

The Ute Pass Road



When General Palmer was building the Denver and Rio Grande, he built south from Denver toward Mexico. One of the proposed routes given a preliminary look was west from Canon City through the "big canyon" on the Arkansas west of Pueblo. It would be quite valuable in the future.

As the line was built south from Denver it followed Cherry Creek, scene of the starting of Denver in the 1859 Gold Rush. There were few places south of Denver that looked to be a good path for a railroad. As the construction reached Colorado City, it remained east of the old town because they were following Monument Creek. Palmer had started several new towns, but this one would be a grand one due to the view of a big white mountain. Yes, they were here in December! General Palmer hired a grading team to look at widening the old Indian path into the mountains, not for a railroad but for wagons. A road was scouted through the narrow gorge of the creek west of Colorado City. A road started taking shape, blasted from the granite walls along the creek. In places the precarious ledge was barely wide enough for one wagon.

The trail was finally finished the next summer. The route eliminated the climbing of the long hill, and cut about a mile from the trip. The road would allow freight wagons, even though it was still steep and winding. When Dr. William A. Bell, Palmer's close friend, scouted the area above the pass, he found quite a timber resource, just the thing needed to build a town. As gold was discovered at the headwaters of the Arkansas River, this new road from Colorado City became the best path from the prairie to Leadville. It wound over the Hayden Divide, across South Park and split into a variety of trails to the Arkansas River.

Today, that is US 24, and quite busy in Ute Pass!

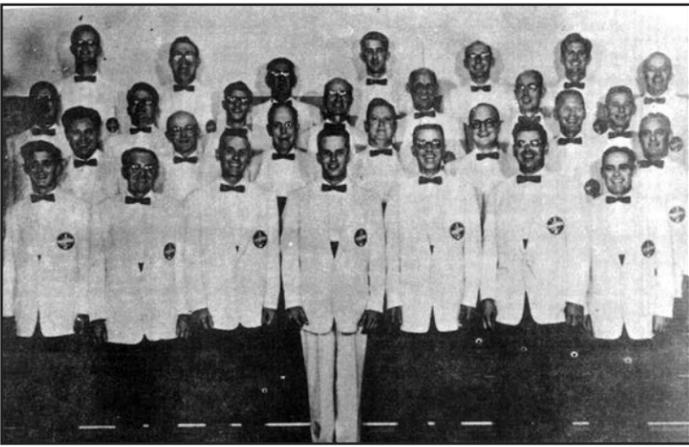
Pages of the Past (1958 - Present)

Sixty Years Ago (1962)

BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

Colorado Springs Chapter of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. performed April 5, 1962, in Widefield High School's Gym. The organization had 29,750 members from the American Institution, the Barbershop Quartette. It was the largest organized all-male singing fraternity.

(Fountain Valley News file photo)



Fifty Years Ago (1972)

K OF C & CHURCH

Security Knights of Columbus and Holy Family Church of Security donated a 3-panel backstop to Security Park and Recreation District in 1972. The representatives (pictured right) gathered to start digging out the chain-link backstop.

(Fountain Valley News file photo)



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Forty Years Ago (1982)

PEBBLES HOLMAN

Pebbles, a senior from Widefield High School in 1982, had applied for appointments to the United States Air Force Academy and West Point and recently learned she was appointed to both by President Ronald Reagan. In the end, she selected the Air Force Academy because, "I have always wanted to study there," she said. She majored in computer science.

(Fountain Valley News file photo)



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Thirty Years Ago (1992)

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

Sunset was an hour later on April 5, 1992. As the saying goes, "Spring forward, Fall backward!"

(Fountain Valley News file photo)



Twenty Years Ago (2002)

BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

Advertising Sales/Designer Frank Montoya and Managing Editor Patricia St. Louis proudly displayed the awards they received in the 2001 Better Newspaper Contest, sponsored by the Colorado Press Association.

(Photo by Jerry Bahner)



NEWS

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