

From F. B. Agee

EARLY DAYS IN CHAFFEE COUNTY

Statement of T. J. Thompson.

Heywood Springs above Salida were first discovered in the early 70's by Romer, a freighter engaged in transporting the mail from Dayton City to Antonito, Colorado. He camped one night at the mouth of the gulch in which these springs were located. During the night something frightened his horses and they stampeded up the canyon. In searching for them the following morning, he happened upon these springs above the present Hortense springs, and they were afterwards given the name of Heywood Springs from an old settler of that name who afterwards acquired title to them.

Mr. Thompson stated that Mayol was one of the first settlers in Chaffee County and took out the first irrigation ditch. It was from Cottonwood Creek; the stream flows through the present town of Buena Vista. Within about one year, however, a second ditch was taken out by Tennessee from the Arkansas near Salida.

The first Roman Catholic Priest to visit Chaffee County was father Carrigan, a young man who came to this part of the country from Philadelphia in 1872. He stopped some time at the Bond ranch near Buena Vista. To help him get acquainted in the country the Bond boys decided to take him on a trip to the Humboldt Mine near Fairplay, Colorado, which at that time employed a large number of men. Father Carrigan had spent his entire life in the eastern cities and had never so much as been on a Horse's back, but they were able to procure for him an old gentle cow pony, which it was thought would be absolutely safe for the trip. They made this trip to the Humboldt mine without mishap. Father Carrigan gave the men a talk at the mine. He was well received and they raised \$85.00 dollars to help him along with his work. On the return trip, it was necessary to dismount and lead the horses down a steep mountain slope. When they reached the bottom, the Bond boys helped Father Carrigan back on his horse, but before they themselves could remount, a bunch of loose horses owned by Mayol crossed the trail directly in front of Father Carrigan's horse and dashed off into a dense aspen thicket. While Father Carrigan's horse was absolutely gentle and in most things trustworthy, it was also well trained in chasing cattle and horses on the range. When the loose horses dashed across the trail, it immediately conceived the idea of heading them and took after them at full speed through the aspen brush, Father Carrigan holding on to the saddle ~~horns~~ horn with both hands. The Bond boys hastily mounted their own horses, but by the time they were able to overhaul Father Carrigan and stop the wild chase, the latter was somewhat the worse for the encounter. Much of his clothing had been left in shreds on the brush, the string of beads had been torn from his neck, and the money received at the Humboldt Mine scattered along the route of travel. The Bond boys succeeded in gathering up the money and other belongings and all finally reached the Bond ranch. The incident gave the young priest a rather precipitous introduction to conditions as they then existed in the west, and it is said in later years he often recounted his ~~adventure~~ adventure with a great deal of amusement.

GRANITE

The following article appeared in The Rocky Mountain News June 14th, 1869.

"The Yankee Blade has now been sunk to a depth of 125 feet and for the purpose of expediting the removal of the ore, Major Hill is about to change the boiler in his shaft house for a larger one.

It is highly gratifying to be able to give good accounts of the ore that is now being taken out of this lode. There can be no doubt as to the richness. The gold is visible in crystal shaped particles, requiring no magnifying glass to detect it's whereabouts. The Yankee Blade Mill is now in course of erection and will be in running order by July. It is situated on the Arkansas River. The indefatigable Partridge of Morrison and ~~Par~~ Partridge has not permitted grass to grow under his feet since his return to Granite. He has obtained ore of very fine quality out of several of his lodes, ore similar in point of richness to that of the Yankee Blade but showing more gold to the naked eye. He and Dr. Morrison have been running their stamp mill on the Hatty Jane and Solux Tyee with good results.

Altogether matters in Granite are looking up, there is no lack of building. We are growing out of our village existence and gradually assuming a town like appearance. Strangers arriving here will find every accomodation.

Mrs. Frier's hotel is finished and her elegant swing sign is the first thing to attract the strangers eye as he crosses the bridge on his way into town. Adjoining the hotel is a fashionable reading and bar room under the proprietorship of Mr. Kendall who is prepared to dispense cooling summer beverages.



GRANITE (cont.)

Next door is situated Mr. Kraft's new store. Over the store is a commodious hall, then we have the courthouse which contains the new Masonic Lodge also Good Templers Hall. Higher up the street we have another excellent store, kept by Mr. Cotwell, where we receive the mail weekly. On the opposite side of the street we have a new saloon and billiard hall kept by Messrs Anderson and Whitson and again crossing the street we have the butcher shop, blacksmith shop and bakery and brewery nearly complete.

Hawkinsville which lies a mile or so to the east, and winding up Grandview Hill is also on the increase. The Mines are situated here and bachelors halls are scattered in every direction. Bacheloring however is becoming unfashionable in consequence of the establishment of two complete boarding houses. Mr. Bales, who has kept the hotel here during the past winter is building a new and commodious house in addition to his present place, where a good dinner always rewards a pedestrian for his morning walk up a very objectionable hill.

"Low Pass", a little to the north of Hawkinsville lies in a gulley and is not behind in progress. Here we have the mills of Morrison and Partridge and Mr. Walley which are run by steam power; a hotel kept by Mr. Newitt, a store by Spencer, saloon etc. In fact the whole district including the three towns is on the steady increase. People are becoming convinced the mines of Granite are no myth but really rich and stable.

As I close my letter I am informed that Mayor Hill is drifting east and west of the Yankee Blade".

Signed "Grasshopper from Cherry Creek, Colorado"