

Grand Junction As I Knew It

As Written By Joseph Adam Booker

Part II of II

My next part will deal with side and number streets. We now come to Seventh Street. The telephone company was on the West side of Seventh Street. My wife was a telephone operator for it and her sister Dora was a supervisor for the company. On the south east corner of 7th was the Pontiac garage and sales place. (Recently the Cabaret Playhouse and Dinner Theater) Going down 7th, we come to Mesa Flour Mill. East of it was Kuners Canning Company. The two main products were canned tomatoes, and ketchup. Jo's sister Dora and her mother worked there. We still have the tomato peeler her mother used. There was also a Kuner cannery in Delta that canned fruit and vegetables. You can still buy Kuner products at City Market stores. In the same area was Holly Sugar Company. They made sugar from sugar beets. They sold the beet pulp to dairies and feedlots for the cattle. There is a story that a dairy got a lot of fermented pulp, and the cows got drunk. I wonder what kind of milk they gave? There was also a Holly Sugar Company in Delta. There were two mortuaries on 7th Street, Calhan and Martans. Calhan is now on Patterson Road and Martans is at Fifth and North.

We now come to Sixth Street. On the corner of Colorado Ave. is the fire station. They did not call it a department. On the south end of the building was the police station and city jail. On Fifth Street south to South Ave. was the power and a gas company. It was a coal and steam power plant. The coal gas was in gas lines throughout Grand Junction. We had it in our home on Gunnison Ave. We had a gas stove, and a coal stove. We used the gas stove in the summer for cooking, canning and baking, and the coal stove for cooking in the fall and winter. Next to the power plant were Colscott's ice plant and frozen storage, and coal sales. Colscott delivered blocks of ice to the houses in the city. We had ice delivered to our home. You place a sign in the window as to how much ice you wanted and the ice man put it in your ice box. While the ice man was in the house, we would climb up in the truck and eat chips of ice. It was a real treat. Across the street were three houses of prostitution. In the early days they were licensed, and inspected by the health department.

We now come to south Fifth Street. The Rio Grande Trailways bus station was on the corner of Ute Ave. In the same building was a restaurant for the travelers and public. My wife (Jo) was a waitress there for a while. Across the street was C.D. Smith Drug Company. It was there that Hy-Grade lotion was made. It is still in the face lotions section of stores in Grand Junction. On South Avenue were Litton Storage and Moving Company. West of it was Morey Mercantile Wholesale Company. It was the distributors for solitary coffee and other food products. Safeway also had a warehouse in the same complex. Going north on Fifth Street, I can not remember any business. I am sure there was some.

Now, south on Fourth Street. South of the US Bank was the Nickel Plate restaurant. It had two large coffee pots they made coffee in. You could get coffee for a nickel. Next it was Anderson Furniture Store. The Elks Lodge was on northwest corner of the street. (more about service organizations later) North of Main on Fourth, on the west side, was city hall, a hardware and seed store, and on the corner was the first Safeway Store. I saw the piling driven down for it. Across the street was the Made-rite Restaurant. They had a sandwich called made-rite. It was the forerunner of the sloppy-joe of today, but not as sloppy. Next to it was Nick Belcastos Used Car Sales lot. Next was a shoe repair shop. Across was the Grand Market Meat and Grocery Store, owned by my father. When Dad left the old City Market, he bought the store from Mr. Bowman. It was there that I learned to be a meat and grocery person. Back up to Main and Fourth, going down east side of Fourth. Across the alley from City Market was the White Kitchen Café'. It sold the best hamburgers in town for five cents with all the works. City Market built its first store that had checkout stands, and carts to collect your items in, and a live meat counter where you ordered what meat you wanted, and then paid for it at the check stand. (Note: the cashier called out the price of the item, and rang it up in the proper section, i.e., grocery, meat, produce.) The checker had to check the produce section for any price changes. All grocery items were marked as they were put on the shelf, and the meat items were priced by the butcher. (The checkers were trained as to the use of the cash register, so they would not make mistakes.) Across the street was the post office, and federal building, across the alley was the Power Oil Company, it was a garage, full service gas, and Chrysler and Plymouth dealer. (Note: This is what happens at a full service filling station. One or two attendants came to your car. One asked how much gas you wanted. The other washed your windshield, checked the radiator, oil, and battery. If any of these needed anything he told you so, and then took care of it. He then asked you how much air you put in the tires, and checked all four tires. Meanwhile the other one pumped the amount of gas you asked for, and you paid, and if you had any change coming, he gave it to you, and you were on your way.)

We now come to Third Street. On the corner of Third and Ute Ave. was the Elks Club. At Third and Colorado was the St. Regious Hotel with a restaurant, and dance floor, and a small band. (Note: Kenny Baker, my brother-in-law, played with the Thomas Trio there at one time.) On the Corner was a hotel (I can not remember the name.) At Third and White was the Catholic Church and School. (Note: I went to the school for first and second grades.)

We now go South on Second Street. On the west side at Ute Ave. was the Melrose Hotel. That was where the passenger train crews stayed between runs. Next was a grocery store. I do not know its name. Across the street was Raso Liquor Store. Now Second and First Streets both end at the railroad depot, and the railroad freight and passenger station. An interesting thing concerning Grand Junction's name, it comes from two sources. The first is the junction of the Colorado and the Gunnison Rivers come together. The second is that two railroads come together in Grand Junction. These lines are Moffat line out of Denver, and the other line is the Royal Gorge out of Pueblo. Now, about the rail yard in the area. The largest building was the train station, and the baggage and freight area. The dispatch office was in the second floor. There were two passenger lines, one from the east, and the other from the

west from Salt Lake City, Utah. Across from these lines was the yard office. This was where the train crews got their assigned train runs. East of the depot was the ice house where the refrigerator cars were to help keep the fruit, meat, and vegetables fresh. Further south was the roundhouse where the steam engines were serviced, and turned around so they could be hooked to the train. It would pull to where the freight yards were. The freight cars were made up for going where they were assigned to go. This was done by small switch engines. West of the depot was the restaurant, called the Beanery. This was where passengers, and train crews ate as well as all other rail employees. As you see the railroad was a big employer for the city of Grand Junction. A person could buy a train ticket to any city that had a railroad stop, as all railroads connected to each other.

We now come to civic organizations. There were quite a few of them, but the three I remember are these; The Elks Club was on the North West corner of Fourth and Ute Avenues. The next is the Masonic Temple, located east of the post office on Rood Avenue. It was also where the Demolays met. The third was the Odd Fellow Club which was located upstairs on the corner of Fifth and Rood Avenue. I am sure there were others, but I did not know where they were located.

Now for the schools that were in Grand Junction. There was one parochial school. It was St. Joseph located behind the St. Joseph Church on the corner of Third and White Avenue. There were seven public schools in Grand Junction, a Junior High and one High School also. The Lincoln was on 15th and Gunnison Avenue. The Washington school was on the northeast corner of Hill Avenue. The Hawthorn School was on the northeast corner of Fourth Street. The Lowell School was on the east side of Seventh Street between Grand and White. The Whitman School was on the northeast corner of Ute Avenue. The Emerson school was on the northwest corner of Ute Avenue. The Riverside school, which is in Crawford addition, was on the north side of West Main Street. An interesting fact is that all the schools have a park named for the school except Lowell and St. Joseph School. I went to the following schools; first and second grades were at St. Joseph, third and fourth grades at Washington School, the fifth and sixth grades at Hawthorne School, Jr. High at Jr. High School at Ninth and Gunnison. I graduated from Grand Junction High School in 1941.

Now we come to the city parks. All the parks are named after the school that it is across from the park. The first one is Washington Park. It is between 9th and 10th streets, and Gunnison Ave. and Hill Avenue. The east and north $\frac{3}{4}$ parts were in grass and trees. The north $\frac{1}{4}$ was dirt, and had swings and a slide, also a cobble stone drinking fountain. The children of the area played there in the summer time.

The next park is Hawthorne Park. It was between 5th and 4th streets, and Gunnison and Hill Avenues. It was much like Washington Park. The next two parks are on Ute Avenue, and are between Ute and Pitkin. They are Emerson and Whitman. I did not go to them as they were too far away. Today they are where people without homes go and rest and get together. This next park is in Crawford addition, south of the railroad tracks. It is called Riverside Park, but is not close to the Riverside School. Why I know about it is my father took us children to see how high the river was getting at spring runoff. It was a good place for picnics, as it had restrooms, and a fountain. The last park was the biggest park in Grand Junction at that time. The Lincoln Park at the time I knew it was the largest in Grand Junction. There were three entrances to it, two on 12th Street and one off Gunnison Avenue. The main one was from 12th and Gunnison. It went all the way to the Gunnison one. The Moyer pool was the first thing you came to. Crossing over the canal bridge you came to the zoo. First in line were cages that held coyotes, next the bear cages. They were divided in two cages with a pool of water for each cage. There were also three huts for them to sleep the winter away. Next was the monkey, African lion and mountain lion cages. It was fun to feed and watch the monkeys. Then there was a separate bunch of cages housing an eagle, and smaller animals. I do not remember all of them. Across from the zoo was the ball park, which was the home of the Grand Junction Eagles hard ball team. West of it was the football, and track area. It still is today. South of it is the auditorium, now called the barn. South of the zoo was a playground, with swings, merry go round, slide and a may pole with hand holds on chains to go around.

On past the ball park was a tennis court, for about four pairs to play tennis. South of the court was the golf course that had a club house, and a caddy shack. It was a nine hole course. West of the golf course was the park caretaker, whose name was Mr. Stoker. West of his place was a raised summer band stand where the high school band or orchestra would play in the evening.

The Moyer pool was the main facility to be used in the summer. It contained a soda parlor, a place where you bought a ticket, or showed your season ticket. Then you got a clothes basket, and then went in and got into your suit, and took the basket back, and remembered your basket number. You then took a shower before entering the pool. The girl's lockers were on the north side, and the boys were on the south side of the pool. There was a diving board and two slides. One was in the shallow end, and the big one was on the south side about in the middle of the pool. It had the top ladder on the roof of the boy's locker. It was the most popular slide. There was an area for the spectators at special events and parents watching their children swim. At the shallow end there were two spectator areas for people to sit and watch too. Saturday was free day, as Mr. Moyer who dedicated the pool to the city stated it to be that way. One important fact is the following; Posted around the pool was the proper conduct for swimmers. These were enforced by an adult lifeguard, who was paid. Some of the rules were; no running, no ducking a person, and about eight more. If you broke a rule the lifeguard would have you leave the pool for that day.

Epilog

I realize that there are many businesses in Grand Junction that I have missed in my writing of this about my memories of Grand Junction as I knew it. I hope for the ones who will read this, my story will bring back memories, as my writing has done for me.

Joseph Adam Booker

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Genealogy: Tips for Finding Females That Matter to You
Julie Miller, Enterprise Columnist
Broomfield Enterprise

Identifying females is one of the hardest challenges genealogists face.

It might be that only the first name and married surname are known. Or perhaps a daughter disappears from census records and it is not known whom she married. The biggest obstacle when researching women is that their name changed when they were married. This is compounded by fewer records. Before the 20th century, women did not have the same rights as men and, therefore, they generated considerably fewer records. Although few research problems are as difficult as finding the identity of females in our family history, there are records and strategies that can be used to overcome the challenges. Often the answer to identifying a woman can be found in the records of her husband, son or brother. Men owned the land, they ran the businesses and their lives were recorded in more detail than women's. Look for clues about women in the records of their men's lives.

Records relating to a child's birth, marriage and death will often give the mother's maiden name. Even a child's name can be a clue about a mother's maiden name. Children are often named after grandparents, uncles and aunts. A clue to a maiden name might be in a child's unusual first or middle name when the name is typically a surname.

Women can be found as witnesses on records. Marriage, baptismal and other legal documents are all examples of the types of records a woman might have witnessed. Making a connection between the woman witnessing the event and the names in the documents can lead to finding a woman's identity.

Some records that can be useful in finding female identities are:

1. Marriage records are the most obvious place to look for a maiden name and names of parents. This could be a civil marriage license or bond, a church marriage record or marriage announcement. If the name of parents is not included, be sure to check the marriage records for all known siblings, since they might have information not included in the record for your direct line.
2. Death records usually include the maiden name of the deceased. They also might include the mother's maiden name. Again, checking for all the siblings of your direct line will increase the odds of finding the names of parents.
3. Church records usually list the maiden name of the mother in the baptismal record and the maiden name of the women in a marriage record. A closer examination of church records will reveal that women were often witnesses for the baptisms and marriages of close family members.
4. Land records frequently show the passing of land ownership from one generation to the next. These records provide the names of wives and married daughters, and in some cases, the names of the daughter's husband.
5. Wills and probate records are one of the most useful records when looking for a woman's identity. Parents usually named each child in their will and it is common for each child to receive a portion of the estate. A woman also could have been named in the will and probate of grandparents and other relatives. Married names are usually used, and the name of their spouse also might be listed.
6. Pension files might include the maiden name of a pensioner's wife. They also can include affidavits from close family members who might be related to the wife. Widow pension files should have the maiden name in the proof that the woman was married to the pensioner.
7. Obituaries frequently list the maiden name of females or give the names of their parents. Additionally, a married name will be given when a woman is listed in the obituary of her father, mother or sibling.
8. Letters and diaries can be a source of information about females and their families. These are usually found in family records, either immediate family or that of a collateral line. If you suspect letters and diaries exist for a female in your genealogy but have not located the items, perhaps they have been donated to a repository. Check for these treasures in the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC), which is available online.
9. Census records are easily accessible and are full of information on female ancestors. Although census records do not ask for a maiden name, they give many clues about a woman's origins. It is common to find children living with parents directly after they marry and for parents to live with married children as they age.
10. Cemetery records might list maiden names and they often hold clues about a family. People often bought cemetery lots close to other family members or bought lots large enough to accommodate extended family members. Look for the relationship between the deceased and the owner of the cemetery lot, which may be listed on the cemetery record.

Females make up half of our ancestry, yet they are often neglected. Be sure you don't shortchange the females in your family just because the research takes a little extra effort.

Julie Miller is a certified genealogist. She is a genealogy researcher, lecturer, and writer. If you have any question, send it to Julie@jpmresearch.com - printed with permission from Julie Miller, December 2009

From the Desk of the Editor

I would like to take this time to thank everyone who has contributed articles, pictures, ideas and their expertise to the Mesa County Genealogical Society Newsletter this year. It has helped me immensely and also helps to give a good diversity to the newsletter and let members take an active part in it.

Karen Grew-Ellison has signed on to be the Assistant Editor on the MCGS newsletter, Welcome Karen! You can also give her whatever information or ideas you have and between the two of us, we will get the information in the newsletter.

Don't forget to ask about that elusive Aunt Sue or wild Uncle Bill while getting together with the family this holiday season, then share your exciting discoveries with us! While going through and organizing those photos this winter, think about sending one or two to share with the members in the newsletter.

Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kathie Vlahos

Free Obituary Service for Washington State Ancestors

E-mail AskALibrarian@secstate.wa.gov with the name of your ancestor and the date and place of death in Washington State, and they will scan the person's obituary and sent it to you via e-mail.

They will do obituary requests for any time frame for which they have newspapers. The time frame is different for each town, but for the larger cities (and some smaller ones as well), generally our newspapers go back as far as the 1880's or 1890's, with some gaps here and there.

First, you may want to visit their genealogy page to see the different types of records that are available:
<http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library/Genealogy.aspx>

And in addition to our Ask a Librarian email address, we have several other ways you can contact us:
<http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library.ask.aspx>

People submitting genealogy request often prefer to use their online email form, as that will get your question put into the genealogy queue automatically (if you send then an email using our AskALibrarian address, which you may certainly do, your question will be added to the queue by hand). The form also explains some of the research parameters. You can access the form here: http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library/ask_form.aspx

Submitted by Karen Grew-Ellison, December 2009

King County Archive Records

If anyone needs information from King County, Washington, they have a repository of historical county government records. They have Property, Legislative, Birth, Marriage and Death, Court, Legal, and many more. The different departments give the dates when the County first started recording and keeping them and where these records can be obtained.

Check it out at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/archives.aspx>

Submitted by Kathie Vlahos, December 2009

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“Tonight I’ve met many like you”, Santa grinned.
As he pulled from his sack a large book he had penned.
I gazed with amazement – the cover it read,
“Genealogy Lines for Which You Have Plead.”
“I know what it’s like as a genealogy bug,”
he said as he gave me a great Santa hug.

“While the elves make the sleigh full of toys I now carry,
I do some research in the North Pole Library!
A special treat I am thus able to bring,
to genealogy folks who can’t find a thing.
Now off you go to your bed for a rest,
I’ll clean up the house from this genealogy mess.”

As I climbed up the stairs full of gladness and glee,
I looked back at Santa who’d brought much to me.
While settling in bed, I heard Santa’s clear whistle,
to his team which then rose like the down of a thistle
and I heard him exclaim as he flew out of sight,
“Family History is Fun! Merry Christmas! Good Night!”

Author Unknown

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