

An Interesting Railroad Story



If you do not read this column often you may not know of my interest in trains. This tale is an odd one, one of my favorites.

Sheriff Henry Robertson of Cripple Creek, on October 5, 1903 repossessed a fancy Pullman Palace car standing at the Midland Terminal depot for the nonpayment of \$663.21 in taxes. The Pullman Company had never paid any taxes, according to the county assessor. In order to make sure the Pullman Company could not pull the car out of the county, Sheriff Robertson secured a large log chain and a heavy padlock. He placed the chain about the axle of the car and passed the chain under the steel rail and then locked it. Charley Hoskins was made custodian and occupied the car until the taxes were paid. The car was worth about \$5,000, which today would have three more zeros! The Pullman Company and the Midland Terminal Road reacted by abolishing their Cripple Creek sleeping car service that night and no Pullman Palace cars came from Colorado City. No attempt was made to move the car.

The sleeper stood on the Midland Terminal siding chained to the tracks through the day and night. In the morning word went out that Deputy Treasurer Gus Trolich had not received any word from any of the Pullman officials, whose principal office was in Chicago. There were no Pullman cars coming into the Cripple Creek district. The idea that the county might do the same to other cars passing through the county at Divide gave considerable worry to the Pullman Company and the railroad. Indeed the County Treasurer let it be known that it was his intentions to have the sheriff attach any Pullman cars that traveled through. This could probably bring endless suits brought by patrons who might be in the cars and would be detained at Divide

The solution came two days later when the Pullman sleeping car was released. It was attached to a Midland passenger train and pulled to Divide. Deputy United States Marshal Thomas Clark had arrived from Denver and served an order of release upon Sheriff Robertson and County Treasurer Duncan McNeill. The Pullman Palace Car company had posted a bond and the car was released. The Pullman Company paid plenty of taxes to Colorado and was not amused by this action. I understand eventually things quieted down on both sides.

Pages of the Past

(1958 - Present)



Sixty Years Ago (1962)

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 94

Presenting the Girl Scout Rose to Mrs. Earl (standing right), Secretary of East Elementary School, Fountain, was Beverly Cushman (standing foreground). Girl Scout Troop 94, Fountain gave the school this rose in appreciation for the use of East Elementary School for two years as a meeting place in 1962. (Fountain Valley News file photo)

Fifty Years Ago (1972) GOOD JOB WILSON STUDENTS!



These Wilson 5th and 6th graders earned the Presidential Physical Fitness Award by scoring at the 85th percentile or higher in 1972. (Fountain Valley News file photo)

For 'PEACE OF MIND' Trash Removal...

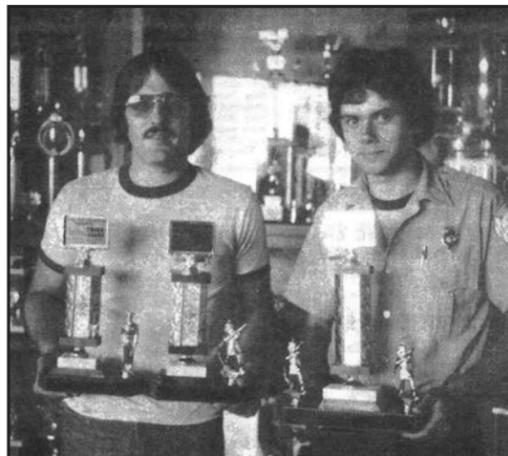
W.S.I.
Waste Systems, Inc.

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) SECURITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mike Mallinger and Jim Choate held three trophies won by the Security Fire Department at the Pikes Peak Field Day in 1982. (Fountain Valley News file photo)

Guaranteed for Life!

One of the best things about buying Shelter Life insurance for kids is the guaranteed insurability coverage option. That means no matter what happens, life insurance options are available for their future.

Ask me how this can work for your kids or grandkids!

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

Shelter Insurance

Auto • Home • Life

We're your Shield. We're your Shelter.
ShelterInsurance.com
Shelter Life Insurance Company • Columbia, Missouri

Thirty Years Ago (1992) READY TO GRADUATE

Graduates come in all sizes as illustrated by these little ones who graduated in 2002 from Kreative Kinder Preschool at the Widefield Community Center. (Photo by Judy McCollum)



Twenty Years Ago (2002) FOUNTAIN DELEGATION



The City of Fountain's delegation shown on the balcony at City Hall, next to a giant banner congratulating the City of Fountain on being named an All-America City finalist. (Photo by Paula Moore)