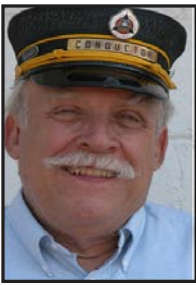


A Dangerous Crew



Florissant, a well-known community a few miles west of Divide, was the scene of a fairly spectacular incident back in early 1889. Teller County was not yet formed, so it took office was kept in the principal store of the place, Mr. Frank Castello being the postmaster and owner of the store. About 8 o'clock Monday evening, while Mr. Castello and his two clerks were alone in the store, three men entered. Two of them had revolvers, the third a Winchester, and each pointed at the head of one of the occupants of the store. They demanded that they hand over all of the money in the place. Thinking discretion the better part of valor, the money was handed over to the amount of about \$400. The thieves then backed out of the store and struck for the mountains north of town. The three were followed by the occupants of the store. Even for little Florissant, a crowd soon gathered. Firing was lively on both sides for awhile, but the desperadoes escaped in the darkness.

While word went out over the railroad telegraph to Colorado Springs, they were followed. The next day they were overtaken at West Creek, north of town. The posse found they were entrenched in an almost impenetrable position. There are many rock outcroppings along the road and above the village. Here another fight took place. Three of the pursuers' horses and one of the thieves were killed in the engagement. The attacking party then drew off giving the two remaining thieves an opportunity to escape.

The posse took the dead man to Florissant for burial but could not find the two other men. Subsequently, two men walked into Fountain, a spot nearly 50 miles east, out on the plains. The pair, quite out of place in the farm town, were arrested on suspicion. Each of the tramps had a loaded revolver on his person and also considerable money. They were fined for carrying concealed weapons and sentenced to ten days in the county jail in order that they might be held for further investigation. One of Mr. Castello's clerks was sent for and identified the tramps as the same that robbed the store at Florissant. The surviving criminals eventually were sent off to Canon City.

Pages of the Past

(1958 - Present)

Sixty Years Ago (1961)

A GIFT FOR ART

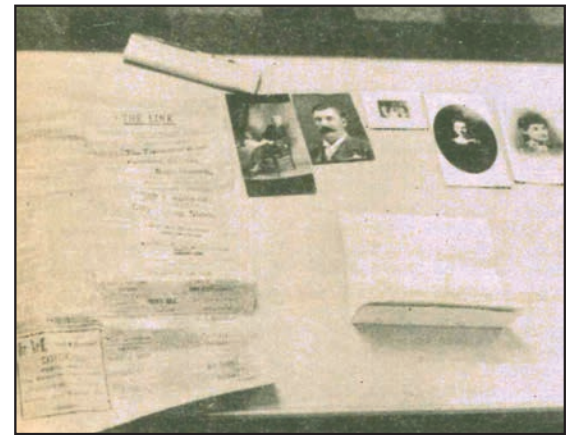


T/Sgt. Manuel Rodriguez, a member of the Air Force and then a resident of Security, is shown during a trip to Paris, France. When this photo was taken, Rodriguez was painting a statue of a man and a horse (not shown in the photo). Rodriguez was stationed in France from 1957-1960, working in the Graphic Presentation Branch at Allied Air Forces Central Europe (7-Nation Headquarters). His paintings were acclaimed and exhibited at military functions both in the United States and overseas. (Fountain Valley News file photo)

Fifty Years Ago (1971)

SECRETS OF FOUNTAIN'S PAST UNEARTHED

When the cornerstone of the 1903, Fountain School Building was demolished in July 1971, a lead box on the premises was removed. The box was opened on July 15 to reveal the following: pictures of the 1903 District 8 School Board, copies of minutes from a May 30, 1903 meeting authorizing sale of a building on property and construction of the schoolhouse, and several documents about the construction process (including construction bids and results). (Fountain Valley News file photo)



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Forty Years Ago (1981)

SECURITY'S SKYLINE



These missile-like projections were an unusual feature located off Drennan Road, east of U.S. Highway 85-87 and above the Castle Creek gravel operation for some time. Their purpose was hard to establish, but a reliable source reported that the cones were designed for sand storage for a company that never began operating. In 1961, new owners purchased the items, presumably leading to their relocation. (Photo by Carl Wiese)

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Thirty Years Ago (1991)

WIDEFIELD HOMES PRESENT "THE IRIS"



Widefield Homes announced the plans for a new floorplan titled "The Iris" in July 1991. The floorplan was a classic two-story design for a three-bedroom, 1,976-square-foot home, with a separate tub and shower in the master bedroom and an island in the kitchen. (Fountain Valley News file photo)

Twenty Years Ago (2001)

GET YOUR NOSE INTO A GOOD BOOK

Brianna, a red-nosed pit bull owned by Widefield resident Jim Bahner, pitched in to promote the upcoming reading program at Widefield Elementary School. Bahner's mother was the school's principal at the time. (Photo by Jerry Bahner)

