

FIRST DRAFT

Once-bustling mining district did not deliver a boom

Fulford was always a tease, according to Richard Perske. The gold miners and others who briefly settled in the community southeast of present-day Eagle kept expecting — hoping, actually — that the mountains near Fulford would produce the next big gold bonanza.

There were enough signs of high-grade ore, some real and some hoaxes, to keep a low-level gold fever burning for decades. But the big payoff never occurred.

Today, the one-time boom town, on mostly private land nestled in the White River National Forest, is a mixture of deteriorating buildings from the town's early days and modern getaway cabins.

Perske, who built his own cabin on a lot he purchased in Fulford in 1976, has written a book about the old mining town called "Boom Town to Ghost Town: The Story of Fulford," published by the Eagle County Historical Society.

It features stories of town founder Art Fulford and his extended family, as well as others who attempted to make their fortunes and build homes

Fulford story. Art Fulford is at its center. Born in Ontario, Canada, in 1857, Art was the first of nine children. The family moved to Nebraska in 1871, and Art made his way to Leadville sometime in the next decade.

Leadville was a hopping place in the late 1870s and 1880s, attracting the likes of Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, not to mention Molly Brown and Horace Tabor.

But Fulford soon sought opportunities elsewhere. In 1881, just 24 years old, he was elected town marshal of Red Cliff, then a small mining community and the only municipality in what would become Eagle County.

Fulford also became a successful prospector in the Red Cliff mining district, dangle from ropes on the side of a 500-foot cliff to discover one important ore outcropping. In addition, he founded one profitable mine and held interests in others.

He married Mary E. (Molly) Quirk in Red Cliff on Dec. 30, 1883. By 1885, they had started a family, were prominent members of Red Cliff society and had even built a roller-skating rink.

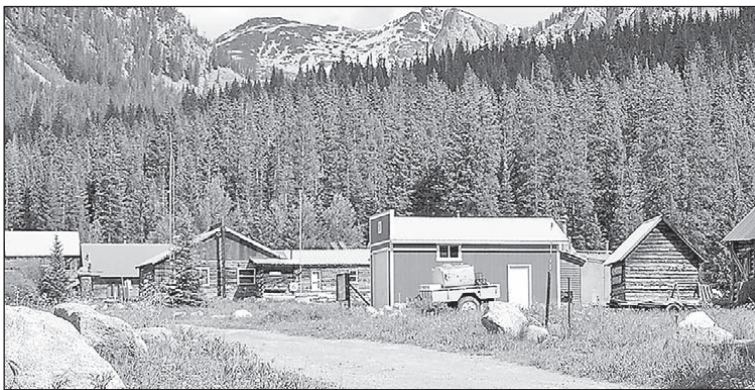
Art was always looking for new opportunities, and in 1887, he and his brother, Marshall (Mont), located mining claims on east Brush Creek, about 15 miles west of Red Cliff.

By late 1887, the Fulford brothers had filed enough claims in the region from West Lake Creek (near present-day Edwards) to Brush Creek that the U.S. Mineral Survey had designated it the "Fulford Mining District."

Others began arriving, including Dick Morgan, who would become Art's brother-in-law. A Denver & Rio Grande Railroad water stop known as Eagle Crossing began to develop into a small town to serve



SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL/Eagle County Historical Society and Eagle Valley Library District



SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL/ Bob Silbernagel

A comparison of the original and current states of Fulford: top, Fulford in 1928, and bottom, how the town appears today. Though Art Fulford's gold mining district ultimately fizzled out in the 1920s, his legacy would contribute to the development of Eagle and Fulford counties for decades.

the needs of the Fulford Mining District. Today it is the town of Eagle.

The Fulfords built a lively stable in Eagle, and later, Molly Fulford would operate a hotel there. A stage and freight line were established between Eagle and Fulford. For a time, Art's parents operated a stage stop between the two, near where the Sylvan Lake State Park visitor's center now sits.

In 1891, Art enlisted the financial backing of Aspen mining entrepreneur B. Clark Wheeler (no relation to Jerome Wheeler, who started

the Wheeler Opera House in Aspen). They formed the Nolan Mining Company, which produced profitable ore, as did several other mines in the area.

The Fulford boom was on, and because it was gold-based, it would continue during the economic panic of 1893, when the federal government stopped purchasing silver.

"One of the things that surprised me," Perske said, "was how much money poured into Fulford from Aspen and Leadville after the silver bust."

Art Fulford wouldn't live to see it, however. He died in

an avalanche on Dec. 31, 1891, while snowshoeing between Fulford and West Lake Creek.

His wife, brothers and extended family continued to be involved in Fulford and Eagle County for decades. And the town of Fulford, which once had a year-round population pegged at several hundred, would continue to excite prospectors, geologists and mine speculators for many years.

But the town would be largely abandoned by the 1920s, while nearby Fulford Cave was promoted as a tourist attraction. The Fulford mines

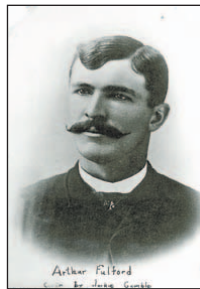
would remain more tease than treasure.

"The Story of Fulford" is available for \$19.99 at the Eagle County Historical Society's website, www.anglocountyhistoricalsociety.com, and at several locations in Eagle and Edwards.

The historical society is offering a Fulford History Hike on Aug. 1 and a "Fulford Night at the Museum" on Sept. 10.

For more information, visit the historical society's website.

Email Bob Silbernagel at bohsilbernagel@gmail.com.



SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL/Eagle County Historical Society and Eagle Valley Library District
Art Fulford, whose mining activities helped found the towns of Fulford and Eagle.

Colorado joins suit against federal water regulations

By GARY HARMON
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Thirteen states, including Colorado, are challenging a federal regulation defining "waters of the United States."

The suit, filed in Bismarck, North Dakota, federal court, contends the Environmental Protection Agency's new far-reaching rule violates the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the U.S. Constitution.

"Water is perhaps the most critical resource Colorado manages and we do it very well," said Colorado Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman in a

statement. "EPA's rule creates more confusion than clarity and unreasonably expands the federal government's regulatory reach into our backyards, our farmers' crop land, and our ranchers' acreage."

The rule "unjustifiably" expands and brings numerous isolated bodies of water under the jurisdiction of the EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the result that landowners will have to seek additional federal permits or face substantial fines and federal criminal enforcement actions, Coffman said.

The new rule violates the Clean Water Act, according to the suit, because it overrules

state authority.

In the suit, the states maintain that they "fall squarely within the Clean Water Act's zone of interest, given that Congress specifically instructed the Agencies to 'recognize, preserve, and protect the primary responsibilities and rights of States to plan the development and use... of land and water resources.'"

The EPA withheld from the states its finding that the proposed rule would have no significant impact on the environment, the suit says.

Under the rule, primary waters falling under the regulation are all waters "which are

currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide," as well as all interstate waters, including interstate wetlands and "the territorial seas."

By failing to consult with states, federal officials "did not take into account the unique ecological, geological, and hydrological differences amongst all states and have ignored the scientific expertise of the state regulators charged with protecting state resources under both federal and state law," the suit says.

BLOTTER

COMPILED BY SENTINEL STAFF

Dine-and-dashers sought

Crime Stoppers of Mesa County is asking for help in finding a pair who left Famous Dave's restaurant without paying for their meal.

Shortly after 7 p.m. April 1, Grand Junction police responded to Famous Dave's, 2440 U.S. Highway 6 & 50, on a report of two people who exited the restaurant without paying and left the area in a silver two-door sedan.

One suspect is a white woman about 25 to 30 years old, between 5-foot-0 and 5-foot-7, weighing between 150 and 200 pounds and with blonde hair. The other suspect is

a white female with the same descriptors except the blonde hair; her hair is brown. Surveillance video of the pair can be seen at www.241stop.com.

Anyone with information about the pair should call Crime Stoppers at 241-7867. All information is anonymous and information leading to an arrest can earn up to \$1,000.

According to the Grand Junction Police Department:

■ Alisha Bowker, 35, was arrested and released on a summons Thursday morning at Walmart, 2881 North Ave., on suspicion of shoplifting items valued at less than \$100.

■ Kevin Mahoney, 38, was arrested and released on a summons Friday morning

at North 12th Street and North Avenue on suspicion of displaying expired numbered plates.

■ Mark Macklin, 57, was arrested and released on a summons Friday night in the 1900 block of North 12th Street on suspicion of trespassing.

■ Tyler Sandoval, 23, was arrested and released on a summons Friday night at 27 3/4 Road and Cheyenne Drive on suspicion of driving with a suspended license.

■ Iesha Montano, 19, and Eduardo Macias, 26, were arrested Friday night in the 2600 block of Grand Avenue after being contacted about a disturbance; they were arrested on suspicion of domestic violence and damaging property valued at less than \$300.

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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.

AUGUST JEANS FOR CHARITY ORGANIZATION:
Kids' Aid

While adults are going through difficult days, it seems children end up paying the highest price.

Right now - in our community - there are elementary and middle school children who have little or nothing to eat over the weekend. They must make the school lunch on Friday stretch to lunch on Monday.

Kids' Aid was founded to help. Children in the program are given backpacks of food and snacks to take home to share with their family over the weekend. We invite you to join with us and help this deserving program feed children.

Please send your tax deductible donation to:
Kids' Aid, P.O. Box 2569, Grand Junction, CO 81502 or call (970) 712-2847