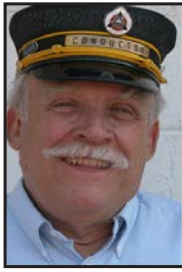


### Spuds!

I think some of you may be thinking about planting a garden. If you are new to the area you may not know what grows here. Well, a lot of good things, but I found this farming story that was new even to me. I knew that potatoes were a big crop up in the upper Ute Pass area in the 1920s and 1930s. This story goes back to that area in the 1890s when Cripple Creek was getting started. A Colorado Springs paper got really upset that Divide seemed to be getting all the credit when this area was also producing a major crop of spuds!



One of the largest farms producing potatoes was Garden Ranch, north of Austin Bluffs. This farm had 66 acres in spuds on the north side of the bluffs in good soil. The crop did well without irrigation. The farm raised a variety called "Ohio" with an output of 150 tons in October 1898. Their average size was about 4 pounds to the potato. This farm sat about where T-Gap passes over Union! Some of the spuds were shipped, but most were being put into storage for sale later in the winter. It was pointed out that a few other farms were producing similar crops throughout the area as far away as Fountain.

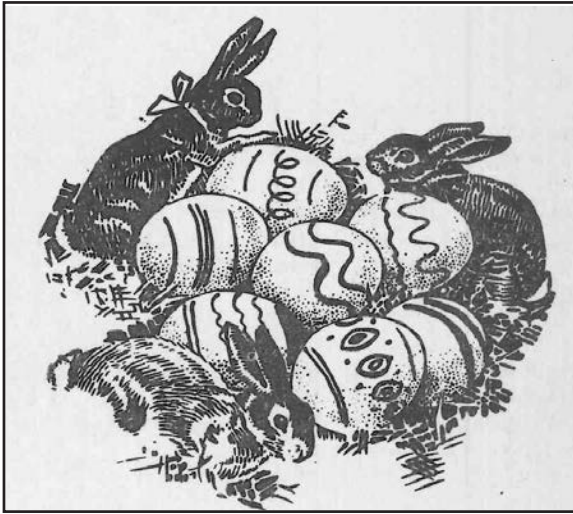
The story has another interesting aspect, "People of this city who have grown tired of scenery and who wish to see something of the more material things of life." It asks the readers to take an interest in our farming and ranching history. The reader is directed to our farms to see the fine Holstein and Jersey cows that also populate the area! There were many fine herds in this area producing hundreds of gallons of fresh milk every day. This story directs the reader to look other than to the mountains to see what this area has to offer.

Most of the active agriculture was east and south of Colorado Springs; that sounds like Fountain!

In addition to a potato crop in Ute Pass other crops grew, like a hundred years ago there were huge crops of lettuce being shipped to as far as Chicago. It is interesting to note how different the area has become, yet like a few buildings in the area, there are still signs of our past.

# Pages of the Past

(1958 - Present)



### Sixty Years Ago (1962)

#### AN OLD EASTER GRAPHIC

This Easter themed graphic was used as a reminder that a big Easter egg hunt was approaching in April 1962. The event was split up for age groups from 2 years old to 12 years old and happened all over the Fountain and Security/Widefield area. It warned the mothers were not allowed to interfere with the egg hunt. (Fountain Valley News file photo)

### Fifty Years Ago (1972)

#### SECURITY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

The Security Volunteer Fire Department presented service awards to its members during a regular Tuesday night meeting in April 1972.

(Fountain Valley News file photo)



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### Forty Years Ago (1982)

#### HAPPY GRAND WINNER!

In 1982, Chad Colbert was the winner of the Security Shopping Center's giant Easter basket of goodies. He was a second-grader at King Elementary at the time.

(Photo by Janet Miner)

### Thirty Years Ago (1992)

#### HAPPY EASTER!

"Jesus Lives!" are the words proclaimed in this Easter picture that was painted on the front window of this house on Cypress Drive in Security in 1992. The mural was painted by Kim Fiedler.

(Fountain Valley News file photo)



### Twenty Years Ago (2002)

#### RECORD OF COLLECTED FOOD!

Curves for Women, was a fitness center in the Security Shopping Center. From the span of 1999 to 2002 they collected and donated food to Fountain Valley C.A.R.E.S., which served the less fortunate. They collected a record of 3,144 pounds of food in one month.

(Fountain Valley News file photo)