

MINING IN COLORADO

IN THEIR OWN WORDS TABLE OF CONTENTS

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FOOD, CLOTHING AND SHELTER

FOOD

GOLD RUSH BREAKFAST

“I, this morning tried my hand at baking ‘Slap jacks’ or pan cakes, the first bread I have undertaken to make, and I tell you that I had excellent cakes--light, clean and nice, and not a burnt one in the lot. They went first best with good butter and white sugar sprinkled over. The boys say I must "do some more." Won't I be just the handiest kind of a fellow when I get back to bake cakes for you? Brag on me a little can't you?”

Source: David F. Spain to his wife, Arapahoe City, April 30, 1859; in John D. Morrison, ed., "The Letters of David F. Spain," *Colorado Magazine*, 35 (April, 1958): 103.

SUPPER IN THE DIGGINGS

“Yesterday John and I went a mile and a half up the creek to Doc Davenport's Cabin. Spent the afternoon and ate supper with them, which consisted of Venison, Coffee, Rice & Stewed fruit. All hands had to use the same spoon and two or three the same knife and fork.”

Source: David F. Spain to his wife, Arapahoe City, April 30, 1859; in John D. Morrison, ed., "The Letters of David F. Spain," *Colorado Magazine*, 35 (April, 1958): 106.

FOOD IN EARLY DENVER

“A scant supply of shriveled vegetables crossed the dusty plains in the lumbering Conestoga wagons, each drawn by twelve yoke of oxen. One month to six weeks were required for the trip. Potatoes sold for 25 cents a pound. Hardier fruits, much rarer than gold nuggets, were hauled by stagecoach express. Apples sold as high as \$1.25.”

Source: *Colorado: A Guide to the Highest State* (Washington, D. C.: WPA, 1940): 91.

TRAVELERS ARE WELCOME

“In the distant mines, in deserted valleys, I have found these courageous immigrants. The cottage is in the midst of the forest, lost in rugged mountain scenery, or in the shadowy valley. You enter; a gracious woman receives you; her husband earnestly offers you shelter and a share of his meal.”

Source: Louis L. Simonin, quoted in "Colorado in 1867 as Seen by a Frenchman," *Colorado Magazine*, 9 (March 1937): 61.

A MONTH'S SUPPLY OF FOOD, 1907

“. . . Maryland oysters shipped frozen in cans, canned salmon, chicken, and turkey which I kept on hand. George had a ravenous appetite requiring plenty of bacon at breakfast, an abundance of meat in his lunch bucket and for dinner. My monthly order list of meat generally included two legs of mutton. . . , three dozen veal, pork, and mutton chops, half a ham, a slab of bacon, several beef steaks, two roasts of beef and a beef tongue.

“We hunt the meat from the rafters in the woodshed where it quickly froze solid. . . .

“We bought [canned] fruit, vegetables, and milk by the case. Occasionally two or three neighbors divided a case of something special to vary the monotony without investing too much. Canned food and eggs were allowed to freeze, but never potatoes or oil.”

Source: Harriet Backus, *Tomboy Bride* (Boulder: Pruett Press, 1969); reprinted in Carl Ubbelohde, Maxine Benson, and Duane A. Smith, eds., *A Colorado Reader* (Boulder: Pruett Publishing Co., 1982): 98-99.

A GROCERY SHOPPING LIST, 1865

“I stabled the team and went around to get the supplies. I had difficulty in getting all the machinery that Mr. Austin wanted, but we got some ox chains and dried beef, sardines, beans and coffee and several sides of salt pork. I did not have funds enough with me to get the sugar, molasses, cheese, crackers, dried fruit and other delicacies on his list--as the machinery and provisions have advanced in price above what he had calculated on paying.”

Source: Diary of a unidentified young man, Central City, December 10, 1865; from *The New Mexico Sentinel*, July 3, 1938.

MINING TOWN MEAL TICKETS

“There were a number of simple lunch-counter cum restaurant places and at any of them you could buy a ticket entitling you to 21 meals for \$5.00 paid in advance. The numbers 1 to 21 ran around the edge of the card and were punched out as meals were taken.”

Source: Leo J. Keena, "Cripple Creek in 1900," *Colorado Magazine*, 30 (1953): 275.

DOWN ON THIS “HE” COOKING

“We are all well, and the Boys do say that I am getting fatter every day. I still do the cooking, and am getting to be quite adept in the art. I can Bake Bread good Enough for any body. Yesterday John and I went a mile and a half up the creek to Doc Davenports Cabin spent the afternoon and ate supper with them. Which consisted of Venison Coffee Rice and Stewed fruit. All hands had to use the same spoon and two or three the same knife and fork. They are not half as well fixed as we are. Doc says d—d if I aint ‘down on’ this HE cooking. I laughed at him and said wait till we get Home. Won’t we make the provender [the meals they would get at home] suffer.”

Source: David Spain letter to his wife Ella, “The Letters of David Spain,” John D. Morrison, ed., *Colorado Magazine*, 35 (April 1958): 106-07.

CLOTHING

A MOUNTAIN OUTFIT

“My outfit consists of a thick woolen undershirt, an outer shirt also of thick wool, a red silk kerchief on my neck, blue pants, felt socks reaching above the knee over my pants, leather or rubber moccasins and a scotch cap.”

Source: "Polish Impressions of Colorado," *Essays and Monographs in Colorado History*, No. 7 (1987): 24-25.

WASHING CLOTHES

“I don't see how they could not go bugs. They washed clothes by hand on the board, you know, go haul the water, go haul the buckets, you see. No hydrants, no water in the house. An old two seater can out there and all that kind of stuff. I don't see how they did it.”

Source: Alex Bisulco, quoted in Eric Margolis, "Western Coal Mining as a Way of Life," *Journal of the West*, 24 (July 1985): 54.

BOOTS

“Empire City, April 30, 1867

“Ted Durbin, one of the young men--not a miner--is quite a dandy and very particular about his clothes. He has very small feet and tonight had on a pair of new boots. All the young men have their boots made to order; in fact, every man does unless he wears the hobnailed mining boots; and a pair of dress boots costs all the way from sixteen to twenty dollars--sometimes more. Of course Ted wanted everyone should notice his new boots, and to call attention to them he remarked that they were rather tight for comfort.

“Among the crowd was a miner called Dutch Henry, a small man not more than five feet tall, but wearing a very large boot, a No. 10 or more. He finally asked Ted what he would take for the boots. Ted looked at Dutch Henry's feet a moment and then said: 'Dutch, if you can wear these boots, they are yours.' Henry sat down on a convenient box--the men crowding close to see the fun--took off his boots, and began unwinding round after round of old cloth and burlap sacking. When finally he reached his feet he pulled on the boots without effort and walked away. The joke was surely on Ted this time, and he had to treat the crowd.”

Source: Emma Shepard Hill, *A Dangerous Crossing and What Happened on the Other Side* (Denver, 1924): 89.

IT WAS VERY COLD, EVEN IN JULY

“Tuesday, July 17th, 1860. Was up early after a good sleep to find our blankets wet with frost and the air cold. The stones covered with ice and soon had breakfast and ready to start. . . . Our road was still ascending. . . . Leaving the team, I attempted to climb one of the mountains. The stones covered with ice and along the sides lay deposits of snow. . . .”

Source: Webster D. Anthony, “Journal of a Trip from Denver to Oro City in 1860,” *Colorado Magazine*, 10 (November 1933): 235.

I SAVED MY PRECIOUS SHOES

“We lived in Breckenridge for a few months [in 1895-96]. . . . A bad fire broke out in the town; my cousins and I hastily grabbed some precious shoes to save them from the fire. They were black ones, painted white with silver or gold stars pasted on them—to be worn in some kind of entertainment—very beautiful in our eyes.”

Source: Mattie Edwards Stuthman, “High Altitude Memories,” *Colorado Magazine*, 24 (January 1952): 33.

DRESSED IN MINISTERIAL BLACK

“Mr. Rollins is a tall, broad gentleman, with a pleasing face and manners, and iron grey hair. He looks like a son of toil [i.e., a working man]. He was dressed in ministerial black, and wore a white shirt, with common china buttons in place of studs. Mr. Rollins is pretty well off. He sold a gold mine once for \$250,000 and has succeeded in keeping the money. . . .”

Source: John Q. A. Rollins, Jr., “John Q. A. Rollins, Colorado Builder,” *Colorado Magazine*, 16 (May 1939): 116.

SHELTER

SLEEPING IN TENTS

"As yet, the entire population of the valley--which cannot number less than four thousand, including five white women and seven squaws living with men--sleep in tents, or under booths of pine boughs, cooking and eating in the open air. I doubt that there is, as yet, a table or chair in these diggings, eating being done around a cloth spread on the ground."

Source: Horace Greeley, quoted in Duane A. Smith, *Colorado Mining: A Photographic History* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1977): 8.

A LOG HOUSE

"Empire City, Colorado Territory,
March 18, 1865

"Our house is built of logs and has four rooms--a living room and mother's bedroom below and two sleeping rooms above--there is a tiny shed kitchen where everything freezes, but father promises in the spring to build a new kitchen and dig a well. The living room is large and has two windows. The ceiling is made of unhewn logs with the boards of the floor above showing between, all clean with whitewash, and on the sides of the room cotton cloth is tacked to the logs and papered over with cheap wall paper--the only kind you can buy out here. . . .

"Being made of logs, our house is warm and comfortable, but the front door is thin, only one thickness of boards with battens to cover the cracks, and it does not fit closely at the top. There is a large wooden button to help keep it fastened, but the wind was so strong that snow blew in all the way across the room and hissed on the stove. Before we went to bed quite a little drift extended all along the floor. . . .

Your affectionate friend,
Lois"

Source: Emma Shepard Hill, *A Dangerous Crossing and What Happened on the Other Side* (Denver, 1924): 54-57.

HOUSES IN MINING TOWNS

"The dwelling houses were mostly made of pine lumber--the boards running straight up and down, the cracks battened by melted down and fluted out tin cans on the outside. On the inside, boards were put on in the same way, covered with cheesecloth and the cheesecloth covered with wallpaper. They were two and three room affairs but kept very neat and clean."

Source: Joseph M. Powars, "Early Days in Silver Cliff," *Colorado Magazine*, 3 (July 1949): 221.

HOUSES IN BONANZA

“Bonanza is ten thousand feet above sea level, lying in a narrow gulch, the mountains rising high on either side. A street and creek run down the middle. . . . Most of the houses have the back end or kitchen built in the hillside. A good many are of logs; some frame; the lumber for these frame buildings being packed in on mules or burros. In these days there were many tents large and small.”

Source: Anne Ellis, *The Life of an Ordinary Woman* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1929, 1980): 23, 24.

CLOSELY TIED TO THE HEALY HOUSE

“My childhood and girlhood were tied very closely with the Healy House. . . . The House was rented to a Mr. and Mrs. Harper, by Dan Healy. They operated it as a rooming and boarding house. My sister Saidee lived there, as it wasn’t feasible for her to live ‘up the Gulch’ with us, stormy winters. So again I became a regular visitor at the House. . . . My memories are vivid; I can see the furnishings in my mind’s eye—the sideboard in the dining room that fascinated me; Miss Healy’s dresser; the same old piano. . . . Some of my most delightful memories of that house are connected with the evenings after dinner, when the ones who lived there gathered in the parlor for music.”

Source: Mattie Edwards Stuthman, “High Altitude Memories,” *Colorado Magazine*, 24 (January 1952): 36-37.

INTERIORS

SI DORE'S CABIN AT BONANZA

"Dore's was just the usual miner's cabin--a bunk built in one corner, a mattress of straw or pine boughs and over this blankets, with a top cover of canvas, and a pillow with a dark calico slip (quite shiny in the middle). At the head of the bed is a shelf, either nailed or on pegs set in the logs; on this shelf are matches, a candle, pipes and tobacco, shaving mug and razor, and a small box holding thread, needles, and buttons. Against the wall is a home-made table, on which are cans containing sugar and salt; also a can of condensed milk, a few tin plates and cups, these being turned upside down when not in use, to keep mice and dirt out. Over the dishes, knives and forks, the dishpan was turned; on top and covering all this was spread the not very white dish-towel, made from an old flour sack. The chairs were of blocks of wood, or two pieces of board nailed on a slant, with a seat fastened on; the stove was a tiny sheet-iron affair with a coffee-pot on the back. Under a curtain the corner hung their 'other clothes;' near the door, on a box turned on end, would be a water-bucket and wash-pan."

Source: Anne Ellis, *The Life of an Ordinary Woman* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1929, 1980): 31-32.

A MINER'S CABIN

"The cabin is long, low, mud roofed, and very dark. The middle place is full of raw meat, fowls, and gear. One end, almost dark, contains the cooking-stove, milk, crockery, a long meal table, two benches, and some wooden stools; the other end houses...gear of all kinds, and sacks of beans and flour."

Source: Isabella Bird, *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains* (Norman, Oklahoma, 1960): 160.

A PREACHER'S ROOM IN DENVER

"My Room. . . Moved last week to cor[ner] of St. Louis and 6th streets up stairs. Have no chair--sit on low box with papers on top to make it soft. No Table--no bed, save a tick of hay lying on the floor--no sheet--a borrowed pillow, no blanket but use an old faded, borrowed comfort. Have a broken looking glass--Borrowed stove and a borrowed bureau. --Mice bothered me last night. Cover myself nights with my over coats and usually sleep quite well."

Source: Diary of Amos S. Billingsley, Oct. 14, 1861.

A LODGING HOUSE ROOM

“I remember that when I first took a room in Victor I was rather disturbed because, although it had a door lock of sorts, there was no key.... Nothing of mine was ever stolen.

“The room in the lodging house...was a cubicle rather than a room. It contained a bed, an affair on legs which had two small drawers and which supported a wash bowl and pitcher, and a stove.... It was the smallest stove I have ever seen outside of a toy shop. A tiny sheet-iron cylinder with a stove pipe about as thick as my wrist.... There were six rooms like that on the upper floor of this lodging house, each renting for \$10.00 a month.”

Source: Leo J. Keena, "Cripple Creek in 1900," *Colorado Magazine*, 30 (1953): 271.

ANNE ELLIS'S HOUSE

“Some time along here we moved a mile up the road from town to what we called the Rawley Gulch house. This was a three-room affair built in the hillside, the rooms all in a row; the kitchen quite low and dark; the canvas bulging off the walls. . . . The middle room was quite small, and had in it a trunk and a single bed; also a home-made desk kept under lock and key. . . . In the front room were two beds and a stove. It was around this stove we gathered to hear Henry read Rider Haggard's She and Allan Quatermain to us. And the thrill of those stories! I believed every word of them.”

Source: Anne Ellis, *The Life of an Ordinary Woman* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1929): 53-54.

A MINE SUPERINTENDENT'S HOME

“Empire City, Colorado Territory,
March 18, 1865

“The [living] room is very attractive, for you know father brought all our good furniture: the upholstered chairs, the easy chair, the couch and bookcase full of books, besides our piano; although this is small, it is nice mahogany, but I fear the dry climate will injure it, for already there are little cracks in the veneer and the sounding board has split in one place. My mother brought lace curtains and has plants in bloom in the windows, and against the snow outside they look bright and cheery.”

Source: Emma Shepard Hill, *A Dangerous Crossing and What Happened on the Other Side* (Denver, 1924): 55.

FAMILIES, CHILDREN & SCHOOLS

FAMILIES

THEY WERE FEW FAMILIES

"I never saw a country settled up with such greenhorns as Colorado. They were mostly from farms and some clerks. They were all young men from 18 to 30. I was there a good many years before we saw a man with grey hair."

Source: Augusta Tabor, "Cabin Life in Colorado," *Colorado Magazine*, 36 (1959): 151.

FAMILIES IN THE COAL MINING TOWNS

"The coal miners as a rule all had big families. The family of five was a small family. But they went from, and I wouldn't say how high they went. I don't really know. I've heard of families of 12 and 15 children.

"There was no child labor laws in those days and the boys were taken into the mine, 11, 12, 13, years old. And the girls, just as soon as they were able to take care of a baby, were kept at home. They didn't get to go to school much."

Source: Martha Todd, quoted in Eric Margolis, "Western Mining as a Way of Life," *Journal of the West*, 24 (July 1985): 54.

FAMILIES ARRIVE IN THE MINING CAMPS

"There is quite a number of Ladies here now which make things look so much more comfortable. There is one family lives close to us that have a cow, chickens &c. Every morning my ears are Saluted by the crowing of a big Shanghai Rooster that they have."

Source: David F. Spain to his wife, Arapahoe City, April 30, 1859; in John D. Morrison, ed., "The Letters of David F. Spain," *Colorado Magazine*, 35 (April, 1958): 110.

WORKING GOT IN THE WAY OF SCHOOLING

"There were no child labor laws in those days, and the boys were taken into the mine, 11, 12, 13 years old. And the girls, just as soon as they were able to take care of a baby, were kept at home. They didn't get to go to school much."

Source: Martha Todd, Walsenburg, Colorado, February 6, 1984, quoted in Eric Margolis, "Western Coal Mining as a Way of Life," *Journal of the West*, 24 (July 1985): 54.

I GOT THE JOB

“I was 15. Well, my dad got killed, see. 1911. And the super [superintendent] over there says, ‘well when Tome gets’ – there was no insurance, so, they didn’t even send a flower. So they said ‘when Tome gets big enough to work,’ he said, ‘we’ll get him a job.’ That’s what I got for my father getting killed. I got the job.”

Source: Tom Somsy, Erie, Colorado, February 2, 1984, quoted in Eric Margolis, “Western Coal Mining as a Way of Life,” *Journal of the West*, 24 (July 1985): 55.

GREAT TOBOGGAN PARTIES

“I like to think of the great toboggan parties, made up of men and women as well as children, coasting down Aspen Mountain from up near the Aspen mine, down across the Midland [Railroad] tracks and on through the town, ending up at Hallems Lake or continuing on down the Roaring Fork [River] when it was frozen over. The sleds, which held ten or more, were sometimes pulled back up the mountain by a horse or burro.”

Source: William W. Wardell, “Memories of Aspen, Colorado,” *Colorado Magazine*, 30 (January 1958): 118.

CHILDREN

A GIRL IN A MINING CAMP, 1895

“So, after a few months, we were again happily settled with our family and eating woman-cooked meals and sleeping in good beds. My wife used to curl May’s hair and fix her up nice, and I would take her uptown on Sunday morning, and the miners would give her candy and gum and money to put in her purse so she would talk to them and dance a few steps.”

Source: Frank W. Smith, "My Years in Colorado," *San Luis Valley Historian*, 4 (Spring 1972).

A BOY IN CRIPPLE CREEK DELIVERED NEWSPAPERS

“In addition to selling newspapers, I carried three paper routes--the Cripple Creek *Times* in the early morning; the *Denver News* or *Republican*, which would come in on the train from Denver about noon; and the Cripple Creek *Evening Star*, which came out about four o’clock in the afternoon. In this way I would carry all three routes and not miss more than one hour of school. I would wait at school until I heard the train whistle and then go down and get my papers that came in from Denver. I would then get back off the route in time to attend the afternoon school session.”

Source: William W. Wardell, "Cripple Creek Memories," *Colorado Magazine*, 37 (1960): 35.

MINING TOWN PETS

“Burros were plentiful, and practically every youngster had one, or a part ownership in one. These patient little animals were used to carry the coal and kindling wood which their owners ‘rustled’ in the railroad yards and other places.”

Source: Ivan Crawford, "School Days in Leadville," *Colorado Magazine*, 26 (July 1959): 224.

SCHOOLS

A ONE-ROOM SCHOOL

“We rode horseback to school, sometimes as many as three of the smaller children riding on one horse. . . .Our saddles were hung on the side of the schoolhouse and our horses tied to nearby bushes. I was amazed when I saw the schoolhouse. . . . It was made of logs and had been built in a day by the men in the settlement. The dimensions were about fourteen by sixteen feet. The logs were chinked and daubed with adobe mud. In many places the mud had fallen out. If a child wanted to look at anyone passing, he would peek between the logs. . . .”

Source: Nellie Carnahan Robinson, "The Recollections of a Schoolteacher in the Disappointment Creek Valley," ed. Michael B. Husband, *The Colorado Magazine*, 51 (Spring 1974); reprinted in Carl Ubbelohde, Maxine Benson, and Duane A. Smith, eds., *A Colorado Reader* (Boulder: Pruett Publishing Co., 1982): 213.

WE WERE SENT TO PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

“For three years we children, along with the boys of the Mexican population, were sent to a parochial school conducted by the Sisters of Charity. They were good women, but the only ones of them that remain in my memory to this day were the devout Mother Superior, who was the salt of the earth, and a young sister named Beatrice with a peaches and cream complexion, with whom we small boys were all in love.”

Source: James K. Hastings, "Boyhood in the Trinidad Region," *Colorado Magazine*, 30 (April 1953): 105.

TEACHERS AT NINTH STREET SCHOOL

“My childhood and girlhood were tied very closely with the Healy House. Miss Nelly Healy and my sister Saidee E. Edwards were dear friends. Both were teachers at the Ninth Street School. Another Leadville teacher I admired very much was Miss McMechen. . . . I considered her the prettiest teacher there. I can picture her now, an ideal for a little girl. Miss Healy, who later was my teacher in the B-6th grade, used to take me to see her young cousins . . . who lived in the house which is now called ‘Healy House,’”

Source: Mattie Edwards Stuthman, "High Altitude Memories," *Colorado Magazine*, 24 (January 1952): 36.

CLASSROOMS

A SCHOOL ROOM

“The floor was of unfinished boards and if a child dropped a pencil, he had learned to be quick to retrieve or it rolled through the cracks under the floor. At times we would have a general upheaval at the noon hour when the boys would take up the floor boards and reclaim the erasers, pencils, chalk, and various other articles the woodrat had hidden under there. The school room was furnished with two blackboards, two tables, and several benches, all homemade. Some thoughtful neighbor had contributed a chair for the teacher.”

Source: Nellie Carnahan Robinson, "The Recollections of a Schoolteacher in the Disappointment Creek Valley," ed. Michael B. Husband, *Colorado Magazine*, 51 (Spring 1974); reprinted in Carl Ubbelohde, Maxine Benson, and Duane A. Smith, eds., *A Colorado Reader* (Boulder: Pruett Publishing Co., 1982): 213.

SCHOOL DAYS IN CENTRAL CITY

“The period between 1870 and 1882, when I lived there [Central City]. . . . We all attended the stone schoolhouse on the hill. Some [of the boys] were good and others not so good. . . . We were all supposed to be studying. [Charles] Collier included, which was so unusual that The Little Squire, as we always called our principal, H. M. Yale, tiptoed to the rear of the room and came quietly behind Collier. Lo and behold, he was reading a Beadle dime novel concealed in his Geography! Mr. Hale grabbed him by the nape of the neck and seat of the trousers, carried him to his desk, and gave him a good paddling, much to the amusement of the class.”

Source: “Boyhood Recollections of Central City in 1870s,” *Central City Weekly Register-Call*, August 11, 1939.

A CLASSROOM IN BONANZA

“The school seats were made of lumber, two pupils always in one seat, sitting on a bench. The blackboard was also made of boards painted a shiny black. We never went by grades at school; you were either in the first or so on to the fifth reader, and to finish the fifth was to know all there was to know. I managed to finish it, but never got through fractions. The tears I have shed over arithmetic!”

Source: Anne Ellis, *The Life of an Ordinary Woman* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1929, 1980): 50.

INSIDE A SCHOOL ROOM

“The schoolroom contained desks and seats of various sizes, two long benches, a table and chair for the teacher, a table piled with books and a Coles Hot Blast heater in the center of the room. I paused a few moments as I looked around the room and thought with a thrill—this is my very own domain for the next eight months.”

Source: Elizabeth Aiken, “Garland School,” in Margaret J. Lehrer, ed., *Up the Hemline* (Colorado Springs, Williams and Field, 1975): 74.

GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL IN LEADVILLE

“The 1901 graduating class of the Leadville High School counted fifteen girls and four boys; for 1902 the figure was eight girls and six boys; for 1903, fourteen girls and one male. In 1904 more boys were present, the figures being twelve to seven, while in 1905 the girls shot ahead again—sixteen to four. In the writer’s class, that of 1906, there were eighteen girls and two boys. Boys left the High School before graduation, usually, to go to work in the mines and become breadwinners for their families. At the time, as the Superintendent so clearly and softly wrote, ‘Community ideas do not tend to the fostering of an educational spirit.’ This point is emphasized by the fact that from 1883 to 1894 there were only thirty-three graduates of the High School.”

Source: Ivan C. Crawford, “School Days in Leadville,” *Colorado Magazine*, 36 (July 1959): 224.

**EXAMINATION QUESTIONS
CENTRAL CITY SCHOOL**

“Find the side of a cubical tank to hold 4, 725 gallons of water.
Find the least number which divided by 3, 7, 11, and 21 leaves a remainder of 2 each time.

Define syncope, apocope, ellipsis, and hyperbole.

Make a proper use of capitals, arrange into verse, and punctuate the following:

she continued moreover it is written that my race
hewed ammon hip and thigh from arorer on arnon unto
minnith here her face lowed as I looked at her--
tennyson

What are the departments of the U.S. Government and their respective powers?
Name the cabinet officers.

How many members of Congress has each State?

Give the dates of the landing of the pilgrims, discovery of America, adoption of the Constitution, commencement of the Mexican War, and commencement of the late Rebellion.

Define equator, earth's axis, parallels, meridians.

Name, in order of the location the States that border on the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Pacific.”

Source: Colorado Territorial Superintendent of Schools, *First Biennial Reports*.

WORK, TOOLS, AND TECHNOLOGY

PLACER MINING

PAY DIRT

“We have found this gold in nearly every place we have prospected from the mouth of the canon, for a distance of twenty-five miles in a north-westerly direction, and I know, by actual experiment, that a man can make with a rocker \$5 per day.”

Source: A. A. Brookfield to Friend Norton, Gold Hill, March 5, 1859; Phyllis Smith, *A Look at Boulder From Settlement to City* (Boulder, 1981): 14.

PLACER MINING

“Work usually started at the placer mines about the first of April and ended during the latter part of September or early part of October, depending on the water and weather conditions.... The flume, or sluice box, was about two miles and length and about two feet in width; the riffles were made of poles, originally five inches in diameter, but they were worn down rapidly. Excepting a small amount of ‘light’ gold, the first half mile of flume usually caught it all.

“The ‘cleanup’ was made but twice a year. First the riffles were washed, to save the gold clinging to them, and removed from the flume. Then a small stream of water was turned in to wash away the dirt and all black sand possible. The water was then reduced to a mere trickle and quicksilver poured into the flume and gradually worked to the lower end. One hundred and twenty-five pounds of quicksilver was required for the cleanup which usually netted about 50 pounds of course, ‘shot’ gold.”

Source: Joe F. Maro [as told to Richard Carrol], "Reminiscences of the Granite Mining District," *Colorado Magazine*, 13 (July 1936): 137-139.

GOLD DUST FOR MONEY

“Our medium of exchange in those days was mostly gold dust, carried in a buckskin sack and weighed out on gold scales. The smallest amount that was ever weighed out was 25 cents worth.”

Source: Recollections of S. M. Buzzard, *Colorado Springs Telegraph*, July 31, 1921.

QUARTZ MINING

FROM PLACER MINING TO QUARTZ MINING

“The present condition of the Gregory Diggings is somewhat different from what it was some four or five weeks ago. Then hundreds of claims located on leads of decomposed quartz of a gold bearing character yielded regularly, handsomely and in some few instances, marvelously. But since then the decomposed quartz had given out in many of them and nothing remains but the solid rock, which cannot be possibly worked without the use of blasting and crushing apparatus.”

Source: Letter from Denver City, August 12, 1859, *Missouri Republican*, August 26, 1859.

USING A WINDLASS

“These quartz veins run in various directions through the mountains. . . . After a crevice is discovered, the miner proceeds to open the claim by sinking a shaft or hole into it, which is effected [done] by blasting and the pick and shovel; and, as soon as needed, a windlass is erected over the shaft, in order to draw up the pay dirt and quartz. Or the miner may commence his work by tunneling into the base of the mountain, thus reaching the vein, and working it from beneath.”

Source: C. M. Clark, *A Trip to Pike's Peak and Notes by the Way*, (San Jose: The Talisman Press, 1958 [originally 1861]): 97.

MINING A QUARTZ VEIN

“I believe I never told you what kind of an operation we have to go through with every day to save this much sought for metal. We in the first place have to pick our dirt almost out of the top of a high Mountain, carry Three hundred feet down in sacks to the water. There we have a long trough that miners call a Sluice. Two of us wash the dirt thoroughly by running it through the Sluice the dirt pass[es] out and Gold lodges in the little riffles and Blankets. At night we gather the Gold and fine sand up in Pans and then pore some quicksilver in with it. That gathers all the Gold from among the Sand. Then we have to retort [heat] the Gold in order to Separate it from the quicksilver which takes from 10 to 12 o'clock every night. No small job rest assured. . . .”

Source: David F. Spain to his wife, Arapahoe City, April 30, 1859; in John D. Morrison, ed., "The Letters of David F. Spain," *Colorado Magazine*, 35 (April, 1958): 105-106.

PAY DIRT AT GREGORY'S DIGGINGS

“Before I proceed farther, I'll tell you what we have done in the last week in the way of mining. Have taken out since one week ago today Ten hundred and ninety (1091) Dollars. . . . We have crowds of New Comers around us from morning till night watching, and wishing it were them.--We have sold one of our Claims to George Simmons (the Chicago man) for Three Thousand five hundred Dollars to be paid as fast as he takes it out. And on Saturday last we sold half of the claim we are now working for Five Thousand two hundred and fifty Dollars. That also to be paid as fast as taken out.”

Source: David F. Spain to his wife, Arapahoe City, April 30, 1859; in John D. Morrison, ed., "The Letters of David F. Spain," *Colorado Magazine*, 35 (April, 1958): 105-106.

MAKING A LIVING

“So there is the economic picture as far as a single man earning the basic wage was concerned. Wages per month, \$90.00; Food, \$20.00, Lodging \$10.00; balance of wages after payment of food and lodging, \$60.00; twice as much as he would have received in his pay envelope for the month, for rough work in the East, on the basis of a seven day week.”

Source: Leo J. Keena, "Cripple Creek in 1900," *Colorado Magazine*, 30 (1953): 271.

RIDING THE BUCKET

“In 1900 only the big mines in the [Cripple Creek] District had cages. In the smaller mines men going on and coming off shift rode the bale of the bucket, that is stood on the rim of a one-ton bucket and steadied themselves by holding to the hoisting cable. Three hundred feet or so of that, when the hoist was working jerkily with an occasional back slip, engraves itself on one's memory.”

Source: Leo J. Keena, "Cripple Creek in 1900," *Colorado Magazine*, 30 (1953): 271.

IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

“Agriculture restores and beautifies, mining destroys and devastates, turning the earth inside out, making it hideous, and blighting every green thing.... There was mining everywhere along that grand road, with all its destruction and devastation, its digging, burrowing, gulching, and sluicing.”

Source: Isabella Bird, *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains* (London, 1879): 224.

DODGING THE ORE CARS

“A short distance below the Gregory [mine in Black Hawk] on the left as you approach Central [City] is the Bobtail [mine] tunnel. . . . One of our favorite Saturday amusements was to tramp in and out of the tunnel as far as the shaft, dodging the numerous mule-drawn ore trains. The ore cars were . . . built of sheet steel, built in two sections which were hinged at the top, and carried on two four wheel trucks. . . .”

Source: C. H. Hanington, “Early Days of Central City,” *Colorado Magazine*, 19 (January 1942): 5.

WORK IN THE CRUSHERS AND SMELTERS

A DENVER SMELTER

“Out in the smelting works I saw long rows of vats, pans, covered by bubbling - boiling water, and filled with pure silver, four or five inches thick, many thousand dollars worth in a pan. The foreman who was showing me shoveled it carelessly up with a little wooden shovel, as one might toss beans.”

Source: Description by Walt Whitman in *Colorado: A Guide to the Highest State*, (1940): 91.

SMELTING SILVER ORE

“The smelter lies between the Rio Grande and Fort Worth [railroad] tracks, in the outskirts of the city [of Pueblo]. . . .

“The ore as it comes from the mines. . . is ground in powerful mills, which reduce it almost to powder. The only unusual noise in the place comes from these thundering crushers. . . .

“The [crushed] ore is kept in bins, from which it is taken to the roasting department. It is placed in furnaces here, sixty feet long and twenty wide, and is subjected to a low heat to rid it of sulphur. . . that may be in it. . . . Ore trucks, lifted in place by hydraulic elevators, next convey the roasted ore to the bedding floors, where it is fluxed for the smelters proper.

“Bedding is, briefly, the mixing of ores and fluxes [limestone and other minerals]. . . . The mixing or bedding is accomplished by dumping the ores from the cars overhead, upon the bedding floors, where they are spread in thin layers, one above another until, maybe, the mass will be seven or eight feet deep. . . .

“The mixed ore, coke and limestone is thrown into the furnaces. . . from platforms above them. The openings for this purpose afford no view of the raging fires within, but they are there nevertheless, and the natural heat is intensified by a blast blown into them by one of two great engines. . . . On one side of them are the lead wells from which the workmen draw the molten metal in ladles, and pour it into moulds that hold about a hundred pounds each. The slag, or refuse, is run off on the other side. . . and pitched over the "dump.”

“. . . When the moulds have cooled, bars having something of the sheen of silver, are taken from the; but it is not silver, at least not all of it. It is the "base bullion," in this instance more lead than anything else. It has yet to be refined, and for that purpose, in the case of this company, is sent to Philadelphia.”

Source: Andrew Morrison, *The City of Pueblo and the State of Colorado*. (St. Louis: George Englehardt & Co., 1890): 117-118.

THE ARGO SMELTER

“The Argo smelting furnaces are a group of buildings on the eastern outskirts of the city. Arriving at the works you take a short walk around a high broad fence, cross a track on which are freight cars laden with gold and silver ore and last arrive at the office door.

“Here you are likely to be challenged by a burly watch man who wants to know your business.

“If you are fortunate enough to know someone in the office you can gain admittance and a polite young man offers to take you over the works.

“First of all is the room where the ore is being ground into powder. This is necessary before the smelting and waiting processes begin.

“Here and there are heaps of powdered ore each pile marked with the name of the mine from which it has been taken.

“This ore is gray or brown or red in color and looks like any common powdered stone.

“Of course these mounds contain a great deal of precious metal.

“Seeing one which looked unusually rich, I asked our guide how much money he supposed was in ‘that.’

“He looked queer for a minute and answered, “That’s mostly brick dust.”

“Little half buckets carried off ores attached to a leather band which is constantly revolving over wheels carries the powdered ore to the furnace where the smelting process begins.

“All of the slag sinks to the bottom of the furnace and at the end of a certain time is drawn off leaving only the metal, not yet, however, in the pure state....

“Still another smelting and wasting process follows this when the metal is ready for the tank. Here the almost purified metal is placed in huge tanks through which boiling water passes.

“The metal here is in its most beautiful form in quantities....

“Not being yet in a convenient form the metal is removed from the tanks and melted.

“It is last of all poured into brick molds which contain about \$1,000 worth of silver and which weigh when turned out about 85 lbs.”

Source: Henrietta Hitchcock Manuscripts, MSS#1344 Colorado Historical Society.

LEADVILLE’S RICH SILVER ORES

“With the discovery of the rich silver-lead ores, Leadville in 1877 at once took the lead in the smelting industry. These ores were comparatively easy to reduce, which probably accounts for the number of independent [smelters]. . . . Before the advent of the railroads, charcoal made in beehive kilns was the only fuel. Wood for these kilns was obtained for the surrounding hills. Many of these kilns can still be seen near Tennessee Pass, Mitchel on the western slope, and several other locations in the neighborhood.”

Source: C. H. Hanington, “Smelting in Colorado,” *Colorado Magazine*, 23 (March 1946): 83.

COKING OVENS AT EL MORO

“El Moro . . . consists of four stores, one hotel . . . and about 300 population, most of whom are engaged in coal mining. . . . About six miles southeast of the town are located extensive coal mines, and about two miles in the same direction are 400 coking ovens. The coke produced here is . . . better than the celebrated ‘Connellsville’ [coking coal] of Pennsylvania, and is of a superior quality for use in the smelting furnaces, for which purpose it is shipped all over the state.”

Source: George A. Crofutt, *Crofutt’s Grip-Sack Guide of Colorado*, (Omaha, Nebraska: Overland Publishing Company, Volume II, 1885): 89.

COAL MINING

MINING AT ROCKVALE

“November 19, 1886, came to Colorado, to Rockvale. Started in coal mining December 1886....

“Coal was struck August 1881 at a depth of 325 feet, the bottom vein 3 feet 6 inches of coal....

“The town was peopled by Scotch, Welsh and English miners. In 1886 some North Italians and Austrians came....

“About 1925-26 the mine closed. Worked out.

Source: Henry Johns (1934), CWA Interview Doc. 7/366, Colorado Historical Society.

MINERS MEETINGS AND STRIKES

“You remember hearing about town criers years ago! Well, we had town criers in Lafayette after the turn of the century. The miners always feared strikes, and every time they held a mass meeting they sent criers out in the streets to call the miners to the gathering. Workers were in constant insecurity about their jobs and conditions in the mines--the high accident rate, poor pay, all the poor working conditions--kept a nervous aura about the community.”

Source: Mary Ruth Kauffman, *Sarah, Her 100 Years* [the Life of Sarah Savage Brillhart]. (Boulder: Gambrill Properties, Publisher, 1982): 21.

ACCIDENTS AT THE MINES

“Tragedy struck again. Father was a loader--he shoveled coal from the chute into the railroad cars. Often coal would get hung up and he'd have to step in the chute and dig at the jammed coal to loosen it. This is what happened this day. He was picking at the coal when it broke loose before he could clear the chute; coal caved in and his foot and leg were crushed. . . . Gangrene set in the foot, and a doctor from Boulder came to Lafayette--said the foot must come off at once. Aunt Jane came, Mary came, and they shooed me out of the house. The doctor cut father's foot and lower leg off--right there in the bedroom. The ether was so strong in the house that it nearly knocked everyone out!!”

Source: Mary Ruth Kauffman, *Sarah, Her 100 Years* [the Life of Sarah Savage Brillhart]. (Boulder: Gambrill Properties, Publisher, 1982): 20.

WORKING IN A COAL MINE

“Usually [you were paid] twice a month. . . . At the Columbine we got forty-four and a half cent a ton for loadin’ coal. If you got sixteen tons you was a good loader. . . . You had to have ideal conditions to load that [much] coal. . . . Your pay didn’t start till you started loadin’ coal. You loaded coal by the ton. You wasn’t workin’ by the hour. You was workin’ by the ton. . . . You had a snap on the end of the car. You hung your check with your number on that snap. When it went up the shaft, the weighman up there took the check off and credited it to your account.”

Source: Richard Brown quoted in Maria M. Rogers, ed., *In Other Words: Oral Histories of the Colorado Frontier* (Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 1996): 33.

WOMEN'S WORK

WEARY DAYS OF LABOR AND PAIN

“July, 1859 -- Have not seen a woman yet. The men had a celebration on the 4th, present about 500 men and Indians--two Dutch women from Mexico. Plenty of squaws and one white woman just arrived from Missouri. I was homesick and could have cried, but Cam [her husband] feels so sadly when I get discouraged that I try hard to be cheerful when he is about. He helps me all he can about my work, but there is much to do with so many boarders, and all being out of money we cannot get rid of them. . . . I have made some \$30.00 out of butter and cheese or smearcase [cottage cheese] I have made since we arrived, in fact have made all the money Cam and John have had, as their last copper was spent at Council Grove in Eastern Kansas, but the work made me sick and now I sell the milk at 10 cts per quart and make \$2.75 a day. My butter brought \$1.00 per lb. and balls of smearcase 40 cts per doz. . . . Weary days of labor and pain. Have made 175 loaves of bread and 450 pies. Taken all the care of the children and done all the house work but the washing.”

Source: Mrs. A. Cameron Hunt.

TAKING IN BOARDERS

“When the Vulcan boom came, we moved there. Again I kept boarders. My husband worked in the mines and prospected for himself.”

Source: Mary Nichols Williams, (1934), CWA Interviews, Doc. 350/68, Colorado Historical Society.

KEEPING A BOARDING HOUSE

“Really the women did more in the early days than the men. There was so much for them to do, the sick to take care of. I have had so many unfortunate men shot by accident, brought to my cabin to take care of. There were so many men who could not cook and did not like men's cooking and would insist upon boarding where there was a woman and they would board there all they could. . . . My husband kept the Post Office and Express Office and I kept a boarding house in California Gulch.”

Source: Augusta Tabor, “Cabin Life in Colorado,” *Colorado Magazine*, 36 (1959): 151.

DRESS MAKING

“Fidelia could make more money here than half the men if she had her [sewing] machine here and would go into dress cutting and making. The woman I board with cut eight dresses yesterday for one dollar a piece and done the work for six boarders (board six dollars a week).”

Source: Alonzo Harris Boardman to his wife, Nancy, Aug. 16, 1863.

HOTEL WORK

“In the hotel there were 3 other girls, and about 6 cooks hired to care for the men who boarded at the place. I thought I was making a grand salary. I made \$20.00 a month, and had my room and board furnished. My work consisted, for the most part, in waiting on tables, and going for beer for the thirsty boarders.”

Source: Mrs. Anna Dillon, CWA Interviews, Doc. 344/45, Colorado Historical Society.

MINING TOWNS

EARLY GOLD MINING CAMPS AND TOWNS

CENTRAL CITY, 1859

“In the three weeks that we have been sojourners here there has been some three thousand persons arrived and they have built cabins in every nook and corner within five or six miles of us in every direction.”

Source: David F. Spain to his wife, Arapahoe City, April 30, 1859; in John D. Morrison, ed., "The Letters of David F. Spain," *Colorado Magazine*, 35 (April, 1958): 106.

CENTRAL CITY, 1859

“This narrow valley is densely wooded, mainly with the inevitable yellow pine, which, sheltered from the fierce winds which sweep the mountaintops, here grows to a height of sixty or eighty feet, though usually but a foot to eighteen inches in diameter. Of these pines, log cabins are constructed with extreme facility, and probably one hundred are now being built, while three or four hundred are in immediate contemplation.”

Source: Horace Greeley, *An Overland Journey* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1964): 103-104.

CENTRAL CITY, 1859

“The large number of cattle led into the mountains during the rush in June had resulted in an entire consumption of the grass that grows on the mountainsides, so that during the latter part of the season scarcely a spear remained anywhere.”

Source: Henry Villard *The Past and Present of the Pike's Peak Gold Regions* (St. Louis: Sutherland & McEvoy, 1860): 80.

CENTRAL CITY, 1866

“The timber has been wholly cut away, except upon some of the more distant steeps, where its dark green is streaked with ghastly marks of fire. The great, awkwardly rounded mountains are cut up and down by the lines of paying “lodes,” and pitted all over by the holes and heaps of rocks made either by prospectors or to secure claims. Nature seems to be suffering from an attack of confluent small-pox. . . . This hideous slashing, tearing, and turning upside down is the surest indication of mineral wealth.”

Source: Bayard Taylor, *Colorado: A Summer Trip* (New York: G. P. Putnam & Sons, 1867): 56.

CALIFORNIA GULCH (1861)

“California Gulch in 1860 and 1861 had a population of something over 10,000 and was *The Camp* of Colorado. It was strung along through the gulch, which was something over five miles long, that is the mining part of it. There were a great many tents in the road and on the side of the ridge, and the wagons were backed up, the people living right in the wagons.”

Source: Wolfe Londoner, “Western Experiences and Colorado Mining Camps,” *Colorado Magazine*, 6 (March 1929): 69.

THE GOLD RUSH

“. . . We then came on over the mountains to Gregories Diggings . . .and found a large amount of people at these diggings and scattered over the Mountains. We then pitched our tent & commenced prospecting & searching for gold and found by investigation that there was and is large quantities of gold in these mountains but I am further satisfied that it costs more labor & harder to be got at than in California. . . .

“We have opened our claim [on Russells' Creek] & nearly ready to put our sluice in operation. We have found a little gold and our prospect is fair. My health has been generally better than it was in the states. The worst of my case is being obliged to go with wet feet the most of the time.”

Source: L. D. Crandall to Arminia and Avelia Hubbard, July 17, 1859; State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison; reprinted in Carl Ubbelohde, Maxine Benson, and Duane A. Smith, eds., *A Colorado Reader*_(Boulder: Pruett Publishing Co., 1982): 82.

A TENT RESTAURANT

“We had met a man on the train who said he had a restaurant there [Montrose], and could take care of us for the night. The restaurant was in a tent, and after serving us with ham and eggs, he took us out behind his tent to another small tent, where he had gathered sagebrush boughs and scattered them on the ground and spread a blanket over them. We laid down with our clothes on and put our blankets over us.”

Source: Edwin Price, “Recollections of Grand Junction’s First Newspaper Editor,” *Colorado Magazine*, 30 (July 1953): 228.

COAL MINING TOWNS

ROCKVALE

"I was born in Wales May 6, 1859. My boyhood days were spent in coal mining. November 19, 1886, came to Colorado, to Rockvale. Started in coal mining December 1886.

"At that time there were eight or ten company houses, and about fifty other business and other houses, and a schoolhouse. The Methodist Church was built in 1888, the Catholic Church in 1891-92. . . .

"Coal was struck August 1881 at a depth of 325 feet, the bottom vein 3 feet 6 inches of coal. From 1915 to 1920 the mine produced 25,000 tons a month. . . .

"The town was peopled by Scotch, Welsh and English miners. In 1886 some North Italians and Austrians came. After 1904, the Slavs, Sicilians, South Italians and some few Germans came. The Scotch and Welsh left the town, so that 75% of the people were of the latter class. . . .

"About 1926-26 the mine closed down. Worked out."

Source: Henry Johns (1934), CWA Interview Doc. 7/366, Colorado Historical Society.

COAL COMPANY MONEY

"They paid you in scrip [used for trading at the company-owned store]. When I first started to work in the mine, in 1916, I was making 15 cents an hour, 10 hours a day, they paid me in Rocky Mountain Fuel Money. They come in a little book just like theater tickets, and that's what you got paid with. If you took 'em to the company office or at the beer joint up here, you could trade them off for a 25% discount. You wanted to sell 'em? You lost 25%."

Source: Lawrence Amicarella quoted in Eric Margolis, "Western Coal Mining as a Way of Life," *Journal of the West*, 24 (July 1985): 66.

WINNING THE RIGHT NOT TO TRADE AT THE COMPANY STORE

". . . They formed a union under Rockefeller giving them more rights than they had before. They didn't have to trade at the company store. And that's when Walsenburg and Trinidad started to go on the boom because the people were coming in and spending their money instead of through the company stores."

Source: Henry Mathias, quoted in Eric Margolis, "Western Coal Mining as a Way of Life," *Journal of the West*, 24 (July 1985): 106.

COAL TOWNS WERE DIVERSE

“Almost all of the old coal towns I know about have different ethnic parts of town; Louisville, Lafayette. This was sort of deliberate on the part of the company a lot of the time, because when they’d go out on strike—if say the English and the Welsh went out on strike, then they’d bring in scab labor of . . . probably Italian or Greeks. So there was a language barrier. So these guys couldn’t get together and really say, ‘Yeah, the conditions are awful down there. We need to do something.’ Companies were pretty astute about using these types of techniques.”

Source: Joanna Sampson quoted in Maria M. Rogers, ed., *In Other Words: Oral Histories of the Colorado Frontier* (Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 1996): 37.

MAINSTREET MERCHANTS

GENERAL STORE ADVERTISEMENT DENVER, 1859

“Sugar, coffee, molasses, mackerel, herring, rope, blasting powder, nails, crackers, boots and shoes, socks, domestics, locks, hatchets, and screws.”

Source: *Rocky Mountain News*, 1859.

CENTRAL CITY, 1859

"I have not, as yet seen all of the city, it is scattered along the gulch, as far as I have seen, about two miles, quite compactly built; some very good log houses. We have some eight stores, many groceries, numerous bakeries, any amount of eating houses, one Masonic Hall and nary [a] church."

Source: P.P. Van Trees, quoted in Duane A. Smith, *Colorado Mining: A Photographic History* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1977): 11.

THE GENERAL STORE

“Cookies those days were in bulk in little steel bins with a glass cover. But most people made their own. Pickles came in barrels, and I used to laugh at the grocerman rolling up his sleeve and reaching down in sixteen inches of brine to chase an elusive pickle around and around in that barrel. Usually he’d come up with a pickle sooner or later, but sometimes a little tobacco juice would drip off his chin while he was pursuing the pickle.”

Source: Forrest Coulter, “65 Years of Memories,” p. 4. Denver Public Library Manuscript Collection.

A BUTCHER SHOP

“Lafayette had two meat markets. The Moons, parents of my schoolmate Bill Moon, had a slaughter house where they butchered their meat for the market. . . . You know how kids get together evenings after school. Well, there were a half dozen or so of us who gathered after school and headed for Moon’s market. We’d ask the butcher, “Give us a piece of bologna and a pickle!” He’d growl at us, “I wish you kids would stay out of here. You’re a nuisance.” But he’d cut a little chunk of bologna for each of us and reach into the barrel and hand out a pickle to each of us.”

Source: Mary Ruth Kauffman, *Sarah, Her 100 Years* [the Life of Sarah Savage Brillhart]. (Boulder: Gambrell Properties, Publisher, 1982): 21.

MAIN STREET BUSINESSES

“In the same block with the Review [a newspaper] were two or three eating houses, two groceries, a hardware store, assay office, a meat market, a drug store, jewelry store, two or three saloons, two dance halls, and perhaps some other places of business.”

Source: George A. Root, “Gunnison in the Early ‘Eighties,” *Colorado Magazine*, 9 (Nov. 1932): 202.

BRISK BUSINESS ON SUNDAY

“O I tell you we are nearer heaven on them mountains than you poor souls in the low flat States--but I can’t say that we are any more spiritual--indeed I fear that religion here is very much diluted for even now, Sunday at 11 am, the stores are all open, trading is brisk, the Billiard rooms and lager Beer Saloons are in full blast. This is universal in the mining districts in order to accommodate the miners who live under ground all the week and spending their money Sundays.”

Source: Alonzo Harris Boardman to his wife, Nancy, Aug. 16, 1863.

A BLACKSMITH SHOP

“I have added another little business on to my new interests. I have acquired a blacksmith shop. I secured a good blacksmith to work it and he is already doing well. there is so much welding to be done here and he is kept busy sharpening the miners’ picks and axes too, besides [horse]shoeing and other work.”

Source: Diary of a unidentified young man, Central City, December 10, 1865; from *The New Mexico Sentinel*, July 3, 1938.

THE POST OFFICE AT CREEDE

“. . . The highlight of the day was the incoming mail. The post office was a log cabin, home-made pigeonholes for the letters, the papers frequently tossed into the fire, while hundreds of people waited in line for that letter from home.”

Source: Mrs. A. H. Majors, "Pioneer Days in Crestone and Creede," *Colorado Magazine*, 21 (1944): 216-217.

SALOONS

THE HORSESHOE SALOON

“The camp [White Pine] after nightfall always took on new life as the miners came straggling in from their day's work, and the hotels, stores, post office and saloons shared honors in providing diversion for the crowds. The "Horseshoe" Saloon appeared to be a favorite rallying place for the miners, it being nearest the hotels, and there they gather to "slick their whistles," meet old acquaintances and have a game of 'razzle-dazzle' or cribbage for the treats. Here also came the mining speculators. . .keeping their ears open to learn anything to their advantage. . . . Here we [newspaper editors] milled around till bedtime, picking up many stray bits of mining information and local gossip for use in the first issue of the new newspaper.”

Source: George A. Root, "Reminiscences of White Pine, Colorado," *Colorado Magazine*, 13 (May, 1936): 112.

JOHNNY NOLAN'S SALOON

“As I sold newspapers on the street, I was often in Johnny Nolan's saloon, where I sometimes sold all my papers. It was not an uncommon sight to see ten- and twenty-dollar gold pieces piled high in the center of the round, green cloth-covered tables. Of course, there were many stacks of silver dollars. Hard money was always used when the games of chance were in vogue.”

Source: William W. Wardell, "Cripple Creek Memories," *Colorado Magazine*, 37 (1960): 35.

A BIG TENT SALOON

“It was not so bad during the day but when darkness came and you could see the big tent-saloons illuminated, hear the music and knew there was light, warmth, entertainment and liquid refreshments to be had our footsteps invariably pointed to those places of diversion and enjoyment. . . .”

Source: Clayton Nickols quoted in Walker D. Wyman, "Grand Junction's First Year, 1882," *Colorado Magazine*, 13 (July 1936): 132.

HOUSES

FRAME HOUSES IN SILVER CLIFF

"The dwelling houses were mostly made of pine lumber--the boards running straight up and down, the cracks battened by melted down and fluted out tin cans on the outside. On the inside, boards were put on in the same way, covered with cheesecloth and the cheesecloth covered with wallpaper. They were two and three room affairs but kept very neat and clean."

Source: Joseph M. Powars, "Early Days in Silver Cliff," *Colorado Magazine*, 3 (July 1949): 221.

MAKING SHINGLES AND SHAKES FOR MARKET

"The next morning we resumed our journey, passing through lovely valleys and winding up and around towering mountains. . . . Occasionally we saw a parcel of men engaged in making shingles and shakes for market, cutting wood and prospecting, and now and then the buzz of the saw was heard, together with the puff, puff of the laboring steam as it escaped from work below, marking an era in the history of the mountains which had never before resounded with . . . such industry, that was cutting and shaving the heavy timber from their sides into . . . a commodity that brings sixty dollars per thousand in the cities and mining districts."

Source: C. M. Clark, *A Trip to Pike's Peak and Notes by the Way*, (San Jose: The Talisman Press, 1958 [originally 1861]): 113.

HOUSING IN LEADVILLE, 1878

"And then we were in Leadville and Father was hugging and kissing us all [he had preceded them from Denver]. 'Now Madge, don't feel too bad when you see what we have to live in here. If you look around, you'll realize that it's as good as the best there is in Leadville.' The cabin had only one room with bunks against the wall. . . . All around us shacks sprang up like mushrooms. Some tents were pegged down. . . . By now [1879] the camp was spreading out and real houses were being built to shelter the thousands who were pouring in. Mother, whose health had been poor since [brother] Kennie's birth, seeing her own kind of folks coming to occupy these real houses, was growing more unhappy each day as the camp spread wider and wider and we still occupied the one-room cabin."

Source: Georgia Burns Hills, "Memories of a Pioneer Childhood," *Colorado Magazine*, 32 (April 1955): 112, 113, 115, 116.

A TWO-ROOM FRAME HOUSE, 1880

“Father met us in Denver and filled Madge and me with excitement by telling us that a big surprise awaited us in Leadville. . . . He did not tell us before we saw with our own eyes the new house which he had built for us. It was on a hill beyond the stores—on the back side of the hill, the yard running down to the creek. . . . The house did not compare with those on the street in front of us, some of which had barns for horses, or a horse and vehicle of some kind. Ours had but two rooms but they were each heated by its own stove, our old range heating the kitchen (which was also the bedroom for us girls), and a heater for the other room in which were a real bed and dresser. And there was carpet on the floor. And the house was painted! After the cabin, which we never saw again, it seemed palatial.”

Source: Georgia Burns Hills, “Memories of a Pioneer Childhood,” *Colorado Magazine*, 32 (April 1955): 118, 119.

DREARINESS OF BLACK HAWK AND CENTRAL CITY

“Narrow and dingy as is this mining town [Black Hawk] its people are making a brave effort to give it a look of comfort, in pleasant private dwellings, neat churches and fine school buildings, perched up against the mountain-side, where it would seem no building larger than a miner’s hut could find lodgement. Scarcely a tree or shrub is to be seen, or even a flower, except it be in some parlor window: but, as we drove up into Central, we came upon a very pretty conservatory, attached to a neat cottage. It was something strangely cheering, yet touching, in the universal dreariness. . . .”

Source: Mrs. Sara Jane Lippincott (1871), quoted in Duane Smith, “Mining Camps: Myth vs. Reality,” *Colorado Magazine*, 44 (Spring 1967): 94-95.

COMMUNITY LIFE

HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

FOURTH OF JULY ON THE TRAIL

“Monday, July 4th, 1859.

Clear as Crystal. Glorious Fourth. We fired a morning salute of 10 guns and proceeded on our journey. Traveled 10 miles through fine rich land at the foot of [the] mountains & arrived at Thompsons Creek, where we camped for the night and lay around celebrating the fourth, in various ways. . . . One camp raised the U.S. Flag and gave 3 times 3 cheers.”

Source: Diary of Joshua Manwaring, July 4, 1859

JULY 4, 1860

“The ‘Glorious Fourth’ was entertained in our best style. Powder and Patriotism, music and muscle, bonfires and bloody noses, knives and revolvers, horse racing and gambling in general was the order of the day throughout.”

Source: Libeus Barney, “Early Day Letters from Auraria,”*The Bennington Vt. Banner*, July 9, 1860.

JULY FOURTH DRILLING CONTESTS

“The drilling contests on the Fourth of July were always red-letter events attracting large crowds of both competitors and spectators. Piles of rocks were hauled into the town. Since the manipulation of one drill required two men [one to hold the drill, one to stick it with a sledge hammer], they all "paired off" and each pair drilled a hole in a rock. Whoever drilled the farthest within a certain period of time received a prize.”

Source: Bennett E. Seymour, quoted in Mary Grace Wall, "Recollections of Early Colorado," *Colorado Magazine*, 16 (May, 1939): 106.

FOURTH OF JULY IN BONANZA

“The Fourth of July was always a great day in Bonanza and people came from miles around for the picnic so as to be present when the drilling contests between mining teams took place. Each mine sent a favorite contestant and the good natured betting engendered much fun. Sometimes the people went to Villa Grove for the affair, but wherever it took place, a dance followed that night and good old patriotic songs filled the air.”

Source: Helen A. Kempner, quoted in *The San Luis Valley Historian*, 3 (Winter 1970): 28.

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

THE LEADVILLE ICE PALACE

“We got two cuttings of twenty-inch ice from the Leadville lakes. Out on the lakes, the blocks of ice were sawed out with a hand saw, then hauled to shore by hooks, and loaded upon sleds, where they were pulled by four-horse teams to the ice palace, one and one-half miles distant. . . .

“After the ice-blocks had been trimmed, then were laid in the forms, and sprayed with water. In the place of mortar, we used water which froze the blocks together into a solid wall. It was cold work, and I wore two coats most of the time. . . .

“Day and night shifts worked for two months to complete the huge structure which covered five acres of ground.

“It was larger than any other house of ice that ever was built. . . . It covered an entire city block. . . .

“The visitor to the Palace entered the north gateway, passed up a broad stairway of glistening crystal ice, and found himself in the great ice rink. . . . The ice surfaced was eighty feet wide and one hundred and ninety feet long. About the walls were pillars of ice and in the center of each was embedded an incandescent electric lamp, so that light radiated from them in all directions. . . .

“From the Eighth street entrance one came into the grand ballroom, fifty feet wide by eighty feet long, with an auxiliary ballroom and dining room of the same dimensions to the right of the rink. These two halls were houses built within the ice palace, kept at a comfortable temperature by large base-burner stoves. The parlors were furnished with easy chairs and settees for those who wished to rest from skating or dancing. . . . Here was also a restaurant, a kitchen, concession booths, to sell articles of every description. . . .

“The formal opening of the Ice Palace took place on January 1, 1896. . . . The Palace lasted from January first until June first, when it began melting, and had to be closed the first of July.”

Source: James A Murray, quoted in Mrs. James R. Harvey, "The Leadville Ice Palace of 1896," *Colorado Magazine*, 27 (May, 1940): 95,-96, 97, 100-101.

CHURCHES AND RELIGION

A SERMON AT GREGORY'S DIGGINGS

"After breakfast all of us but Charley (who we left to keep hose) went up the Ravine about half mile and listed to the first sermon ever preached in the Rocky Mountains (so far as we know). How strangely I felt as I sat there on a large Pine Stump listening to the discourse taken from the Ten Commandments. Surrounded by over a Thousand hardy rough looking miners, and while sitting there how many little incidents concerning my dear wife and little ones rushed through my mind. And as the discourse progressed in looking around me I saw the Tears rolling down many a rustic cheek. . . . Although it was a very plain old fashioned Methodist sermon, it made a greater impression than the most eloquent discourse I ever heard."

Source: David F. Spain to his wife, Arapahoe City, April 30, 1859; in John D. Morrison, ed., "The Letters of David F. Spain," *Colorado Magazine*, 35 (April, 1958): 108.

A CHURCH SERVICE ,1867

"I remember sitting in church one Sunday and above the voice of the preacher I could hear the voice of three different men announcing the results of the games in as many different gambling houses."

Source: Recollections of John Henry Martin, *Denver Post*, November 15, 1905. Dawson Scrapbooks, Vol. 4, 107, Colorado Historical Society.

PREACHING TO THE MINERS

"I preach'd last sab[bath] in the a.m. in a log house in Leavenworth Gulch to a very good cong[regation] comparatively--nearly everybody turned out--Day--wet, cool. Preach'd with my overcoat on. In the P.M. at 5, I preached in a new building near the Express office, which was open at both ends, and 8 or 10 hands [workers] busily at work right close by joining the same building who made such a noise erecting a theatre that it was very difficult to speak or hear. Yet we had a good attentive cong[regation]. . . . It is a very good field for Christian effort. Harvest great--laborers few."

Source: Diary of Amos S. Billingsley, July 2, 1861.

ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS

DANCING

“Our chief amusements were discussing our neighbors, school entertainments, and dances.... I learned the waltz--there will never be a more beautiful dance, especially the "Blue Danube," when danced smoothly and gracefully--and the Mulitary Schottisch, Newport, Polka, Rye Waltz, Minuet, Breeze, Rockaway, and many others. One-Eye Thompson taught me the Varsoviene. He was one Mama did not care to have around. I couldn't see why, he had such a hearty laugh, so full of blarney, and good nature.”

Source: Anne Ellis, *The Life of an Ordinary Woman* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1929): 126-127.

GUNNISON'S DANCE HALLS

“Of those palaces of entertainment, one was called the ‘Red Light Dance Hall,’ while the other was known as ‘Fat Jack’s Place,’ both being a combination of saloon and dance hall. One of these...observed the Sabbath by requiring the orchestra to play sacred music on Sunday evenings for patrons to dance by.... These were the sort of patrons who celebrated every evening, Sundays included, at which time they tripped the ‘light fantastic toe’ to the strains of such good old hymns as ‘Jesus, Lover of My Soul’ or ‘The Beautiful Gates Ajar.’ Other old-time sacred standbys, written to common or four-four time, also apparently served the crowd as satisfactorily while they went through the evolutions and convolutions of the old-time square dances. No stranger could set foot in one of these dance halls without being importuned to have at least one dance or to stand treat [buy a drink]--the ‘ladies’ receiving a certain percentage on every dance or treat. As a rule they encouraged their partners to celebrate, while they partook of lighter refreshments that did not incapacitate them for dancing, as that would cut down on their earnings.”

Source: George A. Root, “Gunnison in the Early ‘Eighties,” *Colorado Magazine*, 9 (Nov. 1932): 203-204.

AN OCCASIONAL DANCE

“An occasional dance was always a drawing card for many of the boys, although we had no original dance hall until after the cheese factory went our of business. It was then fixed up for a community meeting place and the floor finished off for dancing. There was no orchestra and music was furnished by whatever was available—violin, guitar and piano most of the time. I remember an old violin player that used to play for the dances. He was a colored man and worked at the charcoal kilns at Dake, on the east side of Kenosha Pass. . . . I don’t ever remember hearing his last name. But he sure liked to play the fiddle and seemed to enjoy coming to Jefferson to play. He was always willing to come whenever the folks sent word to him.”

Source: George W. Champion, “Remembrances of South Park,” *Colorado Magazine*, 40 (January 1963): 23.

ICE SKATING

“The following winter, snow was cleared from a vacant block of ground south and east of the La Veta Hotel site, and the area flooded. This proved to be an ideal rink, and was much patronized. There were a number of outstanding skaters who gathered there daily, and when I had an evening I could spare, I was sure to be there.”

Source: George A. Root, “Gunnison in the Early ‘Eighties,” *Colorado Magazine*, 9 (Nov. 1932): 203-204.

BASEBALL IN THE MINING TOWNS

“Baseball was also very popular. You may wonder where the game was played. There were two diamonds, one on top of Bobtail Hill, where there is quite a flat, and the other near Bald Mountain above Nevadaville. The Central team, and the Bald Mountain Daisies of Nevadaville had many a hard fought game--some ending in a free-for-all.”

Source: C. H. Hannigton, "Early Days at Central City," *Colorado Magazine*, (Jan. 1942):

LEADVILLE 42; BUENA VISTA 1

“There was quite a crowd at the ball game on Sunday afternoon, but as the home club walked away from the visitors in the first few innings, but little interest was taken in the details of the game, hence the scores of each club only are published.

Blues 5 3 0 2 6 10 16 * 42 [38 hits, 5 errors]

Buena Vista 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 [4 hits, 23 errors]

“ . . . The Buena Vista boys all went down on the evening train not a bit crest fallen over their Waterloo defeat. Dick Phelan, second baseman of the Blues, sent the ball clear over the centre field fence. Dick is the first one so to do and he will be the recipient of a neat silver scarf pin made from the Robert E. Lee ore. . . .”

Source: *Leadville Herald*, July 18, 1882; reprinted in Carl Ubbelohde, Maxine Benson, and Duane A. Smith, eds., *A Colorado Reader* (Boulder: Pruett Publishing Co.1982): 98-99.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

“Our opponents in football were Aspen and Salida. We played two games each season with each team, giving us a total of four contests and this was plenty inasmuch as the football season in the high altitudes was short. High School dances followed the home games in Leadville.”

Source: Ivan Crawford, "School Days in Leadville," *Colorado Magazine*, 26 (July 1959): 226.

A PRIZE FIGHT

“Prize Fight. Between Orain (American) and Davis an Englishman came off last Sat. before a very large crowd. Some said 2,000, one man said 3,000. I suppose about 1,500. How brutal! Low. Demoralizing. Yea humiliating. May God have mercy on us.”

Source: Diary of Amos S. Billingsley, Aug. 27 1861.

A CHURCH SOCIAL

“I dropped into a church supper and social last night, given by the ladies of the Catholic church here. It was a most enjoyable affair. A splendid dinner was sold for one dollar, and different pieces of fine handiwork, quilts and cakes were raffled off. I took a few chances and had the good fortune to win a very choice piece of embroidery work. It is a table cover about a yard square. It is a rich looking piece of work and I shall present it to Mrs. Mitchell and Alice for their new home.

“The church sociables occur here often, conducted by different religious denominations and I think I shall attend more of them.”

Source: Diary of a unidentified young man, Central City, December 10, 1865; from *The New Mexico Sentinel*, July 3, 1938.

THE NEW GAME OF CROQUET

“Empire City, Colorado Territory,
July 29th, 1869

“A young man who has lately come here to live brought a set of croquet all the way from the States. It is a new game and played with balls and mallets. Probably you know all about it, but this is the first we have seen. He couldn't find a place out of doors level or smooth enough, the ground is so rocky, so he set it up in the town hall, boring small holes in the floor to put the wickets in.

“It is great fun, something like billiards, I should think, for the floor is so level that unless you are careful not to strike too hard, the ball rolls half-way across the hall, and when the other side has a chance to strike your ball it rolls all the way across and hides itself under the benches piled against the wall, for as I have told you, the hall is used for all purposes, a church, a dance, or any kind of amusement.”

Source: Emma Shepard Hill, *A Dangerous Crossing and What Happened on the Other Side* (Denver, 1924): 117.

A FOOT RACE

“Gothic had a foot racer, a rather small, bow-legged man whom they all thought unbeatable....There was much betting. Gamblers backing the Gothic runner were told that the race had been fixed for him to lose. They sent him the dire word that if he didn't win, he would be killed. He came out on the race track pale and shaky, but he didn't lose.”

Source: "Interesting Bits of History," *Colorado Magazine*, 21 (July 1944): 159.

CELEBRATING THE FIRST TRAIN TO CENTRAL CITY

“The first train [to arrive in Central City] consisted of a dummy engine and a street car, which was welcomed to Central with a grand celebration. Fire companies, [brass] bands, fraternal societies, the Emmet Guards and hundreds of citizens were at the station in Central for this great event. . . .”

Source: C. H. Hanington, “Early Days of Central City,” *Colorado Magazine*, 19 (January 1942): 13.

I TOOK PIANO LESSONS

“But the lady . . . was a friend of ours, and I took music lessons from her. . . . She gave me music lessons--and that was one thing I had to do. Seems like everybody in those days gave their children music lessons or had a piano. My brother had to take lessons too. I had to practice, and that was probably my chore--that I had to do.”

Source: Jennie Spence Brown quoted in Julie Jones-Eddy, ed. *Homesteading Women: An Oral History of Colorado, 1890-1950*, (New York: Twayne, 1992): 90.

A LITTLE PARLOR ORGAN

“[The Teachouts] brought across the plains a little parlor organ or melodeon which was a thing of joy. Their cabin was a gathering place for those of the young fellows who measured up to the Teachout standard as to character and sobriety, and the little melodeon was busy almost every evening. . . . The three oldest girls could all sing and we did our best which seemed to somehow to get past.”

Source: H. C. Cornwall, “Ranching on Ohio Creek, 1881-1886,” *Colorado Magazine*, 32 (January 1855): 21.

FIREMEN'S RACES

“The Annual Firemen's Meet was one of the big occasions in the state, and the rivalry between the teams of the different towns was keen. The Harry A. Mulnix Team of Trinidad and the J. B. Orman Team of Pueblo were the outstanding brigades of the state and the greatest competitors. It was not an uncommon thing for a town to hire professional runners for these contests. There were two kinds of races: the hub to hub, a straightaway run; and the wet race, in which the teams made the run, unreeled the hose, coupled up, and the first to throw water was the winner.

“Del Norte at this time had three brigades: the Engine Company, with red shirts; the Hose Company, with gray shirts; and the Hook and Ladder Company, made up of younger fellows, with blue shirts.”

Source: Robert Born (1934), CWA Interview, Doc. 8/349, Col. Hist. Society.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

SKIS

MAIL CARRIERS ON SKIS

“The most welcome of all in the mining camps far up the Rocky Mountain peaks are the mail carriers. Brave, hardy fellows they are that climb the peaks on snowshoes [skis], delivering the mail and many precious packages that always fill the pouch. Delivering the mails in the mountains in midwinter is a difficult and dangerous work. Sometimes the carrier is swept away by a snowslide, and months roll away before the brave fellow and his pouch are found. . . .

“The carrier in the frontier of the Rocky Mountains straps the mail sack on his back, puts on his Norwegian snowshoes [skis], and, with a long guiding pole, starts on his weary climb over the range. Usually there is a crowd at the post office to wish him good luck. Only men of known strength and courage can do this work, for twenty-five pounds of letters, papers, and packages become very heavy and burdensome in climbing the mountains.”

Source: *Colorado Graphic*, April 18, 1891, reprinted in *Colorado Magazine*, 17 (Jan. 1940): 36.

A SKIING ACCIDENT

“I made me a pair of snow-shoes [skis], and, of course, was not an expert. Sometimes I would fall; and, on one occasion, as I was going down the mountain to Gold Run, my shoes got crossed in front as I was going very fast. A little pine-tree was right in my course, and I could not turn, and dare not encounter the tree with the shoes crossed; and so threw myself into the snow, and went in out of sight.”

Source: John Dyer, *The Snow-Shoe Itinerant* (Cincinnati: Cranston & Stowe, 1890); reprinted in Carl Ubbelohde, Maxine Benson, and Duane A. Smith, eds., *A Colorado Reader* (Boulder: Pruett Publishing Co., 1982): 54.

WE MADE OUR OWN SKIS

“. . . In the wintertime my mother used to go out skiing with us. My dad never did, because he didn't care much about skiing. They made them [their skis]. They had one-by-fours [lengths of wood], and they'd boil them and then stick it in the log cabin [between the logs] and wait until the end turned up. But they made their own skis. They were slick, and, of course, they'd put paraffin or something, wax, whatever they had, on them. Sometimes lard. One night we were ski-riding in the moonlight and there was one pole out in the field. [Mother] said she knew she was going to hit that post, and she did, head-on. So that took care of her skiing. She wouldn't go skiing with us anymore.”

Source: Iris Self Lyons quoted in Julie Jones-Eddy, ed. *Homesteading Women: An Oral History of Colorado, 1890-1950* (New York: Twayne, 1992): 97.

PACK TRAINS

OLD COW AND LITTLE BUMMER

“Have named our pack-mules Old Cow and Little Bummer. The latter is the rascal that kicked us, and he has since manifested a most profound contempt for our person, a feeling which is fully reciprocated by us. The former is so named on account of his wagging gait, which makes it almost impossible to keep a pack on his back.”

Source: *Rocky Mountain News*, (June 14, 1866): 1.

INTERESTING CREATURES

“Most pack animals are interesting creatures. I remember one that always wanted to be in the lead on a trail, for she liked to set the pace. Another would go regularly to the cook tent after each meal for the garbage. One year in camp, we had a very canny little mule that seemed to know when moving day was coming, for on such occasions she would wander away from the other animals very early in the morning and hide.”

Source: Wallace W. Atwood, *The Rocky Mountains* (New York: The Vanguard Press, 1945): 58.

WINTER TRANSPORTATION

“A large train of jackasses--(beg pardon--John Donkeys)--came into town yesterday morning, each laden with two sacks of flour, for Clements & Son. We are informed that this mode of transportation is to be carried on through the winter, and, if true, we can see nothing in the way of its becoming a paying enterprise.”

Source: *Rocky Mountain News*, (November 18, 1865): 1.

HEAVY LOADS

“A strong, well-trained mule that will willingly carry a load of 150 to 200 pounds is a treasure. Such an animal may be entrusted with cameras, surveying instruments, and even with fresh eggs. For some animals we reserve the bedrolls, for they can stand a good many hard knocks on the trail.”

Source: Wallace W. Atwood, *The Rocky Mountains* (New York: The Vanguard Press, 1945): 58-59.

PACKING IN FOOD

“. . . I took our burro, which was eating its head off, and packed grub to the Highland Mary Mine. Usually I could make two trips a day, pack a load up and ride the burro back, at \$3.50 a load. For a fourteen-year-old boy, I made good wages.”

Source: Robert Born (1934), CWA Interview Doc. 8/349, Colorado Historical Society.

BAD PACK ANIMALS

“A bad pack animal is a terrible problem. he may refuse to stand while the pack is being put into place and may, at any moment, begin to buck the load off. I have seen cereals, hams, bacon, eggs, condensed milk, sugar, flour, and camp dishes go shooting in all directions and spilling down the hill because some pack animal misbehaved.”

Source: Wallace W. Atwood, *The Rocky Mountains* (New York: The Vanguard Press, 1945): 60.

PACK MULES CARRY WOOD

“Wood is brought to market [at Alamosa] on the backs of pack mules (a beast scarcely three feet high [indicating these animals were actually burros]) and sells for 25 cents per load. It is astonishing to see how the little beasts are burdened. . . . when the little fellows come to market, with their burdens of hay and wool, one would be at a loss to find the motive power, as they are completely enveloped in the commodity, head and ears, and that is saying a good deal.”

Source: “T,” “A Michigan Correspondent in Colorado, 1878,” Sidney Glazer, ed., *Colorado Magazine*, 37 (July 1960): 211.

HORSE-DRAWN VEHICLES

THE STAGE COACH

“Work was scarce in the Del Norte district and plentiful in the Silverton country, so Father and I started for that place. The Barlow & Sanderson stages, with their gaily painted coaches and dashing horses, had been one of the most interesting and exciting things I had seen and I was mighty glad to have a ride on one. The stage stations were about eleven miles apart, and the six horses were driven at a run for the whole distance. A fresh team would be ready and waiting, the change taking only a few minutes. I know we made the fifty-five miles from Del Norte to Antelope Springs, where the stage branched off for Lake City, in exactly five hours.”

Source: Robert Born (1934), CWA Interview Doc. 8/349, Colorado Historical Society.

CONTRACT FOR STAGE DRIVERS

“While in the employ of Russell, Majors, & Waddell, I agree not to use profane language, not to get drunk, not to treat animals cruelly, and not to do anything incompatible with the conduct of a gentleman.”

Source: Contract of 1860 for drivers of the Leavenworth & Pikes Peak Express stage coaches, in Jerome C. Smiley, *History of Denver*, (Denver, 1901): 357.

HAULING FREIGHT

“About this time I met a boy from Del Norte who offered to sell me his team, wagon and harness for \$200, and as I had been saving my money and had the cash, I took his offer. The very next day I found four passengers for Del Norte at \$20 apiece, and from then on I put in several years taking freight or passengers from Alamosa to Del Norte and Silverton. Sometimes, if I only had a couple of passengers for Silverton, I would put in a couple of cases of eggs and a box of butter or maybe a sack of cabbage and a sack of potatoes. Eggs cost thirty-five cents a dozen at this time and brought \$1.10 in Silverton; butter cost thirty-five cents a pound and brought \$1.50; and cabbage and potatoes were a cent a pound in Alamosa and sold for ten cents a pound in Silverton.

“I was just a kid of course, but into the ten years from 1879 until I settled in Alamosa in 1889, I crowded a lifetime of adventure and experience.”

Source: Robert Born (1934), CWA Interview Doc. 8/349, Colorado Historical Society.

THE WATER WAGON

“Except in the National Hotel and store buildings there was very little plumbing in town. Bathrooms were few and residents had to buy water by the bucket. The water wagon would come around once a day. People would fill their water barrel in the kitchen, paying five cents or so a bucket. The Saturday-night bath was usually taken in the kitchen in a washtub with water that was heated in a reservoir on the back of the kitchen stove.”

Source: William W. Wardell, "Cripple Creek Memories," *Colorado Magazine*, 37 (January 1960): 30.

DELIVERED BY WAGON

“The warehouse stood beside the railway tracks and was large enough to hold a number of carloads of groceries of all kinds, as well as hay and grain. There was a large stable in the back which accommodated several saddle horses and the horses used on the order wagon and the delivery wagons. Few residences had telephones and it was necessary for a man to go around town and take orders by using a horse and buggy, the orders to be filled later in the store and delivered by wagon.”

Source: William W. Wardell, "Memories of Aspen, Colorado," *Colorado Magazine*, 30 (January 1958): 116.

WE USED HAYRACKS IN WINTER

“Well, they used to use the so-called hayracks. They put runners on the hayracks in wintertime, and people came to town on runners. There were also so-called cutters, which were smaller conveyances, usually one-horse, to carry two or four people, probably; there was a lighter rig. Of course, there was always horseback, and there were wagons of various kinds,, and buggies, and the so-called trap that the people in the backseat couldn't get out until the people in the front seat got out. It was largely horse conveyance in the wintertime.”

Source: Virginia Shepard quote in Julie Jones-Eddy, ed. *Homesteading Women: An Oral History of Colorado, 1890-1950* (New York: Twayne, 1992): 77-78.

RAILROADS

THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

“Empire City, Colorado Territory,
July 29th, 1869

“On the tenth of May word came to Denver by telegraph that the Union Pacific Railroad was completed at twelve o’clock--noon--that day. The track layers from the east and from the west met on the northern border of Great Salt Lake, and the Governor of California drive the last spike. . . .

“It is a great think for America, a road from ocean to ocean, nearly five thousand miles in length. . . . Of course this wonderful road does not mean so much to you, but it will be a great thing for Colorado Territory. I should like to ride over the whole length of it; perhaps some time I may.”

Source: Emma Shepard Hill, *A Dangerous Crossing and What Happened on the Other Side* (Denver, 1924): 118.

THE FIRST RAILROAD TO BLACK HAWK

“The first railroad to enter the district was completed to Black Hawk in 1872, the depot being an old stone mill in the lower end of town. Large doors were cut in either end, so the entire train was under cover. This was abandoned when the high line to Central [City] was constructed in 1878, and a new depot was erected nearer the center of town. The high line to Central City was completed in 1878.”

Source: C. H. Hanington, “Early Days of Central City,” *Colorado Magazine*, 19 (January 1942): 13.

A VERY SEVERE WINTER

“The winter of 1889-1890 was a very severe winter. The railroad was repeatedly being blocked with snow and at one time was completely shut down, being blocked with snow for a period of about seventy-five days, from early February to about the middle of April. The railroad shops were almost completely shut down for several weeks, only a few men retained to keep stationary boilers going and various equipment inside the shop from freezing.”

Source: George W. Champion, “Remembrances of South Park,” *Colorado Magazine*, 40 (January 1963): 27.