

Another Mine



I thought you might find this interesting. I have done several tales of the coal mines in this area, mainly up near the Franceville area. This one has an interesting twist to it.

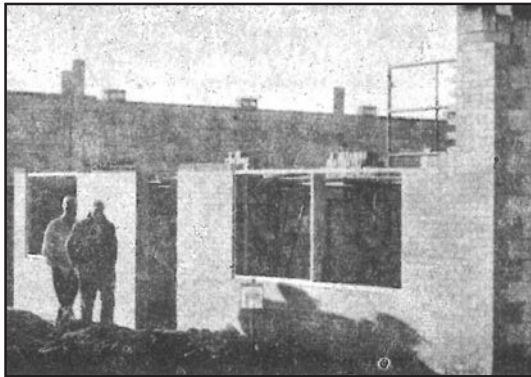
Out southeast of Calhan in February 1908, a local rancher by the name of Lamar was looking for water. That area is a bit hilly and quite dry. As he dug he found something different, only about 40 feet underground. Here he found a nice coal seam. At this time they did not know that the area east of the Front Range sits on top of several levels of coal all the way out past Limon. His hole was about 4 feet across, a good size for a water well. He found a good grade of coal called lignite, which burns in stoves pretty well. This lignite was a better quality than most. After a few weeks a commercial mine was developed and he started selling coal in the other towns on the Rock Island railroad toward Limon.

As is the case with many of the coal mines, Mr. Lamar discovered a problem. Right where he found the coal it was about 3 feet thick. Below it was sandy clay. As they worked the mine heading out in various directions, it tapered down to only a few inches. In one direction it became even better for quite a distance. Unfortunately, it also tapered off into nothing. Another problem common to coal mines slowly developed as summer came on. That development was water.

Indeed, as Mr. Lamar's coal went dry, his water well came to be. He was able to get his coal mining equipment out in time to salvage that operation, and thanks to the digging he soon had a good underground reservoir! I do not know if the well lasted any longer than the coal mine, but it was probably more valuable.

Pages of the Past

(1958 - Present)



Sixty Years Ago (1962) PROGRESSION IN FOUNTAIN VALLEY

Builders Will Claiborne and Don LaMora of Colorado Springs were laying brick down for a 40'x 88' brick and concrete block building across the U.S. 85 - 87 corridor that would house a body shop, garage, filling station and a barber shop in 1962.

(Fountain Valley News file Photo)

Fifty Years Ago (1972) WHS STUDENT NAMED SALESMAN OF THE MONTH

Wanda Riley was 16 and was a junior at Widefield High School when she named a member of the "\$100 Salesman Club" for the AEDIFICO Junior Achievement Company.

(Fountain Valley News file photo)



For 'PEACE OF MIND' Trash Removal...

W.S.I.
Waste Systems, Inc.

4040 Clearview Frontage Rd. Security
Serving
Security-Widefield
Fountain-Stratmoor Valley **390-5097**

Locally Owned and Operated!

Call now! Lowest prices in town



Forty Years Ago (1982) GIFTED AND TALENTED

Fifth-grade students examined a weight scale in Mrs. Harris' Challenge Program class at Widefield Elementary School. Left to right: Eddie Watterson, Jeff Henke, Mrs. Harris, Sheri Brasche and Debbie Pearl.

(Photo by Jane Forsberg)

A Winning Combination!

PERSONAL SERVICE
GREAT RATES

At Shelter Insurance® we pride ourselves on helping folks like you get the right auto insurance coverage at our best rate possible.

Call me today to see how you can take advantage of this winning combination from Shelter!

Michele Thompson-Koch, Agent
3520 Galley Rd. Suite 100,
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
719-574-0507 OFC
MThompson@ShelterInsurance.com

SHELTER INSURANCE

WE'RE YOUR SHIELD. WE'RE YOUR SHELTER.

AUTO • HOME • LIFE

ShelterInsurance.com

Thirty Years Ago (1992) MODELS OF TEACHING

French Elementary students graduated from the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program. They are shown receiving their completion certificates from Deputy Don, District Attorney John Suthers, Principal Barb Trujillo and sixth-grade teacher Kathleen Duffy.

(Photo by Judy McCollum)



Twenty Years Ago (2002) LOCAL OLYMPIC TORCHBEARERS

Three individuals of Fountain Valley selected to carry the Olympic Torch through Colorado Springs were (left to right): Theodis Forrest, Jami Seabolt and Ursula Ramos.

(Photo by Jerry Bahner)