

FIRST DRAFT

Years after expedition, Sumner harbored hard feelings toward Powell, glorification

When John Sumner learned of John Wesley Powell's death in 1902 and saw the laudatory stories about Powell, he had to respond. In an Oct. 13, 1902, letter to The Denver Post, Sumner offered his version of the 1869 expedition through the Grand Canyon.

Sumner attacked Powell for not sharing with Sumner and other expedition members the \$50,000 Powell supposedly received from Congress for the trip. He criticized Powell for failing to give credit to his companions. And he charged Powell with "stupidity" for not acquiring more supplies after the wreck of a boat left the group poorly provisioned.

His letter to the Post was reprinted in 1949 in Colorado History magazine as part of an article by Wallace Stegner,

debunked Sumner's claim that Powell received expedition money from Congress. The only cash came from the pockets of Powell and Sumner, and from organizations in Illinois. And, while Powell didn't heap praises on his companions, he did acknowledge their efforts in letters and official reports, Stegner wrote.

Sumner leveled his most serious charge against Powell several years later, but it didn't become widely known until after his death, when it was included in a book by Robert Brewster Stanton.

Stanton was a civil and mining engineer who helped lead a railroad survey through the Grand Canyon in 1889-1890. His book, "Colorado River Controversies" was published in 1932, after his own death. It included Sumner's recollections of the 1869 trip, as written in letters to Stanton.

As in 1902, Sumner complained about the lack of pay and recognition from Powell. But his primary criticism was that Powell's verbal abuse of O.G. Howland and William Dunn led to their departure, along with Seneca Howland, from the group on Aug. 28.

It was not their fear of the rapids, as Powell had written. The three were never seen alive again, and were believed to have been killed by Indians.

In the Stanton book, Sumner described a series of verbal squabbles between Powell and O.G. Howland that later included Dunn. It culminated when Powell ordered Dunn to

leave the expedition because he had been careless with scientific instruments. Sumner stepped in and declared that no one could be

forced to leave against his will. "After that, everything was as smooth as two lovers after their first quarrel and make-up," Sumner wrote. "Major Powell did not run the outfit in the same overbearing manner after that."

Still, on Aug. 28, when they reached severe rapids and there appeared to be a way to hike out of the canyon, Dunn was eager to leave, Sumner said, and he persuaded the Howland brothers to accompany him.

But that's not the story he and others had told decades earlier. Sumner, Powell and George Bradley all kept journals on the 1869 expedition. None told of a dispute between Powell and others.

In his journal entry for Aug. 28, Sumner wrote only that the Howland brothers and Dunn "decided to abandon the outfit and try to reach the settlement in the head of the Virgin river. Each one took a gun and all the ammunition he wanted and some provisions and left us to go it or swamp."

Powell was more succinct: "August 28—Boys left us. Ran rapid. Bradley boat. Make camp on left bank. Camp 44." He offered a more detailed description in his book, "The Exploration of the Colorado River and Its Canyons," and in other writings, but there was never a hint of animosity.

In his journal, Bradley wrote: "Three men refused to go farther" (two Howlands and Wm. Dunn) ... They left us with good feelings though we deeply regret their loss for they are as fine fellows as I ever had the good fortune to meet."

Bradley was mildly critical of Powell at times in his journal, such as complaining about his poor choice of campsites. But he said nothing of the alleged friction between Powell and the others.

John "Captain Jack" Sumner spent most of the last 25 years of his life in Grand Junction, although he died in Vernal, Utah, where one of his sons lived. He was not destitute. He owned considerable real estate in Grand Junction and had been working mining claims in Utah.

Although Powell's book mingled events from the 1869 expedition with those that occurred on his 1871-72 river trip, his version of events was the publicly accepted one. Sumner, in his later years, grew more frustrated with the public glorification of Powell.

But his anger didn't develop overnight. After arriving in Yuma, Arizona in September 1869, he wrote, "After two years of hard work and exploration of the Colorado and its tributaries I find myself penniless (sic) and disgusted with the whole thing."

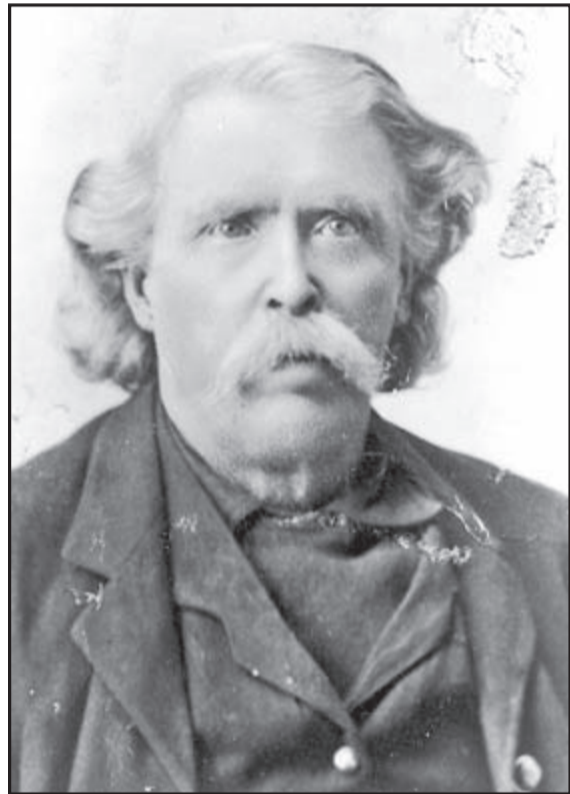
Information for this article came from *Colorado Magazine*, Vol. 26, No. 1, 1949, and *Utah Historical Quarterly*, Volume XV, 1947. Assistance was also provided by Michael Menard at the Museum of Western Colorado and museum volunteer Marie Tipping. Email Bob Silbernagel at bobsilbernagel@gmail.com.

John C. Sumner in his later years. Of the many criticisms Sumner levelled against Powell, the most serious was that Powell alleged verbally abused three men, which led them to leave the group. But no other crew member ever mentioned such hostility had occurred.

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BOB SILBERNAGEL



SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL/Utah State Historical Society

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Chamber of Commerce endorses GOP across the board

By CHARLES ASHBY
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The Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce didn't break any new ground Friday when it released its endorsements for various political offices in the region that are up for grabs in November.

They are all Republicans. The chamber, which held debates on several local races last week, announced that the GOP candidates in each of them met their five "guiding principles," which primarily center on a candidate's "business platform."

For statehouse, the chamber chose Republican Yeulin Willett over Democrat Brad Webb and unaffiliated candidate James Fletcher for House District 55; and Republican Dan Thurlow

over Democrat Chris Kennedy for HD54.

The panel also chose Rep. Ray Scott, R-Grand Junction, to replace outgoing GOP Sen. Steve King for SD5 over Democrat Claudette Konola.

The panel endorsed former congressman Scott McInnis for Mesa County commission district 2 over Democrat Mark Williams.

The chamber board also picked U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton, R-3rd, to be re-elected over Democrat Abel Tapia.

And even though it didn't host debates on the governor and U.S. Senate races, the chamber board chose to endorse 4th district Republican Congressman Cory Gardner to replace Democratic U.S. Sen. Mark Udall. It also wants to see Republican Bob Beauprez replace Democrat

John Hickenlooper in the governor's office.

The chamber did not announce an endorsement in the Mesa County sheriff's race.

The chamber also weighed in on one ballot measure, Proposition 105, which would require foods sold in the state that have been genetically altered to be labeled as such.

The chamber has already come out in favor of Amendment 68, which would expand casino gambling in the state, but only on the condition that any track and casino that might locate in Mesa County also include an events center, even though there is no requirement in the measure to do so.

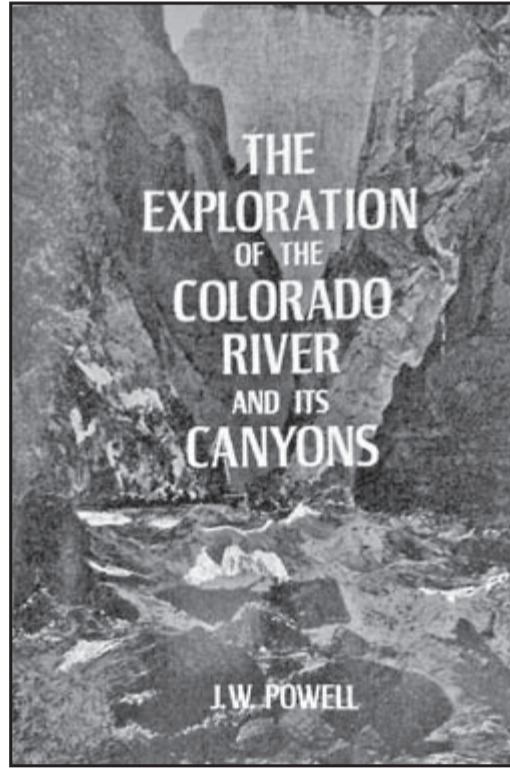
The chamber's guiding principles in choosing candidates also includes a willingness to assume

a leadership role on behalf of the chamber.

During this year's legislative session, the three local representatives, two of whom won the chamber's endorsement in their last elections, didn't always vote the way the chamber would have liked.

According to the chamber's June newsletter, King only voted with the chamber 75 percent of the time, while Scott was with them 73 percent of the time.

Rep. Jared Wright, R-Fruita, voted with the chamber 45 percent of the time. Two years ago, however, the chamber did not endorse Wright, in part, because he didn't participate in their endorsement process. But the chamber didn't endorse his opponent, either, Libertarian Tim Menger.



SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

"The Exploration of the Colorado River and its Canyons" by John Wesley Powell. Although Powell's book mingled events from the 1869 expedition with those that occurred on his 1871-72 river trip, his version of events was the publicly accepted one.

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Reknowned historian to portray J.W. Powell

By MELINDA MAWDSLEY
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Historian, author and award-winning humanities scholar Clay Jenkinson, who recently appeared in Ken Burns' PBS documentary on the Roosevelts, brings his knowledge and interest in the life of explorer John Wesley Powell to Montrose for a one-man performance early next month.

Jenkinson will appear as Powell at 2 p.m., Saturday, at the Montrose Pavilion. Doors open at 1 p.m., for a short book signing. A meet-and-greet reception with Jenkinson, considered a co-founder of the modern Chautauqua movement, follows the performance from 4-5 p.m.

Lesley Hallenborg helped organize Jenkinson's appearance, first seeing him perform about six years ago. "This guy is phenomenal," she said. "This is going to be fascinating."

Powell is perhaps most famous for the 1869 river trip down the Green and Colorado rivers, including the first-known passage through the Grand Canyon. Jenkinson will transform into the one-armed Powell, delving into Powell's life like Jenkinson is the famed explorer.

There will be time for audience interaction, Hallenborg

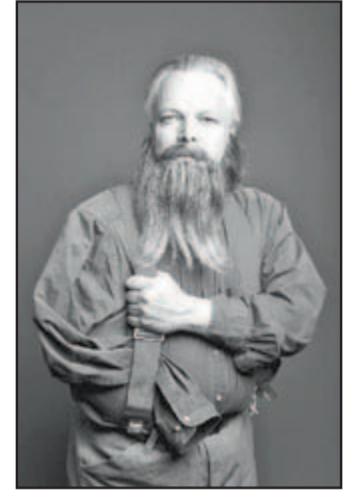
said. The Montrose County Democrats are sponsoring Jenkinson's appearance, but Hallenborg stressed the event is "non-partisan" and for "anyone."

In addition to Powell, Jenkinson is a known authority on the history and life of such men as Thomas Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt, which is why he appeared in Burns' recent documentary, "The Roosevelts: An Intimate History."

Jenkinson also co-hosts "The Thomas Jefferson Hour" on public radio and has been honored in the past by both President George Bush and President Bill Clinton, according to his website, www.jeffersonhour.com/about%20clay.html.

"I've been listening to him on the radio for probably more than 10 years," Hallenborg said. "I brought him (to Montrose) two years ago as Thomas Jefferson and it was my intention to bring him back as Powell. Then, in two years, to bring him back as (Theodore) Roosevelt."

Tickets to Jenkinson's performance are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students college age or younger either at the door or at The Coffee Trader, 845 E. Main St., in Montrose.



CLAY JENKINSON

Breckenridge man missing after surviving crash in lake

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRECKENRIDGE, Colo. — A Breckenridge man who drove his car into Dillon Reservoir and swam to safety with only minor injuries has gone missing, and family members say the 27-year-old has bipolar disorder and may be hitchhiking.

Jack McAtee went missing Sept. 19, a day after crashing into the reservoir and acting erratically with the state trooper who helped him.

His black sedan veered onto the paved bicycle path, cutting through a 10-foot opening between a steel guardrail and a concrete highway barrier, according to a Colorado State Patrol report. The car left the path, rolling for about 135 feet across dirt and gravel along the reservoir. It went airborne for 110 feet, turning end over end, before it crashed into the water.

The car was almost entirely

submerged. Miraculously, he swam to the surface, with only a laceration above his left eye.

McAtee claimed he had fallen asleep at the wheel. A state trooper interviewing McAtee said he did not appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In fact, McAtee had recently stopped taking his medication for bipolar disorder, family members told The Summit Daily News.

The state trooper did not know about McAtee's condition before taking him to St. Anthony Summit Medical Center for medical clearance and then to the Summit County jail for a mental evaluation.

The next day McAtee met with a psychologist. He was released at around 11 a.m. on Sept. 19.

His friends and family haven't seen him or heard from him since.

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BLOTTER

COMPILED BY SENTINEL STAFF

Vehicle overturns in wash

Local emergency responders, including members of Mesa County Search and Rescue, were on the scene for hours Sunday after a report that a vehicle had overturned in the Colorado River west of the Rabbit Valley area, according to the Mesa County Sheriff's Office in a web post about 3 p.m. Sunday.

About 3:45 p.m., the vehicle was located overturned in a wash area in a few feet of water a couple miles across the Utah line, ac-

ording to radio traffic. The Sheriff's Office confirmed the vehicle was found in Utah and the incident was turned over to authorities in Grand County, Utah.

Radio traffic indicated several times one female was inside the vehicle, but her condition wasn't confirmed.

A phone call to the Grand County (Utah) Sheriff's Office was not returned by 8:30 p.m.

According to the Grand Junction Police Department:

■ Someone reported a loss of less than \$300 after an attempted entry into a residence

Thursday in the north part of the city.

■ Robert Paul Romero, 49, was arrested Thursday on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance.

■ Two vehicles were entered Friday in the 400 block of Arabian Way.

■ Miguel Madriz-Rubio, 30, was arrested and released on a summons Friday for theft of less than \$300 worth of food from Walmart, 2881 North Ave.

The Mesa County Sheriff's Department did not release a booking summary or activity log Sunday.

Cash 5 Sunday: 6-18-19-22-30

Pick 3 Sunday: 1-6-2

For information, go to www.coloradolottery.com.

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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.

SEPTEMBER JEANS FOR CHARITY ORGANIZATION: WESTERN COLORADO Suicide Prevention Foundation

Western Colorado Suicide Prevention Foundation (WCSPF) was founded to help reduce suicides in one county, but has expanded to twenty-one counties. WCSPF attempts to reduce suicide, stress, depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, suicidal behaviors, alcohol use, and many other issues in our communities by sharing key knowledge with individuals, workplaces, and in community settings. The need is dramatic. The local suicide rate has remained nearly twice that of the United States rate since 2000. If you would like to join with us and help this committed organization, please send your donation to:
Western Colorado Suicide Prevention Foundation,
P.O. Box 4329, Grand Junction, CO 81502-4329

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