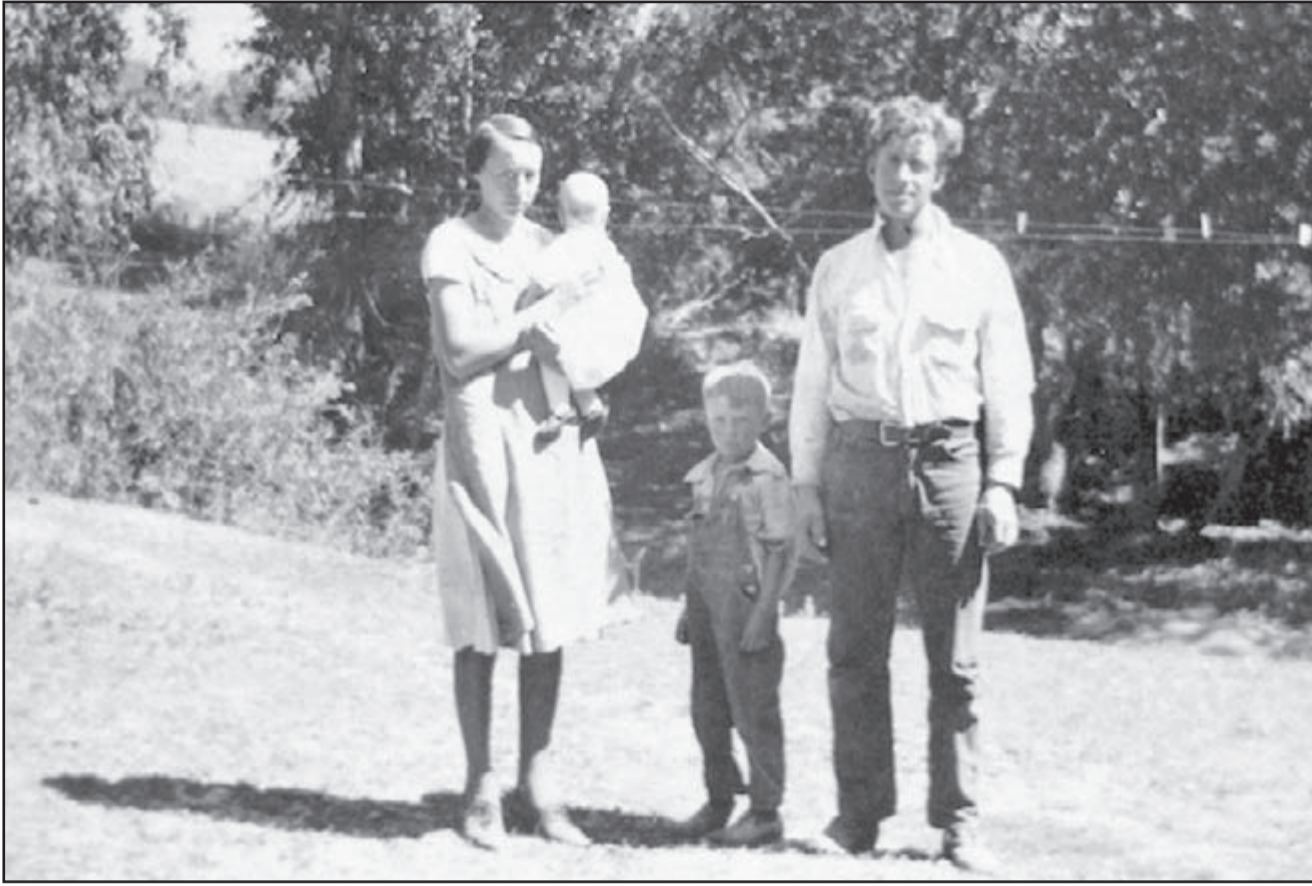


FIRST DRAFT



Bessie and Paul Lindauer are shown with their two sons, Ivo (in Bessie's arms) and Zelmo, at the ranch on the East Fork of Parachute Creek in the early 1930s.

COURTESY OF IVO LANDAUER

Pioneers settled up Parachute Creek

When Ivo Lindauer was young, he froze his face while riding horseback from his home on the East Fork of Parachute Creek to the Granlee School 3 miles away. "I was riding behind my brother, and it was so cold you could hear the branches breaking on the trees," Lindauer recalled. "I had to stay home from school almost a month."



BOB SILBERNAGEL

Consequently, the family soon moved to a new ranch a mile west of the town of Parachute, where the school commute would not be so long or bitterly cold. Now 86, Lindauer is retired from a career at the University of Northern Colorado. He and his wife of almost 60 years, Betty JoAnn, or BJ, have traveled the world, but return to their home at Battlement Mesa. Last year, Lindauer published a book called "Up the Creek: Parachute's Pioneer Families and Energy Development, 1875-2015."

The book tells the story of more than 50 pioneer families of Parachute Creek, as well as their descendants. Additionally, it looks at the changes wrought by the energy industry operating in and around Parachute Creek. Lindauer said one thing that made Parachute Creek different was the level of education that second- and third-generation residents obtained. There were several doctors, numerous teachers and several people, including Ivo Lindauer, who received doctorates. Also, Willard Libby, who was born near Parachute Creek but raised primarily in California, won the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1960 for his work on radiocarbon dating. Lindauer's book points to another factor that sets Parachute Creek apart from many other ranching areas in western Colorado. Ranching continues in most of those areas. In Parachute Creek, however, the energy industry changed that pattern.

In 1910, there were 34 families living on Parachute Creek and its three forks. By 1950, that number had grown to 58 families. But by 2012, "Only one of the original families still owned their ranch and farmed their property," Lindauer wrote. The ranching families willingly sold their property and water to energy firms. Many family members worked for the oil shale or natural gas industries, Lindauer said. The first settlers in the Parachute region arrived in 1882, a year after the Utes had been forcibly removed from the region. John "JB" Hurlburt and Martin Billiter brought 2,000 head of sheep from California, intending to settle near Meeker; but eventually choosing a site near the mouth of Parachute Creek. Soon, others joined them, staking homesteads up and down Parachute Creek and its three forks.

Peter Lindauer, Ivo's grandfather, was a native of Indiana who worked in Kansas and various locations in Colorado before opening a store in Parachute with his brother in 1898. In 1902, they sold the store and Peter bought a ranch near the confluence of the three forks of Parachute Creek. His oldest son, Paul, was

born in 1900 in Parachute. By the time he was a teenager, Paul was a good ranch hand, and he became a trapper, roper and rodeo cowboy. Paul married Bessie Shults in 1924, and in 1929 they purchased a ranch one mile up the East Fork of Parachute Creek, where Ivo was born. They ran cattle on top of the Roan Plateau, which at the time could be reached by horse trail from the East Fork. "I remember my dad would take me up on top of the mountain, put me under a tree and tell me to wait. I'd sit there while he rounded up horses and put them in the corral," Ivo said. But Bessie thought the ranch too cold and isolated for her children. So in 1937, she and Paul purchased the ranch a mile west of Parachute. Ivo and BJ own the ranch today with their daughter and son-in-law. The Lindauers aren't the only pioneer family with 21st century ties to the area. There are still descendants of JB Hurlburt in the community, along with those of other families. Lindauer's book offers detailed accounts of each of the pioneer families and their succeeding generations. The book is available at Barnes & Noble in Grand Junction and through Amazon.com.

While employed by energy companies in Parachute most of the past 35 years, Susan Alvillar has worked with students and teachers at Grand Valley High School in Parachute to maintain the large "GV" on the side of a hill owned by the energy firms. The letters are visible from Interstate 70. Last year, the school opted out of the maintenance effort, so Alvillar received permission from her current employer, Terra Energy Partners, to refurbish and stabilize the GV. "I started my own informal poll, and I found that people here were appalled at the possibility it might go away," she said. So, Terra employees and contractors donated their time to put in support for the letters and repainted them with special paint. Why the GV? The community was originally called Parachute, but the name was changed to Grand Valley in 1908. In the mid-1980s, it was changed back to Parachute, while the high school is still Grand Valley. Parachute reportedly got its name originally because on maps, the three forks of Parachute Creek look like converging lines of a parachute. Parachutes were well-known devices in the late-19th century. But Ivo Lindauer's book includes an excerpt from a 1910 newspaper that says the town name is actually a corruption of the Ute word, "Pahchouc," which reportedly meant "twins" and referred to the two peaks on either side of Parachute Creek. The "GV" on the hillside was erected in 1948 or 1949, when Lindauer was attending Grand Valley High School. "I helped carry the rocks up there," he said.



BOB SILBERNAGEL/Special to the Sentinel

Susan Alvillar stands below the "GV" made of rocks on a hillside owned by Terra Energy Partners, Alvillar's employer. Terra helped restore and stabilize the letters that refer to Grand Valley.

Information from this article came from interviews with Ivo and BJ Lindauer and Susan Alvillar, and from Lindauer's book, "Up the Creek: Parachute Creek's Pioneer Families and Energy Development 1875-2015."

Email Bob Silbernagel at bobsilbernagel@gmail.com.

Park City 1st in Utah to ban plastic bags

PARK CITY, Utah — The mountain ski town of Park City recently became the first Utah city to ban plastic bags. The Park City council voted unanimously last week to enact the ban. Starting in June, the three large grocery stores in town won't be able to have the razor thin plastic bags commonly used, which supporters say will help cut down on trash in the community and reduce recycling equipment jams. The city has been mulling such a ban since 2008. Park City now joins 230 municipalities across the country that have approved a ban on plastic bags. The three stores subjected to the ban say they'll comply but feel unfairly targeted. Local shoppers and environmentalists say this is the right thing to do for the community. — *The Associated Press*

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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.

MAY JEANS FOR CHARITY ORGANIZATION: Challenger Baseball

Challenger Baseball is a non-profit division of little league baseball whose purpose is to give mentally challenged and/or physically disabled children a chance to participate in the sport. The program gives disabled children the opportunity to learn teamwork, leadership and responsibility. Kids also make lifelong friendships. **Challenger** formed in Grand Junction 18 years ago with 12 kids – currently there are eight teams in the Grand Valley with 72 players overall. Donations to support **Challenger Baseball** can be made by visiting: www.challengerbaseball.org or by contacting Carma Brown directly at 216-5554.

MESA COUNTY TENNIS
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- Elementary/Middle School League Play
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BLOTTER COMPILED BY SENTINEL STAFF

Theft at Murdoch's supply

The Mesa County Sheriff's Office is looking for help to identify the subject or subjects involved in a theft earlier this month at the Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply, 3217 Interstate 70 Business Loop. Sometime between 8:30 p.m. May 10 and 7:30 a.m. May 11, seven metal storage boxes were stolen from the rear of the store. The boxes are designed to fit in the bed of a pickup. They are valued at an estimated \$5,800. Anyone who knows the identity of the subjects involved in this crime is asked to contact Crime Stoppers at (970) 241-7867 or

online at www.241STOP.com. Any information that leads to an arrest may lead to a cash reward of up to \$1,000, with the informant remaining anonymous. **According to the Grand Junction Police Department:**

- A vehicle valued at less than \$20,000 was stolen Tuesday from a business in the 2800 block of North Avenue.
- Argie May, 36, was issued a summons May 14 on suspicion of harassment and menacing in the 2700 block of C Road.
- Two 14-year-old juveniles were issued summonses Thursday on suspicion of unlawfully entering a structure and causing less than \$750 in damages in the 2200 block

of Broadway. **According to the Mesa County Sheriff's Office:**

- David Dyer, 54, was issued a summons May 8 on suspicion of harassment and disorderly conduct.
- According to the Glenwood Police Department:
 - Yesica Varela-Munoz, 22, of Rifle was issued a summons May 11 on suspicion of petty theft.
 - Samantha Hillary Thrower, 29, of Rifle was issued summonses May 12 on suspicion of careless driving and driving while under the influence of prescription medication.