

FIRST DRAFT

Explorer Heap conquered Grand River on way to Taos

Despite the slow pace of travel in the early 19th century, rapid journeys frequently occurred if the situation required it. Gwinn Harris Heap didn't set a blistering pace when he traversed western and southern Colorado in 1853. But from July 1 to July 16 of 1853, Heap led a small contingent of men, horses and pack mules from near present-day Montrose to Taos, New Mexico, and back — a distance of more than 600 miles. His boss credited him with averaging more than 45 miles a day, not counting the days they were busy near Taos purchasing new supplies. Any one who has spent much time in a saddle can attest that it is a swift pace, especially for days at a time.



BOB SILBERNAGEL

Heap is an interesting character who deserves more than a footnote in U.S. history. The son of an American diplomat, he spent much of his childhood in the Middle East. That was critical in the late 1850s when Heap helped purchase camels to be used by the U.S. military in the desert Southwest. It was a short-lived experiment, abandoned with the outbreak of Civil War.

Heap was in western Colorado as second-in-command to Edward F. Beale, his cousin, on an expedition to explore a possible railroad route from Missouri to California.

The expedition began on May 15 at Westport, Missouri, now a suburb of Kansas City. According to the report of the journey that Heap wrote in 1854, the expedition consisted of 12 men — including one Delaware Indian, two Mexicans and one "colored."

The group took nearly a month to reach Fort Massachusetts, a fort briefly operated at the edge of the San Luis Valley. From there the group followed the Northern Branch of the Old Spanish Trail, up the San Luis Valley, over Cochetopa Pass, down the Gunnison River — which Heap and others at the time referred to as the Grand River. (Today's Colorado River was then known as the Blue River). They skirted the Black Canyon and traveled over Cimarron Pass to the Uncompahgre River Valley, then reconnected with the Gunnison River just west of present-day Delta.

It was there that catastrophe struck. "We had been prepared to find Grand River (Gunnison) swollen ... but we had not anticipated so mighty a stream," Heap wrote. "It flooded with a loud and angry current, its



SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL/Bob Silbernagel

In 1853, Gwinn Harris Heap led a 600-mile expedition from present-day Montrose to Taos, New Mexico, and back. Heap and his men are believed to have crossed the Gunnison River near where this overlook for the Escalante Wildlife Area now stands, west of present-day Delta.

amber-colored waters roaring silently past, laden with the wrecks of trees uprooted by their fury."

They lost one mule and its pack of supplies fording the Uncompahgre, then lost much more of their gear in a quickly constructed dugout canoe that Heap and several others used to cross the Gunnison until it swamped and was washed away.

On the west side of the Gunnison with no canoe, Heap and his companions constructed a crude raft and made it safely back to the eastern shore. The entire party then retreated to Cimarron Creek, where Beale and five of the men agreed to wait while Heap and the others dashed to Taos to replenish their

supplies. "July 1. It was not until eight o'clock that I started from Mr. Beale's camp on the Nawagustich (Cimarron)," Heap wrote. "We left them with regret, for who could foresee what might happen to their little party in this lonely region, particularly as the season was approaching when the Indians would be returning here from buffalo-hunting?"

But the Ute Indians they feared proved far more helpful than harmful. On July 2, Heap and his party met a group of about 50 Utes, who provided them with buffalo, deer and antelope meat to help them on their journey.

Meanwhile, Beale and his men were soon out of food and were having little success hunting when 15 Ute Indians arrived at their camp. They invited the Americans to their main camp on Big Blue Creek, a dozen miles away. As they waited for Heap to return, Beale and his

men spent the remainder of their time near the Ute camp, eating and hunting with them.

"Went out this morning with the Indians to hunt. They lent me a fine horse; but God forbid that I should ever hunt with such Indians again!" Beale wrote on July 12. "I thought I had seen something of rough riding before; but all my experience faded before that of the feats of to-day. Some places which we ascended and descended it seemed to me that even a wild-cat could hardly have passed over; and yet their active and thoroughly well-trained horses took them as part of the sport, and never made a misstep or blunder during the entire day."

Heap arrived with the supplies three days later and, after reaching the confluence of the Uncompahgre and Gunnison River once more, the party spent a night enjoying the food and company of another band of Utes. The next day the Utes

led the Americans to a safe ford across the Gunnison, which Heap said was about 6 feet lower and therefore more easily crossed than it had been three weeks earlier.

They made boats out of animal hides and wood frames to cross the Colorado and Green rivers, fording their animals across the large streams. With few more serious difficulties, they reached Los Angeles on Aug. 22. But the central railroad route across western Colorado and southern Utah they hoped to promote lost out to the northern route to the Pacific across Wyoming and northern Utah. Heap died in 1887.

Most of the information in this column came from Gwinn Harris Heap's 1854 report: "Central Route to the Pacific, from the Valley of the Mississippi to California."

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SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

A drawing made by Gwinn Harris Heap, from his report of the expedition in 1853, shows men rafting the Gunnison River, which was called the Grand by Heap and others in his party.

Ads mailed to defendants worry defense attorneys

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah defense attorneys say advertising mailers that try to recruit the business of defendants are raising privacy and ethical concerns.

Attorneys and third-party firms use the state's online court database to look for names and addresses of potential clients, according to the Utah Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Executive Director Kent Hart said defense attorneys are debating whether these sorts of ads are ethical, the Salt Lake Tribune reported.

"Some of these letters do seem to be inducing some alarm," he said. "So the concern for the letters is, if it's just a letter, then that may be OK. But there are letters that are kind of scary

things like, 'You better act fast' and 'You better do it now.'"

Salt Lake City defense attorney Jonathan Jamming said the letters and ads aren't helping but instead causing fear and confusion for people facing criminal charges.

"They are getting flooded with sometimes frightening mailers that are scaring them," said Jamming. He said some of the letters have a threatening tone and pit lawyers against each other.

"It creates tension between the party and their existing attorney and manipulates them into making that call," he said.

He said the mail could also raise privacy issues if found by a family member, landlord or business associate.

Criminal charges, however, are available to the public un-

der state law, along with the name and address of the person charged, and Utah Courts spokeswoman Nancy Volmer said the court doesn't put restrictions on the information being used for business purposes.

The Utah Judicial Council states that lawyers cannot solicit potential clients in-person, via telephone or by real-time electronic contact.

It does, however, allow lawyers to send ads through the mail or in an email. The mailer must clearly identify itself as an ad and can't involve "coercion, duress or harassment."

Hart said his concern is mostly about third-party companies that send mailers to recruit clients for attorneys. Those companies aren't required to follow the same rules as attorneys and can confront people in person

or send questionable letters.

One mailer that listed the phone number of Salt Lake City-based company Outlaw Legal Services warned recipients of a "potential problem with your case" and said that "your defense may be jeopardized with the wrong attorney."

That company didn't return multiple phone calls from The Salt Lake Tribune seeking comment.

Hart said rules about attorney conduct are unclear when it comes to these third party businesses.

"Like the rules on direct mailing, the Rules of Professional Conduct allow attorneys to use third parties to solicit business," he said. "But those rules are unclear on whether third parties may contact potential clients in person."

BLOTTER

COMPILED BY SENTINEL STAFF



Lee Gocha, 37, and Christine Cook, 23. Gocha and Cook were last seen driving a 2004 gray Pontiac Montana with Colorado license plate 679VDJ.

If you know the identity or whereabouts of the subjects involved in this crime, please contact Crime Stoppers at 241-7867. Information reported to Crime Stoppers that leads to an arrest can earn up to a \$1,000 reward and you will remain anonymous.

According to the Grand Junction Police Department:

- Paul Wilson, 32, was accused of entering a vehicle and removing property worth less than \$300 at 3054 Eaglewood Court on July 28.
- Someone entered a home in the east part of the city on July 29, damaging property

and taking items worth less than \$20,000.

- April Goodman, 33, is accused of driving with a suspended license.
- Huong Guo, 33, and Tiffany McLain, 23, were arrested on active warrants after they were contacted during a traffic stop on July 31.
- Catherine Maestas, 51, was accused of possessing a schedule III controlled substance at 2853 North Ave. on July 31.
- Two girls, age 16 and 11, are accused of shoplifting July 31 at Walmart, 2545 Rimrock Ave.
- Someone entered a home and vehicle in the 2600 block of Little Creek Road, taking less than \$300 in property on July 30.

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

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ATTENTION ADVERTISERS

The Daily Sentinel's advertising deadlines will be moving up to accommodate the Labor Day Holiday!

This early deadline schedule is designed to help you plan your advertising around the holiday.

Publication Date	Display Advertising	Deadline
9/8, Tuesday	9/2, Wednesday, 4 PM
9/9, Wednesday	9/4, Friday, 12 Noon
9/9, Sentinel Weekly	9/1, Tuesday, 12 Noon
9/10, Thursday	9/4, Friday, 5 PM
9/11, Out & About	9/4, Friday, 3 PM
Classified Liner Ads (Private Party & Commercial)		
9/6, Sunday	9/4, Friday, 3 PM
9/7, Monday	9/4, Friday, 4 PM
9/8, Tuesday	9/4, Friday, 5 PM
Legals		
9/6, Sunday	9/1, Tuesday, 12 Noon
9/7, Monday	9/1, Tuesday, 12 Noon
9/8, Tuesday	9/1, Tuesday, 3 PM
9/9, Wednesday	9/1, Tuesday, 4 PM

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