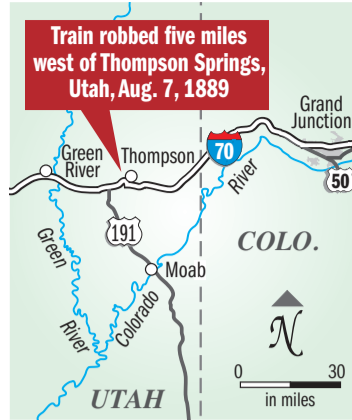
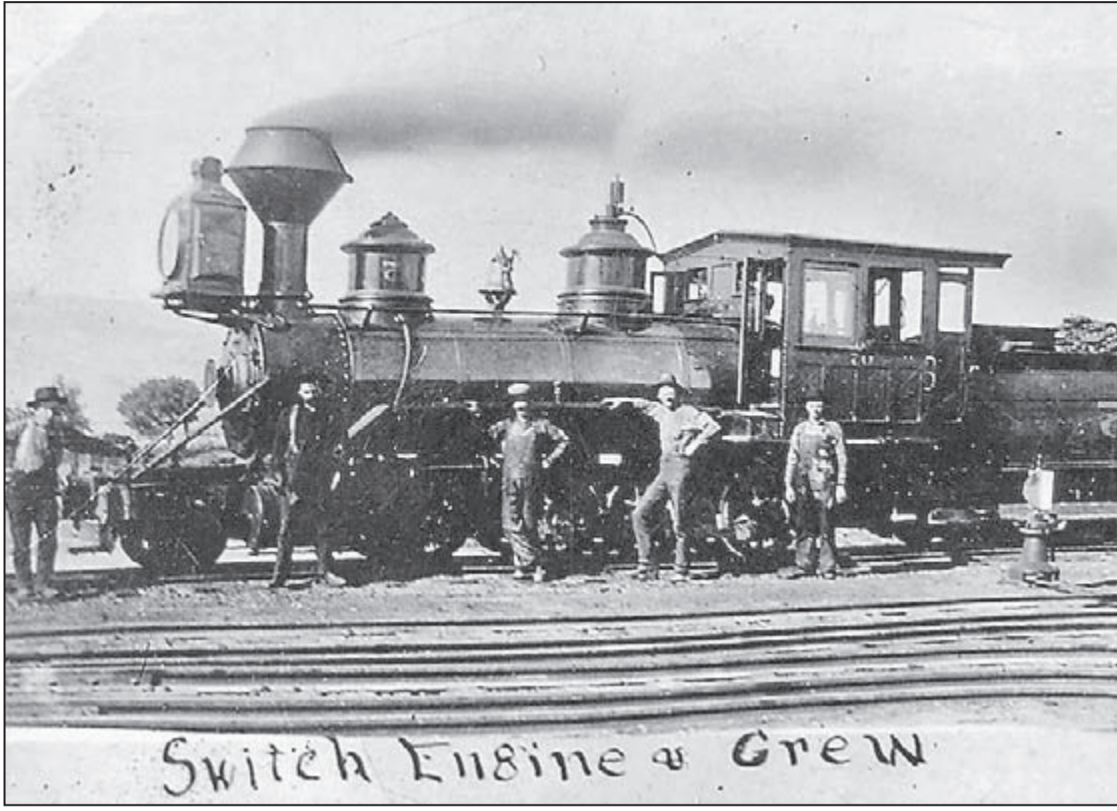


FIRST DRAFT



ROBERT McLEAN/The Daily Sentinel

A locomotive in the switching yard in Grand Junction is the type used on the train robbed in Thompson Springs in 1889.

MUSEUMS OF WESTERN COLORADO/
Special to the Sentinel

Boy, 14, badly hurt when truck hits him in Pear Park

BY ERIN MCINTYRE
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Police are investigating an accident involving a teenager who suffered serious injuries after being hit by a truck Sunday morning in the Pear Park neighborhood.

The accident happened when a truck traveling south on 30 Road prepared to turn east onto D 1/2 Road and hit the 14-year-old boy.

The teen was crossing the street at the intersection and was in the crosswalk at the time the accident happened about 10 a.m., according to the Grand Junction Police Department.

A GoFundMe account was set up online Sunday for Bodhi

Joe Decrow, an eighth-grader at East Middle School.

Account organizers said he was hit by the truck when he was coming home from a friend's house. Updates also indicated that the teen had been flown to Denver to receive treatment for brain trauma.

Investigators are still looking into the circumstances of the accident, and no arrests or citations were made Sunday, according to police.

The intersection where the accident occurred at 30 and D 1/2 roads will be temporarily closed for accident reconstruction this afternoon.

Thompson train robbery

The case of inept outlaws

The first documented train robbery in the United States occurred in Ohio in 1865. By the end of the 19th century, daring train holdups had become part of American folklore. In fact, the first narrative film ever made — in 1903 — was “The Great Train Robbery.”

When Ed Dayton and Joseph Nay held up the Denver & Rio Grande train near Thompson Springs, Utah, in August of 1889, they were definitely daring. But they weren't as clever as some better-known outlaws. Their mistakes included:



BOB SILBERNAGEL

- Not anticipating a steel door on the express car, which they were unable to force open.
- Allowing passengers time to hide money and gold, and accepting only what the passengers offered them.
- Returning to Utah within a month, then committing another robbery, which led to their arrest.

The holdup occurred shortly after 10 p.m. on Aug. 7, 1889, about five miles west of Thompson Springs. The bandits left their horses in a draw, then walked east and boarded the train that was bound from Grand Junction to Green River.

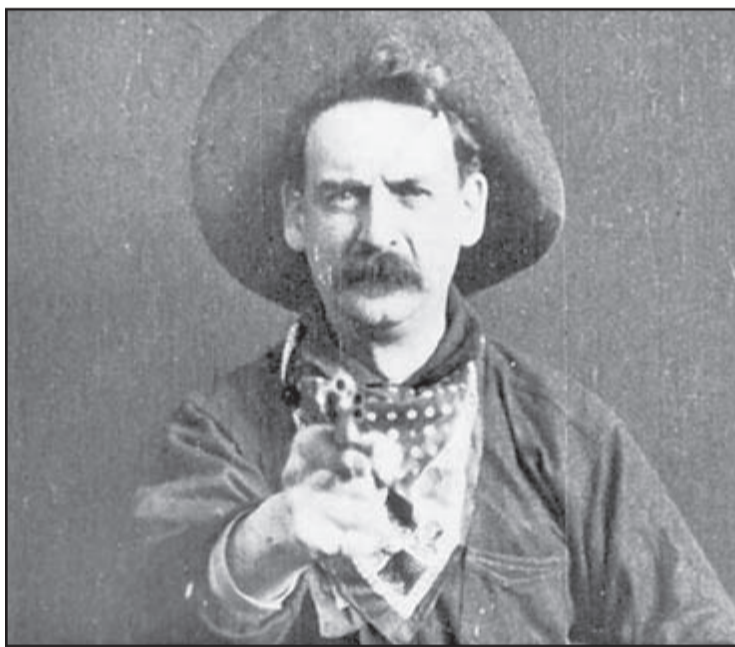
Thompson Springs was a water stop for the railroad, and a junction for stagecoaches and freight wagons heading south to Moab.

Five miles from the springs, the outlaws, wearing black cloth masks, pulled their guns on the engineer and fireman and ordered the train to halt.

They rushed to the express car and ordered the man inside to open the door. He refused, then hid behind boxes on the floor while Nay fired a barrage of rifle bullets into the car.

The outlaws ordered the fireman to get an ax to break down the express car door, but the door withstood the attack. So, one of the pistol-wielding bandits marched through the four passenger cars, demanding money and jewelry from the 100-plus passengers.

That was an anxious time because, as one passenger recalled, the bandit's “hands



This is a promotional photo from the Edison Film Co.'s 1903 movie, “The Great Train Robbery.”

trembled considerably, and from the way in which he held his weapons, there was considerable fear that they would be discharged” accidentally.

The outlaws obtained about \$500 in cash and 20 watches.

However, passengers had time to hide cash and other valuables under seats and in their shoes while the bandits dealt with the express car. Consequently, the robbers missed nearly \$5,000 in cash and gold.

They took what they had, mounted their horses and headed south toward the Blue Mountains west of Monticello, telling passengers and railroad employees that's where they were headed.

Initial news stories said there were up to five train robbers. The Salt Lake Herald reported they were part of the same gang “that held up the Telluride National Bank some months ago.”

That gang of Telluride bank robbers included Tom McCarty, Matt Warner and Butch Cassidy. But they weren't involved in the Thompson Springs holdup.

The actual bandits included Dayton, who had several aliases and several criminal charges from other states. He recruited Joseph Nay at Nay's family ranch near Dolores.

Nay later told the Deseret

Weekly that he and Dayton traveled to the Blue Mountains before heading north to Thompson Springs. They were armed with Colt 45 pistols and one Winchester rifle.

They committed the holdup, then rode south toward the Blue Mountains. Unlike Cassidy or McCarty, they didn't plan well enough to have fresh horses available.

“My horse gave out eleven miles from Thompson's Springs,” Lay said.

He was forced to walk 14 miles while Dayton searched for fresh horses to steal.

Still, they avoided the law, aided by a case of mistaken identity.

On the morning of Aug. 8, deputy federal marshals, a Utah sheriff and a posse from Grand Junction were tracking the bandits, aided by Navajo and Ute Indians. Later that month, Utah lawmen captured two suspects. But they caught the wrong men.

Charles Curtis and John Rumrill were unemployed cowboys hanging out in the Blue Mountains, precisely where the train robbers had said they were heading. The cowboys fled when they learned they were suspects, but they were tracked to a site on the Navajo Reservation. They surrendered without

a fight. Although Dayton and Nay were captured a month later, Curtis and Rumrill were not released until February 1890, when a jury found them innocent of the train robbery.

While lawmen tracked Curtis and Rumrill, Dayton and Nay traveled from the Blue Mountains to Montrose, then by rail to Ogden, Utah, on the very train they had robbed a month earlier.

They reportedly had a rollicking time in Ogden, which then had a notorious gambling and red-light district.

But the duo's funds ran out, and that prompted another crime. The victim was a man carrying gold from a gambling hall to a safe. The man was injured but survived, and he led lawmen to Dayton and Nay, who were arrested in late September.

After their arrest, someone — news accounts differ on who — recognized them as two men who had been near Thompson Springs around the time of the train robbery.

Confronted with that information, Nay confessed to the train holdup, and a deputy marshal took him to Montrose. There the captive showed the marshal “where the horses and other property had been disposed of,” the Salt Lake Herald said.

Next, Nay led the authorities to a spot south of Thompson Springs “where the shirts worn by the fellows at the time of the holdup, the masks and other property were secreted.”

Both men pleaded guilty to the train robbery. Dayton was sentenced to seven years in the Utah Territorial Penitentiary, while Nay received a five-year sentence.

A year later, Dayton was convicted of assault and robbery from the Ogden incident. Nay was a witness against Dayton.

Despite the initial confusion, the great Thompson Springs train robbery was solved quickly because the bandits involved weren't very good at covering their tracks.

Information from Utah Digital Newspapers, the Grand Junction News and the Museums of Western Colorado.

Bob Silbernagel's email is bobsilbernagel@gmail.com.

BLOTTER

COMPILED BY SENTINEL STAFF

2 sought in credit card theft

Crime Stoppers seeks the public's help on identifying and locating suspects involved in criminal activity.

Between 12:40 and 12:50 p.m. Dec. 13, unknown suspects broke the driver's side window to enter a parked car in the 2700 block of G Road. Credit cards were taken from the victim's purse and were used at Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply, Smoker Friendly in Clifton and Bradley Sinclair at 32 and F roads.

The suspects are a male and a female. The estimated damage and property loss is more than \$1,800. A surveillance photo of the two suspects can be seen here and at



241stop.com.

Anyone with information on the identity

or whereabouts of the suspects are asked to call 241-7867.

According to the Mesa County Sheriff's Office

- Nola Lee, 29, of Durango, was arrested Saturday on suspicion of DUI and possession of drugs and paraphernalia.
- Bobby Lloyd Mestas, 47, of Grand Junction, was arrested Saturday on suspicion of drug possession, paraphernalia and several traffic violations.
- Brett Lawrence Perrin, 57, of Durango, was arrested Saturday on suspicion of drug possession, criminal impersonation, violation of a protection order and was listed as a fugitive in another jurisdiction.

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2018 THIS WEEK IN THE LEGISLATURE

DENVER — This is the first full week of the 2018 legislative session. In keeping with past years, this week usually isn't very busy, with most committees getting set up and hearing routine briefings from the state agencies they deal with.

- **Today:** The Legislature is closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- **Tuesday:** The Joint Budget Committee that drafts the state's annual spending plan will meet sporadically through the week to discuss supplemental changes to the budget for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30.
- **Wednesday:** The Senate Health & Human Services Committee is to hear SB50, a measure that would extend the state's safe haven laws to include staff members of free-standing emergency facilities as authorized people to take temporary custody of infants who are voluntarily surrendered by their parents.
- **Thursday:** The Senate Agriculture,

Natural Resources & Energy Committee is to hear SB3, Sen. Ray Scott's bill to re-establish the Colorado Energy Office. The committee also will hear SB38, introduced by Sens. Don Coram, R-Montrose, and Kerry Donovan, D-Vail, to allow hemp farmers to use reclaimed water on their crops.

- **Next week:** The Colorado Senate isn't wasting any time hearing its main bill this session. SB1 will be debated in the Senate Transportation Committee on Jan. 23. That's their signature bill calling for a ballot measure to issue \$1.7 billion in bonds for road and bridge projects.

Scheduled committee hearings are subject to change. All floor action and committees can be watched or heard on the Legislature's website, leg.colorado.gov. Check that website to see which measures are available for remote testimony, and how to register to speak.

— Charles Ashby

The Daily Sentinel (ISSN 1445-8962)
Published every morning at 734 S. Seventh Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501.
Periodical Postage paid at Grand Junction, CO.
Carrier home delivery prices: 13 weeks - \$65.00, 26 weeks - \$130.00, 52 weeks - \$260.00.
Weekend delivery packages: Wednesday thru Sunday - \$244.40, Friday thru Sunday - \$197.60.
Saturday & Sunday - \$163.80, Sunday only - \$163.80.
Weekend Delivery includes the following date in 2018: Nov. 22.
Single Copy: \$1.00 daily and \$2.00 Sunday.
Mail (USPS): \$30.00 per week, \$1,560 per year. *POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Daily Sentinel, 734 S. Seventh Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501.*

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We're wearing jeans for charity at The Daily Sentinel. Ask me how you can help!
we've got heart!
The employees of *The Daily Sentinel* have joined together to adopt a local non-profit organization/charity of the month. We want to help raise awareness and badly needed funds for these organizations that are dedicated to helping people in our community.
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Western Slope Center for Children
The **Western Slope Center for Children (WSCC)** is a Child Advocacy Center, providing services to abused children and their families. In Mesa County, more than 500 children are subjected to sexual or physical abuse each year. WSCC combines law enforcement, health professionals, counselors and long-term help for children and their families. This unique combination protects traumatized victims from an overwhelming system and its regulations. Please join with us and send your tax deductible donation to:
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