

"YOU LEFT A GREAT COUNTRY" ...  
BUT SOME STAYED

By

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Shanholtzer, Judy  
"You left a great  
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stayed

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<sup>1</sup>Gunnison News Champion, 31 March 1922, p.4.

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"YOU LEFT A GREAT COUNTRY".....  
BUT SOME STAYED.

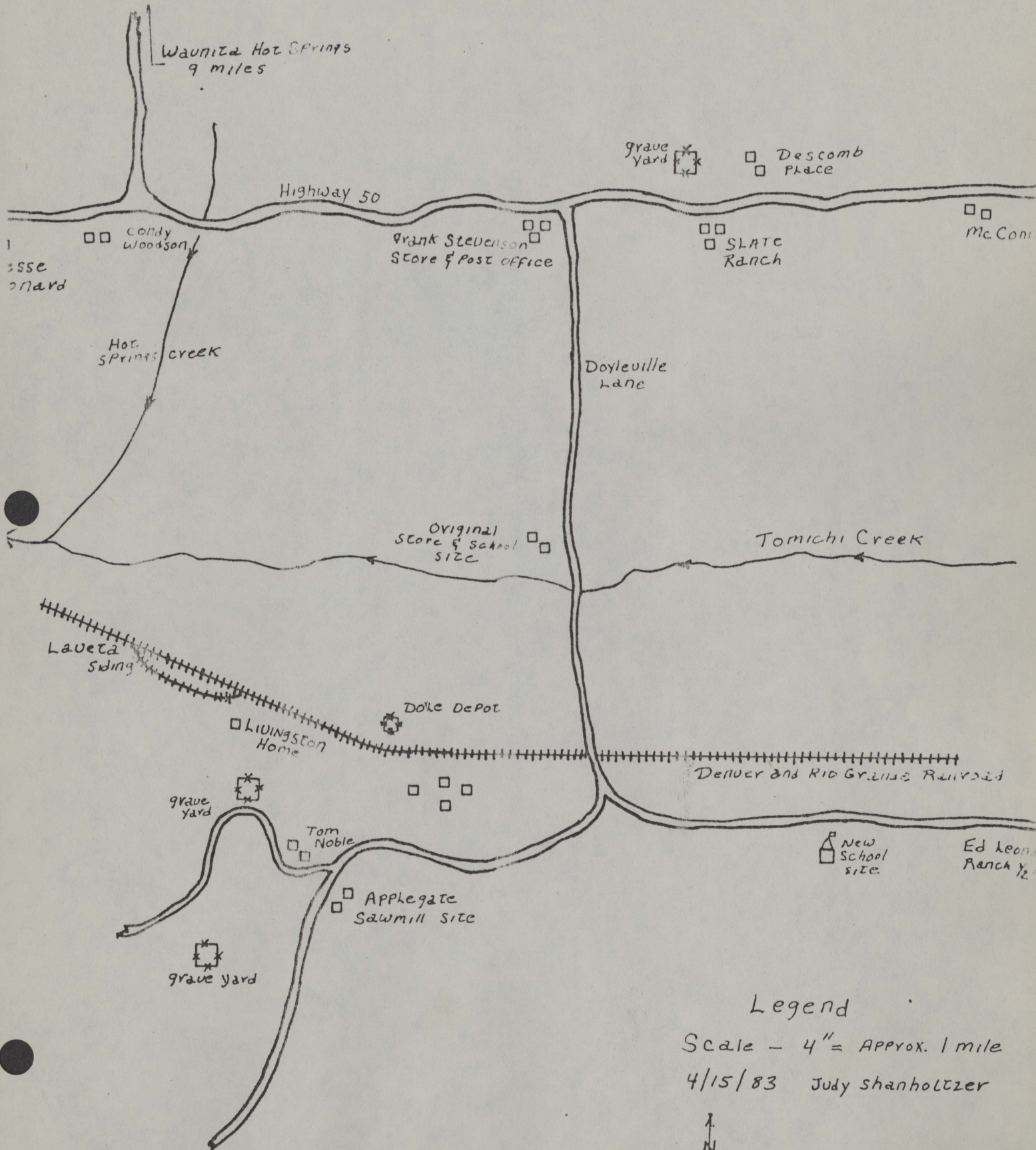
#### INTRODUCTION

Doyleville was my topic.....How much, I thought, can a person write about a tiny place like Doyleville.

Thanks to the great ranching people of the Doyleville country: to Anita and Cass Leonard, to Frank Stephenson, to Patsy and Paul Taramarcaz, to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Prosser and to the Moores, I found through their eyes that Doyleville is rich in history. They raked their memories for events and dates not thought of for years. I found that Doyleville was not so tiny, and I grew intrigued with a place I'd never even lived..... to you all---Doyleville.

# Doyleville Area

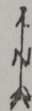
The way it was  
Early 1900



## Legend

Scale - 4" = Approx. 1 mile

4/15/83 Judy Shanholzer



DOYLEVILLE



I. THE PHYSICAL

The confluence of Tomichi Creek and Hot Springs Creek forms the setting of Doyleville. It lay approximately five miles southwest of Tomichi Dome and 10 miles northeast of Razor Dome.

II. THE NAME

Doyleville was named for Matt Doyle.<sup>2</sup> In actuality there were three Doyle"villes". The first was the store and school by the river.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Betty Wallace, History with the Hide Off, (Denver, CO, Alan Swallow Publishers, 1964) p. 202,203.

<sup>3</sup>Bill Prosser, interview Gunnison, CO, April, 1983. There were three Bill Prossers---the grandfather, Bill Prosser---the father, Bill Prosser---and Bill Prosser, the son, who currently resides in Doyleville. He told me his grandfather ran a store and it was located next to the old school on Tomichi Creek.

Later, Doyle was the houses and the train depot by the tracks.<sup>4</sup>  
Even later it was the post office and store by the new highway (US 50).  
Doyle was called Doyleville by so many people that it became known  
as such.

### III. THE DEVELOPMENT

When Sylvester Richardson (founder of Gunnison) returned to Denver in  
April, <sup>1875</sup> 1875 to fetch settlers, who had spent the previous summer in  
Gunnison and left because of the severe winter, only three people  
returned with him. However, several new pioneer cast their lots and  
helped fill the void. John Doyle settled on the Upper Tomichi to the  
east of Gunnison.<sup>5</sup>

Crookston, a small development to the east, looked like it would be the  
larger of the two developments. However, by <sup>1887?</sup> 1887 the Crookston business  
segment had given way to Doyleville, and the county commissioners abolished  
its voting precinct, consolidating with that of Doyleville.<sup>6</sup>

### IV. SOME OF THE BUILDINGS

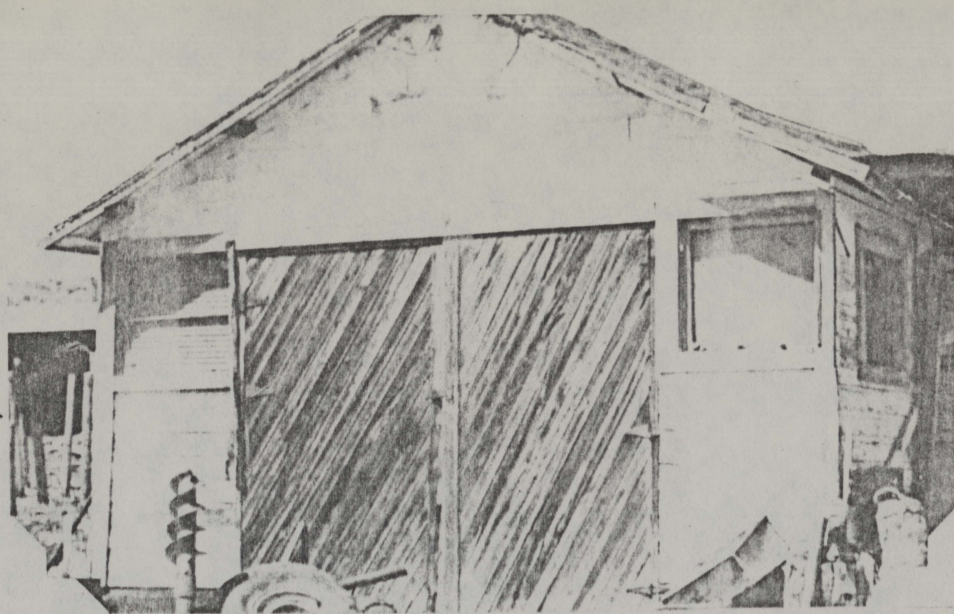
#### A. THE POST OFFICES

The original post office was near the school on Tomichi Creek. Ed  
Mitchell was the postmaster in 1881.

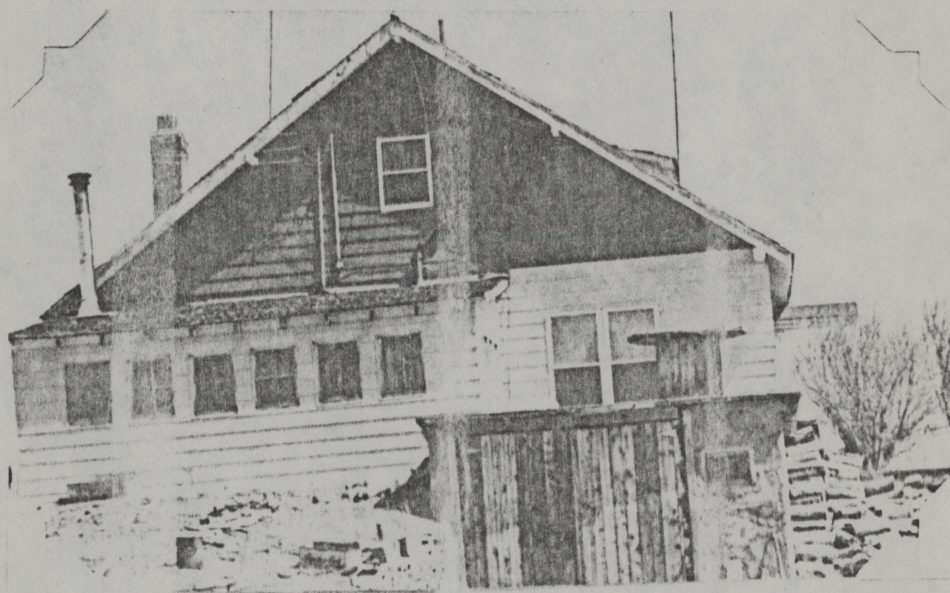
<sup>4</sup>Cass Leonard, interview, March, 1983.

<sup>5</sup>Duane Vandembush, Early Days in the Gunnison Country, (Gunnison, CO,  
B & B Printers, 1974) pp. 64,65.

<sup>6</sup>Betty Wallace, History with the Hide Off, Denver, CO, Alan Swallow  
Publishers, 1964) p. 215.



The next post office was located near the present site of the Taramarcaz home. The Stephenson family ran the post office for 61 years. Frank Stephenson's father, Ted, his mother, his wife, and Frank himself ran the post office at one time or another. Frank said that he remembers having 25 to 30 boxes in the post office when he ran it.



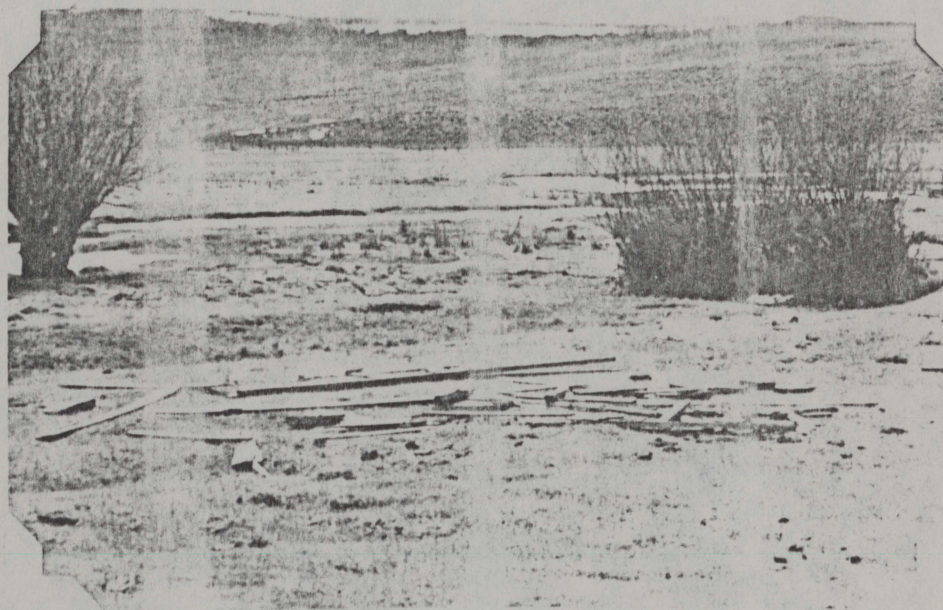
Mr. Stephenson built the new post office in 1941 and it is the current Taramarcaz home. The population of Doyleville dwindled and in 1964 the post office was closed.

#### B. THE SCHOOLS

Goldie Van Bibber Putnam told her friend in a letter, "My Mother came from Kentucky to the Gunnison Country when the railroad was finished



in 1881. They built the first school house in Doyleville that year and she was the teacher. It was a little one-room white frame building situated on the land across Tomichi Creek. The April to September term having no bell made do with a cowbell and pupils rode horseback or walked to classes. They drank from the same common dipper at the water bucket, teased each other, played pranks and all mourned together when a pony fell and broke his neck in the school yard."<sup>7</sup>



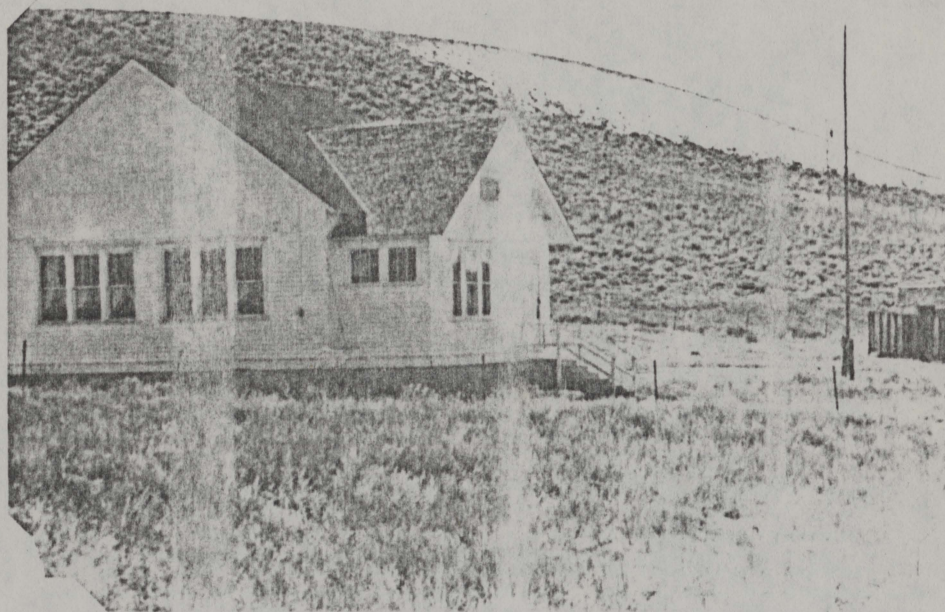
The first school was located near Tomich Creek. Mrs. Prosser told me that boys especially were hard to keep in school. Weather permitting, they went swimming or fishing instead of to school.

Ed Leonard tore down the old school house and, according to Bill Prosser, the reason the location changed was because the school was too close to the river for the young school kids.

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<sup>7</sup>Betty Wallace, History with the Hide Off, Denver, CO, Alan Swallow Publisher, 1964) pp. 202,203.

The Gunnison News-Champion said in 1919, "Our directors have decided to discontinue school till spring at which time they will start a nine month summer school. The new school house is to be started as soon as the weather permits."<sup>8</sup>



When Cass Leonard attended in the 1930's, the school teacher was Mr. Brown. He was an awesome teacher, big and tall. Evidentially he had NO problems with discipline. He retired in 1971 on an orchard farm near Delta. When Cass attended school there were 48 students in the one room school house.

Cass lived about one mile from school and usually rode a horse. His family later purchased a covered enclosed surey and they often drove their sister to school in this elegant contraption. Cass went to high school for two months in Sargents until they realized that the school was not certified. He finished in Gunnison.

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<sup>8</sup>The Gunnison News-Champion, 20, January, 1919, p.7.

Patsy Moore Taramarcas attended school in Doyleville; some of the children in school at that time were the Applegates, Crawleys, Willis, Mortons, Watsons, Hawthorns, Watters, Rhodes, Webbers, Moores, Nobles, and Goodwins. (Hartorn)

Mrs. Moore, Patsy's mother, remembers some of the school teachers as: Mr. Brown, Mrs. Brown (his wife), Gladys Carmichael, Marie Leonard, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Isreal, and Alice Wilson.

In 1956 the 7th and 8th grade students at Doyleville went to Gunnison schools. There never was a high school in Doyleville. The school closed about 34 years ago when the schools were consolidated in the mid 1940's. The school was never to reopen.

Students had to live in Gunnison when attending school before the busing of students in either 1937 or 1938. Students traveled home for the weekends when possible.

Roy Leonard and Vern Wilson drove the school bus in 1935. Often students would "hitch" a ride, as an unpaying customer, on the train as it went to Gunnison.

#### C. The Stores

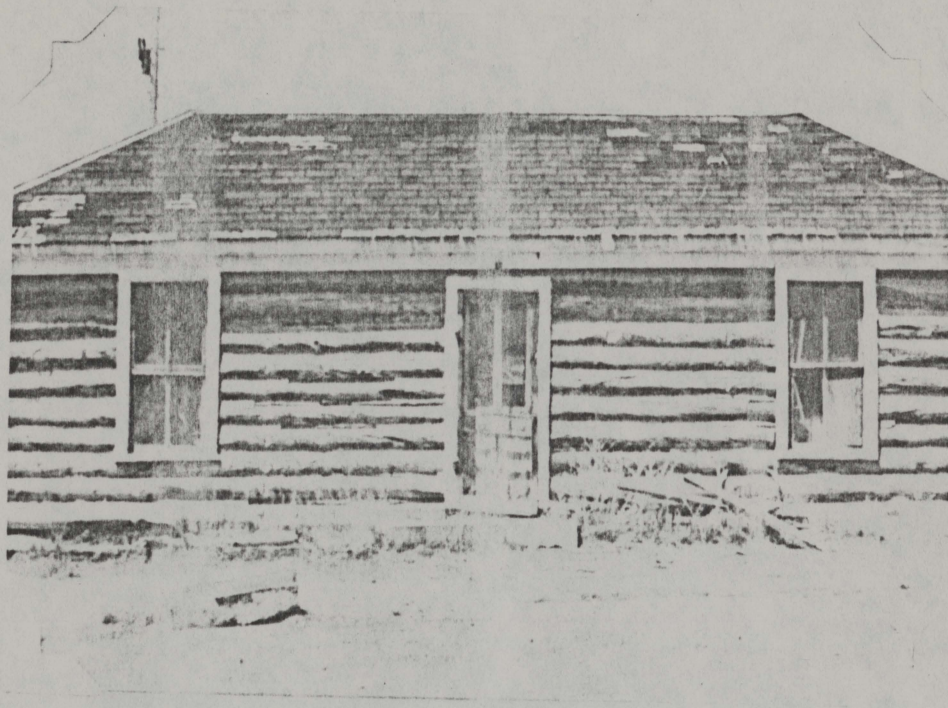
The original store was near the old school on Tomichi Creek. Bill Prosser, the grandfather, ran that store.



Frank Stephenson had the next store and it was near the site of the present Taramarcaz home.

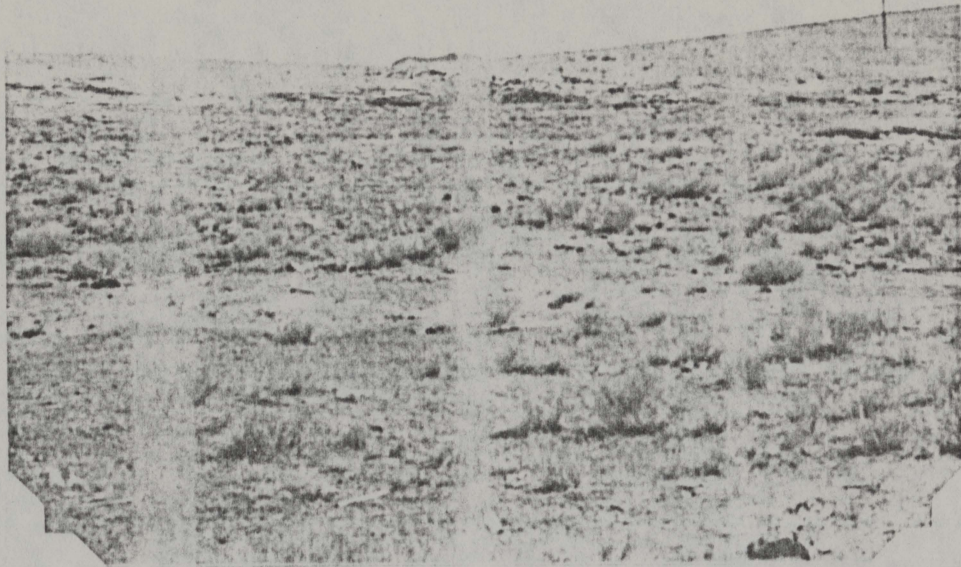


He also had an icehouse in conjunction with the store. It is presently being used as storage at the Taramarcaz place.



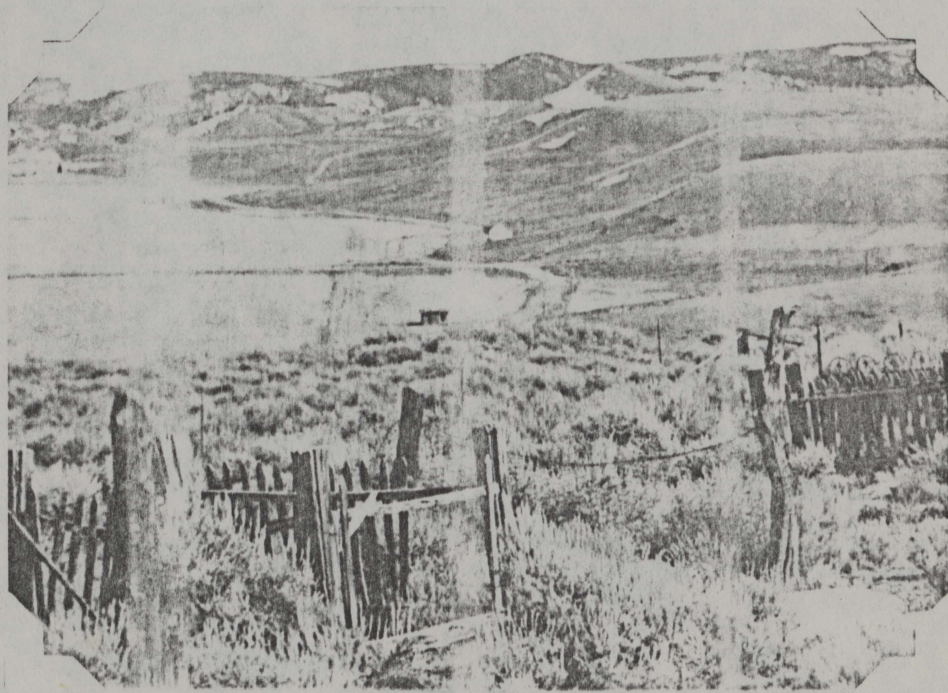
This bunkhouse was located near the store and icehouse. The Stephensons used it for housing ranch hands when they hayed. In 1941, Frank Stephenson built a new store. It was a combination store and post office. (See picture of the post office that now is the current Taramarcaz home on page 5.) The store was closed in late 1950 due to lack of business. The last few years it carried only a few items, mainly candy and necessities.

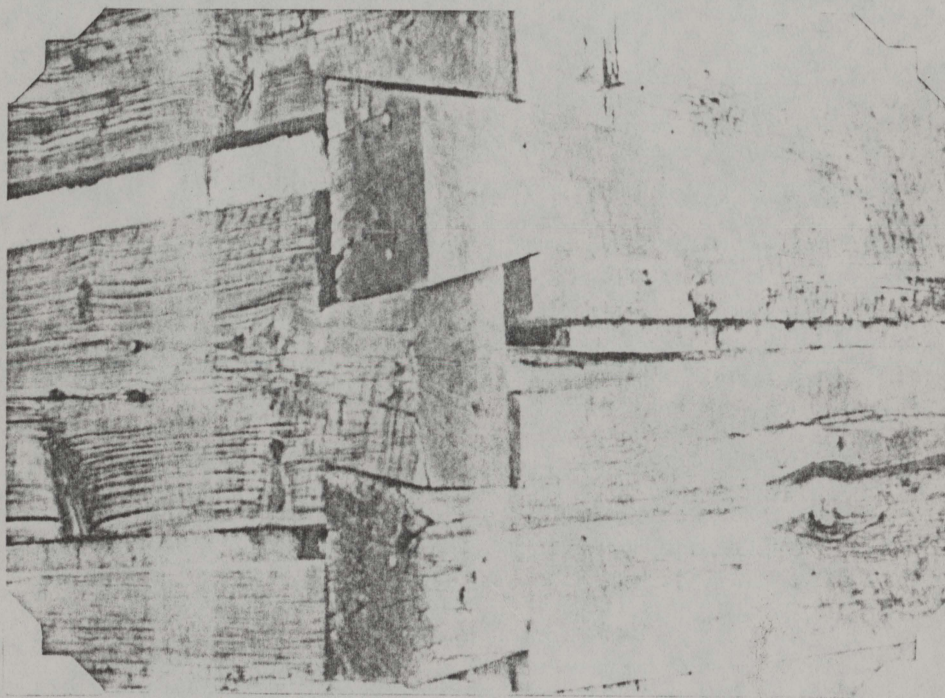
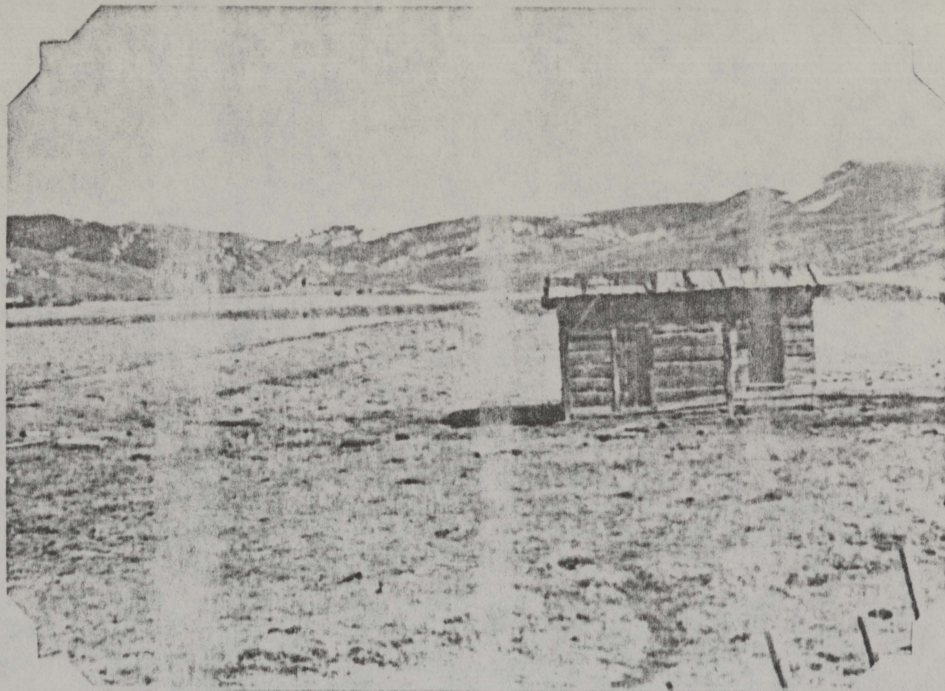
D. THE SAWMILL



The sawmill was started in the 1940's. Applegate ran the sawmill and Noble might have for a while. Most of the timber was shipped out on the railroad. The sawmill closed in the late '40s.

E. THE BUILDING LEFT NEAR WHERE THE RAILROAD DEPOT WOULD HAVE BEEN.





The depot would have been located to the north of the building left standing. There were several houses in this area at one time.

One is located about 1/4 mile northeast of the present Teramarcaz place.

Some of the names and dates in this cemetery include: Ida L. Hamor 1859-1917, Chester Prosser, Mary Elizabeth Prosser, Emma F. Reece 1863-1923, Bertie Alice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Bennet, October 7, 1903 to March 28, 1904, Father Ezra Walker 1853 - 1901, Mrs. Charlotte Hirdman June 3, 1844 to Jan. 5, 1905, Emerson E. Watson 1922-1924, Joseph D. Watson 1911 - 1938, Glen, son of Mr. and Mrs. C.B.Hirdman Jan. 28, 1911 to Feb. 9, 1911, plus numerous unmarked graves. ( Insertion: May, 1996: Marked graves left out at the time this paper was written: Broken stone: Arvila, w--- of ----Died -----1881, 28 yrs. 2 mos. with Footstone containing initials A.M. Another stone: RAYMER son of M/M C.B.Hirdman, Born: Mar. 4, 1917, Died Mar.12, 1917. Also: Elbert H. Watson 1881 - 1926.)



F. OLD HOME LOCATED TO THE WEST OF THE TARAMARCAZ PLACE.



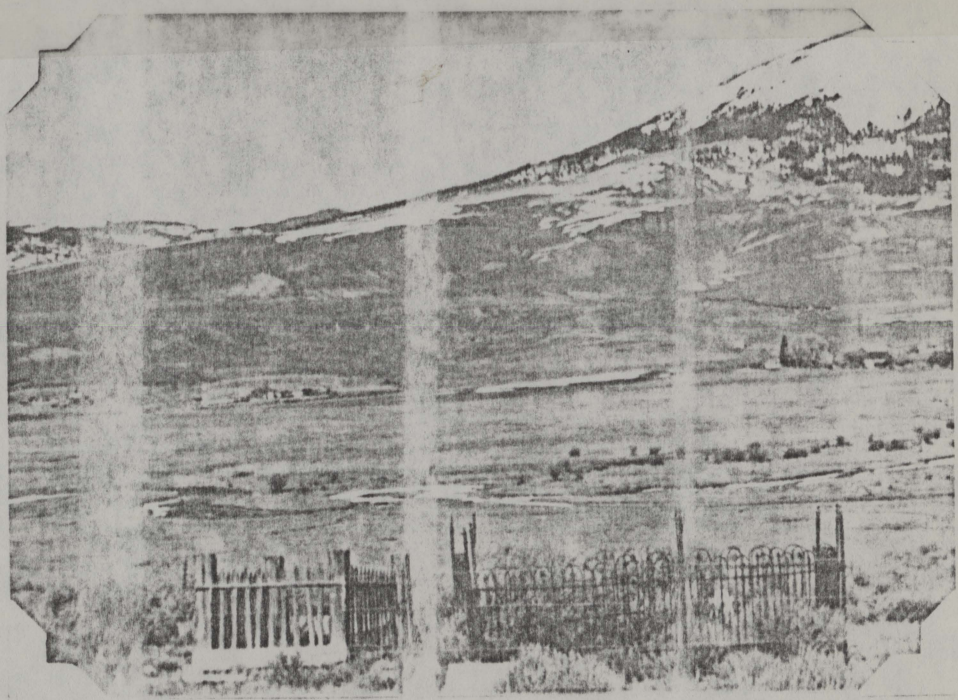
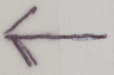
V. THE CEMETARIES

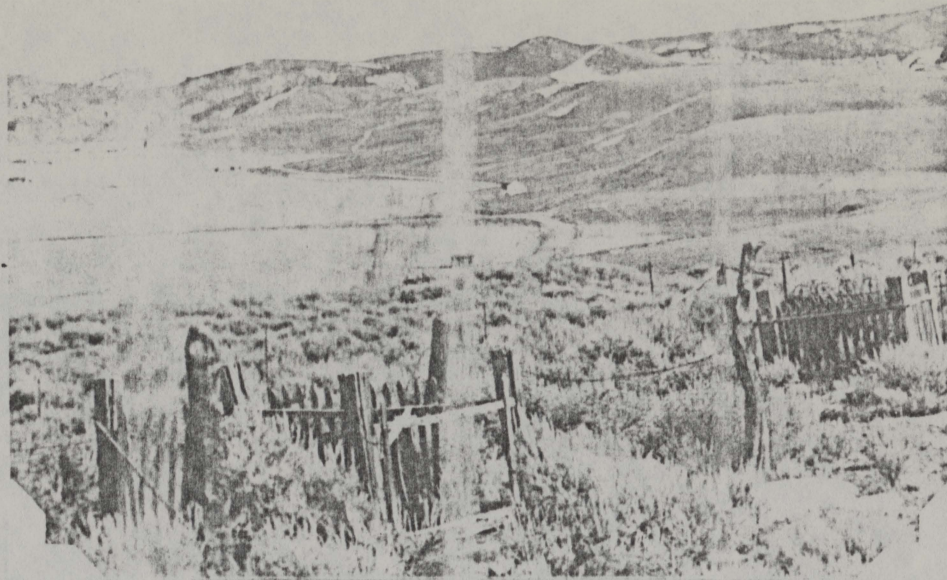
There are three cemeteries in the Doyleville area.



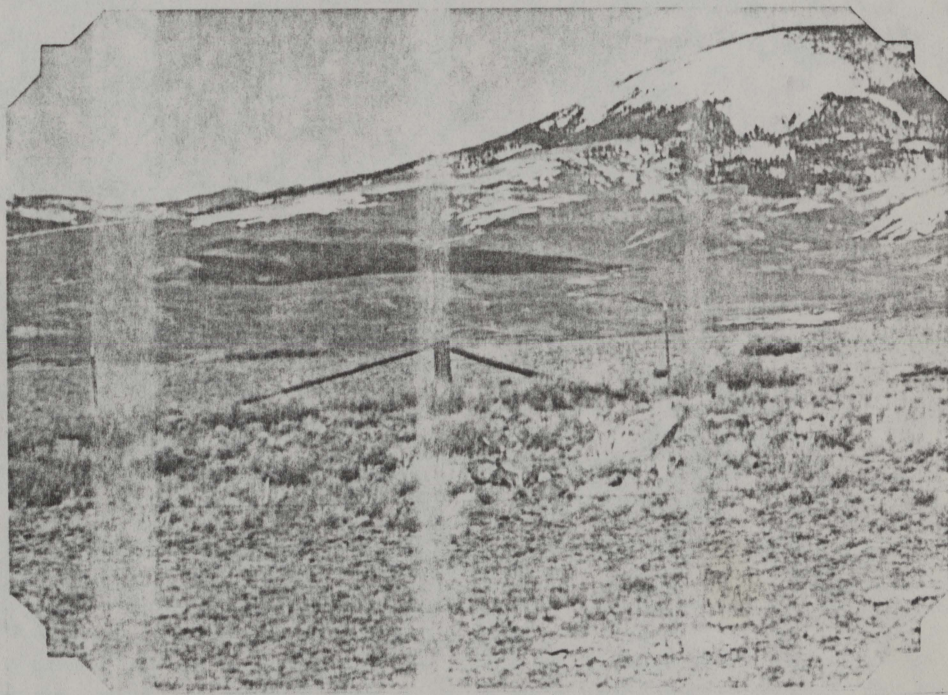


1854-1857, General Francis Pickens, President, 1853-1857.  
1858-1861, General Winfield Scott, President, 1851-1861.  
1862-1865, General George B. McClellan, President, 1861-1862.  
1866-1869, General George B. McClellan, President, 1862-1865.  
1870-1873, General George B. McClellan, President, 1865-1869.  
1874-1877, General George B. McClellan, President, 1869-1873.  
1878-1881, General George B. McClellan, President, 1873-1877.  
1882-1885, General George B. McClellan, President, 1877-1881.  
1886-1889, General George B. McClellan, President, 1881-1885.  
1890-1893, General George B. McClellan, President, 1885-1890.  
1894-1897, General George B. McClellan, President, 1890-1894.  
1898-1901, General George B. McClellan, President, 1894-1898.  
1902-1905, General George B. McClellan, President, 1898-1902.  
1906-1909, General George B. McClellan, President, 1902-1906.  
1910-1913, General George B. McClellan, President, 1906-1910.  
1914-1917, General George B. McClellan, President, 1910-1914.  
1918-1921, General George B. McClellan, President, 1914-1918.  
1922-1925, General George B. McClellan, President, 1918-1922.  
1926-1929, General George B. McClellan, President, 1922-1926.  
1930-1933, General George B. McClellan, President, 1926-1930.  
1934-1937, General George B. McClellan, President, 1930-1934.  
1938-1941, General George B. McClellan, President, 1934-1938.  
1942-1945, General George B. McClellan, President, 1938-1942.  
1946-1949, General George B. McClellan, President, 1942-1946.  
1950-1953, General George B. McClellan, President, 1946-1950.  
1954-1957, General George B. McClellan, President, 1950-1954.  
1958-1961, General George B. McClellan, President, 1954-1958.  
1962-1965, General George B. McClellan, President, 1958-1962.  
1966-1969, General George B. McClellan, President, 1962-1966.  
1970-1973, General George B. McClellan, President, 1966-1970.  
1974-1977, General George B. McClellan, President, 1970-1974.  
1978-1981, General George B. McClellan, President, 1974-1978.  
1982-1985, General George B. McClellan, President, 1978-1982.  
1986-1989, General George B. McClellan, President, 1982-1986.  
1990-1993, General George B. McClellan, President, 1986-1990.  
1994-1997, General George B. McClellan, President, 1990-1994.  
1998-2001, General George B. McClellan, President, 1994-1998.  
2002-2005, General George B. McClellan, President, 1998-2002.  
2006-2009, General George B. McClellan, President, 2002-2006.  
2010-2013, General George B. McClellan, President, 2006-2010.  
2014-2017, General George B. McClellan, President, 2010-2014.  
2018-2021, General George B. McClellan, President, 2014-2018.  
2022-2025, General George B. McClellan, President, 2018-2022.





Another cemetery is located about one mile southwest of the Taramarcaz place. The persons buried there were identified as: Lewis Berst died Jan. 22, 1912, 66 years 7 month and 8 days; also Ester Morrie died Aug. 10, 1880, 2 years, 2 months, and Clarysa Cox, died 1888, 65 years of age; there were also many unmarked graves. The graves of all three that I call unmarked were marked (the length of the grave) by rock piles.



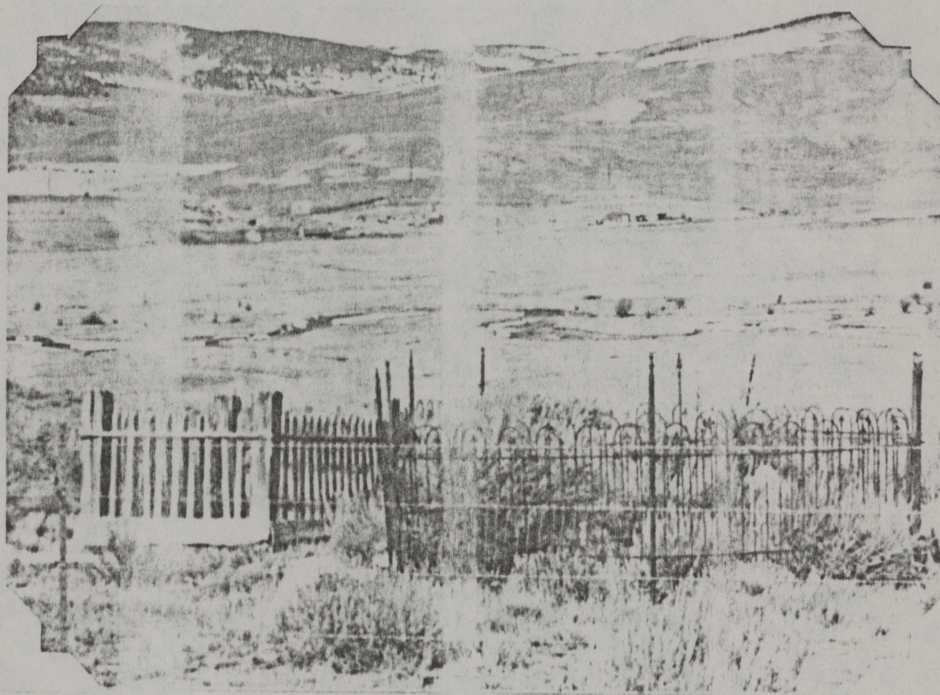
The third cemetery, located about 1 1/2 miles southwest of the Tamarcaz place had only one gravestone, marking the graves of Hattie Belle Watters, 23 August 1895 to 18 November 1901, Mamie (Mary Grace) Watters, 21 November 1893 to 30 Jan. 1896 and Evelyn Watters, 7 Jan. 1905 to 11 Feb. 1905. There were nine or ten other graves marked by the piling of stones.

Phoebe Cranor told of her Grandfather, Ezra Walker, who lived in Doyleville from 1891 to 1900 at Razor Creek. When he died a few years later in March, they were able to take him by wagon to the cemetery to bury him. (He was living in Gunnison at the time of his death.) A winter burial in the Gunnison Country at that time of year was rare--that year was an extremely mild winter.

## VI. WATER

### A. THE CREEK

The meandering Tomichi Creek provides much needed water for the hay crops.



### B. THE DITCH

The Arch Ditch was built by Mr. Arch and appropriated on January 1, 1885. The ditch was re-enlarged in 1900.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup>Paul Tamarcaz, interview, Doyleville, April, 1983. He found the information in a water rights book he owns.

The ditch ran from the Marlatts to the Leonard with the Leonard having the first water rights. Some of the people served by the ditch are: Piloni, Irby, Widler, Wellman, Hostaller United Farm Corporation, and Norberg.

The Gunnison News-Champion in 1919 said, "In the supreme court Monday a decision was rendered reversing the judgement before Judge Blace in the case of A. E. Marlatt versus Mary Prosser et al (the remanding a new trial.) Mrs. Prosser won the suit, which involved the Arch Ditch matter at Doyleville. It must now be retried."<sup>10</sup>

Later <sup>10</sup> ~~the~~ the same year the Gunnison News-Champion reported. "The whole neighborhood has been in Gunnison several days this week attending the ditch trial of Marlatt versus Prosser. We understand that a compromise had been arranged and from now on peace and goodwill will reign in the Arch Ditch."<sup>11</sup>

However, there are still many disputes in <sup>water</sup> ~~water~~ matters in Doyleville. Usually the last water user of the ditch or creek knows the most about water laws (i.e. to make sure he knows about how much water is legally his).

#### VII. ENTERTAINMENT

Occasionally a boxing match was held at the Stephenson store and it was entertainment for the locals. One was arranged between a "tough" Doyleviller and a Gunnisonite. When the match began it was evident that the Gunnison boxer was going to win. Part of the reason was because the Gunnison <sup>fighter was</sup> ~~fighter was~~ black and almost certainly the first

<sup>10</sup> The Gunnison News-Champion, 7 March 1919, p.5.

<sup>11</sup> The Gunnison News-Champion, 13 May 1919, p.6.

black person ever seen by that Doyleviller. The Doyleville fighter was described as being "frightened speechless by the black."<sup>12</sup>

Waunita Hot Springs was the center of activity with lots of dancing and parties from the time it opened in 1966 until it closed for dancing in 1966. Doyleville had its own band and they played there sometimes.

Parties were also held in the school and other buildings.

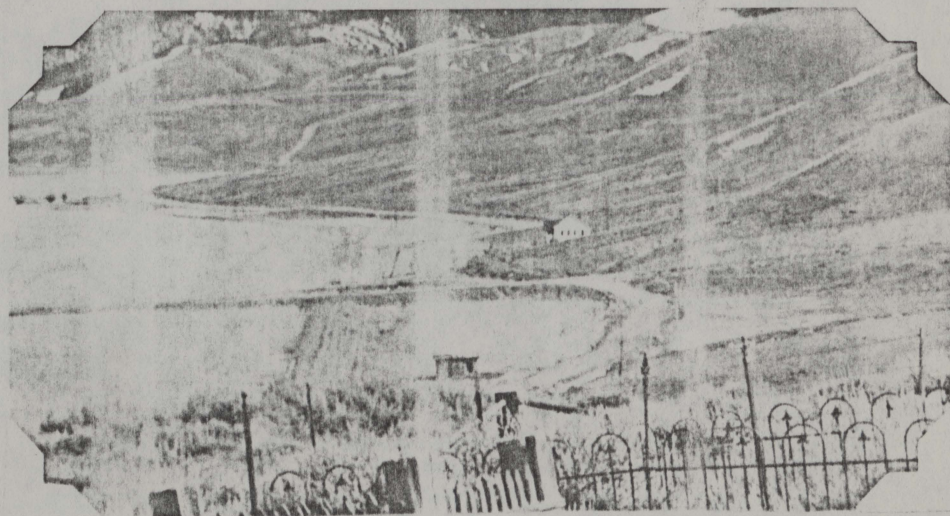
#### VIII. MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

The Rio Grande Railroad came to Doyleville in 1881. The passenger train was discontinued in 1941 and the freight train was discontinued in 1951. Mr. Cole was the train agent. He was a bachelor and probably lived in the depot in an apartment.

The old road followed the countour of the hills and took the path of least resistance. US Highway 50 was built in 1937-38 and paved in 1940.

#### IX. THE RAILROAD

The Denver Rio Grand Railroad arrived in Doyleville in July, 1881



<sup>12</sup>Mrs. Bill Prosser, interview April, 1983, Doyleville, CO.

The trains contributed much to the development of Doyleville. It brought in the first schoolteacher. After the development of Waunita Hot Springs in 1882, the town saw a steady trooping of people through town to visit the hot springs. The railroad supplied a means for cattlemen to get cattle to market and have cattle brought to them. It also proved as a means of transportation for the major crop of the time--hay.

There was a siding at Doyleville to facilitate loading of cattle, hay, timber, and etc. The landing was to the west of the depot. The locals called it the LaVeta landing.

The importance of the railroad is signified by the description of Doyleville in relation to its place along the railroad by the Gunnison News-Champion in 1922, "Doyleville--20 miles east of Gunnison on the Denver and Rio Grande Railway."<sup>13</sup>

The White Pine Cone agitated for a rail line "from the Denver and Rio Grande track to Waunita from Doyleville and thence over the Black Sage instead of Tomichi to Sargents."<sup>14</sup> It was never to be.

The freight trains left in 1952 and the passenger trains left in 1941.

Mrs. Taramarcas bundled her small children up for one of the last rides into Gunnison on the passenger train--a ride Paul still can remember.

#### X. THE MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRY OF DOYLEVILLE--RANCHING

Visitors become aware of three wonderful things when they enter this valley and they say it "your mountains, your streams and those beautiful

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<sup>13</sup>The Gunnison News-Champion, 31 March 1922, p. 7.

<sup>14</sup>Betty Wallace, History with the Hide Off, (Denver, CO, Allan Swallow Publisher, 1964), p. 215.

pastures are breathtaking. God produced the first two in their entirety, But the third had to be improved and cultivated by man. That man was rancher."<sup>15</sup>

Real settlement began with the people who came to serve the miners--but the true roots of the country were the ranchers and they came to stay.

In the Gunnison Country in 1916 hay production had reached 80,000 tons and there were 4,000 horses and 40,000 head of cattle in the country. In 1972 these figures were approximately 53,150 tons of hay, not more than 1,000 horses and still only 40,000 head of cattle including an estimated 22,000 head of breeding stock and 18,000 calves born annually.<sup>16</sup>

By 1900, the use of public land, control of water, grazing rights and homestead laws had become the principal problems facing the Colorado Cattlemen. Barbed wire had made its appearance with some folks--ticks, weather, fluctuation in market prices, rustlers, storms, fires, predators, and freight rates all were and are some of the adversities faced by cattlemen.<sup>17</sup>

Rustling was a huge problem. Mrs. Moore remembers when her father lost 100 head of cattle to rustlers in 1950. She feels that rustling in the wide open Doyleville country still goes on today.

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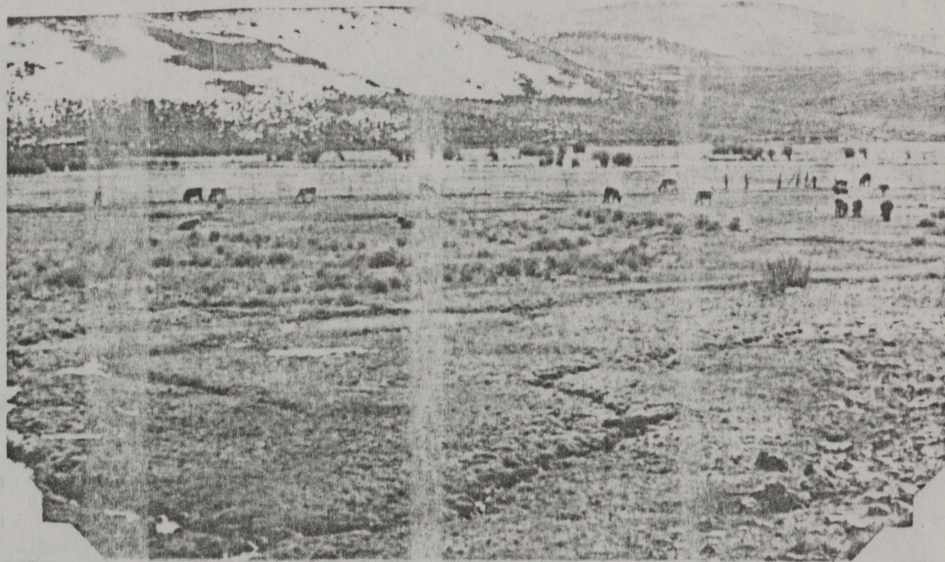
<sup>15</sup>Charles A. Page, Your Passport to the Gunnison Country, (Gunnison, CO, B & B Printers, 1973) p. 29.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid, p. 34.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid, p. 35.



XI. BUT MOST IMPORTANT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOYLEVILLE--THE RANCHERS



A. FRANK STEPHENSON

Frank Stephenson lived in Doyleville from 1903-1971.

His mother, LaVeta came from Missouri to Doyleville in 1881. She was first married to a Gibbin and later married Stephenson. His father, Ted, was from South Africa. Frank had a stepsister who died early and two brothers. One worked for the railroad, and one died at the age of 21. He also had a full sister.

Frank's wife was a Parlin, another Gunnison Country old name.

Frank had a ranch of 22,000 acres and had sheep and cattle. He had the store and post office. He was a member of the Cattlemens Association and director of the Federal Land Bank. He served on the land bank for 22 years from 1951-1971. He sold his place to the Taramarcaz family.

#### B. THE TARAMARCAZS

Both Paul and Patsy Taramarcas were locals, Patsy was a Moore. They both attended the Doyleville school and now own the ranch that formerly was the Frank Stephenson place. Several of their sons are now on the ranch.

#### C. THE LEONARDS

Cass Leonard attended Doyleville schools. He went into the service. For many years he has run a ranch for a cattle company. The home place was sold.

#### D. THE PROSSERS

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Prosser run a ranch at Doyleville. Bill's heritage in the ranching community runs back many years.

#### XII. THE PRIDE.

The fierce pride of those that lived in the Doyleville area is evident. The Gunnison News Champion had an article about a rancher that sold his ranch in Doyleville and moved to Gunnison. "They wished him luck but state...you left a great country."<sup>18</sup>

Cass Leonard's Grandfather's Brother served in the war. His name was Sgt. O.H. McDowell. He wrote from France on October 5, 1915, "...that he saw nothing as good as the Gunnison Country..."<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup>Gunnison News-Champion, 31 March 1922, p.4.

<sup>19</sup>Cass Leonard, interview April, 1983, Gunnison, CO.

## CONCLUSION

Charles Page stated that the Cattlemen of the Gunnison Country will say "to hell with it. Why put up a struggle that began in the mid-1800's in Colorado."<sup>20</sup> He believes that the land will be subdivided.

Some of what Charley Page said is undoubtedly true and who could blame the ranchers with interest rates, the low price of cattle, and the high price of everything else, if they called it quits. Yet the ranchers of Doyleville show a pride and a deep desire to continue in the ranching life on a place that is HOME.

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<sup>20</sup>Charley A. Page. Your Passport to the Gunnison Country, (Gunnison, CO B & B Printers, 1973) pp.35,36.

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### NEWSPAPERS

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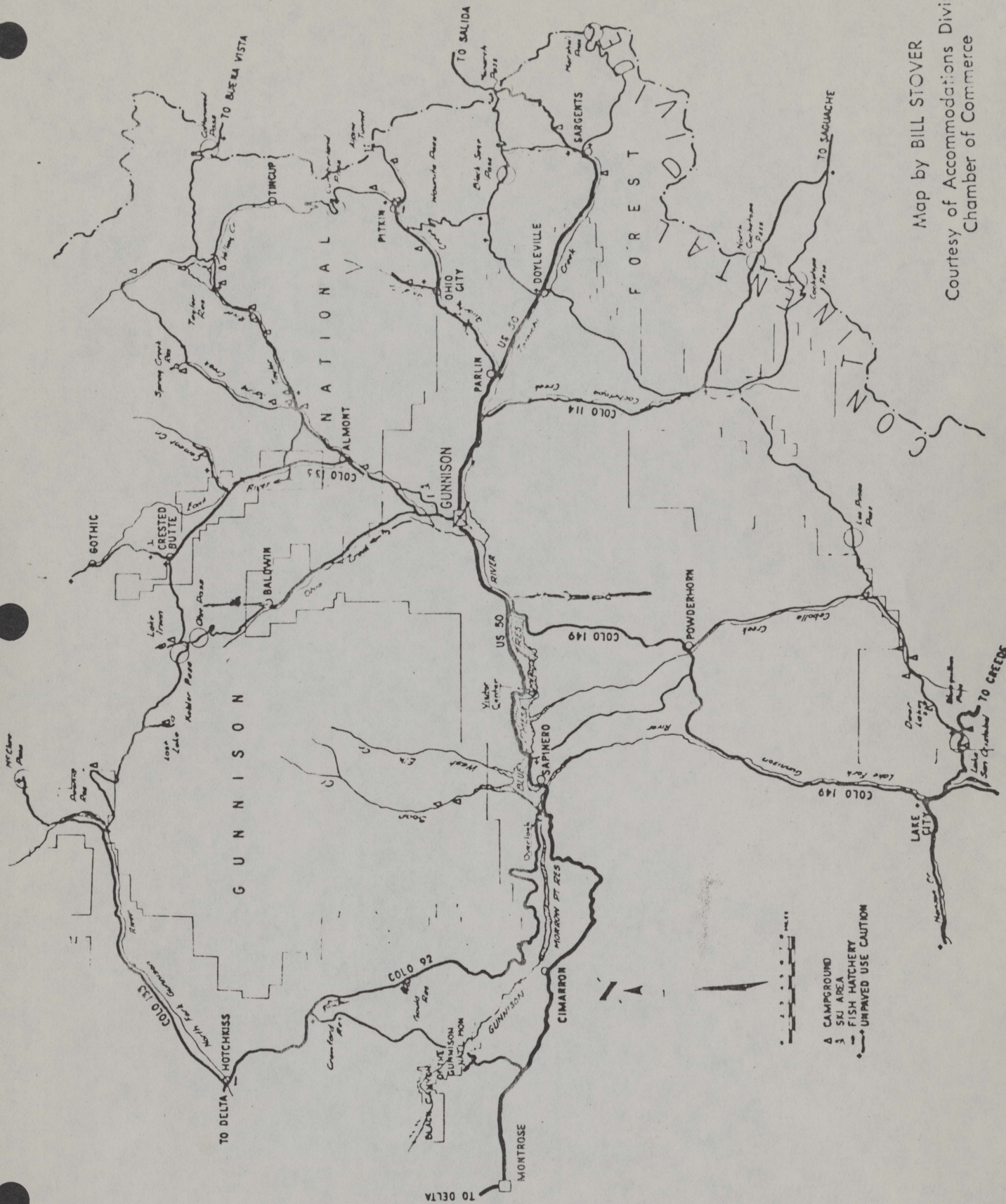
Leonard, Cass & Anita, Gunnison, CO, April, 1983.

Moore, Mr. and Mrs., Gunnison, CO, April, 1983.

Prosser, Mr. and Mrs. Bill, Doyleville, CO, April, 1983.

Stephenson, Frank, by phone, April, 1983.

Taramarcaz, Patsy and Paul, Doyleville, CO, April 1983.

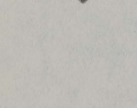
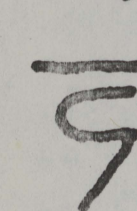
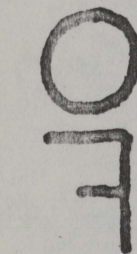
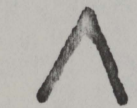
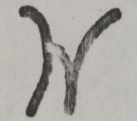


Map by BILL STOVER  
 Courtesy of Accommodations Division  
 Chamber of Commerce

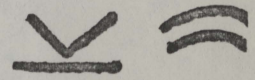
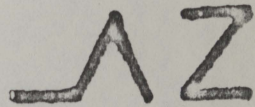
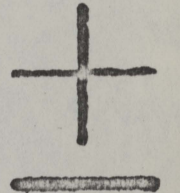
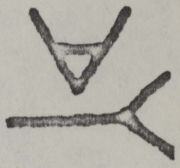
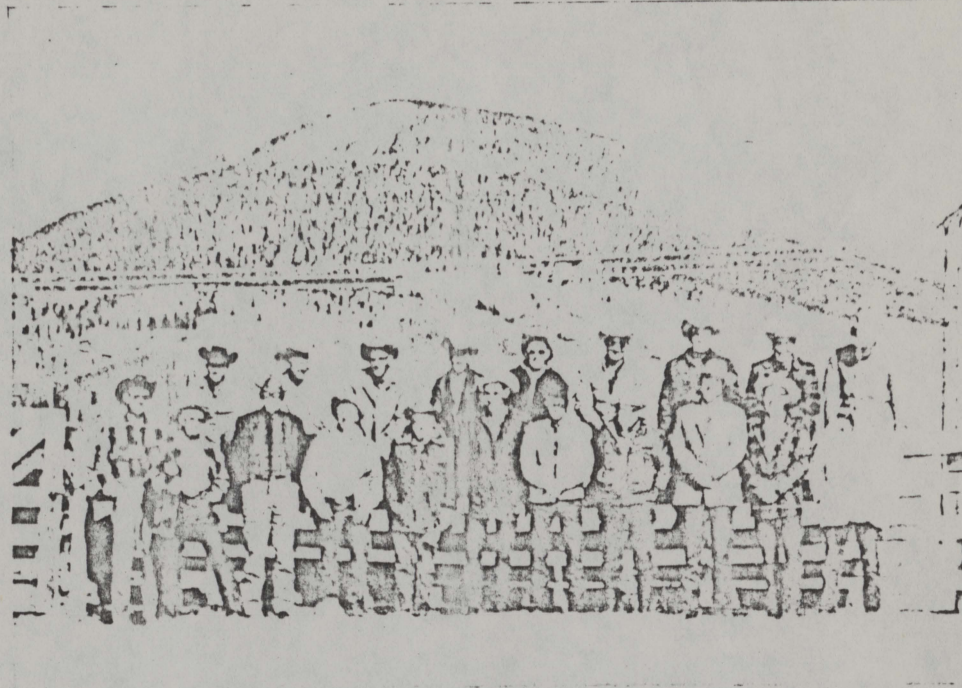
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RAY LEONARD

TS ◊ — C TP



# Upper Tomichi Cattlemen



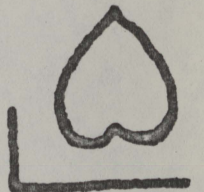
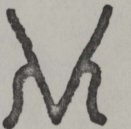
## FRONT ROW

Ray Leonard, George Means, John Watters, Bernard Irby, Claude Means, Lee Taramarcaz, Walter Rhoades, George Steenbergen, Frank Stephenson, Ernest Means, Otis Fleetwood.

## BACK ROW

Everett Watson, Bob Leonard, Glen Hicks, Deno Piloni, Don Cuninghame, Bob Irby, Paul Taramarcaz, Harry Peterson, Wayne Rhoades.

Hardy High Altitude cattle featured by the Upper Tomichi Cattlemen. Calved at 8000 feet and above and summered up to 12,000 feet. The cattle are summered on high ranges and can be seen after October 15. Most sell from November 1 to December 15. Offerings this year include 3,410 top quality calves and 380 yearlings.



VP  
John [unclear]

E-Z JJJ (WR

(1) Gunnison to Parlin

(4a) Doyleville and South

Follow

- John F. Wilson
- Jean Wilson
- V. E. Kysar
- R. I. Vader & Sons
- Dunbar Ranches
- Matt Hollenbeck
- R. S. Ray and Son
- Harry Vader
- Duane & Donna Phelps
- Jim and Ruby LeValley

- Floyd Murphy
- Flatwood Ranches
- George Steenbergen

(5) Up Cochetopa Creek

- Joe Krueger
- Harold Krueger
- Gene Mitchell
- Eddie Hazard

(2) Parlin to Pitkin

(6) Gunnison to Baldwin

- Ed C. Collard
- Paul Vader
- Herb Dunn
- Raleigh Flick
- John Flick
- Field Land & Cattle Co.
- Fred and Mary Field

- Gunnison 4-H Clubs
- Redden Ranches
- Tom Lively
- Ralph N. Myers
- Aubrey Spann
- Ed Robbins
- Kenneth Moore
- Ronald Moore
- Mrs. Otis Moore

(3) Parlin to Doyleville

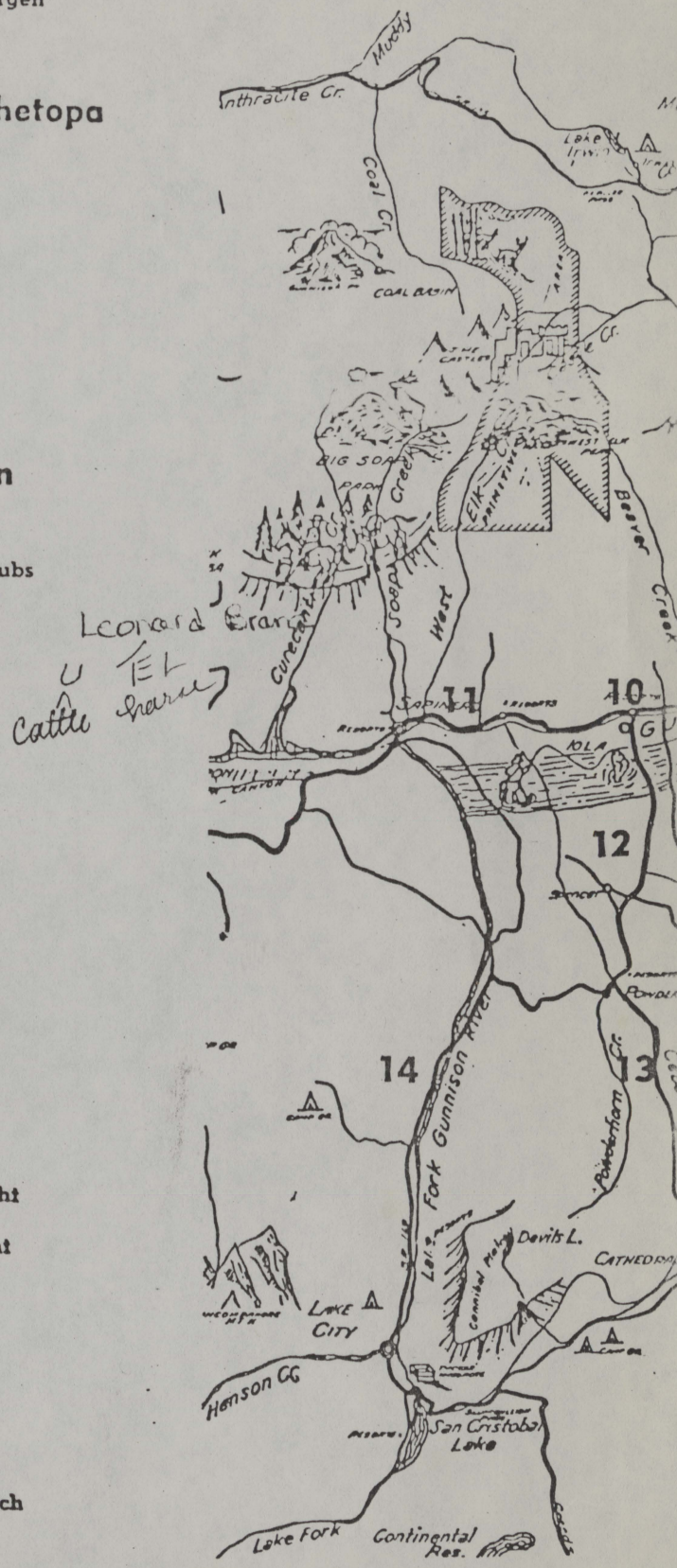
- John M. Rahm
- Taramarcar Ranch  
*(original Jessie Leonard brand)*
- Ray Leonard
- Walter Rhoades
- Frank Stephenson

- Ralph R. Allen
- Ralph Allen, Jr.
- John E. Allen
- Kenneth Eilebrecht
- Howard Eilebrecht
- Pete Moore

(4) Doyleville to Sargents

- Don Cuningham
- Arlyn Davison
- John Watters
- Deno Piloni  
*(old Watters brand)*
- Bernard Irby & Son
- W. E. Aldred

- Duane Moore
- Campbell Ranch
- Lloyd Towner
- Harry Miller Ranch
- Chester Miller
- Jim Stratman
- Allen Stratman
- Philip Eilebrecht



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