A NEW CENTURY 1900 - 1909

February 7, 1900

The attorneys for Sheriff John Nicholls and William Barrick have been fighting the last five days in County Court and today have finally decided to consider the votes marked "fusion" and throw out the ballots originated from the students at the Colorado School of Mines. William H. Dier, attorney for Nicholls, spoke for five hours on the cases recently discovered in the files of New Jersey and Connecticut regarding "fusion" tickets. But since Barrick ran on more than one ticket, and since Nicholls ran only as a Republican, then the "fusion" votes had to go to Barrick. Judge Mann ruled in favor of Barrick, much to the dismay of Mr. Dier, but held off in awarding the office of Sheriff to Barrick until the Colorado Supreme Court could rule on his decision. In the meantime, John Nicholls would serve as Sheriff.

July 1, 1900

The Colorado Supreme Court rules in favor of the decision handed down by County Court Judge Mann on February 7, 1900. William Barrick today is officially the Sheriff of Jefferson County and names F.C. Klein as his Undersheriff.

January 30, 1901

Today, Sheriff Barrick and Coroner Klatt returned from Cheesman Dam in far south Jefferson County with the body of Samuel Coburn. Sam had gained employment with the Denver Water Company and was stationed at Cheesman, when sometime near Christmas of 1900 he slit his own throat. It took two full days for the Sheriff and the Coroner to respond and return to Golden with the body.

When Sheriff Barrick returned he found out that the Colorado Supreme Court had reversed its earlier findings regarding the election of 1900 and made John Nicholls the new Sheriff. New Supreme Court rulings from other States caused the Colorado Court to find Nicholls in favor. William "Billy" Barrick left office, moved to Clear Creek County, and became an elected Representative from that County.

June 25, 1903

Today Sheriff John Nicholls, tired of looking at gravel and weeds, asked for and received several volunteers, and together repainted the interior of the Jail, built a nice parking lot, and planted grass out in the front of the Courthouse.

July 21, 1904

The members of the County Prohibition Convention met in Golden today to set up a political ticket for County officers in the forthcoming election. This group was against the manufacture, sale or gift of intoxicating liquor as a beverage. They deplored the existence of saloons and spoke in defiance of the present Sheriff who has not been enforcng the liquor laws that do exist. Today the Convention nominated J.A. Newcomb of Ralston as their condidate for Sheriff.

September 13, 1904 Tuesday

An election is held in the town of Arvada and by the end of this day a new City is created. Dr. Richard Russell is elected the Mayor as well as Chief of Police. The Anti-Saloon Ticket won the day since Russell was the local chairman of the County Prohibition Convention. Even though the Arvada Police Department is born, Sheriff Nicholls and Deputy Charles Wheeler continue to serve as the only law enforcement for the new City for some time to come.

November 8, 1904 Tuesday

John Nicholls, the Republican Sheriff from Golden, wins his re-election bid for Sheriff over the Democrat from Evergreen, John Hobbs, and the Socialist from Conifer, Albert Rogers.

Sheriff Casper Whipple

October 5, 1905

Today Sheriff Nicholls presented the Golden City Commissioners the bill to board and feed Golden prisoners in the Jefferson County Jail. They were shocked. The Mayor of Golden ordered the Town Marshal to have all City prisoners work out their fines in the City streets instead of housing them in the County Jail.

November 6, 1906 Tuesday

Today Casper W. Whipple is elected Sheriff, defeating area new comer, Allen W. Heater by nearly four hundred votes.

March 21, 1907

Anna Guth owned and operated "Pete's Place" in Mountainview. Today, Sheriff Whipple and his Undersheriff Joe Dennis raided Anna's saloon for non compliance with State law regarding selling liquor without a license. Anna quickly reported to the Sheriff that Mountainview officials promised not to molest her business if she would pay them a nominal fee once and a while. The Mayor of Mountainview was contacted by the Sheriff, but he did not offer any evidence to the contrary. Nonetheless, Judge McCall of Jefferson County levied a fine of $100.00 against Anna Guth.

October 24, 1907

Sheriff Casper Whipple moved to Jefferson County in 1890 and settled in Edgewater. Born in Boone County, Nebraska, Whipple was a quiet man, who in 1906 ran for the office of Sheriff on the Republican ticket. He appointed Joe Dennis as his Undersheriff for the experience Dennis possessed in Jefferson County law enforcement. Being a resident of Edgewater, Whipple had first hand knowledge of liquor and gambling violations that up until his time in Office went unnoticed.

Today, Sheriff Whipple and Undersheriff Dennis repeated a raid on the saloon known as Pete's Place in Mountainview and arrested Anna Guth once again. Two roulette wheels were recovered from the saloon and were brought to Golden for destruction. A large fire was built in front of the Courthouse by the Sheriff. Several newspaper reporters, citizens in mass, the County Court Judge, and Undersheriff Dennis, watched as the Sheriff burned the two roulette wheels before the defendant, Mrs. Guth. Judge McCall then gave the defendant until January 9, 1908 to pay $200.00 in fines and begin serving a six month jail sentence. Anna Guth gave the judge an option. If he would drop the fine and jail sentence, she would leave the County forever. With some prodding from the Sheriff, the Judge agreed to Mrs. Guths proposal and dropped the imposition of sentence. Mrs. Guth left the territory.

November 3, 1908 Tuesday

Allen W. Heater was born in Williams County, Ohio in 1865. In 1871 he and his family moved to Lincoln, Nebraska where his father died shortly after the family arrival. Allen remained in Lincoln until he was sixteen years of age then began a private business in the delivery of milk. In 1885 Allen came to Jefferson County and set up a complete dairy business. In 1906 the Democratic Party had nominated Heater to serve as Sheriff of Jefferson County but was defeated by the more popular Casper Whipple. In 1908 Heater was re-nominated, and today the Arvada resident was elected Sheriff over Whipple.

April 22, 1909

When Allen W. Heater took the office of Sheriff from Casper Whipple in January of this year he dropped Joseph Dennis as Undersheriff and named a Mr. Cunningham as his second. Tuck Nixon, A.P. Miller, Carl Brown, T.P. Tubbs, and Mr. Etchley were named as his Deputies.

In north central Jefferson County, criminal activity was at its peak. To combat the rise in crime, especially in and around White City (now called Lakeside) Sheriff Heater created a police uniform and sent Nixon, Miller, and Carl Brown into the White City area in bright new uniforms. (It is unknown today what the uniforms looked like, however, if history is followed, the uniforms probably were similar to the American uniforms worn in the border campaign against Poncho Villa).

Sheriff Allen Heater

June 14, 1909 Wednesday

The prisoners in the Jefferson County Jail started early in digging a tunnel underneath the window of one of the cells. A hunk of cement had been carved out of the window sill and was being used to conceal the hole they were digging. All the sand and dirt dug from the hole was piled carefully in a dark corner of one of the back cells. One of the prisoners had come into possession of a pen knife and now taking turns, the prisoners whittled away at their tunnel.

This afternoon, Sheriff Heater arrested con man extrodinaire, Samuel Gray and opened the cell door to deposit his latest prisoner. Fate held it that the Sheriff would accidently kick out the hunk of cement hiding the tunnel and quickly foiled the well made plans of the four prisoners.

July 25, 1909 Sunday Night

Ever since Samuel Gray was arrested and thrown into Jail by Sheriff Heater, the prisoner kept to himself, talking to no one, and reluctant to mingle with his fellow prisoners. Tonight he watched as one of his fellow prisoners, D.L. Sanders, shaved. With a razor loaned to him by the Sheriff, Sanders was in the middle of trimming his beard when suddenly he slashed open his wrists. Gray leaped upon the bleeding man and wrestled him to the floor. Sheriff Heater heard the scuffle and came to Gray's assistance. The razor was taken from Sanders and the doctor was notified. Samuel Gray asked the Sheriff to watch his prisoners more carefully in the future.

August 9, 1909

Sheriff Heater began to work for the formation of all the Sheriffs in Colorado to form into an association to serve one another in times of State wide need. Today, Sheriff Heater had succeeded in enlisting every Sheriff in Colorado and formed and Colorado Sheriff's Association. (Today it is known as the Colorado Law Enforcement Officer's Association) The first act of the Association was to protect President Taft while he toured Colorado for a political visit.

September 8, 1909 Wednesday

Since July 25th, Sheriff Heater did not trust Samuel Gray. Each day he watched the "model" prisoner, and in August he discovered that Gray was carving a tunnel through a wall in the Jail. Gray was directing his tunnel through the wall into the County Court Judge's office, instead of burrowing out into the parking lot. Sheriff Heater wanted to wait before he terminated Gray's activities in hope that he could discover who was supplying the con artist with saws. However, today, Sheriff Heater decided to halt Gray's hope for escape and took away the prisoner's saws.

October 21, 1909

Samuel Gray pled guilty to embezzlement before Judge McCall. The Judge ordered Gray to serve an indeterminate sentence at Buena Vista. Undersheriff Cunningham would transport the sentenced man the following morning.

December 31, 1909

Today Sheriff Heater made a public statement regarding the end of 1909 and how the Sheriff's Department grew through the year.

"I am more than pleased to report this business of the Sheriff's Office for the year 1909. While we might have done better let us hope that with the proper help we may have more wrongs righted, and the right in all cases shown to the best of our ability in 1910. We will ever keep boosting for all branches of industry that are for the benefit of humanity. Let us not be selfish, but let each remember that we are all dependant upon one another, and that it is our duty as a people to show to the world that Jefferson County is second to none. I am hoping that the people will approve of the work of our Office, and will call upon us at any time, day or night, that we may be needed, and assuring them of a prompt response, I am, sincerely yours, Allen W. Heater."

In 1909 Sheriff Heater's total Department budget was $303.00.

Cold Springs Ranch House. Birthplace of Sheriff Walter Johnson. Torn down in 1962 after serving its last years as a hotel. Located at 15959 South Golden Road.