

Delta Independent

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Editor and Owner

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GROWERS ARE SATISFIED

Dispatches in Wednesday's Denver papers carried the announcement that a merger was on between the American Beet Sugar company and the Holly Sugar corporation.

It is announced that the new firm would take over the Holly preferred stock at \$90 and the common at \$40. This sudden announcement caused a marked fluctuation in Holly stock, which closed on that day at an advance of nearly \$4.00.

Beet growers of the Delta district are entirely satisfied with the Holly Sugar Corporation. The fact of the matter is that the growers are just beginning to realize the importance of the participating contract, based upon the yearly average price received for sugar, which the Holly Sugar Corporation brought out to the growers of Western Colorado in 1921.

The history of the Holly Sugar Corporation with the beet growers here has been one of fairness. In 1920 they paid the growers \$10 for beets. The present participating contract was adopted in 1920-21 (from September to September) and on that date in 1921 the growers were paid in full for their beets, being the crop of 1921. The average sugar content was 16.12 per cent and the total price was \$6.43. This was about the best paying crop the farmers had in that year.

In 1922-23 the growers have received to date \$9.50 per ton so far. The sugar content average was 16.73. There is a strong probability that the growers will receive at least 50c per ton additional and the final settlement may go as high as \$1.00.

The growers are satisfied with the present sugar company and do not desire any change in the ownership of the Delta factory as they firmly believe the Holly company are giving a more liberal contract than any other sugar concern in the United States.

The growers of the Delta district have had many differences with the Holly Sugar Corporation, but they have been adjusted always in a satisfactory way—the Holly people giving and taking in controversies. A few years ago the growers were paid for their beets on the average price of sugar for the three months of November, December and January. This arrangement was objected to by the growers and the Holly company, through Mr. Carlton, brought out the present yearly contract, figured as nearly as possible upon a 50-50 basis.

We believe it can be stated that the growers of the Delta district do not want to make any change in the ownership of their sugar company. The farmers of this section are figuring on planting more beets and they have found by a more systematic diversification of crops their land is kept in a higher state of cultivation and besides there is money in growing some beets each year.

At The Churches

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Delta
Holds services in the Library Building.
Sunday at 11 a. m.
Subject Sunday, August 26th: "Mind."
Wednesdays at 8 p. m.
The public is cordially invited.
This church maintains a reading room in this building. Open 2:00 to 4:00 p. m. Tuesdays and Fridays.

Presbyterian.
Sunday School and preaching services at the usual hour in the forenoon.
St. Michael's Catholic
Masses at 7 and 9 o'clock every Sunday except the second Sunday of the month when mass will be at 11 o'clock.
Church service Sunday evenings at 7:30 o'clock.
Week day masses at 7:30 o'clock.

Baptist
S. S. 9:45.
Preaching, 11 a. m. and 8 p. m.
B. Y. P. U., 7 p. m.
Alfred B. Parry, Pastor.

Methodist
9:45, Sunday School.
11 a. m., Morning service: Sermon, "Taking the Miss out of Missionary."
7 p. m., Epworth League. A live service for young people.
8 p. m., CROSS and CROWN.
8 p. m., Wednesday, Bible study at the church.

Next Sunday is the last Sunday before Conference. Let us bring in every and all kinds of sheaves which belong to the Master's storehouse.
F. W. Pimlott, pastor.

Catholic Masses at Paonia and Hotchkiss, Sunday, August 26
Mass at 8:30. Sunday School after mass.
Mass at Hotchkiss in Sare Hall at 10 o'clock. Sunday School after mass. Mrs. Ed Smith, teacher.
Meeting about the new church to be built.

Rev. Jer. O'Farrell, Rector.
Christian
Regular morning services.
Bible School 9:45 a. m.
Preaching 11:00 a. m.
C. E. Jr. and Senior Societies meet at 7:00 p. m.

A HISTORY OF THE NORTH FORK VALLEY

By E. G. Wade

About the middle of August, 1881, Samuel Wade, Enos T. Hotchkiss, and John McIntire, with saddle horses and pack animals, left Lake City, Colorado, en route for the Ute Indian Reservation in western Colorado, of which our beloved Delta county is now a small part. These three men crossed the Black Mesa, thence to the North Fork Valley.

The Ute Indians at this time were being moved and were encamped below what is now the city of Delta. These men saw only three Indians in the North Fork Valley and those three Indians had a pass from the officer in charge at the Indian camp giving them the right to be in this valley for the purpose of hunting horses the Indians had left behind.

After looking over the North Fork, Uncompahgre, and Grand Valleys they returned to Lake City, very much enthused over the country they had found. Samuel Wade claimed it to be a fruit country, where, he felt sure, apples, peaches, pears and other delicious fruits would do well. On September 1st, 1881, Samuel Wade, Enos T. Hotchkiss, and John McIntire decided to return to the North Fork. They brought back with them Doug. McIntire, W. A. Clark Samuel Angevine, Geo. L. Root, Jos. and Era G. Wade this time bringing two wagons. Traveling was very good until we reached Curecanti creek, on the south-east side of Black Mesa. Here our wagon road ended. We had good teams—none better. We had on our wagons, I would judge, about four hundred pounds. With the men lifting on each rear wheel of the wagons and pushing with all their strength, it took us all day to get on top of the Black Mesa.

The ground was so soft and steep, sometimes it was impossible to move our wagons more than a foot at a time, but move we did. The following night found us in a camp much higher than the one we had occupied the night before. By walking back about a hundred yards we could look down at our old camp. We could have walked back to it in half an hour.

With all the hardships experienced on a trip of this kind there is always more than enough pleasure to make up for the bad. At this camp on the top of Black Mesa we had plenty of wood, good water from a spring, and the best of grass for our teams. The grass on the mesa was the finest. I think I have ever seen. E. B. Quackenbush and Joseph Brown were here, putting up hay for the Denver & Rio Grande railroad company. I remember how, as we crossed the mesa, some of the men wished they had cattle to eat the grass that would soon be covered with snow.

When we reached the west side of the mesa, near Crystal creek, the problem was to get down. We put chain rough-locks on each rear wheel and tying the front wheels of our wagons fast with ropes, slid down the wagons even then hard pressing the teams forward. Enos Hotchkiss chained both rear wheels of his wagon and tied a big, bushy tree behind. That night we camped on Crystal Creek. The next morning we were up early and off. The following night we camped on Smith Fork. The next morning we could look down on a mesa now known as Rogers Mesa. The weather was fine—more like July than September. As we looked down on the lower country one could not help thinking of the story of the Promised Land. However, we had no Moses along; as you will remember, he only saw the promised land and did not enter into it, but we all did.

On this side of the Smith Fork we found many camps where the Indians had been a few days previous, their tepee poles still standing, little piles of rocks in circular form as if children had been playing there, and I fancy they had. The following night we camped below where the town of Hotchkiss now stands. Enos Hotchkiss located there, the town of Hotchkiss deriving its name from him. Samuel Wade informed his party we were going to the upper end of the valley, saying he believed it would be the best for fruit growing, so it was decided that Samuel and Joseph Wade, George Root, William Clark and Samuel Angevine were to start that morning for the upper end of the valley. Samuel Angevine and William Clark rode horses, Samuel and Joseph Wade and George Root walked. E. G. Wade bringing the wagon. No wagon had ever been at the upper end of the valley. Just how we would get there with it we did not know. They said there was a big mesa on the south side of the river while in the north side it was more or less broken. We decided to take the south side. Everything went nicely until I came to a creek, afterward named Quackenbush creek. Here I met with some trouble; in crossing this creek our wagon and team piled up and we had to dig them out. We got up on the mesa and had clear sailing excepting for sagebrush and soft ground. When night came we camped on what is now known as the C. Lund hay ranch. Angevine had stopped here with his pack horse and located that place. Angevine killed two cub bear near camp that evening and we cooked them. At this place we found quantities of corn cobs. The Indians had been raising corn here and for some time this place was known as the Indian ranch.

W. A. Clark located the place where his family still reside. E. G. Wade

located the ranch where Daniel Eikenberry now lives. Samuel Wade located the ranch now belonging to Merle A. Miller; a part of the town of Paonia now stands on the north portion of this ranch. George Root located the ranch where Weldon Hammond now lives. Joseph Wade located the A. L. Roberts ranch.

Reaching the upper end of the valley, the writer was quite sure he had never seen a place quite so nice. We had surely come into the land of Canaan. There were no grapes, but instead there were lots of buffalo berries—the outcrops of the timber were red with them. If you have ever eaten any of these berries you know that they are good. There was no honey here at first, but the country was soon full of buzzing bees and it has proved to be a perfect home for them. We remained in camp here for about one week. Will Clark, having moved up from Hotchkiss's camp, was a neighbor camper with us. The morning we were expecting to start back to Lake City (the sixteenth day of September) the writer remembers because it was the day President Garfield died) we arose early and went out to get the mules, expecting to give them grain. To my surprise, both their lariet ropes had been cut with a sharp knife and the mules were gone. I went to the camp and reported; next I went to Will Clark's camp and told him what had happened. He said, "Take my saddle horse if you want to follow them." I went back to where the mules had been tied, took up their trail, and followed them up Minnesota Creek, there being at that time a bunch of Indian ponies up this creek. After going quite a distance I met both mules coming down on the run; they were used to having grain, so were coming back to camp. The Indian ponies were missing after this. We did not think it Indians that cut the mules loose; we believed it to be white horse thieves. We supposed they let the mules loose, thinking the mules would stay with the ponies. We were surely a happy bunch as we had begun to fear we were elected to leave our wagons and walk back to Lake City.

After returning to Lake City, Samuel Wade hired freight teams, John Roatcap, Sr., John Roatcap, Jr., Dr. Long, and Barney Orth hauling goods for the first store of general merchandise to be located in this country. This store was located on the Samuel Wade ranch in a dugout 24x36 feet, just back of where William Starks now lives. These freight teams came over Blue Mesa, entering the Uncompahgre Valley above the present site of the city of Montrose, there being a good road to Ouray. Down the Uncompahgre valley from above Montrose there was no wagon road excepting such as we picked out as we traveled.

After the little pioneer store was fully established Samuel Wade went back to Missouri, where his family then resided, leaving the writer in charge of the stock of merchandise. Gunnison City was then our nearest railroad station. The winter of 1881-2 was a winter never to be forgotten, with but very little snow and the coldest weather being three degrees above zero, early in the spring of 1882.

Samuel Wade returned by the way of Gunnison City, bringing with him fruit trees—apples, pears, peaches, apricots, plums, and cherries, and grapevines and a large variety of small fruits. These fruit trees were hauled across Black Mesa on sleds. The trail across Black Mesa was kept open the entire winter of 1881, George Wade and L. E. Meyers going from this side to meet the parties coming in from Gunnison City with the fruit trees. They placed the fruit trees on their sleds and hitched one mule ahead of the other. With the mules in the trail and the sleds up on the snow, sometimes the sleds would be four or five feet above the mules. This made traveling very difficult.

These trees were brought here and set out on the Samuel Wade ranch, where many of them still stand and are bearing fruit.

The first cattle brought to the valley were brought in by John Roatcap, Sr., in October 1881. The first bunch of range cattle were brought in by E. T. Hotchkiss, George and William Duke being in charge of them. The next bunch was brought in by Henry Hammond and sons.

The East and West Muddy country is situated twenty-five miles north of Paonia. This is a beautiful place with an abundance of running water and the best of grass—a perfect paradise for the stock grower. Here the stockmen have grazed their herds for many years. Here Thomas Welch and his sixteen-year-old son Thomas lived. They came to this country in the early eighties. They took up considerable land here under the Placer Act and had been cutting wild hay over the country for their cattle. In the year 1890 a man named Labell located a ranch on a piece of ground where Welch had cut hay the year before. Soon after locating there Mr. Labell started to cut the wild grass that grew on his new ranch. Welch forbade him cutting it. They had some trouble over the matter; finally Welch told his new neighbor to go ahead and cut the grass. Labell thinking the matter settled got his hay crew together some four or five men with mowing machine wagons, hayracks, and other equipment for making hay. They were about to enter the park, where the grass was very fine, when to their horror they were fired upon. Welch had led them into ambush; he had stationed himself and "Butcher-

knife Ed" behind trees with deerkins hung to hide them from the Labell party. Young Tommy, more venturesome than the others, had hidden himself behind a big log near where the Labell party were to enter the park. A man named Ed. Harboron, who happened to be out hunting, had joined the Labell party. Harboron had his rifle with him and this was the only gun in the Labell party. When the firing began, Harboron jumped from his horse and lay close to the ground. Dirt was flying all around him from the enemy's bullets. Soon he saw a burst of smoke from behind the log lying near by, then up popped a human head. Ed said he shot at the hat-band; I should say he made a good shot. After the fight was over Welch told them to pick up their dead and go. Young Tommy was found with his hat band pierced, Mr. Labell was dead, Pete Small was fatally wounded and died the following day, and Charles Perm was severely wounded and died a year later. The Welch party was arrested and taken to Gunnison City for trial, but no convictions were made and all were turned loose.

Hundreds of cattle, sheep and horses are taken into this fine grazing country for the summer months and then brought back to the valleys in the vicinity of Paonia, Hotchkiss, and Delta for the winter.

The question has often been asked, how did the name "Paonia" originate? The name Paonia, from the peony flower, was sent to the postoffice department. The department saw fit to change the name to Paonia. Samuel Wade was our first postmaster. Our first schoolhouse was a log house 18x22 feet, built in the fall of 1882. Delta County was set off from Gunnison county in the year 1883. The first wagon bridge of importance in Delta County was the state bridge at the mouth of the Black Canon on the Gunnison river.

Our first church organization was founded in 1893; however, we had church services before this but no organization. The young people of the valley formed literary societies and had socials and dances. People from Hotchkiss and Crawford were all neighbors of ours—just like one big family. Interested in the welfare of each other. The country was full of wild game, such as elk, deer, bear, and some antelope. High up in the mountains we could find plenty of mountain sheep and there was no game law to prohibit us from killing all we wanted. The actual settler of the country never wasted the game, but soon outsiders came in and began killing just for the hides. This was the cause of the closed seasons on wild game to which all good citizens are glad to submit. The people who wintered in the upper end of the valley during 1881-2 were: L. T. Clark, W. A. Clark, E. B. Quackenbush, Joseph Brown, Riley Adams and family, Barney Orth and wife, L. E. Meyers, George Wade, John Freeman, Sam Angevine, Billie Anderson, and E. G. Wade. Dr. Long and family lived at Midway. A number of people wintered in the vicinity of Hotchkiss, among whom were George and Will Duke, Milt Frady and family, Charles Gray and his father, William Dever, and Billie Berry.

PIONEER SONG

By Arthur Wade, Paonia

1.
The Pioneers came long ago
They came long years ago
To blaze the trail that more might come

Where rippling waters flow;
And happy we have always been
And happy we will be
To live in Colorado
It is the state for me.

Chorus:

The Pioneers are out today
Pioneers are out
When the sun goes down and the moon comes up
Pioneers are out.

2.

Yes some have been here forty years
And some not quite so long.
But every one I know will sing
The same familiar song
That we've been happy through these years

We're still content to stay
Until the Master of us all
Shall call each one away.

3. (encore)

It took us nearly forty years
To write this song of yore
And if you give us time enough
We'll write you forty more
So please be good to these old guys
We may not yet get through
We've done our best, you did the rest
So we will say adieu.

Written especially for the Pioneer Picnic at Delta, August 17th and sung by the Pioneer Quartette.

The Grand Junction Fruit Growers' association recently mailed Mr. W. D. Detwiler a check for \$482.62, in payment for 181 boxes of tomatoes, a price of better than \$2.65 per box. This is thought to be the highest price that has ever been received by a grower in this part of the country for tomatoes. The association also last week mailed out remittances for apricots at an average of approximately \$1.40 to \$1.90 for boxes, and crates at \$2.50 and \$2.70.—Palladium Tribune.

BIRTHS

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Wilkerson of Peach Valley welcomed a son to their home Saturday, August 18th.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Hugh C. McCune of Cedaredge Monday, August 13th. She weighed 8½ pounds and has been christened Harriet May.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Ellis Tuesday, August 21. Mr. Ellis is employed at the White Eagle Filling station, and the family are recent additions to the city's population.

If George P. Marsh, the painter, put varnish on the walls and kalsomine on the woodwork, white enamel on the roof and roof paint on the bathroom walls, you can charge it to George P. Jr., who arrived to gladden the home Monday. The youngster is a lusty one, and tipped the scales at 10 pounds.

PIGGLY WIGGLY

The Store of Quality and Fair Prices.

DUNHAM'S COCOANUT	PEANUT BUTTER
¼ lb.15c	1 qt. Taste Rite.....57c
½ lb.26c	1 pt. Taste Rite.....37c
1 lb.50c	1 lb. Pallas Toy Pall.....28c
8 oz. tin Kernel Walnuts...39c	7 oz. Toy Pall.....15c
Hip-O-Lite Marshmallow Cream	Small Beech Nut.....11c
Large jar26c	Medium Beech Nut.....19c
Large Premier Salad Dressing.....44c	Extra large Beech Nut.....40c
Small Premier Salad Dressing.....19c	TWANSDOWN
Large Durkes' Salad Dressing.....35c	Large pkg Cake Flour.....34c
	Instant Cake Flour.....26c
	Large Pkg. Bran.....12½c

CANNING NECESSITIES

1 lb. Parowax.....12½c	Kerr Self Sealing Reg. Lids 15c
Red or grey Jar Rings.....6c	Kerr Self Sealing Wide Mouth Lids.....19c
Economy Caps.....29c	1 pt. Ball Mason Jars.....95c
Ball Mason Caps.....29c	1 qt. Ball Mason Jars.....1.10
Kerr Self Sealing Reg. Caps 29c	2 qt. Ball Mason Jars.....1.55
Kerr Self Sealing Wide Mouth Caps.....37c	Jelly Glasses, dozen.....70c

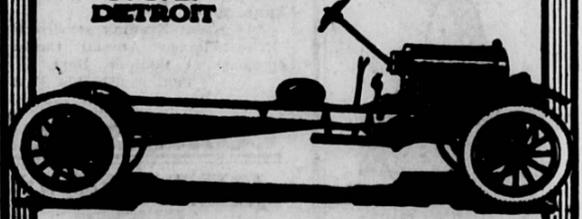
10 lbs. Sugar \$1.00

We pride ourselves on our Fresh Fruits and Green Vegetables. The best the market affords at all times, and you select with your own hands just what looks best to you.

Ford TRUCK CHASSIS
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R. C. EGNEW
Delta, Colorado