

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF HUGH BOON,

Hugh Boon stated he was county superintendent of Schools in Lake County for the years 1869, 70 and 71 or until the election of 1872. Lake county then included the present Chaffee County and extended westward to the Utah State Line, but there were no schools west of the continental divide. At the time he took the office there were five schools in Lake County, one at Oro City, one at Granite, one at Browns Creek, one at Poncho Springs and one which had been organized the previous year at adobe park. He organized School District No. 6 on Trout Creek during his term of office, and No. 7 at Riverside was organized either during his term of office or immediately afterwards. He did not clearly remember which.

He was a delegate to the first Republican State Convention at Pueblo following the admission of Colorado into the Union in 1876. He mentioned there were two other delegates from Lake County. These two were strongly in favor of Samuel E. Elbert (Territorial Governor from 1873 to 1874) and for whom Mt. Elbert is named) for Governor. Mr. Boon himself favored John L. Routt, Territorial Governor when Colorado became a state, but there was considerable opposition to him in this section because he had put it under Martial Law when the Lake County war was on. The other two delegates did not at first intend to attend the convention and gave Boon their proxies, but upon re-considering the matter, they showed up at the convention and voted for Elbert. Boon held out against them and supported Routt. When the votes were counted, Elbert lacked one of sufficient nomination, and a deadlock followed. That evening they held a caucus and reached an agreement whereby Routt was to receive the nomination for Governor and Elbert that for Judge of the State Supreme Court. Both were successful at the following election.

Mr. Boon stated the Marshall Pass was originally called Poncho Pass, but following a trip to this country by Lieutenant Marshall, in charge of a detachment of U. S. Engineers on topographic work, the name was changed to Marshall Pass, and the name Poncho was then applied to the pass leading into the San Luis Valley. The confusion in names which followed led to the inclusion of considerable territory in Saguache County which supposedly was intended for Chaffee County. He mentioned that the original description of Chaffee County read: "Commencing on the Arkansas River, three miles below the mouth of the South Arkansas, thence west to the top of the Sangre de Cristo range, thence along the divide to Poncho Pass, thence due west", etc. The shifting of the name "Poncho Pass" to the divide between the Arkansas and San Luis Valleys resulted in the loss of the Silver Creek and Sargents country to Chaffee County through confusion in description.

With the rapid influx of settlers, prospectors and miners, and the rough element that came with the building in of the railroad in the late 70's and early 80's, things were considerably unsettled; and as in all newly organized territory, the machinery for law enforcement had considerable difficulty in functioning. More than 100 homicides occurred during this period without a single conviction, it being almost impossible to get witnesses to swear to the killings. On several occasions he was called to serve on the grand jury. Realizing the difficulty of securing convictions in cases of this kind, if they felt reasonable certain that the person was guilty, they would always return an indictment of "First Degree Murder", knowing that so long as the indict-

ment hung over the party would get out of the country and stay out, In that way they got rid of a great many undesirables.

One of the most deadly shooting affairs, considering the number of people engaged in it, occurred at Garfield in 1881. Two brothers named Mums, from Louisiana, and a man by the name of McManus, who came here from Nevada, formed a partnership and went prospecting in the Middle Fork of the Little Arkansas. All three were gun men. They had a disagreement, broke up and came down to Garfield.

Hugh Boon and his brother Sim were on their way from Monarch to Maysville and stopped a few minutes in a saloon in Garfield. They met McManus who asked them to have a drink and told them something about the trouble. Hugh Boon knowing there would likely be shooting and not wishing to become involved in it said to Sim; "Let's be going, we were late in getting started." They got on their horses, but before they were around the turn below Garfield they heard the shooting. The Mums brothers were in a store opposite the saloon. McManus crossed over and met them. McManus killed the oldest Mums by the first shot. The other one shot him and he died within a minute after the shot, but succeeded in killing the other Mums before he died.

Mr. Boon mentioned that the big fire at Garfield occurred on election night in 1882. At that time most of the younger men belonged to the Knights of Pythias, and had gone to Salida to attend some big celebration. The fire got started, and there not being enough help to get it under control, it practically wiped out the whole town. He was Clerk of the election at Monarch and recalls seeing dense smoke down the canon in the vicinity of Garfield when he got up next morning. Later he learned that the town had been wiped out by fire.

McManus  
THIS ACCOUNT

1883