

Building and Houses



I know we are seeing many new houses go up. Do you ever think where that wood comes from? It was a big industry here!

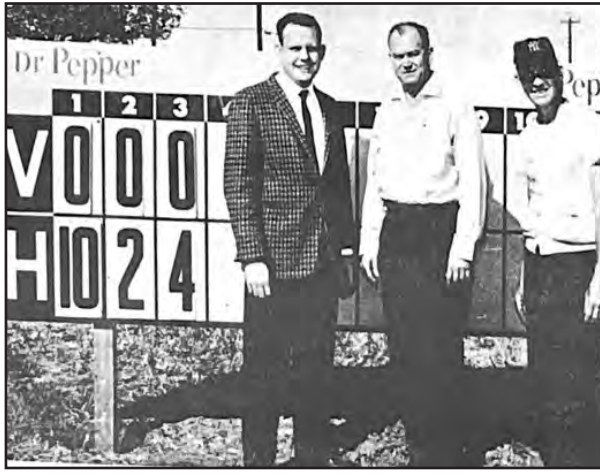
Long before the discovery of gold near Denver, they were cutting trees for lumber in Black Forest. J.A. Weir and Carl Husted were the primary saw mills in the forest, both doing business starting in the 1860s. Mr. Husted, in his later years, chose to live in Colorado City.

Once the railroads were built, they could bring in hardwoods from the east. The timber dealers in Chicago not only bought pine and fir from us, they sold us oak and maple. The pine they sold us came mainly from Michigan and locally it was called Chicago pine. Much of the lumber used by General Palmer for houses in Manitou, Colorado Springs and even Fountain came from saw mills in Black Forest and up Ute Pass. There was competition with lumber coming from the forests in Southern Colorado and New Mexico as the railroads reached there. A hundred years ago we started getting lumber from the Pacific Northwest, and still do.

Cripple Creek caused a huge demand for lumber, and mills west of Pikes Peak prospered. The area west of Divide saw dozens of saw mills. This wood was really good for mine beams and railroad ties, but also boards, too. Some of these mills lasted until about 50 years ago. Many of the old doors and windows used here were made from California White pine. Hickory, poplar and gum was from Tennessee. At one time box car loads of readymade doors and windows arrived every day, but there were problems. The woods and wood products like doors brought into this area were quickly used. After a month or so they started to crack. Our dry climate was the problem. Letting the "foreign" wood dry out before it was used helped. Local door and window manufacturers had known that.

Over the years most of the local lumber mills died out, but there are still a few around. Much of the damaged wood from the various timberland fires is cut for various uses. Fires continue to be a real problem, even out east on the prairie.

Pages of the Past (1958 - Present)



Sixty Years Ago (1962)

DR. PEPPER DONATED BASEBALL SCOREBOARD

Installing the new scoreboard at Widefield Homes Baseball Diamond were (left to right) Darwin Harfert, manager, Colorado Springs Dr. Pepper Bottling Cp.; Jules Watson, developer of Widefield Homes; and Pat Collins, director, Security Park & Recreation District. The scoreboard was donated by Dr. Pepper Bottling Company to the community. (Fountain Valley News file photo)

Fifty Years Ago (1972)

GRADUATION!

Baccalaureate-Commencement Exercises were held Sunday, May 28, 1972, for Harrison High School's senior class. The Salutatory Address was by Patricia Plante, left, and the Valedictory Address was by Roxanne Auck, right. (Fountain Valley News file photo)



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Forty Years Ago (1982)

MILITARY EXERCISES

The 3rd Battalion 87th Infantry Regiment, U.S. Army Reserve Unit from Fort Carson conducted mobilization readiness exercises Saturday, May 22, 1982, at Fountain High School and the Fire Station. Staff Sgt. Robert Andrew from Widefield, front right, instructed a reservist class for the M-60 machine-gun. (Fountain Valley News file photo)



Thirty Years Ago (1992)

A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

Manny Sigala inspected the work of his youngest son, John, as he cut customer David Wallace's hair after joining the staff of Manny's Barber Shop. (Fountain Valley News file photo)



Twenty Years Ago (2002)

TRUCKS RETURN TO PPIR

The NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series returned to Pikes Peak International Raceway in Fountain to kick-off the start of the superspeedway's 6th season at the NASCAR Craftsman Trucks Rocky Mountain 200 presented by Dodge. (Photo by Jerry Bahner)



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