

Park County Local History Archives

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NEWSLETTER

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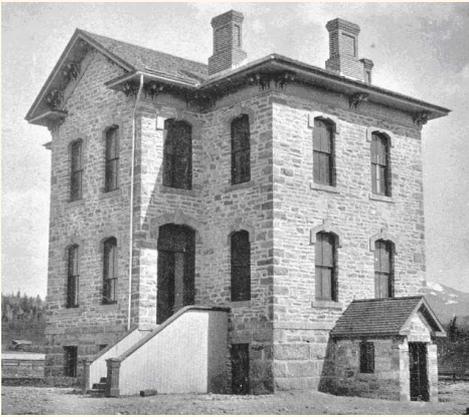
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Archives News

In addition to the Archives now in Fairplay, there are other sources of historic material available to a researcher looking for Park County information.

The Park County Clerk and Recorder has recently completed a digitization project for records located at the office on Main Street. Another project to index the digitized documents is underway. Information includes deeds and property ownership dating back to the 1860s. Minutes from County Commissioner meetings and records of mining claims are also available.

The Fairplay Library on Front Street has a working microfilm machine, as well as reels of copies of the Fairplay Flumes dating from the first issue in 1879.

The Archives office has reference material and photos, as well as topographic maps of the county and maps of mining claims.

Archives Doings

In mid-October 2014, the Archives office moved from the Bailey Library to the old courthouse at 418 Main Street in Fairplay. The change has allowed the Archives collection to be housed under one roof; previously many items were stored offsite due to space limitations.

We are grateful to the Bailey Library for allowing our office to be located there for four years and also appreciate the new space on the main floor of the historic courthouse, built in 1874. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places. How fitting to have the Archives in an 1870s structure!

Our office is on the main floor of the building and a second office is occupied by two of our board members who work for the Office of Historic Preservation and the South Park National Heritage Area.

We continue to have public office hours that are now on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please feel free to stop by and see what we have, as we continually receive new photo and document donations from the community.



Christie Wright and Jane Gilsinger in new Archives office

THE KITCHEN OF TODAY by Steve Plutt

Fairplay Flume, August 22, 1902

“It is a Great Improvement Upon the One in Which Our Grandmothers Worked.”

The modern kitchen is ideal when compared with the old-fashioned kitchen in which our grandmothers were compelled to do their work, says the New York Tribune. The kitchen floor of to-day is usually of hard wood. The boards are about three inches wide by an inch thick, though they vary in different kitchens. This floor when first laid is generally rubbed with as much raw oil as the wood will hold. After this thorough treatment it will not be necessary to oil the floor oftener than once in three months. For the second application boiled oil is better, as it dries much more quickly.

There is generally plenty of sunshine and light in a modern kitchen. The modern sink is made of galvanized iron or steel. Porcelain sinks are said not to wear well if given hard usage. The best kitchen faucets are now plated with nickel. The old-fashioned brass faucet, which is required to be laboriously cleaned and scoured, is no longer used. Galvanized boilers are now generally painted like the woodwork of the room. Unless they are treated in this way, they are easily discolored. The costly old-fashioned brass boiler, which required cleaning every week, is rarely found in kitchens.

Some of the best ranges are still blackened, but many in use are made of polished iron. All modern ranges have ground edges that do not need to be blackened with brick dust, like a ground knife.

In the modern range the processes of roasting and broiling are carried on almost to perfection. The meat is no longer baked in the best ovens to-day, but is roasted by a current of fresh air supplied to the oven. Such ventilated ovens cook the meat in exactly the same way that meat was roasted in the old-fashioned fire place. There is con-

siderable loss of flavor and substance in meat that is baked, and this is easily perceived by weighing a piece of roasted and a piece of baked meat. In baking the juices of the meat are dried up and permanently lost. In roasting a coating is formed on the outside of the meat, and the juices are sealed up without any loss of food value. The difference between a properly roasted piece of meat and that which has been baked in an ordinary oven is the same as exists between a piece of broiled steak and that which has been simply fried in a hot pan. The meat of the twentieth century will be roasted or broiled—never baked, much less fried or “panned.”

One of the problems of the twentieth century will be to secure a range that will give a roasted or broiled meat with the least loss of heating facilities, and consequent waste of fuel. In some ways it seems as though modern ranges were perfect, yet even the best of them are somewhat inferior to the old-fashioned fireplace, with its spit, on which meat was roasted to perfection in a continual current of air, or broiled—a process which is substantially the same in effect as roasting.”

Wonder what the 1902 housewife would have thought of the microwave ovens that we take for granted today. Or the fancy barbecue contraptions that adorn our patios, using electrically heated imitation charcoal.

Fairplay Flume, October 26, 1906

“Mrs. S. T. Fawcett sent to the Flume office last Saturday a turnip as a sample of some she has raised this year on their home place in town. The turnip weighed five pounds, measured twenty-two inches around and was solid and perfect all through. Mrs. Fawcett raised about 200 pounds of the same kind this year.”

Some things don't change. You can still buy turnips, but they aren't quite that big.

AUTOMOBILES by Jerry Davis

Fairplay Flume, July 10, 1908

“Metropole Livery Up to Date

On Wednesday a large five seat Maxwell touring car arrived for Herman Bergstrand, to be used in connection with his livery business. The car is a four cylinder, twenty-six horse power and well adapted to mountain use. Mr. Bergstrand runs a strictly first-class business and the addition of this auto places his barn in a rank equal to the best.”

Fairplay Flume, August 7, 1908

“Adam Heberer and family are on a week’s visit to Denver. They left Fairplay on Wednesday morning in Mr. Karsh’s automobile at 9 o’clock, arriving in Denver at 6:30 p.m., making the run in nine hours and thirty minutes, Max being at the helm. A pretty good record run for a twelve-year old chauffeur.”

Fairplay Flume, August 21, 1908

“Yesterday afternoon Dr. Ayers left town in his automobile with an insufficient supply of gasoline and was marooned at the foot of Red Hill, about three miles from Fairplay. He promptly sent a wireless message to Mr. Karch, who hurriedly rushed to the rescue with more Rockefeller juice and “Doc” was enabled to return to town. About three weeks ago Messrs Karch and Heberer had a similar experience, just this side of Edmondson’s on a steep hill, but in this case the thingamajig refused to work in unison with the thingamabob and the automobile went wizzy waggy, and precipitated the two gentlemen, who both hit the state of Colorado; luckily they both stopped on the soft side of a rock, and consequently didn’t injure the scenery very much. As soon as Mr. Karch recovered himself he gave chase and finally caught up with the machine, climbed over the starboard deck and gave the thingamajig a twist which brought the car to a sudden stop.”

Fairplay Flume, August 10, 1906

“W.K. Jewett attended court at Fairplay Thursday in his auto, and tells an amusing episode on himself. The machine was standing in front of the Windsor hotel with the usual bevy of curious youngsters surrounding it. Jewett was engaged in conversation with some friends when one of the youngsters, bolder than the rest, spoke up, ‘Say, mister, will you give me a ride in your automobile?’ Jewett paid no attention and the request was repeated a couple of times. Jewett was still deaf. Nothing daunted, the lad braced himself squarely in front of the owner and said, ‘Say, mister, will you take 50 cents for a ride?’ WE are not informed as to whether the young fellow got the ride but the drinks were on Jewett.”

Fairplay Flume, December 28, 1923

“Convicts Flee in Governor’s Auto

Canon City, Colo.—While Gov. William E. Sweet was holding a conference here with members of the state penitentiary advisory board, Paul Rand and Albert J. Green, convicts serving time in the penitentiary for robbery, made a spectacular escape from the prison yard in the automobile which only a few minutes before had brought the chief executive from the station to the prison board rooms. The men, made desperate by their short taste of freedom, were captured a short time later by deputy sheriffs of Canon City after a running gun battle through the streets of the city and its suburbs.”



Max Heberer, 12, is driving 1908 Cadillac

The Old Court House Excerpts from *Doin' Time in Fairplay* by Linda Bjorklund

The Colorado gold rush in 1859 brought miners to the Rocky Mountains to seek their fortunes. A number of them settled in a camp that they called "Fair Play." The name was officially changed to "South Park City" in 1869 and restored to "Fairplay" in 1874. A plat of the town had been drawn up which included a Court House Square. In 1873 the town deeded the Court House Square to Park County. The Board of County Commissioners had plans drawn up and let the contract out for bid to build a county court house. In January, 1874, the commissioners accepted the bid of Frazier and Lewis in the amount of \$10,500.

The plans called for an impressive structure to be located in the center of the block, featuring Victorian architecture. The building can be described as a two-story red stone structure with a garden level basement. It was constructed of locally quarried dressed and rusticated stones. The Park County Court House was ready for occupancy in November, 1874.

The first level was used for county offices, and the second level was, and still is, the District Court. The partially underground basement contained the sheriff's office and county jail. Later excavations disclosed leg irons built into the stone walls. There apparently was at least one window, which was changed into an entrance in later years. The central cell became a vault when heavy iron doors were added on the north and south entrances.

During the next few years, several instances in which incarcerated prisoners found ways to escape prompted the commissioners to begin plans to build a separate jail that could be more efficiently reinforced.

The Grand Jury was concerned over the number of murders and the prospective prisoners that would need to be detained and decided to inspect the jail to make sure that it could hold them all until they could be tried.

They recommended that 'iron shutters be procured for the windows, three or four cells be provided with steel linings and that the outside doors be covered with sheet iron.'

A month later a prisoner escaped from the court house jail. The story is told in the May 29, 1879, edition of the Flume under the heading,

Escape of Charlie Murray

"Sunday morning the sheriff took breakfast into the jail for Charlie Murray and unlocking the cell door in which he was confined allowed him the liberty of the corridor while he was eating. He then locked the outer door and went to town, where he remained for some hours. Murray eat his breakfast and then prepared to escape. By piling up chairs and other movables in the corridor he was able to reach the ceiling and soon knocked loose the light boards that had been placed over the hole in the floor by means of which the defaulting treasurer, Moffat, made his escape some years ago. The hole is only about eight by thirteen inches in size and would seem too small to admit the passage of a man's body, but Murray evidently thought that if it was large enough for Moffat it was for him and made the venture. When the sheriff returned to lock him in his cell the bird had flown, leaving no trace except the open hole. Search was instituted at once but was soon given over as no trace of his whereabouts was to be found. The county will be saved a large expense in his keeping, as he could not have been tried until November next, and as he will not be likely to return to the county, it will be the gainer there also, while the place that he afflicts with his presence will be the worse off by one sneak thief."

...in November, 1880, the new jail building was declared to be finished and accepted by the county commissioners.

Editor's note: The District Court is now in Reserve status.