

Park County Local History Archives

ISSUE III

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

Archive News

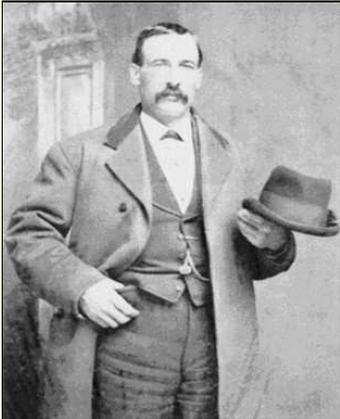
Researching Online.....1

Articles from the Archives

Bits and Pieces from the
Fairplay Flume.....2



Assyria Hall.....3



"Cy Hall"

Castello Family.....4

Archives News:

Land has been purchased for the proposed Park County Library in Fairplay near the Recreation Center. Plans are being drawn up to include space for the Park County Local History Archives within the library. The Archives Board has been assessing the type of equipment that will be needed when the library is built and the Archives can use the new facility to better serve as a research resource.

Send comments, requests and suggestions to
www.parkcoarchives@yahoo.com

Researching Online

Did you know that the original *Fairplay Flume* issues are available online from 1879 to 1926? You can look up articles and ads on your home computer at the website:

www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org.

To access the *Flume*, choose either dial-up or broadband and select "Search" in the next window. A drop-down menu lists all the newspapers alphabetically and you can scroll down to *Fairplay Flume*. At the bottom of the page you can select a time period and sort by several criteria. In the box at the top you can enter a subject for specific search. When articles are found, the selected subject within the article is underlined in blue.

The *Rocky Mountain News* (1859-latter 1870s) has been digitized as well as several other newspapers in nearby counties.

If you would rather read an entire issue for a certain date, choose the "Browse" feature, then select the newspaper and the date. Putting your cursor on a column highlights it and clicking will enlarge it. Under the "Features" tab you can convert the entire issue to pdf format and save it to your computer.

The Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection began as a joint endeavor of the Colorado State Library, the Colorado Historical Society and the Collaborative Digitization Program. More than 140 newspapers were scanned and made available for research.

The *Rocky Mountain News* into 1899 and The *Denver Post* (1895-99) may also be searched in 19th Century U.S. Newspapers, a database that is available onsite at a few libraries, including Denver U.; Colo. U.; Colo. College; & Penrose Library, Colo. Spgs.

Remember to observe copyright restrictions if you publish any of the material.

**Bits and Pieces from the *Fairplay Flume:*
April 20, 1882**

A Remarkable Occurrence

Fairplay owns an acrobatic steer which, we claim, lays over any animal in the state of Colorado for agility and fearless lofty tumbling. For some time Mr. McLaughlin has been troubled by stray cattle forcing their way into the grain room of his livery stable. On Saturday last a steer was found in the grain room and his retreat being cut off by the stable boys, with forks in their hands, he forced his way through a door and up an enclosed stairway leading to furnished rooms in the second story, through a hall the whole width of the stable, out at a door, across the flat roof of an adjoining building, thence up one side of the pitch roof of the third building and gracefully shot down the other side of the roof to the ground. Bring on your trained animals and compete for the cake, which Fairplay now holds.

December 20, 1883

Engineer Caton, on the Fairplay line, has a very bright dog that accompanies him almost every trip, although there is no assurance that Dick's passes are endorsed either by S. H. H. Clark or Geo. Ady. No. 38 went to Como for repairs the other night and Dick went along to see that it was done right. Just as the engine started back Dick became interested in a common town dog, beside the track, and slipped off the tender. The engine disappeared around a curve and after a futile attempt to overtake it, Dick walked back to Como, waited for the express, boarded it and rode first-class to Garo, where he overtook the runaway. This is only one of many bright tricks that the train men relate of him.

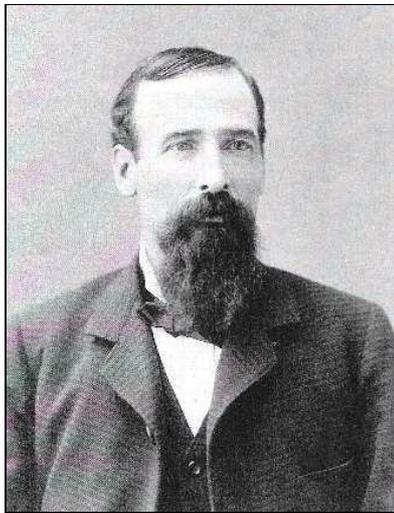
A passenger at Garo, on Saturday, gave the train men "such a turn" that they have not fully recovered their breath yet. He stood on the platform with a big roll of extra

wardrobe on his back, and gazed at the train in a silly Billy style until it had nearly pulled out from the station, and then he said in a helpless way to the agent, "Can I get on?" The agent answered, yes, of course. The bright passenger made a grab for the rail; hung on a moment until he lost his balance and his bundle; let go and rolled under the wheels. Two whole cars went bumping over his bones—at least the lookers on thought so, but when the train had passed by, there was silly Billy lying tied up in a knot close to the rail, but totally uninjured. How he escaped is an unresolved problem. It was the bundle of clothes that the car wheels had been bumping over, and they looked as though they had been run through a sausage machine.

Citizens of Canon and Buena Vista have been paying a good price, during the last ten days, for a more intimate acquaintance with Bill Lovell, alias "Chicken Bill." It seems that, being in a periodical "hard-up" condition, Bill turned his attention to the manufacture of brass nuggets, in which business he is skilled by long practice, having tried the game first fifteen years ago. By a process known to himself only he turned out a lot of nuggets of brass, containing a small percentage of gold and a large proportion of brass, that looked just as "natural as life." These he disposed of to collectors at the places named, at prices ranging from eight to twenty dollars apiece. He is believed to have realized about \$250 on this last venture. Bill is a "slick one," and in selling a nugget generally tells the buyer that he can't guarantee it to be all gold; the supposition being that it is part silver. The buyer generally remarks that he can see gold enough in it to satisfy him, and so hands over the amount asked for the virgin treasure. As long as the "suckers" and brass filings hold out Bill will never starve to death or go to prison.

Submitted by Jerry Davis

Assyria Hall



Assyria “Cy” Hall was another prominent “Hall” name in the Park, though not related to Colonel Jairus W. Hall, who was featured in last month’s article, “The Naming of Hall Valley.”

Cy Hall was born in West Virginia in 1841 and moved to Kansas as a child so his father could farm. At the age of nineteen, he struck out on his own for Colorado, arriving in Denver in the spring of 1860, during the beginning of the gold rush. At first he joined a freighting outfit, hauling goods from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Denver, then joined up with the McLaughlin stage line between Fairplay and Denver. In 1868 he married Lillian Caine and the two made their home in Fairplay, where Cy was elected sheriff in the late 1870s.

The April 3, 1879, edition of the *Flume* reported that: “Town election on Tuesday last passed off without a ripple of excitement so far as the election itself was concerned. ...The town board for the ensuing year will consist of C. G. Hathaway, Assyria Hall, J. H. Myers, M. McLaughlin, and A. Bergh.”

Mr. Hall located the Dolly Varden mine up on Mt. Bross in 1873 along with his partner George W. Brunk. The two maintained ownership and also discovered the Moose Mine; both lodes were fabulous producers up until about 1884. He also owned the Tar-

ryall Placer mine, the subject of the mysterious disappearance of 5,000 ounces of gold in 1892 during shipment to Denver.



Dolly Varden Mine

In 1880 the *Rocky Mountain Herald* reported the following: “*The Red Hill, Fairplay & Leadville Railroad Company and the Mosquito Range & Leadville Tunnel Company, two corporations, controlled by the same parties, have been organized and with their combined efforts intend to construct a railroad from Red Hill on the line of the South Park, via Fairplay, to Leadville through a tunnel under Mosquito range, and also take advantage of any mineral discoveries made in this work. The tunnel will be from a mile and a quarter to a mile and a half long and the estimated cost \$500,000. The incorporators of the railroad are Oren H. Henry, Herman Beckuris, John C. Fuller, Mark Banks, N. H. Meldrum, Julius Cohn, F. W. Pitkin, Henry Raske, Assyria Hall, William R. Wallace, and Judson E. Cole. The incorporators of the mining company are the same.*”

Health caused the Hall family to move to Denver, where Assyria Hall engaged in a number of business ventures. He then prospected up in Alaska to do some placer mining. He retired to California in 1907 and died there in 1911.

The next newsletter will feature the third and final prominent “Hall” in Park County—Charles L. Hall—who owned the Salt Works Ranch.

Submitted by Christie Wright

Castello Family

“Around 1859, Charles Castello, the oldest son of James and Catherine Castello, came to Colorado and the Central City area to explore the gold mining possibilities. His father, James Castello, was excited over the news of the gold mining and joined his son in 1860, where he worked in the Nevada Gulch mine. James Castello then moved to Fairplay in Park County, Colorado where he settled in 1863.

“James M. Castello sent for his wife, Catherine, and their children and household goods. Catherine and most of her children moved to Fairplay. James and Catherine operated the Castello Hotel in Fairplay until 1868. James Castello was a county judge and was a member of the first State Senate of the Colorado Territory. In 1868, he was appointed by President Johnson as receiver for the U.S. Land Office in Fairplay.

“Judge James M. Castello sold his hotel in Fairplay in 1870 and moved to Twin Creek (present Florissant, Teller County) on the Ute Pass Road. He had 160 acres and built a ranch house providing overnight lodging for travelers going to the mining fields in South Park. He also founded the town of Florissant, Colorado in June 1870 and operated a Post Office named in honor of his home in Florissant, MO.”

This information was found in a book recently published by Laura Lee Moncrief and Nancy (Morris) Boyd called “Florissant, Colorado Pioneer Cemetery: The stories behind the tombstones.”

There are eight members of the Castello family whose final resting place is in the Florissant Cemetery.

But they were well-known in Park County as well. One of the streets in Fairplay is named Castello Avenue, and a house sitting on one of the corners of that street has been identified as the Castello house.

James and Catherine’s firstborn son Charles returned to Missouri where he lived until his death in 1892.

Lucy Ann married George W. Barrett in Fairplay in 1865. George was a freighter in the area and later a miner. He owned land in Fairplay where he built a home. He also owned and operated a Billiard Saloon, a popular pastime during that era.

Mary Julia Castello married William H. Beery in Fairplay in 1866. William was a teamster on the Ute Pass Wagon Road. He later became involved in a postal fraud scandal in which he stole some gold dust which had been mailed from Oro City. Beery eventually paid back the value of what he had stolen and escaped jail time due to the influence of his father-in-law, then Judge Castello. Beery moved to a ranch that he had homesteaded on Currant Creek and later became a Ute Indian agent.

Andrew Hickory Castello, Hattie F. Castello and Henry Milton Castello apparently died in their early years while their parents were still in Missouri.

James Robert Castello and John B. Castello followed their parents to Florissant in 1870 and are buried in the cemetery there.

The youngest son, Francis (Frank) Ferdinand Castello, lived in Florissant and married Ida Baker there in 1880. Ida’s mother and stepfather operated a blacksmith shop next to the Castello store in Florissant. Ida died in 1893, having born five children. Frank became involved in mining operations and moved to Colorado Springs where he married his second wife, Marie W. Huss. Although he never aspired to hold a public office, Frank was active in several public entities, including the City’s Park Board Commission, through which one of the parks in Colorado Springs has been named the “Frank Castello Park.”

The Castello family came to Colorado early and left a mark.