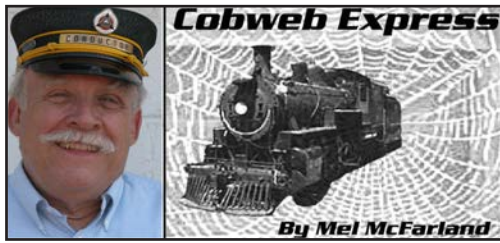


# The Pikes Peak or Bust Story



The phrase "Pikes Peak or Bust" was painted on covered wagons, even push carts, of people heading west. So were they coming here? No, they were actually heading for Denver! But in the late 1850s no one ever heard about Denver. The landmark that people heard about was Pike's Peak.

Zebulon Pike was following the Arkansas River, the southern limit of the Louisiana Purchase in 1806. Like Louis and Clark up north, Pike was looking for a route to the Pacific. Pike had followed the Mississippi River up into present-day Minnesota before being sent to follow the Arkansas. He did alright until he headed south on his way back. He was up near present-day Salida heading over the hills toward the San Luis Valley. Along the way the Spanish or Mexican soldiers arrested him and his crew as spies and took them on through New Mexico to Mexico. Eventually they let him go. He returned through Texas. When Pike returned to Washington, D.C., he reconstructed his notes, which the Spanish had confiscated. He called the mountain a grand peak. As his stories were published people started calling the mountain Pikes Peak.

In 1820 Dr. Edwin James, part of the General Stephen Long expedition to get more information in the Louisiana Purchase area, retraced some of Pike's area. He even took a hike to the top of the mountain. After three days, James returned to the Long party with news of what he had found. Not only had he been on the summit, but he found plants and animals he had never seen before. General Long christened the mountain James' Peak, but thanks to the media of the time, most people still called it Pikes Peak.

The 1849 Gold Rush to California saw a little activity in Colorado, but most went south over the Santa Fe Trail (which was then inside the United States). In the next 10 years more visitors found their way to Colorado. When gold was found near Cherry Creek, the cry in the east was Pikes Peak or Bust, even though they were not headed here yet.

A few did find their way to other locations, in the mountains and on the plains. It took General Palmer and railroad building to get this area going, but that is another story!

# Pages of the Past (1958 - Present)

## Sixty Years Ago (1960)

### MAYOR BREAKS GROUND



Amadeo Duran (far left), then-mayor of Fountain, lifted the first shovel of dirt to get underway construction of a filter plant built on Fort Carson. This plant purified Fountain's supply of cool mountain water. The two men watching the ceremony (left to right) were Bob Moon, superintendent of Tri-State Welding Constructors of Denver, and J. Roy Jackson, a town councilman in charge of Fountain's water department. (Fountain Valley News file photo)

## Fifty Years Ago (1970)

### GOVERNOR JOHN LOVE TOURS FOUNTAIN VALLEY

John Love (second from left), then governor of Colorado (second from left), took a brief tour of the Fountain Valley area on Sept. 8, 1970. He stopped to talk with Gene Holt (left), manager of the local C.R. Anthony store, Don Morgan, owner of the Western Auto Store, and Ralph Reeves, owner of Ralph's Shoes. (Fountain Valley News file photo)



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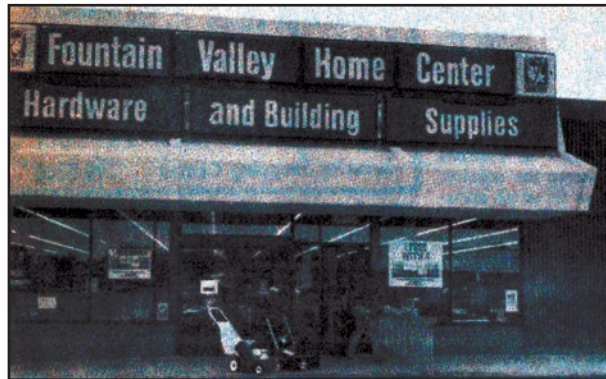
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## Forty Years Ago (1980)

### FV HOME CENTER OPENS



This announcement ran the week that Sentry Hardware store, also known as the Fountain Valley Home Center, opened. Journalists at the time noted that it stocked over 20,000 line items for home and farm improvements. (Fountain Valley News file photo)

## Thirty Years Ago (1990)

### BIG BIRDS HAVE LITTLE BIRDS

Ostriches belonging to Dick Coalson and Tony Cuchares produced two chicks (see in the inlaid picture) in August 1990 at the Coalson ranch south of Fountain. Ostriches are the largest birds in the world, sometimes growing up to 9 feet tall. (Fountain Valley News file photo)



## Twenty Years Ago (2000)

### SEMI TRUCK ROLLS ONTO ITS SIDE ON I-25 ON-RAMP



On Sept. 11, 2000, a semi truck hauling a load of gravel rolled onto its side as it turned off Santa Fe Avenue onto the northbound I-25 on-ramp at Exit 128. The Fountain Fire Department reported that the driver received minor injuries but did not need to be transported to the hospital. (Photo by Patricia St. Louis)

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\$10,000	\$345.00
\$15,000	\$450.00
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