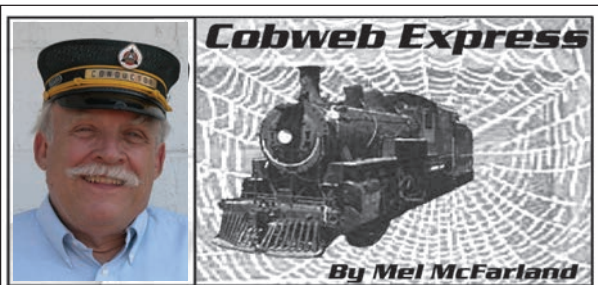


Robbery!

As a fan of TV westerns, I often wondered what it was really like in the early days. As I read about how it was, in the old newspapers,



I find the answer to some of those questions. The truth is there was not as many shootings and robberies as the old western movies depict, however that is not to say they did not happen.

In the early days of Cripple Creek, around 1892, the mines had to get their ores to Florence or Leadville to get it refined. Soon they had their own processing in the district, and the building of the railroad in 1895 made that much safer. I have told a few tales of various criminal activities, someone was always trying to figure out how to separate riches from their real owners. I have not run onto many stories of these incidents, but here is one I found.

A stagecoach from the Cripple Creek District, on its way to meet the Colorado Midland train at Florissant was held up late one September evening. In a spot on the road where the coach had to navigate a bit of a hill, a lone rider brought his horse into their path. Wearing a "slicker", hat pulled down, and a handkerchief over his face, he pointed a revolver at the coach. He ordered the passengers out and relieved them of any valuables. Unfortunately there was only one man on board, with barely a pocket of coins. The coach carried no money box, and the "gold" was several bags of ore bound for an assay office in Leadville. Likely this was mainly rock! After a few frustrating minutes the robber sent the coach on its way.

This was probably how things went. Not many stories of this sort appear in the papers of the day. One I like is of a train robber, who tried to hold up a train near Divide, on the Colorado Midland. He wound up getting shot by the engineer on the train! When he got to the next station word was sent to the sheriff as to where it happened. Butch Cassidy once held up a train over by Rifle, only to find that the train with the valuables on it had already gone past. They do not make robbing a train very good stories!

Pages of the Past (1958 - Present)

The First Issue of this Newspaper was Printed October 3, 1958

Fifty Years Ago (1969)

Pioneer poses with 19 of her 25 grandchildren

Mrs. John B. (Ivie L.) Baker, 202 W. Illinois, Fountain, one of the early settlers in the Hanover community, southeast of Fountain, proudly sits with 19 of her 25 great grandchildren. Father of the six who were absent, Everett Ball, was hospitalized at the time so his children could not be present. In addition to her 25 grandchildren, Mrs. Baker is the mother of eleven youngsters and has 37 grandchildren.



Forty Years Ago (1979)

Seniors Sign In

Randy Larson and Sandy Stanick are decked out in Western duds celebrating Talbot Elementary's 2nd annual "Howdy Pardner" day Feb. 9; Fifty Fountain Valley Seniors were invited for lunch and a western-style spoof on the fairytale "Cinderella."

Thirty Years Ago (1989)

Snow friends

By February, many adults are getting tired of the continued snow. But at age four the fun never ends. Bryan Rawlings, with the help of his dad, took the opportunity to make new friends, literally, from the snow. Green food coloring was sprayed on the snow dinosaur, which Bryan promptly named "Dino". Bryan is the son of Mark and Sylvia Rawlings of Countryside.



Twenty Years Ago (1999)

Town meeting attended by 250

Fountain residents shared their ideas about how the city should manage change/growth in the future, at a town meeting last Thursday, for discussion of the city's comprehensive plan. The meeting was held in the Fountain-Fort Carson High School cafeteria, which was filled by a crowd of approximately 250 people.



Ten Years Ago (2009)

A Diamond in the rough...

Long-time Fountain resident Carl Arnold stopped by the News office to share this photo of his with our readers. He pointed out the way the tree limbs have grown to create a diamond shape, stating, "The Good Lord makes beautiful things."



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