

FIRST DRAFT

GJ resident was Powell's fellow river runner, later vocal critic

Editor's note: This is the first of three columns about Jack Sumner, who accompanied John Wesley Powell on one of his

famous trips down the Colorado River.



BOB SILBERNAGEL

In 1904,

author and adventurer Frederick Dellenbaugh urged Grand Junction resident "Captain" Jack Sumner to publish a book of his own to set the record straight. The Daily Sentinel reported in February of that year.

Dellenbaugh and Sumner shared experiences that few other mortals could claim. Both had accompanied John Wesley Powell on one of his famous trips down the Colorado River — Dellenbaugh in 1871 and Sumner on Powell's 1869 original trip through the Grand Canyon.

Dellenbaugh was a teenager when he joined Powell's second expedition. Sumner had been 29 and second-in-command on that all-important first canyon trip.

By 1904 Sumner and his family had been residents of Grand Junction intermittently for nearly 20 years, and he and his wife, Jenny, owned a block of property where the Grand Junction Police Department now stands.

But Sumner had also become a vocal critic of Powell, who had died 18 months earlier. In a letter to a Denver newspaper in 1902, and in other public statements, he accused Powell of mismanagement of the 1869 trip, of nearly causing the starvation of the 10 men on the journey, of hiding the truth about what occurred to three men who disappeared during the expedition, of refusing to share money he received with the other participants and of eagerly accepting all of the glory and publicity about the trip while ignoring the involvement of his comrades.

Those criticisms would echo for decades, long after Sumner was also dead, and would be the subject of books and magazine articles — including a spirited defense of Powell by Wallace Stegner.

Sumner also was the subject of his own mysterious drama. He was found in Green River, Utah, in May 1902, stabbed in the groin, the Sentinel reported. He was rushed by train to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, where he received needed medical attention and apparently recovered. The paper reported that Sumner didn't remember who had attacked him. Later, there would be speculation that it had been a case of self-mutilation, along a river where he had enjoyed so much adventure and success 35 years earlier.

John "Jack" Sumner was born in Newton, Indiana, in 1840, but was raised mostly in Iowa, where his parents moved to farm. His family roots traced back to Massachusetts, and one of his ancestors had been governor of that state in the late 1700s. His maternal grandfather, Robert Lucas, served as governor of Ohio and first territorial governor of Iowa.



SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL/Grand Canyon National Park Museum

Author and adventurer Frederick Dellenbaugh sits beside the Green River in Ladore Canyon in May 1871. A teenage Dellenbaugh accompanied John Wesley Powell and Grand Junction resident "Captain" Jack Sumner on their second famous expedition down the Colorado River.



SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL/Raymond Sumner

A portrait of a young Jack Sumner. Sumner was a compatriot of explorer John Wesley Powell, but later mounted several accusations against him, including Powell's alleged mismanagement of their 1869 expedition through the Grand Canyon.

Sumner was 22 years old when he enlisted in the 32nd Regiment of the Iowa Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. He mustered out as a corporal and apparently survived the war without serious injury. He certainly didn't lose an arm, as Powell had.

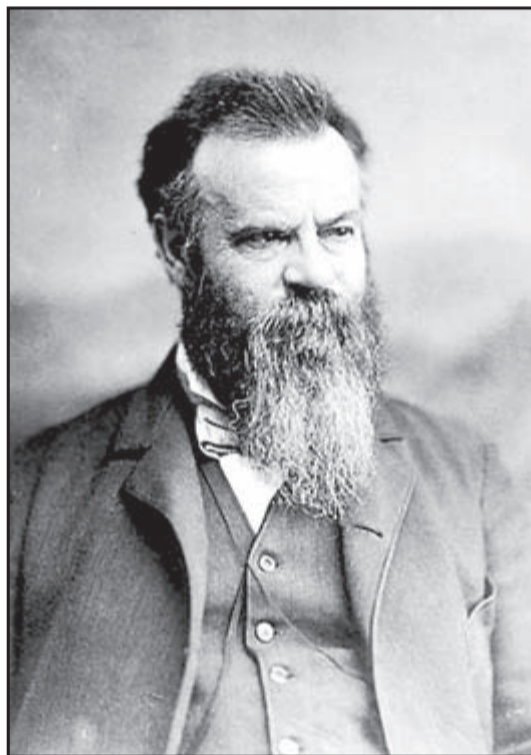
After the war, with a familial connection to Colorado, he moved west. His sister had married William Byers in Iowa, who later became editor and publisher of the Rocky Mountain News in Denver. Likely with Byers' backing, Sumner established a trading post at Hot Sulphur Springs, in the mountains northwest of Denver. There he met mountain men like Jim Bridger and Jim Baker, traded regularly with Ute Indians and became a sometime trapper and guide himself.

It was there, in the summer of 1867, that he met John Wesley Powell through Byers and others. Powell was looking

for someone to guide him and his small party around the region to study its geology, flora, fauna and human inhabitants.

Sumner would later claim it was he who suggested to Powell that they mount an expedition through the great canyons of the Green and Colorado Rivers. (The river that drained most of western Colorado was then known as the Grand River. But below its confluence with the Green River, it was known as the Colorado). Powell certainly didn't give Sumner credit for the idea, and there's evidence he was considering the idea before he met Sumner. But it's clear from his writing that he worked closely with Sumner while camped on the White River during the winter of 1868-69, planning the expedition for that summer.

After that famous river trip, Sumner moved around a lot. He



SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL/Grand Canyon National Museum

A stately John Wesley Powell in his 50s, circa 1874. Powell first met Sumner at Hot Sulphur Springs (in the mountains northwest of Denver) in 1867 while searching for a guide for his party.

married Alcinda Jane Norton in Iowa in 1873, and they had three sons. They also divorced and later remarried, this time in Grand Junction. Sumner lived in Rawlins, Wyoming, Julesburg, Colorado, and Denver.

By 1886, Sumner and his family were listed as residents of the young town of Grand Junction. They began accumulating property, including the block between Sixth and Seventh Street. He died in Vernal, Utah in 1907.

Although friends and family members reported him working on it, Sumner never completed the book about his experiences with Powell.

Email Bob Silbernagel at bobsilbernagel@gmail.com. Next: Down the river with Powell

MDA, local firefighters team up to help fight muscular dystrophy

By AMY HAMILTON
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Michael Chamberlain never really thought about giving back until a good friend his age died of Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

By 23, Chamberlain's friend, Bryant Rogers, had squeezed the most out of his short life and is remembered for adoring sunshine and hot sauce.

"Now, since he's passed away, it's helped me to understand I have a need to fill," Chamberlain said Sunday while collecting money outside of the Rimrock Avenue Walmart for Muscular Dystrophy Association, MDA Western Colorado.

Chamberlain, who uses a Segway to travel longer distances, also cited the help the local chapter offered him when he and family moved to the Denver area more than 20 years ago. Chamberlain was still crawling when other children were learning to walk and he was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy, though not the serious form of Duchenne muscular dystrophy that is usually fatal for males in their teens or early 20s.

Support from the MDA Western Colorado helped Chamberlain's family set up doctor appointments in Denver and allowed him for years to go to camp where he met a number of lifelong friends who also face physical disabilities.

For the first time on Sunday, Chamberlain spent part of his day proudly displaying a firefighter's boot, gathering change and dollars from shoppers. He hoped that by raising money he could help others and fund research for a cure.

His shift was worth it when a family with a young boy with muscular dystrophy stopped to talk on their way into the store.

"It's a pretty touching issue and near to my heart," Chamberlain said. "Unfortunately, you know they're going to pass on at a certain age."

The annual Fill-the-Boot campaign that typically is held over the Labor Day weekend continues from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today in front of several City Market grocery stores, Home Depot and Albertsons on the Redlands.

The fundraising effort is 60 years old this year, a partner-

ship that always includes the help of local firefighters.

Land's End firefighter Jared Midgley got his whole family out Sunday to encourage folks to give donations. They were his wife, Staci, their sons, Michael, 16, Davin, 11, and Will, 9, and the couple's daughter, Savannah, 14.

Staci Midgley said the experience is good for her children.

"They're getting to see that they are making a difference instead of me just telling them they are making a difference," she said.

Three firefighters' boots at the Walmart site were "getting heavy" with donations Sunday, but final local totals will be available in a few days, said Kendall Montagriff, executive director for MDA Western Colorado.

The organization offers services to 60 families on the Western Slope, she said. Being in the news recently with a recording-breaking, \$100 million fundraiser, "ALS Ice Bucket Challenge," has also highlighted muscular dystrophy because it is one of the 43 muscular diseases the MDA works to raise money to fight under the agency's umbrella, Montagriff said.

ALS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord and causes muscles to lose control and movement.

A wildly popular internet campaign has prompted thousands of people to pour buckets of icy cold water over their heads, post the videos on social media and make a donation.

Michael Midgley said he liked being part of the movement and hype to raise awareness for muscular dystrophy.

"It's like the only thing I see on Facebook anymore," he said.

MDA Western Colorado has a goal raising \$15,000 over the long weekend. Rimrock Walmart donated \$750 toward the total, the charity said.

For information about the group or to donate, visit www.mda.org and search for a local chapter or find them on Facebook, www.facebook.com/MDAGrandJunction.

REGION SENTINEL WIRE SERVICES

Juvenile escapees arrested in Wheat Ridge

GOLDEN — Police have arrested four inmates who escaped from a youth corrections facility in Golden.

KUSA-TV in Denver reports a staff member at the Lookout Mountain Youth Services Center called Golden police at midnight Saturday saying a 65-year-old co-worker had been assaulted with a rock by several inmates.

Four inmates, who range in age from 14 to 17, ran away from the center before officers arrived. They were arrested in Wheat Ridge on Sunday morning.

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BLOTTER COMPILED BY SENTINEL STAFF

Joyride ends in crash

A joyriding juvenile swiped a relative's vehicle and later crashed in the northwest part of Grand Junction on Aug. 20, according to the Grand Junction Police Department. The vehicle was valued at about \$6,000.

According to the Grand Junction Police Department:

- Someone broke into a home and caused damage valued at less than \$1,000 and stole items valued at less than \$2,000 at a home in the 300 block of High Ridge Drive on Aug. 18.
- Seth Buist, 24, was contacted during a

traffic stop in the area of 23rd Street and North Avenue in Tuesday and was arrested on suspicion of giving officers a false name, violating a protection order and violating terms of a bond.

- Items valued at more than \$20,000 were stolen from a property in the 800 block of U.S. Highway 50 on Wednesday.

- Brandi Tatgenhorst, 32, received a summons on suspicion of trespassing at Walmart, 2545 Rimrock Ave., on Wednesday.

- Traften Starr Mullins, 20, Grand Junction, received a summons on suspicion of possession of drug paraphernalia in the 2400 block of North Avenue on Thursday.

- Property valued at more than \$300 was stolen from a vehicle in the 200 block of

Franklin Avenue on Sunday.

- Elishia Geary, 28, received a summons on suspicion of shoplifting items valued at less than \$50 and trespassing at Walmart, 2881 North Ave., on Thursday.

- Items valued at more than \$50 were stolen from a vehicle parked in the 500 block of Heidel Street on Thursday.

- Items valued at more than \$50 were stolen from a vehicle parked in a garage near the 500 block of Darby Drive on Thursday.

- Andrea Rau, 32, received a summons on suspicion of urinating in public in the 400 block of Main Street on Saturday.

The Mesa County Sheriff's Office did not release any crime reports on Sunday.

Cash 5 Sunday: 3-4-10-12-13

Pick 3 Sunday: 6-0-4

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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.

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