

THOMAS GRAY THOMPSON

THE AUTHOR, although a native Oklahoman, has spent every summer, since 1945, in the San Juan Area, where he owns a home in Lake City, Colorado. He received his B.A. and M.A. Degrees from the University of Oklahoma and his Ph.D. in history from The University of Missouri. He has contributed articles on Colorado history to *Colorado Magazine*, *Annals of the American Philosophical Society*, *Midwestern Social Sciences Journal*. He is presently working on a manuscript, under a grant from the American Philosophical Society, on, "The Agricultural Development in the Rocky Mountain Region."



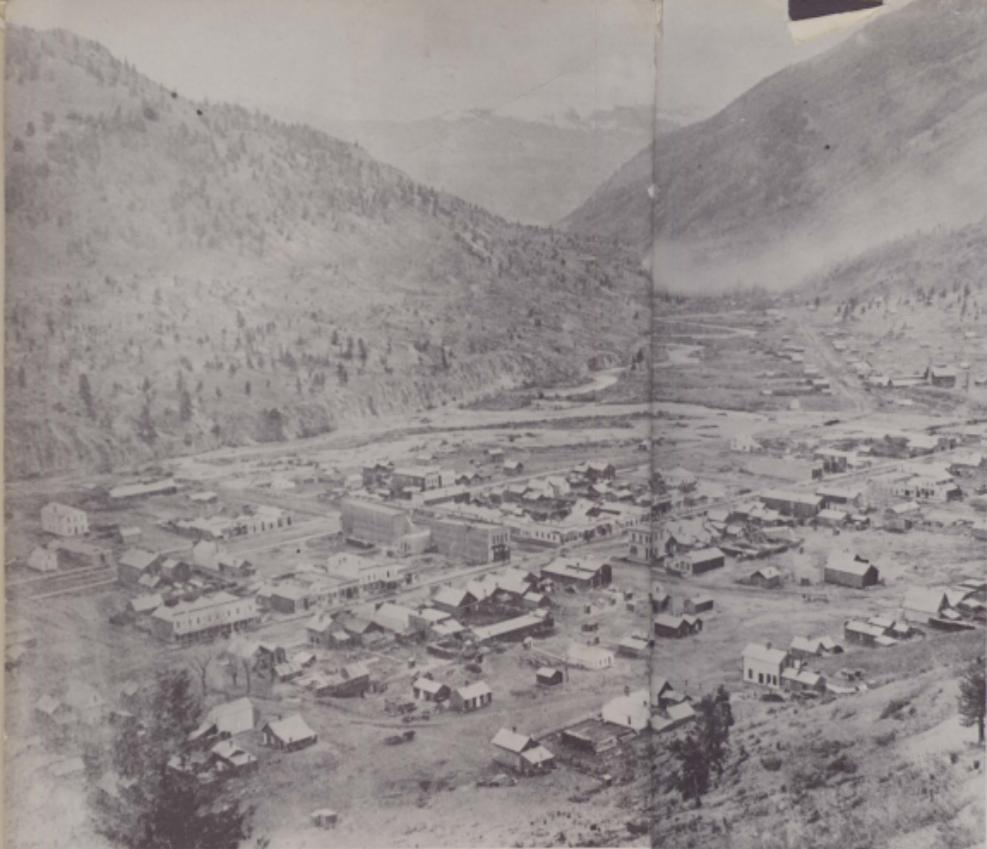
Lake City, Colorado

An Early Day

Social & Cultural History

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Social and Cultural
History*

Thomas Gray Thompson, Ph.D.

LAKE CITY, COLORADO, 1882. Looking from northwest, Court House and American House Hotel are seen at left center; Hough Block and main business buildings, center; snow-covered Continental Divide top center and below it the smoke rising from Crooke's Smelter.

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Preface

LAKE CITY is located in the exact center of the southwest quarter of Colorado. It lies in a small, grassy valley at the confluence of Henson Creek and the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River. It is surrounded by giant peaks of the San Juan Range of the Colorado Rockies. Four miles southeast of town is Lake San Cristobal, the largest natural lake in the state, and sixty miles farther in this direction is Creede, another of the early mining camps.

The scenery around Lake City is picturesque. Rugged snow-capped peaks rise above timberline to over 14,000 feet from lesser mountains covered with spruce and aspen. Swift mountain streams rush down to feed Henson Creek which runs through a deep, colorful canyon to join the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River. The climate is mild in summer, but in winter the streams and lakes are frozen, and the snowfall from December to April blocks passage on the trails and closes high mountain roads to motorized travel.

Two highways permit access from the south and the north, while narrow jeep trails lead to "ghost" towns, abandoned mines, and deserted miner's cabins of the San Juan area.

The town itself still bears the landmarks of its colorful past. Tall mountain cottonwoods, planted by the first settlers, line Silver Street and Gunnison Avenue, the main thoroughfares; fire-blackened soil marks the location of the once famous Occidental Hotel and of the American House; windowless stone walls identified in cornerstones as, a bank, a lodge hall, and a blacksmith shop still remain. Modern merchandise fills the shelves of some original business buildings, and gasoline pumps have replaced hitching posts. But, here and there a hand-hewn, 1876 log cabin continues to defy the ravages of time and rugged weather, while a freshly painted picket fence defines the grounds of a "mansion" of the gold and silver era. The Presbyterian Church bell swings in its original bell tower to peal the 11 o'clock Sabbath service, and the doors of the Catholic Church high on the hill, remain unlocked.

The neon signs and the modern tourist courts have mushroomed in recent years, and the paved highway from Gunnison cuts distance each summer; yet, when the last tourist station wagon leaves, when the last hunter rides out with game for the winter and antlers for trophies, then the Lake Cityan who knew the gold and silver rush days, or, whose parents have bequeathed him a legacy of memories and legends, turns to the Lake City of less than a hundred inhabitants. In his mind he may hear again the excited cries of fortune-hunters, he relives the growth and development, and plumbs the roots which feed the insatiable desire to experience with the miners, "another spring, another hope."

The early history of Lake City was fraught with alternate periods of excitement and excessive mining activity, coupled with periods of disappointment. The extreme richness of some ore bodies and the poverty of others contributed to these variant conditions. Other mining centers have similar backgrounds, but in few places in Colorado have the economic cycles been so pronounced as at Lake City. To some the present quiet is prelude to another rich discovery, or an economic upswing; to others, the tenacity with which Lake City clings to existence, when such San Juan

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mining camps as Capital City, Sherman, Animas Forks and White Cross have long since become "ghost" towns, denotes an indefinable quality of strength and stability. Those who agree with the latter opinion reason that the social and cultural pattern set by the early leaders engendered a quality of endurance and faith in the future. Concurring in this opinion, M. K. Mott, an early resident, said:

I am like the miners, for I still believe that some "next spring" that wonderful gold vein will be found and that the beautiful mountain town of Lake City will once again be teeming with life. It is a wise Providence that arranged the gold and silver so that one generation does not get it all.

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Thomas Gray Thompson

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THE SUMMIT OF 14,306-FOOT UNCOMPAGHRE PEAK, the highest in the San Juan range. This is the scene of the famous "Flag Raising Ceremony" on July 4th, 1881, which was climaxed by a severe thunder and lightning storm. Trips to the top of this mountain were made in almost every summer season, beginning in 1877.

Chapter I

The Lure of Gold and Silver

THE UTE INDIANS prevented white settlement in San Juan mining region prior to 1874. James Harrison, J. K. Mullen, and George Boughton established a temporary camp near the mouth of Henson Creek in 1869, but they remained only a few months. A party of three men prospected the area southwest of Lake San Cristobal in 1872. They located two claims, but did not work them for two years. Continued violations of Indian boundaries by prospectors almost resulted in open warfare, when, in May, 1874, by the Brunot Treaty, the United States Government induced the Ute Indians to cede a strip of land sixty miles wide and seventy-five miles long to the Government.

In June, 1874, the Colorado territorial legislature created Hinsdale County, naming it for George A. Hinsdale, prominent Pueblo attorney and Lieutenant Governor of Colorado in 1865. The county seat was San Juan City in Antelope Park.

Prospectors and miners came slowly to the new county until the spring of 1875. In November of the previous year, Enos T. Hotchkiss, while leading a road survey party over the divide from Sagauche, discovered the rich ore deposits at the north end of Lake San Cristobal. This discovery later bore the name, The Golden Fleece, and news of its discovery started the first great rush to the Lake City Valley. Later that same year, land speculators, Eugene Bartholfs, B. A. Sherman, Finley Sparling and others laid out the Lake City township and entered it in the Land Office at Del Norte. Early in September, 1875, the Lake City Town Company was formed, with Henry Finley, President; F. Newton Bouge, Secretary; and W. T. Ring, Treasurer.

History was made rapidly in Lake City as new lodes were discovered and prospectors and settlers streamed in, especially from the East. Immigrants settled in the valley, rather than in San Juan City, so, early in the fall, at a special election, the voters decided to move the county seat to Lake City. By November, 1875, the town had sixty-seven completed buildings and about 400 inhabitants. The Ute and Ulay mines, located by Joe Mullin, Al Meade, and C. E. Godwin, were producing ore, as was the Golden Fleece and other mines in the area.

The *Silver World*, Lake City's pioneer newspaper, observed; "The influx of strangers is astonishing, not an hour passes but our streets are thronged with new faces; and, every day sees some new families who have pitched their tents in our midst." Henry Finley operated a large sawmill

to furnish lumber for the boom. Saloons and stores appeared almost like magic to entertain and to supply the newcomers.

People flocked to Lake City by the hundreds during the spring and summer of 1876. The Crooke brothers erected an ore concentration mill at the upper end of the town. Two new sawmills and a planing mill vainly tried to supply the demands for lumber. The local newspaper reported that:

Lots in town jumped from a mere nominal value to hundreds of dollars. Buildings of every description: the rude cabin and enormous warehouse; the sanctuary and the gilded saloon; log, frame, brick, and adobe rose on every hand. The oldest residents could scarcely recognize the town after a week's absence. Nearly every luxury that gratifies the palate of New York and Chicago could be bought. . . . All was bustle and activity.

By mid-summer, 1876, the Lake City correspondent of the *Rocky Mountain News* estimated the population to be about 1,000, with 2,000 more along the creeks, and in nearby gold areas. Six to twelve wagons arrived daily, traveling over the Sargauchie and San Juan Toll Road, bringing new settlers, many of whom camped only long enough to lay in supplies then moved on into the hills to prospect. Miners were scarce; prospectors were numerous.

The first boom continued through 1877. The population expanded to over 2,000, including migratory prospectors who drifted from one mining camp to another. One thousand houses were completed or under construction in a short time. By April, Long and Wood provided daily wagon service from Pueblo, to accommodate travellers, and others arrived by every means of conveyance then available.

The town completed the construction of the County Court House in June, 1877, at a cost of \$4,450. The two-story white frame building faced Hinsdale Street, between Third and Fourth. It contained five offices on the first floor, and two offices and a large courtroom on the second floor. The structure measured thirty by sixty feet.

Life was not easy for the early comers, but, those who came to Lake City during the first boom years found several stores which offered for sale fresh eggs, butter, and garden vegetables, brought in from nearby ranches. White flour, shipped from Denver, sold at \$30 for a hundred pound sack, but prices of locally produced staples sold for a considerably less amount. The high altitude, 8,663 feet above sea level, increased cooking time for beans and potatoes. B-ginners had difficulty adjusting to cooking tables, changed measure ments, and other requirements to compensate for the altitude variance.

During the fall and winter of 1877-78, the first boom period in Lake City's history ended. In 1878, the influx of fortune seekers yielded to a slower settlement of more permanent residents. The larger share of the first-comers were disappointed. The local newspaper, *The Silver World*, observed that, "They had come with no knowledge of the country, mines, or mining, and most had no special skills. The exodus of these men was as great as their coming, and as rapid." Meanwhile, businessmen with capital arrived and remained to establish the permanent town. In this connection, it is interesting to note that many of these men were of good taste and cultured background. One resident recalled in his book, *Pioneering in the San Juan*, that "Among the men who came to the camp were many who had been trained in fine Eastern homes." Another man wrote

that, "Men here are intelligent, even aristocratic, many of them quote Shakespeare."

Early in 1880, the *Silver World* observed that, Lake City has not grown as rapidly as many hoped, but it is on a sound basis. Mines are being developed and look better all the time. People are investing confidently in the mines, as their worth has been proven.

During the summer, new life and spirit was observed in Lake City, and the greatest mining boom in the town's history began. It lasted until early 1882. The Ulay mine, the best in the immediate vicinity, as well as mines south of Lake City along the Lake Fork, were worked. In addition, Sherman and Burrows Park became bustling camps which depended on Lake City for supplies.

Lake City ably furnished the needs of the area. The town now had seven lawyers, four doctors, one assayer, eight wagon makers and black-smiths, ten saloon keepers, twenty-seven merchants, three bakers, five druggists, one banker and two engineers. Among the business establishments were three meat markets, two cigar-stationery stores, six saloons, five hotels, two jewelers, six clothing and shoe stores, four hardware shops and seven grocery stores. A small mountain city was emerging.

Yet near the end of 1881, a decline of the second boom became apparent. The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad ceased construction to Lake City, due to financial stress; and the absence of cheap transportation lessened the value of the region's silver mines. A few new mines opened in the Engineer Mountain area during the summer of 1882, which somewhat eased the economic strain.

In spite of the reduced economy, Hall and Felders Pharmacy boasted the first high marble soda fountain in Lake City. It was installed June 20, 1882. Of greater importance to the community, however, was the completion of the new Opera House, November 1, 1883. Located on the southeast corner of Third and Bluff Streets, the red brick structure measured one hundred twenty-five by fifty feet. Small club rooms formed the second story, while the main floor accommodated 400 dancers and provided seating and stage facilities for public entertainments.

The Ute and Ulay mines provided the stabilizing factor in the economy of Lake City. No recession could be too severe, as long as these silver mines operated at, or near, capacity. However, they closed in the fall of 1883, and Lake City slipped from hard times to a full scale depression. The economic status of the town remained stagnant until 1887, when the Ute and Ulay mines re-opened. Some slight recovery was noted in 1887-88, when new mines opened and old discoveries were re-worked.

In August, 1889, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad completed its spur line from Sapinero to Lake City, "one of the deadest camps in Colorado." The railroad brought a measure of prosperity, and stimulated mining operations for the next ten years. In 1890, twenty mines in the area shipped ore. The Ute and Ulay mines produced over \$400,000 in silver, and carried a monthly payroll of \$20,000. The following year brought the discovery of rich new lodes in the Golden Fleece mine. By 1895 the activity produced the third and last real boom in Lake City's history.

In spite of the variance in economic stability, the town improved its facilities during the last decade of the century. In 1890 a municipal water system was installed with money raised through the sale of municipal

bonds. An electric power plant supplied homes and streets with electricity after 1891. Residents built new sidewalks and renovated houses and yards at regular intervals. The three mining booms which generated alternate periods of prosperity and depression, conditioned the permanent townspeople to a form of Stoicism which permitted them to proceed with long range plans in proportion to available means. Each new period of prosperity brought its influx of newcomers who remained to join with the permanent core of residents. Some moved on when the prosperity dwindled.

Those who remained, optimistically and patiently awaited the next boom. They also built a society and community patterned after eastern models. They were not Utopians or radicals; but, men and women who hoped to re-create a bit of their former life pattern, while increasing their prosperity in the mountains.

Chapter 11

Rail, Stage, Wagon and Snowshoes

IN AN ISOLATED mountain community such as Lake City, social and economic development depended largely on the travel and communication facilities which linked it with outside markets. Promoters, merchants, and settlers throughout the San Juan realized this, and worked constantly for better roads and lines of communication. This was especially true in Lake City, since it was the supply point for Animas Forks, Silverton, Ouray, Mineral City, Capital City, and other smaller San Juan mining camps. This supply trade helped maintain Lake City during the years when mining was not profitable.

The first road to serve the Lake City valley was the Sagauche and San Juan Toll Road built under the direction of Enos T. Hotchkiss. A celebration by the people of Lake City and Del Norte greeted its opening in August, 1874. Prior to this only a rough 200 mile trail linked the two towns. The completion of Otto Mears' Antelope Springs and Lake City Toll Road during the summer of 1875 cut the distance over the Continental Divide from Del Norte to Lake City in half and was heralded by another celebration in Lake City. The immigrants of 1876-78, traveling by two-horses and wagon, paid a three dollar toll to use the new road, if the weather permitted.

In July, 1875, Barlow and Sanderson's Stage Line began tri-weekly coach service from Sagauche to Silverton, via Lake City. The missionary preachers, Alexander and George Darley, used this line in their early journeys to Lake City. George Darley later recalled,

Travelling in the San Juan was not considered great pleasure by many, partly because of the poor condition of most of the roads. Corduroy, holes, stones, stumps, steep grades, and mud were characteristic of the roads. Curves were very sharp, for that reason four horses were all that one stage driver could handle.

Despite the hardships, the *Silver World* found many attractive features presented to the travellers. Among these were, two or three cold soda springs, one soda and iron, and a big hot soda spring, in the waters of which the editor found what he thought to be "many health restoring constituents."

The new roads brought so many settlers that mail service was soon established. Stephen A. Dole received his commission as Lake City's first postmaster in July, 1875. He established a post office on upper Gunnison Avenue, and the town was invited to help celebrate the event in an open

house on July 1, 1875. Barlow and Sanderson's Stage Line carried the mail to Lake City and Silverton in leather sacks strapped on top of the tri-weekly coaches. When winter snows made the roads over the Divide impassable, the mail was carried by men on sleds or on snowshoes.

Snowshoes were also used to carry the mail from Lake City to Silverton and Ouray. Service was started to Ouray in January, 1877. Horses were used after April 1, when the trails were clear of all but the deepest snow slides.

In April, 1877 Barlow and Sanderson began daily passenger and mail service to Lake City. At this time, one traveller noted that:

The road was icy and steep; far below was the bottom of the canyon; the stage driver swished around the curves at a perilous rate. The horses slipped and sometimes fell on the icy spots and the stage coach careened from side to side.

The two roads were bringing a constant stream of humanity, by foot, horse, wagon, and coach to the San Juan.

Nearby camps were served by local freighters. Heavy loads, rough and hazardous roads, combined with unpredictable weather, made teamsters among the hardest men on the mountain frontier. They used spiked shoes and oxen and horses to combat mud, snow and ice. At best freighting was a difficult job. In April, 1877, Oatman and Franklin's coaches from Lake City started tri-weekly service to the Forks of Henson Creek. The next month, G. O. Vaughan began freighting to the thirty miners in Burrows Park. Others would soon follow.

Through the summer, F. C. Garbutt and J. J. Abbott directed the construction of the Henson Creek and Uncompahgre Toll Road. It ran west from Lake City to Capital City, Engineer Mountain, Mineral Point, and Ouray. The road was completed and opened August 1, 1877. It constituted the only good wagon road connecting these points with the outside world. In June, 1880, the road to the Gunnison valley was opened giving Lake City an excellent outlet to the north. Several excursions between Lake City and Ouray were made to celebrate the new road. These excursions travelled the 36 miles between towns over the 13,190 ft. Engineer Pass, and returned the following day. Thus within its first two years, Lake City became the focal point of the roads leading into the San Juan mining area.

Telegraphic communications with the outside world were opened at 5:40 P.M., November 4, 1879. D. W. Bouton, the Lake City operator, sent a short greeting to the Governor at that time. The state leader returned a congratulatory message to the delight of all.

Two years later, in May, 1881, the first telephone message was sent from Lake City. During the summer, the lines were extended up Henson Creek and over Engineer Pass to Silverton, Ouray, Capital City, and other towns in the San Juan. From the beginning, the telephone business was heavy between Lake City and Ouray as merchants found the new communications facilities very useful.

The telephone was used, not only for business, but for pleasure and entertainment. During the winter, telephone concerts were regular and popular. On Sunday evening, October 9, 1881, D. W. Bates, the Lake City operator, and Mrs. George Lee at Capital City inaugurated the concert events by singing several duets for listeners. Then performers at Rose's Cabin, Silverton, and Ouray joined in while the listeners enjoyed the popular songs, duets, and instrumental pieces. A description of the concert

of October 20, 1881, was given in detail by the *Silver World*:

Amateur and professional artists gathered in Silverton, Baker's Park, Ouray, Mineral Point, Animas Forks, Rose's Cabin, Capital City and Lake City. All were connected by the new telephone system; while the residents of the respective towns were invited to listen to the entertainment. A vocal and harmonica solo by Judge R. F. Long of Ouray opened the program.

This was followed by a flute solo by David Reed in Ouray; a violin solo by W. Champlin at Rose's Cabin; a concert by a Silverton Choral Group; and a Swiss Yodel by Charles Adams at Mineral Point. From Lake City, C. F. Hilgenhaus entertained the listeners with a zither solo; and William Kellogg followed with a banjo selection. Lake City closed the program with a tenor horn solo by W. P. Harbottle and several songs by a local quartette. These telephone concerts continued throughout the winter of 1881-82, but ceased during the summer and were not revived the following winter.

There were no great improvements in Lake City's transportation and communication facilities until the summer of 1889. In August of that year, a thirty-six mile long narrow gauge branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad was completed from Sapinero, on the Gunnison River, to Lake City. The company was incorporated in Hinsdale County in 1880 and had made a survey the next year. Work on the line was started, but financial difficulties caused work to be shortly suspended, and construction was not resumed until 1888.

Completion of the railroad brought new life to Lake City. Throughout the 1890's there were two trains daily from Sapinero. These carried freight and passengers and stimulated the prosperity of Lake City during the 1890's. Early travel to and from Lake City had been over one of the several toll roads which were built in the area. Town celebrations were held as each was completed; and, without the toll roads and later the railroad, Lake City could not have enjoyed the prosperity which enabled it to develop as it did.

Chapter III

Spreading the News

THE CONVERSION OF A TOWN site into a settled community was not instantaneous; nor, was the attraction of a resident population automatic. Yet, during the early years in Lake City, the continuing efforts of local promoters, and the lure of anticipated profits, resulted in the establishment of a permanent basis for future town life.

Placer miners constituted the bulk of the population in the earliest years. They followed the lure of gold from one district to another, remaining in one area only until news of a better "strike" lured them elsewhere. With shovels, a pan and a pick the prospectors could determine the value of their claims by simply weighing the gold dust collected. Rumors were abundant on the mining frontier, hence the prospectors moved frequently. Generally, they were the first to come, and the first to leave each district.

Early mountain town developers knew that permanent development of their projects would depend on a more enduring basis for continuing settlement. Consequently, they welcomed, and often sponsored the arrival of pioneer newspaper editors, who were among the first settlers. The paper they issued would, hopefully, advertise the area and call residents with investment mining capital.

For the first fifteen years of its history, Lake City was served by five newspapers. The *Silver World* ran continuously from 1875 to 1888, when it became the *Sentinel*. In less than a year, the *Sentinel* failed but was almost immediately revived as the *Hinsdale Phonograph*. A Democratic paper, the *San Juan Crescent*, was unable to compete with the *Silver World* in 1877-78, and died thirteen months after the first issue. The independent mining and commercial paper, the *Lake City Mining Register*, was active during the five years after 1880. In 1885, the editor discontinued publishing this weekly.

No newspaper was published in Lake City in 1890; but, the next year two papers were started which served the community until after the turn of the century. These were the *Lake City Times* and the *Lake City Phonograph*.

Otto Mears was largely responsible for starting Lake City's, as well as the Western Slope's, first newspaper, the *Silver World*. Mears reasoned that his toll roads and land investments would pay only if miners and settlers from the East could be drawn to the San Juan. Since large-scale advertising in eastern papers was expensive, Mears concluded that small, local papers would best serve the San Juan. They could supply interested readers with information on mining camps and provide local news for the

area residents. Local papers would have the added advantage of being largely self-supporting. Consequently, in 1872, one year after the construction of the toll road west from Sagaouche had been started, Mears financed the *Sagaouche Chronicle*. Soon after the road was completed to Lake City, Mears persuaded Harry M. Woods and Clark L. Peyton to edit a Lake City paper, the *Silver World*. So sound was Mears' reasoning, that some declare it was the publication of this paper which started the first Lake City boom.

During the spring of 1875, Woods and Peyton had the material for the new paper brought in from Sagaouche by wagon. An office was established on Silver Street in a log cabin which had a dirt floor and sod roof. Eleven days later, on June 19, 1875, the first issue of the *Silver World* appeared with this comment: "We lack all the conveniences of most printing offices, but we are still happy. We could have made it more readable, but we were anxious to get it out." So anxious were the editors to distribute, as well as to publish the paper without delay, that H. M. Woods carried the mail edition of the first *Silver World* on horseback to the nearest post office, Del Norte, 110 miles away.

Many subscribers in the area, and a few over the nation, soon joined Otto Mears, the first paying subscriber, as news and interest in the region spread. By June, 1876, on the paper's first anniversary, there were over 700 paid subscriptions. Firewood and produce were accepted in lieu of cash during the early years. Half-year subscriptions and single copies could also be obtained. Subscribers were clearly informed of the purpose and aims of the *Silver World* in its initial editorial:

We dip our colors to the public to supply the needs of the San Juan Country for a paper. The *Silver World* has now been inaugurated and now makes its bow. We don't believe that our mission is to make or unmake nations, hence we shall not dabble in politics; believing that all miners and prospectors are fully supplied with religious reading, we shall preach no sermons. Thus, we will have nothing pressing on our time to prevent our giving full and complete reports from this and adjacent mining districts. These are the colors under which we shall sail, and having dipped them to the public, we nail them to the mast. Reader, if you want to sail with us, the fare is \$3.00 for one year.

The format of the first issue endured, with only minor alterations throughout the life of the *Silver World*. Page one was devoted to articles and stories from other sources. Such stories as, "The House that Bowen Built," and "Spoiled His Piety," were included on the first page of the June 19, 1875, issue. Historical comments, national and state news highlights, and some mining news filled page two; page three contained local items and more detailed regional mining news. The last page was devoted to humor, jokes, and such stories as, "The Flirtation." County legal notices and city ordinances were also printed, usually on page three.

Much space throughout the paper was devoted to local advertising. During the first year over one-third of the paper, between eleven and thirteen columns, was devoted to advertisements. Some told the merits of the *Silver World*, Lake City, or the San Juan mining region; others called attention to local and state merchants and stores. There was little advertising of national products until January, 1881; and none at all during the first three years the paper was published. Each week special attention was given to new advertisers by including their notice under the headline, "New This Week." Three to five new announcements by professional and business enterprises comprised this column, and reflect the rapid rate of economic

expansion in the camp during the early boom. Irregular advertisements cost \$1.50 per column-inch for each insertion; regular advertisements cost two dollars per column-inch each month. Rates for public notices were \$1.50 per column-inch for the first insertion and one dollar per column-inch for subsequent insertions. Legal notices were twenty cents per line.

On Lake City's first Independence Day, editor Woods noticed that no one in town was flying an American flag in honor of the occasion. He requested Billy Grimes, an employee, to produce one. The dutiful Grimes, finding none available, made Lake City's first flag and flew it from the log cabin office. He used red and blue flannel shirts and a white towel to make the flag, perfect in every detail, except that it had no stars.

The editors had faith in America, the West and the future of Lake City. During the years the paper served the community, it constantly advised the citizenry of needed improvements and potential sources of new wealth in the area. As early as July, 1875, one editorial stated:

Those whose duty or inclination causes them to cross Gunnison Avenue after night are in danger of breaking their necks by stumbling over the old roots standing therein. We suggest the appointment of some day as a general "frolic" for the removal of those nuisances.

Two weeks later, the paper reported: "The residents on Gunnison Avenue turned out *en masse* on Tuesday and removed most of the grubs and stumps from the street." *Silver World* editorials later called attention to the town's need for a fire company and a water system. These editorials also produced results.

As Lake City grew and improved, so did its newspaper. In August, 1875, the office was moved from the old log cabin to the second story of the new Finely Building, where it remained until May, 1876. These quarters were described as being as "neat and commodious an office as any newspaper establishment in southwest Colorado can boast of." Late in 1875, local subscribers could obtain their copy of the weekly at the post office, rather than the publisher's office. During May 1876, the editors again transferred their operation to a small frame building on Third Street between Silver Street and Gunnison Avenue. In June, the press and office were set up at Second and Silver Streets, in the largest and most suitable building yet occupied by the paper. These spacious quarters were equipped to make visitors comfortable, as well as to publish the *Silver World*.

On September 15, 1876, Harry M. Woods, pioneer editor of the paper, retired, and sold his half interest in the enterprise to Henry C. Olney. Clark L. Peyton remained with the paper. Olney and Peyton promised to continue to use the *Silver World* to develop and improve Lake City, Hinsdale County, and the San Juan. In October, the paper announced the opening of the largest job printing office south of Denver.

Olney and Peyton expanded their paper as the community grew. They added an extra column to each page in December to accommodate more regional and mining news. In March, 1877, the special "San Juan Supplement" to the *Silver World* was issued. Within a month over 1,500 copies of this four-page descriptive supplement had been distributed. At the same time, the paper was given a new masthead - "*Silver World*, Devoted to the Mining and Industrial Interests of the San Juan." By June, 1877, the paper had over 1,000 subscribers in every state and territory and several European countries. The load was too heavy for the old Washington hand press, so it was replaced with a new Campbell power press. The editors also engaged special correspondents in all the San Juan mining camps to



THE ORIGINAL OFFICE OF SILVER WORLD, Lake City pioneer newspaper. Located on Silver Street, near the town's center. The original Washington Hand Press, used by the paper, is now located in The Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City, Okla.

gather news. By the summer of 1877, the *Silver World* had grown to a first class newspaper. News was complete and accurate, circulation was wide, and advertising was of high quality and reflected the growing economy of Lake City. By August, 1877, eight columns on each page were required to handle the volume of news and advertising; and the page size was increased to twenty-six by forty inches, compared to the former twenty-four by thirty-five inches.

The *Silver World* continued to enlarge during most of 1878. Some emphasis was placed on news from Ouray and other mining areas in the San Juan. In January, a new type was used, which was clearer and much easier to read. The editors boasted that their paper was "the handsomest weekly in the state."

In March, 1878, Clark L. Peyton sold his interest to his partner, Henry C. Olney, who was the sole owner and editor during the following nine years. The paper was cut to seven columns per page in November, 1878, but otherwise it changed very little. William Penn Harbottle joined the enterprise in the summer as associate editor. He travelled in the region, gathering and writing news of the mines and camps. When he returned to the East in November, 1879, his place was taken by Frank W. Parmalee, an

experienced newspaperman. The news gathered by these men enabled the *Silver World* to boast that it contained more mining information than all the other papers of the San Juan combined.

The paper continued, with few changes, throughout the early eighties. Editorially, it supported the Murphy Temperance movement and other campaigns designed to uplift community life. Editor Olney felt the collapse of the boom period in August, 1881, to be a good thing, because:

It portends a more stable, orderly future growth on a sound basis. Our towns have been largely deserted by the bad characters; snide operators have found their level and have been driven out by public sentiment or inability to longer ply their vocation; our business houses are now in fair proportion to the demands of the surrounding camps.

In August, 1885, Olney leased the paper to A. R. Pelton, and subsequently, it changed hands several times. Gideon R. Propper and James Galloway each edited and published the *Silver World* for brief periods before Frank E. Dacons took charge in 1888. Dacons changed the name to the *Sentinel*. After less than a year, the paper, under this name, suspended publication. In 1889, Walter E. Mendenhall ran the paper for nine months under the name, *Hinsdale Phonograph*. The failure of this attempt ended the fourteen-year career of the original *Silver World*.

It is not possible to measure accurately the value of the *Silver World* to the development and economy of Lake City during its first fourteen years; however, there can be little doubt that Otto Mears' reasoning was sound. The wide circulation of the paper, together with its high quality and accurate reporting of news, in all likelihood, attracted many settlers to the San Juan and Lake City.

Soon after Harry M. Woods retired as editor of the *Silver World*, he and Thomas Reynolds started another paper, the *San Juan Crescent*. The first issue was published July 19, 1877. The editors explained:

We propose to publish a first class weekly newspaper in the town of Lake City. We are led to undertake the enterprise from a belief that the growing demands of the town and the country will justify the establishment of another paper, and will support it. . . . The ends we hope to attain are a material advancement of the proprietor's personal and pecuniary interests; to assist in the development of the rich mineral country surrounding us, and to aid and contribute to the success of the Democratic party, for of such political faith are we.

A job printing office was operated by the publishers in connection with the paper. The office was located on upper Gunnison Avenue, over a store, and the paper was issued every Thursday. It had a neat appearance, having slightly smaller pages than the *Silver World*. Advertising was plentiful, but each notice was small in comparison with those in the competitive paper. Both papers used the same format. A year's subscription cost three dollars. But, within thirteen months the *San Juan Crescent* had failed. Lake City was not large enough to support two papers. Even though Tom Reynolds was a good printer, and Harry Woods an excellent editor, a Democratic paper could not compete with the *Silver World*. Reynolds returned to his former home, Joplin, Missouri; while Woods retired to New Mexico.

The year 1880 witnessed the start of the greatest boom in Lake City's history. The Crooke and Ocean Wave smelters were operating, and mines along the Lake Fork and Henson Creek were being worked. The Golden

Wonder mine received wide publicity, and that year miners and merchants swelled Lake City's population to nearly 2,000.

James L. Downey felt that with the expanded economy, Lake City warranted and would support a second paper—devoted exclusively to the mining interests of San Juan, and, as he said, "eschewing politics entirely, and paying but scant attention to current events, except such as occur in its immediate vicinity and are of importance." On May 21, 1880, Downey began publishing his paper. Hereafter, it appeared every Friday, bearing the subtitle, "Published in the Richest Silver Field in the World." The four-page, seven-column *Lake City Mining Register* was arranged much like the *Silver World*. Advertising, stories and poems were found on page one; editorials and mining notes on page two; state and local news on page three; with the last page much like the first. Some advertising was found on all pages; yet, the largest portion of the center pages was filled with news.

The *Lake City Mining Register* started with no subscribers. By January 1, 1881, 600 people had paid the three dollar yearly rate. Offices were located on Third, near Silver Street. Downey always tried through the paper to develop interest in the mining and business opportunities in the San Juan and, particularly, near Lake City. The paper was non-partisan and stressed complete and accurate mining news from the entire region. The *Denver Tribune* reported that Downey received over \$700 in contributions from the enterprising businessmen of Lake City, to pay for starting publication of the *Lake City Mining Register*. It was, as its name implies, the commercial paper of the city, though local, church, social and educational news was not neglected.

The *Lake City Mining Register* grew and prospered for almost five years. On April 17, 1885, James F. Downey published the final issue. In an editorial he explained that he had received a liberal offer from the Democrats of Montrose to start a party paper there. Since the burden of two papers was too great for one man to do justice to either, Downey decided to accept the Montrose offer and discontinue the *Lake City Mining Register*. The next month he left for Montrose and his new undertaking, the *Montrose Register*.

The only year prior to 1917 that Lake City was not served by at least one weekly newspaper was 1890. Late in that year, a group of Lake City businessmen, headed by D. S. Hoffman, formed the Lake City Printing and Publishing Company, to supply the community's need for a paper. A. R. Arbuckle, formerly of Denver, was chosen to edit the new sheet, the *Lake City Times*. The first issue appeared January 15, 1891.

The editor made it clear in the first issue that the paper would not be the tool of any person, faction, clique or gang; nor, would it favor any one political party or religious group over another. "The *Lake City Times* only expects to show Lake City to outside interests as a good place to invest capital," said the paper's first editorial.

The format of the *Times* was not like the earlier papers. It contained very little fiction and humor; instead, pages one and four were devoted to mining, local, personal and state news. Page two contained editorials, letters from the mining camps, and brief news items from the nation. The third page was devoted to the San Juan and Lake City news.

Although the paper endured until 1917, the editors changed frequently in April, 1891, W. J. Furse became editor and manager of the paper, when A. R. Arbuckle returned to Denver. Furse remained until

May, when D. A. Farrell assumed his duties. Farrell kept the paper neutral in politics, but always for Lake City and free coinage. In September, 1891, O. H. Knight and W. J. Furse became joint editors and D. A. Farrell managed the paper. This team published the paper until the spring of 1893, when O. H. Knight assumed complete control.

Late in 1898, the *Lake City Times* became the *Silver World and Lake City Times*, edited by O. H. Knight. James G. Bates edited the paper in 1899 and 1900.

While the *Lake City Times* was devoted primarily to mining news of the region and the crusade for free coinage of silver, it occasionally entertained and amused its readers. In 1891, the usual preparations for the town's Independence Day celebration had been made. In reporting the plans, the *Lake City Times* added, as a joke, the story of some added attractions of the day. All were invited to join one of the excursions to:

See Stop and Hitch's mammoth circus and Mullet Head's menagerie. These two attractions plus the entire Buffalo Bill Wild West show and Charlie Davis' Burro-Leopard will be in Lake City July 4. Madame Estella Precilla de Francisco, the largest woman on earth, weighing 1800 pounds, will appear and ride a monster elephant. The most beautiful woman on earth, secured at a salary of \$10,000 will be seen; as well as 15 charlots, 8 lions, 4 tigers, 1 hippopotamus, 85 elephants and many other wild and exotic animals.

No one was surprised when the day passed and was enjoyed in the usual manner, void of the special attractions announced in the *Lake City Times*.

The coming of the railroad in 1889, and the subsequent mining boom ushered in the third period of prosperity in the history of Lake City. During the 1890's two fine papers were published.

Soon after the *Lake City Times* began serving Lake City, Walter E. Mendenhall, former editor of the *Hinsdale Phonograph*, re-entered the publishing business as editor of the new *Lake City Phonograph*. The paper was descended from the original *Silver World*, and was much like it in format and editorial policy. The four-page, seven-column weekly was published by Mendenhall until 1893, when J. J. Gutherodt became editor and publisher. Harry A. Neal ran the paper in 1894, and Dwight Kidder in 1895. No file of the paper for these years is available. Between 1896 and 1910 John Uglow was editor, and from 1910 until 1912, when it was discontinued, Mendenhall again assumed editorship.

Lake City's newspapers were uniformly high in quality and in content. They sought, above all, to advertise Lake City and the San Juan. All were widely read in southwest Colorado, and enjoyed a modest nationwide circulation. Their value to the development of the region by attracting settlers and capital cannot be measured absolutely, but it may safely be assumed that Lake City and the surrounding area developed more rapidly with the encouragement and support given by its newspapers. The pioneer journalists saw it as their prime duty to promote the towns in which they located by advertising Lake City to potential settlers and investors.

Chapter IV

Man's Work and God's World

SINCE MOST PERMANENT settlers came from areas of the United States where churches and religious services formed an integral part of society, it was not surprising that ministers also found a warm welcome among early residents. Indeed, significant support sometimes came from unexpected sources. Pioneer ministers like George and Alexander Darley accepted frontier realities by visiting local saloons, where they could find a group to hear their sermons.

Alexander Darley recalled that the "sporting characters" did not insult ministers, but "treated them respectfully." Often the tinkle of glasses, clatter of roulette wheels, and noise of poker chips could be heard between verses of, "Jesus, Lover of my Soul," sung by worshippers in the back room of local saloons. Darley was not afraid to preach wherever he could find a receptive audience.

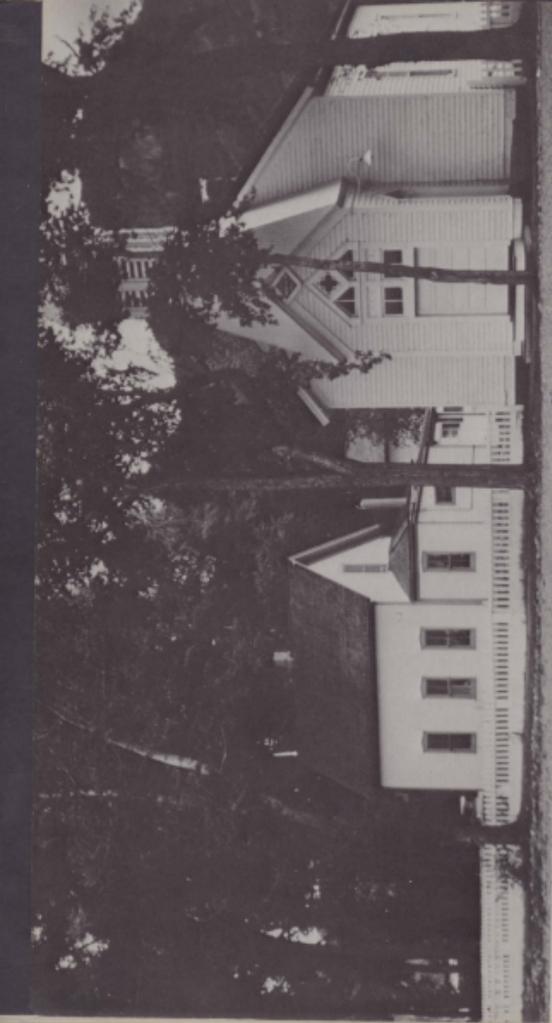
Yet, pioneer preachers envisioned more suitable quarters; and, in this, they quickly gained the support of the resident merchant-professional populace. They agreed with Darley that organized congregations and church buildings were necessary "if God was to receive His due in Lake City." Furthermore, churches would convey a tone of stability and respectability vital to an embryonic mountain town.

Still, the *Rocky Mountain News* found progress slow, as shown in an 1877 editorial, noting that:

The Sabbath, with its heaven-refining influences has as yet made but little impression upon the rough social stratum of Lake City. Many of the stores and places of public resort remain open, and the voice of the chuck-a-luck dealer and auctioneer is heard abroad in the land. The church people are gaining ground slowly, however.

Yet, H. G. Heath, an early resident, affirmed that, "The decent element was present." The outcome was the early establishment of six churches: Presbyterian, Baptist, Christian, Methodist, Episcopal and Catholic. Four church buildings were constructed and two temperance movements were begun within a short time.

The church bells of Lake City played a significant part in the town's early history. They called people to worship on Sunday, sounded the fire alarm, summoned the children to school, and tolled the number of years of the deceased as his cortege left the church for the cemetery. In fact, the sound of church bells reflected life in the community.



The First Presbyterian Church and Manse, located at Fifth St. and Gunnison Ave. It was built in 1877, and was not only the first church edifice in Lake City, but the first Presbyterian Church on the Western Slope of Colorado. The steeple houses the first ball brought to the city, which was used as a five dollar.

The combination of the two elements which composed the population of early Lake City was revealed in the comment of Ralph Horton, who reported that in the 1890's the gamblers and saloon keepers donated part of each week's "take" to one of the churches in the town. Some of the men carried the money in a paper sack and went to the selected church. They waited outside until the church was filled, then entered and made for the front pew where they sat and waited for the collection plate to be passed.

Of the six denominations represented in Lake City during the early years, the Presbyterian faith, because of seniority, should perhaps receive first consideration. The Presbyterians had the distinction of erecting the first Protestant church building, not only in Lake City, but on the western slope of Colorado. It was completed and dedicated November 19, 1876, with a charter membership of twenty-three.

The Reverend Alexander M. Darley, pastor of the Del Norte, Colorado Presbyterian Church and missionary pastor of the San Juan Country, is credited with the establishment of the Lake City Presbyterian Church. Prior to his arrival in the town, on June 17, 1876, he sent a packet of religious papers and tracts which were distributed by Henry Finley. For three days after his arrival, Reverend Darley called at every house and tent in the city and went six miles down the Gunnison River below the town and three miles above. He secured ten names to a petition to the Presbytery of Colorado for the organization of a church in Lake City.

This group held its first services in Brockett's Hall, Sunday, June 18, 1876, at eleven A.M. Five additional names were presented for membership and these fifteen were recorded as the charter members. Six different denominations were represented and only five had been members of Presbyterian churches elsewhere.

At the morning service, Anna Silverton Taft, born July 29, 1875, the first baby born in Silverton, Colorado, was baptized. This constituted the first sacrament administered in Lake City. At this same service, Shepherd G. Patrick, Jr. was examined and baptized. Church records show that, "He is the first person converted in Lake City and the first person to make a profession (public) of Christ here."

An organizational meeting was held following church services. After an opening prayer by Reverend Darley, Elder Stanley Larson of Del Norte was appointed clerk of the meeting. The charter members, other than Patrick who had been baptized, were accepted by letter and officers were elected. The elders and deacons accepted the Conscription of Faith and Government of the Presbyterian Church and were duly declared an organized church.

At the evening service, attended by 115 persons, the officers were installed. There was much interest and enthusiasm in the organization and in the plans for the erection of what would be the first church edifice in Lake City. At this time the first church collection in Lake City was taken. The \$8.50 was used for contingent expenses, \$2.00 for use of Wade's organ, \$2.00 for hauling it one-half mile and back, and the remainder for oil and the purchase of a "Minutes Book." This meeting also marked the first appearance of a church choir in Lake City.

Following the evening services another business meeting adopted a Sunday School constitution. Elders Sweetser, McConnell and Patrick, with Reverend Darley's help, prepared the constitution. The congregation also adopted a constitution for the Board of Trustees and rules of finance and beneficence.

The congregation made immediate plans to secure funds to build a church. Reverend Darley led the campaign and by Wednesday, June 21, cash and pledges amounting to \$518.75 had been received. The June 24 issue of the *Silver World* gave this account of these meetings:

The Church voted to build a building, a church, since there is no courthouse or school building in Lake City where services can be held. Reverend Mr. Darley has been circulating a subscription paper for money, material and labor to build the church. He is met with an encouraging degree of success and great sympathy from our citizens. Mr. S. Wade and his partner donated a lot for a parsonage. The Session has started a Wednesday evening prayer meeting (the first in Lake City) and a Bible School. The first evening prayer meeting assembled in the home of Mrs. R. W. Jordan last Wednesday. Bible School will meet next Sunday morning at 9:45, and regularly thereafter in the carpenter shop of Lyon and Turner. Reverend Darley will supply this church at present once a month, and hopes soon to get a resident pastor and regular Presbyterian services for Lake City.

Following the first prayer meeting, the Trustees ordered the purchase of two lots at Fifth Street and Gunnison Avenue. On August 13, 1876, Reverend Darley and his brother George came to Lake City to supervise the construction of the church. By November 12, the building was completed and ready for dedication.

The people of Lake City were proud of their first church. It was forty by twenty-four feet, with a

...seating capacity of 170 which can be increased. The ceiling is made with half circle corners and there are eight windows with eight panes each. The walls are lined with adobe for five feet from the floor and wainscoted with lumber, making the house real warm. The pews are of heavy pine, with moulded backs and paneled ends and rails of grain walnut. The lots cost \$225, the building about \$1200. A considerable portion was contributed in labor and material by builders and others. The Presbyterian Board of Church Erection gave \$500. The ladies of the church undertook the furnishings at a cost of \$300. An organ and Sunday School library are being arranged for. The building will be used by Presbyterian and Methodist denominations, alternately, with the two denominations uniting in union prayer meetings.

George Darley, having been made an Elder in September with authority to preach, received a commission as missionary for eight months from the Board of Home Missions in November and remained in Lake City as pastor until a regular minister could be secured. He held this position until 1880, and was a great influence for good in Lake City. In addition to the pastorate in Lake City, he also filled the pulpit in the Ouray Presbyterian Church, which he had organized. He made the trip between the two towns on horseback and, when necessary, on snowshoes, over the rugged Engineer Pass. He recorded his experiences in *Pioneering in the San Juan*.

The November 12 dedication service for the new church was not held as planned. Reverend Darley announced that "he would not dedicate it (the church) while a dollar of debt remained." Of the \$800 yet to be raised, \$600 was subscribed that day and the remainder during the following week. Sunday, November 19, 1876, just a few months after the town was organized, the first church was dedicated. Elder George M. Darley

delivered the dedication sermon. It was followed by dedication and sacramental services conducted by Reverend Alexander M. Darley.

The ladies of the newly organized church promoted fund-raising projects to purchase furnishings, including an organ. They held suppers in Kostick and Kohler Hall on Houghland's Block, with entertainment provided by local musicians. The first such entertainment given in Lake City was on October 28, 1876. Similar benefit suppers continued to add to the church treasury, as well as to the social life of the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Little of Marshalltown, New Jersey, gave the church a bell in August, 1877. It was shipped, freight prepaid, to Pueblo. From there it was brought by team and wagon across the Continental Divide and two mountain ranges to be placed in a bell tower on the church. It was the first church bell in the town.

The bell became a focal point of interest from the time it arrived and was put in place by church volunteers. It could be heard for miles around. Men said, "As we came toward the camp, we heard the sound of a church bell and were surprised; for we had no idea there was a church in Lake City." This history making bell was replaced in 1882 when it developed a weak and cracked tone.

The Presbyterian congregation built a parsonage on the lot adjoining the church in the spring of 1879. On May 9 of that year, Reverend Darley invited his friends to a housewarming in the new manse; seventy-five guests came. Social games were played, skilled vocalists sang, and ladies provided refreshments of coffee, cake and apple tarts.

The first Sunday School in Lake City began as a Presbyterian school. However, Minutes of the Session of July 16, 1876, record a suspension of the Sunday School because "of the Methodists and others objecting. It is deemed best to let it remain so until Reverend Darley arrives to take charge of the situation." Apparently all differences were resolved and a union Sunday School started, as there is a record of a Christmas celebration given by the union Sunday School children, Christmas Eve, 1876, in the Presbyterian Church. The *Silver World* reported that the program included, "Christmas carols, solos, recitations and other amusements, all by the little folk; also, a Christmas tree with genuine Santa Claus giving out gifts."

Similar Christmas Eve celebrations of the Sunday School children became annual affairs. The December 24, 1879 observance was listed as the principal attraction for the young people. The *Silver World* reported on December 27, that the church was filled to overflowing. Two evergreen trees, illuminated with wax candles decorated each side of the rostrum. A program of songs and recitations preceded the distribution of gifts. On this occasion the Presbyterian Church received a silver communion service.

The church purchased a new organ in 1882 and the old organ was auctioned at a special meeting. Bidders paid fifty cents to get into the auction. The sheriff then locked the door until the organ was sold. John Mauer bid in the organ for \$62. Following the auction, the church choir gave a concert. A colored quartette, miners from Rose's Cabin, a boarding house and stage coach stop on way to Ouray, appeared on the program. This was the first time colored singers were heard in Lake City. Their voices were good, but the *Silver World* editor noted that "the bass sounded like sawing a spruce stick having splinters in the bottom of the cut."

Sunday School entertainments became a popular form of recreation for the children and even adults. The *Silver World* reported one such enter-

tainment March 6, 1881, as having a capacity crowd, with the "auditors" standing in the aisle to hear a program of choir music, vocal numbers by the children, flute and organ duets, and recitations. The program was followed with an address by the pastor, Reverend John Deoble, Presbyterian Sunday School services continued with few interruptions until 1900.

The ladies of the church were active with socials, benefits, programs, and public entertainments. The proceeds from these affairs were used to help defray church indebtedness, the pastor's salary, bell tower, organ, and any other church projects which needed financing. Representative of these socials were, oyster suppers, a "Poverty-Party," "Jug-Breaking contest," Ice-Cream Festival, local art display, and "Cob-web Party." The financial report, as printed in the *Lake City Mining Register*, January 30, 1885, showed that for the previous eighteen months the ladies of the Presbyterian Church had raised more than \$500. In addition, the social life of Lake City had been greatly stimulated.

Throughout the 1890's these social meetings continued. The *Lake City Phonograph* announced on June 4, 1898, a Strawberry and Ice Cream Social which would be held in Christian Hall on Saturday evening, June 11, as the annual entertainment of the Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church. All were cordially invited. The paper urged attendance, "as the Society is very needy." Church socials, according to Mrs. Ralph Horton, included elaborate china settings for all, with verses from the Bible printed on place cards. Native flowers were used in profusion for decoration.

The growth of membership in the Lake City Presbyterian church was slow but steady. Attendance at services, however, was large. Reverend George Darley, the first pastor, was the main attraction in the early years. "Darley," said the *Silver World*, "is a minister of the practical kind, who combines grace and faith with his work, building churches and preaching the Word."

George Darley was a most unusual man, but a somewhat unorthodox minister. On arrival in a community, he would go to the saloons to find an audience. The games were stopped and the fero tables became pulpits. The men in the saloons sang the old familiar hymns with rich and often trained voices. With bowed heads they heard the prayers and often listened to the sermons with tears in their eyes.

Darley, though adamant in his fight against evil and sin, was kind and sympathetic toward the erring. This is reflected in the account of the death of Magg Hartman. Magg was one of the "girls" who lived and worked in "Hells Acre," the segregated vice area of Lake City. The facts surrounding her death are told in the biography of Mary Bassett Franklin:

A man named Crowley was sick with pneumonia in a cabin above Sherman. The doctor who went there on snowshoes to attend him said that he must have a nurse. There was none available in Sherman or Lake City. A girl, Magg Hartman, from one of the dance halls in Lake City volunteered to go and nurse Crowley. She was up there a week before they brought him to Lake City, but owing to the exposure she had suffered, the girl came down with the same disease. The men were taking her to Lake City on a toboggan during a snow storm and were forced to stop at Boyd's cabin, two miles above the mill.

Mary Franklin had the girl brought to her house and cared for her until she was able to be taken to Lake City. A few days later she died.

Magg Hartman was not a church member, nor were her Lake City friends familiar with the inside of a church. Nevertheless, Reverend Darley was asked to preach her funeral service. He consented and went to the house where the service was to be held. As the "girls" came in from the various dance halls, Darley shook hands with each and spoke a kind word. All tension was removed as he read the 8th chapter of the gospel according to St. John. Tears came to all eyes as he proceeded with the funeral sermon. After the services, Darley accompanied the group to the burial ground.

Of the miners of the Lake City area, Darley said:

No class of men knew better how to treat a minister they liked in a royal manner, than the men who went into southwestern Colorado during the great San Juan "excitement" of '75, '76 and '77; nor could a more intelligent, plucky, warm-hearted set of men be found, men who knew what was right.

Darley's chief object as pastor was to promote temperance in Lake City. The Murphy Movement, as the temperance movement was called, came to Lake City soon after it was organized. Its pledge was, "With malice toward none and charity for all, I, the undersigned, do pledge my word and honor, God helping me, to abstain from all intoxicating liquor as a beverage, and I will, by all honorable means, encourage others to abstain." Signers of the pledge wore blue ribbons. Some of the saloon keepers boycotted merchants who wore this badge, because they felt the movement was harmful to business.

Darley, however, was fearless, and promoted the temperance movement in the area. Many in the community were willing to "swear off," as it was winter and they were short of cash. The signers were expected to "swear on" again when spring arrived and work in the mines resumed. It was agreed, however, that a few months of sobriety would do them good. Darley decided, therefore, to push the movement. Wisdom and courage were required and Darley was blessed with both. Christian men in the community were at first reluctant to attempt to fight the dance halls, gambling dens, and saloons. After all, they brought business to town. But, no one objected to Darley's use of the Presbyterian Church for lectures.

Darley gave his first lecture, December 18, 1877. The subject was, "Come Take a Drink." Posters using the title advertised the lecture. Some took the invitation literally and came to imbibe freely. They were disappointed but returned for more lectures and the church was packed every night. The Pastor's Register recorded, "Grand success! God is with us in the movement! Eighty-four signed the Pledge the first night." The lectures continued for thirty-one nights and over 600 signed the Pledge.

Darley reported that at first the whiskey element laughed at the idea of a temperance movement. Within a week, however, they organized to combat Darley and temperance. Some christian men were fearful that violence might result if Darley continued his forceful sermons. They attempted to slow his pace, but he became even more militant. At one meeting, a Lake City saloon keeper shouted, "Damn him, let him go! The more we say, the worse he gets."

The temperance movement gained impetus when, on New Year's Day, 1878, Mrs. George Darley arranged for a dance and organized the ladies of the church to hold Open House from 9 A.M. to 10 P.M. for men who were away from home. Long tables were set up in the hall, food in quantities was provided, and music was played throughout the day. The

Pledge was placed on a table near the door and by evening forty-five had signed it. It is significant that only two drunks were found on the streets of Lake City that New Year's Day.

The Reform Club was organized in 1884. Its objectives were similar to those of the Murphy Movement. This organization was responsible for bringing nationally known temperance speakers to Lake City. The first sponsored lecture of this type was given by Frank Alumbaugh, a popular temperance lecturer from Ottumwa, Iowa. He spoke before a large crowd and sixty more persons signed the Pledge. Lectures of this nature continued throughout the 1890's. Representative of the later speakers was Reverend David Tatum of the Friends Church, Chicago. The title of his lecture was, "The Home, the Saloon, and How to Save the Boys."

During the entire early period, the Presbyterian Church of Lake City functioned as a religious and moral center for the entire community. In addition to its own denominational services, the facilities of the church were made available for the use of other denominations, public entertainments and lectures of educational and religious nature.

The Episcopalians were the next to establish a church in Lake City. The following announcement appeared in the December 9, 1876 issue of the *Silver World*:

We the undersigned do, by authority of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Spaulding of Colorado, request all interested in the establishment of an Episcopal Church in Lake City to meet on Monday evening, December 11, at 7 P.M. at Draper and Kay's office.

W. M. Draper
C. B. Hickman
E. T. Hotchkiss
H. C. Olney

Plans were laid at this meeting to organize a church, and to build a rectory and church edifice. Money from friends in New York and churches in the East already had been promised. The following week the newly organized Episcopal Church Society arranged for lay readings to begin the last Sunday in December in Kostick's Hall. A choir was organized and an organ engaged.

By January, 1877, the Episcopalians established a Sunday School and regular services were scheduled. A church library was started with books donated by friends and churches in St. Louis, Chicago, and New York, as well as by Bishop Spaulding and Reverend Mr. Finch of Denver. In March, the Society purchased two lots at Fifth Street and Gunnison Avenue and prepared a temporary chapel.

The *Rocky Mountain News*, August 9, reported:

The Episcopal Society of Lake City worships in a little church just opposite the Presbyterian Church. The church, barring its high-backed pews, is finished off in the neatest and most fastidious taste. There is no regular pastor yet; but Bishop Spaulding, in his recent visit, promised one should be forthcoming shortly, and so they feel encouraged and pray and sing in the midst of all this Lake City wickedness.

Regular services continued without a pastor until May, 1880, when the *Lake City Mining Register* reported the appointment of Reverend A. D. Drummond, as the first Episcopal Rector to be called to the Church (St.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Fifth Street and Gunnison Avenue. This congregation was the second one to form a society in Lake City from which was organized the St. James the Less Parish. The church and church office were built in 1877. It still stands, an edifice of "the neatest and most fastidious taste."

James the Less Parish), in Lake City. The paper added that, the parish was built and organized by lay readings conducted by J. H. Simmons, a local resident. It had remained without a rector for more than four years, was free from debt, and owned seven good lots and a chapel.

Reverend Drummond began regular services and added a 3 P.M. Sunday Bible class for adults, taught by Dr. L. Lewis, Principal of the Public School of Lake City.

The Easter Sunday service in 1881 was described in the *Silver World*:

The chancel was beautifully decorated with native and conservatory flowers from Mr. Peuse's hot-house. The chancel rail was decorated with potted geraniums, evergreens, and silver and cut glass vases filled with flowers. The pastor preached a scholarly sermon and said he hoped for a large, constant attendance.

Reverend Drummond's wish apparently was not granted, for shortly he was transferred to the Gunnison church and there followed a break in the continuity of the Lake City services, though the Sunday School continued. The *Silver World*, July 22, 1882, asked this pertinent question:

Why does not some enterprising minister come to Lake City? The Presbyterian and Episcopalian pulpits are vacant. Lake City will give hearty welcome to a minister who has plenty of brains and sand to back him up.

C. Y. Grimes, a student pastor, came in June, 1891, to fill the St. James pulpit for the summer season. The new resident pastor, a student at Western Theological College, Chicago, was welcomed at a reception given

by the ladies of the church at the Occidental Hotel. Visiting pastors and occasionally Bishop Spaulding filled the pulpit until the following June, when Grimes returned for the second summer.

The St. James Mission parish church was incorporated in Lake City, August 5, 1893. Services continued at irregular intervals with only occasional resident pastors. Sunday School and young people's activities were conducted regularly by lay members.

As with other churches, the ladies of St. James contributed to the social life of the community. Not all their efforts were devoted to money raising projects, though they sponsored their share of them. Unlike some of the other denominations, the Episcopalians sponsored dances which provided an interesting and popular diversion for all. The best available music was provided and special entertainments were added. Franklin Hall was the scene of these regular Friday evening socials and dances.

The Episcopalian congregation, though small, included a number of the social leaders of the town. Their church edifice was not imposing in size, but it had a dignity and simplicity which was reflected in the reverence of its services. The contribution of this denomination to the social and cultural life of the town was immeasurable.

While the Presbyterians had the distinction of building the first Protestant church in Lake City, Reverend J. Moffatt, conducted the first Methodist divine services. "The service was held on Sunday evening, May 7, 1876. The *Silver World* editor found "the attendance large and the audience attentive."

The first Methodist Church services were conducted in the Presbyterian Church. Alternate Sundays were used by the two congregations, with Reverend Moffatt preaching for the Methodists. In August, 1877, the Lake City Methodists pressed the Conference in Denver for the appointment of a resident pastor. The Conference granted the request by assigning Reverend B. B. Dundas to this church. Lots on Second Street and Gunnison Avenue were purchased in September, 1877, and a parsonage was built.

By the fall of 1877, the Presbyterian congregation had progressed to the point of needing its church facilities full time, so the Methodist services were transferred to the school house. Reverend Dundas had been induced to take the pastorate at Lake City through the promise that a flourishing church could be built, and that his support would be provided by the church and the mission fund. With the approach of winter, this promise had not been fulfilled and the minister found it difficult to feed his family. To augment the meager treasury, the ladies of the church gave a successful benefit entertainment. An innovation in Christmas celebrations was sponsored by the Methodist ladies that same year, when a large Christmas tree was placed in the Court House for young and old of all denominations. A committee was on duty from 9 A.M. until noon to receive family gifts for the tree.

Beginning February, 1878, services for this congregation were held in the Court House. A notice which implied the decline of the Methodist Church appeared in the *Silver World*, November 2, 1878. It announced that the Methodist parsonage was vacant and available for rent. Services continued, however, with visiting ministers and lay leaders officiating. In 1880, at the Methodist Conference meeting in Georgetown, Colorado, Elder John H. Merritt, Director of the Southern Division of Colorado Methodist Churches and Missionaries, reported, "Animas City, Silverton,

Lake City are promising points, and invite attention."

Apparently the proposed attention was not directed toward the Lake City Methodists, for the Church lots, 17-19, block 59, SW corner Second Street and Gunnison Avenue, were sold by the sheriff for \$300, under a trust deed given to Mrs. B. B. Dundas by the Methodist Church. Colonel Charles McDougall was the buyer. From that time on those of the Methodist faith in Lake City worshipped with other congregations.

Reverend Father Hayes, parish priest of Del Norte came to Lake City in September, 1877, to solicit funds for the constructions of a Catholic Church. Subscriptions totaling \$800 were raised. While in Lake City, Father Hayes conducted High Mass in the Court House. It was understood a church building would soon be completed.

Although the Catholic Church was not completed as scheduled, Father Hayes conducted the dedicatory service January 6, 1878. The *Silver World* described the church as,

... From twenty-two by fifty-five feet. The plans were drawn by George Boggs, who did most of the construction work. The ceiling is arched, providing fine acoustics. Wainscoting three and one-half feet high of grained oak with walnut trim runs around the sanctuary walls. The painting is to be done by a professional artist. The altar will be marble and highly ornamented. An addition, fourteen by twenty-one and one-half feet is being placed on the rear of the building. It will be partitioned into two rooms and used by the priest.

By March, 1878, the church was completed. It bore the name, Catholic Church of St. Rose of Lima. Father J. H. Brinker conducted services through February, 1882. Father Quinn, of the Gunnison Catholic Church, travelled to Lake City to conduct services intermittently after that time. By the spring of 1883, the members had provided new pews and made other additions to the interior of the church.

The ladies of the Catholic Church provided socials, benefits, and dances to add to the recreation of the community. The first of these affairs was a fair and ball, September 27 and 28, 1877. A supper dance at the Army, sponsored by the Catholic ladies, became a regular monthly event. These parties were open to the entire community and very well patronized. The Christmas Eve Ball, an annual affair, was eagerly awaited. The ladies secured the best orchestra available, and provided special entertainment and refreshments as well.

In addition to the regularly sponsored dances, the Catholic ladies also arranged special Fourth of July celebrations for the entire community. The July Fourth, 1879, celebration took the form of a picnic at Bergen's Garden on Henson Creek. A platform thirty by sixty feet was constructed for dancing, good music was provided, and refreshments of ice cream and lemonade served.

The Catholic Church of Lake City did not provide regular services throughout the period, but a visiting priest made frequent trips to the town to conduct mass, and to administer to those of the Catholic faith. The attractive church still stands on a vantage point overlooking the business area of the city, its cross pointing heavenward, and its doors unlocked. Passersby may stop to worship at its marble altar.

The early history of the Christian Church in Lake City shows its distinguishing feature to be an interest in the youth of the area. More than a year before the church was organized, a small band of professors of the tenets of the Christian Church, had organized a flourishing Sunday School.

In addition to the Sunday School, a Young People's Christian Association was formed. Its activity was reported by the *Silver World*,

We have three neatly finished attractive churches and 2000 intelligent inhabitants here; yet, no resident clergyman. We do have the Y.P.C.A. though, and every Sunday interesting, instructive, and very entertaining exercises are conducted at the little church (Presbyterian). Last Sunday the theme was, "Moses, his birth, life, death and burial." Next Sunday there will be a song service.

The meetings of the Y.P.C.A. were regular, and in lieu of a pastor, one of Thomas Dewitt Talmage's sermons was read by an adult, or one of the members. The Christian Church group was given a costly organ in April, 1882. That same year, Sunday School was transferred from the Episcopal Church to the school house.

Reverend J. J. Sharrard, state evangelist of Christian Churches, arrived in Lake City July 21, 1883, to hold a series of night meetings. The results were gratifying. A church was organized with sixteen charter members. By the time Reverend Sharrard closed his meetings, thirty-two members had been added, twenty by baptism and twelve by letter. The baptismal service was conducted in the overflow waters of Ocean Wave Falls, just below town.

The newly organized congregation rented an old Gunnison Avenue dining hall and converted it to a permanent meeting place. The location became known as Christian Hall, and Reverend Sharrard conducted church services on alternate weeks. Special lectures and programs were given, in addition to regular church services. Among the attractions was the stereopticon exhibition, August 22, 1884. It provided a tour through England, France, Italy and views of a storm at sea. The scenes were life-size. Admission charge was 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. It proved a rewarding event for the mountain community.

As a further consideration for the young people, the members of the Christian Church organized a Bible Reading Society, March 15, 1885. Its purpose was stated as being "to make mutual improvement in the knowledge of the Bible by members."

As Usual, the ladies of the Christian Church were the fund-raising group. They sponsored dinners, programs, and public lunches on special days to add to their treasury. As a special project they renovated the meeting hall. The floor and benches were painted, curtains of lace for the windows were made, seats were upholstered and new chandeliers were installed. Miss Eva Corwin, a member, painted a rose design on red velvet for a cover for the reading stand. Funds for this special project were donated at a party in the home of E. H. Smith.

Congregation meetings were held in the Hall until late in 1891, when alternate Sunday services were conducted at the American House, Fourth Street and Silver Avenue. Interest in the Y.P.C.A. continued, with programs, benefits, and social affairs through 1898. Though no church building was constructed in Lake City, this group of dedicated citizens sponsored a religious program which had a definite and lasting effect on the moral tone of the community.

The first reference to a religious service in Lake City by a minister of the Baptist faith was the announcement, July 8, 1876, in the *Silver World*, that Reverend James Finch of Denver, Superintendent of Baptist Missions for Colorado, would preach in Overfield's new house, Sunday, July 9, at

11 A.M. Sunday School would be held at 3 P.M. No further record is available, however, concerning subsequent services until September 9, 1883. On that date the Baptist Church Record stated:

Agreeable to announcement, a gathering of Baptist friends, residing in Lake City, was held in the Presbyterian Church, for the purpose of considering the propriety of organizing a Baptist Church in Lake City. A committee on Church letters was appointed and officers elected.

Of those who attended the organization meeting September 9, sixteen became charter members of the church.

From the organization in September, 1883, to October, 1884, meetings were held, but no record was kept since the clerk was out of town. Reverend M. A. Clark, agent for the Baptist Publishing Society, preached at the Presbyterian Church in the morning of October 5, 1884, and at the Christian Hall in the afternoon. Members decided to begin regular covenant meetings on the first Monday in each month, with Bible study to be included with the regular church business. Attendance at these meetings was good and interest high.

An outgrowth of the covenant meetings was the promotion of the first Baptist revival. Reverend Clark began the meetings on March 8, 1885. At the end of two weeks, eighteen members were added to the church, thirteen by baptism and the remainder by letter. This brought the total membership to thirty-two, three having moved away. The baptismal service for those converted during the revival meeting was conducted in a large tank which was placed at the foot of Third Street. Water was taken from the creek and heated. Reverend Clark baptized the converts while the congregation sang hymns. A second result of this first revival was the organization of a Sabbath

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ON Bluff Street, overlooking the town. It is situated at the base of Crystal Peak. The first service was held in this church September 20, 1891. The church was dedicated in January, 1892. Services are still conducted in this edifice.



School. Members met March 8, 1885, in Mendenhall's home and elected officers for the school.

In December, 1885, the members moved the meetings from the homes to a rented hall in Houghland Block, and subsequently, to the Episcopal Church, where covenant meetings continued with fair regularity. The congregation was not large enough to support a full-time pastor, so visiting ministers filled the pulpit. However, in October, 1888, F. W. Reynolds was accepted as a member and became the church pastor as well. He was ordained by the Reverend Cameron of Denver, December 6, 1888.

The purchase of a church building site was the next important step taken by the congregation. Lots 13, 14, and 17 on Bluff Street were acquired January 23, 1889. The members passed a resolution, July 20, 1890, "to take steps for the creation of a church building." George Wilson, P. P. Kennedy and Mrs. Mary Taliaferro were appointed as a committee to solicit funds. All church activities were suspended until the new building was ready for occupancy. *The Lake City Times*, April 30, 1891, reported that the foundation had been laid.

The first service in the completed church was held September 20, 1891, at 2:30 P.M., with Reverend C. A. Parker, pastor, in charge. The congregation was very proud of the new building. L. R. Smoot said, "The churches in Lake City were all well built and a credit to any little city; the Baptist Church even had stained glass windows."

The progress of the church is reflected in the annual letter of 1892 to the Baptist Association. A summary of the year included: (1) a new building and regular Sunday services since its completion (2) a good congregation (3) success in the support of a full-time pastor for a year (4) a revival meeting in cooperation with the Presbyterian Church, and (5) a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor organized and meeting weekly to follow a course of Bible study.

The Baptist Church was dedicated January 17, 1892, with Reverend Alex Turnbull, State Missionary, preaching in the morning, and Dr. H. C. Woods, of Lincoln, Nebraska, visiting Superintendent of Home Missions, presenting the dedicatory sermon in the evening. The cost of the church was \$2,500, including \$2,252 for materials and labor, with the difference donated through work or material. A \$650 debt remained after all pledges were paid. The pastor assumed this debt.

The customary church difficulties arose but were resolved with satisfaction, as recorded in the 1893 annual letter to the association:

The Church has been open every Sunday. We have had a struggle for life at times, during the past few months; yet we still have clung to church and pastor. Our Sabbath School has been a marked success.

Reverend D. E. McGlashan was pastor from March, 1894, through April, 1897. According to Ralph Horton, Reverend McGlashan was trained in the ministry, but gave it up for ranching in the Gunnison valley. After making a great deal of money, he again took up preaching. He was well liked and always ready to help anyone in need. If money was short at the church, he would contribute heartily. Mrs. McGlashan was an accomplished musician and helped with the musical portions of the services.

A chief concern of the Baptist congregation in the early days was the conduct of its members. For example, a special meeting was called by the Trustees on December 25, 1894, to examine church members "taking part

in worldly amusements." Reverend McGlashan offered this resolution:

The church is opposed to any member taking part in worldly amusements, especially dancing, card playing, Sabbath desecration, and of the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and all other forms of vice contrary to God's law.

The 1896 annual letter to the association made note of the progress in this respect, by affirming, "The church has done much to elevate the moral standards of Lake City. Our growth has not been in numbers, but in spirituality."

The subsequent notations in the Church Record show admissions of guilt by members, promises to reform, and withdrawals from membership, by request, for those who failed to abide by the Church Resolution, were unanimously adopted at the December 25, 1894 meeting.

Generally, strict adherence to the tenets of the Baptist faith was followed. As might be expected in a frontier community, deviance did occur. Such did not escape the view of the loyal congregation. One such occasion arose when permission to use the church for a funeral service was denied. The deceased, Jesse Landers, had been an inmate of a penitentiary for a conviction of manslaughter. Released from prison, she had returned to Lake City where she died from tuberculosis. A church trustee refused the use of the church for her funeral. The girl's funeral was held in a store building instead. The sentiment of the congregation, and even of the town, was divided. However, the Church Record makes this notation concerning the disposition of the incident:

May 20, 1900—The Trustees officially closed the doors of the church against Reverend M. B. Milne from preaching the funeral sermon of Jesse Landers. But, the church repudiates the action of the Trustee. It is moved and passed that hereafter the church be open to all caste and color for funeral purposes.

It was reported that a few days after the funeral, the trustee responsible for refusing the use of the church was encountered by some of the deceased's friends in Crookerville, where he was riding in his buggy. He was removed from the vehicle and soundly buggy-whipped. Few extended him great sympathy.

The ladies of the Baptist Church, like those of other denominations, were active in fund raising projects for church expenses, and in socials for the entertainment of the community. The professional programs sponsored by these ladies included, M. R. Woods of Ottawa, Kansas, who gave his humorous lecture, "Marriage and Divorce" on August 5, 1891. The Fisk Jubilee Singers appeared on May 16, 1892, and Major J. M. Essington lectured on "The Benefits of the Keeley Cure to the Cause of Temperance" in May, 1893.

Unusual home talent socials included such diversities as a contest to see who could eat a suspended doughnut fastest with his hands tied behind his back; a sheet and pillowcase masquerade, in which prizes were given for the best costumes; an avoidupois social, in which an admission price of one-half cent per pound of weight was charged each guest; and a secret-dollar party, in which ladies of the church were required to earn a dollar and reveal the method used at the party. So, while dancing and other "worldly amusements" were frowned upon, the Baptist ladies seemed able

to provide acceptable entertainment for their members and the townspeople.

The early history of the Baptist Church, and its influence is reflected in the tribute paid to the minister who conducted the first revival held by the church. L. R. Smoot said:

I must pay tribute to perhaps the finest minister of the Gospel who ever went about the West, Reverend M. A. Clark. "Father Clark," he was called, and known and loved by everyone, no matter what denomination. He was truly a pioneer minister. He came from a position in an Eastern college, and from 1872 to 1896 preached throughout the wild and rough country, walking thousands of miles over the hills.

The white church with the stained glass windows still stands on Bluff Street. Its bell rings at intervals, when a visiting minister or missionary comes through the little city and stops to conduct a service for those of the Baptist faith and any others who wish to worship with them.

The religious influence in Lake City from the beginning of its history merits recognition. The churches and religious organizations waged a successful campaign against the destructive, immoral forces which are nurtured in a community experiencing phenomenal growth through the discovery of rich gold and silver lodes. The early establishment of religious centers, plus the persistent program of activity sponsored by the churches, combined to produce an indelible moral influence in the entire Lake City area.

Chapter V

The Three Rs and More

EARLY SETTLERS were not interested in creating new Utopias, or in radically changing familiar cultural patterns they had known in the East. As families arrived in Lake City, town leaders agreed with the statement, which appeared in an 1875 issue of the *Silver World* that, "A school is the greatest necessity here at present." Many residents were, themselves, educated and believed that a free public school system was essential to the stability and advancement of a growing community. Editorials promoting this school interest also appeared weekly. "Some movement should be inaugurated to erect a commodious schoolhouse and procure a teacher. Nothing speaks more loudly for the enterprise and permanency of a new town than a well regulated public school," was the theme of one editorial in the *Silver World*.

A few weeks later, T. H. Cannon announced the opening of a private school in Sparlings Hall on December 6. "All English branches will be taught," he said, "as well as bookkeeping and commercial mining law for those who desire to pursue extra branches." Tuition was three dollars a month, payable in advance for the regular course, five dollars a month for the extra course. The school was to be nonsectarian.

Not all the people in the area were financially able to patronize a private school. Since there was an unappropriated school fund in the county amounting to fifty dollars, the *Silver World* suggested that a petition be presented to the County Superintendent of Schools, asking for the organization of a Lake City School District. The limited county funds could then be supplemented with subscriptions and a school free to all might be supported.

Following this suggestion, Lake City residents met January 3, 1876, to organize a school district. Since adequate funds were not immediately available, the new board resolved to raise enough money by subscription for a three months term. A store building for school use was secured, money raised, W. A. McGinnis appointed as teacher, and on January 10, 1876, the first free public school opened in Lake City. Expenses for the proposed term were pledged by subscription. The subsequent terms were to be supported by a tax of five mills, levied on all taxable property in the district.

Twenty-eight students enrolled in this first school. The students' interest was keen and response to instruction rewarding. Of the twenty-eight, ten were listed as perfect in attendance during the first eight weeks period. The subjects taught included spelling, reading, bookkeeping, geography, primary geography, and mental arithmetic.

The citizens who attended the school meeting the following September were unanimous in deciding on a six months term to begin November 1. This was a determined step, particularly in view of the School District Report made by Secretary A. R. Thomson to the County Superintendent of Schools. The school census showed 103 persons between six and twenty-one years of age in the district, and sixty-one under six years. The enrollment for the previous term had been thirty, with an average attendance of nineteen. The salary for McGinnis was fifty-five dollars a month. School had been in session thirteen weeks, and only fifty dollars remained in the school treasury. Nevertheless, plans proceeded for the opening of school on November 1. A committee was appointed to secure a building and make other necessary arrangements.

The opening date was postponed when it was learned only \$700 had been collected by the school tax. This was insufficient for current needs. A special meeting was called, to consider ways and means to cope with this emergency. This significant note was added to the announcement, "It is especially desired that the ladies be present."

Apparently the presence of the ladies gave support to the struggling efforts, for the citizens voted to lease the Finley Building, and plans moved forward to open school as soon as possible. The ladies agreed to sponsor a benefit supper and ball, November 10, in Kostick and Kohler's Hall, to raise funds necessary to equip and repair the Finley Building. All ladies in the community were invited to participate in this project. The response was encouraging.

Meanwhile, the school board, confident that the ladies would be successful in raising necessary funds, scheduled a teachers' examination for Wednesday, November 1. Five applicants were examined. Colonel C. W. Adams and Mrs. Eugenia W. Olney received the highest grades, and were elected to teach for the ensuing term. Thus, the free public school of Lake City embarked on its second term.

The following year similar financial and housing problems arose. Tax collections were slow, and by January, 1877, there was no money in the treasury with which to pay teachers' salaries. Also, the temporary and inadequate housing in business buildings was not satisfactory. Poor heating and ventilation, plus leaking roofs were not conducive to good classroom work.

The need for levying a special school tax was clearly seen in the school report issued on February 1, 1876. There was a school debt of \$1,350 for teachers' salaries and \$1,200 for lumber, supplies, and rent. In addition, the school census reported 317 children between ages of six and twenty-one years, and 178 under six years in the district. The *Silver World* announced on March 2, a two-week vacation for the schools. The second term would resume March 11. There was no money in the school treasury, but arrangements had been made to advance money for teachers' salaries. Hard times were offered as the reason for slow tax payments.

Clearly, the present plan of public instruction was not reaching the objective set by those who urged the establishment of a public school system. People with families were beginning to leave Lake City. Town leaders were aware of the situation and sought a solution. The *Rocky Mountain News* noted the problem and offered a solution in an editorial, stating, "The question of building a schoolhouse has been troubling the people of Lake City considerably, to the conclusion that bonds is the only thing that will help them out of their quandry."

The school building idea had been given some momentum the previous year, when Samuel Wade had donated seventy-five lots to the school district for a building fund. The Lake City Town Company had increased the number by an additional gift of lots. By the spring of 1880 the decision was made to float a bond issue. Interest and enthusiasm was high over the proposed \$16,500 bond issue to build and equip a school building. It was of particular interest to the ladies, for a new school law permitted them to vote in a school election. The proposed bond issue carried, sixty to fifteen. June 15, in a public meeting, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved by the voters of this school meeting, held June 15, 1880, in District 1, Hinsdale County, that the Board of Directors thereof is hereby directed to purchase the site selected by us this night, and to negotiate the bonds of said District at a price not less than 90 cents and proceed at once to let contracts for the erection of the school house on such plans and terms as may be thought best for the interest of this District.

The Board of Trustees put Major Brockett in charge of the school funds. He was bonded at \$57,000. R. S. Roeschlaub, Denver school architect, was employed to draw plans for the building. The accepted plans called for a two-story structure of stone, with a full basement. Two large rooms on the main floor were planned to accommodate fifty-six desks each. The second floor was to have three rooms, one accommodating 110 desks, and two smaller recitation rooms. The basement was to remain temporarily unfinished. The estimated cost of the building was \$12,000. Lots on Sixth Street were purchased, and by September, 1880, bids were opened and contracts for the construction were let.

The ceremony for the laying of the cornerstone was under the auspices of the Masonic Lodge. A large audience attended the very impressive service on Saturday afternoon, October 16, 1880. The Lodge members and the school children formed a procession and marched from the Lodge Hall to the school. The program included vocal music by the children and a Lodge quartet, an address by Professor W. G. B. Lewis, the school Principal, and the Masonic Service for laying a cornerstone.

An interesting sidelight on the construction of the building appeared in the *Silver World*:

The attention of the School Board is called to the lack of terminal facilities in connection with the new school house. They should have a privy council and take measures for the erection of necessary structural adjuncts contiguous to the temple of learning on Gunnison Avenue.

In October, 1881, the lower story of the new building was completed and occupied. A. E. Joab, of Colorado Springs, was Principal, and the teachers were Mrs. A. R. Wright and Miss Vasilii Liggett. One hundred and seven students were enrolled. Teachers and students were very proud of the new building. The former were very strict with students who defaced anything in it.

An unfortunate incident occurred soon after the building was occupied when a support gave way under the floor of the primary room. This resulted in the rumor that the building had been poorly constructed. Parents became alarmed for the safety of their children and kept them home. Attendance in grammar school dropped from fifty to thirteen. A

public meeting was held in the Court House, and demands were made that classes be removed from the building until its true condition could be determined. The school board was unwilling to disrupt school and refused to comply with the demand. An inspection was made, and the one weak support was discovered and replaced. Fears were thereby allayed and school continued.

The new school building and the fall term of 1882 combined to make a fine showing. The *Silver World* observed that Lake City had one of the best disciplined and most interesting schools in the State. Attendance was more than one hundred, and the pupils were well disciplined, even after only two weeks of school. Credit was given to Professor A. E. Joab, described as "a thorough scholar" who possessed "knowledge of human nature and the ability to successfully govern, direct, and control with firmness and kindness." Miss Lizzie Tallman, intermediate and primary instructor, had over seventy in her department. "She has perfect control over them. The *Silver World* is proud of Lake City's school. We congratulate pupils, teachers and parents."

Attendance maintained an average of over one hundred pupils for the next few years. The number increased to 166 in 1897 and to 180 in 1898. The grade level was gradually raised to include some high school courses. In 1885, for example, physics, history, rhetoric, algebra and geology were added to the curriculum.

In the spring of 1893, more space was needed for the upper grades. Previously, they had been divided, one group studying at home while the other recited at school, and *vice versa*. So, the upper floor of the building was completed, giving three additional rooms.

The first annual commencement of Lake City's upper school was held in the Armory, Friday, May 6, 1898, at 8 P.M. A fifteen cent admission charge was made to defray expenses. Many townspeople came to hear a program of violin and vocal solos, recitations, class prophesy, and addresses by school officials.

The Lake City public school system was fortunate in the teachers that served throughout the early years. They were well-qualified and devoted to their profession. It is not possible to mention all. However, A. E. Joab, who was principal in 1881 and was associated, therefore, with the first classes in the new building, seems to have made an indelible impression. Mrs. M. K. Mott, one of his Lake City students, said years later:

While we were drifting along at the end of one school year, it was announced that we would have a new teacher in the fall, a young Yale graduate. I shall never forget his first session. We were called to order by the ringing of a medium sized hand bell. Our former teachers did this in a slow, weary way; but this morning was different. We looked up from our play in amazement at a tall, red-headed young man, walking briskly up and down, vigorously ringing that bell; we had never dreamed there was so much "ring" in it. Our school life changed from then on.

Mr. Joab was a wonderful educator, but a wild disciplinarian; yet, we received an educational foundation from him that was priceless. He was very thorough and intense in his desire for us to excel. Some hated him; I did not, but I was afraid of him. I had to study "or else." True, he had several encounters with big brothers; but, outside of a few bruises, he escaped all harm.

Through the energetic influence of Professor Joab a new brick

school house was built. It was a gala day when the cornerstone was laid with our names within.

Mrs. Mott also recalls that Professor Joab thought the members of her class mature enough to attend some of the sessions of the famous Packer Trial in District Court. In that way they would learn what a trial by jury meant. In the courtroom she was seated near the witness stand when Packer told of eating the flesh of the miners he was charged with having killed. Later some of her companions told her they overheard Packer ask, "Who was that nice, fat, juicy young girl who sat near me yesterday?"

Professor Joab was made Superintendent of Public Schools at Colorado Springs in July, 1883, and he became Chairman of the Mathematics Department at Chicago University a year later. Mrs. Mott further recalls:

Forty years after I had gone to school to him, I read in a San Francisco paper of one Colonel A. E. Joab, who had a man arrested for defaming the character of George Washington. This sounded so like our Professor Joab that I wrote and asked if he were the teacher I had once known in Lake City. He immediately replied, "I am he, pray who are you?"

Lake City residents recall other interesting incidents associated with early school life. Mrs. H. G. Heath remembered the Armitage boy who rode to town in his sleigh drawn by a shetland pony from his home at Crooke's mill. He parked his sleigh and pony at the livery stable and went on to school. Mrs. Emma Liska recalled that children often ice skated to school on the creek flowing along the east edge of town. Those living near the upper end of Lake City would skate down the frozen creek to within two blocks of school, where they would remove their skates and walk the remainder of the way. H. G. Heath reported that the school went through the Tenth grade only, until 1900. He was engaged at this time to enlarge it to include the Twelfth grade. Heath served as Superintendent of Schools from 1901 to 1905, when he became County Treasurer.

Very few colored people lived in Lake City, but Mrs. Heath recalled one old couple, former slaves, who lived near the school. Children loved to go to their house at noon for a drink of water. The old man worked at a dairy. He had a humped back and walked bent forward; but, he invariably sang as he went to and from work. Another Negro, Jimmy Price, attended the Lake City school in the 1890's and graduated.

From 1875 to 1894, private schools of various types operated in Lake City. Professor J. Merrifield opened a school of Penmanship on November 27, 1875. Mrs. Retta E. Gage started a subscription school June 10, 1876. The January 22, 1876, *Silver World* reported:

The Orthographomania, a mild type of malevolent disease, has broken out here lately. The complaint quite generally affect our citizens, we should judge from the number who assembled at the school house Thursday evening to participate in an old-fashioned spelling school. The exercises were varied with declamations, recitations, and singing. The next meeting will be one week from this Saturday. A general invitation is extended to all.

Two more private schools were started in 1877, the Misses Winn's "Select School" and a successful night school directed by Colonel C. W. Adams.

Dancing schools were popular from 1878 through 1894. In 1882, Miss Kate Earhart, at the solicitation of many parents, consented to give a series of kindergarten lessons at the H. J. Mayer home. In 1883, a singing school was sponsored by the Presbyterian Church, and Joseph Rawlings conducted a class in vocal music. That same year Madame M. L. Deacon opened a French school, with large classes enrolled from the start.

Since many of the mines were closed during the severe winter weather, the mine workers had leisure time. While many sought work in lower elevations, most remained in Lake City until spring, chopping wood or doing odd jobs for a living. The Reverend Alex Darley and others felt that a public library and reading room should be made available by the community. Consequently, this notice appeared in the *Silver World*:

NOTICE TO MINERS:

I'm making efforts in the East to secure books, papers and magazines for the miners on and over the range. I am in receipt of some and am expecting more. I desire to get them to Lake City and Silverton. I shall be glad to hear from those who can get them taken in.

My aim is to secure secular reading, but so far my receipts have been chiefly of a religious cast; yet, they contain much of general interest. Address me at Del Norte.

Alex M. Darley

Others soon became interested in the proposed library and reading room. The Town Board of Trustees at the December, 1875, meeting appointed a committee to select lots suitable for town purposes and included in the list a lot for a public library. J. Rice, of Pueblo, Colorado, who had established a branch news depot in that city, sent his extensive circulating library to Lake City. Reasonable terms for its use were worked out on a regular basis.

In March, 1877, the Free Library Association was organized. The name adopted was "Miners Library of Lake City." Mr. Henry Finley immediately donated a lot to the Association, and plans were made to proceed at once with the erection of a library building. Material and labor were to be donated. But before a structure could be completed, the Miners Library Association opened its free library and reading room April 25, 1877, in rooms in General H. F. Sickles' new building on Gunnison Avenue. John H. Simmons donated 200 books and A. M. Darley added sixty more. All leading state papers and many eastern papers were available. Stationery and places for writing were provided for miners and strangers in the city who had no facilities for this purpose.

The success of the venture is recorded in the *Silver World*, May 26, 1877:

The Miners Library is now about a month old. It is a great moral and intellectual aid to this area. Current literature is most popular. Some of the best daily and weekly journals from all over the United States are available. The present book collection is light literature; but, by fine American and European authors.

The moral influence is already being felt. Many spend time there who formerly went elsewhere.

The *Rocky Mountain News* commented: "The Miners free reading room and library at Lake City is a great success."

The Miners Library Association erected its own building, on the south

side of Fourth Street, just below Gunnison Avenue, in August 1877. The work was completed in three days by voluntary labor and contributions. Much credit is given to the efforts of George M. Darley and Theodore Little, Jr. A record is available of the continuous operation of the library until October, 1879, when this notice appeared in the *Silver World*, "Sheriff Cambell secured the building of the Miners Library on Fourth Street for a hospital."

The general decrease of mining operations in the area was credited with the decline in the need for a library. The public school, through donations and benefit programs, had been adding to its library, and facilities in private homes were generally available. The record of the Miners Library project in a mining community is unique, and speaks well for the concern shown by citizens for those who were more or less transient.

The story of the struggle to establish schools and libraries in Lake City may not be unlike that of many new communities. There is this one observation which may be made, however. The people who were responsible for the stable life of this mining town were adamant in their desire to establish a cultural and intellectual atmosphere for the young people. Their efforts resulted in a social pattern which has endured. The early settlers of Lake City were interested in improvement through education. They appreciated art, music and literature. The children of the families who settled there were not denied an educational foundation. The school program, while often cut short for economic reasons, was well disciplined, and for its time, high in academic standard.

Today, descendants from those pioneers, and some who have known no other home, engage in the same cultural pastimes of reading, studying, writing, and listening to music.

Chapter VI

Public Pleasures

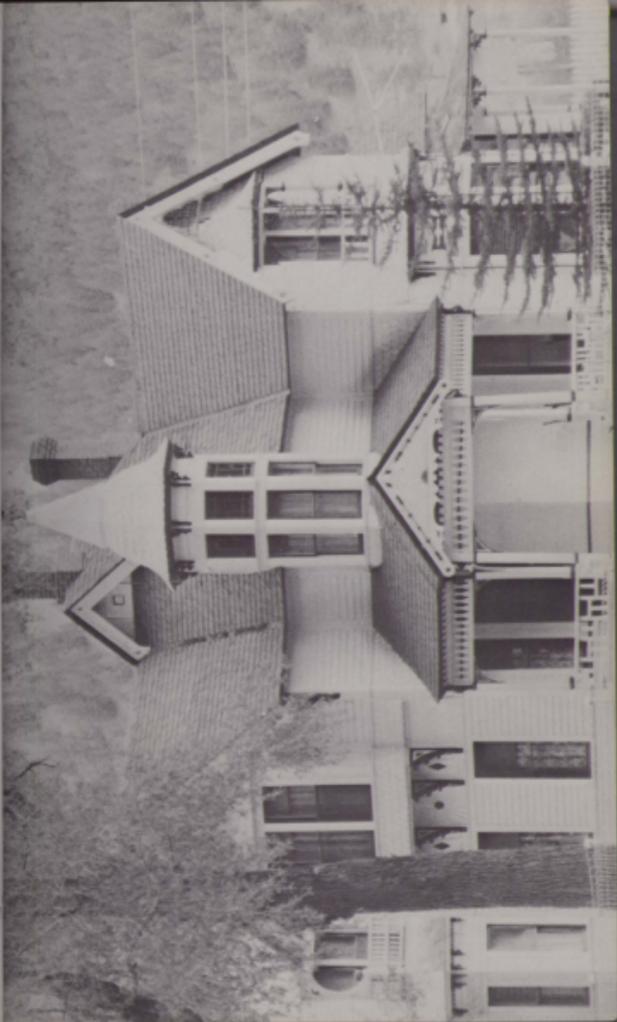
RECREATION AND entertainment in Lake City during the early years combined a mixture of general activities in which the entire community participated. These included holiday celebrations, sports events, theatrical presentations, lectures, concerts, elaborate parties and balls, gambling, and saloon amusements. Club affairs were usually limited to members and their guests.

According to Mrs. J. L. Harlan there was always a conflict between the cultured and "rough" elements. The cultured faction usually won. There was even a distinction made in burial grounds. Lake City provided two cemeteries, the G. A. R. Cemetery and the burial ground behind "Hells Acre" for the lawless element.

Many cultured people came to Lake City during the early mining rush days and remained to make permanent homes. Among these are: Judge J. C. Bell; J. W. Mills, attorney, who later authored *Mills Statutes*; Enos Hotchkiss and his brothers, Sam and Wade; and C. P. Foster. John J. Crooke, a young, attractive man with money, came from the East in 1877. He built the Crooke smelter at the falls on the south edge of town, and this section became known as Crookville. Crooke later invented tin foil and made a sizeable fortune from it. Another who came in the rush days and remained to help develop the town was William M. Simmons, who, as a boy, lived with his family in a large log cabin below town. His family owned the first organ in the valley. His sister was the musician of the family and also, was the first girl to be baptized in the town of Lake City.

Among early day settlers who have present family ties in Lake City were Mr. and Mrs. Herman Mayer, originally from Bavaria, where they owned an ancestral estate. Their daughters, Mrs. H. C. Heath and Mrs. Emma Liska reside in Lake City. Mr. and Mrs. Heath were married in the Lake City Presbyterian Church, June 15, 1903. Thomas Beam and his family were also among the early settlers. He and his brother Jesse located the Golden Wonder mine which they sold for \$60,000. His daughter, Edna, married H. T. Hoffman, son of an early Lake City doctor, D. S. Hoffman. Joe Donnell was an early day settler with present family ties in the town. His daughter, Mary, married W. F. Green, and their daughter, Alice, makes her home in Lake City. Professor William F. E. Gurley, University of Chicago faculty member, named others of prominence in early Lake City history in a personal letter to W. C. Blair:

ONE OF THE EARLY DAY MANSIONS on Gunnison Avenue. This the scene of many fashionable social events. The home is still occupied in excellent repair.



It was here (L.C.) I first met Tim Clawson, "Cap" Henson, Joe Mullen, Pike Snowden, Leon Eggers, Charley McConkey and Frank Koisley, all of whom later became my friends. They were real men of sterling quality, belonging to that class which future generations will delight to honor as pathfinders, trailblazers, and empire builders. Oh! indeed do I feel grateful that it was my good fortune to associate with such men during the formative years of my career.

By contrast, there was a constant influx of those who followed each publicized mining rush: the worker, the drifter, and the professional adventurer. Many brought their families, which created an educational and character-forming problem, while more were single and free.

The *Rocky Mountain News* declared:

Here one is brought face to face with the cowpunchers of the Arkansas and the Platte, the rugged and bearded miner of Utah and Nevada, the almond-eyed Celestial and the squatty Pinto, the irrepressible, stoop-shouldered Yankee and the lank, swarthy habitué who contended for his rights south of the Mason and Dixon line, white mule drivers, bull whackers, three card monte men, sewing machine agents, lawyers, doctors, preachers, prospectors, *et id omne glorus* swarm in every direction. Now and then you brush coats or clink glasses with a millionaire, some fellow who has sold out his pile and who proposes to have a good time with the boys before leaving on the next stage. And then, again, your charity is appealed to by some grasshopper sufferer who asks you with tears in his eyes and a lump in his throat the size of a goose egg, for the loan of a dollar, and who spurs your compassion with the remark that he has not had a mouthful of food in three days.

With this combination, recreation in Lake City was, rightly so, a mixture and a challenge to both groups. From reliable sources it is evident there was no dearth of facilities for filling leisure time. Since the desire for social activity on a large scale prompted the construction of several large entertainment halls, perhaps it is well first to consider some of them.

On April 28, 1877, Kelly's Hall was opened. According to reports it was somewhat magnificent for a frontier mining town. The mouldings and ornamental framework of the mirrors and the turned work about the bar were generally specimens of fine workmanship and reflected credit to the manufacturers, Echlin and Routt. Both the main hall and shooting gallery were fifty feet in length, while the front hall was seventy-five feet long. Facilities for drinking, dancing, and target shooting were available.

The popular Brockett's Hall was dedicated on April 19, 1877. Prominent citizens of Lake City joined to give a promenade concert and dance as an opening affair. The proceeds from this party were used to purchase instruments for the newly organized town band. In June of that same year, Frank Ensensperber opened a new billiard hall, saloon and clubroom. It was regarded as, "the finest in the city." A feature of the new hall was the dumb waiter which was installed to serve the upstairs rooms from the bar.

The following year, June 15, 1878, the Lake City Beer Garden was opened about one-half mile up Henson Creek. Cy Bierderman and Fred Hilgenhaus were the proprietors. This pleasure spot was very popular because it was well run and attracted a high-class clientele. Tables, benches, arbors, rustic walks, and swings were feature attractions. A primitive

bridge afforded passage to an island at the rear of the garden. With the natural scenic beauty of the area, the Beer Garden proved to be a show-place, as well as a popular recreation center. Beer was served, a platform was constructed for dancing, and music was furnished. The Garden was of more than temporary use, for tax records show payment of assessments through 1885.

Fred Hilgenhaus, one of the operators of the Beer Garden, was a popular resident of Lake City. When he returned on July 5, 1882, with his bride, the male musicians of the town, said the *Silver World*,

... gave a concert for him. Classical music was played, and cheers were given for the bride and groom as they appeared on the porch of their home. Fred made a little speech, then the musicians marched up town and moistened their whistles, reeds, etc. . . . It was determined to give a genuine musical concert and several of the best instrumentalists in town repaired to Hilgenhaus' home and performed highly artistic music. Wine and cake were served. The couple was then presented a beautiful service of silverware, a silver ice pitcher and goblets.

Mrs. H. G. Heath recalled that the Beer Garden was respectable and a pleasant place for recreation. The two owners were in the process of dissolving partnership in the late 1880's, when Henson Creek flooded and washed away most of the area.

There were twenty-nine establishments where liquors were dispensed in Lake City and Crookville by July, 1877. These places varied in size and quality. Some of the saloons were tastefully furnished, and offered a high level of entertainment and respectable sociability. Others bordered on the bawdy-house type and attracted the more uncouth customers. According to Mrs. H. G. Heath, many of the saloon keepers were from good eastern families. They had nice homes in Lake City and were among the highly respected citizens. The Carey Saloon was cited by Ralph Horton as an example of respectability. Carey himself was highly respected. His home on Gunnison Avenue was a showplace in the community.

The press was divided in its opinion of this phase of recreation. While the *Silver World* described the fine furnishings and adequate facilities of the saloons and billiard halls, the *Rocky Mountain News* editorially stated:

The passion for play and gambling is almost universal and faro and roulette tables are crowded night after night with men of all conditions, who bet and lose their money with all the *sans froid* of the veteran habitués of the German watering places. The various town and county officials are often in the habit of taking a hand in these games, and now and then a lawyer or a doctor or lay member of some church will step in just to make the game interesting. It is fat picking for the gamblers, but now and then they get caught up and brought to grief when least expected.

Later, the same newspaper released a second blast on the subject of public saloons, declaring:

The saloons, although required to pay a license of \$500 a year each, are the most largely represented of any one brand of traffic, and if all the villainous whiskey and stale beer held in solution by these resorts could be poured into one liquid mass, it would form a

reservoir large enough to float the Great Eastern. And yet these establishments do a swimming trade, the receipts of many averaging \$100 and \$200 per day.

The *Silver World* viewed the saloons from a different perspective. On July 1, 1876, a new saloon on Silver Street was described as, "among the most metropolitan that we have in our city. The saloon is elegantly fitted and private rooms in the rear are neatly and costly furnished." This saloon was presided over by H. M. Crill who prohibited rude or boisterous conduct.

The *San Juan Crescent* described the amusements available every evening at the Centennial Saloon. Singing and character impersonations were included in the program, while black-face comedy was so popular it gave rise to a suggestion that, with such local talent available, a minstrel troupe should be organized. Mrs. Annie Doran asserted that "respectable" women did not drink intoxicating beverages in public or private. At public events men who had been drinking were asked to leave. If they tried to force their attentions on a lady, or become obnoxious they were jailed. A lady who dined with an intoxicated person became the subject of unfavorable comment for weeks.

From its first days Lake City observed national and religious holidays. Since these festivities were of mutual interest, all in the community and surrounding areas were invited to participate. For example, the first Christmas Eve in Lake City, 1875, is remembered because it was the date of the first Community Christmas Tree Celebration to be held, not only in the San Juan Country, but on the Pacific slope of Colorado. The ladies of the town determined to make this celebration memorable. They solicited subscriptions to finance the affair, and a general invitation was issued for every person in the area to attend the Christmas Eve party and dance. The invitation was accepted whole-heartedly. "The number of people present exceeded what was supposed to be the population of the town. Thirty-five married ladies, seventeen babes in arms, and innumerable children between the ages of three and fifteen were among the celebrants," according to the local newspaper.

Gifts for friends and family members were brought during the day to Finley's Hall, where two huge Christmas trees had been placed and decorated. The stores had not laid in a supply of holiday merchandise, so the gifts were handmade, or of a utilitarian nature. Fruit and candies were available for all. One attendant reported that, "Kris Kringle was well assumed by Charley Holbrook, whose quaint witticisms, as he delivered the presents, kept the large audience in a continued state of merriment." A highlight of the evening was the community supper prepared and served by the ladies of the town. All guests were invited to partake, "without money and without cost." Two long tables fairly groaned under the weight of good things to eat, and of the 311 hungry souls who availed themselves of the generous hospitality, none went away unsatisfied.

After supper the hall was cleared for dancing. Thirty-five ladies and sixty men enjoyed this part of the celebration. Miss Lizzie Wade provided organ music, and she was accompanied by a violinist and guitarist. Christmas morning was ushered in by the report of firearms, shouts, and

other indications of merriment from a crowd of revelers. A quantity of fresh trout from the Sagauche was available for Christmas breakfast. It quickly disappeared from the market as soon as word spread through the community.

The annual observance of Christmas continued as a part of Lake City social life. Community Christmas celebrations gradually disappeared, however, as the churches took over with suitable services and children's programs. Those away from home at Christmas time continued to be included in the celebrations with provision made to add to their pleasure on this important occasion.

Residents of Lake City observed other religious and national holidays with community celebrations. The first Leap Year, February 29, 1876, was marked with special consideration. The men were invited by the ladies to a ball in Finley's Hall on the evening of that day. According to the *Silver World*:

A noticeable feature of the evening was the "swapping" of husbands indulged in by the married ladies, an arrangement probably agreeable to both parties. The number attending the party was so large that wallflowers were in abundance, though not through choice, but lack of dancing space. In due justice to the ladies, it must be said that this party was by far the most decorous and agreeable, as well as the most stylish, yet given in Lake City. It is only to be regretted that the 29th of February occurs so seldom.

The ladies of Lake City began the annual custom of holding Open House in observance of New Year's Day, beginning January 1, 1879. They spent much time preparing for these affairs, arranging elaborate decorations and collations. Their efforts were repaid by the great number of male callers. Ladies who held Open House issued informal invitations to guests to attend an evening party, which was held in a public hall, where music was provided and dancing continued until midnight.

Yearly observance of Thanksgiving was traditional from the first Thanksgiving, November 26, 1876. Families had special dinners, hotels and restaurants followed a traditional turkey and trimmings menu, churches held special services, and strangers in the city were welcomed into private homes. A masked Thanksgiving ball, during this first Thanksgiving season was given by the Good Templars in Kelly's Hall. An elaborate supper, prepared and served by the What Cheer Restaurant included oysters, ham, sirloin of beef, chicken, boiled lobster, relishes, potato salad, pies, cakes, puddings, fresh fruits, candies and nuts in the menu.

The first formal observance of Memorial Day occurred May 30, 1883. The school children gathered flowers in the morning, and returned to school in the afternoon, where their teachers helped arrange the flowers in wreaths and bouquets. The units of the Memorial Day parade assembled at Third Street and Gunnison Avenue at 2:00 P.M. and marched to the cemetery north of town. Included in the parade were forty members of the Pitkin Guards, forty members of the G. A. R., thirty members of the J. S. Hough Fire Co., No. 1, one hundred school children, and a long line of carriages, horsemen, and pedestrians. G. A. R. ceremonies were conducted near Sheriff Campbell's grave. A choir furnished music,

Judge G. W. Henry delivered an oration, and Reverend Charles Fuller pronounced the benediction. All soldiers' graves were decorated. The Memorial Day parade to the cemetery and the decoration of graves became an established custom in Lake City which continued for many years.

Washington's birthday, February 22, 1884, was observed in a suitable manner. Schools were closed and the children participated in a parade which lasted four hours. Thirteen guns were fired from an old mortar in front of the Opera House. The Debate Club concluded the festivities with a public debate at the Courthouse. The United States team won the contest.

On the same day, Charles D. Peck was host to a number of leading citizens for a private observance of Washington's birthday. Mayor J. C. Bell, J. J. Abbott, Henry Kohler, Lt. Avery Biggers, John Maurer, and J. J. Meyers were among those present. Dr. D. S. Hoffman read Washington's Farewell Address with dignity and force, while others offered toasts and speeches, and joined in patriotic songs. Mrs. Peck served a lunch to the guests at the close of the celebration.

An unusual observance occurred on March 22, 1885, when the Germans in Lake City observed the 88th birthday of Emperor Wilhelm. All Lake City was awakened by salutes which were fired at dawn. The German residents and mine workers held a special meeting and program in Hirt's Hall in the afternoon. Song, revelry, and beer marked the event. The Germans may have been inspired to their national observance by the Irish, who had held a similar celebration five days earlier in honor of St. Patrick. They entertained the residents of Lake City and surrounding community with a parade, and Irish singing and folk dancing in the Armory.

Lake City residents as a whole joined in the annual Fourth of July celebrations, which were exciting occasions from the first. In anticipation of the first such celebration, the *Silver World* declared:

Lake City's maiden effort in celebrating the Fourth will consist of "fluted" toddies in the morning, "ruffled" slings at midday, straight whiskey "curves" in the afternoon and "ornamented" eyes at night. And owing to the fact that a copy of the Declaration of Independence can't be found in the Lake District, our friend Tom Cannon has promised to prepare a recapitulation of the Beecher-Tilton scandal to be used instead of our one/fourth of July blow-out.

The report of the celebration was more detailed. Predictions that many would celebrate the day by getting drunk were borne out; but there were other interesting facts to be reported. Anvils were fired thirteen times, but there was no American flag to hoist. One was fashioned from a blue flannel shirt, red drawers, and a white handkerchief. Proudly it waved in the breeze from a staff over the *Silver World* Building. The celebration was climaxed with a public dance, the first to be given in the district, because up to that time there had been no women in the camp. That night, however, there were a dozen ladies, nicely dressed and four times as many men, in flannel shirts and hob-nailed boots. The men had decreed "no white shirts," for the reason that if this was required attire they would not be able to attend.

The *Silver World* reported this first dance in a facetious manner:

The hall opened at eight. The grand saloon and supper rooms were brilliantly lighted with talow candles. The ante rooms were left dark,

thereby providing ample opportunity for privacy in stashing pint bottles of whiskey between unthinked logs. The floor of the hall was in good condition for dancing, in spite of the discrepancy in the thickness of the boards, and the whip-sawed lumber had more twists and turns in it than the Beecher-Tilton testimony. The music was provided by a corp of volunteers, and if the fiddle had had a few more strings it would have been superb. All was equated, however, when the midnight feast was served. Mrs. G. W. Wiseman had supervised the preparation of this part of the celebration. The tables, even without the glitter of silver and cut glass, were marvels of tasty elegance. Two large pyramid cakes were the focal point, one bore the banner, "The Land We Live In," the other, "*Silver World*." Dancing continued 'til early dawn.

Subsequent Fourth of July celebrations carried out the more conventional motifs, but patriotic fervor ran high with each succeeding one. By 1877, the lodges participated by sponsoring parades, competitive games, races, and community picnics. The 1877 celebration featured a concert by the town band in Simmon's Grove, along with a reading of the Declaration of Independence by H. C. Olney, and an address by Addison Danford, followed by boating, singing, swinging, croquet, and picnic suppers at Lake San Cristobal. Many private citizens celebrated with fireworks displays in the evening. Those presented by Hickman and Hough attracted the largest crowds. On this date, too, the I.O.O.F. sponsored a successful ball in Moore's Hall as a library benefit.

The following year the Fourth of July celebration included the favorite entertainment spot, the Biedlerman and Hilgenhaus Beer Garden. "Patriotism and beer flowed freely," according to the *Silver World*. Honorable M. Rich introduced Judge R. G. Harwell, who read the Declaration of Independence. The orator of the day was Honorable J. C. Bell, who "mounted the platform at 3 P.M. and flung the American eagle to the breeze in appropriate style, brief and to the point." The only departure from custom was the welcome and colorful addition of a torchlight parade to close the celebration.

Annual Fourth of July celebrations continued with the addition of competitive sports, races, target practice, and shooting matches, along with the usual firing of cannons at dawn, band music, parades, patriotic speeches, evening dances, and fireworks. The *Silver World* reported that a translation in German by Henry Kohler of Lake City of the Fourth of July celebration for that year, and a description of Uncompagure Peak had been published in *Schwabischer Merkin*, the leading paper of Stuttgart, Germany.

The Pitkin Guards, in full uniform, featured the July Fourth, 1884, parade, in which Mayor Will Kellogg's Drum Corp also held a prominent position. The speakers for this occasion were M. B. Gerry, Colonel Van Eps, Elgin Lochrane, C. C. Wattles and B. B. Galvin, who rode in an open carriage in the parade. The J. S. Hough Fire Company, the members bearing blue flags with the gold letters, J.S.H.F. Co. No. 1, and the hook and ladder truck drawn by six bay horses; a float, carrying thirty-eight ladies dressed in white, each with an individual state flag; and thirty men and ten ladies from the Ulay mine, on horseback, were also featured as units of what was perhaps the most elaborate Fourth of July parade staged in Lake City.

The ceremony following this parade was equally elaborate. Flags (U.S., Ulay Mine, J.S.H.F. Co., and Pitkin Guards) were arranged as a background, while the thirty-eight ladies, representing the states of the Union, formed a semicircle behind a natural fountain which centered the stage. At 3:00 P.M. Mayor J. C. Bell called the assembly to order and Reverend Charles Fuller opened the program with prayer. Original music, "Hail Natal Day," composed by George Wilson and C. Patz, was played, followed by a series of patriotic speeches, interspersed with appropriate songs.

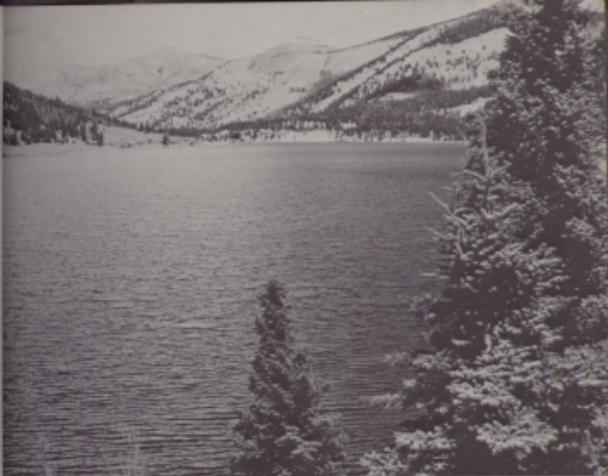
In these holiday celebrations people from all levels of society participated, including the miners and their families from the surrounding area. It is a credit to this community that national and religious holidays were observed in a suitable manner, and not allowed to go unobserved. Dances, balls, social "hops," and promenades made up a greater part of the Lake City social calendar. These were very similar, in that the best music available was provided, the halls were appropriately decorated, refreshments were served, and the guests were always well dressed, and on occasions, elegantly attired. One or two such affairs are worthy of mention.

The ball celebrating the Antelope Toll Road opening was outstanding by local standards. The date was November 6, 1875, when the community was very new. Thirty couples and many more single men were in attendance. Music was furnished by the Lee Brothers and M. Kane. Dancing began at 8:30 P.M. and lasted until midnight when a delicious supper was served in an adjoining building. According to the *Silver World*:

The party was a wonder of culinary skill. The "chef de cuisine" was P. Maguire. After the bodily wants of the party had been ministered to, toasts, speeches and other literary exercises were delivered in order — "Our Guests," a toast, was proposed by T. H. Cannon; "A Greeting," a poem, was read by Mrs. H. F. Sickles; Major J. Carey French responded, and Will Cochran read a poem. Dancing continued then til dawn. On the whole, the party passed off in a manner most gratifying to all participants and is an occasion that will long have a place in the social calendar of Lake City.

A second ball and dinner of significance was held July 22, 1879. It was given by the Pitkin Guards in honor of the State Governor, Frederick W. Pitkin. Two hundred guests attended the affair which was held in the Armory. The Governor was escorted to the ball by a unit of the Guards. He was accompanied by Sergeant J. C. Bell, who addressed the assembly. Following the address, the Guard was presented to the Governor, who responded with a short address, after which dancing began. It was an important occasion for Lake City and the Pitkin Guards, because it was the initial visit of the chief executive of Colorado to the community. About a year later, in September, 1880, Governor Pitkin returned for a second visit, this time in connection with his re-election campaign.

Early in the town's history an interest in raffles, as money raising schemes, claimed widespread attention. Miss Lizzie Wade, a music teacher, wishing to go to San Francisco, decided to raise funds by raffling her piano and household furniture. Tickets were sold for \$3 each, which entitled the holder to a chance on various articles and admission to a dance which would follow the drawing. One hundred and ten raffle tickets were sold. The drawing was held Monday evening, September 30, 1878, Sam Wendell won the top prize, the piano. The dance was well attended, individual tickets were available, and all reported a good time.



LAKE SAN CRISTOBAL, four and a half miles southeast of Lake City. This is the largest natural lake in Colorado. In the background is Hinsdale Peak, the scene of the infamous Packer massacre.

On February 1, 1879, friends conducted a benefit raffle for the aged father of Harry Pierce, who had been killed in a mining explosion. One hundred and twenty-five dollars was raised in the sale of chances on Pierce's gold watch. A few months later, the widow of George Zantz was assisted by a public raffle on six items of household furniture. Chances at \$2.50 each were sold on a parlor stove, a cookstove, sewing machine, four chairs, a clock, and one lot of household utensils and carpenter's tools.

Stores and organizations used the raffle idea as a means for advertising and sales promotion. A \$125 gold watch was raffled by Isham's Jewelry store in September, 1880, and in that same month, the J. J. Meyer store raffled a buckboard. By 1881, raffles were all the rage. On Christmas Eve of that year, H. C. Olney won a \$30 Meerscham pipe, Mrs. Charles Kayser a \$200 gold watch, and Louis Kafka a \$100 diamond ring. The preceding month J. L. Stanley won an organ. However, the most coveted item raffled that year was the revolver from which was fired the bullet that killed E. N. Campbell, beloved sheriff of the county. This form of mild gambling and chance taking was highly amusing and generated enthusiasm and good fun among the people.

Billiards offered a popular form of recreation from the beginning of settlement. Most saloons and recreation halls provided facilities for the game, while stakes of varying value offered inducement. Larry Dolan

fitted his billiard parlor in elegant style. His place, though small, would have done credit to a larger and more pretentious town. Dolan, a popular man with a pleasing personality, established the first exclusive billiard parlor in Lake City.

His Grand Arcade announced a match game of billiards for the night of December 18, 1875. In January, a second match was staged between Colonel Haggerty and John Mills. While the men contested on tables, the ladies played "Presbyterian billiards" (croquet) and amused themselves many pleasant afternoons.

With the natural facilities like Lake San Cristobal, Henson Creek, Lake Fork, and numerous small lakes in the area, fishing and outdoor sports proved of keen interest to most residents. San Cristobal, the largest natural lake in Colorado, was a constant reminder of its potential use for recreation. In September, 1876, E. F. Bennett built and placed a six passenger skiff on the lake. The boat was made available to the public and enjoyed a fine patronage. The following June, Jones and Tremble Company announced the availability of three boats as well as a picnic area, complete with arbor, seats, and tables.

By June, 1879, a restaurant opened at the foot of the lake, and additional boats were supplied. A four-horse team transported visitors the four miles from Lake City to Lake San Cristobal. Fifty cents was charged for the trip.

Winter sports included skating, sleighing, and coasting. The cold, clear nights were perfect for these sports, which were popular with both young and old. A small pond at the lower end of town was turned into an ice skating rink during the winter of 1878. The long hill to Crooksville from Lake City proper furnished an ideal sleigh run. Private sleighs were numerous, and large sleighs drawn by four horses were available. Consequently, sleighing parties were much in evidence. In the winter the young people made an ice sled-run from 150 feet to 200 feet up the slope of Chrystal Peak and through one of the town streets. It provided a thrilling sled ride. Indeed!

During warmer seasons hikers into the mountains and raspberry picking parties were both profitable and pleasurable. "In the high mountains," according to L. R. Smoot, "near Sherman and Carson, whenever timber had been burned, the finest red raspberry bushes could be found. People from the canyon, and many from Lake City, took their sugar and jars and set out for a berry patch in August. They camped several days at a time."

The young people and adults frequently hiked to the summit of one of the nearby peaks. The most pretentious, of course, was the ascent of Uncompahgre Peak, 14,306 feet, one of the highest in the Rocky Mountain system. Trips to the top of this mountain were made in almost every summer season, beginning in 1877. The trip was worth the effort, apparently, for as one venturer said, "it presents to the visitor sights unrivaled in beauty and grandeur the world over."

Of the group trips to the summit of Uncompahgre, the largest was probably the twenty-one member party from Lake City, Capital City, and Ouray which celebrated July Fourth, 1881, by climbing to the top. The idea was to place an American flag on the 14,296' summit as a Fourth of July celebration. A storm developed and as one of the party attempted to lower the flag, lightning struck the pole knocking him to the ground. He

suffered severe shock and pain; but the flag flew from the highest summit in the San Juan.

Miners in the Engineer Mountain area took recreation in the winter by snow-shoeing on American Flats, then, using the showbores as skis, they descended the slopes. They could ski from Frank Hough mine to Rose's Cabin, a distance of three miles, in fifteen minutes. On an easy downgrade some made a mile a minute.

Target shooting was a favorite sport of many, and as early as March, 1876, shooting matches were held. A \$10 fee was charged and the person with the best average received the purse. Occasionally the stakes varied from the cash purse, as reported by the *Silver World*:

Six crack shots of Lake City went out this afternoon to try their skill at a target. The stakes: a bottle of the best Jamaica. A full sheet of "white print" was borrowed from the *Silver World* office and pasted on the side of the mountain. Then the firing began. Later it was discovered each had brought the stakes with him under his belt. The target shooting, needless to say, was wild.

Roller skating was added to recreational sports by September, 1884, when a skating rink was opened in the Opera House. Interest increased daily, and old and young, great and small, patronized the rink. It was reported that the art of staying on one's feet was not easily learned. Leon LeFevre, for example, shot through the front door the first night the rink was opened, while Mayor J. C. Bell fell constantly, and Ike Schiffer held the record in number of falls.

The management of the rink rented skates for twenty-five cents for adults and fifteen cents for children. Ladies were admitted free, also children, if accompanied by adults. By the end of October, admission charges were dropped, but skate rentals were raised to forty cents. An instructor was available and many skaters became so proficient that skating races were inaugurated. This proved most entertaining, especially when speed and stake races were added. The popularity of this sport increased through the winter months. The rink continued in operation, with short interruptions, until the early spring of 1885.

In mining communities, burros were always in evidence, since they were used in the mines, as well as for transport. In Lake City the children enjoyed riding burros. Parties of burro riders often traveled to the Golden Fleece mine for dinner and a tour of the mine works. S. S. Kennedy, mine superintendent, presented each child with a specimen of ore at the end of the tour. Mrs. Heath recalled a favorite pastime of the younger people was playing around Crooke's Falls and watching the smelter in operation. They would watch the slag being poured and carried to the dump in carts. It was also a great thrill to see the bars of gold and silver stacked ready for shipment.

Participation in competitive sports accounted for the use of much leisure time, and fostered good feeling of sportsmanship, as well. L. R. Smoot wrote:

A Fourth of July celebration was not complete in those early days without a drilling contest. Any miner who cared to compete brought his hammer and his drills into town and in the main square was set up a bug rock, usually granite, for the harder the rock, the better. There was a time limit for drilling, there were judges, and a crowd

of spectators. By muscles worked hard and fast for the cash; sweat rolled down the leathery faces and broad chests heaved under loosened shirt fronts. A hot July sun beat down, the time was up, the winner was congratulated.

The great American game, baseball, was a popular sport in Lake City as early as April, 1876. At that time the Bonanza Baseball Club was formed with Frank Curtis as president. Ground was selected and laid out for a ball diamond, and practice schedules were set. Games with other ball clubs in the San Juan area provided incentive and wholesome recreation until 1891 when the club disbanded. The advent of horse racing also came to Lake City in the summer of 1875. Entry fees provided handsome purses and betting made the sport exciting, as well as rewarding to the winners.

Boxing was a popular sport. Typical of the early matches was the one between miners Allen and Goss. The fight lasted for one hour and fifty-two minutes. Due to a foul, Goss won the decision as well as the worst punishment, for he was badly beaten and bruised. An unusual fight of the period was recorded in the *Silver World*. A landlord in Crookville ordered one of his tenants to vacate his property. The tenant agreed to move if the landlord defeated him in the boxing ring. The landlord accepted the challenge. Seconds and a referee were present. After twenty-five minutes and fourteen seconds, the landlord knocked out the tenant. He moved.

A curious sport caught the fancy of some Lake Cityans in the winter of 1882, when walking matches were held from the old school house on Gunnison Avenue. W. W. Ferguson, champion of Colorado, and Ben Spradling of Kansas City staged one such event. Ferguson gave Spradling a five mile head start which he was confident he could easily overcome. He failed and lost the cord of wood, valued at \$50.

Football, baseball, and tennis continued as the prevailing sports for both participants and spectators to the close of the century. According to H. G. Heath, betting ran high on match games. One baseball game, he remembered, offered \$5,000 to the winning team, and it was speculated that \$50,000 was bet on the game.

For a frontier town, Lake City was exceptionally fortunate to be on the circuit of many traveling entertainments. Home talent shows, mostly minstrels and concerts, provided the theatrical fare until suitable quarters were built to attract troupes of professional players. In 1878, Professor E. C. Taylor, the then famous magician, made a four-day stand in Lake City. Full houses greeted each performance of new and old magic tricks. So successful was his appearance that he was engaged for a return performance a month later. On February 8, 1882, Professor Martel, a deaf mute, arrived to give a pantomime performance in the Court House for a large audience.

Singing contests, in which miners also participated, offered a form of entertainment. One such contest was sponsored by the A. E. Williams Saloon on September 29, 1883. The audience was large and orderly. John H. Cox won Ulay Mine, sang "Beautiful Palace," "Three Perished in the Snow," and "Love Among the Roses." He received first prize, a Meerschaum pipe. Second prize, a Meerschaum cigar holder, was awarded to John Bryant who sang, "White Squall," and a comic song, "Ben Johnson's Ball."

In the fall of 1883, Lake City's new Opera House officially opened. The dedicatory program featured a performance of Shakespeare's

"Macbeth," by a local cast. The quality of performance was not reported in the local paper.

With adequate stage facilities now available, travelling companies included Lake City in their itinerary. "East Lynn," "A Serious Family," and "Fanchon, the Cricket" were presented by the Felix A. and Eva Vincent Company beginning September 10, 1891. The Stultz New York Theatre Company and the Hewitt Musetts were booked in March and December, 1892, respectively. The Dramatic Company presented "The Octaroon or South Before the War," during the summer of 1893, while the Pringle Company appeared before a "show-hungry" crowd in February, 1894. The Chicago Concert Company came in April, 1894, under the sponsorship of the A.O.U.W.

Dog shows, impersonators, hobo musicians, and a variety of local talent rounded out the theatrical performances during the early time. Audiences were appreciative and very generous in their applause. Performers felt well repaid for including this comparatively isolated town in their itineraries.

Lectures were also a part of the public entertainment fare. For the most part, they were brought to Lake City under sponsorship of the temperance societies or for political purposes. In 1878, Susan B. Anthony rode into town on horseback, and invited the people to gather in front of the Court House to hear her talk on Woman's Suffrage. The response was sufficiently encouraging to warrant a return trip the following year. The *Rocky Mountain News* reported her second appearance:

Miss Anthony was here last Thursday and Friday evenings (September 20 and 21). The first evening she addressed the largest audience that ever assembled in the San Juan Country. The Court House would not hold half the people, so the meeting was adjourned to the outside. There is a strong feeling here in favor of the movement, and I would not be much surprised if Hinsdale County should give a majority in favor of Woman's Suffrage.

On January 31, 1878, William Penn Harbottle presented a dramatic lecture-recital of Shakespeare's "Henry V" in which he portrayed all forty parts. Harbottle, of New York, was a winter visitor in Lake City. Again, there is no recorded commentary as to the quality of the show.

Apparently those who came to the new land seeking gold and silver brought with them a desire for grease paint and stage lights as well. For on January 15, 1876, a dramatic association was organized. Among the members were many who had had previous stage experience in school and community, or in professional theatres. The first performance of this group was a reported success:

The dramatic entertainment Wednesday evening, February 2, at Finley's Hall played to a crowded house. The drama, "Among the Breakers" was presented. Songs, dances, jigs, and darkey delineations were given at the close of the play. Expenses incurred in preparation of stage and settings were covered by receipts.

The second entertainment of the dramatic association, February 19, was rated superior to the preceding one. By February, 1877, Lake City had a second dramatic organization, The Shakespeare Club. In the meantime the original dramatic association had changed its name to the "As You Like It" Club and announced an ambitious season. Twenty members would

perform in: "Ten Nights in a Barroom," "Our American Cousin," "A Serious Family," "Divorce," "Two Orphans," "A Kiss in the Dark," "Loan of a Lover," and "East Lynne." The season opened February 13, with a presentation of "The Toodles," a domestic drama in two acts, the "Spirit of '86," a take-off on women's rights. Both were well received. The presentation of "East Lynne" in Kelly's Hall, March 27, 1877, called for S.R.O. signs, which indicated the success of the "As You Like It" Club.

Dramatic organizations flourished and waned with almost uncanny regularity during the ensuing years. Always, however, there seemed to be a nucleus of interested people to vitalize a group of thespians and present a benefit performance, or enliven a dull season with a home-talent play.

Vocal and instrumental music commanded attention in the field of recreation and entertainment. In 1877, it was announced that Lake City had two pianos, one owned by Mrs. J. W. Brockett, and the other by George Gardner. The latter was a Chickering, purchased in Denver for \$600 and used in the San Juan Central saloon. Yet, the paucity of musical instruments was soon compensated for when a group of musicians organized a small band in 1879. The group chose the name, "Amateurs" and boasted a conductor, two flutes, two violins, a cello, a piano, and two zithers. A cornet band was organized in 1880. The next year the Rocky Mountain Zither Club was formed, the first of its kind in Colorado. In 1883, an amateur orchestra, consisting of two flutes, one flageolet, two first violins, one second violin, one tenor trombone, two cornets, one violin cello and one contra bass, was organized.

The early settlers of Lake City combined talent, friendliness, community spirit and native surroundings with a desire to utilize leisure time in a wholesome manner and evolved a program of varied interests in the field of recreation and public entertainment. The rough and hawdy type entertainment and recreation, which is commonly associated with mining camps, was present, but it was segregated, for the most part, in the area known as "Hell's Acre." On the other hand, sufficient activities of a more acceptable nature were promoted and developed by mutual interest and cooperation. This compensated for the comparative isolation of the community, and no doubt, contributed to the formation of a permanent type of social pattern which endured through the town's formative years.

Chapter VIII *All Home in Lake City*

AMID THE BUSTLING town and mining activities, the homes remained the true center for an enduring community. Settlers from the central and eastern states brought with them the dominant code of middle-class respectability. This included a doctrine of feminine behavior that eschewed financial independence and found a lady's proper place to be in the home. A girl's prime duty was to find a responsible husband and oversee a home. Waitresses, shop-girls and dressmakers frequently found it necessary to explain their independence. Widows circumvented the necessity of such verbal explanations by wearing veils, known as "widow's weeds," for a year. However, they usually remarried after the conventional period ended.

Girls who arrived in Lake City desiring to fulfill "the natural and most honored vocation for women," found little difficulty in acquiring a husband and a home. Scarcity accentuated demand among the dominantly male populace and insured respect for girls who wanted a home and family. Only two feminine occupations were regarded as "respectable."

TYPICAL OF LATER OUTSTANDING HOMES in Lake City. It was built 1890. It is well preserved and presently owned by Roy Scovill of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Hinsdale Peak is seen in the background. The residence is surrounded by tall cottonwood trees planted by pioneers in 1882.





AN EARLY DAY PRIVATE HOME on Silver Street. The lawn and tall trees are well preserved and most attractive. The home is presently owned by Harold Stewart of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Pioneer school teachers were above reproach, though they were expected to become housewives within a short time. Most did. Telephone operators were respected, possibly because local gossips could easily ascertain their devotion to duty.

Resident girls found local bachelors anxious to provide a wide range of diversions, designed to attract and win a bride. During the winter, informal skating and sledding parties were common. Summer permitted the sexes to mingle at picnics, canoeing parties, and similar outings in the nearby hills. Small parties of young people even made excursions to the top of the 14,306 foot elevation of Uncompahgre Peak, from which they could view the entire San Juan Range while having a picnic lunch. Others hiked to Crystal Lake for picnics and a commanding view of Lake City.

Horseback riding was also popular among the young people. Livery men maintained an ample supply of horses, and Concord or Texas buggies for those who did not own them. Other outings included berry-picking parties, fishing excursions and boating ventures on Lake San Cristobal. The latter proved very popular during the summer, unless an afternoon rain surprised the mountain sailors. For the young, life in the high country was not all fun; yet, interesting diversions enlivened town life even for them.

Established housewives and their husbands also sponsored informal parties and dances to encourage traditional patterns of courtship and marriage. Sometimes, such events even included a home-cooked supper for its celebrants.

While traditional patterns of courtship were recreated, insofar as facilities would permit, engagements during the early years were of shorter

duration than in the East. Beaux who hesitated with proposals of marriage often found themselves replaced by more anxious suitors. Girls who refused numerous offers of marriage were frequently open to suspicion by the settled community. For those who accepted offers of marriage, small weddings were the rule. Often, the ceremony took place in the bride's home, with a travelling or temporary minister officiating. A few friends joined the families for the ceremony, and well-wishers gathered in a local hotel or restaurant for a post-ceremony reception.

New husbands, generally, made every effort to make their new homes comfortable for their wives. Rental property was scarce, so most found it advantageous to build homes. Few contained "perfumed parlors;" yet the new homes had the furnishings that well suited the Colorado frontier. Shipments from St. Louis, Denver, and Pueblo arrived almost daily, and the new homes were by no means crudely furnished.

Most of the pioneer wives fitted well into their role of homemakers and housekeepers. Homes were neat and orderly, and a housewife who was especially particular about dusting, received the "special commendation" of her associates. Before the time of electric refrigerators, carpet sweepers, lighting and gas heating for cooking, the life of a frontier housewife was not easy. There was always a floor to sweep, a stove or fireplace to be cleaned, or water to be drawn from the well. Yet, few complained; and most adapted well to frontier realities. They also found time to participate in charitable work outside the home and to stimulate the work of local civic organizations.

Life for the early Lake City housewife was not without pleasures and diversions. Parties at home were frequent. Anniversaries occasioned numerous home celebrations. Fifty couples crowded a modest Lake City home on one occasion in 1878 to celebrate the tenth wedding anniversary of the popular local druggist and his wife. The local magistrate performed a second wedding ceremony for the couple; and several congratulatory speeches were made by guests. To climax the celebration the husband was awarded a tin watch, crown and chain. His wife received a tin fan. Then the dancing began and lasted until dawn. The drug store did not open the next day; but "a good time was had by all," reported the local paper.

The fifth wedding anniversary of a local furniture dealer attracted eighty celebrants to a similar party. It featured dancing to the music of three local musicians. These celebrations were not limited to any particular season of the year, but gave year-round recognition to the institution which formed the cornerstone of home life on the mining frontier.

Birthdays provided a perennial opportunity for gatherings of respectable pioneers. Henry Finley, one of the Lake City town trustees, and a local real estate and lumber dealer, asked twenty-five couples to a party celebrating his son's first birthday. The group heard the usual congratulatory speeches, ate a late supper, and danced until dawn. Needless to say the guest of honor presumably retired before the party's conclusion. Even George Washington's birthday anniversary provided an excuse for at least one party in Lake City. It included speeches, toasts, and a reading of Washington's Farewell Address by Dr. D. S. Hoffman. Again, the local paper noted that all present had a fine time.

The editor of the *Silver World* doubtless was becoming weary of these events, that even included trout breakfasts. Thus, local readers probably excused their editor, when he wrote in January, 1878, that, "Private parties are very numerous, there being one nearly every night

at someone's home."

The frequency of home parties placed a premium on improvisation in devising new forms of diversion for guests. Housewives readily responded to the challenge. They planned progressive dinners, beginning with soup in one home, and then guests moving through successive courses at other homes. Fancy dress and costume parties also brought variety to the local social life. In summer months, croquet games enlivened the evenings; while in winter, games of Whist, Euchre, and a game called "High-Five" entertained home participants.

While the men worked at their various tasks and trades, the housewives, old and new, participated in church, school and home activities that contributed greatly to the development of the Lake City community. As housekeepers, party-planners, school patrons, and wives their life was not easy. Yet, most remained loyal to their duties, homes, and husbands. All worked together to develop and improve the frontier community they had joined. While public recreations were available and enjoyed, the home became the true focal point for enduring community life.

A TYPICAL EARLY LAKE CITY HOME on Gunnison Avenue. It is landscaped with the beautiful cottonwood trees, native to this city. The home is well preserved and still maintains its attractive appearance.



Chapter VIII

Civic Clubs and Duties

LODGES, FRATERNAL ORDERS, civic organizations and private clubs flourished in the early years of Lake City's history. They were responsible for social affairs restricted to members, and contributed, as well, to the general social and recreational pattern of the community.

In September, 1875, members of the Masonic Lodge proposed the establishment of a lodge in Lake City. Twenty masons, who felt themselves sufficiently permanent residents to affiliate with a local order, met on December 4 of that year. To provide a suitable meeting place, these men formed the Lake City Masonic Building Association, with a capital stock of \$2,500 and formulated plans for the eventual construction of a lodge hall.

Preliminary meetings of the masonic group were held in Brockett's Hall. By January, 1878, Grand Master Hart had inspected the town and approved it as a lodge location. The group now numbered seventy-five, but no one was competent to confer degrees. Therefore, John B. Haffy, of Del Norte, was secured to give instruction to the officers elect of A.F. and A.M. groups. By February, 1878, sufficient progress had been made to permit locally conducted meetings. The name chosen was, "Crystal Lake Lodge No. 34." The first meeting under dispensation was held February 28, 1878, and the charter was officially granted by the state organization the following October.

A permanent Masonic Hall was completed and furnished in February, 1879. The Masonic ladies, eligible for an Eastern Star chapter, began meeting in the homes. On January 9, 1898, a charter was granted to Lake City, Chapter No. 36, Eastern Star. In cooperation with the Crystal Lake Lodge, the Eastern Star chapter assumed responsibility for many social entertainments for the community, and arranged numerous parties for members of both orders.

The Silver Star Lodge, No. 27, I.O.O.F. was the first fraternal order in Lake City to receive a charter. Although it held its organization meeting after the Masonic order, its charter was granted, October 17, 1876. Articles of Incorporation for this lodge were filed with the Secretary of State, July 19, 1877. Weekly meetings were held in Brockett's Hall. The first New Year of the Order was observed in special style. The *Rocky Mountain News* reported:

Lake City, the metropolis of a large and rich portion of the San Juan Country, observed New Year's day in a manner that does credit to the present frontier civilization, a product that appears in kid gloves,

calls in the barber and appeals to swallow tail coats at grand balls and parties. In accordance with previous announcement, the ladies of the leading families kept Open House, but wines and intoxicating liquors were carefully excluded, as Lake City feels the influence of a flourishing temperance league. The Odd Fellows held a parade and public installation in the afternoon, at which the address was delivered by Hon. M. S. Taylor, well known in northern Colorado as a talented and eloquent attorney. The address was published in full by the local press and is in all respects worthy of commendation it has received at the hands of the audience; by no means an easy one to please. The observance closed with a grand ball in the evening in which over 100 couples took part.

The *Silver World* described the first I.O.O.F. Ball as follows: The display of elegant toilettes exceeded any previous occasion in Lake City. The ladies were elegantly dressed, a large portion in formal attire, and many men wore tails and kid gloves. Wheeler's Quadrille Band played for dancing, which lasted until 5 A.M. A supper, prepared by the ladies of the Order, was served at midnight.

Another important early day function of the Silver Star Lodge was the laying of the cornerstone for the Court House. The ceremony was held on April 11, 1877. General Sickles was in charge. Enclosed in the cornerstone were the Constitution and By-Laws of I.O.O.F., five silver coins, an Odd Fellow's medal, and a copy of the April 7, 1877, edition of the *Silver World*. General A. Danford delivered the principal address.

Members of the I.O.O.F. in Lake City assumed the responsibility for perpetual care of the cemetery. Other organizations were invited to join in this project, and annual Memorial Day services were included under the sponsorship of this group.

I. N. Rogers, Grand Master, and J. M. Norman, Grand Secretary of Colorado, installed the auxiliary unit of the I.O.O.F., the Rebekah Lodge, September 2, 1892. Thirty members received degrees on that date. Meetings proceeded regularly and usually were followed with whist parties, or other forms of social entertainment.

The following account of a fraternal order social event was reported by the *Silver World*:

Members of O.O.H. (Order of Humility) have been wearing black badges with "O.O.H." on them; but they will celebrate Tuesday, April 4. There will be a street parade, with members in full uniform, and a brass band. A public dance will follow.

The street parade proved quite sensational, even grotesque. Masked members, bearing torches and wearing fantastic costumes, marched in the parade. The brass band was somewhat inharmonious, because the members had practiced only two days. Eighty couples and many extra men enjoyed the dance which followed in Graff's Hall.

The following December, on Christmas Eve, the O.O.H. held an elaborate masquerade ball at Franklin Hall. Members of the order appeared in the costume of the organization: long baggy red pants; black frock-line night shirts, gathered at the waist with a red sash; and black wooten visors. The assemblage was very select. Only 100 were invited. All guests were costumed and unmasking occurred at midnight. Masquerade balls seemed to be a favorite form of entertainment for this organization as several were given yearly. To prevent uninvited guests

from entering the hall, masks were raised before a committee assigned to door duty.

Former Union soldiers met Monday, March 19, 1883, to organize a chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic. Sixteen men signed the application, and the charter was approved on May 19 of that year. The chapter roll included the names of forty members. The principles of G.A.R. were charity, loyalty, and fraternity, while its purpose was to aid veterans of the Civil War and their widows. Meetings of the G.A.R. were held regularly with special observance of holidays, such as the celebration of the capture of Ft. Donelson. This was observed with an indoor campfire, and hardtack, bacon, beans and coffee as the bill of fare. After the meal, a program of patriotic speeches and songs was presented. Four hundred persons attended this observance. A thirty-five cent admission charge was made, and the proceeds used for relief of needy soldiers' families.

The Good Templar Lodge, a temperance organization, was established in Lake City on June 1, 1883, with forty charter members. It was known as the "Golden Rule Lodge." The activities included the sponsorship of temperance lectures, and the presentation of plays, such as "Ten Nights in a Barroom," and literary programs of temperance significance. The Good Templars often allied with the I.O.O.F. in civic projects in Lake City.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen (AOUW) had a very active unit in Lake City, beginning in 1894. First meetings were held in the I.O.O.F. Hall, but in June 4, 1898, this order purchased Christian Hall and remodelled it for lodge purposes. The auxiliary to AOUW, Ladies of the Degree of Honor, organized and became active in lodge and civic affairs.

In the late 1890's a chapter of The Improved Order of Red Men was established. The social events of this organization were highlights of each season. Members appeared in Indian dress, and the ladies also wore Indian costumes.

The *Lake City Phonograph* expressed the scope and influence of lodges in Lake City in this manner:

There is probably no town of its size in the state that can boast of so many strong lodges of the prominent and secret societies as Lake City. The Masons, Workmen, and Odd Fellows all have a large and sterling membership, and the ladies auxiliaries, Eastern Star, Degree of Honor, and Rebekahs, respectively, are not behind their brethren in their enthusiasm and zeal for the success of their order. The Independent Order of Red Men also has a large tribe here and expect to open their wigwam soon to the Pocahontas degree.

Two organized units have been mentioned in connection with various parades and celebrations: The Pitkin Guards and the J. S. Hough Fire Company No. 1. These groups were active during the formative years of Lake City. The Pitkin Guards was Company C, First Regiment of the Colorado National Guard. The men were mustered into service on March 1, 1878, with thirty-eight members. Arms and ammunition were furnished and they were subject to call for protection of the area from possible uprisings or attacks from the Utes. The Armory was located in the Hough Building. Regular drill was held and a bugle blast was blown nightly.

On May 14, 1879, the Lake City Guards met for a general re-organization. Captain George J. Richards, chairman, and Morgan Draper,



THE JOHN S. HOUGH hose and ladder truck with the local Armory in the background. This building is still used as a community center for meetings, recreation, bingo games, dances and special celebrations.

secretary, took charge of the meeting. A letter from General Frank Hall assured them of state support and a supply of uniforms, as soon as possible. Thirty-nine men signed the re-organization roll and the name, Pitkin Guards, in honor of Governor F. W. Pitkin, was adopted. Regular drill sessions and target practice schedules were instituted. Parades through the town were not uncommon, and social affairs were eagerly anticipated by the ladies as well as the Guards. In November, 1880, with orders from Governor Pitkin, Commander in Chief of the Colorado National Guard, the annual muster was held under a new assignment, Company A of the Second Battalion. Just before Christmas, 1881, the promised uniforms were received by Major Richards. The uniform consisted of a dark blue, frock-style coat, with buttons bearing the Colorado Coat of Arms, lighter blue trousers with a dark blue stripe and a black belt.

In 1882, the Pitkin Guards went to Denver to participate in the ceremony to honor President Chester A. Arthur, who attended the Mining Exposition. A brass band had been added to the unit, several new recruits added to the rolls, and some of the officers received promotions. Also, in this year, the Governor and his wife and daughter visited Lake City. Their presence was the inspiration for a large party in their honor. The Guards were present to escort the Governor.

The Twelfth Anniversary Ball of the Pitkin Guards, given May 14, 1891, was of special significance. The Guards now claimed the distinction of being the oldest continuous military organization in Colorado. The anniversary party made special note of this distinction. During the spring and winter of 1895, the Pitkin Guards were less active in social affairs, much to the regret of citizens of Lake City. However, when trouble arose with Spain in 1898, the Company was ready and shortly men left for Denver.

A reception was held as a "going away" party. Patriotic speeches were made, songs were sung and dancing continued until the hour of departure. The following October, a benefit ball was held in the Armory. It was in the form of a farewell for Captain S. S. Eddy. Proceeds from the ball were sent to Lake City boys in Manila. Company A gave a "Welcome Home" smoker in October, 1899, for four men who had just returned from the Philippines. Toasts, music, cards, and talk filled the evening.

The hazard of fire plagues all isolated communities, and Lake City was no exception. The Trustees of the town began struggling with this problem in April, 1877, when it was proposed that a system of ditches be devised to utilize water from Henson Creek for fire-fighting purposes. A call was given for volunteer firemen, and on August 9, 1877, a No. 3 Babcock fire-fighting machine, with hook and ladder apparatus, was purchased for \$975. The Lake City Fire Company was organized at once with a membership limited to seventy-five. The uniform adopted was a red shirt with blue collar and cuffs, a fireman's helmet and a black belt. The Presbyterian Church bell was to be used to sound the alarm. Keys to the church were left in strategic places to permit access to the alarm bell.

The Fire Company made regular practice runs, but had no actual experience until the night of October 18, 1877, when the Bon Ton Saloon

THE HOSE AND TANK TRUCK of the John S. Hough Volunteer Fire Company. It was purchased in 1882.



caught fire. The blaze was discovered too late for the fighters to save the building, but the limits of the fire were contained. Losses ran between \$4,000 and \$5,000 to the wooden structures in the vicinity of the saloon.

As a result of this fire, the merchants and real estate men organized a Protective Association and made arrangements for a nightly patrol to curb future fires in the business district. The Fire Company continued practice runs and kept the limited equipment in good condition. Its efforts were tested to the limit, however, when on November 8, 1879, a disastrous fire swept the business district, causing \$50,000 damage. The best constructed portion of the town was destroyed in this fire, Silver Street north from Third, including the Centennial Saloon, Hartman's Dry Goods, Joe Abrams' Grocery, and Jack McWilliams' Saloon were completely destroyed. On Third Street, Reece's Saloon, Latimer Grocery, Ishams' Jewelry, Kingsleys' City Marshall Office, Johnsons' Barber Shop, Smith and Bascom Grocery, and Walton's Blacksmith Shop were all burned. Furnishings and merchandise in some buildings were removed by the owners, but were damaged by the snow and slush. The immediate plan was to rebuild, this time with brick and not wood!

The danger of fire was now noticeably acute. But it was not until March 6, 1882, that the John S. Hough Fire Company was organized. John Hough, benefactor, for whom the company was named, had been a member of the Colorado Constitutional Convention in 1876. He was an unsuccessful candidate for Governor on the Democratic ticket in 1880. In Lake City he constructed what was known as the Hough Block. He was the original owner of the Palmetto group of mines, from which he acquired his wealth. The Frank Hough Mine was named for his only son.

The Hough Fire Company had twenty-three members and its equipment included, three force pumps, 600 feet of hose, a hook and ladder truck, and six portable Babcock extinguishers. Three wells were located in strategic places. The town provided most of the equipment and Hough supplemented it. Among his gifts was a 300 pound bell and a hose reel. The Hough Fire Company became, not only a protective agency against fire, but it was a social order as well. Dances and holiday parties were highlights of the social season for years. The Company participated in all parades in full uniform and cooperated with other organizations in civic projects. The Hough Fire Company No. 1 was incorporated in Lake City, March 24, 1893.

Between 1877 and 1890 private dancing clubs thrived. Among those organized were: The Silver Star, the Lotus, *Qui Vice*, Silver Circle, Jollyites, and Hinsdale Club. The last mentioned restricted its membership to select members of the male sex and maintained club rooms in the Opera House building.

By 1890, the interest had swung to card clubs and literary societies. The leading men's club, known as the Lake City Club, was organized November 20, 1891, and maintained club quarters in the Armory Building. Facilities for cards, billiards, reading, and general entertainment were provided for members and guests. The Club remained open daily from 2:00 to 12:00 P.M. Mrs. Heath recalled that membership was very selective, and young ladies were invited to the club only on Ladies' Night, and then only in the company of a member. Such an invitation constituted a part of the social routine for "coming-out" parties. The Lake City Club is reported on the tax rolls for personal property in 1898.

Debating claimed the attention of many in the early 1880's. A Debating Society was organized on March 3, 1884, and a series of regularly scheduled debates on current topics followed. Such subjects as "Resolved, that prohibition is the best way to remove the evil of intemperance," "Resolved, that labor saving machinery has been a benefit to the laboring man," and "Resolved, that a lawyer is justified in defending a client he knows to be guilty," were argued and judged.

The Lake City Literary Club was organized on March 30, 1898. The membership was exclusively male. The program at the initial meeting consisted of Mark Twain readings, and a debate, "Resolved, that the United States should compel Spain to grant independence to Cuba." In December, 1898, a Saturday Reading Club was organized for the ladies of Lake City. The first program included a study of Longfellow's "Evangeline." Later planned programs included discussions of topics of scientific and literary interest.

Among the clubs organized for young people was the Archery Club, formed on June 22, 1883, and the Uterian Archery Club, organized in 1883. The Chryseis Club for young girls twelve to sixteen was started in 1884. It received its name from Chryseis in Homer's "Iliad," the beautiful daughter of Chryseis, priest of Apollo. The girls devoted their time to needlework and learning social graces.

The advent of the bicycle brought about the formation of the Lake City Wheel Club. Thirty members regularly toured to nearby points of interest. Races were held and on October 20, 1895, six members of the club participated in the Montross-Denver relay bicycle race.

In addition to the entertainment generated by social clubs and organizations, individuals held many social events throughout the years. The people who settled Lake City, and became its permanent citizens, brought with them a social pattern of gracious hospitality and refinement which they continued to follow in their new surroundings. Small dinner parties, followed by cards, were the most popular. Whist was the favorite card game. Mrs. Emma Liska related that often as many as twelve or fifteen guests would be entertained at a formal dinner in the home, or in a private dining room in one of the hotels. On such occasions much attention was paid to the table appointments. Fine crystal, china, and silver were used, as well as hand-painted place cards. Mrs. Ralph Horton added that dinners in the home were always followed with planned entertainment, such as musicales or cards.

Calling days were observed, according to Mrs. Liska. The ladies had elaborate card cases to carry with them. Trays of cards near the door, or in the parlor, measured the popularity of the hostess. Sometimes one would hope a prospective hostess might not be in, then one could leave a card and hurry on to discharge another social obligation. By careful planning, it was possible to make as many as eighteen calls in a single afternoon.

Each week the social calendar was crowded with private parties, particularly during the winter months. Birthdays and anniversaries offered splendid reasons for planned festivities. "Tin" and "Wooden" wedding anniversaries were most popular. Always appropriate gifts were presented and decorations carried the motif of the occasion. In some instances, a humorous mock wedding ceremony was performed.

Summer called for picnic plans and family hikes into the mountains. While the men fished, the women and children collected crystals and rock specimens. Often the evenings were spent in croquet matches. Mrs. Annie

Doran remembered that women prepared for days for these family picnics. The trips were made in wagons and often several families would join for an overnight trip into the mountains. A favorite event for the young people was the annual mid-summer party at Baker's ranch five miles north of town. Guests traveled by train to the ranch. They arrived early in the morning and spent the entire day playing games and riding on a horse-turned merry-go-round. The Bakers served a delicious meal at noon and homemade ice cream was prepared in five gallon quantities for the afternoon refreshment.

The *Lake City Times* summed up the situation regarding entertainment for the town's young people by saying:

In one sense of the word, Lake City is the young people's paradise. The younger class seem to enjoy themselves to the full extent, with parties and social gatherings, and the parents and older ones seem to take pride in helping the young people in their pleasure.

In retrospect, one must consider the isolated location of Lake City, the frontier lawlessness which always confronts a mining community, the diversity of its people, the extreme winter weather, and the lack of accustomed conveniences and comforts, before evaluating the recreational and social history of the early years. This considered, it would seem that this particular community must have followed strong leadership which recognized usual social problems in a frontier camp, and solved them with an accepted pattern of social activity which included all ages and levels.

The saloon, bawdy houses, transient workers, and other disrupting elements could have defeated the efforts toward the establishment of a cultured and socially acceptable code of living. That these did not succeed must be credited to the abundance of interesting, exciting, amusing and instructive activities which evolved from the churches, fraternal orders, organizations, private clubs and zealous leaders who determined to transplant the culture and refinement they had known elsewhere to this, their new home.

Chapter IX

The Other Side of Society

REFERENCE HAS BEEN made in previous chapters to the conflict between the two elements in Lake City: the lawless and the law-abiding. For that reason, it is of interest and significance to cite some specific infractions of the law which disturbed an otherwise peaceable and progressive community.

On August 7, 1875, the *Silver World* reported horse thieves were active in the area, and added, "we are not particularly fond of scenes of violence, but we don't know anything that would afford our citizens more pleasure than the hanging of a horse thief." The editor wrote in partial jest, yet, the problem was present.

The "hanging fever" apparently had been growing, because a few nights previous, J. M. Ford, a newcomer into camp, had made an unprovoked and cowardly attack on William Gardner, severely slashing his back with a knife. Gardner was well liked in the community and his friends resented the attack. Talk of hanging started. The men were persuaded, however, to run Ford out of town as an alternative. This was countermanded when Gardner's wounds proved to be more serious than originally reported. As a result, Ford was detained. Unable to make the \$2,000 bond, he was taken to the Del Norte jail where charges were filed. Gardner recovered from his wounds, and Ford was fined for assault and battery.

Perhaps it was this difficulty of getting a guilty verdict in court and commensurate punishment that made men prefer to settle matters in their own way. A case in point was reported in the *Silver World*:

Some horses and mules have been stolen from this vicinity, either by an organized band of thieves, or by parties who want a cheap yet expeditious way of leaving the county. Anyone found with a stolen horse wouldn't be bothered by questions, but would be allowed a few moments meditation and prayer before ascending upward — on a rope.

Eager for some law enforcement, a posse set out to apprehend the horse thieves. Two were caught near Del Norte by Sheriff W. T. King and his party, and were returned to Lake City for preliminary hearing. The thieves were bound over and held in a temporary jail, the only such space available, and guarded by James Hall and Jack Lewis. About 3 A.M. the sheriff went to the jail to make an inspection, and Lewis, thinking Allen was an intruder, fired through the window, mortally wounding him. In the confusion which followed, the thieves made their escape.

Accusers, as well as accused, were often admonished, as in the case

of Bill Miller, who accused Jimmy Dolan of theft. Dolan was arrested and brought to trial. The case was dismissed for lack of evidence. "This is the second case of this kind that has recently occurred in Lake City," commented the *Silver World* editor. "We should advise persons sustaining such losses to be more sure of their evidence before bringing parties into courts to defend their good names."

There seemed the most prevalent crime in the early years. Sometimes it caused civic embarrassment, as when visitors from Del Norte had the cushions taken from their carriages, and, while they were at breakfast next morning, their shoes and blankets taken from their rooms. Commenting on this incident, the *Silver World* offered as a suggestion:

It would be doing a favor to the community to make it publicly known if anyone knows who has these articles. We have no jail here for the confinement of petty offenders; but a few lashes and orders to leave the camp should be the penalty inflicted upon anyone proved guilty of stealing.

In April, 1876, the town trustees considered the matter of an adequate jail. A committee was appointed to prepare plans and obtain estimates for the construction of a building. By June, 1876, a log structure neared completion. The *Silver World* termed it "a log 'calaboose,'" and further stated that it was,

... admirably adapted as a "cooler." A drunk might possibly avoid getting out, while, if lying in it overnight to get "cooled off," the police will have no more trouble than to return a "non est inventus," and draw their fees. A square arrangement all around and one which we hope will prove equally satisfactory to taxpayers and offenders.

This cynicism prevailed in the community as the "calaboose" continued to serve only as a safe depository for drunks. The *Silver World* waxed poetic over the "lugging" of an inebriated female to the "boose" one Thursday night, saying "who she was and how she fared, nobody knew and nobody cared."

Meanwhile, gunplay and fist fights were used as a means of settling differences. When doubt arose as to the guilt of the surviving party, he was placed under bond and held for preliminary hearing. One such altercation occurred in the Star Billiard Hall on the night of July 3, 1876. Johnny Roche and Dan Emmit settled an argument with guns. Roche was killed and an innocent bystander wounded. Opinions divided as to who drew first. Emmit was held for trial, and placed under \$3,000 bond. He was able to make bond and was released. Before the district court convened, Emmit was arrested on a second charge, assault with intent to commit rape on one of the denizens of a dance house. In default of \$2,000 bail, he was placed in jail to await the next term of court. Two weeks later he escaped by digging out under the wall of the jail, "an easy task," according to the *Silver World*. "The jail is unfit for the detention of anyone save a drunk." No effort was made to recapture Emmit. "He'd probably be proven not guilty of both charges and a serious expense would be entailed on the county without good results," lamented the editor.

The town trustees increased the police force at this time, by appointing E. Eastman and William McBride to serve as special officers. Their pay was to be \$5 for each arrest and conviction. W. R. Montieth and Frank Knisley were appointed to the night force, at a salary of \$50 each per month.

Winter months gave a respite from serious crimes. Transient workers and drifters, who usually were credited with provoking lawlessness, moved to warmer climates. In February, 1877, however, the town board made an inspection of the jail, and authorized the expenditure of \$150 to make it more secure. The *Silver World* approved the project, and added: Fortunately at present there is little or no use for a jail; but with the advent of spring, will, no doubt, come more or less lawless characters upon whom the strong hand of the law will frequently have to be placed, then a better jail will be demanded.

City ordinances began to take form early in 1877. Peddlers were required to pay \$25 a year license fee; the \$5 male and \$19 female dog tax was changed to \$2 for all dogs; a \$5 to \$10 fine was set for allowing hogs, sheep, or goats to run loose, and a \$5 to \$35 fine for carrying concealed weapons was set. A street tax of \$6, or two days labor, was ordered, and city hotel owners were required to remove garbage to outside city limits weekly. Gambling laws were amended, requiring a \$50 license fee for each faro and Reno table, with a \$5 fee for each additional game in the same room and under the same management. Prostitutes were required to register with town officials and pay a \$10 license fee monthly.

The first case recorded in the Hinsdale County Judgment Book was on May 17, 1877, when H. F. Fraley was charged with assault and battery. He had appeared before Judge Frank Curtis, May 7, 1877, and was fined \$3 and costs of \$26.85.

The docket of criminal cases in District Court, June 18, 1877, listed:

People	vs	Daniel Emmit	Murder
People	vs	Daniel Emmit	Rape
People	vs	F. W. Sitterlee	Assault with intent to kill
People	vs	George Griswold	Forgery
People	vs	Daniel Emmit	Manslaughter
People	vs	Hugh Lambert & Lewis Lambert	Resisting officer
People	vs	John Dalton	Larceny
People	vs	H. E. Fraley	Assault and battery
People	vs	M. S. Van Pelt	Assault with intent to kill

Judge Thomas M. Bowen was the presiding judge. At this term of court, two cases were dismissed, and the other defendants had broken jail and escaped. The new jail was, as yet, not as secure as hoped by its supporters.

Personal law enforcement continued with the use of a ".44 Colt," a shot gun, a ".38," a six-shooter, or fists, knives, and clubs. Business owners, saloon keepers, bartenders, and mine superintendents were armed in self-defense, as were the private citizens of the community.

Race trouble was not unusual, and Mexican laborers at the mines were frequently involved in gun play. A small war of the races broke out in Crookville early in July, 1877, with a "free for all fight between three Americans and four 'spics' resulting in a brilliant victory for the former," according to the *San Juan Crescent*.

Yet the *Rocky Mountain News*, on August 9, 1877, observed:

The crowd (L.C.) is noisy but good natured. Street brawls are scarce and the crack of the playful six-shooter is rarely heard. When they do fight, however, it is in earnest; but the coroner is always on hand and as soon as the smoke subsides, darts in and lugs off the remains.

Characteristic of this "shooting in earnest" was the street fight between William Brock from Gunnison and Tom King of Lake City, which occurred on April 9, 1877. King had publicly threatened to kill Brock, who had served on a vigilante committee in which King had been accused of stealing. The two met one evening at Third and Silver Streets. An argument and strong language ensued. Both men started down Silver Street, then stopped near Jordan's store, and faced each other at a distance of about eight feet. Shots were exchanged. King was delayed in drawing, as his gun stuck in the holster. He was hit in the stomach. King returned the fire, hitting Brock in the groin with his first bullet, while a second shot struck Brock in the arm and then lodged near the shoulder. Brock's gun jammed, so he ran down the street, seeking refuge in Charlie Haines' cabin. King died a week later of wounds received in the fight. Brock was acquitted of any charges. Public sentiment was entirely with him, though King's supporters declared Brock had his gun out, hidden under a blanket, during the argument. The citizens and miners held an organizational meeting a week later and formed the Citizens and Miners Protective Organization, designed to protect the rights of miners and people of the town.

On August 6, 1877, a culprit felt the cruel hand of citizen punishment for crime. The incident was reported in the *Silver World*:

Last Monday a brute answering to the euphonious name of "Whistling Jack" attempted a nameless crime upon the person of a small boy, at the lower end of town. The cries of the child brought the father to the scene of the assault, who, with club in hand, succeeded in arresting the villain and lodging him in the "cooler." Subsequently, he was released by a delegation of our citizens, who gave him a hundred and twenty-five lashes on the bare back, with free permission to leave the city. The punishment, though severe, was not, in our opinion commensurate with the heinousness of the offense.

Election day in early Lake City times provoked tempers and caused violence. An example is the murder of Luther Rhea, a quiet, inoffensive young man. Rhea and Jack Wells, an express driver, engaged in an argument over the election. Wells spoke disparagingly of candidate J. W. Hughes. Rhea resented the language and struck Wells. The incident smoldered in Wells' mind while he spent the evening looking for Rhea. Finding him in the Centennial Saloon, Wells walked up to him and opened fire. Within twelve minutes Rhea was dead. Wells was arrested, charged with murder, and held for the grand jury.

Rhea's funeral service was conducted at the Presbyterian Church by Reverend George Darley and Reverend B. B. Dundas, assisted by J. H. Merritt, presiding elder of the Southern District of Colorado. The Lake City band played a last tribute with muffled drums. Wells was acquitted of the murder of Rhea after a trial was held in Del Norte on April 5, 1878. The citizens of Lake City shared the disgust voiced by the *Silver World* editor over the verdict.

Election violence continued; in fact, an election unmarked with violence was rare. September 28, 1878, the *Silver World* decried the situation, editorially:

There are rumors that another man is to be "put out of the way" on election day. Is Lake City to be disgraced at every election by rowdiness and drunkenness? Is its name to be forever stained with

blood? Are the knife and pistol to control our elections? Is a fair and free election to be prevented and free speech and free thought to be stifled by fear of assassination? We call upon our officers to see that peace is preserved; that the city ordinance, closing all saloons, is rigidly enforced; that they see to it that candidates "workers" at the polls do not keep "open house" and furnish free whiskey to voters, as has openly been done at previous elections, to the end that many not lose their reason, become brutes, and while in liquor, engage in quarreling and fighting.

Violence growing out of election slander continued, as evidenced by the Young-Bennett shooting fray in November, 1881. Frank C. Bennett was a candidate for clerk on the Republican ticket. His character had been caustically assailed by his opponent. The two engaged in a fist fight to settle the matter. A week later, in the Comet Saloon, Bennett accused J. C. Young of repeating the slanderous remarks. This Young denied. Bennett proceeded to call Young a liar and lunged at him. A fight ensued. Bennett stumbled over a spittoon, and while in this position, Young fired a ".32" hitting Bennett in the rear. He then fired a bullet through his victim's shoulder. Bennett was taken to the Rocky Mountain Express office, treated, and given opiates for shock. Young was placed in the sheriff's custody. Bennett died later that day and Young was charged with murder. Bail was set at \$4,000, and Young's trial was postponed. In the District Court trial December 12, 1881, Young pled not guilty by reason of accidental shooting. The jury debated for three days and ended in a deadlock. Young was again bound over for the next session of court. In the next trial, he was found not guilty as charged. The *Silver World* criticized the outcome of the trial contending Young should have been found guilty of manslaughter, since he started the trouble with his vile language.

The Ute uprising in the fall of 1879 caused much concern and alarm. All women and children in Lake City and vicinity were taken to underground mine workings on Henson Creek, where they could be guarded safely. No violence was inflicted on Lake City residents or residents in the mining camps, though Josephine Meeker, a young girl, and her companions were kidnapped by the Indians. They were returned, unharmed.

An ironic note was sounded in an embezzlement charge against Harry A. McIntire. The *Sagauche Chronicle*, June 17, 1876, announced his arrival in Lake City from Colorado Springs. He had come to establish a branch of the First National Bank of that city. Of McIntire the paper said, "his honesty and fair dealing is well known, and Lake City is fortunate to have so fine a man." In January, 1880, McIntire was charged and convicted by a court for embezzling \$40,000 from the First National Bank of Lake City.

By 1881, another form of lawlessness became common, robbery of the stage line. The *Silver World* reported that for the fourth time within six months the mail and express coach on the road between Alamosa and Lake City had been waylaid and robbed. Three months later, June 30, 1881, the mail coach on the same route was again robbed.

A more efficient law enforcement program was in effect by 1882. E. N. Campbell had been appointed sheriff in 1879. He was a hard worker, a conscientious officer and highly respected by Lake City residents. The tragedy surrounding his untimely death stands out in Lake City criminal history.

George Betts and James Browning were owners of the notorious San



THE OCEAN WAVE BRIDGE, NORTH OF TOWN, OVER THE LAKE FORK OF THE GUNNISON RIVER. IT WAS FROM this bridge that George Betts and James Browning were hanged by a lynch mob. Their bodies were left dangling from ropes for a full day, so that school children might view a demonstration, "that crime did not pay." The bridge has now been replaced by a steel structure.

Juan Central dance house. Frequent assaults and shootings earned for this establishment the name, "one of the vilest places in the San Juan." City officials had been importuned to close the place. Betts, a Canadian, was generally accepted as a person of shady character, and he had been accused of robbery in the vicinity on previous occasions. Browning, who was only eighteen, seemed entirely under the influence of Betts. The two were persuaded by two girls from the dance hall to enter the unoccupied house which had been built and furnished by T. W. M. Draper, Superintendent of the Golden Fleece mine. The house was then owned by W. G. Luckett. Though the house was unoccupied, it contained fine furniture and costly bric-a-brac. The men, anxious to please the girls, made a preliminary investigation of the premises and removed some valuable articles, which were later found in their possession. Yet, before the discovery, the two laid plans to return to the house for more looting.

April 25, 1882, was an exciting and happy day in Lake City. Plans were being made to attend the party which would follow the wedding rehearsal of two popular residents, Miss Mary Stem and Harry Beatty. The wedding was to be a large public affair on the following day. The Odd Fellows Lodge had also planned an anniversary parade and celebration, while two hundred miners were preparing for a special meeting. It was an opportune time for a robbery to be committed.

Luckett returned unexpectedly to Lake City and checked his house. He found it had been entered again and that several things were missing. He reported the matter to Sheriff Campbell, who summoned his deputy, Clair Smith, and the two went to the Luckett house. The officers were waiting in a dark hall when, at about 1:45 P.M. they heard the back door

being opened. Two men entered and struck matches, clearly revealing their identity. At the sheriff's order to drop their guns and throw up their hands, Betts fired his gun, striking Campbell, who fell to the floor. Campbell returned the fire, but his bullet missed its aim and lodged in the wall. He called out to Smith to catch the men, and died almost instantly, thereafter. Smith, concerned with the sheriff's fatal injury, did not follow the men. Their identity was known, however, and armed scouts were sent in all directions to apprehend them. Betts was captured on the Del Norte road by deputies Andrew and Duggan. Browning was arrested by night policeman Hines in the San Juan Central dance hall. Both men were placed in jail.

A coroner's jury was summoned by Coroner Rapp. The verdict was, Campbell died of a ".44" bullet which entered his left side, piercing his heart. The bullet matched Betts' gun. Browning carried a ".38." These guns were found on the men when they were captured. Betts' gun had one empty shell; he was charged with murder and Browning named as accessory. The prisoners were manacled and placed in the left center jail cell.

The aftermath of the killing led to mob violence. The *Silver World* reported it as:

... a tribute to justice offered by 500 citizens of Lake City. All day, Wednesday, the people talked of the happenings of that early dawn. They evinced a determined feeling, and many openly advocated immediate infliction of the proper penalty. As the cyclone silently gathers its deadly power, so did the tempers of the people gather resolution that the murderers should during the night be hurled to hell.

The enraged citizens began gathering at the appointed place, near the sheriff's home, at 11:00 P.M. The men were masked and armed with rifles. Some had ropes, others had sledges with which to batter down the jail doors. Every able bodied man in town was in the party. The moon rose, but the valley was in shadow. The men waited for the moon to decline. Three men attempted to dissuade the action, but they were forced to retire.

A small metal whistle gave directions to the group as it moved toward the jail. Guards ordered the mob to halt, but rifles were lowered and no one paused. In twenty minutes the jail door was broken open. Browning was dragged out first. Five times the rope was put on him before it was secured, while he begged for friendly aid. Betts asked for a chew of tobacco and cursed the people as the rope was placed around his neck. Both were led to the Ocean Wave Bridge, north of town, where they were tied to the beams. Browning professed his innocence and begged piteously for mercy. At the command, "Up with them!" the ropes were raised and secured. Browning made three futile attempts to seize the rope with his manacled hands, otherwise neither struggled. The bodies were left until late the next morning, when friends removed them to Browning's residence. They were buried Friday morning. Many habitues of the dance house followed them to their graves. Reverend H. M. Whaley, by request read the funeral service and offered prayers for the deceased. Their funeral service preceded that of their victim.

The coroner pronounced the two men, "hanged by unknown parties." School was dismissed and the children went to see the bodies hanging from the beams of the bridge. The two girls who had persuaded Browning and Betts to attempt the robbery left town soon after the hanging.

The *Silver World* printed excerpts from the *Gunnison Daily Review*, *Denver Republican*, *Denver Evening World*, and *Pueblo Chieftain*. All approved the Betts and Browning lynching. The *Silver World* concurred in the opinion and asserted that crafty lawyers and legal technicalities would likely have freed them both. The editor added:

We fully and unequivocally endorse the recent action, not that we gloat over it; but because it was a dire necessity. We rejoice in the evidence so sternly demonstrated that the people are not dead in spirit, calloused in nature, nor overawed by the baser element present in the community; but that deep down in their natures lie the seeds, the very foundation of justice.

Funeral services for Sheriff Campbell were conducted at the Presbyterian Church, under the auspices of the I.O.O.F. Silver Lodge No. 27, which had cancelled its planned anniversary celebration out of respect for the deceased. Business houses were closed, all public buildings were draped in mourning, and the flag at the Court House flew at half-mast. Civic organizations marched from Campbell's home to the church and from there to the cemetery. The church could not accommodate one-half the number who attended the service. Sheriff Campbell had come to Lake City in June, 1876. He served as sheriff from April 9, 1879, until his death. He left a wife and six children, ranging in age from nine months to eleven years.

Two and one half years later the town board passed an ordinance permitting the San Juan Central to open as a dance hall only. Closing hour was set at 1:00 A.M. and no minors were permitted to enter the establishment. A further ordinance prohibited prostitutes from entering any saloon, other than regular dance halls, as well as from promenading the public streets after dark.

The bridge from which Betts and Browning were hanged became a focal point of interest to tourists, as did the burial ground of five early day prospectors, the victims of Alfred Packer, confessed killer and consumer of human flesh. Though Packer's crime was committed prior to the period of Lake City's organization, his trial was held in the spring of 1883, in Lake City.

The bodies of five men, later identified as Israel Swan, George Noon, Frank Miller, Shannon Bell and Jim Humphrey, a segment of a twenty-one member party enroute from Salt Lake City to the gold fields of Breckenridge, Colorado, were found in a gulch near Lake San Cristobal, shortly after Lake City was founded. These men disappeared during the winter of 1873-74. Evidence pointed to foul play. An investigation began, resulting in the arrest of Alfred Packer, who had been hired at the Pinto Indian Agency to serve as a guide for these men. Packer had returned to the Agency later in the year, with a large amount of money, for which he could offer no plausible explanation. He also told an improbable story about the men with whom he had been prospecting. When the bodies of the prospectors were recovered, the unaccounted appearance, wealth, and actions of Packer gained significance. By that time he had vanished. He was found in Wyoming, arrested, and returned to Lake City, to be tried for the murder of his companions.

At the trial, through the defendant's testimony, it was learned that, not only did Packer rob and kill the five men, but that their flesh was a source of food supply for him as he made his way through the snow and ice-

bound mountains to the Indian agency.

Public sentiment ran high against Packer because of this revolting evidence. However, there were others inclined to take a more charitable view. They felt that the rigors of the winter, and the hopelessness of the situation in which the men found themselves, lost, snow-bound, without food and supplies, had, no doubt removed the last vestige of sanity from all the group, as well as the survivor.

The jury found Packer guilty of murder. The sentencing by Judge M. C. Gerry is a matter of court record:

Wherefore it is considered and adjudged by the Court, that the said Alfred Packer be and is hereby condemned to die upon the scaffold on the 19th day of May A.D. 1883, within the corporate limits of the Town of Lake City, County aforesaid, between the hours of 10 o'clock A.M. and 3 o'clock P.M. of said day, and it is further considered, ordered and adjudged that the defendant, Alfred Packer, be removed from this Court House to the jail of Hinsdale County, State of Colorado, and there be confined until the 19th day of May, A.D. 1883, and that on said 19th day of May, A.D. 1883, the said Alfred Packer be taken from thence by the sheriff of said Hinsdale County, to a place of execution prepared for the purpose, within the limits of said town, in the said County of Hinsdale, at the time aforesaid, then and there by said sheriff, to be hung by the neck until dead, dead, dead, and that a death warrant issue hereon to the sheriff of said County for the execution of this judgment and sentence.

The gallows were constructed and special printed invitations were issued. H. G. Heath still had the invitation in 1960 which was sent to L. C. Dana. It read:

Lake City, Colorado, May 2, 1883

Mr. L. C. Dana,

You are respectfully invited to attend the execution of Alfred Packer at Lake City, Colorado, on the 19th day of May, A.D. 1883.

Clair Smith,
Sheriff

On a morning prior to the execution date, Packer was found missing from the county jail. He had been taken to the Gunnison County jail for safe keeping, while his case was appealed to the Supreme Court of Colorado. A stay of execution was granted, pending the decision of the Supreme Court. The decision was handed down on July 6, 1886.

A. Packer case was heard by Colorado Supreme Court, brought there on a Writ of Error, July 6, 1886 notice came to District Court, Hinsdale County:

Supreme Court ruled that, "... there is manifest error in the proceedings and judgment aforesaid of District Court. It is therefore considered and adjudged by the Court that the judgment aforesaid of said Court be, and is hereby reversed, annulled, and altogether held for naught, and that the motion to discharge said plaintiff in error be, and is hereby denied, and that this course be remanded to said District Court for further proceedings according to law.

Wm. E. Beck, Chief Justice of S.C., Denver.

Alfred Packer, plaintiff in error

vs People of Colorado, defendant in error,

Case No. 1198

Packer was granted a new trial and change of venue to Gunnison County. There he was found guilty and sentenced to forty years at hard labor in the state penitentiary at Canon City. Around the turn of the century, through public sentiment, aroused by the *Denver Post*, and in particular, by a reporter known as Polly Pry, Packer was pardoned by Governor Charles S. Thomas. He spent his remaining days on a ranch near Denver, where, it is said, he died a vegetarian.

For the remainder of the period under consideration, crimes seem to have reached courts of law more frequently than personal settlement by an aggrieved citizenry. The jail, however, was still regarded as inadequate for safe confinement, consequently, prisoners were often transferred to the Gunnison County jail. In March, 1893, a new jail, with four large cells, was completed. Those charged with crime and found guilty were successfully confined in these new quarters.

The Lake City ordinance for misdemeanors in 1898 listed the following crimes and penalties:

Crime	Maximum	Minimum
Impersonating an officer	\$100	—
Indecent exposure	\$100	\$10
Cruelty to animals	\$ 50	\$ 3
Intoxication and disorderly conduct	\$ 50	\$ 5 & jail until sober
Firing Arms or explosions	\$100	\$ 1
Sports that frighten horses	\$ 20	\$ 3
Stone throwing at buildings	\$ 25	\$ 3
Breach of peace, obscene language	\$100	\$ 3
Molesting strangers	\$ 50	\$ 5
Disturbing religious exercises	\$100	\$ 5
Disturbing assemblies	\$ 50	\$ 1
False fire alarm	\$ 25	\$ 1
Disorderly house	\$100 & loss of license	\$ 5
Injuring streets	\$ 50	\$ 5
Aiding prisoners to escape	\$100	\$ 5
Intimidation by weapons	\$ 50	—
Immoderately riding, training or breaking animals—(Citizen arrest permitted)	\$100	\$ 1
Quarreling, fighting, breach of peace	\$ 25	\$ 5
Obstructing streets	\$ 25	\$ 5
Driving faster than walk over bridges	\$ 25	\$ 5
Concealed weapons	\$100	\$25 & weapons seized and sold
Vagrancy	\$ 25	\$ 5
Resisting arrest	\$100	\$ 5
Injuring water works	\$300	\$100

The Miner's strike in March, 1899, constituted the last major act of violence in the period. Two mines were affected, Ute and Ulay and the Hidden Treasure. About one hundred men were involved, forty of whom were Italian. The Italians were members of a recently organized local union of the Western Federation of Miners. A few native Americans also held membership in this union. The mining companies involved issued an

order requiring all single men to board at company boarding houses. The Italians refused to comply with the order and went on strike. They broke into the Armory of Co. A. 2nd Infantry in Lake City and carried away arms and ammunition. When the Americans came to work they were beaten and driven off by the Italians who threatened to shoot them if they persisted in returning to work. Not only had arms and ammunition of the Pitkin Guards been confiscated, but all Winchester rifles and other firearms on sale in town had been purchased.

On March 16 Governor Charles S. Thomas ordered out the following troops, under Colonel MacCarey of the 1st Infantry:

Co's A and B — 1st Infantry
 A and B — 2nd Infantry
 Troops B and C, First Squad, Cavalry
 Chaffee light artillery.

These units reached Lake City March 20, and were quartered in the Armory.

With the arrival of the militia, wholesale arrests were made. The military officers, civil officers, mine managers, citizens, and the Italian Consul reached an agreement that prisoners were to be released, if the single men would leave the county within three days and the married men within sixty days. The employees of the companies involved could board where they pleased. This agreement received general approval, except by the Italian Consul and the Italian strikers. However, since the company managers were already resolved not to employ Italian workers, these foreigners were left with no choice but to move on.

With the cross section of lawlessness here recounted, it is not difficult to visualize the constant vigilance necessary to maintain even a minimum of law enforcement. Credit should be given to the strong leadership which persevered through the early years and brought order and respect for law to this mining community.



Miner's Cabin on Henson Creek.

Epilogue

WHEN OTTO MEARS, pioneer financier, developer, and railroad magnate of the San Juan area, died in 1931, his last request was that his body be cremated and the ashes be scattered over the divide between Lake City and Silverton, high in the mountains he had fought and conquered and loved. This request was fulfilled in August, 1931, after a memorial service held in Silverton at the Episcopal Church, with Bishop Ingley officiating. This was an unusual expression of devotion to a geographical area, and an exciting, history-making era.

The busy tourist season bolsters Lake City's economy today, but there is a definite distinction between the permanent and the transient residents. The people of Lake City are friendly and cooperative in making their summer visitors welcome and comfortable, but there is a certain inherent quality which forms an invisible barrier to protect the segment of the past, which still may be found in the life of the community.

When the last tourist leaves, Lake City does not become a stagnate, isolated town waiting for the next vacation season. Those who remain revert to those pleasures of uninterrupted reading, quiet, leisurely visits with friends and neighbors of long standing, small club activities, and church services, all in the pattern of their pioneer background. The radio and television have finally intruded, but they have not replaced the pleasure of playing the piano, the pump-organ, and the violin, nor the joy of singing together familiar songs of the past. Modern merchandise and prepared foods are available, but needle art and time-tested recipes still prevail. The jeep and the family automobile have been added, but the winter sports which featured pioneer days still bring pleasure.

Of the original mining camps of the San Juan Country, only four remain: Ouray, Silverton, Telluride, and Lake City. The others are now only landmarks, with decaying, delapidated log structures as reminders of a more prosperous era. The social and cultural background of the remaining towns contributed to their present status of endurance, and influenced their current social patterns. For that reason, a history of the social, educational and recreational phase of Lake City's first twenty-five years is important.

There is an elusive, yet sanguine, tie with the past. It is felt by those who knew Lake City in its early days. This is simply and sincerely expressed in this copy-book letter found between the chinked logs of an 1876 cabin in Lake City:

August 28, 1935

Fifty-four years ago, in 1880, my father, Thomas G. Higgins, bought this house, and here he, my mother, and I lived 'til 1887. At that time I was twelve years old, and the happiest memories of my boyhood center at this spot.

When we were approaching Lake City last Saturday, August

ONE OF THE EARLIEST CABINS in Lake City. It was built in 1876. There is a cellar under the back room which was used as a "hiding-place" in case of an Indian attack. This is the present summer home of the author.

24th. I wondered if this old house would be still standing, and you who take the trouble to read, can imagine my pleasure when I found it practically unchanged, and my delight when I found I could have it all for our own for a few days.

It has been great fun drawing water from the old well and going to sleep and waking up in the rooms where I dreamed big dreams fifty years ago. Not all of them came true, but coming back to this old house and the old home did come true.

To me this is about the most splendid spot in all the world, the little city nestled in among these old mountains. And on a starry night it's just next door to heaven. Then, to complete my happiness, I found many boys and girls I knew fifty years ago, and their children and grand-children, splendid, happy, cheerful people, all of them. Tonight, I wonder if they haven't been as happy living here all this time, as we who have wandered here and there and afar.

Good-bye old house, old happy home! Perhaps I will never see you again, but you will always be a happy memory.

John G. Higgins
San Francisco, California

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