Colorow proceeded to eat three or four loaves of bread, and when handed the roast to take a serving, he took the entire plate and ate all of it. When he was done he walked to the door and said that would last him three days, then he left. Because of his love for food he grew to be about 270 pounds of Ute Chieftain. A ponderous old glutton he was called. So fleshy was the chief that he had to wear three girths to keep his stomach up. To mount a horse, Colorow had to climb onto a rock.

Colorow was known to be one with the ladies. He dressed in buckskin pants, leather vest, beaded moccasins and a derby hat full of eagle feathers. He also had the habit of throwing a blanket over his shoulders in a Mexican

manner. Dressed like this, Colorow would go courting the white women. However, he was unsuccessful.

Although Colorow enjoyed the company of white ladies, it is said he hated the white man. He was said only to have been friendly with Edward McCoop, Territorial Governor of Colorado from 1869-1873, and General Bradford.

Colorow was said to be a nuisance and a menace to settlers in his country. Not only was he a menace but he was also considered a moocher of food and trinkets and a rascal with the ladies.

Chief Ouray and his successor, Chief Ignacio, were the great peace-loving heads of the Utes. But their good was offset by the trouble-making of the other chiefs and sub-chiefs, notorious for their treachery, cruelty and love of bloodshed. Colorow was supposedly among the trouble-makers. Although it is said that Colorow was a menace, he was also a great warrior. When the chief died of pneumonia on December 12, 1888, he was deaf and overweight. The Utes were so upset with his death they carried on with "wild manifestations of grief." The squaws cut their hair in mourning and the young braves killed 30 horses to accompany Chief Colorow to the Happy Hunting Ground in the sky. Did he die a great chieftain or a pompous nuisance?

by Jennifer Lowell

Interview with Mrs. Pfeiffer

Mrs. Esther Pfeiffer was one of the pioneers of the Morrison area. She knows many interesting stories about the area in Bear Creek Valley, one of which is how Washington Park was named and what it once was.

Mrs. Pfeiffer was born in what is now Washington Park where her father had a 160-acre farm. Times were very bad then and her parents called it "the panic of '93." Finally, her father couldn't pay the taxes so the state took the farm and made it into Washington Park, and even to this day the house that she was born in is still standing.

In 1929 her family moved to the Bear Creek area and built the Bear Creek Valley Store. It was a general store and they sold everything anyone would ever need. To give an idea of the prices then Mrs. Pfeiffer said, "Candy bars were a nickel, pop was a nickel, bread was ten cents and you could get oil for fifteen cents a quart." The store was kitty corner from the school by Hampden. They had it for thirty-five years until the big highway came through ten years ago.

She also told us about one of the local moonshiners. "You know on Carr Street and Hampden as you go up to the Foothills Country Club on the west corner there was a white frame house. Wilson Lewis lived there and he was a moonshiner. He had an accident on the Morrison road. His car turned over four or five times and he became paralyzed. His legs were paralyzed, and he was never able to use them again so in order to make a living he went into the liquor business. It was quite a deal. He would come to the store and hired help would always bring him. He didn't like me to wait on him, he wanted my husband to wait on him 'cause women those days didn't have all this that we have now. He had some connection, somehow, with the prohibition department because whenever those revenue men would come out he always knew the day before so here would come his hired men with the jugs of whiskey. They would put it in all the culverts from his place all the way up to Soda Lakes. He must have had over 50 jugs. When the revenuers left, why, they collected up the whiskey and took it back again. He did a lot of charity

work very, very quietly. If he found somebody in the neighborhood or in the vicinity that was needing something, somehow or other he got it to them and no one ever gave him credit for that because he didn't want it known. He took care of lots of people."

"At the time when we first had our store there were four buses running out of Bear Creek school. One bus went from the school to the pavement, went on to Morrison and Tiny Town and then came back. The other buses came out past our store and then one went east, one went west and one went south. I don't know when we ever had a bus not run. Somehow it was a more sturdy deal than it is today."

"When we first moved to Bear Creek my son was in the third grade and my daughter was in fourth and then went on through high school. Bear Creek then was a three story red brick building and it housed all twelve grades. The teachers from the school originally lived over in a two story house on Kipling and Hampden called the teacherage. The teachers had to live there from Monday till Friday. Friday night they could go home and then come back Sunday night. They had five women and one man. You see, the teachers had maybe one, two or three grades depending on how many kids they had. We had not more than 25 in a grade at a time. Of course, I don't think there were 25 in a lot of them. The principal at the time was Elof Johnson, and he taught some, too."

She said that during the flood of 1938 a few families farther up into the hills were hurt but not so bad as the ones in the valley. "Denny Durham's dance hall was wiped out. The lumber yard was wiped out and it put all the lumber down Bear Creek. So the people in the Valley would come along in their wagons and take whatever lumber there was on the bank, so some of them did pretty good."

Mrs. Pfeiffer said that when they first had the store their first auto was a Model T truck. "You would call it a pickup, but we called it a truck. If anything went wrong with it you fixed it. You didn't take it to the garage and you didn't plan on trading it in on a new one because that wasn't done at all. You fixed the old one and made it last somehow."

Right now Mrs. Pfeiffer has her home across the road from the old Mt. Carbon School. Soon she is going to have her house moved to some property of hers by Rock Burrow because when the dam is built her property will be totally under water. This means the area she is accustomed to will undergo a complete change and no longer resembles the Morrison she once knew.

by David Tobin

Dinosaur of the Hogback

In May or April of 1877, Arthur A. Lakes, professor at Colorado School of Mines, was measuring the thickness of the beds of the hogback. His friend, Captain K. C. Beckwith, of the U. S. Navy, who was with him, spotted a "petrified stump." This was the beginning of the first discovery of its kind in Colorado.

Mr. Lakes, when seeing the "stump" knew that it was more than that. By May 19, ten boxes of dinosaur bones weighing 1500 pounds had been collected. The monster's hip bone was 7-8 feet long and as a whole, the dinosaur was 70 feet in length. All of the bones were loaded on flat cars of a train. From Morrison, they were sent to a paleontologist at Yale, Professor O. C. Marsh.

The dinosaur was found to be a Brontosaurus of the Jurrasia period (100 million years ago). Some of its tracks

could once be seen on the hogback of W Alameda but now are eroded away. There are no traces of the bones now except a white calcium scar on the hogback.

Some long-time residents can still remember the time of the findings. They told about the two carloads of prehistoric bones being hauled away. The children sat on top of the hogback and watched this procedure. These same bones can be found today in the Smithsonian Institution. Many other traces and bones have been found in Colorado since that first discovery in 1877.

by Lisa Steinbicker

Interview with Mrs. Wilson

In the golden days of Morrison, life was harder for those not rich. Mrs. Wilson remembers those days. School was a luxury and no one would dare miss any. Leisure time was not taken for granted and work filled almost all other time. A typical week might start out this way:

Sunday the family would rise early and get dressed. If the family was Episcopalian, the children would have Sunday School in the upstairs room of Pienze's store. Maybe a child would also run to the station to watch the excitement of an excursion through Red Rocks. Monday morning before school there were chores to be done. Then when the old school bell rang, children had to be at school immediately. When a girl got home she would do dishes and help her mother. The boys were sent to the woodshed. Perhaps once or twice a week, children would crowd around the station to see people come from Denver. The other school days were the same. On Saturday, work was done before watching people get off the train.

The passing of time took many of the good teachers. One such teacher was Grace Van Gordan. She walked many miles every morning to the three room school house. If a child wished to stay till six o'clock, Miss Van Gordan would stay after and walk home in the dark. She did this for only \$25 a month. It paid off, though, as the children loved her. Florence Wilson was one of the children. Her mother would make some hot cocoa for Florence to take back during lunch, in a three pound lard bucket.

Teachers were strict and ruled with a firm grip. There were four boys who caused problems. One day Mr. Rue, then a teacher, commented to one of the boys that he and the others were to be punished. One of the boys shouted back, "If you punish me, I'll have my father come up after school, at night, and meet you by the bridge. Then he'll throw you in the creek." Being the teacher he was, Mr. Rue didn't even flinch. The next morning he laid the boys over the desk and they received the works. It was rumored they didn't sit for a week.

Writing on desks or walls was not permitted. A certain teacher would check the toilets outside and if there was any writing she would question all of the students. She said she could tell by the look in their eyes if they were lying. Then with hot water the accused would scrub. And she did it well because if they didn't they would get in serious trouble.

There were those who, perhaps by the influence of the teachers and of the times, remained cheerful and bright. There was a small Italian boy whose father worked as the section foreman for the railroad. Monty, as he was called, was playing on a railroad car when a sudden movement caused him to slip under the car. It cut his legs off. When he was able to get around with his wooden legs, he came back to school with a smile that wouldn't stop. Many times

Monty would play by the outside water fountain in the water. The other school kids would laugh and say, "Now Monty, you're goona get your feet all wet." He would reply, "I got those kind of feet it doesn't hurt." Now Monty is a school teacher and he still has retained his air of happiness.

To help feed a large family, raising hogs and canning or making soap wasn't uncommon. Mrs. Wilson recalls that her father had two hogs to butcher every winter. Some parts of meat were sugar cured and other parts salt cured. Her mother had a smoke house and she used to smoke her ham and bacon. Sometimes she would cure it with brown sugar and salt petre. Then she always rendered her own lard. Pigs had yet another service to give. The rind of the hog was mixed in with cornbread. It was called cracklin' cornbread. Cattle might also be raised. Her father would sell enough cattle to pay the taxes in the fall.

In those days, mothers made the jelly instead of running down to the store and buying a packaged jelly. In the summer a child might have to bring a twenty-five pound flour sack to fill up with chokecherries, wild plums or grapes during lunch. Sometimes as many as eight or nine hundred jars were made a year. There wasn't any pectin to make it gel; it had to be cooked down till it jelled. Many a child remembers watching their mother standing over the stove adding ingredients.

Canning was also a way of saving money in the days when every penny counted. Beans and tomatoes were often canned to be kept in the cellar.

Many people still remember making and using soap. The soap was made with lard and rye. The result of hard work was an unscented white bar. Washboards and large iron kettles were used to wash clothes. Washing clothes was not as simple as popping some clothes in a machine and pushing a few buttons. It used to take a little elbow grease and a lot of the lye soap.

Bread, however, was perhaps one of the most important homemade items. Mrs. Wilson remembers that after her mother died she had to make bread three times a week, fifteen or sixteen loaves, a pan of rolls and a big pan of cinnamon rolls. While her mother was still alive, her brothers and sisters had cornbread several times a week. They loved sorghum over the cornbread. The special ingredient was buttermilk. Sweetmilk and vinegar combined turn out almost as good.

Shopping was done in volume and made into a big trip. Full of excitement the family would go into Denver on Saturday to buy staples. They would buy 30 pounds of sugar, then would drive the team of horses over to Golden to get a ton of flour at the mill. They also bought 100 pounds of cornmeal and 30 pounds of whole wheat flour. Once a month Florence's mother would take a trip to Denver, bringing one child, to have the girls' shoes soled. Passengers got off at Union Station and walked to wherever they were going.

Another big event was to watch excursions on Saturday and Sunday. Then it cost ten cents to enter Red Rocks. Mrs. Wilson would have three or four donkeys saddled. At the Dance Pavillion they rented out the animals for twenty-five cents an hour. If they came home with fifty cents they thought they were rich.

Those golden days were full of many things, including the horse and buggy doctor. During the flu epidemic, there was only one doctor available to the people living in the mountain area. Not many died during the flu epidemic due to the efforts of this man. However, he didn't have the

insight when dealing with other ills. Mrs. Wilson remembered that "there was a ladder leading up to the bell loft. After repairs had been made a board was nailed across the opening. But the last person to fix the bell didn't nail the board good enough. One day when we were running out of the school, the board fell down on my sister and cut her head open. Dr. Loose sewed her head up with black thread. All I could say was, 'I hope it's alright'."

Another of her memories was seeing her father getting up at 5:30 to leave for work in a horse and wagon with the family dog following. His job as a road overseer for Jefferson County lasted thirty years. If he stopped over by the Pike place, Mr. Pike's grandmother would ask him in to eat where it was warm. She always saved buttermilk for him, but he couldn't bring himself to drink it. Such was the kindness present in many.

Morrison grew and to accommodate this growth in tourism the Morrison Hotel was built. Many of the guests such as Dorsey, Perry Como, and the Ted Wheims band stayed there. They always made reservations one summer in advance to make sure they had rooms. These famous people often frequented Hill Crest Guest Ranch. There they were able to rent horses and a guide. A favorite spot for a picnic was atop Mt. Falcon. After dinner in town they rode into Denver to perform at Lakeside or Elitch's. Many rich people came every year from places like Tennessee to stay for two or three weeks. They hired a babysitter for fifty cents a week and lunch. It was a lot then.

Those days were good to the people who lived then. The times were simple but required hard work. There weren't many crimes and days were uncomplicated. To wrap it up, Mrs. Wilson commented, "I sometimes think I would rather be living in the olden days."

by Karin Doughty

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