

Mesa County Genealogical Societies Members Photos



John Grew

This photograph was Submitted by Karen Grew. It is said to be of John Grew, he lived in the area of Falmouth, (Cape Code) Massachusetts. The date of the photograph is unknown.

Karen is not sure how John Grew fits into the family, she does know that he looks just like her younger brother.

Other surnames that Karen is working on are: Howes, Atwood and West (also known as Weiss or Wiss).



Lucy Denoyer

This is a photograph of Lucy Denoyer, a great Aunt of Kathie Vlahos's on her maternal side. The photo was taken in Kankakee, Illinois, about 1913.

Lucy was born in Papineau, Illinois, December 14, 1880, died June 24, 1964 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her parents were Edward Denoyer and Odile Des Laurier.

Lucy seemed to have a great love for adventure, she lived in Kankakee, Illinois, then moved to Wisconsin, and finally Tulsa, Oklahoma. She had four husbands, outliving them all. She also was reputed to have had a pretty good temper. One cousin told Kathie that if asked to pass the gravy boat, she just might pick up the whole thing and throw it at you!

Besides the surname Denoyer, Kathie is also researching the surnames of: De Mars, Guerin, Couture, Hickory, Strauss, Handorf, Ohde, Dahling and Ravens.

Please send any non-copyrighted photographs of family members that are interesting, funny or you have questions about to Kathie Vlahos for future publication in the MCGS Newsletter. Kathie's address: [redacted] 0 [redacted], [redacted] 81401 or [redacted] st. Please include your name, name of person in photo, place and year the photo was taken (if you have that information) and surnames that you are researching.

Mesa County School Districts 1881 – 1951

For the next few issue we will be looking at some historical information of the Mesa County School District #51.

I would like to thank the Museum of Western Colorado Library, Grand Junction, Colorado, for directing me to the research document written by Albert and Terry LaSalle, "A History of the Districts and Schools that became Mesa County Valley School District Number 51, 1881-1951" and also to the Mesa County Valley School District 51 for supplying the research document to me. With the District 51's permission, I am publishing some of the information from the book for educational purposes only.

Mesa County School Districts from 1883 to 1948

Of these forty-six school districts at least 35 would have been
considered rural during some period of their history.

Mesa County School Districts from 1883 to 1948 by Number, Name, and Area					
		15	Cameo aka Grand River	31	Red Mesa
			Debeque Canyon		Plateau Valley Unit
		16	Columbus	32	Pomona
			Orchard Mesa		Grand Junction
1	Grand Junction	17	Parker Basin	33	Columbine
	Grand Junction		Plateau Valley Unit		Appleton
2	Fruita	18	Pear Park	34	Little Book Cliff
	Lower Valley		Upper Valley		Little Book Cliff Mine
3	Whitewater	19	Palisade	35	Mt. Lincoln
	Whitewater		Upper Valley		Upper Valley
4	Purdy Mesa	20	Garfield	36	Clifton
	Kannah Creek		Upper Valley		Upper Valley
5	Loback	21	Clover	37	New Liberty
	Appleton		Plateau Valley Unit		Lower Valley
6	Collbran	22	Eagallite	38	no record
	Plateau Valley Unit		Plateau Valley Unit	39	Appleton (consolidated)
7	Rhone	23	Loma		Lower Valley
	Lower Valley		Lower Valley	40	Redlands
8	Molina aka Snipes	24	Little Creek		Redlands
	Plateau Valley Unit		Plateau Valley Unit	41	Glade Park
9	Mesa	25	Hunter		Glade Park
	Plateau Valley Unit		Lower Valley	42	Salt Creek
10	Debeque	26	Canon		Plateau Valley
	Debeque Canyon		Plateau Valley Unit	43	Clifton (consolidated)
11	Pride	27	Star		Upper Valley
	Unawee Canyon		Lower Valley	44	Mack
12	Pleasant View	28	Fruitvale		Lower Valley
	Plateau Valley Unit		Upper Valley	45	Divide Creek
13	Allen	29	Lincoln		Plateau Valley Unit
	Upper Valley		Orchard Mesa	46	Central (consolidated)
14	Heiberger aka Vega	30	Georgia Mesa		Upper Valley
	Plateau Valley Unit		Plateau Valley Unit		

The Schools that became District 51 are Rich in History and Heritage

After sixteen months of meetings and a vote of the people, sixteen school districts and one Union High School reorganized into a single unit. No schools were closed, but all would be under the direction of a single administrative unit.

Thirty-eight schools were involved in the reorganization. Many of these schools began before the turn of the century, and all of these schools were an important part of their communities. The history of each of these schools shows how citizens came together for the betterment of their communities and the welfare of their children.

The Schools that became Mesa County Valley School District 51

District 1 Grand Junction

Emerson
Hawthorne
Washington
Lincoln
Whitman
Lowell
Grand Junction Junior High School
Grand Junction High School
Riverside
Tope
Orchard Avenue
Pomona
Lincoln Orchard Mesa
Columbus
Redlands

District 2 Fruita

Fruita Union High School
Fruita Central/Elementary

District 3

Whitewater

District 4

Purdy Mesa

District 7

Rhone

District 11 Pride

Pride
Summit
Gateway

District 15

Cameo

District 19 Palisade

Palisade High School
Palisade Elementary

District 23

Loma

District 25

Hunter

District 27

Star

District 37

New Liberty

District 39

Appleton

District 41 Glade Park

Coates Creek
Little Delores

District 44

Mack

District 46 Central

Central High School
Fruitvale
Clifton
Pear Park

The Importance of the Rural School

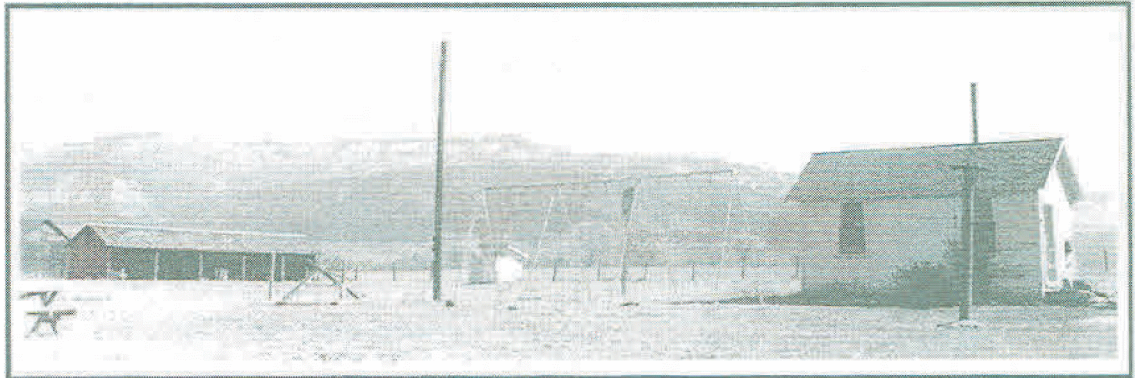
By 1951 forty-six school districts had come and gone in Mesa County. In 1949, the beginning of re-organization, there were 33 school districts in Mesa County; at least 28 of them were rural schools. The rural school was an absolute necessity when Mesa County began. If anyone wanted to go anywhere, it was either by foot, horse, or wagon. When

looking at a map of the early rural schools, they appear to be close together. The schools had to be within reasonable walking distance of the children's homes; thus, schools were built close together.

*Purdy Mesa
School Grounds.*

*Stables,
Necessity House,
And Teacherage*

*(Photo
District 51)*



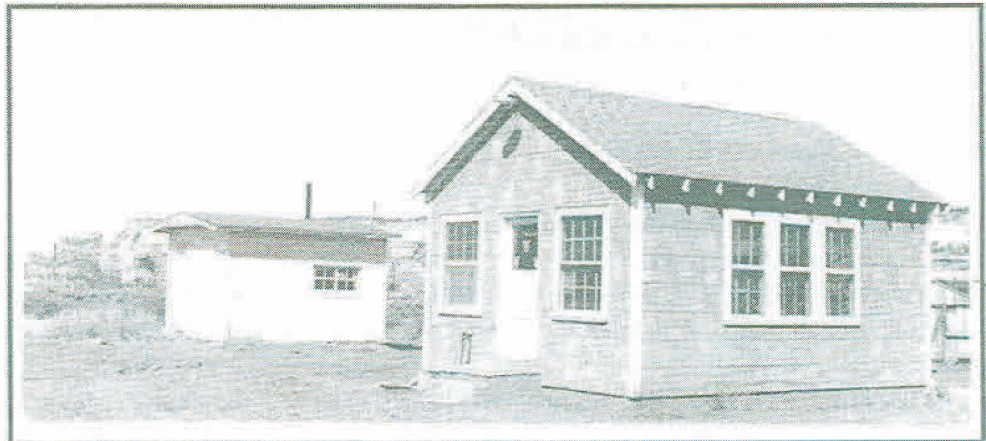
Most rural schools had a horse-shed or stable as one of the buildings on the school grounds. The teacher often lived in a "teacherage", a small one-room building next to the school. On the weekends the teacher would ride horseback into town.

*Little Delores School and
Teacherage*

Glade Park

*The larger building to the
right is the school. The small
building in the back is where
the teacher lived.*

(Photo District 51)



When a rural school was needed, family members and neighbors built it. When school enrollment declined due to a family moving away or students quitting to help on the ranch or farm, the building would be moved by a team of horses to where it was needed. It might become another new school, a line shack or a community center. In one case a school was dragged across the frozen Colorado River to a new location when the student population shifted to the other side of the river.

I found a list of common rules which were expected of teachers in 1872. These rules seemed to apply to most school districts, all over the United States at that time. I did not find any proof that they were used in Mesa County, but they are very enlightening as to what the rules were for teachers at that time.

The Rules for Teachers in 1872

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
9. The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years, will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

Found at http://www.riverofwords.org/educators/education_history.html