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Political History of San Juan County

Robert W. Duke

DUKE

POLITICAL HISTORY OF SAN JUAN COUNTY

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POLITICAL HISTORY OF SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
1876 - 1926

A Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the Department of History

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In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

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by

Robert W. Duke

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CHAPTER I

THE AREA

San Juan County, the area under consideration, occupies the extreme northwest corner of the state of New Mexico. It is bounded on the north by La Plata County, Colorado, on the west by the state of Arizona, on the south by McKinley County, and on the west by Rio Arriba and Sandoval Counties. This area is something of an empire in itself as it comprises 5,476[1] square miles, or 3,504,640 acres. Approximately 2,000,000[2] acres in the area lie within the confines of the Navajo Indian Reservation, leaving some million and a half acres in the county proper, of which about 300,000 are irrigable.

The region is over 900 square miles larger than the state of Connecticut. Topographically it resembles a huge dish, surrounded by mountains and high ridges, and cut through by three major rivers, the Animas, San Juan, and La Plata. The area is not mountainous, but is a part of the foothills

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[1] F. D. Behringer, "New Mexico Municipalities and County Consolidation in New Mexico" (Study number 1, Public Affairs Series of the Department of Government and Citizenship of University of New Mexico), 1937, p. 23.

[2] See Map number 1 at end of this chapter.

of the mountain masses to the north in Colorado. In general the region is made up of the three river valleys, the broad mesas which extend out from these valleys, and "bad lands" broken by arroyos and gullies. Its altitude ranges from 5,100 to 5,800 feet giving the locale a moderate climate. The land, climate, and abundant water supply combine to make the valleys of San Juan County one of the garden spots of the American Southwest.[3]

Water, land, and minerals are the chief natural resources. The importance of the river system to the settlement of the region will be discussed later; however, the rivers have a further importance in that they combine to make San Juan County one of the best watered sections of the Southwest. They deliver a constant water supply for commercial and domestic use from their sources in the snow-capped peaks of southern Colorado. As the annual rainfall in the area amounts to only 14[4] inches, the region is naturally arid, and the rainfall is not sufficient to produce crop growth and maturity; therefore, the rivers which supply water for the irrigation of the land constitute one of the

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[3] Granville Pendleton, San Juan County New Mexico (Published by authority of the Bureau of Immigration of New Mexico, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1906), p. 4. Hereafter cited as Pendleton.

[4] Ibid., p. 5.

of the economic future of the region in question. An appeal
the region is made up of the Lower River valleys, the fertile
masses which extend out from the valleys, and "bad lands"
broken by erosion and by lava. The altitude ranges from
5,100 to 3,800 feet giving the region a moderate climate.
The land, climate, and abundant water supply are ideal to make
the valleys of San Juan County one of the prime areas in
the Navajo Reservation.[1]

Water, land, and climate are the major natural re-
sources. The importance of the river system to the well-
being of the region will be discussed in subsequent sections. The
rivers have a further importance in that they combine to
make San Juan County one of the most natural portions of
the Reservation. They deliver a constant, ample supply for
commercial and domestic use from their source in the snow-
capped peaks of southern Colorado. As the natural rainfall
in the area amounts to only 10" inches, the region is tempo-
rarily arid, and the rainfall is not sufficient to produce
crop growth and maintain livestock. The rivers which provide
water for the irrigation of the land are critical and of the

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[1] Campbell Hallstead, Zia Lily Dwell, The Saga
(Published by authority of the Navajo Tribal Council, Ft.
Wm. Scott, Inc., Ft. Worth, Texas, 1964), p. 1. Hereafter
cited as Hallstead.

[2] Ibid., p. 7.

county's greatest sources of natural wealth.

Largest of these rivers is the San Juan which enters the county in the northeast, flowing south from Colorado. Soon after it comes into the region the river turns to flow more west than south, and thus passes east to west for 124 miles within the boundaries of the county. The valley formed by the San Juan is, in the main, one to four miles wide, and fertile river-bottom lands lie along its course. It delivers some 4,000 cubic feet of water per second, or enough water to irrigate an estimated 640,000 acres of land.[5]

A valley one to three miles wide and approximately forty miles long is formed by the Animas River, the largest of the tributaries of the San Juan. It flows south from Colorado through the county, and unites with the San Juan near Farmington. This stream, even though it is somewhat more seasonal in its flow than the San Juan, has a mean flow of 2,000 cubic feet of water per second. A peculiarity of this stream is that its bed is composed of small round boulders, and more water flows in this gravel bed than on the surface. However, despite this peculiarity, and its seasonal flow, the river provides an adequate supply of water for the irrigation of the lands along the Animas Valley.[6]

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[5] Ibid., pp. 5-6. This estimate is made by allowing 160 acres for each cubic foot of water available.

[6] Ibid., p. 9.

An even more seasonal stream than either the Animas or San Juan, is the[7] La Plata River which also enters the county from Colorado, and flows south through approximately the center of the area until it too forms a junction with the San Juan near Farmington. It has an average flow of only 250[8] cubic feet of water per second. Its drainage area is small, and much of its flow consists of early spring flood waters which are not, at present, trapped for later use. Consequently, the La Plata Valley often has an inadequate supply of water in the latter part of the irrigation season. Despite this handicap, the La Plata River carries enough water to make possible successful farming on a limited scale, and some 1,100 acres are irrigated along its valley.[9]

The three rivers, then, with a mean flow of 6,250 cubic feet of water per second deliver sufficient water to irrigate an estimated 1,000,000 acres of land. They also give San Juan County approximately 70 per cent of the total water supply found in New Mexico.[10]

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[7] A "the" before the Spanish "La" which means "the" is gramatically incorrect, but as it is used locally when referring to the stream, it will thus be used throughout this thesis.

[8] San Juan Times, June 26, 1896 (A weekly newspaper published at Farmington, New Mexico: 1892-1900).

[9] Thomas M. McClure, Report of San Juan River Hydrographic Survey (Santa Fe, New Mexico: 1938), Vol. II, pp. 390-430.

[10] Pendleton, op. cit., p. 11.

Such an abundant water supply would be of little value unless fertile lands were available upon which to put it to work. The soil of San Juan County, which varies from a rich sandy loam to that of a fertile red loam, is adaptable, with little or no fertilization, to the growth of alfalfa, small grains, corn, vegetables, orchards, and vinyards. The valleys formed by the three rivers contain 175,000[11] acres of bottom and mesa lands, and at least an additional amount of land is easily adaptable to agriculture. The presence of both an abundant water supply and rich fertile acreage have combined to make agriculture and horticulture the most important means of livelihood in the region.

The greatest mineral wealth to be found is the huge coal deposits. This forms a part of the greater San Juan Basin Coal Area which includes an area of 15,000 square miles. Of this, one seventh part lies in southwestern Colorado, and six sevenths in northwestern New Mexico. The basin is as large as the total coal area of Pennsylvania, and lacks but 3,000 square miles of being as large as the coal area of West Virginia.[12]

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[11] San Juan Times, June 26, 1896.

[12] J. A. Wehrer, "The Coals of the Great San Juan Basin" in U. S. Geographical Bulletin, Number 316, and quoted in the Farmington Times-Hustler, May 14, 1914. (Weekly newspaper published at Farmington, New Mexico, 1903 -). Hereafter cited as Farmington Times-Hustler, date.

The San Juan Basin Coal Area is divided into a number of districts or fields of which the Durango-Gallup field is the largest and at present the most important commercially. San Juan County contains a major part of this district. The coal shelves which underlie the whole district are separated by 200 to 2,000 feet of non-bearing Lewis shale, and the quality varies from sub-bituminous to a good grade of bituminous. The beds have a minimum thickness of eight feet, with an average workable vein ten feet wide. The entire tonnage of the district is estimated at 80 billion short tons figured on an average six foot vein.[13]

The La Plata-Fruitland field, which is located entirely in San Juan County, and north of the San Juan River, is underlaid with beds varying in width from 16 to 50 feet, a fact established by openings in widely separated areas. One can, therefore, safely assume an average vein ten feet thick.[14] This would give the district an estimated 135 billion short tons, or 27 billion tons more than the entire Pennsylvania area, and only 13 billion tons less than the West Virginia fields.[15] In the center of the basin the beds

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[13] Farmington Times-Hustler, May 14, 1914.

[14] The Mesa Verde formations show an average thickness of from three to ten feet; therefore, the above average is lowered to take care of the Mesa Verde formations.

[15] Farmington Times-Hustler, May 14, 1914.

are covered by a 1,500 foot layer of non-bearing shale; yet, according to Mr. Wehrer, the topography of the area makes commercial coal mining an economic possibility.[16]

Vast as these deposits are, they have never been developed commercially. Openings have been made to supply the local market, but these have not begun to tap the possible mining resources.

Other lesser minerals of the region, which are also worked only for home consumption, and are very minor and only worthy of mention, are: placer gold from the San Juan River, silver and copper on the Navajo Indian Reservation, lime, red and white sandstone for building purposes, tile clay, fire clay, borax beds, and gypsum deposits.[17]

Oil and natural gas deposits were tapped commercially here in the early 1920's. The former were opened through the efforts of the Continental and Midwest Oil and Refinery Companies by their development of the Rattlesnake and Hogback fields west of Farmington. The discovery of these oil deposits brought about the construction of the Continental Oil Refinery at Farmington, and surplus oils were transported north by rail to Colorado points, and south to Gallup, New Mexico, by pipe-line.

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[16] Ibid., May 14, 1914.

[17] Pendleton, op. cit., p. 49.

are covered by a 1,700 foot layer of impervious shale, yet, according to Mr. Hafner, the top reaches of the area indicate commercial coal mining as possible possibility.[16]

Vast as these deposits are, they have never been developed commercially. Openings have been made to supply the local market, but these have not begun to tap the possible mining resources.

Other lesser minerals occur and have at times been worked only for base consumption, amounting to nothing but only worthy of mention, were placers along the Gila River, silver and copper occurring here in Indian Territory times, and red and white paints for building purposes, fire clay, fire clay, porcelain, and crude kaolin.[17]

Oil and natural gas deposits were thought commercially here in the early 1920's. The fervor was spread through the efforts of the Continental and Midwest Oil and Refinery Companies by their development of the Ardmore and Healdton back fields west of Ardmore. The shale very near these deposits brought about the construction of the Continental Oil Refinery at Ardmore, and natural oils were transported north by rail to Colorado points, and south to Galiup, New Mexico, by pipe-line.

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[16] Ibid., May 18, 1908.

[17] Hamilton, op. cit., p. 40.

A good number of communities outside the county are served by San Juan County natural gas. This source of heat and power is piped from the Ute Pasture (now Barker Dome) field in the La Plata region, and the Bloomfield field on the San Juan, to such important New Mexico communities as Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Las Vegas. This source of natural wealth was also exploited in the early 1920's, and is today largely under the control of the Southern Union Gas Company.[18]

Such is the area and the natural resources of San Juan County, the area whose settlement and governmental development between the years 1876 and 1926 form the basis for this thesis.

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[18] The Southern Gas Company has greatly increased its output by the drilling of additional and deeper wells in the Ute Pasture area which is now referred to as Barker Dome. In addition, the Texas Oil Company, the Standard Oil Company, and other major companies are now surveying and searching throughout the area in the hope that new oil pools, which lie at deeper levels than the Rattlesnake or Hogback pools, may be found and developed.

CHAPTER II

CREATION, SETTLEMENT, AND DISPUTES

On January 12, 1861, the eleventh New Mexico territorial legislature created a San Juan County. The new unit reached west to the California border, east to a line drawn north and south ten miles east of the village of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, north to the state of Colorado, and south to a line drawn east and west ten miles south of the southernmost bend of the San Juan River. This first Act, however, proved to be premature; for on January 18, 1862, the twelfth legislative assembly abolished the county.[1] Then a portion of this northwest corner of New Mexico became a part of two Indian reservations -- Jicarilla Apache to the east, and the Navajo to the west. Thus it remained until July 4, 1876, when the western portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation was opened for settlement.[2] Settlers came soon afterwards, being in the most part cattlemen and range riders from Colorado and Texas.

During the early period, the settled area was a part of Taos County, which occupied most of northern and north-

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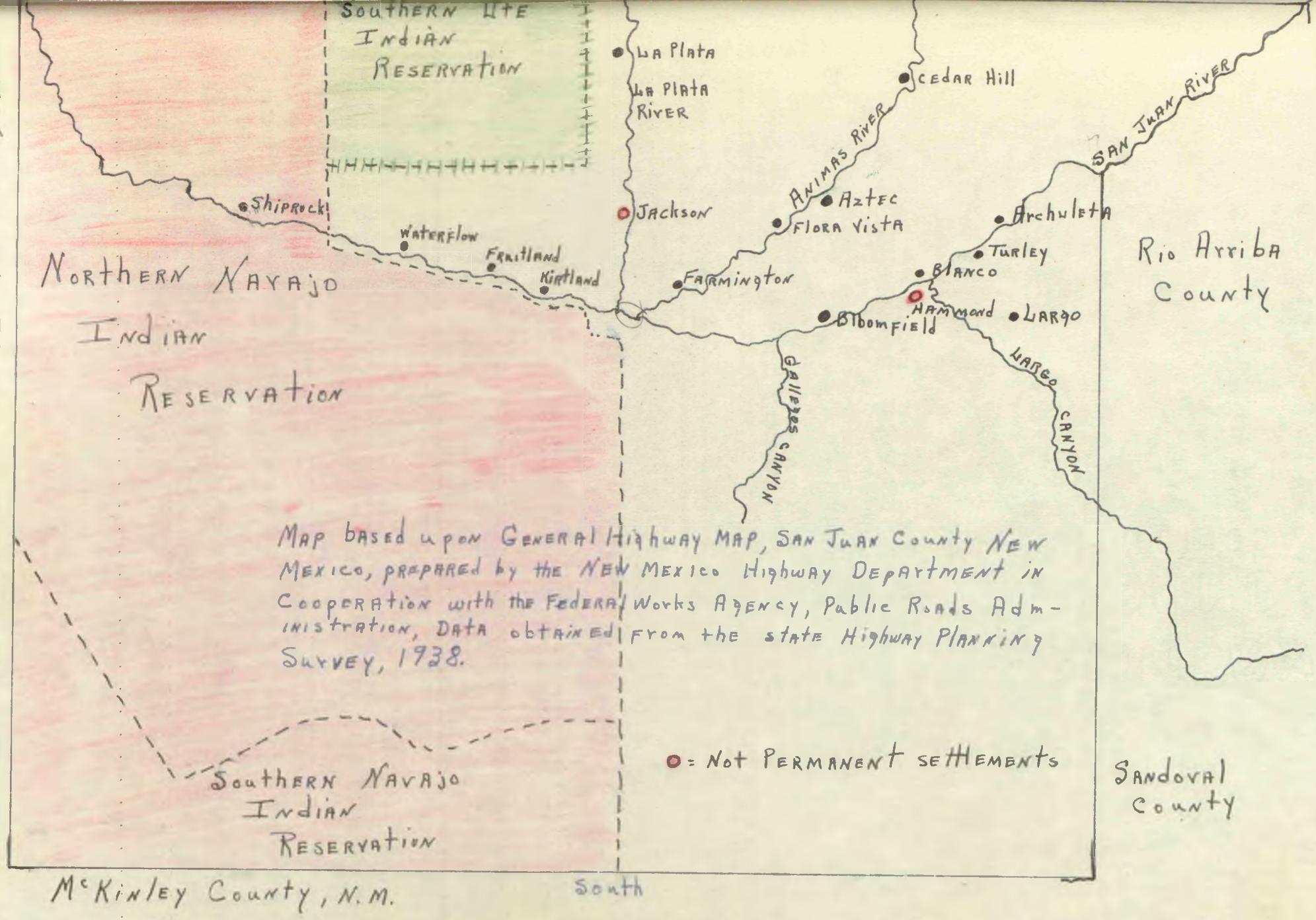
[1] Charles E. Coan, The County Boundaries of New Mexico, (Austin, Texas: 1922), pp. 5-6. See maps 1, 2, and 3 at the end of this chapter.

[2] Ralph E. Twitchell, Leading Facts of New Mexico History, (Cedar Rapids, Iowa: 1917), Vol. IV, p. 174.



Map based upon General Highway Map, San Juan County New Mexico, prepared by the New Mexico Highway Department in Cooperation with the Federal Works Agency, Public Roads Administration, Data obtained from the state Highway Planning Survey, 1938.

western New Mexico, and the town of Taos served as its county seat. However, with the enlargement of Rio Arriba County in 1881 this extreme northwest corner of the state became a part of the new administrative unit, and Tierra Amarilla was selected as its governmental center.[3] This action, of course, brought the center of county administration nearer the settlements in San Juan County. Roads, however, were mere trails, and the horse, or men afoot, the only means of communications; so the district remained separated from its governmental center by a three to five day journey. This isolation from its sister communities of New Mexico explains, in part, why there was little centralized control in the area during the 1880's. It also explains why the people of the locale looked to Colorado for their supplies and market, and soon came to rely upon their own initiative for the maintenance of law and order.

As has been already stated, the first settlers were, for the most part, cattlemen and their range riders; therefore, much of the land was used as a winter range for Colorado cattle. However, the desire to occupy the land for agricultural purposes also played an important role in settlement. Three rivers and their valleys assured the

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[3] The extreme northwestern portion of this area will hereafter be referred to as San Juan County even though it did not become known as such until 1887.

settlers both an abundant acreage for an agricultural economy, and an adequate supply of water for irrigation purposes. It was along the rivervalleys, the Animas, San Juan, and La Plata, that the first land was occupied, and the first settlements made.

As seen from the map at the end of the preceeding chapter, the Animas valley includes four major centers of population: Cedar Hill, Aztec, Flora Vista, and Farmington. The settlements of Pendleton, La Plata, and Jackson are to be found in the La Plata Valley; however, Jackson never became a permanently occupied area.

The San Juan Valley may be divided into three distinct sections. The Upper San Juan which extends from the point where the San Juan River enters New Mexico to the present hamlet of Bloomfield. Incorporated in this region are Pine River, Turley (Manzoneras Community or Alcatraz), Largo, Blanco, and Bloomfield. The Central San Juan Valley or Peninsula,[4] the second of the three districts, is a farming area between Bloomfield and Farmington. Lastly, there is the Lower San Juan which comprises that portion of the valley below the junction of the San Juan and Animas Rivers. Here are found the Mormon settlements of Fruitland and Kirtland,

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[4] The Animas and San Juan Rivers flow comparatively close together here, bounding a narrow neck of land called the Peninsula.

the Catholic settlement of Kentucky Mesa and Jewett Valley, and the Northern Navajo Indian Agency at Shiprock.[5]

Even though the Animas River and its valley appeared to be the most direct means of entering the region from the north, the narrowness of the valley before it enters New Mexico, and the mountain terrain it traverses in southern Colorado, combined to make the Animas Valley a little used route. Mr. R. L. Smyth had in 1877 first made use of the Animas Valley route when he brought his wagons and cattle into San Juan County, and settled some six miles south of the Colorado-New Mexico border.[6] The ruggedness of the trip, however, caused this route to be used but little in early times; even though it eventually became the region's major highway to the north. There were, however, two important and comparatively easy avenues of entrance into San Juan County. One made use of the San Juan Valley, and was known as the eastern or southern route; the other followed along the La Plata Valley, and was called the northern outlet.

Following the eastern or southern route one entered the county by way of Largo Canyon, a large dry river bed,

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[5] For early settlers in each of the above areas see Appendix I.

[6] Frank D. Reeve, "A Navaho Struggle for Land" in the New Mexico Historical Review, January 1946, Vol. XXI, p.3.

which has a northwestern course until its junction with the San Juan River near the present hamlet of Blanco. This was the usual avenue for those who entered the area from settlements to the east and south in New Mexico and Texas. In 1877 Billy Boram, one of the early settlers in the county, built a toll road down Largo Canyon, and erected a toll gate near its mouth. Mr. Boram came "very near starving to death collecting toll";[7] the project was soon abandoned, and the route became an open highway.

Those entering the region from the north would begin their trek at Animas City, Colorado. From this hamlet they went east using the valleys and passes through the La Plata Mountains to Fort Lewis, a government fort in the upper La Plata Valley, then they turned south through the La Plata Valley to the valleys of the Animas and San Juan Rivers. This route was the commercial trail of the area; for it was over this avenue that the supplies were brought in from Alamosa, Pueblo, and Fort Garland in Colorado.

Although the first settlement had been made by cattlemen who used the area for a summer range, the area soon began to attract settlers who were more interested in general

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[7] P. N. Salmon, 'An Account of the Settlement of Precinct Number 6' in Mrs. A. F. Miller, compiler, "A Collection of Historical Events in the Settlement of San Juan County, New Mexico" (Unpublished local history, a copy of which appears as Appendix II), p. 7. Hereafter cited as Miller.

which has a northwestern course until it is junctioned with the San Juan River near the present village of Aztec. This was the usual avenue for those who entered the area from settlements to the east and south in New Mexico and Texas. In 1877 Billy Moore, one of the early settlers in the county, built a toll road down Largo Canyon, and erected a toll gate near its mouth. Mr. Moore came "very near getting to death collecting toll"; the project was soon abandoned, and the route became an open highway.

Those entering the region from the north usually began their trek at Animas City, Colorado. From this hamlet they went east using the valleys and passes through the San Juan Mountains to Fort Lewis, a government fort in the upper La Plata Valley; then they turned south through the La Plata Valley to the valleys of the Animas and San Juan Rivers. This route was the commercial trail of the area. For it was over this avenue that the supplies were brought in from Alamosa, Pueblo, and Fort Garland in Colorado.

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[7] P. E. Nelson, "An Account of the Settlement of Precinct Number 6" in Mrs. A. F. Miller, compiler, "Collection of Historical Events in the Settlement of San Juan County, New Mexico" (Unpublished local history, a copy of which appears as Appendix III), p. [illegible] hereafter cited as Miller.

farming than in cattle raising. Spanish-American families from Tierra Amarilla, Santa Fe, and the San Luis Valley in Colorado first occupied the region of the Upper San Juan. Here they established Manzonares Community, later called Alcatraz, in 1875-76.[8] However, as early as 1877 Anglo-American settlers began to locate themselves below the mouth of Largo Canyon on the San Juan River.[9] In early 1877 settlements had also begun in the Animas Valley, and the following year several families occupied lands in the La Plata Valley.[10] By 1879 then, there were settlements in all three of the important areas, and the natural development of the region had begun.[11]

The occupation of the Lower San Juan, Lower La Plata, and the southeast side of the Upper San Juan valleys present a special problem, and are deserving of a more detailed dis-

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[8] Personal Interview with Abel P. Lobato, (whose father, David E. Lobato, was among the first settlers in Turley area, at Turley, New Mexico), September 17, 1946. Hereafter cited as Lobato, Personal Interview.

[9] Miller, p. 7.

[10] Personal Interview with Mrs. Mary A. Dicus and Mr. Edward Thomas Jr. (brother and sister) who came to the county with the Thomas family in 1877, and a year later moved to La Plata valley. Mrs. Dicus now resides at Marvel, Colorado, and was interviewed September 9, 1946. Mr. Thomas resides in Farmington, New Mexico, and was interviewed August 11, 1946. Hereafter cited as Mary Dicus, Personal Interview, and Edward Thomas, Personal Interview.

[11] For early settlers in area see Appendix I.

farming than in cattle raising. Mexican-American families from Nueva America, Nuevo Leon, and the Rio Nuevo of Colorado first occupied the region on the upper Rio Grande. Here they established Alcantara (commonly, Arroyo Salado Alcantara, in 1879-80. However, as early as 1877 Anglo-American settlers began to locate upstream for the mouth of large Canyon on the Rio Grande. In early 1879 settlements had also begun in Arroyo Grande, and the following year several families established in the Plata Valley. By 1880 there were settlements in all three of the important areas, and the natural development of the region had begun.[9]

The occupation of the lower San Juan, Lower La Plata, and the southeast side of the upper San Juan Valley presents a special problem, and a discussion of a more detailed nature

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Personal interview with Mrs. P. Cobato, Cahone (mother, David K. Lobato, was among the first settlers in Turley area, at Turley, New Mexico), September 17, 1956. Hereafter cited as Lobato, Personal Interview.

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Miller, p. 7.

10

Personal interview with Mrs. Mary A. Stone and Edward Thomas Jr. (brother and sister) who came to the county with the Thomas family in 1877, and a very letter moves to the Plata Valley. Mrs. Stone now resides at Yarwal, Colorado, and was interviewed September 5, 1956. Mr. Thomas resides in Farmington, New Mexico, and was interviewed August 1, 1956. Hereafter cited as Mrs. Stone, Personal Interview, and Edward Thomas, Personal Interview.

11

For early settlers in area see Appendix 3.

cussion. It was in these areas that early Mormon settlements began; however, only the first of the three listed above remained permanent.

The area of what was to become the Mormon settlement of Fruitland had first been settled in part by others in 1879-1880.[12] Although a few of these very early colonizers remained even after the Mormons commenced their occupation, the latter are responsible for the real development of the region. Among the first Mormons to come to Fruitland were a group of missionaries to the Navajo Indians[13] from Utah led by Jeremiah Hatch. Shortly after this entrance, Luther C. Burnham was ordained a Bishop in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and in 1881 settled in the Fruitland area. From these two occupations, especially from the latter, the Mormon settlement of the locale is dated. Pioneers of this occupation other than Burnham and Hatch were: J. B. Ashcroft, John R. Young, Walter Stevens

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[12] Personal Interview with Clinton W. Burnham, (whose father Luther C. Burnham came in 1881), at Farmington, New Mexico, September 1, 1946. Mr. Burnham states that a Mr. Coolidge and Mr. Moss were at Olio (Kirtland), and Misters Hart, Marcus, White, Richards, and Judge Webster were near and below Fruitland when his father settled at Fruitland in 1881. Hereafter cited as C. W. Burnham, Personal Interview.

[13] M. H. Foster, "History of Mormon Settlements in Mexico and New Mexico" (Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico: 1937), pp. 71-78.

question. It was in those areas that early Mormon settlements began; however, only one church of the Latter-Day Saints above remained permanent.

The area of what was to become the Mormon settlement of Fruitland had first been reached in more by chance in 1879-1880.[12] Although a few of these very early colonists remained even after the Mormons commenced their exodus, the latter are responsible for the real development of the region. Among the first Mormons to come to Fruitland were a group of missionaries to the Navajo Indians[13] from Utah led by Jeremiah Hatch. Shortly after this arrival, Joseph C. Burnham was ordained a Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and he soon settled in the Fruitland area. From these two communities, and later from the latter, the Mormon settlement of the area began to date. Pioneers of this community other than Burnham and Hatch were: J. S. Lane [illegible], John A. Turner, [illegible]

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Personal Interview with Clinton W. Burnham, Fruitland, Utah. Father Luther C. Burnham came in 1880. At Farmington, New Mexico, September 1, 1940. W. W. Burnham states that a Mr. Coolidge and Mr. Jones were at Cozy (Fruitland), and visiting Hart, Marcus, Whitney, Hightide, and Judge Webster were near and below Fruitland when his family settled at Fruitland in 1881. Hereafter cited as Burnham, Personal Interview.

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M. H. Foster, "History of Mormon Settlements in New Mexico and New Mexico" (Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico: 1937), pp. 71-78.

and sons, Ara and J. K. Pipkin, Thomas Evans, and others.[14]

A small community ditch was constructed in 1881 by these farmers to irrigate some 200 acres. Permanency of the colony was assured in 1887[15] when A. D. Coolidge, and associates, commenced construction of the Coolidge Canal, a large irrigation project that guaranteed adequate water for irrigation. The usual church-school house was constructed by community effort in the 1880's, and the locale began its natural social and economic development.

With the Fruitland area assured, the Mormons then began to expand into new regions. The attempted settlements of Jackson in the lower La Plata Valley, and Hammond on the Upper San Juan were the results of this expansion. The Jackson site was approximately four miles up the La Plata river from its mouth, and Mormon colonizers occupied lands there in 1882-1883. Their plan was to build a reservoir to trap the spring flood waters of the La Plata River, and thereby assure themselves of the necessary water supply for crop maturity. By 1895 approximately 600 acres had been cleared, or fenced.[16]

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[14] Ralph E. Twitchell, op. cit., p. 191; and confirmed by Mr. C. W. Burnham in personal interview.

[15] "First Judicial Court Case Number 01690," October 4, 1937. A copy of which is on file at the San Juan County courthouse at Aztec, New Mexico.

[16] San Juan Times, January 11, 1895.

All did not go well at Jackson, however; in dry years the water supply would be inadequate for crop growth and maturity; in other years rains washed out their ditches and reservoir dam,[17] and they met gentile antagonism because the fencing of the land destroyed cattle ranges which had been used by the cattlemen for years. This fencing led to violence which will be discussed in proper sequence. Therefore, the Jackson settlement did not prosper, and the Mormons in time removed themselves to the San Juan Valley.

Colonization at Hammond, on the southeast side of the San Juan River near the present hamlet of Blanco, met with no more success than that of Jackson. Occupation of the locale began shortly after the failure of the Jackson colony, and by 1906 some forty families were in the area. Here again, inability to get water to their land proved a stumbling block. Their canals had to cross Largo Canyon, and flash floods regularly washed away their flume. To solve this problem they proposed to build a syphon under the bed of the canyon, but this was abandoned when Mr. Hartman of Aztec, who was to finance the construction work, died. As the project and colony were not officially sponsored by the Mormon church, they were left without sufficient funds with which to carry the project to completion. The

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[17] Ibid., August 17, 1893.

death blow fell when the San Juan River flood of 1911 carried away their ditch headgates, washed away their canals, and destroyed much of their work. Soon after this flood families began moving away, and the project was abandoned.[18]

The Mormon colonies of Fruitland and Kirtland (the latter settled from and above Fruitland as a natural expansion movement in 1902) remained the only Mormon settlements of San Juan County. During this early period the two areas were known as the Burnham Ward of the San Juan Stake.[19]

During the years 1877 and 1878 several families entered the locale that came to be Farmington. Chief among these were those of A. F. Stump, F. M. Pierce, A. F. Miller, and William Markeley. Mr. Stump migrated into the area from Colorado in 1878, and in 1879 homesteaded 160 acres of land.[20] Mr. Pierce came into the locale from Florence, Colorado, in the autumn of 1879, and occupied a land claim.[21] In 1876

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[18] Personal Interview with Mrs. Francis David of Blanco, New Mexico on September 17, 1946. Mrs. David settled at Blanco in 1906. Hereafter cited as Mrs. Francis David, Personal Interview.

[19] In the Mormon church the Ward is an area comparable to the Parish of the Catholic church, and is presided over by a Bishop; the Stake of the Mormon church is comparable to the Diocese of the Catholic church, and is presided over by a President.

[20] Farmington Times Hustler, March 11, 1920.

[21] Ibid., May 6, 1920 and August 13, 1926.

death blow fell when the San Juan River flood of 1923 carried away their with deadly, wrecked many their permits, and destroyed much of their work. Soon after this flood hostilities began moving away, and the project was abandoned.

The Mormon colonies of Montezuma and Ft. Lions (the latter settled from and above Montezuma) were formed during Mormon movement in 1879 [illegible] the only Mormon settlements of San Juan County. During the early period the two areas were known as [illegible] Fort [illegible] San Juan [illegible].[19]

During the years 1879 and 1880 [illegible] settlers entered the locale that came to be Montezuma. Chief among these were those of A. T. Blomp, J. E. Jones, M. T. Mitchell, and William Markley. Mr. Blomp migrated into the area from Colorado in 1879, and in 1880 homesteaded 160 acres of land. Mr. Pierce came into the locale from Florence, Colorado, in the autumn of 1879, and occupied a land claim.[21] In 1896

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Personal interview with Mrs. Joseph Bethel of Blanco, New Mexico on September 17, 1963. Mrs. Jones settled at Blanco in 1900. Mrs. Bethel acted as Mrs. Brunetta Devlin's personal interpreter.

19 In the Mormon church the Ward is the area comparable to the Parish of the Catholic church, and is presided over by a Bishop; the Stake of the Mormon church is comparable to the Diocese of the Catholic church, and is presided over by a President.

20 Farmington Times Hustler, March 11, 1920.

21 Ibid., May 6, 1920 and August 12, 1920.

Mr. Miller first visited the region, filed on a homestead, and a year later returned with his family from Pueblo, Colorado.[22] William Markeley brought his family to the area in 1877, and like the others permanently established himself.[23] The town of Farmington, which is located on the above land claims, has its beginning from the time when these four settlers built their homes in close proximity.[24] Miller, Pierce, and Markeley became the village's first merchants, and Stump, in 1882, the first brick-maker.

A. F. Miller opened a general store at Farmington in July, 1878,[25] and became the first regularly appointed postmaster in May of the following year.[26] Before this time the people of the region had depended on friends and incoming settlers to bring the mail from Animas City, Colorado, fifty miles to the north, and leave it for distribution at Miller's store. F. M. Pierce in 1879 purchased Mr. Miller's store and stock, and a few months later William Markeley and George Spencer also opened general stores. Prior to this early merchandizing the inhabitants of the valley lived

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[22] Ibid., January 2, 1913, and August 13, 1926. Also Miller, p. 1.

[23] Ibid., August 13, 1926.

[24] Mary A. Dicus, Personal Interview.

[25] Miller, p. 1.

[26] Miller, p. 13.

Mr. Miller first visited the region, Elbert, a bachelor, and a year later returned with his family from Pueblo, Colorado.[22] Miller's brothers moved his family to the region in 1877, and like the others permanently established ranches.[23] The town of Kremmling, which is located on the above land claims, was its beginning from the time when these four settlers built their homes in close proximity. Miller, Pierce, the Barkleys became the village's first merchants, and Brown, in 1880, the first postmaster.

E. F. Miller opened a general store at Kremmling in July, 1878;[24] and became the first regularly appointed postmaster in May of the following year.[25] Before only the people of the region had demanded merchandise and incoming settlers to bring the mail from Pueblo, Colorado, fifty miles to the south, and leave it for distribution at Miller's store. J. M. Pierce in 1879 purchased Mr. Miller's store and stock, and a few months later William McKinley and George Brooker also opened general stores. Prior to this early merchandising the inhabitants of the valley lived

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[22] Ibid., January 2, 1913; and August 13, 1928. Alice Miller, p. 1.

[23] Ibid., August 13, 1928.

[24] Mary A. Brown, Personal Interview.

[25] Miller, p. 1.

[26] Miller, p. 13.

either upon supplies brought with them, upon what products they could raise, or upon those freighted in from Fort Garland or Alamosa, Colorado, which were some six weeks away by freight team.[27] Farmington then, with the addition of a saloon, became a "cow town" of six or eight adobe shacks where a man could get a drink, and a woman could buy staple supplies in the three general stores. These stores were referred to by the people as "general" because they were "generally out" of what one wanted.[28]

Aztec, the second village founded in the county, dates from the year 1880, and had very much the same beginnings as Farmington. John A. Koontz, who had migrated into the region from Pennsylvania in the late 1870's,[29] and held the first land claim where the present town now stands, was its

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[27] Personal Interview with A. C. "Bert" Hubbard of Farmington, New Mexico, on September 15, 1946. Mr. Hubbard came into the region from New York in 1878 with his parents, and as a youth often accompanied his father, a freighter, to Ft. Garland and Alamosa, Colorado. Hereafter cited as A. C. Hubbard, Personal Interview.

[28] Personal Interview with A. E. Dustin of Farmington, New Mexico, on September 10, 1946. Mr. Dustin, one of the area's few remaining early range riders, came to the county in 1881 as a range rider for the Two Cross Cattle Company, and as such saw service in the Stockton Cattle War of 1881-82. Hereafter cited ad A. E. Dustin, Personal Interview.

[29] History of New Mexico (Los Angeles: Pacific States Publishing Company, 1907), p. 864. Also William Locke's "Journal" (unpublished manuscript), a copy of which may be seen in Appendix III. Hereafter cited as Locke, "Journal."

either upon supplies brought with them, or what provisions they could raise, or upon those freighted in from Fort Garland or Alamosa, Colorado, which were some six weeks away by freight team.[27] Farmington town, with its [illegible] saloon, became a "pole town" of sorts, or a place where a man could get a drink, and a room or [illegible] supplies in the [illegible] stores. These stores were referred to by the people as "general stores" because they "generally out" of what one wanted.[28]

Aztec, the second village to develop in the county, was from the year 1880, and had very much the same beginning as Farmington. John A. Moulton, who had filed on the region from Pennsylvania in the late 1870's,[29] was the first land claim where the present town stands, was [illegible]

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Personal interview with [illegible] Farmington, New Mexico, on September 10, 1946. Mr. Hubbard came into the region from Fort Worth, Texas in 1881 as a youth often accompanied his father, a trader, to Ft. Garland and Alamosa, Colorado. [illegible] E. C. Hubbard, Personal Interview.

28 Personal interview with A. S. Austin of Farmington, New Mexico, on September 10, 1946. Mr. Austin, one of the area's few remaining early pioneers, came to the county in 1881 as a freight driver for the Fort Garland Company and as such saw service in the Lookout Cavalry [illegible] 82. Hereafter cited as A. S. Austin, Personal Interview.

29 History of San Juan County (Los Angeles: Pacific States Publishing Company, 1907), p. 894. [illegible] Moulton's "Journal" (unpublished manuscript), a copy of which may be seen in Appendix III. Hereafter cited as Moulton, "Journal."

founder. Mr. Kountz in 1880 opened a general store adjacent to his home to supply the people of the Animas Valley, above and below his lands, with much needed staples. A few years later Aztec's second general store was opened by Carol Williams, and the commercial rivalry between Farmington and Aztec began. Williams had come into the locale from Madison County, Arkansas, in 1879, and first settled on land in the Animas Valley a few miles above Aztec.[30]

By this time a number of people had settled in the area between the two towns, and the post office and general store established to serve them was called Flora Vista. This post office was set up soon after that of Farmington, and was located on the southeast bank of the Animas River on the then Blancett ranch. The establishing of this post office forms the beginning of the present hamlet of Flora Vista which, because of a change in the course of the Animas River, is now located on the northwest side of that river.[31]

Bloomfield and Turley were the two leading settlements of the Upper San Juan Valley during this early period. The founding of Bloomfield dates from the establishment there of a general store by William B. Haines in 1880[32] to serve

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[30] Personal Interview with Mrs. Hilda Jackson of Aztec, New Mexico, on September 5, 1946. Mrs Jackson came to the region in 1879 with her first husband Carol Williams. Hereafter cited as Mrs. Hilda Jackson, Personal Interview.

[31] Miller, p. 7, and Locke, "Journal."

[32] Locke, "Journal."

the Anglo-American settlers of the San Juan up the river from Bloomfield. A few years later Ean Blancett opened a saloon, and the town became a rendezvous for cowboys and settlers. The hamlet enjoyed a short lived prominence when placer gold mining activities created a small gold rush to its vicinity.

The centers of Spanish-American settlement on the Upper San Juan began where Largo Canyon meets with the river, and extended up the river valley for several miles. Manzonares Community, the first settlement, was made in 1874-75. Its early colonizers included the Manzonares, Pacheco, and Archuleta families, and the families of J. T. and Salome Jacquez, David E. Lobato, and Manuel Sanchez. Being followers of the Roman Catholic faith they soon built a church, and the area adjacent to the church became known as Alcatraz. The parish, of course, was small, too small for a resident priest, but a Father Antonio, from the county seat at Tierra Amarilla, came regularly to recite the mass and administer the sacraments for the young community.[33] Alcatraz had been located along the northwest bank of the San Juan River, but in the late 1880's the colony moved to the more favorable site on the southeast side of the river, and there the present settlement of Turley was founded. Here

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[33] Abel Lobato and Mrs. Francis David, Personal Interviews.

too a Catholic church was constructed, the walls being started in 1890, and completed about 1900. A resident priest, Father Garnierre, came to serve the community. A school was erected when the colony moved to Turley, and this, like the church, was a community project to which all gave time and effort. Father Garnierre, of course, helped in the school, and one of its early teachers was David E. Lobato.[34]

From the early occupation of Alcatraz Spanish-Americans expanded both up and down the river valley. This expansion led to the founding of the hamlet of Blanco, which was granted a post office in 1901.[35] Blanco, because it was more centrally located and lay along the route of the Largo Canyon outlet, soon replaced Turley as the commercial center of the section. In 1905 it boasted not only a post office, but two general stores with Pat Doroughty and P. O. Pilon[36] as their proprietors. Up the river from Turley the present area of Archuleta was occupied, and to the southeast, and on the southern outlet, the hamlet of Largo was established. The latter had two general stores and a bar with Messrs. Spinner, Schultz, Frank Townsend, and Joe

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[34] Abel Lobato, Personal Interview.

[35] Farmington Times, April 19, 1901. (Weekly newspaper published at Farmington, New Mexico; 1900-1903).

[36] Mrs. Francis David, Personal Interview.

too a Catholic church was organized, the Polish Union started in 1890, and completed about 1900. A Protestant priest, Father Carmiere, came to serve the community. A school was erected when the Colony moved to Orfeo, and, like the church, was a community project to which all gave time and effort. Father Carmiere, of course, helped in the school, and one of the early teachers was Sister Lobato.[34]

From the early one-street village, Orfeo-Amarillo came expanded both up and down the river valley. This expansion led to the founding of the Amarillo Blanco, which was granted a post office in 1901.[35] Blanco, because it was more centrally located and lay along the route of the Large Canyon outlet, soon replaced Orfeo as the commercial center of the section. In 1905 it boasted not only a post office, but two general stores with Jack Dorsey and J. C. Pilon[36] as their proprietors. On the river from the present area of Arquilla's was Dewey, and to the south-east, and on the southern outlet, the village of Large was established. The latter had two general stores and a hotel with Messrs. Spinner, Schultz, Frank Torgeson, and Joe

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[34] Abel Lobato, Personal interview.

[35] Farmington Times, April 19, 1901. (Weekly newspaper published at Farmington. See Appendix, 1900-1905).

[36] Mrs. Francis Davis, Personal interview.

Martin as its leading merchants.[37]

These hardy Spanish-Americans made their living by tilling the soil and raising stock. Unlike their Anglo-American neighbors to the southwest they favored sheep over cattle. This led eventually into a Spanish-American and Anglo-American range war which will be discussed in detail later.

Thus it was that another of America's young raw frontiers came into existence, and soon schools, churches, and other institutions were begun. In the autumn of 1879[38] the first school house was built in Farmington. This small adobe building of one room, 18 by 24 feet, was built by voluntary contribution by the settlers, and though called "the school house" it served also as a church and general meeting place for the young community. The school term varied, but is was hardly ever more than two or three months in length. Farmington's first school teacher in the winter of 1879 was Mr. E. O. Booram.[39] Throughout the county, the pattern followed was much the same. Each settled area having a small community house which served as a church, school, and meeting place. Early teachers in other sections were:

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[37] Mrs. Francis David, Personal Interview.

[38] Locke, "Journal."

[39] Locke, "Journal."

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Aztec, Mrs. Doris Provis; Center-Point (up Animas Valley from Aztec), Mrs. Byron Stacey; Fruitland, Amasy Barton; La Plata, Mrs. Ella Cavanaugh; Turley, David Lobato; Bloomfield, Amos Hubbard; Flora Vista, Mrs. Joe Prewitt; and Blanco, Miss Margaret Kirt and Miss Pinkerton.[40]

The early churches, of course, were the school or meeting houses. Rev. Hugh Griffin[41] was the circuit rider for these churches, going from community to community to hold services. As Rev. Griffin could be in only one or two settlements on a Sunday, the congregation, in his absence, held prayer meetings and Sunday School. Actual denominational churches, except the Catholic church at Turley, did not exist for some time, and all who wished to worship were welcome at these Sunday meetings.

To break the monotony of a rather drab existence the settlers held dances at their homes from time to time. Horse racing and the saloon were popular among the range riders and men, and each hamlet had its saloon. Beginning in September, 1880, an annual picnic or "watermelon bust" was held near Farmington, and the repeating of this event year after year led to the outgrowth of the County Fair.[42]

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[40] Mrs. Hilda Jackson, Mrs. Dunning, C. W. Burnham, Edward Thomas, Abel Lobato, Mrs. Julia Tyler, and Mrs. Francis David, Personal Interviews.

[41] Mrs. Hilda Jackson, Personal Interview.

[42] Locke, "Journal."

Aztec, Mrs. Doris Frost, Centerpoint (Mrs. Frost's mother from Aztec), Mrs. Byron Shaver, Fruitland, Mrs. Fatima La Plata, Mrs. Ila Cavanaugh, Farmington, Mrs. Bertha Bloomfield, Amos Bushnell, Flora Vista, Mrs. Joe Prewitt and Miss Margaret Pitt and Miss Thompson.[40]

The early churches, of course, were the schools meeting houses. Dewey Bridge[41] was the church, other for these churches, going from community to community to hold services. As Rev. Griffith could be in only one or two settlements on a Sunday, the congregation, in his absence, held prayer meetings and Sunday schools. Other denominational churches, except the Catholic church at Tohatchi, did not exist for some time, but all were welcomed by Grace to welcome at their Sunday meetings.

To break the monotony of a Sunday afternoon, the settlers held dances at their homes from Thanksgiving. Horse racing and the saloon were popular among the men riders and men, and each hamlet had its saloon. Beginning in September, 1890, an annual picnic or watermelon bust was held near Farmington, and the repeating of this event year after year led to the support of the County Fair.[42]

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[40] Mrs. Nellie Jackson, Mrs. Simeline C. Turnham, Edward Thomas, Abel Lobato, Mrs. Julia Tafoya and Mrs. Francis David, Personal Interviews.

[41] Mrs. Hilda Jackson, Personal Interview.

[42] Locke, "Journal."

The homes of these early settlers were little more than shacks. Usually they contained one or two rooms. A general trend was a large room made of adobe, with or without a plank floor, which served as a combination livingroom and bedroom, and a kitchen-storeroom made of cedar posts on end, held together with mud -- a picket wall. Windows for ventilation and light were small and open, but were usually covered with cloth in the winter months. Heating and cooking was done by cedar wood, and home-made tallow candles served to light the homes at night.[43] Transportation was slow, and often these people would be without such staples as flour, sugar, coffee, and salt for from weeks to months. During such times they used their coffee mills to grind flour, and the men hunted deer and rabbits for meat so that they might save their cattle and sheep for market. Life then was not easy; but through cooperation, hope, and faith they survived and prospered as the ground began to yield more and more, and local commerce and industry developed.

As has been stated, San Juan County was all but isolated from the outside world. Roads were mere trails, and impassable in bad weather; supplies were a six week's journey away at Alamosa and Fort Garland, Colorado; and for law and order the people depended upon a county government

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[43] Mrs. Hilda Jackson, Personal Interview.

at Tierra Amarilla which was a three to five day journey away. Living under such conditions they naturally came to depend upon one another for protection, and in the support of law and order.

Almost from the very first the Navajo Indians, located on (and too often, off) their reservation just south of the San Juan River, caused trouble.[44] Often this trouble was provoked by some thoughtless settler, but an attack by the Navajos remained an immediate danger for years. The first Indian scare came in 1879 when the Navajo gathered south of Farmington, and requested that the settlers leave their new found homes. An alarm was spread throughout the valley, and those that wished gathered at Farmington to present a united front and a show of power. The Indians, however, did not attack at once, and General George Buell[45] from Fort Defiance, Arizona arrived with a company of soldiers to quell the Indian trouble.[46]

Three years later the next scare, and probably the

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[44] For a detailed study of causes and events see Frank D. Reeve, "A Struggle for Bond" in the New Mexico Historical Review, January, 1946, Vol. XXI, pp. 1-21.

[45] Mrs. Mary Dicus, Personal Interview. Miller, p. 9.

[46] U. S. troops and cavalry were maintained at Fort Lewis, Colorado, Fort Defiance, Arizona, and Fort Wingate, New Mexico, but the closest of these posts, Fort Lewis, was a one to two day journey away.

at Tierra Amarilla which was a threat to their survival; away. Living under such conditions they found it easier to depend upon one another for protection, and in the support of law and order.

Almost from the very first the Navajo Indians, located on land too often, still their reservation just south of the San Juan River, caused trouble. Their hostility was provoked by some Utes who had been [illegible] attacks by the Navajos [illegible] years. The first Indian scare came in 1871 when the Navajo gathered south of Farmington, and reported that the settlers have their new found homes. An alarm was spread throughout the valley, and those that wished gathered at Farmington to present a united front and a show of power. The Indians, however, did not attack at once, and General Carson built Fort Fort Defiance, Arizona arrived with a company of soldiers to quell the Indian trouble.

Three years later the peak scare, and February the

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[44] For a detailed study of Navajo and Apache [illegible] D. Reeve, "A Strategy for Peace in the Gran Quivira Pueblo," Rural Review, January, 1[illegible], Vol. XXI, pp. [illegible].

[45] Mrs. Mary Olcott, Personal Interview. Miller, M.

[46] U. S. troops and auxiliary [illegible] at Fort Lewis, Colorado, Fort Defiance, Arizona, and Fort Wingate, New Mexico, but the effect of these posts [illegible] was a one to two day journey away.

most serious of the early Indian scares, occurred. Trouble began in January 1881 when a roudy, identified by the old timers as a "would be cowboy,"[47] Frank Kehoe, shot a Navajo on the main street of Farmington. The Indians began to gather their forces, and a few days later a band of fifty Navajos in war paint surrounded the town. Others remained on the reservation just south of Farmington to enter the fight if it started. In a meeting with the town leaders, the Indians stated that if the cowboy who had shot the Indian was delivered to them there would be no further trouble. The settlers refused to give Kehoe up, the women and children were placed in the school house as a protective measure, and a rider was dispatched to Fort Lewis, Colorado, to enlist the aid of the U. S. Cavalry units stationed there. In the meantime, the town leaders were able to convince the Indians not to attack until they could meet with their chief, Barba Huera. Huera was at this time coming from Pueblo Bonita about 100 miles south on the reservation. This delaying action probably saved the community from an attack; for before the Navajo chief reached Farmington, the Cavalry from Fort Lewis arrived and the Indians were dispersed. A few days later word was received that the wounded Navajo was recovering, and in the council which followed Chief Huera's

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[47] A. E. Dustin, Personal Interview.

most serious of the early Indian wars, southern trouble began in January 1861 when a party, thought by the pioneers as a "would be escort," from Yakes, made a raid on the main street of Prineville. The Indians were gathering their forces, and a few days later a band of Utte Navajos in war paint appeared in town. Orders received on the reservation [illegible] fight it it started. In a few days the town-dwellers, the Indians stated that [illegible] was delivered to them they would be no further trouble. The settlers refused to give Yakes up. The women and children were placed in the school house, a defensive measure, and a rider was dispatched to Fort Lewis, Colorado, to notify the aid of the U. S. Cavalry with reinforcements. In the meantime, the town leaders were able to convince the Indians not to attack until they could meet with the chief, Chief Huera. Huera was at the time camping from Prineville about 100 miles south on the reservation. The delaying action probably saved the community from a massacre, for before the Navajo chief reached Prineville, the Cavalry from Fort Lewis arrived and the Indians were dispersed. A few days later word was received that the wounded boy was recovering, and in the general unity followed Chief Huera's

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[47] A. F. Dustin, Personal Interview.

arrival, the promise of living together in peace was exchanged.[48]

Several small incidents occurred between this near massacre and the next serious trouble in 1893. Indian horses destroyed some of the settlers crops, threats were exchanged, and troops were again asked for. One Largo Pete, a bad Indian, died from cuts sustained in running his horse through a barbed wire fence; threats were again made, but in this case the Indians were appeased by a gift of a sack of flour, some sugar, and coffee from Tom Bryan, an Indian trader.[49]

Serious trouble presented itself again in 1893 when a Navajo named Nes-ca-hay shot and killed an Indian trader named Welch at his store some twenty miles west of Farmington. Cowboys and range riders of the area, twelve or fifteen in number, made threats against the Navajos. Two to three hundred Indians then gathered on their reservation on the south side of the San Juan River, and the range riders took up a position on the north side. Sheriff A. E. Dustin prevented an open battle, and telegraphed the Governor at Santa Fe for instructions.[50] Governor Prince ordered Dustin to

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[48] Miller, p. 3; also Locke, "Journal."

[49] Miller, p. 3.

[50] It should be remembered that the above acts took place over a period of several days, giving Dustin time to contact the Governor at Santa Fe.

arrival, the problem of [illegible] to peace was unchanged.[48]

Several small incidents occurred between [illegible] massacre and the next serious trouble in 1891. Indians [illegible] destroyed some of the soldiers' camps, threats were made, and troops were again asked for. [illegible] Pete, a [illegible] Indian, also [illegible] in running his horse through a barbed wire fence, [illegible] were killed, but in this case the Indians were appeased by a gift of a sack of flour, some sugar, and coffee from the store, as [illegible] trader.[49]

Serious trouble presented itself early in 1893 when a Navajo named [illegible] shot and killed an Indian trader named Walsh at his store some twenty miles west of Farmington. Cowboys and ranch riders of the area, twelve or fifteen in number, made threats against the Navajos. Then two or three hundred Indians then gathered on their reservation on the south side of the San Juan River, and the ranch riders took up a position on the north side. Sheriff [illegible] prevented an open battle, and telegraphed the Governor at Santa Fe for instructions.[50] Governor [illegible] ordered [illegible] to

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[48] Miller, p. 11 [illegible].

[49] Miller, p. [illegible].

[50] It should be remembered that the above events took place over a period of several days, giving [illegible] time to contact the Governor at Santa Fe.

stay off the reservation as it was beyond his jurisdiction. To settle the controversy the U. S. Government sent Agent Lt. Plumer and a company of soldiers from Fort Defiance. Nes-ca-hay was arrested by Plumer, and turned over to Sheriff Dustin. The Navajo confessed the murder, and was sentenced to a term of from twelve to fifteen years in the territorial prison. This action brought to a close the last Indian scare of the early period of San Juan County's history.[51]

The early settlers of San Juan County were able, therefore, through pure luck, diplomacy, and near-by aid to prevent an open clash with the Navajo. They were not so fortunate, however, in preventing trouble among themselves; for at Christmas time in 1880 the Stockton Cattle War began. Before the Cattle War had run its course in 1882 many of the settlers left the area, while others fell in the open warfare.

Two events led directly to the Stockton Cattle War. First a shooting at a Christmas dance at the Hamblet ranch, and second, the killing of Port Stockton at his home near Flora Vista.

Even before Christmas night of 1880 there seems to have been personal jealousies and rivalries over cattle and

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51 A. E. Dustin, Personal Interview.

cattle ranges in the San Juan area. The immediate trouble involved the Eskridge brothers, Dison and Harg, new comers from Texas who had a good herd of cattle, and the older settlers who resented their presence in the locale. A crisis arose on Christmas night 1880 when George Brown, son of J. W. Brown who had migrated into the area in 1879 from Pueblo, Colorado, refused to sell to Dison Eskridge and his friend, Jim Garrett, tickets at the Hamblet dance. The refusal led to words between Dison and George, and they retired outside the house to settle their dispute. In the gun play which followed both men fired, and George Brown was instantly killed, while Oscar Pewett, an innocent bystander, was also fatally wounded. Eskridge and Garret, uninjured, fled the scene. A posse was formed at once, and they rode after Dison and Jim. The culprits were not captured that night, and later with Harg Eskridge, Dison's brother, they took refuge in Durango, Colorado. The two Eskridge brothers, driven out as they were by a posse of armed men, left their cattle and belongings in San Juan County.[52] They could not return for their cattle without facing the guns of George Brown's friends, and they could derive no benefit from their stock in New Mexico while they were forced to remain in Colorado. Faced with this situation the two brothers began to gather

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[52] A. C. Hubbard, Personal Interview.

about them a band of men to help them recover their possessions.

At this time Port Stockton lived at Flora Vista. He was, as were many others in the area, a friend of the Eskridge brothers. Port had previously been Marshall for the town of Durango, Colorado, and had brought his family to settle near Flora Vista after he had lost this position.[53] In addition he brought with him the reputation of a bad character and skilled gunman.[54] Because of this reputation, and his open support of the Eskridge brothers, many disliked him. Despite this public opinion, however, he continued to live in the area.

A few months after the trouble at Hamblet's, he was warned by the local cattlemen that he was killing too many cattle that did not belong to him.[55] Port paid little or no attention to this warning, and issued threats of his own, warning the local cattlemen to keep away from his home. Shortly thereafter, a band of men including Jim Razier, Alf

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[53] Nan Hillary Harrison, Frontier Fighter, The Auto-Biography of George W. Coe, (New York; 1934), pp. 186-187.

[54] Mrs. Mary Dicus, Personal Interview. Mrs Dicus states that her husband, George Lockhardt, who was present when Port was killed stated that his gun carried 21 notches.

[55] It should be remembered that on this open range many people killed cattle not their own for their domestic use, and the large cattle owners did not object; however, Port slaughtered them needlessly.

about them a band of desperadoes than recover their possessions.

At this time Fort Stockton lived at Fort Davis. He was, as were many others in the area, a friend of the Baylies brothers. Fort had previously been marshall for the town of Durango, Colorado, and had brought his family to settle near Alpine after he had retired. In addition he brought with his family a good character and skilled gunman. Possessing a strong sense and his open support of the Baylies brothers, many disliked him. Despite this public opinion, however, he managed to live in the area.

A few months after the trouble at Dunbar, he was warned by the local cattlemen that he was killing too-many cattle that did not belong to him. Fort paid little or no attention to this warning, and soon thereafter received another warning the local cattlemen to keep away from his home. Shortly thereafter, a band of men including Bailey, Ali

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[53] Max Miller Barlson, Frontier Killer, The Autobiography of George T. Cox, (New York: 1929), pp. 80-81.

[54] Mrs. Mary Dixon, Personal Interview. Mrs Dixon states that her husband, George Dunbar, was in Fort Davis when Fort was killed although he may have arrived at Dunbar.

[55] It should be remembered that at this time many many people killed cattle for their own for their necessity use, and the large cattle owners did not actually harass Fort slaughter and them medically.

Graves, Tom Nance, George Lockhardt, and Joe Cauldwell, all respectable cattlemen, went to Port's home at Flora Vista to enforce their warning. During the discussion that followed someone shot and killed Port Stockton. People of the county were, by this time, pretty well divided on the issues, and various stories of the episode at Port's home were related. Some maintained that Port came out of his cabin, gun in hand, and that he was shot in self defense; others claimed he was unarmed at the time he was killed. His wife was wounded at the same time. She had rushed from the cabin with a rifle to defend her fallen husband. When one of the crowd attempted to shoot the gun from her hands the bullet glanced from the stock of her gun into her side. Badly wounded, she was taken to the U. S. Government hospital at Fort Lewis where she later recovered.[56] Despite conflicting stories about the shooting, there is little doubt as to the motive. The Farmington group thought Port Stockton was a spy for the Eskridge brothers, and this suspicion cost him his life.

Ike Stockton, Port's brother, had taken a land claim on the Animas River above Aztec, and was well thought of by his neighbors.[57] The killing of Port caused Ike to become

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[56] Mrs. Mary Dicus, A. E. Dustin, A. C. Hubbard, and Edward Thomas, Personal Interviews.

[57] Mrs. Hilda Jackson, Personal Interview. Mrs. Jackson was his neighbor during the months he spent on the Animas.

a sworn enemy of those responsible for his brother's death. To carry out this revenge he allied himself with Dison and Harg Eskridge, and they with their friends organized the Stockton Gang. This group of thirty to fifty men made their headquarters in Durango and Animas City, Colorado. Soon open warfare developed between them and the San Juan cattle men, who were known as the Farmington Faction.[58]

The Stockton Gang, expert with their guns, terrorized the area, and after a time came to control much of La Plata County, Colorado. Consequently members of the Farmington Faction, and the range riders for the various cattle companies on the Lower San Juan, were not allowed in Durango. In order to secure needed supplies and ammunition they sent strangers into the town, and obtained some supplies through a Mr. Bond who operated a saddle and harness shop.[59] All men rode heavily armed, and usually in groups of two or three.

Attacks upon the large herds of cattle in northwestern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado, owned by the Two Cross and Lacey Cattle Companies, and such private

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[58] Mrs. Mary Dicus, Personal Interview.

[59] A. E. Dustin, Personal Interview.

a sworn enemy of those responsible for the grievous wrong.

To carry out this purpose he called together Dave and Dare Eskridge, who, they with their friends organized the Stockton Band. This group of whites, the fifty-man band, had headquarters in Durango and ranged into Colorado. Their open warfare against Mormons, Indians and the half-breed men, who were known as the Spanish population.

The Stockton Band, [illegible] the area, terrorized the area, and after a time attained complete control over of La Plata County, Colorado. Consequently numbers of Mormons left the Nation, and the public riders for the various mining companies on the Lower San Juan, were not allowed in Durango. In order to secure needed supplies and ammunition they were strategest into the town, and obtained some supplies through a Mr. Bond who operated a mercantile and hardware store. 58 Men rode heavily armed, and usually in groups of two or three.

Attacks upon the large herds of cattle in northwestern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado, range in the Two Cross and Lazy Cattle Company, were not uncommon.

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58 Mrs. Mary Dixon, Personal Interview.

59 A. R. Dunlap, Personal Interview.

owners as Graves and Cox, became a part of this cattle war.[60] But its dominant feature was the desire for revenge upon the "killers" of Port Stockton. Members of the Stockton Gang made visits into San Juan County to search out the men involved in Port's death; in March 1881 there was an attempt made upon John Nance's life, and Aaron Barker was killed.

Apparently the Stockton-Eskridge group had nothing personally against Barker, who was a range rider for Billy Watson, owner of the Two Circle Cattle Company. He was murdered, however, when he and John Nance rode into an ambush. The Stockton Gang, on one of their sweeps into the San Juan area, had camped at the mouth of an arroyo some ten miles up the La Plata River from its mouth.[61] They were, of course, "gunning" for any, or all, of the men present when Port was killed. Barker and Nance were proceeding down the La Plata Valley toward Farmington. The Stocktons on observing their approach quickly set an ambush into which Barker and Nance rode. In the shooting that followed, Barker was killed instantly, but Nance, the man they

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[60] A. E. Dustin, Personal Interview. Mr. Dustin, a range rider for the Two Cross Cattle Company states that raids against the cattle herds were made, and the Stockton Gang maintained a slaughter house on Lightner Creek, north of Durango, Colorado.

[61] Mrs. Mary Dicus and Edward Thomas, Personal Interviews. At this time they were searching for George Lockhardt whose home was near by.

owners as Graves and Cox, became part of this dispute.[60] But its dominant feature was the death of Parker upon the "killers" of Fort Stockton. Years ago the attack-ton Gang made visits into Jeff Davis County to steal and the men involved in Fort's death in March 1881 there was an attempt made upon John Wesley's life, and Walter Barker was killed.

Apparently the Stockton-Grady crowd had nothing personally against Parker, who was a young rancher named Watson, owner of the Two Circle Cattle Company. He was murdered, however, when he and John Young rode into an ambush. The Stockton Gang, on one of their forays into the San Juan area, had camped at the mouth of an arroyo some ten miles up the La Plata River from Durango.[61] They were, of course, "guarding" for any, or all, of the men present when Fort was killed. Barker and Young were proceeding down the La Plata Valley toward Durango. The Stocktons on observing their approach quickly set an ambush into which Barker and Young rode. In the shooting that followed, Barker was killed instantly, but Young, the man who

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[60] A. E. Austin, Personal Interview. Mr. Austin, a range rider for the Two Circle Cattle Company during the feuds against the cattle barons, was at Fort Stockton and later maintained a slaughter house on Lightner Creek, north of Durango, Colorado.

[61] Mrs. Mary Olena Ann Young Fraser, Personal Interview. At this time they were living on Spring Creek whose home was near by.

really wanted, was saved by the gun-shyness of his horse. The horse, "Old Terp,"[62] shied at the sound of the first report, turned quickly, and went back up the trail. This action saved Nance's life; however, the Stocktons pursued him in a running gun battle down the valley for several miles. Nance escaped, and in a round-about way reached the Pete Winkle[63] ranch on the San Juan River some six miles below Farmington. Here he spent the night, and the next day rode into Farmington where he reported the killing of Barker. A party, well armed, was sent from Farmington to remove Barker's body, but no action to pursue the Stocktons was taken immediately because of the lack of man power.[64]

A month later a band of Farmington men rode into Durango, Colorado, to capture the Stockton Gang, and return them to Farmington for trial and punishment. The attempted capture had to be postponed as Durango's first legal hanging was taking place that day. The two groups, however, met soon afterwards (probably the next day) on Reservoir Hill, a mesa just west of Durango. A gun battle followed, but no one was killed, nor were any prisoners taken. The event did have some significance, for shortly after the battle was

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[62] A. E. Dustin, and Edward Thomas, Personal Interviews.

[63] A. E. Dustin, Personal Interview.

[64] Ibid.

[illegible]

[illegible]

fought the Durango citizens organized the "Committee of Safety." This committee ordered the Stockton Gang to disband, and leave the area because their presence blocked trade between Durango and San Juan County. Furthermore, as the Farmington Faction had obtained legal indictments against them, Durango could no longer serve as their asylum.[65] The gang then moved their headquarters from Durango to nearby hills, and remained active in the area.

For the next year matters were much the same as they had been. Men continued to ride in groups, heavily armed; the Stocktons continued to visit San Juan County, and because of the unrest some settlers left the area. People in the county took sides, and some took advantage of the situation to further their own ends. In at least one case this led to the hanging of an innocent victim. A cowboy known only as Tex, who had recently come to settle in the locale from Texas, was lynched when hides from cattle, later shown to have been stolen by someone else, were found hanging on his fence.[66]

The close of the Stockton Cattle War can be connected to two events that took place in 1881-1882. First, the

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[65] F. W. Netherton, "Durango's First Newspaper" in Pioneers of the San Juan Country compiled by the Sarah Platt Decker Chapter of the DAR of Durango, Colorado, (Durango, Colorado: 1946), Vol. II, pp. 17-19.

[66] A. C. Hubbard, Personal Interview, and Lock, "Journal."

fought the Durango citizens organized "Vigilant Committee of Safety." This committee ordered the Stockton gang to disband, and leave the area. Thus, the Durango citizens ended trade between Durango and Gallup Chapter. Furthermore, the Farmington Faction had obtained legal protection against them, Durango could no longer serve as a base. The gang then moved their headquarters from Durango to Farmington Mills, and remained until 1879 [illegible].

For the next year [illegible] had been. Men continued to ride in groups, [illegible] the Stocktons continued to visit San Juan County, and because of the unrest some settlers left the area. Meanwhile the county took sides, and some took advantage of the situation to further their own ends. In at least one case this led to the hanging of an innocent rancher. A cowboy from only as Tex, who had recently come to work for the locals from Texas, was injured when thrown from a horse, but reported to have been stolen by persons unknown, were found hanging on his fence.[66]

The close of the Stockton Gang can be contributed to two events that took place in 1879-1880. First, the

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[65] F. V. Hetherton, "Durango's first year," in Pioneers of the San Juan Country recalled by the Durango Herald Chapter of the DAR of Durango, Colorado, (Durango, Colorado: 1946), Vol. II, pp. 17-19.

[66] A. C. Hubbard, Personal interview, and Ivan, "Journal."

better element of Durango had formed the "Committee of Safety," and forced the retirement of the Stockton Gang from Durango proper. The 1881 election of county officials in La Plata County, Colorado, was controlled by the law abiding element. They elected Barney Watson, identified by those who knew him as a "square shooter,"[67] sheriff. Secondly, Ike Stockton incurred the wrath of one, Jim Sullivan by "double crossing" Jim's best friend Bert Wilkerson.

Bert Wilkerson, a member of the Stockton Gang, and Dison Eskridge killed the marshall of Silverton, Colorado, then a rich mining town fifty miles north of Durango. The citizens of Silverton offered a $2,000.00 reward for their capture. Bert and Dison took refuge in the mountains near Durango, where Ike Stockton and Harg Eskridge smuggled them supplies. Wanted now by both Farmington and Silverton authorities, the Eskridge brothers decided to leave the area, and slipped out to the northeast to the San Luis Valley. Ike Stockton, perhaps seeing that his power was broken, and wanting money with which to flee, or in an attempt to appease the newly elected authorities, handed Bert over to the authorities for the reward offered. Jim Sullivan, Marshall of Durango and a former member of the Stockton Gang, and also Bert Wilkerson's best friend, then be-

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[67] A. E. Dustin, Personal Interview.

better element of Durango had formed the "Committee of Safety," and forced the retirement of the Stockton gang from Durango proper. The 1881 elections in Dunty officials in La Plata County, Colorado, was controlled by the law-abiding element. Thereafter Sheriff Lawson identified by those who knew him as a "square shooter,"[67] and built. Secondly, the election increased the weight on one's side by "double crossing" both the Stockton and Bert Williams.

Bert Williams, a member of the Stockton Gang, and Dison Eskridge killed the marshal of Silverton, Colorado, then a rich mining town fifty miles north of Durango. The citizens of Silverton offered a $2,000.00 reward for their capture. Bert and Dison took refuge in the mountains near Durango, where the Stockton and Jack Eskridge gang had supplies. Wanted now by both Durango and Silverton authorities, the Eskridge brothers decided to leave the area, and slipped out to the northeast to the Gunnison Valley. The Stockton, perhaps seeing that his power was broken, and wanting money with which to flee, or in an attempt to appease the newly elected authorities, turned Bert over to the authorities for the reward offered. The Sullivan, Marshall of Durango and a former member of the Stockton Gang, and also Bert Williams's best friend, then be-

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[67] A. K. Austin, Personal Interview.

came a sworn enemy of Ike. He informed the sheriff, Barney Watson, that he would support any move made against his friend's betrayer.[68]

Sheriff Watson, with this added support, asked the Farmington Faction, and the other cattle companies, Two Cross and Lacey, what they would give for Ike's arrest, and a reward of $500.00 was raised.[69] Sullivan, Marshall of Durango, attempted an arrest on the main street of that town. In the confusion that followed when Ike offered resistance someone[70] fired, and Ike was fatally wounded. The wounded man fled to the site of the Durango smelter where he died, and with his death the Stockton Gang had lost its leader, and the cattle war came to an end.

The "lead age" of San Juan County, however, did not close with the end of the Stockton Cattle War, and in 1885

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[68] Mrs. Mary Dicus whose husband George Lockhardt was involved in the war; Mr. Ed. Thomas, who was involved through his brother-in-law, George Lockhardt, and A. C. Hubbard, who with his father was freighting out of Durango, all maintain that Sullivan was Marshall of Durango, was formerly a member of the Stockton Gang, and that it was he who shot Ike Stockton in the attempted arrest. Mrs. Dicus states that he also joined against Ike when he was caught driving stolen cattle to the shipping point at Pagosa Springs, Colorado, by the Farmington Faction, and that this plus Bert Wilkerson's betrayal caused him to oppose Ike. Mr. A. E. Dustin states that it was Sheriff Barney Watson who shot Ike, and gives no credit to Jim Sullivan.

[69] Mrs. Mary Dicus, Personal Interview.

[70] See footnote number 68.

at the Mormon settlement of Jackson the next trouble occurred. The Mormons had, as pointed out earlier, moved into the area several years prior to this date, and had fenced their claims. As the area fenced had been used for a cattle range certain cattle men did not like to see this open ranged closed. Trouble, however, came to a head over a land claim.

The two Stevens brothers had taken a land claim in the Mormon settlement, and John DeLuch and Sherman Hilton attempted to "jump" this land claim. Hilton had used the land for a cattle range prior to the Stevens filing on it, and so believed he had a legitimate claim. When the two factions met, trouble occurred. In the gun fight DeLuch was killed, and Hilton and Alma Stevens were wounded. Hilton later died at a hospital in Durango, and the Stevens brothers fled from the area.[71] Law and order had not yet found its way to San Juan County.

Following the Stockton Cattle War the Carlyle Brothers brought their cattle into the San Juan area. Their range was established on the Upper San Juan in Gallegos Canyon. Here at their headquarters in Gallegos Canyon occurred San Juan County's cattle and sheepmen's skirmish in the winter of 1885-86. Steve Rupe and Lee Hamlet were working for the Carlyles, and living in the canyon in a small frame shack

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[71] Miller, p. 16, and Edward Thomas, Personal Interview.

12 by 14 feet, which also served as a storehouse for feed and supplies. Lee Hamlet, in one of his regular trips up the canyon to look after the cattle, happened upon several herds of sheep owned by Spanish-Americans of the Blanco and Turley area. He searched out the herder and demanded that the sheep be removed from the cattle range. Words led to bullets, and the herder was shot and killed. That evening, after Lee had returned to the cabin and told Steve Ruper what had happened, a group of Spanish-Americans -- coming directly from a dance at Largo -- surrounded the cattle camp, and opened fire on the men and cabin. As the board walls of the shack offered the range riders little or no protection, they piled up the oats stored therein to form a barricade. In addition, they tore up the flooring of the cabin, and dug into the soft sand beneath the floor. These defense measures enabled the two cowboys to hold off their attackers. When it became light, the Spanish-Americans retired to the surrounding hills where they would have cover, and could watch the camp at the same time. They returned again that night and renewed their attack. This time they attempted to set the cabin afire, but in this they were unsuccessful. At daybreak they repeated their action of the morning before, and continued to hold the cabin in siege. Sometime during this second day, a cowboy named Bob Hott, enroute to Farmington from Gallup, came down the canyon,

and stopped at the cabin. Rupe and Hamlet had by this time decided not to give up the cabin to the Spanish-Americans, and Hott agreed to run the gauntlet for help. Though the besiegers fired upon him, he was able to get through to Bloomfield, and returned the next morning with aid. The Spanish-Americans, who had attacked the cabin again the night before, were dispersed, and the matter was closed. This affair caused much hard feeling between the Spanish and Anglo-Americans as two of the attackers had been killed. The citizens of the Upper San Juan began to agitate for a stronger and closer seat of law and order, and were joined by others. Need for this closer control was especially evident when two deputy sheriffs from the county seat at Tierra Amarilla failed to take Rupe and Hamlet in charge when they visited the county a year or so later for that purpose.[72]

The people wanted this western portion of Rio Arriba County formed into a separate county, and an event took place in 1887 that did much to further their demands. This was the murder of John Blancett, Deputy Sheriff of Rio Arriba County, by José Archuleta, a Spanish-American of Largo. Blancett had gone to Archuleta's home to arrest him, and when Archuleta was informed as to what prompted Blancett's

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[72] A. E. Dustin and Abel Lobato, Personal Interviews, and Miller, pp. 5-6.

and stopped at the cabin. Some [illegible] decided not to give up the [illegible] and Hatt agreed to run the sheriff for help. [illegible] besieged Ires upon him, [illegible] to Bloomfield, and returned [illegible] Spanish-Americans, who had attacked the [illegible] night before, were [illegible] and the sheriff was [illegible]. This affair caused [illegible] Anglo-Americans as two of the [illegible] The citizens of the Upper [illegible] stronger and closer [illegible] by others. Need for [illegible] dent when two deputy sheriffs from [illegible] Amarillo failed to take [illegible] visited the county a year or [illegible]

The people wanted only [illegible] County formed into a separate county, was an event [illegible] place in 1887 that did much to [illegible] was the murder of John Blancett, deputy sheriff of [illegible] Arriba County, by Jose Arculeta, a Spanish-American [illegible] Largo. Blancett had gone to Arculeta's home to [illegible] and when Arculeta was informed as to what prompted Blancett's

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[72] A. P. Smith and Abel Lopez, Personal Interviews, and Miller, pp. 5-6.

visit, he shot through the closed door, and mortally wounded the deputy. The trouble was reported to Bloomfield, where John's brother Dan operated a saloon, and a posse was formed to bring Archuleta to justice. The posse, a band of fifteen or twenty cowboys, rode to Largo, took Archuleta into custody, and returned with him to Bloomfield. The party was followed most of the way to Bloomfield by a group of Spanish-Americans armed with "old buffalo guns."[73] This created a serious possibility of a small Spanish-Anglo-American war. As there was no legal court or judge available at Bloomfield, the cowboys of the posse "tried" Archuleta and sentenced him to hang. He was then placed in Dan Blancett's buckboard and taken to a windlass used to hoist cattle when butchered. Here he was windlassed up, and the buckboard was driven from under him. This was done while a group of his friends looked on, but the feared battle between the two factions did not materialize. The Spanish-Americans asked for the body, and were given it,[74] and the event was later referred to in the Northwestern New Mexican, a newspaper then published at Bloomfield, as a suicide over a girl.[75]

As this murder and lynching affected both the Anglo-

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[73] A. E. Dustin, Personal Interview.

[74] Ibid.

[75] Northwestern New Mexican, February 8, 1887, (weekly newspaper published at Bloomfield, New Mexico).

American and Spanish-American elements in the county, a united effort was put forth to secure the creation of San Juan County as a separate governmental unit. Citizens in all sections of the area came to realize that only with a closer seat of government would these violations of law and court processes end. Law and order had not as yet come to San Juan County; it would not come as long as the people remained so far from their seat of control.

CHAPTER III

THE STRUGGLE FOR THE COUNTY SEAT

Disputes and troubles discussed in the previous chapter show not only the lack of effective law and order in the San Juan country, but also, its crying need for a closer and more centralized power to settle disputes. This need could hardly be realized as long as the area remained a part of Rio Arriba County, with its seat of authority at Tierra Amarilla. Residents of the region, therefore, began to agitate for their separation from Rio Arriba County, and for the creation of a new governmental unit which would give them control over local affairs.

In 1887 the 27th Territorial Legislature answered their requests. This body divided Rio Arriba County into two parts. The eastern portion retained its original name and county seat. The western section, the extreme northwest corner of the territory, was designated as San Juan County.[1] It is, of course, this unit and the governmental problems which followed its creation that forms our center of interest.

The above act defined the boundaries of the county as follows: "all of that portion of Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, comprised within the boundaries, as herein after

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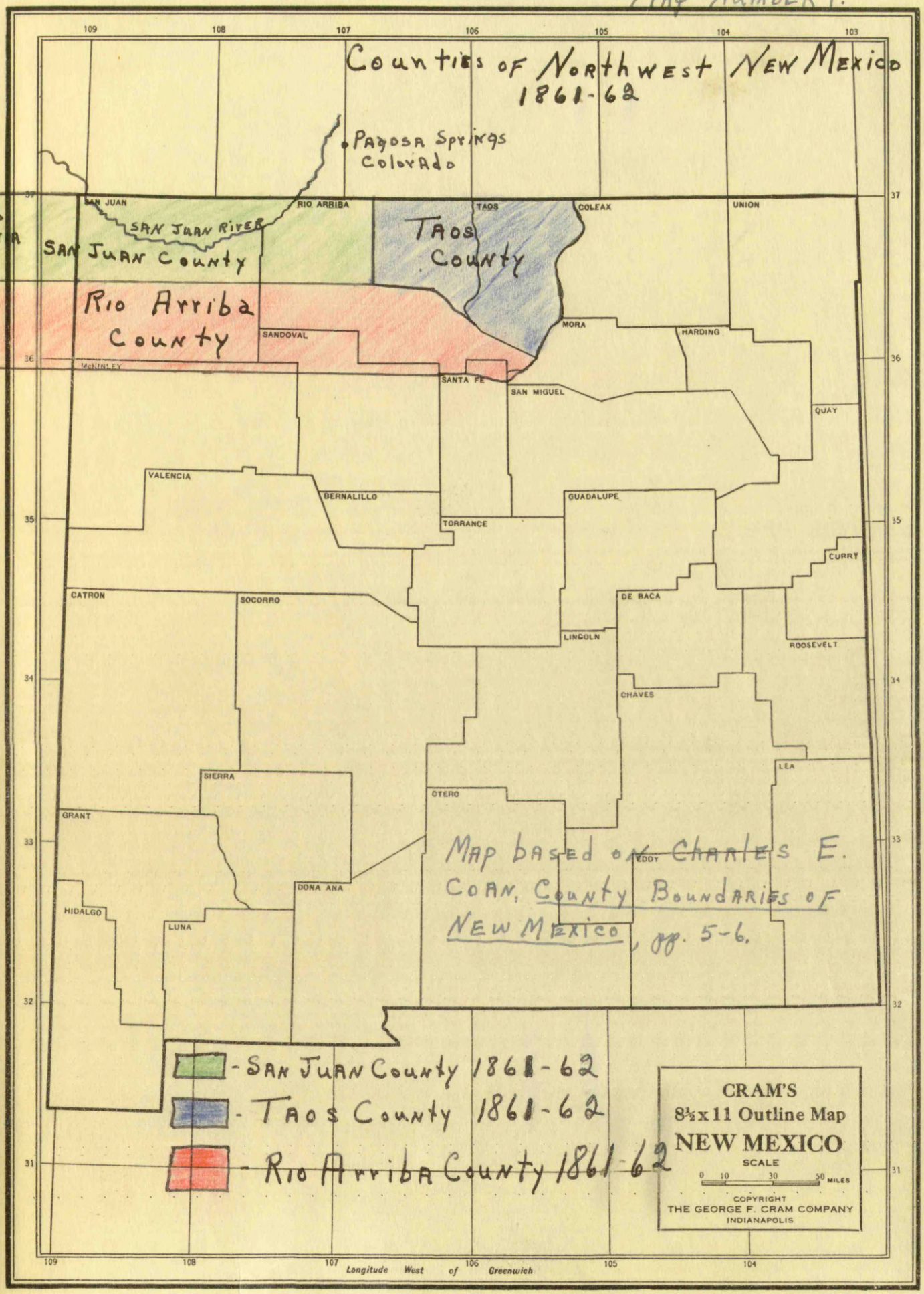
[1] See maps Nos. 1, 2, and 3 at the end of the preceding chapter.

Map Number 1.


Counties of Northwest New Mexico
1861-62
Pagosa Springs
Colorado
SAN JUAN
RIO ARRIBA
TAOS
COLFAX
UNION
SAN JUAN RIVER
SAN JUAN County
TAOS County
Rio Arriba County
SANDOVAL
MORA
HARDING
McKINLEY
SANTA FE
SAN MIGUEL
QUAY
VALENCIA
BERNALILLO
GUADALUPE
TORRANCE
CURRY
CATRON
SOCORRO
DE BACA
LINCOLN
ROOSEVELT
CHAVES
LEA
SIERRA
OTERO
GRANT
EDDY
DONA ANA
HIDALGO
LUNA
Map based on Charles E. Coan, County Boundaries of New Mexico, pp. 5-6.
- San Juan County 1861-62
- Taos County 1861-62
- Rio Arriba County 1861-62
CRAM'S
8½x11 Outline Map
NEW MEXICO
SCALE
0 10 30 50 MILES
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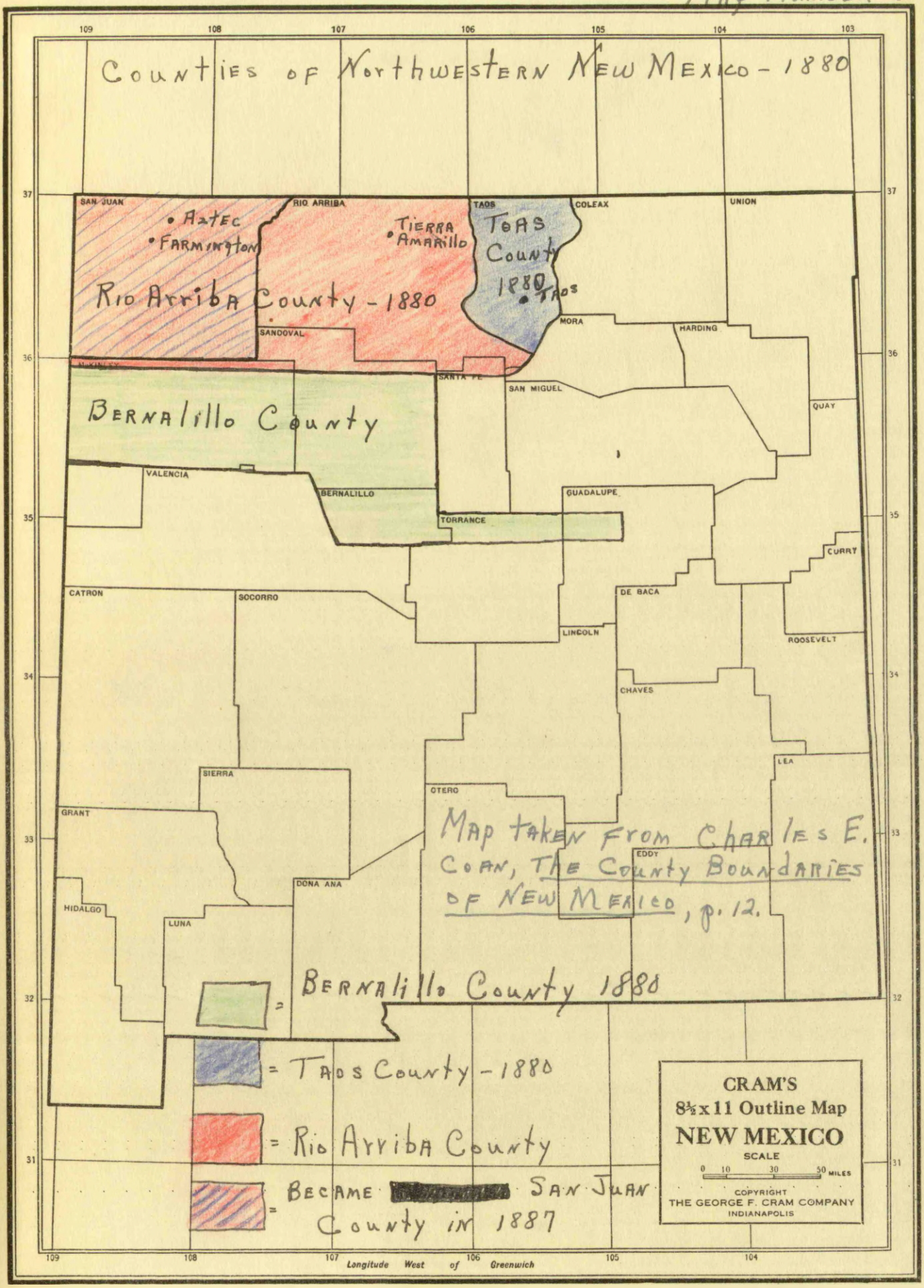
Longitude West of Greenwich

Map Number 2.


Counties of Northwestern New Mexico - 1880
SAN JUAN
RIO ARRIBA
TAOS
COLFAX
UNION
Aztec
Farmington
Tierra Amarillo
Taos County 1880
Taos
Rio Arriba County - 1880
Sandoval
McKinley
Mora
Harding
Santa Fe
San Miguel
Quay
Bernalillo County
Valencia
Bernalillo
Guadalupe
Torrance
Curry
Catron
Socorro
De Baca
Lincoln
Roosevelt
Chaves
Lea
Sierra
Otero
Grant
Eddy
Dona Ana
Hidalgo
Luna
Map taken from Charles E. Coan, The County Boundaries of New Mexico, p. 12.
= Bernalillo County 1880
= Taos County - 1880
= Rio Arriba County
= Became [redacted] San Juan County in 1887
CRAM'S
8½x11 Outline Map
NEW MEXICO
SCALE
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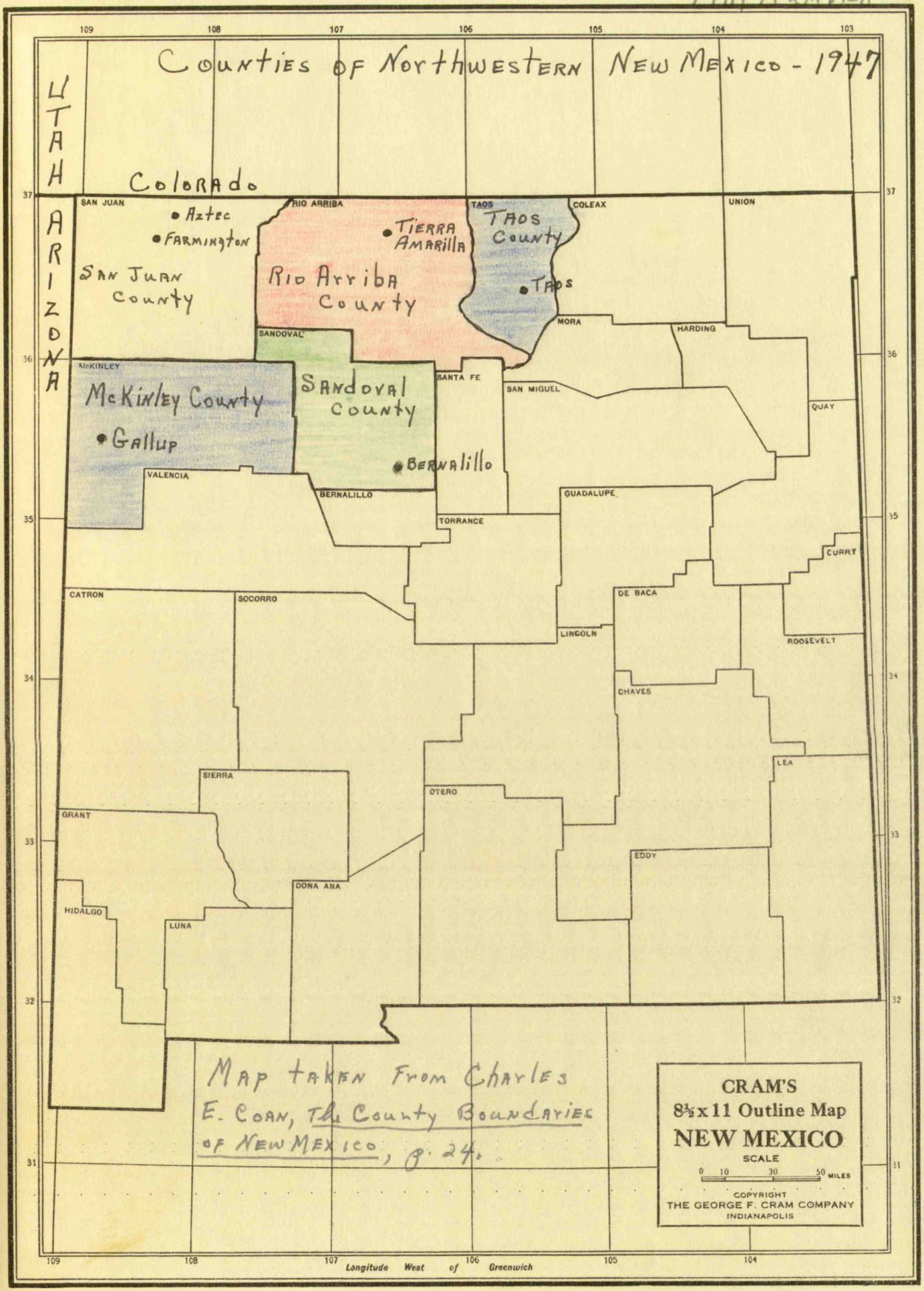
Map Number 3.


Counties of Northwestern New Mexico - 1947
UTAH
ARIZONA
Colorado
SAN JUAN
Aztec
Farmington
San Juan County
RIO ARRIBA
Tierra Amarilla
Rio Arriba County
TAOS
Taos County
Taos
COLFAX
UNION
MORA
HARDING
SANDOVAL
Sandoval County
McKINLEY
McKinley County
Gallup
SANTA FE
SAN MIGUEL
QUAY
Bernalillo
VALENCIA
BERNALILLO
TORRANCE
GUADALUPE
CURRY
CATRON
SOCORRO
DE BACA
LINCOLN
ROOSEVELT
CHAVES
LEA
SIERRA
OTERO
GRANT
EDDY
DONA ANA
HIDALGO
LUNA
Map taken from Charles E. Coan, The County Boundaries of New Mexico, p. 24.
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8½x11 Outline Map
NEW MEXICO
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0 10 30 50 MILES
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Longitude West of Greenwich

described, shall form and constitute a new county, to be hereafter known as the county of San Juan to wit: Commencing at the state line of Colorado, running along the San Juan river to where the San Juan crosses range line between ranges 7 and 8, to the north line of Bernalillo county, thence west to the line of Arizona, thence running north on the Arizona line to the state of Colorado, thence east to the place of beginning, also to include all the settlements on the San Juan river below the mouth of the Los Pinos river."[2] This new area was, in addition, to pay its indebtedness to Rio Arriba County, to constitute a representative district and be a part of the council district with Rio Arriba County, and to be a portion of the first judicial district of the territory.

San Juan County was, as shown above, created by an act of the territorial legislature,[3] and its boundaries defined. The location of the county seat was not specified in the above act, nor was this location settled with any degree of permanence until after a bitter struggle. It is this struggle over the location of the seat of government, the

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[2] Acts of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of New Mexico, 27th Session, 1887 (Las Vegas, New Mexico: 1887), p. 38.

[3] This act may be seen in its entirety in: New Mexico, Acts of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of New Mexico, 27th Session, 1887, p. 38.

described, small towns and ranches along the Rio Grande, hereafter known as the county of Doña Ana, commencing at the state line of Colorado, running along the San Juan river to where the San Juan crosses the line between ranges 7 and 8, to the south line of Range 8 east, thence west to the Utah (Colorado) whence running north on the Arizona line to the intersection of Colorado, thence east to the place of beginning, also to include all the settlements on the San Juan river below the Navajo Indian reservation. This new area was, in addition, to be the northernmost in Rio Arriba County, to constitute a separate civil district and be a part of the second judicial district of the County, and to be a portion of the first judicial district of the territory.

San Juan County was, as shown above, created by an act of the territorial legislature,[2] and its boundaries defined. The location of the county seat was not specified in the above act, nor was this location settled by any decree of permanence until after a bitter struggle. It was this struggle over the location of the county seat of San Juan,

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[2] Acts of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of New Mexico, 27th Session, 1887 (Las Vegas, New Mexico, 1887), p. 32.

[3] This act may be seen in Los Angeles, New Mexico, Acts of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of New Mexico, 27th Session, 1887, p. [illegible].

election for its placement, and the court suits which developed from this election -- with the final findings of the Territorial Supreme Court -- that constitutes the subject of this chapter.

Governor E. G. Ross appointed the first set of county officials, and on February 25, 1887, these appointees received their oaths of office from Justice of the Peace E. G. Berry.[4] These appointees were:

County Commissioners	Moses Blancett (Chairman)
	Daniel Rhodes
	David Lobato
Probate Clerk	J. G. Kello
Sheriff	Daniel Sullivan
Assessor	J. G. Willett
Treasurer	C. H. McHenry
Superintendent of Schools	James W. McDermott[5]

The first meeting of the above Board of County Commissioners was held at Aztec, New Mexico, on March 7, 1887,[6] and the political history of the county can be dated from this meeting.

In neither the act creating the county, nor in Governor Ross' appointments, had the location of the county seat been fixed. The choice of a temporary site lay in the hands

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[4] "San Juan County Commissioners Journal," Book 1, p. 1. In the San Juan County archives in the county courthouse at Aztec, New Mexico. Hereafter cited as "Commissioners Journal."

[5] Loc. cit.

[6] Loc. cit.

election for its placement, but the court subsequently invalidated this election -- with the final verdicts of the Territorial Supreme Court -- that constituted the minutes of this chapter.

Governor L. G. Ross appointed the first set of county officials, and on February 23, 1887, these officers presented their oaths of office from question [illegible] G. Carr. These appointees were:

County Commissioner	James McDonald (Chairman)
	Daniel Moore
	David Lawrence
Probate Clerk	L. E. Mills
Sheriff	Murray and Tees
Assessor	C. Mullen
Treasurer	E. H. McKinney
Superintendent of Schools	James V. McDermott

The first meeting of the above Board of County Commissioners was held at Alice, Ten Mile, on March 21, 1887, and the political history of the county was begun by virtue of this meeting.

In neither the act creating the county, nor in Governor Ross' appointments, was the location of the county seat been fixed. The choice of a temporary site lay in the hands

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[1] Mesa Land Company Contract and Deed, Book 1, p. 1. In the San Juan County Archives in the county court house at Aztec. See Section, Description other as Mesa Estates Journal.

[2] Loc. cit.

[3] Loc. cit.

of the Board of County Commissioners. At their next official meeting on March 16 this board accepted, and placed on file for future consideration, petitions asking for the location of county offices at Aztec, Farmington, Largo, and Mesa (later Junction) City. The following day the commissioners voted unanimously to place the temporary county seat at Aztec. In doing so they listed the following reasons for their action: (1) Aztec was approximately the population center of the county. (2) Aztec's proposition in regard to buildings was as good as any offered, and they were ready for occupancy. (3) Aztec's location made it the most convenient site for the greatest number of people.[7]

Having temporarily located the county offices, the commissioners went ahead with the establishment of government for the area. They divided the county into seven precincts, and set the scale of tax assessments on land and stock. The precincts thus created were:

Number 1	Pine River (in the Upper San Juan Valley)[8]
" 2	Aztec
" 3	La Plata
" 4	Olio (Fruitland-Kirtland area)
" 5	Farmington
" 6	Bloomfield
" 7	Largo

In their meeting of June 7, 1887, the commissioners established

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[7] "Commissioners Journal," Book 1, p. 3.

[8] Ibid., p. 2.

the county's three commissioner's districts. District number one included precincts number one (Pine River) and seven (Largo), and was designated as Commissioner Lobato's district. Chairman Blancett was assigned to represent district number two which comprised precincts six (Bloomfield) and two (Aztec). The third and largest district included precincts three (La Plata), four (Olio), and five (Farmington), and was assigned to Commissioner Daniel Rhodes.[9] The county, with these divisions, might have attained political stability except for the fact that the county seat was not permanently located.

The struggle over the permanent location of the county seat became a factor in county politics even before the government was temporarily located at Aztec. This fact is supported by the several petitions that had been presented to the Board of County Commissioners on March 16. Having met defeat in this temporary location, the supporters of Farmington, Largo, and Mesa (later Junction) City sites began to strengthen their forces for the election of 1890. A general county election was held in which the issue of permanently locating the county offices would be placed before the electorate. This resulted in the founding of two town companies, whose aims were to secure the permanent

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[9] Ibid., p. 5.

the county's three commissioner's districts. District number one included precincts durbetrows (Pine River) and aztec (Large), and was designated as Commissioner Cobbs's district. Chairman Blancett was assigned to represent District number two which comprised precincts six (Bloomfield) and aztec (Aztec). The third and large st district, including precincts three (La Plata), four (Ojito), and five (Kirtland), was assigned to Commissioner Smith, Hughes. The problem with these divisions, which have existed since 1923, was by except for the fact that the county seat was not permanently located.

The struggle over the permanent location of the county seat became a factor in county politics even before the government was temporarily located at aztec. This fact is supported by the several petitions that had been presented to the Board of County Commissioners on March 13. Having met defeat in this temporary location, the supporters of farmington, Large, and aztec (later Kirtland) cite sites began to strengthen their forces for the election of 1928. A general county election was held in which the issue of permanently locating the county offices could be placed before the electorate. This resulted in the combine of two town companies, whose aims were to secure the permanent

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[9] Ibid., p. 7.

county seat for their locale.

First of these land companies was the Junction City Town Company, organized on March 6, 1890.[10] Junction City town site was to be located on the Peninsula approximately a mile from Farmington.[11] Members of this land company included J. C. Carson, J. M. Majors, Rufus Rumbaugh, Foster Blacklock, W. S. Williams, C. H. McHenry, D. J. Craig, L. W. Coe, J. C. Hubbard, F. M. Pierce, and E. O. Booram. All of the above either owned land in the townsite, held property near by, or were interested in the development of that section of the county. J. C. Carson served as first president of the company, and J. M. Majors was secretary.[12]

Various functions were given to committees appointed by the president. McHenry, Coe, and Hubbard were chosen to draft articles of agreement between land donors and the company. These articles were accepted on March 28, 1890, and were two in number. Article one stated that all proceeds from the sale of lots were to go for construction of county buildings in Junction City, except those monies to defray necessary expenses. Article two provided that in the event

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[10] "San Juan County Deed Records," Book 2, pp. 38-39. In the San Juan County archives in the county courthouse at Aztec, New Mexico. Hereafter cited ad "Deed Records.

[11] See map at the end of this chapter for Junction City's location in respect to other parts of the county.

[12] "Deed Records," Book 2, pp. 38-39.

county seat for their town.

First of these town companies was the Montezuma City Town Company, organized on March 6, 1890.[10] Montezuma City town site was to be located on the Santa Fe, approximately a mile from Farmington.[11] Members of the first company included J. C. Cowan, J. M. Stockton, Thomas Jones, Jr., Blackloch, W. [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], Coe, J. C. Hughes, [illegible] Fitzgerald, [illegible]. All of the above either owned land in the district, were young men near by, or were interested in the development of the county seat of the county. J. C. Cowan served as first president of the company, and J. M. Stockton was secretary.

Various functions were taken to committees appointed by the president. Subscriptions, and bonuses were made to draft articles of agreement between town company and the company. These articles were accepted on March 28, 1890, and were too in number. Article one stated that money from the sale of lots was to be used for construction of public buildings in Montezuma City, except these funds to defray necessary expenses. Article two provided that in the event

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[10] Town Lot Identity Deed Record, [illegible], pp. [illegible]. In the San Juan County archives in the County Courthouse at Aztec, New Mexico. Hereafter cited as "Deed Record."

[11] See map at the end of this chapter for location of City's location in respect to other parts of the county.

[12] "Deed Records," Book E, pp. [illegible].

the county seat was not located at Junction City in the November elections of 1890, land donors Rufus Rumbaugh, Foster Blacklock, and Williams and McHenry would receive $250.00, D. J. Craig $125.00, and J. C. Carson $75.00 from the company.[13]

The street naming committee included McHenry, Blacklock, and Coe. Majors, Craig, and Coe were selected to receive bonds for town lots, and also to settle for the twenty acres of land that had been purchased from Rumbaugh. A group was also appointed to select the site for the courthouse square, its members were McHenry, Majors, and Blacklock.[14] The company selected a Board of Trustees for Junction City to serve as the town's first governmental unit. This organ included J. M. Majors, Chairman, F. M. Pierce, L. W. Coe, J. C. Carson, and E. O. Booram.[15]

After this organization, lands which were to comprise the village were deeded to the company. Rufus Rumbaugh deeded eighty acres to the company, and this acreage became known as the Rumbaugh Addition. It was surveyed August 10, 1891, and divided into lots along Animas, Bowman, Main, Commercial, Rumbaugh, Hickory, First, Second, Third, and

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[13] Ibid., pp. 38-39.

[14] Loc. cit.

[15] "Deed Records," Book 2, p. 258.

the county seat remained Jerseyville. Election day in the November elections of 1890, land across Quincy Township, Foster Blacklock, and William Jackson sold to Moody $250.00, D. J. Cash $125.00, and J. C. Barnes $25.00 from the company.[13]

The street railway companies included Cash, Blacklock, and Coe. Before, Barnes, Blackburn, Moody, Jackson received bonds for town lots, and also in payment for the twenty acres of land that was first purchased from Blackburn. A group was also appointed to select the site of the county house square, its members were Jeremiah Dolores, and Blacklock.[14] The company donated a point of Jersey City Station City to serve as the county fair ground for Jersey County. This organ included J. W. Mathews, Thomas J. Morse, L. W. Coe, J. C. Carson, and J. D. Barnes.[15]

After this organization, lands which were to comprise the village were deeded to the company. Quincy Township deeded eighty acres to the company, and this acreage became known as the Quincy Addition. It was surveyed August 14, 1891, and divided into lots along streets, avenues, and Commercial, Rush, and Dolores. Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and

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[13] Ibid., pp. 38-39.

[14] Loc. cit.

[15] "Deed records," Book 2, p. 273.

Fourth Streets.[16] Foster and Mary Blacklock deeded twenty acres to the company,[17] and this acreage, plus Rumbaugh's eighty acres made up the greater part of the total area which comprised the Junction City townsite.

This action by the Junction City Town Company, and its support by those who wished to have the county seat permanently located near Farmington, forced Aztec's supporters to take some action. To counteract the efforts of the Junction City bid, the residents of the Aztec area formed the Aztec Town Company. Members of the company were: W. H. Williams, Josiah Starrett, H. W. Cox, Michael W. Real, G. W. McCoy, J. D. Rumburg, A. J. Bird, Ernest Tucker, John Kiffin, N. L. Hayden, Harvey McCoy, H. C. Hampton, Peter Knickerbocker, Mrs. Albert R. Korwetz, George W. Stayer, J. G. Kello, J. R. Williams, L. F. Wilmers, George Spence, E. W. Iliff, Moses Blancett, Jessie Hendrickson, Fred Bunker, and E. G. Berry. Mr. W. H. Williams was chosen trustee, and purchased for the company 240 lots in the town of Aztec from J. A. and Emaline Kountz. The purchase price was $1,250.00, and the land thus obtained was to be used to further Aztec's bid for the permanent county courthouse.[18]

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[16] Ibid., pp. 256-257, 366-367, and "Deed Records" Book 3, pp. 40-41.

[17] "Deed Records," Book 1, p. 258.

[18] Ibid., pp. 404-405.

Fourth Streets.[16] Footprints were Elizabeth Ann's twenty acres to the company,[17] and this acreage, plus Andrews's eighty acres made up the greater part of the site, upon which comprised the Junction City Complex.

This action by the Junction City Town Company, and its support by those who aligned to have the county seat permanently located near Farmington, helped Axtell's supporters to take some action. To counteract the Junction City bid, the Axtee Town Company. Members of the company were W. H. Williams, Josiah Stennett, William Lockett, Jr., G. W. McCoy, J. D. Bunburr, A. L. Bird, Robert Taylor, John Little, M. L. Hayden, Harvey McCoy, H. C. Hayden, Peter Kotsenbocker, Mrs. Albert R. Lowrie, George W. Harper, J. G. Kelly, J. S. Williams, S. T. Jiners, George Lynch, S. T. Iliff, Moses Bennett, Jesse Beardsley, John Quiner, and E. G. Berry. Mr. W. H. Williams was chosen trustee, and purchased for the company 240 lots in the town of Axtee from J. A. and Emelina Kouts. The purchase price was $1,200, and the land thus obtained was to be used to further Axtell's bid for the permanent county courthouse.[18]

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16 Ibid., pp. 278-279, 284-285, and "Road Records," Book 3, pp. 40-41.

17 "Road Records," Book 1, p. 276.

18 Ibid., pp. 404-405.

A like company was formed at Largo in an attempt to secure the county offices. The results and details of this company will be discussed in their proper sequence.

In the election held in November of 1890 to locate permanently the county seat, three sites were placed before the voters. These were Aztec, Junction City, and Farmington. Junction City received 255 votes, Aztec 246, and Farmington one.[19] By the above it would seem that Junction City, with a majority of nine votes over Aztec, was chosen as the site for the permanent county seat. However, following the election, the Aztec supporters instituted proceedings in equity to restrain the county officials from removing the records from Aztec to Junction City. A temporary injunction was allowed,[20] and the county officials refused to move their offices until peremptory orders were received from the presiding judge of the District Court, Edward P. Seeds. Upon further hearings, Judge Seeds dissolved the former restraining order, and on January 17, 1891, he issued the removal order. This order commanded that the offices, books, papers, archives, records, and all property belonging to San Juan

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[19] "Commissioners Journal," Book 1, p. 83.

[20] C. H. Gildersleeve, Reports of Cases Determined in the Supreme Court of the Territory of New Mexico from July 24, 1891 to August 24, 1892 (Columbia, Missouri: 1896), "Berry vs. Hull," Vol. IV, pp. 649-650. Hereafter cited as C. H. Gildersleeve, Reports.

County be moved from Aztec to Junction City, and that business of the county be permanently established there.[21] In their meeting on January 26, the Board of County Commissioners had the above order read into their minutes. Commissioner C. J. Moss of the third commissioner's district then moved: "We, the County Commissioners of San Juan County, New Mexico, on this 26th day of January A. D. 1891 order that books, papers, records, and archives, and all the property belonging to San Juan County be moved from Aztec to Junction City on 29 day of January A. D. 1891."[22] Commissioners Henry Kiffin and Simon Martinez, of the first and second districts respectively, objected to the issuing of such an order on the grounds that no buildings had as yet been provided at Junction City to house records as required by law. Moss' motion was defeated two to one when placed to a vote, and then Commissioner Kiffin moved that the board journey to Junction City on January 31, and arrange for the construction of suitable buildings to house county offices.[23] During their next meeting on January 31, with Commissioner C. J. Moss absent, Commissioners Kiffin and Martinez issued the following order: "We, the Board of County Commissioners of

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[21] "Commissioners Journal," Book 1, p. 95.

[22] Loc. cit.

[23] Loc. cit.

County be moved from Kenne to Junction City, and that that-
ness of the county be permanently established there.[21] In
their meeting on January 20, the Board of County Commissioners
had the above order read into their minutes. Commissioner
C. J. Moss of the third commissioner's district then moved:
"We, the County Commissioners of San Juan County, Sec Notice,
on this 26th day of January A. D. 1871 order that records,
papers, records, and archives, and all the property belong-
ing to San Juan county be moved from Kenne to Junction City
on 29 day of January A. D. 1871."[22] Commissioners Tooley
Griffin and Simon Martinez of the first and second districts
respectively, objected to the issuance of such an order on
the grounds that no buildings had as yet been provided at
Junction City to house records as required by law. Moss'
motion was defeated two to one when placed to a vote, and
then Commissioner Griffin moved that the board journey to
Junction City on January 27, and arrange for the acquisi-
tion of suitable buildings to house county offices.[23] Jour-
ning their next meeting on January 31, with Commissioner C.
Moss absent, Commissioners Griffin and Martinez issued the
following order: "We, the Board of County Commissioners of

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[21] "Commissioners Journal," Book 1, p. 89.

[22] Loc. cit.

[23] Loc. cit.

San Juan County, New Mexico, this 31st day of January A. D. 1891 hereby order that the books, papers, records, and archives, and all the property belonging to the County of San Juan shall be moved from Aztec to Junction City and the business of the county be permanently established at said Junction City on the 14th day of February A. D., 1891."[24] Sheriff J. C. Carson, a member of the Junction City Town Company, and Probate Clerk J. W. Berry were placed in charge of moving the records. The minutes of the next meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, which was the first meeting of that body at Junction City, are dated April 6, 1891, so that sometime between February 14, and April 6, 1891, Junction City became the county seat.

A two-story frame building was constructed at Junction City to house county records on land deeded to San Juan County by Rufus Rumbaugh, then a town trustee of that place. The deed transferring the land is dated January 1, 1891, and granted to the county "all of block number 8 in the Town of Junction City. The same to be held by the said county of San Juan for a public square in said Town and to be used as a courthouse block for said Town and to be under the care and custody of the proper officers and held as other property

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[24] Ibid., p. 96.

[25] Ibid., p. 97.

San Juan County, New Mexico, this 1st day of June, A.D. 1891 hereby order that the seal, records, and archives, and all the property belonging to the County of San Juan shall be moved from Aztec to Farmington City and the business of the county be transacted at Farmington City, San Juan County, New Mexico, on the 1st day of June, A.D. 1891.

Sheriff J. C. Dobson, a member of the Farmington City Town Company, and Probate Clerk J. S. Hampton claimed in advance of moving the records. The attorney at the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, which was the first meeting of that body at Farmington City, was instructed to, inter alia, that recording taking place between the Aztec and Farmington City meeting the county seat.

A two-story frame building was constructed in Farmington City to house county records in land donated by the Town Company by Parks Hutchings, then a land trustee of that group. The deed transferring the land to Parks Hutchings is lost, and granted to the county half of block number 1 in the Town of Farmington City. The town co-trustee for the land donated of San Juan for a public square in early town and on the town and a courthouse block for half that town and to be used and controlled of the proper officers and hold in other property

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24 Ibid., p. 94.

25 Ibid., p. 97.

belonging to said county."[26]

The small vote cast in favor of Farmington in this election might lead one to believe that its supporters did not take an active part in the matter; however, such was not the case. The people of Farmington must have realized that the entrance of Junction City in the election would split the vote that favored their region, and that some sections of the county would vote for Junction City in the election because they did not favor either Aztec or Farmington. Furthermore, the site chosen for Junction City was across the Animas River, and approximately a mile from Farmington. This location would place the county seat definitely in the Farmington area of political and economic influence. Commercially the placement of the county offices at Junction City would draw trade to that area which had formerly gone to Aztec, and would benefit the already established trade center at Farmington. It is safe then to assume that for these reasons the Farmington people gave their support to the Junction City cause in the election.

Although Junction City had been chosen the permanent site for the San Juan County courthouse by the election, Aztec, or rather its supporters, claimed that the election was illegal, and proceeded to take their case before the

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[26] "Deed Records," Book 3, p. 36.

belonging to said county."[50]

The small town of Darlington, in this election eight land owners believed that its surroundings did not lack an active and in the matter commerce, and so was the case. The people of Darlington had been realizing the entrance of a rival city in Lawrence, and said the vote that factory had [illegible] of the county would work for Lawrence City in the election because they did not have a [illegible] or factories. Furthermore, the site chosen for Douglas City was across the Amiens River, and approximately a mile from Darlington. This location would place the county seat definitely in the Darlington area of political and economic influence. Commercially the allegiance of the county citizens to the Douglas City would drew trade to that area which was formerly given to Aster, and would benefit the already established trade center at Darlington. It is not [illegible] to assume that these reasons the Darlington people were [illegible] to the Lawrence City [illegible] in the election.

Although Lawrence City had been chosen the permanent site for the Ray County courthouse by the electorate, Aster, or rather its supporters, claimed that the election was illegal, and [illegible] to take their case before the

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[50] "Ray Gazette," June 1, p. 1.

presiding judge of the district, the aforementioned Edward P. Seeds. The consideration of this case by Judge Seeds, his findings, and the final opinion rendered by the Territorial Supreme Court eventually settled the dispute.

The following questions faced Judge Seeds: (1) Was the election legal? (2) Were illegal votes cast by minors, non-residents, aliens, and persons procured to vote by bribery? Judge Seeds held, in regard to question one, that the election was legal, but had within it certain illegal aspects. In regard to the latter, Judge Seeds held: "While there was an activity on both sides in favor of the respective places, which resulted in making illegal offers in holding out illegal inducements, I have failed to find any such widespread acceptance of bribery among the voters at any polling precinct as requires me to hold that the election was in toto illegal."[27] For us then question two above is the more important, as it was through the answer to this question that the case over the location of the county seat was finally settled.

Aztec[28] argued its case along three basic charges. These charges were: (1) That a number of illegal and fraud-

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[27] C. H. Gildersleeve, Reports, p. 680.

[28] Throughout the chapter the complaintant will be referred to as Aztec, and the defendant as Junction City.

presiding judge of the district, the Commissioner Edward P. Seede. The substantial merit of this case lay in this finding, and the final decision rendered by the Territorial Supreme Court eventually sustained the findings.

The following questions faced Judge Seede: (1) Was the election legal? (2) Were illegal votes cast by aliens, non-residents, aliens, and persons procured to vote by bribery? Judge Seede held, in regard to question one, that the election was legal, but had within it certain illegal aspects. In regard to the bribery, Judge Seede held "While there was an activity on both sides, bribery of the respective places, which resulted in making illegal offers in holding out illegal inducements. Have failed to find any such widespread acceptance of bribery among the voters as any polling precinct as requires me to hold that the election was in toto illegal."[27] For the then question, the above is the more important, as it was through the answer to this question that the case over the location of the county seat was finally settled.

Aztec[28] argued its case along three main charges. These charges were: (1) That a number of illegal and fraud-

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[27] C. H. Gildersleeve, Journal, p. 28.

[28] Throughout the chapter the complainant will be referred to as Aztec, and the defendants as Morton City.

ulent votes had been cast. (2) Those supporting Junction City had illegally bribed and purchased a large number of votes. (3) That non-citizens, minors, and non-residents had voted in the election.[29] In his findings Judge Seeds answered all of the above.

One Sam Johnson, who voted for Junction City, was charged with not being a resident of the county because he had only been in the locale forty days.[30] Johnson had been arrested for illegal voting, and had pleaded guilty to the charge. Therefore, Judge Seeds held that his vote was illegal, and should be deducted from Junction City's total vote.

Simon Stonebarger had been in the county only from September 3, 1890, to November 4, 1890, the date of the election. He was, therefore, not a legal voter of San Juan County. It was also shown that he had voted for Junction City, and Judge Seeds held that his vote, as it was illegal, should be subtracted from that city's total.[31]

Junction City counteracted these charges by stating

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[29] C. H. Gildersleeve, Reports, pp. 649-658.

[30] Compiled Laws of New Mexico, 1884 (Santa Fe, New Mexico: 1885). Section 1214 defines the legal voter as a citizen of the United States of the age of 21 years, who shall have resided in the territory six months, in the county in which he offers to vote three months, and in the precinct thirty days immediately preceding the election.

[31] C. H. Gildersleeve, Reports, p. 661.

that A. B. Stacey, John S. Stacey, R. L. Dennison, and C. B. Sharp had voted for Aztec, and were not even residents of the territory.[32] Before attempting to answer these charges Judge Seeds pointed out certain facts: (1) That residence was a fact depending upon outward acts and intentions of the voter. (2) That Durango, Colorado, was a market for San Juan County produce, and the marketing of produce there took farmers out of the territory for two or three days in going and returning. (3) That a man might have a business in one place and a residence in another, but would vote at his place of residence. (4) When once a residence had been established it was presumed to remain so until proven to have been changed.[33]

With these four points serving as a foundation upon which to work, Judge Seeds then answered the above charges. He found that R. L. Dennison, a resident of Knickerbocker's cattle ranch northwest of Aztec, was a cowboy, and that his range work often took him out of the territory. However, it was held that he was still a resident of the territory and of San Juan County, and his vote, for Aztec, was allowed. John S. Stacey, it was held, was a resident of San Juan County, and as such had voted for Aztec. Furthermore, his vote was allowed to stand because his marketing trips to

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[32] Ibid., p. 678.

[33] Ibid., pp. 678-679.

that A. R. Stacey, John T. Stacey, [illegible] Hamilton, and C. [illegible] Sharp had voted for Arizona, and vice versa, [illegible] the territory.[32] [illegible] Juan County voted for certain reasons: (1) That [illegible] was a fact depending upon natural gifts and intelligence of the voter. (2) That Bonnie, Cochise, was a district for [illegible] Juan County problem, and this [illegible] farmers out of the districts for [illegible] and returning. (3) That a man might have a business [illegible] place and a residence in another, and might vote at his place of residence. (4) That some [illegible] it was pressure to change as well [illegible].[33]

With these four points [illegible] which to work, Judge Doan [illegible] the above [illegible]. He found that A. L. Hamilton, a rancher [illegible] cattle ranch [illegible] of Arizona, was a cowboy, and that his range work often took him out of the territory. However, it was held that he was still a resident of the territory and of San Juan County, [illegible] John B. Brown. It was [illegible] County, and as such [illegible] vote was allowed to stand [illegible]

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[32] Ibid., p. 574.

[33] Ibid., pp. 575-76.

Durango did not constitute a change of residence. In the case of A. B. Stacey, Judge Seeds found that as he had moved his family to Colorado, and was renting a farm there, his actions showed a change of residence. Therefore, his vote cast for Aztec, was illegal, and should be taken from Aztec's total. C. B. Sharp's vote, also for Aztec, was held to be illegal as testimony supporting this fact was not contradicted by Aztec.[34]

This completed Judge Seeds' findings on the alleged votes of non-residents, and resulted in two votes being found illegal for both Aztec and Junction City, and subtracted from their respective totals.

Next, Judge Seeds dealt with the problem of votes allegedly cast by aliens. It was proven that both Edward Thomas Sr. and Edward Thomas Jr. had voted for Junction City, but neither had taken out his citizenship papers at the time of the election.[35] Also, it was shown that Andrew Miller had not taken out his citizenship papers until October, 1891, but as an alien had voted for Junction City in the election of November, 1890. Max Wenzel, it was learned, had declaratory papers, and had served in the U. S. Marine Corps from 1884-1887; however, neither of the above made him an American

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[34] Ibid., pp. 679-680.

[35] Both had taken out citizenship papers in October, 1891.

Durango did not constitute a change of residence. In the case of A. B. Stacey, Judge Beeks found that as he had moved his family to Colorado, and was renting a ranch there, his actions showed a change of residence. Therefore, his vote, cast for Axtee, was illegal, and should be taken from Axtee's total. C. P. Sharpe's vote, also for Axtee, was held to be illegal as testimony supported the fact that he had contradicted by Axtee.[34]

This completed the Judge's rulings on the illegal votes of non-residents, and resulted in two votes being found illegal for both Axtee and Hamilton City, and subtracted from their respective totals.

Next, Judge Beeks dealt with the problem of votes allegedly cast by aliens. It was proven that both Edward Thomas Sr. and Edward Thomas Jr. had voted for Junction City, but neither had taken out his citizenship papers at the time of the election.[35] Also, it was shown that Andrew Miller had not taken out his citizenship papers until October, 1891, but as an alien had voted for Junction City in the election of November, 1890. John Tanner, it was learned, had declaratory papers, and had served in the U. S. Marine Corps from 1884-1887; however, neither of the above made his an American

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[34] Ibid., pp. 679-686.

[35] Both had taken out citizenship papers in October, 1891.

citizen. Judge Seeds held that all these votes were illegal, and ordered four votes deducted from Junction City's total.[36] George J. Smith had voted for Aztec. He had himself stated to a Mr. Spence that he was a foreigner as he had not taken out his final citizenship papers. His vote was, therefore, declared to be illegal and was subtracted from Aztec's total. In this category Junction City lost four votes, and Aztec one, a gain of three votes for Aztec.[37]

Judge Seeds turned next to that part of the charges dealing with votes cast by minors. He found that José Pablo Gallegos, who had been born in 1870, or so his cousin testified, was only twenty instead of the required legal age of twenty-one. In so finding, Judge Seeds refused to allow as admissable evidence a certificate from the priest who had baptized Gallegos, which would have placed his age at twenty-one at the time of the election. Gallegos, it was shown,[38] had voted for Junction City; his vote was found to be illegal, and as such was ordered subtracted from the Junction

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[36] C. H. Gildersheeve, Reports, pp. 659-60.

[37] Revised Statutes of United States Laws 1873-74 (Washington D. C.: 1878) Sections 2004 and 2165, all foreigners, twenty-one years of age must make preliminary statement of their intention to become citizens at least two years before they could be legally made such.

[38] Shown on heresay from Mr. Berry, but not denied by Mr. Hull; therefore, assumed to have voted for Junction City.

City total.

The next question answered by Judge Seeds was the presence of bribery in the election: (1) bribery on the part of Junction City, and (2) bribery on the part of the Aztec faction.

On considering the bribery charges against Junction City, Judge Seeds in forming his opinion was faced with the following questions: Did the partisans of Junction City hold out inducements to the voters of San Juan County to vote in favor of Junction City? Were these inducements in the form of a bribe or undue influence? Did the voters receive the inducement in the nature of a bribe, and were these bribes a moving cause of their voting for Junction City?

Before answering the above questions, Judge Seeds pointed out that up to three or four months before the election no such place as Junction City existed, nor was there any such place contemplated. Furthermore, that about the time of the election a company was organized which purchased land as a site for Junction City, plotted this land as a city, and set aside a large square or plot of the land for county purposes. Also, that a Mr. L. W. Coe[39] was made acting president of the company, and through him the company

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[39] As pointed out before, Mr. J. C. Carson had been president of the company at the time of its organization, but as time went on officers and the Town Trustees were changed.

City total.

The next question answered by Judge Soule was the presence of bribery in the election: (1) bribery on the part of Junction City, and (2) bribery on the part of the Arena faction.

On considering the bribery charges against Junction City, Judge Soule formed the opinion and faced with the following questions: Did the partisans of Junction City hold out inducements to the voters of San Juan County to vote in favor of annexation? Were these inducements in the form of a bribe or some influence? Did the voters receive the inducement in the nature of a bribe, or were they bribes a moving cause of their voting for annexation?

Before answering the above questions, Judge Soule pointed out that as to where a town could escape the election no such place as Junction City existed, nor was there any such place contemplated. Furthermore, that about the time of the election a company was organized which purchased land as a site for Junction City, platted this land as a city, and set aside a large acreage as a site for the San Juan County purposes. Also, that a Mr. L. K. Coe[39] was made acting president of the company, and through him the company

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[39] As pointed out before, Mr. L. K. Coe had been president of the company at the time of its organization, but as time went on officers and the town trustees were changed.

bound itself to build the necessary county buildings at Junction City if the voters of San Juan County would locate the county seat there. And, that the company further agreed to construct suitable bridges across the San Juan and Animas Rivers to provide an easy access to county offices to all parts of the county.[40] Judge Seeds then held that such an agreement constituted inducement on the part of the land company, but that this inducement could not be considered illegal.

The company had also succeeded in getting a number of persons to sign a manifesto directed to the voters of San Juan County. This manifesto, which was scattered widely throughout the county, set forth the advantages of Junction City as the location for the county seat. It said in part: "We are aware that it is every person's duty to vote for his own interests, as a matter of justice to himself, and for that reason we would ask you to join us in a consultation, to see if we cannot convince you that it is the best interest of every voter of the county to make this place (Junction City) the county seat."[41]

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[40] The site for Junction City was to be on the Peninsula, a narrow neck of land formed between the Animas and San Juan Rivers as they near their point of junction; therefore, the above bridges would have been a necessity.

[41] C. H. Gildersleeve, Reports, p. 668.

About the beginning of October, 1890, or one month before the election, and after the above manifesto had been issued and circulated, the company began to issue the following certificates:[42]

> October 6, 1890 -- This is to certify that I have this day sold to (here insert name) lots number 21, 22 all in block number 17 in the town plot of Junction City, San Juan County, New Mexico.
>
> (signed) L. W. Coe
> President of the Town
> Board of Junction City
>
> Price, $1.00 per lot

Aztec charged that the founding of this land company, and the issuing of these certificates constituted bribery for votes in favor of Junction City. It was proved that the parties did not pay for these certificates, that the certificate had to be presented on or before January 1, 1891, or the holder could not obtain his deed to the lots, that some were refused deeds after this date, and that on receipt of the deed the owner paid down one dollar per lot. It was further shown that the actual value of these lots was much higher than the dollar paid. Mr. William Locke testified that some of these lots sold for as high as $200.00, and that others sold certificates for prices ranging from $3.00 to $12.00 per lot. Judge Seeds held that the dollar price would seem to be purely a nominal fee, and as such, was so

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[42] Ibid., p. 669.

inadequate as to cast suspicion upon the whole transaction.[43]

Mr. L. W. Coe, president of the Junction City Town Company, testified: "Mr. Schreck had a long conversation with me in regard to the county seat, and conveyed the idea to me that he was a Junction City man. Finally he asked me for a certificate. He asked me if it (the certificate) obligated him to vote for Junction City. I told him it did not; that we were selling these tickets to everyone; that we were going to build a town at Junction City whether we got the county seat or not."[44] Mr. Coe further testified that he kept no record of the certificates sold, and that he authorized Mr. Laughren, one of his land agents, to tell the people of La Plata that, "We are willing to sell lots at one dollar each, and that all the people upon the La Plata who wanted lots in Junction City could have them at that price."[45]

All the defendants' witnesses stated that they had never asked anyone to vote for Junction City in return for the lots, and insisted that this granting of certificates was used only as a means of founding a town.

Before reviewing Aztec's testimony in regard to the

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[43] Ibid., p. 669.

[44] Ibid., p. 669-670.

[45] Ibid., p. 670.

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bribery charge against Junction City, Judge Seeds stated that no evidence had been presented which separated the granting of certificates for lots from conversations about voting for the county seat at Junction City. He also asked this question: If the company was going to build a town at Junction City whether or not they got the county seat, why was it that the certificates were limited as to time in which to obtain a deed?[46]

Joe Sterret, a member of the town board of Aztec, testified that the afore-mentioned Laughren, Coe's land agent, had offered him four lots in Junction City, if he would vote in favor of that place. Laughren answered this by saying: "I say that I never mentioned Junction City or lots to Joe Sterret in one way or the other. I knew that he belonged to the Aztec town board, and there was no need for me to offer him any inducement down here. That's the reason I didn't mention town lots to him at all."[47] This statement made by a witness for the defendant admitted that these lots, or certificates for them, were offered as an inducement for people to vote for Junction City.

Other witnesses testified, and it was not denied, that Mr. Coe had said, when giving certificates to certain

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[46] Ibid., p. 670.

[47] Ibid., p. 672.

parties: "that they wanted men interested as much as possible, so that they would vote where their interest was."[48]

Judge Seeds after hearing this testimony then gave his decision on the bribery charges against Junction City. "I am fully convinced that the certificates were given for the purpose of influencing votes; that it was intended as an inducement, just as much as the promise to build county buildings and bridges. The last is allowable the first is illegally wrong."[49]

Having thus found the existence of bribery and undue influence, Judge Seeds divided those who received these certificates into two groups. First, those who testified themselves that they voted for Junction City, that they received certificates for lots prior to casting their vote for that place, but denied that their vote was influenced by the granting of the certificate. In this category Judge Seeds listed the following voters: Suan de Jesus Valdez, Antonio Median, J. P. Martin, Eleuterio Vigil, Doreteo Sanchez, Juan B. Valdez, and J. Francisco Martinez; and held that their votes should be subtracted from the Junction City total.[50]

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[48] Ibid., p. 672.

[49] Ibid., p. 673.

[50] Ibid., p. 665.

parties: "that they neither were deceived nor misled, so that they would vote where their interest was."[48]

Judge Reeds after hearing the testimony of each voter in his decision on the primary contest concluded saying, "I am fully convinced that the certificates were given for the purpose of influencing voters; that it was intended as an inducement, just as much as the promise to build houses, buildings and bridges. The fact is allowed the voter to illegally vote."[49]

Having thus found the existence of bribery and undue influence, Judge Reeds divided those who received certificates into two groups. First, those who testified themselves that they voted for Justice Clay, that they received certificates for this voter to vote for that place, but denied that their vote was influenced by the granting of the certificate. In this category Judge Reeds listed the following voters: Simon Deisinger, Nicholas Medlan, J. F. Martin, Clemente Vigil, Dorsey Gonzales, Juan B. Valdez, and J. Francisco Martinez, who said that their votes should be subtracted from the Justice Clay total.[50]

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[48] Ibid., p. 672.

[49] Ibid., p. 673.

[50] Ibid., p. 674.

Voters included in the second division were those who had received certificates, yet denied the influence of these certificates on their vote; but against whom others testified that their vote was influenced by these certificates. The following voters were placed in this class: Joseph Guyer, J. Euenito Larrogoite, W. B. Firebaugh, Santiago Martinez, Frank Allen, Martin Pacheco, Felipe Gallegos, J. Chavez, and J. Maria Quintana. Two or more witnesses had testified that seven of these nine had been influenced in their vote by the certificates. The court then held that the predominance of testimony favored the view that taking of the certificates was legally wrong, and therefore, these votes should not be counted. Consequently, all nine votes were ordered deducted from the Junction City total, even though only seven of the nine had been proven illegal.[51] This action ended the case against Junction City, and in all twenty-three votes had been ordered subtracted from its total vote.

The bribery question, however, did not end there; for the defendant charged that Aztec was also guilty of such acts. Specifically Junction City charged that all votes cast by the Largo Association in favor of Aztec should be rejected as illegal because they were purchased votes. Evidence presented brought forth the following facts:

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[51] Ibid., p. 666.

Voters included in the second division were those who had received certificates, yet denied the legal power of these certificates on their votes, but against whom others testified that their vote was influenced by those certificates. The following voters were placed in this class: Joaquin Lopez, 1. Benito Larrogoite, 2. R. Fresnedo, Santiago Martinez, Frank Allen, Martin Pueblo, Felipe Mallegh, 3. Maria Quintana. Two or more witnesses had testified that seven of these nine had been influenced in their votes by the certificates. The court then held that the preponderance of testimony favored the view that taking of the certificates was legally wrong, and therefore, these votes should not be counted. Consequently, all nine votes were ordered deducted from the Junction City total, even though only seven of the nine had been proven illegal.[57] This action ended the case against Junction City, and in all twenty-three votes had been ordered subtracted from the total vote.

The bribery question, however, did not end there, for the defendant charged that Axtell was also guilty of such acts. Specifically Junction City charged that all votes cast by the Large Association in favor of Axtell should be rejected as illegal because they were merely a votes. Evidence presented brought forth the following facts:

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[57] Ibid., p. 666.

> That a place known as Largo was at first intending to go into the contest for the county seat; that a number of its citizens associated themselves together for the purpose of advancing its interests; that this association was neither a co-partnership nor a corporation but simply a voluntary association; that it could neither keep the people of Largo from voting for their town nor against it; that it could not in any way but by persuasion control the votes of the members so associated together; that the character of the association was such that it had no legal right to bind its members by the agency of any one or more; that before the election a committee of the Largo association met a committee of the Aztec Town Company or association, and submitted certain propositions to each other looking to the withdrawal of one of the places from the contest; the majority of the Largo representatives accepted the Aztec proposition; that proposition was to give the Largo Association half of the town lots in Aztec, a certain portion of a forty-acre lot, and pay them for a certain piece of land which they had purchased for county purposes in Largo, the consideration for this concession being that Largo was to withdraw from the contest.[52]

Furthermore, residents of Largo were to work and vote for Aztec because according to the agreement there was no consideration of the trade unless Aztec was made the county seat.

In a preface to his decision Judge Seeds pointed out that if Aztec had been declared the county seat, and a certain number of men from Largo had received lots in Aztec; or if the Largo men had formed a legal organization, had accepted the lots, land, or money, and had voted for Aztec, there would have been sufficient proof of a corrupt agree-

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[52] Ibid., pp. 675-76.

ment, and thus would have nullified their votes. However, none of these things had happened, except with the individual members of the Largo Association, which was not a legal body representing the town of Largo. Aztec had admitted that nine of the members of the Largo Association voted for Aztec, but of these nine only four were present at the meeting of the committees of the two companies. No proof was given to show that the other five voters had taken part in the proposition; therefore, only four votes were considered illegal because of any inducement offered by Aztec. These four voters were: Simon Martinez, Enrique Monzanores, Crisostome Dominquez, and Juan N. Jaquez, and it was held that their votes should be subtracted from the Aztec total.[53]

Judge Seeds also held in regard to Aztec's vote that one Crouch had received a lot the day before the election as a gift. His vote, for Aztec, was declared illegal. Charles Tinkerson, it was shown, had been given a lot after the election. This lot had been promised to him before the election by Mr. Kountz, a member of the Aztec Town Company. The court held that this lot seemed to have been given as an inducement for the vote, and was therefore illegal, and should be subtracted from the Aztec total along with that of Mr. Crouch.[54] This action concluded the case against Aztec,

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[53] Ibid., p. 677.

[54] Loc. cit.

ment, and thus would have qualified their votes. However, none of these things had happened, except with the individual members of the Loyal Association, which was not a legal body representing the town or Lorne. After the meeting that nine of the members of the Lorne Association voted for Yates, but of these nine only [illegible] at the meeting of the committees of the two companies [illegible] proposition to show that the other five votes had been put in the opposition; therefore, only four votes were considered invalid because of any improper effect by Yates. These four voters were: Simon Martinez, Antoine Gonzaloza, Clemente Domingues, and Juan M. Tadeo, and it was held that the votes should be subtracted from the Yates total.[53]

Judge Deale also held in regard to Lorenzo Vasquez, one Crouch, had received a bit the day before the election as a gift. His vote, for Yates, was declared illegal. Overlooking Tinkerson, it was shown, had been given a bit after the election. This bit had been promised to him before the election by Mr. Adonte, a member of the Yates Committee. The court held that this promised to Mr. Tinkerson was an inducement for the vote, and was therefore illegal, and should be subtracted from the Yates total. Same was true of Mr. Crouch.[54] This action changed the case against Yates.

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[53] Ibid., p. 177.

[54] Loc. cit.

and through bribery, inducement, votes by non-residents, votes by aliens, and votes not contested as illegal, that place was to have nine votes subtracted from its total.

Thus the election had been declared legal with certain illegal aspects which led to the subtraction of votes from both Junction City's and Aztec's totals. Judge Seeds then presented his final opinion of the case. This opinion follows:

> I find the following facts (1) That upon November 4, 1890, there was an election held in San Juan County for the location of the county seat. (2) That said election was held in accordance with Chapter 7, Laws 1889. (3) That at said election there was cast 502 votes of which Junction City received 255, Aztec 246, Farmington.1 (4) That the board of county canvassers declared Junction City chosen as the county seat by a majority of 9 votes over its nearest competitor Aztec. (5) That from the 255 votes cast for Junction City there should be deducted, as illegal, 23 votes, having, as legal votes cast in favor of Junction City 232. (6) That from the 246 votes cast for Aztec there should be deducted as illegal votes, 9 votes, leaving, as legal votes cast in favor of Aztec 237. (7) That of the legal votes cast, the place known as "Aztec" received a majority of 5 votes over Junction City. As a legal conclusion, I find that the place known as "Aztec" having received a majority of 5 votes over its next nearest competitor is the legally elected county seat of San Juan County. As both parties, as shown by testimony, were using means to gain their ends, which were not legal, the cost will be divided as in the decrees set out; judgement [sic] will be given for the complaintant (Aztec).[55]

Soon after this decision by the trial judge, the de-

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[55] C. H. Gildersleeve, Reports, op. cit., pp. 680-681.

fendant (Junction City) appealed the case to the Territorial Supreme Court, and on August 24, 1892, this tribunal handed down its decision upholding the findings of the lower court. The decision of the higher authority is here given:

> Freeman, J. -- There is no error in the records and the decree will be affirmed. The facts are as follows: On November 4, 1890, there was an election held in San Juan County, for the purpose of locating a county seat. The principal competitors were Aztec and Junction City. The Friends of both places resorted to every possible means to procure votes for their perspective [sic] choice. The District Judge, sitting as a chancellor, found that persons had been allowed to vote who were not legally qualified, and also that a large number had been induced to vote in the one way or the other by presents in the shape of town lots. The number of persons so induced to vote and the means by which the improper influence were brought to bear as set out in detail in a very carefully prepared opinion of the trial judge, whose findings of fact, and whose application of the law thereto, are in our opinion, in the main correct, and are here given in the language of the judge
> O'Brien, C. J., and Lee and McFie, J. J., concur.[56]

On September 7, 1892, the Board of County Commissioners met at Junction City, a certified copy of the Supreme Court's decision was read and ordered incorporated into the minutes of the meeting. It stated in part:

> It is therefore ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the court that the decree of the District Court in and for the County of San Juan whence this cause came into this court be ... hereby affirmed, and that in accordance therewith the County Seat of the County of San Juan, Territory of New Mexico, be and hereby is established at the town of Aztec in said

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[56] Ibid., pp. 681-682.

> county, and that said appellants Henry Hull, Henry J. Kiffin, and Louis Wilmers, the board of County Commissioners of the County of San Juan, Territory of New Mexico, and John C. Carson, Sheriff, Frank M. Pierce, Treasurer, J. K. Kello, Probate Clerk, Salome Jacquez, Probate Judge, and Nestor Martinez, Assessor of said County of San Juan or their successors in office, forthwith, within 10 days from service of copy of this decree, remove, and establish at the said town of Aztec their respective officers together with all books, papers, records, archives, and documents pertaining thereto, and that they maintain their said several offices at said place called Aztec, that place having been legally and lawfully selected and chosen by a majority of the legal voters of said county as its county seat.... [57]

The minutes of the next meeting of the Board of County Commissioners are dated Aztec, New Mexico, October 3, 1892;[58] so that sometime between September 7 and October 3, 1892, the county records and offices were moved from Junction City to Aztec.

This courthouse fight caused a serious split in county unity that continues even today for the young and old alike. Charges and counter charges are made, and fantastic stories have been allowed to grow, gathering "wild west" color with each re-telling. One such story is that heavily armed "night-riders" from Aztec came down to Junction City, stole the records, burned the courthouse, and carried the records to Aztec. There is some truth in the

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[57] "Commissioners Journal," Book 1, pp. 152-153.

[58] Ibid., p. 154.

story: the records were removed at night, probably because the logical time to remove them was after the close of the working day. Those who helped in the removal were armed, for the area was still a frontier where Supreme Court decisions did not carry the force they do today, and also, because of the bitterness over the dispute, trouble could be expected. The courthouse at Junction City was destroyed by fire, but this was some two years after the removal of the records, and after the ex-courthouse was being used as a recreation hall by the people of the Peninsula. Even when this story is refuted there are those who claim that the records were removed before the court action was final. This charge is also false; for the minutes of the last meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held in Junction City contain the Supreme Court's findings and its order for the removal of county offices and records. It may well be true that the citizens as a whole did not know of this decision, but there can be no doubt that the county officials responsible for the removal of offices and records to Aztec knew that their action was entirely legal -- even mandatory. The dispute is one that the people of San Juan County should investigate thoroughly before making charges or countercharges -- or accepting those made by others --, or better still one which they should forget entirely for the betterment of the county as a whole.

story: the records were removed at night, probably because the logical time to remove them was after the close of the working day. Those who supported the removal were wrong, for the area was still a frontier where supreme individualism did not carry the force they no doubt felt it should be. Because of the bitterness felt by the delegates, no gift could be expected. The courthouse, at Hampton City, was destroyed by fire, but this was some two years after the removal of the records, and after the re-capitulation was being used as a recreation hall by the people of the community. Even when this story is refuted there are those who claim that the records were removed before the court action was final. This charge is also false; for the minutes of the last meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held in Hampton City contain the Supreme Court's findings and its order for the removal of county offices and records. It may well be true that the citizens as a whole did not approve of this decision, but there can be no doubt that the county officials responsible for the removal of offices and records in Aiken knew that their action was strictly legal -- even mandatory. The dispute is one that the people of San Juan County should investigate thoroughly before making charges or counter-charges -- or accepting those made by others -- or better still one which they should forget entirely for the betterment of the county as a whole.

Today the county courthouse stands on land donated to the county by John and Emaline Kountz. These founders of Aztec on September 23, 1892, deeded to the county all of Block 33 in the town of Aztec.[59] With the county seat permanently located we turn to a survey of the government and politics of the area between 1887 and 1926.

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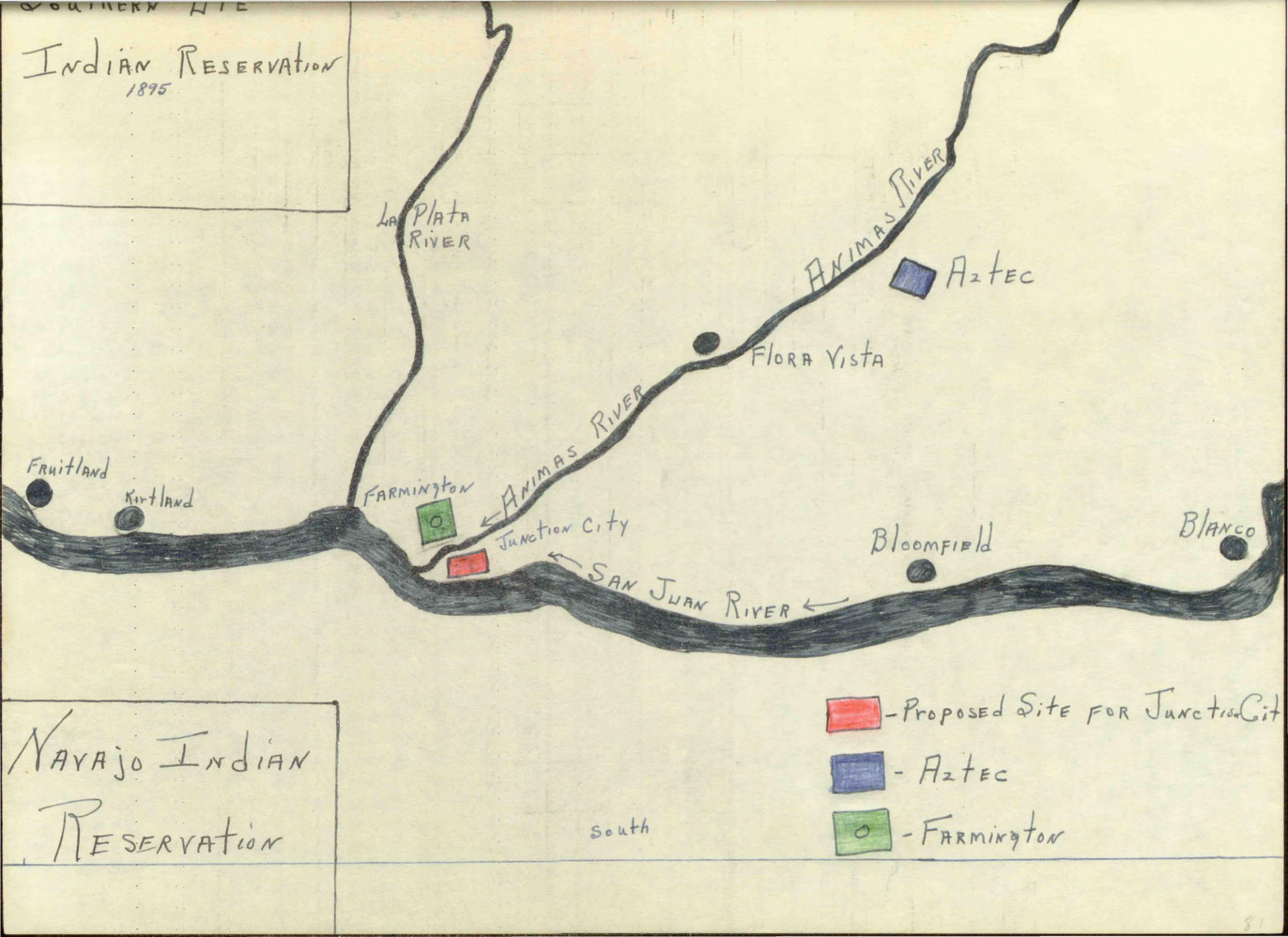
[59] "Deed Records," Book 3, p. 113.

CHAPTER IV

SAN JUAN COUNTY POLITICS 1888 TO 1926

San Juan County's political history while it was a part of Rio Arriba County was practically nil because of the isolation of the region from the seat of government at Tierra Amarilla. During these years (1881-1887) the locale did not contribute a single candidate or officer to the county government; however, certain appointive officials, such as a Deputy Sheriff, were chosen from its citizenry. The true political history of the area had its beginning then with its creation as a separate governmental unit. Its first county officers, as indicated in a preceding chapter, were appointed by the territorial governor to serve until the next general election. These appointed officials served the county well, and fathered its beginnings in government. The first county officers elected by the people were chosen in an election held on November 6, 1888.

Five major political trends are found in the county's governmental development between the years 1888 and 1926. These are: (1) A two party system with a third party often present. (2) The struggle against the saloon in both city, county, and state. (3) The use of the direct primary in choosing party candidates for general elections. (4) The


Southern Ute
Indian Reservation
1895
La Plata River
Animas River
Aztec
Flora Vista
Animas River
Fruitland
Kirtland
Farmington
Junction City
San Juan River
Bloomfield
Blanco
Navajo Indian Reservation
South
-Proposed Site for Junction City
- Aztec
- Farmington

locale's stand on statehood, and New Mexico's Constitution. (5) The county in national and state politics after New Mexico entered the Union. Each of these developments merit individual consideration, and will be discussed in turn. A chart of elections will also be presented to show political party trends in local governments.

In the election of November 6, 1888, only two parties -- Democratic and Republican -- were represented, although for three offices, those of Probate Judge, Sheriff, and Assessor, there were independent candidates. These independent candidates, however, did not constitute a third political party. The Republicans secured the majority of county offices by electing the County Commissioners in the second and third districts (thus controlling the board), Probate Judge, County Clerk, Superintendent of Schools, Coroner, and elected their candidate for membership in the Territorial Assembly. However, their victory was rather a hollow one since the Democrats elected their candidates to the important posts of Sheriff, Assessor, and Treasurer, and gave a strong majority to their candidate for Delegate to Congress. Moreover, the Democrats were assured a voice in the Board of County Commissioners by electing their candidate from the first district.[1] A chart of this election is here given to show the

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[1] "San Juan County Commissioners Journal," Book 1, pp. 24-25, (Dated November 9, 1888). Hereafter cited as "Commissioners Journal."

Locale's stand on statehood, and New Mexico's constitution.

(5) The county in national and state politics after New Mexico entered the Union. Each of these developments merits individual consideration, and will be discussed in turn. A chart of elections will also be presented to show political party trends in local government.

In the election of November 6, 1928, only two parties -- Democratic and Republican -- presented candidates, although for three offices, those of probate judge, sheriff, and assessor, there were independent candidates. These independent candidates, however, did not constitute a third political party. The Republicans secured the majority of county officers by electing the County Commissioners in the second district (thus controlling the board), Probate Judge, County Clerk, Superintendent of Schools, Coroner, and elected their candidate for membership in the Territorial Assembly. However, their victory was neither a landslide nor a clean sweep. Democrats elected their candidates to the important posts of Sheriff, Assessor, and Treasurer, and gave a strong majority to their candidate for Delegate to Congress. However, the Democrats were assured a voice in the Board of County Commissioners by electing their candidate from the first district.[1] A chart of this election is here given to show the

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[1] "San Juan County Commissioners Journal," Book 2, pp. 24-25, (Dated November 2, 1928). Hereafter cited as "Commissioners Journal."

near equal division of power of the two parties among the electorate of the county.

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTE
Delegate to Congress	Anthony Joseph	Democratic*	234
	Mariano S. Otero	Republican	169
Member of the Territorial Council	J. H. Crist	Democratic*	201
	Pedro J. Jaramillo	Republican	193
Member of the Territorial Assembly	H. W. Cox	Democratic	199
	S. D. Webster	Republican*	204
County Commissioner 1st District	L. F. Wilmers	Democratic*	225
	M. S. Pacheco	Republican	177
2nd District	P. M. Salmon	Democratic	190
	H. J. Kiffin	Republican*	212
3rd District	L. W. Coe	Democratic	122
	Henry Hull	Republican*	279
Probate Judge	J. M. Lujan	Democratic	178
	Salome Jaquez	Republican*	187
	D. B. Ross	Independent	34
County Clerk	E. D. Sharp	Democratic	170
	J. G.Kello	Republican*	230
	J. W. Berry	Independent	1
Sheriff	J. C. Carson	Democratic*	187
	F. V. Williams	Republican	127
	J. G. Wellitt	Independent	90
Superintendent of Schools	Hugh Griffin	Democratic	154
	J. W. McDermott	Republican*	246
	Mrs. Pervis	Independent	1
Assessor	Nestor Martinez	Democratic*	151
	Francisco Garcia	Republican	143
	C. G. Brewer	Independent	111
Treasurer	F. M. Pierce	Democratic*	251
	C. H. McHenry	Republican	153
Coroner	C. Kehoe	Democratic	32
	Charles Virden	Republican*	140 [2]

* Indicates official elected.

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[2] "Commissioners Journal," Book 1, pp. 24-25.

near equal division of power of the two parties among the electorate of the county.

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES
Delegate to Congress	Antony Leeds	Democratic*	234
	William H. Stern	Republican	169
Member of the Territorial Council	J. H. Curtis	Democratic*	201
	Pedro J. Garcella	Republican	103
Member of the Territorial Assembly	A. A. Cox	Democratic	197
	S. D. Webster	Republican*	204
County Commissioner			
1st District	I. M. Villers	Democratic*	237
	R. S. Kennedy	Republican	174
2nd District	F. A. Saxon	Democratic	190
	R. . Allen	Republican*	212
3rd District	J. W. Coe	Democratic	122
	Henry Hull	Republican*	219
Probate Judge	J. H. Dolan	Democratic	198
	Solomon Jarvis	Republican*	187
	D. E. Ross	Independent	34
County Clerk	E. D. Shaw	Democratic	172
	J. C. Kello	Republican*	230
	C. W. Berry	Independent	1
Sheriff	J. P. Carson	Democratic*	187
	F. T. Williams	Republican	177
	J. E. Wallis	Independent	39
Superintendent of Schools	Hugh Griffin	Democratic	189
	J. A. Roberson	Republican*	224
	Mrs. Harris	Independent	1
Assessor	Victor Martinez	Democratic	191
	Francisco Garcia	Republican	185
	C. C. Brewer	Independent	12
Treasurer	R. M. Pierce	Democratic*	197
	C. H. Kenny	Republican	177
Coroner	C. Kane	Democratic	172
	Charles Virden	Republican*	190

* Indicates official elected.

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2 "Commissioners Journal," Book 3, pp. 24-27.

The split in county offices indicated in the above chart is a general trend which runs throughout the political development of the region. There was in almost every election a dominance of one party; yet never was any one party able to sweep all offices. This was undoubtedly due to the fact that the people often voted for the man rather than the party. The following chart which presents election results from 1888 to 1926 bears out the above statement.

YEAR	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY DEMOCRATS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY REPUBLICANS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY THIRD PARTY	TOTAL
1888[3]	Assessor Commissioner of 1st Dist. Sheriff Treasurer	Clerk Commissioner of 2nd Dist. and 3rd Dist. Coroner Probate Judge Representative Supt. of Schools		D.-4 R.-7
1890[4]	Clerk Commissioner of 3rd Dist. Coroner Representative Sheriff Supt. of Schools Treasurer	Commissioners of 1st and 2nd Dist. Assessor Probate Judge		D.-7 R.-4
1892[5]	Clerk Commissioners of 2nd and 3rd Dists.	Commissioner of 1st Dist. Probate Judge Sheriff		D.-9 R.-3

[3] Ibid., pp. 24-25.

[4] Ibid., p. 83.

[5] Ibid., pp. 159-160.

The split in county offices indicated in the above chart is a general trend which characterized the political development of the region. There was in place every election a dominance of one party; yet never was any one party able to sweep all offices. This was undoubtedly due to the fact that the people often voted for the man rather than the party. The following charts in all offices elected from 1888 to 1926 bears out the above statement.

YEAR	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY DEMOCRATS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY REPUBLICANS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY FUSIONISTS
1888[3]	Assessor Commissioner of 1st Dist. Sheriff Treasurer	Clerk Commissioner of 2nd Dist. and 3rd Dist. Coroner Probate Judge Superintendent Supt. of Schools	R.-4 R.-2
1890[4]	Clerk Commissioner of 3rd Dist. Coroner Representative Sheriff Supt. of Schools Treasurer	Commissioner of 1st and 2nd Dist. Assessor Probate Judge	R.-5 R.-4
1892[5]	Clerk Commissioners of 2nd and 3rd Dists.	Commissioner of 1st Dist. Probate Judge Sheriff	D.-5 R.-3

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[3] Ibid., pp. 24-25.

[4] Ibid., p. 83.

[5] Ibid., pp. 159-160.

YEAR	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY DEMOCRATS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY REPUBLICANS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY THIRD PARTY	TOTAL
1892 Cont.	Assessor Coroner Representative Supt. of Schools Surveyor Treasurer			
1894[6]	Representative	Coroner	Populist Party Commissioners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Dists. Assessor Clerk Probate Judge Sheriff Supt. of Schools Surveyor Treasurer	D.-1 R.-1 P.-10
1896[7]	Sheriff		Populist Party Assessor Clerk Commissioners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Dists. Coroner Probate Judge Representative Supt. of Schools Surveyor Treasurer	D.-1 R.-0 P.-11
1898[8]	Assessor Commissioners of 2nd and 3rd Dists. Sheriff Supt. of Schools Surveyor	Clerk Commissioner of 1st Dist. Probate Judge Representative Treasurer	Populist Party defeated by a Democratic-Republican Union.	D.-6 R.-5 P.-0

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[6] Ibid., pp. 259-263.

[7] Ibid., pp. 370-374, and San Juan Times, November 6 and 13, 1896.

[8] San Juan Times, November 11, 1891.

YEAR	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY DEMOCRATS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY REPUBLICANS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY NON-PARTY	TOTAL
1892 Cont.	Assessor Coroner Representative Supt. of Schools Surveyor Treasurer			
1894[6]	Representative	Coroner		
1896[7]	Sheriff			
1898[8]	Assessor Commissioners of 2nd and 3rd Dists. Sheriff Supt. of Schools Surveyor	Clerk Commissioner of 1st Dist. Probate Judge Representative Treasurer	Public Defender Sheriff by Appointment Superior Court Judge Supreme Court Judge	D.-6 R.-5 I.-0

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[6] Idaho, pp. 239-303.

[7] Idaho, pp. 370-374, and Des Moines Tribune, November 6 and 13, 1896.

[8] San Juan Times, November 12, 1898.

YEAR	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY DEMOCRATS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY REPUBLICANS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY THIRD PARTY	TOTAL
1900[9]	Commissioners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Dists. Sheriff	Assessor Clerk Representative Supt. of Schools Surveyor	Populist Party Probate Judge Treasurer	D.-4 R.-5 P.-2
1902[10]	Clerk Assessor Probate Judge Surveyor Treasurer	Representative Sheriff Supt. of Schools Commissioners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd, Dists.		D.-5 R.-6
1904[11]	Assessor Clerk Commissioners of 1st and 3rd Dists. Probate Judge Sheriff Supt. of Schools Surveyor	Commissioner of 2nd Dist.(Held over from election of 1902) Representative Treasurer		D.-8 R.-3
1906[12]	Assessor Clerk Commissioners of 1st and 2nd Dists. (Commissioner of 3rd Dist. held over from 1904) Probate Judge Sheriff Supt. of Schools Surveyor	Delegate to Constitutional Convention of 1906. Representative Treasurer		D.-9 R.-3

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[9] Farmington Times, January 18, 1900.

[10] Ibid., October 10 and November 5, 1902.

[11] Farmington Times Hustler, September 29, October 6, and November 4, 1904.

[12] Ibid., October 11 and November 8, 1906.

YEAR	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY DEMOCRATS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY REPUBLICANS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY PEOPLE'S PARTY	TOTAL
1900[9]	Commissioners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Dists. Sheriff	Assessor Clerk Supervisor of Schools Surveyor	Probate Judge Treasurer	R.-4 D.-2 P.-2
1902[10]	Clerk Assessor Probate Judge Surveyor Treasurer			D.-5 R.-4
1904[11]	Assessor Clerk Commissioners of 1st and 3rd Dists. Probate Judge Sheriff Supt. of Schools Surveyor			
1906[12]	Assessor Clerk Commissioners of 1st and 2nd Dists. (Consisting of 3rd Dist. held over from 1904) Probate Judge Sheriff Supt. of Schools Surveyor			D.-2 R.-3

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9 Barbiere Sheet, January 4, 1901.

10 Ibid., October 17 and November 7, 1902.

11 Hamilton Times Bulletin, September 29, October 6, and November 4, 1904.

12 Ibid., October 11 and November 8, 1906.

YEAR	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY DEMOCRATS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY REPUBLICANS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY THIRD PARTY	TOTAL
1908[13]	Assessor Clerk Commissioner of 3rd Dist. (Commissioner of 1st Dist. held over from 1906) Probate Judge Sheriff Surveyor Treasurer	Representative Commissioner of 2nd Dist. Supt. of Schools	Socialist Party present first candidates, but elect none. Poll 1/15 of vote.	D.-8 R.-3 S.-0
1910[14]	Two Delegates to Constitutional Convention	Presented candidates	Presented candidates	D.-2 R.-0 S.-0
	All other county officials elected in 1908 to be held over to general election of 1911.			
1911[15] To hold office until Jan.1 1917	Assessor Clerk Commissioners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Dist. Sheriff Supt. of Schools Surveyor Treasurer	Representative Probate Judge	Socialist Party again entered ticket but elected no candidates.	D.-9 R.-2 S.-0
1914[16]	Presented candidate	Representative	Progressive Party presented candidate	D.-0 R.-1 Pr.-0

[13] Ibid., September 10, 1908, and November 12, 1908.

[14] Ibid., September 15, 1910.

[15] Ibid., September 21, October 5, and November 11, 1911.

[16] Ibid., August 13, 20, and 27, and November 5, 1914.

YEAR	INCORRECT	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY ELECTORS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY ELECTORS AND THE PEOPLE	TOTAL
1908[13]	Assessor Clerk Commissioner of 3rd Dist. (Commissioner of 1st Dist.	Commissioner of 2nd Dist. Supt. of Schools	Sheriff Treasurer Surveyor Coroner Public Judge Probate Judge Sheriff Surveyor Treasurer	8.-2 8.-3 5.-2
1910[14]	two Delegates to Constitutional Convention	Prosecuting Attorney County Clerk	Treasurer Commissioners Sheriff Surveyor Coroner Supt. of Schools Assessor Clerk Commissioners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Dist.	2.-0 3.-0 3.-0 3.-0 3.-0 3.-0 3.-0 3.-0 3.-0
1911[15] To hold office until Jan.1 1912	All other county officials elected in 1908 to be held over to general election of 1911.			
1914[16]	Prosecuting Attorney Treasurer Sheriff Surveyor Coroner Supt. of Schools Assessor Clerk Commissioners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Dist.	Superintendent of Schools Probate Judge Sheriff Surveyor Coroner Supt. of Schools Assessor Clerk Commissioners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Dist.	Prosecuting Attorney Treasurer Sheriff Surveyor Coroner Supt. of Schools Assessor Clerk Commissioners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Dist.	0.-0 2.-1 2.-0 2.-0 2.-0 2.-0 2.-0 2.-0 2.-0

13 Ibid., September 10, 1912, and November 12, 1912.

14 Ibid., December 15, 1910.

15 Ibid., September 21, October 5, and November 11, 1911.

16 Ibid., August 17, 20, and 27, and November 3, 1914.

YEAR	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY DEMOCRATS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY REPUBLICANS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY THIRD PARTY	TOTAL
1916[17]	Representative Assessor Commissioners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Dist. Probate Judge Surveyor Treasurer	Clerk Sheriff Supt. of Schools	Socialists had candidate for Representative only. Carried only 71 votes	D.-8 R.-3 S.-0
1918[18]	Assessor Clerk Commissioners of 1st and 3rd Dists. Probate Judge Representative Sheriff Surveyor Treasurer	Commissioner of 2nd Dist. Supt. of Schools	No third party in field.	D.-9 R.-2
1920[19]	Assessor Clerk Sheriff Treasurer	Commissioners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Dists. Probate Judge Representative Supt. of Schools Surveyor		D.-4 R.-7
1922[20]	Assessor Clerk Commissioners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Dists. Probate Judge	Sheriff Treasurer		D.-9 R.-2

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[17] Ibid., September 21, and November 9, 1916.

[18] Farmington Times Hustler, September 26, and November 21, 1918.

[19] Ibid., September 2, and 23, and November 11, 1920.

[20] Ibid., September 28, and November 9, 1922.

17 Ibid., September 21, and November 5, 1917.

18 Retaliation Time Limits, September 23, and November 21, 1918.

19 Ibid., September 5, and 23, and November 21, 1920.

20 Ibid., September 28, and November 9, 1922.

YEAR	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY DEMOCRATS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY REPUBLICANS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY THIRD PARTY	TOTAL
1922 Cont.	Representative Supt. of Schools Surveyor			
1924[21]	Assessor Clerk Commissioners of 1st and 2nd Dists. Representative Supt. of Schools Surveyor	Commissioner of 3rd Dist. Probate Judge Sheriff	Bill Butler, Democrat, elected State Senator from shoestring district (San Juan, Sandoval, and Bernalillo Counties)	D.-8 R.-3
1926[22]	Clerk Commissioners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Dists. Representative Sheriff Supt. of Schools Surveyor Treasurer	Assessor Probate Judge		D.-9 R.-2

D. - Democratic Party
R. - Republican Party
P. - Populist Party
Pr.- Progressive Party
S. - Socialist Party

The preceding chart bears out the earlier statement that in every county election between 1888 and 1926, the county offices were divided between the parties placing candidates before the electorate. In some election years

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[21] Ibid., September 12, October 24, and November 7,1924.

[22] Ibid., November 12, 1926.

YEAR	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY DEMOCRATS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY REPUBLICANS	OFFICIALS ELECTED BY LABOR PARTY	TOTAL
1922 Cont.	Representative Supt. of Schools Surveyor			
1924[21]	Assessor Clerk Commissioners of 1st and 2nd Dists. Representative Supt. of Schools Surveyor	Commissioner of 3rd Dist. Probate Judge Sheriff	Bill Dalton Commerce, elected State Sents from Assembly District (Sam Levy, Samuel Levy and Bernadin Cornelius)	
1926[22]	Clerk Commissioners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Dists. Representative Sheriff Supt. of Schools Surveyor Treasurer	Assessor Probate Judge		

D. - Democratic Party
R. - Republican Party
P. - Populist Party
Pr.- Progressive Party
S. - Socialist Party

The preceding chart bears out the earlier statement that in every county election between 1888 and 1924, the county offices were divided between the parties placing candidates before the electorate. In these election years

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[21] Ibid., September 12, October 24, and November 7, 1924.

[22] Ibid., November 12, 1926.

however, control swung more sharply to one party, especially in 1894, 1896 and the last years surveyed. Despite these exceptions, the minority in most elections controlled a number of the major offices in the county hiearchy. In all but seven of the nineteen elections the Democratic Party won a majority of the county offices. However, the area was not predominantly Democratic, their majority was often small, and their pluralities were never great. One cannot claim a clear cut supremacy for any party in San Juan County politics.

The election years of 1894 and 1896 are worthy of a more detailed discussion; for in these years one finds not only the development of a third party in San Juan County politics, but a victory won by this third party as well. Prior to 1894 only the two usual political parties -- Democratic and Republican -- were active in county politics, with an occasional independent candidate splitting the vote. Beginning in 1894, one finds three third-party developments; the Populist or Peoples Party, organized in 1894, the Socialist Party which had its beginnings in 1908, and the Progressive Party of 1914.

San Juan County's Populist Party was organized on July 28, 1894, at a meeting at Flora Vista. At this meeting Judge Cameron was chosen chairman, and Monroe Fields was selected as secretary of the new organization. In addition to these officers a precinct chairman was chosen

for each of the county's nine voting areas:

Precinct Number 1	- Pine River	- W. Bruddenbrach
Precinct Number 2	- Aztec	- R. C. Prewitt
Precinct Number 3	- La Plata	- John Real
Precinct Number 4	- Olio (Fruitland-Kirtland)	- S. D. Webster
Precinct Number 5	- Farmington	- W. S. Mitchell
Precinct Number 6	- Bloomfield	- Fill Green
Precinct Number 7	- Largo	- J. N. Jaquez
Precinct Number 8	- Flora Vista	- C. S. Cameron
Precinct Number 9	- Blanco	- Juan B. Valdez [23]

The above officers gave the new party a strong county organization, and weakened the Democratic and Republican Parties at the same time; for the above men were about equally divided in formerly having been members of the two older parties.

The Populist Party placed their first candidates before the voters in the election of 1894, and promptly won all county offices with the exception of those of Representative, which went to the Democrats, and Coroner, won by the Republican candidate.[24] The election results are here charted to picture the sound defeat of the older parties by this newly organized group.

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTE
Representative	C. S. Cameron	Populist	219
	William Locke	Democratic	258
	F. J. Coolidge	Republican	187

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[23] San Juan Times, August 3, 1894.

[24] Ibid., November 9, 1894.

for each of the county's [illegible] offices:

President Number 1 - [illegible]
President Number 2 - [illegible]
President Number 3 - [illegible]
President Number 4 - [illegible]

President Number 5 - [illegible]
President Number 6 - [illegible]
President Number 7 - [illegible]
President Number 8 - [illegible]
President Number 9 - [illegible]

The above officers are the [illegible] [illegible] location, and maintain [illegible] at the same time; for [illegible] are [illegible] divided in [illegible] between [illegible] parties.

The Republicans always have close competition before the voters in the election of 1970, the majority of all county officers with the exception of three are Republicans, which went to the Democrats, and Democrat, [illegible] the Republican majority. [illegible] elected to plurality [illegible] by this newly organized group.

Office	Candidate	Party	Pct
Representative	C. [illegible]	Republican	3%
	William [illegible]	Democrat	3%
	[illegible]	Republican	3%

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[23] San Juan Times, August 1, 1970.

[24] Ibid., November 5, 1970.

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTE
Sheriff	A. E. Dustin	Populist	254
	John Morrison	Democratic	160
	Charles Virden	Republican	208
Probate Judge	C. Dominquez	Populist	303
	Luis Wilmer	Democratic	206
	F. S. Martinez	Republican	114
Clerk	William McRae	Populist	322
	F. H. Tulley	Democratic	119
	A. F. Stump	Republican	185
Commissioner 1st Dist.	H. Manzonares	Populist	278
	D. E. Lobato	Democratic	190
	F. Garcia	Republican	150
2nd Dist.	P. M. Salmon	Populist	275
	C. G. Brewer	Democratic	165
	H. J. Kiffin	Republican	184
3rd Dist.	John Real	Populist	234
	J. G. Willet	Democratic	163
	S. R. Blake	Republican	227
Supt. of Schools	Harry Allen	Populist	249
	W. Dalton	Democratic	168
	E. O. Booram	Republican	208
Assessor	Teofolo Jacquez	Populist	290
	Llewellyn Kinzly	Democratic	133
	Charles Tonkinson	Republican	201
Treasurer	Munroe Fields	Populist	259
	F. M. Pierce	Democratic	217
	C. H. McHenry	Republican	148
Surveyor	H. B. Hawkins	Populist	307
	G. E. Kentner	Republican	211
Coroner	F. E. Prewitt	Democratic	198
	A. Bowman	Republican	203 [25]

[25] "Commissioners Journal," Book 1, pp. 159-163.

The chart shows that in most cases the Populist candidate received a plurality of nearly 100 votes over his nearest rival; yet it also indicates that the power of this new party was not strong enough to defeat a coalition of the two older parties.

In the election of 1896 there were again three parties in the field, and again the Populist Party all but swept the election. This time it elected all its candidates with the exception of Sheriff, whose office the Democratic candidate won by a scant twenty-two vote plurality.[26] The loss of the election must have alarmed the Democrats and Republicans, but their alarm must have been even greater upon learning that the pluralities of Populists showed a gain over what they had been two years previously. In some of the races for office, such as Representative, Commissioners of second and third districts, Clerk, and Treasurer, the Populists had polled more votes than the two other parties candidates combined.[27]

This development forced the Democrats and Republicans into united action in the next election in 1898. The election of a Democratic Sheriff in 1896, in the absence of a Republican candidate for that post, undoubtedly had its

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[26] San Juan Times, November 6, 1896.

[27] "Commissioners Journal," Book 1, pp. 370-374.

effect upon their decision to form a coalition to defeat the Populists. This lone Democratic victory had showed them that the Populist's strength was not great enough to elect a major official when only two candidates were present, or when the vote was split only two ways rather than three. It also indicated that the Republicans would support a Democrat in preference to a Populist. In addition, the defeat of the Republican candidate for Superintendent of Schools, in the absence of a Democratic candidate, by only eleven votes, meant that the Democrats had supported the Republican candidate. The gains made by the Populists in the race for such offices as Representative, Clerk, and Treasurer would tend to disprove this theory; yet the Democrats and Republicans came to accept coalition as their only means of defeating a third party.

This coalition was agreed upon at the Republican Convention of October 1, 1898, and the candidates for county offices were divided between the two parties. In this division, the Republicans were to nominate candidates for Treasurer, Clerk, Commissioner of First District, and Probate Judge. The Democrats were to sponsor candidates for Sheriff, Commissioners of Second and Third Districts, Superintendent of Schools, Assessor, and Surveyor. Both parties were to enter candidates for the important office of Repre-

sentative.[28] This division may have been based in part on the number of votes polled by each party in separate races in the previous election. The Republicans had polled more votes than the Democrats in the races for Clerk and Treasurer; however, in all other cases the party granted the office in the above division had polled the least number of votes in a three-candidate field.[29]

Against this unification, the Populists in convention at Flora Vista on September 24, 1898, placed a strong ticket in the field. However, they made one mistake in forming their ticket that contributed to their loss of support, and at the same time gave the coalition something upon which to base their attack. One of the major planks of the Populists' platform called for the rotation in office of county officials. Yet, in 1896 they had nominated, and the people returned to office, five incumbents.[30] In their list of candidates presented in 1898 three incumbents -- Commissioner of Second District, Clerk, and Treasurer -- were placed on the ticket for offices already held four years. In addition, two other officials who had held the offices of Commissioner of First District and Assessor for four years were

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[28] San Juan Times, October 7, 1898.

[29] "Commissioners Journal," Book 1, pp. 370-374.

[30] The incumbents were Commissioners of First, Second, and Third Districts, Clerk, and Treasurer.

sentative.[28] This division may have been based in part on the number of votes polled by each party in separate races in the previous election. The Republicans had polled more votes than the Democrats in the races for Clerk and Treasurer; however, in all other cases the party nominated the office in the above division had polled the least number of votes in a three-candidate field.[29]

Against this multicandidate, the Populists in convention at Mora Vista on September 24, 1890, placed a full ticket in the field. However, they made one mistake in placing their ticket that contributed to their loss of support, and at the same time gave the committee something upon which to base their attack. One of the major planks of the Populists' platform called for the retention in office of county officials. Yet, in 1890 they had nominated, and the people returned to office, five incumbents.[30] In fact, of candidates presented in 1890 three incumbents -- Commissioner of Second District, Clerk, and Treasurer -- were placed on the ticket for offices already held four years. In addition, two other officials who had held the offices of commissioner of First District and Assessor for four years were

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28 San Juan Times, October 7, 1890.

29 "Commissioners Journal," Book 1, pp. 370-371.

30 The incumbents were Commissioners of First, Second, and Third Districts, Clerk, and Treasurer.

seeking the offices of Probate Judge and Commissioner of the First District, respectively.[31]

The above action was hardly in tune with the rotation platform of the Populist Party. The Republicans and Democrats were quick to point this out to the voters, and raised their voices against the non-rotation practices and the third terms requested by the Populists. The San Juan Times, a Democratic newspaper published at Farmington, stated: "Rotation indeed! First term, beans and potatoes. Second term potatoes and beans. Third term beans and potatoes with a few new cabbage heads thrown in."[32] The union of the Democrats and Republicans, and this mistake made by the Populists, resulted in a complete victory for the fusion candidates in the election of November 7, 1898. The defeat was such that the Populist Party never recovered, nor was it ever again a serious threat to Democratic and Republican control in San Juan County.[33] In the election of 1900, however, the Populists did succeed in electing the County Treasurer and Probate Clerk.[34] The election of 1900 was the last time the Populists offered candidates, and from that

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[31] San Juan Times, September 30, 1898.

[32] Ibid., October 28, 1898.

[33] Ibid., November 11, 1898.

[34] Farmington Times, January 18, 1901.

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[31] San Juan Times, September 22, 1894.

[32] Ibid., October 26, 1894.

[33] Ibid., November 11, 1894.

[34] Farmington Times, January 11, 1900.

date on Populism became a dead issue in San Juan County politics.

The Socialist Party was the next third party to enter San Juan County politics; however, it was never to reach the importance of the Populist Party. The Socialists organized in the summer of 1908, and nominated their first political ticket for the election of November 3 of that year. Among its candidates were men from Farmington, Aztec, and Flora Vista, and one candidate at least -- William McRae for Clerk -- was a former member of the disbanded Populist Party. In the election of 1908, and others, this party was hardly a threat as it was never able to poll more than one-fifteenth of the total vote cast.[35] The group received some drive in May of 1910 when a national Socialist Party organizer, Miss Anna Maley, spoke to an audience of about 200 at Allen's Hall in Farmington.[36] Despite this interest, their candidates in 1910 for delegates to the Constitutional Convention, William McRae and D. E. Bundy, received but seventy-seven and fifty-eight votes respectively in an election in which the two highest candidates received 508 and 493 votes.[37] The fact that the major portion of the Socialist

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[35] Farmington Times Hustler, September 10 and November 12, 1908; September 15, 1910; and November 10, 1911.

[36] Ibid., May 26, 1910.

[37] Ibid., September 15, 1910.

data on Population Density [illegible] Los Angeles County [illegible]
titles.

The Socialist Party was [illegible] to enter San Luis Obispo politics [illegible], it was [illegible] to [illegible] the importance of the Populist party. [illegible] organized in the winter of 1896, [illegible] political [illegible] for the election of [illegible] among its candidates [illegible] Flora Vista, [illegible] for Clerk -- was a former member of the Democratic Party. In the election of 1898, [illegible] merely a threat as it was never able to pull more than 20% [illegible] of the total vote cast.[35] [illegible] drive in May of 1901 [illegible] later, Miss Inez Haley, [illegible] at Alisal Hall in Templeton.[36] [illegible] their candidates in 1902 for delegates to the [illegible] Convention, Hallie Tyler [illegible] seventy-seven and fifty-eight respectively [illegible] tion in which the two closest candidates received 62 and 49 votes.[37] The last [illegible] of the Socialist [illegible]

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[35] [illegible], [illegible] 12, 1902; [illegible] 1, [illegible] 20, 1902).

[36] [illegible], May 24, 1902.

[37] [illegible], November 15, 1902.

strength, small though it was, was centered in Farmington, is evidenced by two factors. First, in the above election 108 of the total 132 votes cast in favor of the Socialist candidates came from the Farmington precincts. Secondly, the Socialist ticket of 1911 was dominated eight to two by residents of the Farmington area.[38] The five year term served by county officials elected in 1911 inactivated the Socialists during those years, but in February, 1916, the party was reorganized with George Lawrence as organizer and Frank Hoff as secretary.[39] In the 1916 election the Socialists presented only one candidate, W. T. Homes, for Representative, and this was their last participation in politics in the period surveyed.[40]

The Progressive or "Bull Moose" Party had a short, and unsuccessful life in San Juan County. Their only entrance in San Juan County politics came in 1914 when the area elected a Representative to the State Legislature. The Progressive Party in convention at Aztec on August 25, 1914, nominated Larkin Beck as their candidate for the post. Mr. Beck was defeated by J. M. Palmer, the Republican candidate, who won

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[38] Ibid., July 28 and September 15, 1910, and September 21, 1911.

[39] Ibid., February 17, 1916.

[40] Farmington Times Hustler, October 5, and November 30, 1916.

strength, small though it was, was centered in Farmington, is evidenced by two facts. First, in the above election 108 of the total 172 votes cast in favor of the Socialist candidates came from the Farmington precincts. Secondly, the Socialist ticket of 1911 was dominated slightly by residents of the Farmington area.[38] The five years it was moved by county officials elected as Democrats and Socialists during those years, but in February, 1916, the party was reorganized with George Lawrence as organizer and Frank Hoff as secretary.[39] In the 1916 election the Socialists presented only one candidate, R. T. Jones, for Representative, and this was their last participation in politics in the period surveyed.[40]

The Progressive or Bull Moose Party was a short and unsuccessful life in San Juan County. Their only entrance in San Juan County politics came in 1914 when the area elected a Representative to the State Legislature. The Progressive Party in convention at Aztec on August 25, 1914, nominated Larkin Beck as their candidate for the post, but Beck was defeated by J. S. Palmer, the Democratic candidate, who won

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[38] Ibid., July 28 and September 13, 1910, and October 21, 1911.

[39] Ibid., February 17, 1916.

[40] Farmington Times Hustler, October 6, and November 30, 1916.

over E. S. Whitehead, the Democratic standard bearer, by only ten votes.[41]

Last of the political organizations to be discussed was not a political party, but a league or club designed to give the people more control in New Mexico affairs. This rather strange political group was the Direct Vote Club which was organized at Flora Vista in February, 1910. The club had forty-nine charter members who in the most part came from the Flora Vista area of the county. Its first officers were William D. Noland, President, E. R. Howard, Vice-President, R. W. Heflin, Secretary, M. C. Heflin, Treasurer, and C. M. Tonkinson, Sergeant at Arms. The members agreed not to vote for any man for public office who did not favor a direct vote in the election of all public officeholders. These public offices were to include those of President of the United States, United States Senators, Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other judges not then elected. The organization later became an over-all county league, and its name was changed to the San Juan County Direct Legislation League. However, as an organization it never invaded local politics, and so its influence was not strongly felt in county government and politics.[42]

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[41] Ibid., August 20 and 27, and November 5, 1914.

[42] Ibid., February 17, and November 24, 1910.

over R. D. Whitmore, the Democratic nominee, by a margin of only ten votes.[41]

Lack of the political growth [illegible] was not a political party, but a [illegible] gave the people more respect in the [illegible] rather strange political group was the [illegible] was organized at Fort Yuma in February, 1908. The club had forty-odd charter members and in the [illegible] from the Black Mesa area of the county. The officers were William D. Yelland, President; [illegible], President; R. T. Martin, Secretary; [illegible], Treasurer; and G. E. Tomlinson, Sergeant at Arms. The objects stated not to vote for any one for public office who did not favor a direct vote in the election of all public officials. These public officers were to include those of the Congress of the United States, United States Senators, Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other judges and state officers. The organization later became an [illegible] [illegible] name was changed to the San Juan County Progressive Political League. Surely, in an organization it never [illegible] local politics, and so its influence was for strongly [illegible] county government and politics.[42]

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[41] Ibid., August 7, or 8?, and November [illegible], 1908.

[42] Ibid., February 17, and October [illegible], 1910.

The struggle against the saloon, and its eventual abolition, comprises one of the main tendencies in the political development of the county. The problem began as a part of the city government of Farmington and Aztec, and was carried from this source into county and state politics.

Alcohol and the saloon reared their ugly heads very early in the history of the area. Though they did not attain political importance until after the turn of the century, the people were thinking about and discussing the question as early as 1895. This early thought came about through the creation of the Farmington Literary Society, which was in part a debating group, on January 29, 1894. Prominent citizens were among its organizers and first officers. Its first officers were: President, William Locke, Vice-President, G. L. Cooper, Secretary, W. A. Hunter, Treasurer, Mrs. Laughren, and W. L. Garrison, who served as critic.[43] This literary group held semi-monthly meetings, and a part of each discussion was a debate upon some "white hot" issue of the day. The issues included such problems as: "Resolved that the pen is mightier than the sword";[44] "Resolved that the influence of women over man is greater than that of money";[45] and "Resolved that the Indian has been more ill-

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[43] San Juan Times, February 1, 1894.

[44] Ibid., November 7, 1896.

[45] Ibid., December 4, 1896.

The struggle against the saloon, and the eventual abolition, comprises one of the main temperance in the political development of the county. The problem began as a part of the city government of Trinidad and Aztec, and was carried from this source into county and state politics.

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[43] San Juan Times, February 1, 1897.

[44] Ibid., November 7, 1896.

[45] Ibid., December 4, 1896.

treated by the American people than the Negro."[46] In its meeting in December of 1896 the Farmington Literary Club debated: "Resolved that the use of intoxicating liquors has caused more misery than war and famine."[47] The saloon, as an institution, had not yet been attacked, but basic thought that would rally its forces against it was developing.

Farmington, of course, was not the only section to attack the use of alcohol. The women of Flora Vista organized, in March 1895, a branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union with twenty-two original members, and with some of the ladies' husbands as honorary members.[48] Soon after this, like societies were established throughout the county, and to advance the temperance cause the San Juan County Ministers' Association was formed in Farmington on March 23, 1897.[49] This organization drew its power from the organized churches in the locale, and strengthened the forces allied against the use of intoxicants. The anti-alcohol forces gained another ally when on April 21, 1899, the Farmington Temperance League was organized, and adopted the following plat-

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[46] Ibid., December 11, 1896.

[47] Loc. cit.

[48] San Juan Times, March 22, and 29, 1895.

[49] Ibid., March 26, 1897.

treated by the Australian-Pacific Conference.[46] In the meeting in December of 1954 the Vancouver Economy Club debated: "Resolved that the use of intoxicating liquors has caused more misery than sin and failure." The motion, as an institution, had our sympathies although, but there thought that would fail, the force against it was too strong.

Prohibition, of course, was not the only method to attack the use of alcohol. The Women's Christian Temperance Union with their very vigorous crusade, and the Women's Ladies' Musbands of Temperance[47] [illegible] like societies were established throughout the country and to advance the movement many [illegible] Temperance Alliance Association was formed in Portsmouth on March 7, 1894.[48] This organization was its growth from the original Sunday in the Joseph, the strength and influence alliance against the use of intoxicants. The [illegible] another ally when on April 20, 1894, the Portsmouth Temperance Lecture was organized, [illegible] the following year.

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[46] Ibid., December 7, 1954.

[47] Ibid., [illegible].

[48] The Times Herald, March 8, and 20, 1894.

[49] Ibid., March 20, 1894.

form: "We recognize the widespread harm occassioned [sic] by strong drink, and hereby undertake to discourage its use except in necessary cases, both by example, and by influence."[50] To add fuel to an already raging fire, the people of La Plata used the theatre as a propaganda agent, and presented the play "Ten Nights in a Bar Room" as a benefit performance for their school fund.[51] Such was the religious and social background for a question that soon became political, and affected the politics of city, county and state.

Farmington had, in 1901, become an incorporated village through the efforts of D. K. B. Sellers, C. H. McHenry, William Locke, and T. J. Arrington.[52] The incorporation had been passed on and ordered by the Board of County Commissioners in July of that year, and the first city election was called for August 31, 1901.[53] A Citizens Ticket was nominated on August 8, and included J. W. Dannels, George H. Brown, O. C. McEwen, J. A. Harwood, and G. A. Compton.[54] Later, on August 17, a mass meeting of citizens was called to remedy the defects of the Citizens Ticket.

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[50] Ibid., April 28, 1899.

[51] Ibid., March 24, 1899.

[52] Ibid., March 29, 1901.

[53] Farmington Times, July 5 and 19, 1901.

[54] Ibid., August 9, 1901.

form: "We recognize the vicious and have condemned [illegible] by strong drink, and hereby undertake to discourage its use except in necessary cases, both by precept and by influence."[50] To add fuel to an already raging fire, the people of La Plata used the theatre as a propaganda agent, and presented the play "Sons Wanted" in a [illegible] as a benefit performance for their [illegible].[51] [illegible] and social backgrounds [illegible] political, and affected the politics of city, county and state.

Farmington had, in 1901, become an incorporated village through the efforts of [illegible], [illegible] McNamey, William Dorse, and [illegible].[52] The incorporation had been opposed on and in [illegible] County Commissioners [illegible] city election was called for August 31, 1903.[53] A citizens' Ticket was nominated [illegible] George H. Brown, [illegible] Compton.[54] Later, on [illegible] was called to remedy the defects of the [illegible].

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[50] Ibid., April [illegible], [illegible].

[51] Ibid., March [illegible], 1909.

[52] Ibid., March [illegible], 1901.

[53] Farmington Times, July 5 and 12, 1901.

[54] Ibid., August 7, 1903.

This meeting resulted in the addition of the names of A. E. Dustin, F. M. Pierce, and T. J. Arrington, and the withdrawal of G. A. Compton from the ticket. The remaining seven were placed on the ticket, no other group entered candidates, and the citizens were instructed to vote for any five of the seven. The five candidates receiving the highest number of votes would comprise Farmington's first Town Board of Trustees.[55] The Farmington Times objected to Mr. McEwen for trustee as he already held the position of County Superintendent of Schools, and to Mr. Harwood because he was a mere boy. The electorate supported this objection as seen in the following election results.[56]

George H. Browne	64
J. W. Dannels	64
A. E. Dustin	56
F. M. Pierce	44
T. J. Arrington	40
O. C. McEwen	33
J. A. Harwood	28

The first five listed above became Farmington's first Board of Trustees, and its city government was duly established. It should be noted that these officials were chosen by an election in which only one list of candidates was presented; however, the electors did have some choice as they voted for only five of the seven candidates.

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[55] Ibid., August 16 and 23, 1901.

[56] Ibid., September 6, 1901.

This meeting resulted in the addition of the names of J. Austin, F. M. Pierce, and T. T. Pritchett, with withdrawal of G. A. Compton from the ticket. The remaining seven were placed on the ticket, as other groups had done, and the citizens were instructed to write any five of the seven. The five candidates receiving the greatest number of votes would comprise the entire Board of Trustees.[55] The Farmington Times [illegible] for trustee as he already held the position of president of the Intendent of Schools, and it was [illegible] mere boy. The electorate supported the [illegible] in the following election results:[56]

George L. Brown - - - 84
J. M. Bennett - - - 80
A. L. Austin - - - 78
F. M. Pierce - - - 74
I. N. Partridge - - 70
G. C. Scherer - - - 12
J. A. Harwood - - - 2

The first five listed above became Farmington's first Board of Trustees, and the [illegible] government was [illegible]. It should be noted that each official [illegible] election in which only one list of candidates was presented; however, the electors did have some choice in [illegible] for only five of the seven candidates.

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[55] Ibid., August 16 and 23, 1901.

[56] Ibid., September 6, 1901.

Farmington's next municipal election was a much different story; for in this election of April 7, 1903, the Law and Order League, an anti-saloon group, entered the political field. The Law and Order League had been organized March 14, 1903, at the Methodist church in Farmington. Its program called for the discouragement, by any suitable means, of the selling of alcoholic spirits in the city, and the prosecution of violators of existing laws regulating the liquor traffic and gambling. To accomplish these ends the League resolved to enter politics, and aid in the election of public officials who were opposed to the liquor traffic. Its first officers were: Reverend J. C. Lord, pastor of the Farmington Presbyterian church, President; Reverend J. A. Lewis, pastor of the Methodist church, Vice-President; and G. C. Bero, Secretary.[57]

Two weeks after its foundation the Law and Order League presented its list of candidates for the municipal election of the Farmington Board of Trustees. This list included: J. W. Dannels, C. W. Cambell, G. C. Bero, W. F. Paxton, and Thomas Fulcher.[58]

A few evenings later a committee of citizens met to nominate a Citizens Ticket. The Law and Order League had

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[57] Ibid., March 20, 1903.

[58] Ibid., March 27, 1903.

hoped that this meeting would merely endorse their candidates, and thereby assure a victory for their cause. However, this meeting of citizens failed to carry through the hopes of the League, and their ticket was withdrawn from the election, leaving the Citizens Ticket without opposition. The League, however, did win a partial victory when the meeting of citizens placed eight names in nomination for their ticket, to be voted upon by those present. Of the final five chosen when the voters present cast their lots, three were men who had been on the Law and Order League's ticket. Had these five candidates been elected to the Board of Trustees, the League might have controlled the town government, but before the election took place three other names, T. J. Arrington, A. E. Dustin, and G. K. Griffin, were added to the ticket. This action gave the electorate a list of eight candidates from which to choose the five board members. The voting results show only two League men elected to the board:[59]

J. W. Dannel - - - - 94 (League)
F. M. Pierce - - - - 90
T. J. Arrington - - 53
H. L. Andrews - - - 49
C. W. Cambell - - - 46 (League)
Thomas Fulcher - - - 45 (League)
A. E. Dustin - - - - 44
G. K. Griffin - - - 42

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[59] Ibid., April 10, 1903.

hoped that this meeting would finally convince the candidates, and thereby endure a victory for their cause. However, this meeting of citizens failed to crush the hopes of the League, and their candidates were victorious from the election. Leaving the citizens field without opposition. The League, however, did with a partial victory, since the meeting of citizens placed with them in nomination the their ticket, to be voted upon by those present. Of the final five chosen therein voters present chose three of three were also put on the League's ticket. Had these five could later be elected to the Board of Trustees, the League might have controlled the town government, but before the election two plus three other names, T. G. Arlington, A. L. Dustin, and F. K. Griffith were added to the ticket. This action gave the electorate a list of eight candidates from which to choose the five board members. The voting results show only two leaguers elected to the board:[59]

A. K. Tenney - - -	94 (League)
T. L. Place - - -	80
T. G. Arlington - -	74
F. C. Andrews - - -	69
C. F. Gardell - - -	68 (League)
Thomas Dubber - - -	67 (League)
A. K. Dunklin - - -	44
G. K. Griffith - - -	42

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[59] Ibid., April 10, 1901.

Again the five candidates receiving the highest number of votes were declared the Board of Trustees, and from the above the League held only two members on the board. Even these two had not been elected under the program of the League; therefore the anti-saloon forces could not, if the necessity arose, hold them to the League platform.

The Law and Order League received still another setback when one of their original candidates elected, C. W. Cambell, learned that he could not assume his office because of a new state law which provided that municipal officeholders must hold property in the locale in which they were elected. Both Mr. Cambell and Mr. H. L. Andrews could not fulfill this qualification and Mr. A. F. Dustin and Mr. G. K. Griffin replaced them until such time as special election could be held.[60] This action caused the League to lose almost all its strength on the board, and the saloon doors remained open for the time.

Aztec, the county seat, had by this time become a town of 500 people, and boasted a $15,000.00 courthouse, three churches, a grade school, an opera house, two hardware stores, two blacksmith shops, three hotels, a drug store, a jewelry store, two saloons, a livery stable,

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[60] Ibid., April 24, 1903.

millinery, a bakery shop, a butcher shop, a telephone exchange, two lumber yards, a concrete and builders-stone manufacturing company, three attorneys, two doctors, two newspapers, two contractors and builders, a hide and wool company, two express and transfer companies, a harness and saddle shop, and an abstract office.[61]

Aztec had been incorporated in 1905, when on April 4 of that year the Board of County Commissioners declared its incorporation, and set May 8 as the election date for its Board of Trustees. The saloon played only a small part in this first election, but the Board of Trustees took action against the saloon after the election. This board consisted of H. D. Abrams, C. G. Brewer, J. T. Green, S. O. Pinkstaff, and Monroe Fields.[62] On August 20, 1906, these men passed an ordinance outlawing gambling in Aztec saloons, and raised the license fee for operating a saloon to $200.00 a year.[63] Thus was the saloon dealt its first destructive blow in San Juan County.

In the meantime, an Anti-Saloon League was formed at Farmington on September 25, 1905, under the auspices of the

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[61] San Juan Democrat (Aztec, New Mexico: August 2, 1906).

[62] Loc. cit.

[63] San Juan Democrat, August 23, 1907.

American Anti-Saloon League. Reverend J. C. Lord became the League's first President, and to assist him R. U. Waldraven was designated First Vice-President, G. C. Bero, Second Vice-President, R. H. Wood, Third Vice-President, E. S. Whitehead, Secretary, and Mrs. R. C. Prewitt, Treasurer.[64] Its organization was county wide, and it was an attempt to bring together all the anti-saloon forces in the locale. However, the anti-saloon forces were unable to make the liquor traffic question a clear-cut issue of municipal elections until 1908. Farmington had had in 1906 two political tickets -- People's and Business Men's -- in the municipal election, but the prohibition question was brought in only on the eve of the election. Therefore, the issue was not clearly presented, and neither ticket openly endorsed the anti-saloon cause. The newly elected Board of Trustees was, for this reason, hesitant in taking action against the liquor traffic.[65]

Two years later, however, both Aztec and Farmington brought to power Boards of Trustees favoring the control of the sale of intoxicants.[66] The first action against the saloon took place in Aztec on June 15, 1908; its city

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[64] Farmington Times Hustler, September 28, 1905.

April 5, 1906.

[66] San Juan Democrat, April 10, 1908.

American anti-saloon leagues. [illegible] the Lodge's first President, [illegible] Wainwright was assigned first [illegible] second Vice-President, [illegible] Dr. Whitlock, Secretary, and [illegible] treasurer.[64] Its organization was nearly [illegible] attempt to bring together all the anti-saloon forces in the Indian. However, the anti-saloon forces were unable to [illegible] the liquor traffic against a [illegible] referendum elections until 1908. [illegible] local elections -- [illegible] municipal elections, [illegible] in doubt on the eve of the election. Therefore, [illegible] was not clearly [illegible], and neither [illegible] endorsed the anti-saloon [illegible]. The Lodge's [illegible] Trustees was, for this reason, [illegible] against the liquor traffic.[65]

Two years later, however, with [illegible] brought to power [illegible] the sale of [illegible].[66] [illegible] saloon took place in [illegible] [illegible]

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[64] [illegible]

[65] [illegible]

[66] [illegible], April 10, 1908.

officials voted to issue no saloon licenses after June 30, 1908. This ordinance outlawed the saloon in Aztec after July 1, as all licenses became due on that date. The vote on the ordinance had been four in favor and one against. The one dissenting voter opposed the ordinance on the ground that the issue had not been determined by a vote of the people; therefore, the Board of Trustees lacked the mandate of the people in taking such action against the saloon.[67]

The saloon operators did not give up without a fight, and court action was necessary before they would close their doors. The operators decided to remain open without licenses, and test the validity of the ordinance denying them right to operate.[68] This test case was first heard by Justice of the Peace Maddox of Aztec. He fined each saloon keeper $10.00, set their bond at $100.00, but allowed appeal to District Judge John McFie. After this initial defeat, the saloon owners announced they would appeal the case, but would honor Judge McFie's decision. If it upheld Maddox's findings they agreed to vacate their premises.[69] The District Judge sustained the action of the Town Board in its passage of the anti-saloon ordinance, and the saloons of

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[67] Ibid., June 19, 1908, and Farmington Times Hustler, June 18, 1908.

[68] San Juan Democrat, July 3, 1908.

[69] Ibid., July 10, 1908.

officials voted to [illegible] on June 1, 1966. This ordinance [illegible] to write after July 1, as all licenses [illegible] on the ordinance and [illegible] The one dissenting voter [illegible] that the issue had not been [illegible] popular therefore, the [illegible] of the people in [illegible]

The saloon operators are [illegible] and court action [illegible] doors. The operators [illegible] and test the validity of the ordinance [illegible] operate.[67] This [illegible] the Peace Bonds or Arrest. [illegible] $10.00, and their [illegible] District Judge John [illegible]. After this initial [illegible] saloon owners [illegible] would honor Judge [illegible] Clubhouse Bar [illegible] District Judge [illegible] passage of the [illegible]

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[67] [illegible], June 15, 1966, [illegible]

June 16, 1966.

[68] [illegible], June [illegible], 1966.

[69] [illegible], June 20, 1966.

Aztec were closed.[70]

While this action was taking place in Aztec, the Farmington Board of Trustees was also taking action to limit and control the sale of intoxicants. This attack took the form of making the required license all but prohibitive, and in November, 1908, the town officers voted unanimously to raise the saloon license from $700.00 to $1,200.00.[71] This action kept out any new saloon, and placed a heavy financial burden on the one already operating. The following March, E. J. Walters, proprietor of Farmington's saloon was fined $50.00 for keeping a disorderly house, allowing drunkenness on its premises, and allowing minors to frequent his establishment. Walters' decision to appeal the case caused the Board of Trustees to call a special meeting. Walters was asked to appear before this body and answer why his license should not be revoked. At his appearance before the board, Mr. Walters agreed to withdraw his appeal and pay the fine and costs. The trustees then warned him that another violation would mean revocation of his license.[72] This affair, and the support it gave the anti-saloon group, led to the closing of Farmington's saloon. On April 30,

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[70] Farmington Times Hustler, November 12, 1908, and San Juan Democrat, March 5, 1909.

[71] Farmington Times Hustler, December 3, 1908.

[72] Ibid., March 18, 1909.

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While this action was taking place in Aztec, the Farmington Board of Trustees was also taking action to limit and control the sale of intoxicants. This action took the form of making the required license all out prohibitive, and in November, 1900, the town officers were unanimously to raise the saloon license from $100.00 to $1,000.00.[71] This action kept out any new saloon, and placed a heavy financial burden on the one already operating. In following March, I. W. Walters, proprietor of Farmington's saloon was fined $50.00 for keeping a disorderly house, allowing drunkenness on its premises, and allowing gamers to frequent his establishment. Walters' defense to argument the case caused the Board of Trustees to call a special meeting. Walters was asked to appear before this body and answer why his license should not be revoked. At the appearance before the board, Mr. Walters agreed to withdraw his appeal and pay the fine and costs. The trustees then warned him that another violation would mean revocation of his license.[72] This affair, and the support it gave the anti-saloon group, led to the closing of Farmington's saloons. On April 1,

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[70] Farmington Times Hesitor, November 15, 1900, and San Juan County Journal, March 5, 1900.

[71] Farmington Times Hesitor, November 8, 1900.

[72] Ibid., March 12, 1900.

1909, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously in favor of two resolutions which closed the saloon, and forbade the issue of any license to operate a saloon in the future.[73] These resolutions were passed in ordinance form on August 4, 1909, and the sale of or giving away of liquor in Farmington became illegal.[74] As the Farmington saloon was the last to operate in the county, this action made San Juan County the first dry county of New Mexico.

The saloon, and its influence upon San Juan County politics, did not end with the victory in Farmington. The anti-saloon people continued to endorse and present candidates for municipal offices, and in this way protected and strengthened their victory.

Soon after the closing of the saloon at Farmington, another danger arose. In the summer of 1910 a Mr. Fox, from Tennessee, opened and began to operate a distillery at Farmington. The anti-saloon group immediately began to fight the development of this industry.[75] A law Enforcement League was established on August 2, 1910, to protest against the establishment of the distillery. To carry on its fight, the organization attempted to pledge the farmers not to sell

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[73] Ibid., May 6 and 20, 1909.

[74] Ibid., August 12, 1909.

[75] Ibid., May 11, 1911.

1909, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously in favor of two resolutions which closed the saloons, and revoked the issue of any licenses to operate a saloon in the future.[73] These resolutions were passed in anticipation, even on August 4, 1903, and the sale of one's wine ceased. Thus, the Temperance Union became library, as the Christian Union was the last to operate in the county, which was the first county the first day saloons at the [illegible].

The saloons, and its influence were the main issue of politics, did not end with the victory in Tarrytown. The anti-saloon people continued to support local candidates for municipal offices, and in this way they [illegible] strengthened their victory.

Some after the closing of the saloons at Tarrytown, another danger arose. In the winter of 1906 and 1907, the Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow Company to operate a street car line in Irvington. The anti-saloon group vehemently began to [illegible] the development of the [illegible]. A Law Enforcement League was established on August 4, 1906, to protest against the establishment of the [illegible]. To assist in the fight, the organization [illegible] the Ministerial Association [illegible]

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[73] Ibid., May 2 and 30, 1906.

[74] Ibid., August 14, 1906.

[75] Ibid., May 16, 1907.

fruit to the distillery which would be converted into brandy. In addition, the group supplied money to a committee with which to prosecute every violation of laws pertaining to the liquor traffic.[76] The league charged that the distillery was conducting a retail business by selling its own, and imported products -- six to ten barrels of beer per month -- and pointed out this violation to the Board of Trustees.[77] On December 24, 1912, the matter of the distillery was settled when Internal Revenue Agents confiscated the plant, and ordered its sale by U. S. agents if accounts of $2,000.00 to $3,000.00 were not settled at once. At the same time James T. Fay, business manager of the distillery, was arrested for taking two gallons of brandy from the warehouse on which revenue had not been paid.[78]

Constable Hill, on May 3, 1913, attempted the sale of these confiscated liquors in front of the post office. When the auctioneer drew a portion from one barrel and drank it, the crowd, heavily peopled with anti-saloon supporters, took action. The contents of the last barrel was allowed to flow out, while some of the WCTU members sat upon the prostrate constable. Women taking part in the affair were charged

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[76] Ibid., August 4, 1910.

[77] Ibid., July 6, 1911.

[78] Ibid., December 26, 1912.

with malicious destruction of property, riot, and interfering with an officer in performance of his duty. These charges were later dropped when the temperance group paid $50.00 for the liquor destroyed.[79]

The saloon issue was also placed before the voters at various times after its initial defeat in the county. The People's Ticket of Farmington had as its platform the calling of a special election to vote on the saloon issue. Opposing this group was the Progressive Citizens Ticket, but in the municipal election of April 2, 1912, the People's Ticket was victorious by a large majority.[80] The promised election was called for April 27, and Farmington remained dry by a vote of ninety-one to seventy-one after a very bitterly fought campaign.[81] Again, on September 2, 1913, the saloon element presented a petition to the Town Board asking for a local option election concerning the saloon. The election was held on October 20, 1913, and resulted in Farmington voting itself dry for four more years by a vote of seventy-nine to fifty-six.[82]

Two months later, on December 9, Aztec held a similar

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[79] Ibid., May 8, and November 13, 1913.

[80] Ibid., March 21, and April 4, 1912.

[81] Ibid., May 2, 1912.

[82] Ibid., September 4, and October 23, 1913.

with military discipline of a member, which was interfering with an officer in performance of his duties. Charges were later dropped and the prisoner was released upon $50.00 for the light sentence.[79]

The action taken was also taken before the court at various times after the initial action of the member. The Republic Court of Remedies had as its objective the outline of a special tribunal to take action against those opposing this group was the prosecution [illegible] but in the municipal elections of August, 1919, the [illegible] ticket was victorious by a safe majority.[80] The municipal election was held April 20, and [illegible] by a vote of [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] bitterly fought campaign.[81] [illegible], the [illegible] the union element presented a position to [illegible] making for a local option election concerning the saloon. The election was held on October 20, 1919, and [illegible] Farmington voting [illegible] for four more years by a vote of seventy-nine to [illegible].[82]

Two months later, [illegible], [illegible] a similar

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[79] Ibid., [illegible] 1919.

[80] Ibid., March 31, and April 5, 1919.

[81] Ibid., May 2, 1919.

[82] Ibid., September 1, and October 20, 1919.

election, and voted to remain dry by the overwhelming vote of seventy-four to four.[83] In February of the following year a local option election was held in all regions lying outside the incorporated limits of Farmington and Aztec. This election of February 28 resulted in a dry victory. The vote was 354 to 107, or over three to one in favor of banning the saloon and alcohol.[84] By actual local option vote San Juan County became the first dry county of the State of New Mexico.

Three years later, on February 4, 1917, the anti-saloon group passed a resolution asking for submission of an amendment to the people of New Mexico that would abolish the bootlegger and the saloon. In addition, the proposed amendment would prohibit importation and manufacture of liquor as well as its sale except for medicinal, scientific, or sacramental purposes. Copies of this resolution were then forwarded to the regions Representative in the State Legislature, and the Senator who represented the locale in the State Senate.[85] A day after this resolution was adopted, the State Legislature passed a prohibition amendment to be submitted to the voters for ratification in the election of

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[83] Ibid., November 20, and December 11, 1913.

[84] Ibid., January 8, and March 5, 1914.

[85] Ibid., February 8, 1917.

election, and voted to remain dry by a commanding vote of seventy-four to four.[83] In February of the following year a local option election was held in all areas lying outside the incorporated limits of Farmington and Aztec. This election of February 28 resulted in a dry victory. The vote was 154 to 107, or over three to one in favor of banning the saloon and liquor.[84] By virtue of local option vote San Juan County became the first county in the state of New Mexico.

Three years later, in 1917, the anti-saloon group passed a resolution asking for submission of an amendment to the people of New Mexico that would abolish the bootlegger and the saloon. In addition, the proposed amendment would prohibit importation and manufacture of liquor as well as its sale except for medicinal, scientific or sacramental purposes. Copies of this resolution were then forwarded to the two one hundred members in the State Legislature, and the Senator representing the Aztec in the State Senate.[85] A day after this resolution was adopted, the State Legislature passed a prohibition amendment to be submitted to the voters for ratification in the election of

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[83] Ibid., November 20, and December 12, 1913.

[84] Ibid., January 3, and March 7, 1914.

[85] Ibid., February 6, 1917.

the following November. San Juan County's vote on this amendment is charted below to show each area's stand on prohibition.[86]

	DRY	WET
Farmington	159	32
Fruitland	33	3
Azteć	122	11
Cedar Hill	21	2
Blanco	19	12
Flora Vista	42	6
Bloomfield	24	12
La Plata	37	11
Liberty	20	3
Pine River	9	17
Largo	4	11
Total	490	120

As shown by the above chart, San Juan County supported the Prohibition amendment four to one, and only in two small sections of the county did the citizens favor the saloon and the sale of intoxicants.

The last entrance of the liquor issue into Farmington politics came in 1922 when the Law Enforcement League placed a ticket in the municipal election in an attempt to stop the bootleg traffic. In this instance they met a sound defeat as the Business Men's Ticket was elected by a vote of two to one.[87] In the same year the anti-liquor group of Aztec also met defeat in the municipal election in which licensing

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[86] Ibid., November 8, 1917.

[87] Ibid., March 23 and 30, and April 6, 1922.

of pool halls became an issue.[88] The above indicates that after the passage of the Prohibition Amendment, the anti-saloon issue lost its fire and enthusiasm, and became a dead issue in San Juan County politics.

Use of the direct primary in nominating candidates was adopted by the Democratic Party of San Juan County in 1908. The Democrats in their convention at Farmington on June 2, 1908, adopted the primary method of nominating candidates over the older County Convention system.[89] According to the plan used the candidate would file his application with the Democratic County Chairman, his name would then be placed on a printed ballot, and on a specified day the Democrats of the area would vote on his nomination. After this election, the Democratic County Convention would meet, and ratify the action of the primary. This system was first used on August 25, 1908, with each office -- except that of clerk -- being sought by from two to four candidates. Four days after this primary, the convention met and ratified the nomination of the candidate receiving the most votes in the primary.[90] In 1912 this system was used by the anti-saloon group to nominate their Progressive Citizens Ticket

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[88] Ibid., April 6, 1922.

[89] Ibid., July 16, 1908, and San Juan Democrat, June 5, 1908.

[90] Farmington Times Hustler, August 27, 1908, and San Juan Democrat, September, 1908.

for Farmington's municipal election, but this was its only use in municipal politics.[91] At the Democratic Convention held on April 20, 1916, the use of the direct primary over the convention system of selecting candidates was voted upon. All delegates present favored the primary plan, but some stated that they did not believe it worked successfully unless controlled by state law.[92] By the time the next Democratic Convention met at Aztec on September 3, 1918, this opposition had grown to such an extent that the delegates voted to do away with the primary system, and revert to the older convention method of selecting candidates.[93] The primary system was not used after this date, but for ten years it had been in actual practice, and in that ten years had made many friends in the political hierarchy of the county, friends who were to support it when it became a state issue some twenty years after its use in San Juan County.

San Juan County's stand on statehood for New Mexico varied between the years 1889 and 1912. Statehood first became an issue in county politics in 1889 when a special election was called to elect two delegates to a Constitutional

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[91] Farmington Times Hustler, March 21, 1912.

[92] Ibid., April 27, 1916.

[93] Ibid., September 5, 1918.

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San Juan County's stand on statehood for New Mexico varied between the years 1910 and 1912. Statehood first became an issue in county politics in 1912 when a special election was called to elect two delegates to a Constitutional

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91 Farmington Times Hustler, March 31, 1916.

92 Ibid., April 27, 1916.

93 Ibid., September 5, 1918.

Convention to be held in Santa Fe on September 3, 1889. This election took place on August 6, and resulted in the election of Louis R. E. Paulin and David E. Lobato, Democrats,[94] as San Juan County's representatives. However, when the proposed constitution was presented to the electorate for ratification in September 1890, San Juan County voted against it, 182 to 87.[95]

As shown in an earlier chapter, San Juan County's isolation from her sister communities of New Mexico caused her to become more economically and socially related to Colorado than to New Mexico. That her people were thinking along this line can be shown by a debate in a literary meeting at Bloomfield. The subject debated was "Resolved that San Juan County be annexed to Colorado."[96] In addition, several memorials were sent to the U. S. Congress and President requesting that San Juan County be annexed to Colorado as Orchard County. One such memorial was sent in 1907, and a short time later a petition signed by 600 names was sent from San Juan County to Denver to support the memorial.[97] The plan met with general approval and three basic reasons

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[94] "Commissioners Journal," Book 1, pp. 44-46.

[95] Ibid., pp. 77 and 81.

[96] San Juan Times, February 5, 1897.

[97] San Juan Democrat, March 28, 1907.

Convention to be held in Ignacio on September 15, 1908. This election took place on August 4, and resulted in the election of Louis N. S. Smith as Democrat, Republicans, and as San Juan County's representatives, respectively. When the proposed constitution was presented to the electorate for ratification in September 1908, San Juan County voted against it, 182 to 60.[95]

As shown in an earlier chapter, San Juan County's isolation from her sister counties of New Mexico prompted her to become more economically and politically related to Colorado than to New Mexico. Just how profound were ties along this line can be seen by a brief look at the railroad line at Bloomfield. The subject concerned was whether or not San Juan County be annexed to Colorado. In addition, several memorials were sent to the U. S. Congress and President requesting that San Juan County be annexed to Colorado as Graham County. One such memorial was sent in 1907, and a short time later a petition signed by 1,000 people resident from San Juan County to Congress to annex the county.[96] The plan met with general support and there were

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[94] "Constitutional Convention," Book 1, p. 34.

[95] Ibid., pp. 77 and 81.

[96] San Juan Times, February 5, 1907.

[97] San Juan Democrat, March 28, 1908.

were put forward to favor the annexation. These were: "(1) All our business is done in Colorado, our trade goes to build her up then why not our taxes, and we receive the benefit of her excellent school system. (2) We can get to Denver a day quicker than Santa Fe. (3) We would enjoy all privileges of statehood, and have a voice in national election via Australian ballot."[98] Even though the movement did not lead to any decisive action, the plan remained a hope of some people even after New Mexico was admitted as a state.

Paralleling the above thought was the hope that New Mexico would soon become a state in the union. A meeting was held in Farmington on December 18, 1899, to organize a statehood rally, and to circulate petitions in support of a statehood bill then pending in the U. S. Congress. This meeting resulted in the election of W. A. Hunter, President, and E. S. Whitehead, Secretary of the rally, and the appointment of a county-wide committee to draft the resolution. The committee contained two members from Farmington and Aztec, and one each from La Plata, Cedar Hill, Flora Vista, Bloomfield, the Upper, and the Lower San Juan. In addition the rally set January 3, 1900, as the date for the collecting and sending off the petitions.[99] The effort was well

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[98] Farmington Times Hustler, April 4, 1907.

[99] San Juan Times, December 22, 1899.

were put forward to favor the movement. These were:

"(1) All our highways in Dona Ana County need to build her up than why not our roads, as a property the benefit of her excellent school system. (2) We can get to Mesa a day quicker than Santa Fe. (3) We would enjoy all privileges of statehood, and avoid undue international complication via Australian ballot."[98] Even though the movement did not lead to any positive action, the plan received a nod of some people even after the Australian ballot had been adopted.

Paralleling the above theory was the hope that New Mexico would soon become a state in the Union. A mass rally was held in Farmington on January 13, 1899, to promote a statehood rally, and to circulate petitions in support of a statehood bill then pending in the U. S. Congress. This meeting resulted in the election of A. M. Hurst, A. Jones, and S. S. Whitehead, secretary of the rally, with the appointment of a county-wide committee to carry the resolution. The committee consisted two members from Farmington and Aztec, and one each from La Plata, Cedar Hill, Flora Vista, Bloomfield, the Upper, and the Lower San Juan. In addition the rally set January 3, 1900, as the date for the collecting and signing of the petitions.[99] The effort was with

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[98] Farmington Times Review, March 4, 1899.

[99] San Juan Times, December 22, 1899.

supported, and on January 3, the following petition was dispatched to New Mexico's Delegate to the U. S. Congress:

> Resolved: whereas the Territory of New Mexico was ceded to the United States in 1848 by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and whereas, at that time, it was declared that the people of this territory should receive statehood whenever they should become entitled thereto, and whereas their right and title to the benefits of statehood has been manifest and admitted for the past 50 years. Therefore, be it resolved that the people of San Juan County, New Mexico are unanimous in their desire and demand that this territory be granted the rights of statehood, and pledge their assistance by any means in their power, irrespective of party or political affiliations, to their delegate in Congress in attaining this end.[100]

Some residents in the region had by 1900 come not only to favor statehood, but to openly support its cause.

By the time of the election of 1904 the situation had changed somewhat. The Republican Party of the county favored the admission of New Mexico to statehood, separate and apart from any other combination -- statehood for New Mexico alone. This stand was made against a proposal which was being put forth in Washington, D. C. that would have allowed the joint statehood of New Mexico and Arizona, a proposal which also failed to receive the endorsement of the Democratic Party of the county. Both factions favored statehood, but only separate statehood for their territory alone.[101]

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[100] Ibid., January 5, 1900.

[101] Farmington Times Hustler, March 10 and September 29, 1904.

When the Joint Statehood Bill which incorporated the above idea was presented to Congress a faction in the locale gave it support. This group was the Joint Statehood League, organized on April 30, 1905,[102] which drew its officers and members from all sections of the county. Following the lead of this group, and because of pressure brought to bear by it, the Farmington Board of Trade on December 4, 1905, passed a resolution favoring the admission of New Mexico and Arizona into the union as one state.[103]

The county election of 1906 was an overwhelming victory for the Democratic Party, the party that had endorsed joint statehood as a part of its campaign platform. Despite a Democratic victory, the people of the area soundly defeated the joint statehood measure by a vote of 763 to 122.[104]

In 1910 San Juan County elected R. W. Heflin and M. D. Taylor, Democrats, as Delegates to the Constitutional Convention. These men took their place in a convention dominated by Republicans seventy-one to thirty, and had been elected on a thirteen point platform.[105] Its points were: (1) Primary election for nomination of elective officers

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[102] Ibid., May 4, 1905.

[103] Ibid., December 7, 1905.

[104] Ibid., October 4, and 11, 1906.

[105] Ibid., September 15, 1910.

(Including U. S. Senators). (2) Popular initiative for legislation and other public measures. (3) Uniform system of the referendum and recall. (4) Free ballot and honest count of ballots at elections. (5) Fixed maximum rates of taxation for state, county, city, town and school district purposes. (6) Prohibition against the incurring of any indebtedness by the state for current expenses, but such indebtedness to be allowed for permanent improvements when authorized by the vote of two-thirds of the electors of the state, and not to exceed a certain per cent of assessed valuation of the state. (7) Establishment of a State Corporation Commission elected by the people, vested with the power to control all railroads, express companies, and other public service corporations, but subject to the right of appeal to the State Supreme Court. (8) A law providing for the publication of all candidates, committees, and their campaign expenses. (9) Making the judiciary elective and creating county judges. No judge to be nominated by political party; all judges nominated at separate elections. (10) Governor to have veto power over appropriations (part or whole), with a vote of two-thirds of the legislature being necessary to pass over his veto. (11) Prohibiting the appointment to any office of profit any member of a legislature during his term of office and for two years thereafter. (12) Fair and just apportionment of the members of the legis-

lature based on the 1910 census. (13) Statewide prohibition as a separate question to be voted upon at the time of holding the general election for the adoption of the constitution.[106]

As the convention was Republican controlled many of these points did not become a part of the constitution promulgated. The Democratic Party of the county then opposed the ratification of this constitution, and listed four reasons for their action: (1) Because it denied the right of the people to rule by omitting a provision in favor of direct legislation. (2) Because of its unequal and unjust system of taxation. (3) Because of the excess of judges at unreasonable salaries, continued Grand Jury system, and no provision for county judges and attorneys. (4) Because it was practically impossible to amend. These, in the main, were the same faults pointed out by the Democratic Party throughout the state.[107]

When this constitution was presented to the electorate for ratification on January 21, 1911, the Democratic Party of San Juan County opposed its approval. Their attack was based upon the slogan: "A vote against the Constitution is not a vote against statehood, but a vote for a better

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[106] Ibid., July 28, 1910.

[107] Ibid., December 15, 1910.

Constitution."[108] In their attack upon the proposed constitution they listed sixteen reasons why the electorate should not vote in favor of the constitution. These sixteen points follow:

1. First term of all county officers to be 5 years.
2. Amendment clause makes it practically impossible to change.
3. No provision for secret ballot
4. No provision to prevent corruption in elections or campaigns.
5. High salaries for judges -- $54,000 per year.
6. $142,365 a year for state officers, judges, and legislature.
7. Corporations not made to pay just tax (Railroads in New Mexico -- $8,000.00 a mile; California -- $19,000.00 a mile).
8. No provision made for direct primary.
9. No initiative in legislature.
10. No recall
11. No referendum
12. Corporation Commission given little real power.
13. No separate election of judges.
14. No qualifications for Probate Judges or Justices of the Peace.
15. Public lands not protected -- can be sold at any price at any time.
16. County debts of Grant and Santa Fe Counties ($1,500,000) to be saddled upon taxpayers.[109]

The state as a whole ratified the constitution by a three to one vote, but in San Juan County it was defeated by 282 votes, or almost two to one. The vote on the constitution is here charted to indicate how each section of the county reacted to it.[110]

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[108] Ibid., January 19, 1911.

[109] Loc. cit.

[110] Farmington Times Hustler, January 26, 1911.

	For	Against
Pine River	6	14
Aztec	82	172
La Plata	25	39
Fruitland	24	11 (Carried)
Farmington	159	183
Bloomfield	11	51
Largo	11	32
Flora Vista	18	68
Blanco	7	50
Cedar Hill	22	29
Shiprock	8	6 (Carried)

The chart shows that only two precincts in the county favored ratification, that these were small, and that in both the vote was comparatively close. The stand of the county was explained by the editor of the Farmington Times Rustler, who had opposed ratification, when he wrote: "San Juan County remains progressive while most of the other counties join the reactionaries."[111]

Despite the above action, it should be remembered that the area did favor statehood, but had voted against a constitution which they considered too conservative, and which answered but few of New Mexico's political ills. When at 3:10 P. M. on Monday, August 21, 1911, word came that President Taft had signed the Smith-Flood resolution which assured New Mexico statehood, celebrations were held throughout the county. Farmington's rejoicing took the following form:

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[111] Ibid., January 26, 1911.

> Whistles blew, bells rang, and people cheered. A display of flags soon decorated the town, and everyone was glad. In the evening an informal celebration was held in the park, the band furnished music, the boys a big bonfire, and short addresses were made by J. C. Hubbard, Williard Belknap, William Butler, W. T. Holmes, and William Locke.[112]

Among those listed as speakers were men who had most bitterly opposed the constitution. Aztec also held a celebration, all stores closed, and a sports carnival was held.[113]

San Juan County then had favored statehood, but had opposed the constitution adopted by New Mexico. Yet, in 1912, when the first constitutional amendment was voted upon, and passed by the state, San Juan County refused to amend the constitution by a vote of 633 to 276.[114] Five years later, when a special election was called on September 16, 1919, to ratify three proposed amendments, the area would ratify only the first of these. The amendment which passed granted absentee voting for soldiers of World War I, primarily, and was given an affirmative vote of 221 to 98. The second, which provided for the establishment of a four man Board of Control for state educational institu-

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[112] Ibid., August 24, 1911.

[113] Ibid., September 7, 1911.

[114] Ibid., November 4, 1912.

Whistles blew, bells rang, and people cheered. A display of flags soon decorated the town, and everyone was glad. In the evening an informal celebration was held in the park. The band furnished music, the boys a big bonfire, and speeches were made by J. O. Brown, Jim Lipscomb, William Butler, A. T. Gibson, and William Locke.[112]

Among those listed as speakers were men who had been bitterly opposed the constitution. Aztec also held a celebration, all stores closed, and a sports carnival was held.[113]

San Juan County then had voted statehood, but had opposed the constitution adopted by the people. But, in 1912, when the first constitutional amendment was voted upon, and passed by the state, San Juan County helped to amend the constitution by a vote of 1,[illegible]13 to 972.[114] Five years later, when a special election was called on September 16, 1919, to ratify three new amendments, the state would ratify only the first of these. The amendment which passed granted absentee voting for soldiers of World War I, primarily, and was given an affirmative vote of 201 to 98. The second, which provided for the establishment of a four man board of Control for state educational institu-

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[112] Ibid., August 29, 1912.

[113] Ibid., September 7, 1912.

[114] Ibid., November 5, 1912.

tions, was defeated 296 to 14. The third, which placed a limit on state debts, but gave the legislature power to issue bonds and certificates for roads and bridges in value not exceeding $2,000,000.00 was defeated 299 to 20.[115] Two years later eleven amendments were presented for ratification. Of these, four were passed by the state, but only three of these four passed in San Juan County, although she gave an affirmative vote to four out of the eleven. Those passed by both state and county included: No. 1, giving women the right to hold office, No. 2, denying Japanese the right to own or lease land in New Mexico, and No. 11, validating a $2,000,000.00 road bond issue. The fourth amendment passed by the state, but defeated in San Juan County, granted a tax exemption to service men of World War I. The fourth amendment passed by San Juan County, but failing in the state, dealt with the Governor, Legislature, and Budget. Others defeated by San Juan County dealt with such things as powers of State Corporation Commission, powers of Public Land Commissioner, rate of taxation, municipal indebtedness; things which she had favored before the vote on the constitution.[116] Again in 1924, when three amendments were presented for ratification, the county soundly

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[115] Ibid., September 4, and 18, and October 2, 1919.

[116] Ibid., September 29, and October 6, 1921.

defeated the one passed by the state, and also defeated the other two, but by not quite so heavy a margin. This time she refused to ratify an amendment dealing with the judicial branch of the state government, which made the Grand Jury optional, and permitted the prosecution of felonies on information filed by the District Attorney. Here by a vote of 973 to 235 the area refused to amend a section of the constitution which in 1911 it had bitterly opposed.[117] Little or no reason can be seen in the above action, unless it was that the county was not so opposed to issues as to any change.

Participation of the county in state affairs has been shown indirectly in its stand on prohibition, statehood, and the constitution. Its first participation in state politics after statehood came on November 7, 1911, when all state and county officers were elected to serve until January 1, 1917. In this election the county voted with the state as a whole, and gave the Democratic candidates sizeable majorities. The county elected nine Democrats and two Republicans to county offices. However, one of the two Republican officials was that of Representative; so the area contributed both to the Democratic victory in executive offices, and the Republican majority in the House of Representatives.[118]

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[117] Ibid., November 28, 1924.

[118] Ibid., September 21, and October 5, and 12, 1911.

defeated the one party by 5,000 votes, and also defeated the other two, but by not quite so large a margin. This time she refused to rule by an emergency decision of the judicial branch of the state government, which made the grand jury optional, and permitted the prosecution of Lonion on information filed by the District Attorney. Due to a vote of 923 to 237 the area refused to change a section of the constitution relating to it was initially proposed.[117] Little or no tension can be seen in the above action, unless it was that the county was not as opposed to taxes as to any change.

Participation of the county in state affairs has been shown indirectly in the stand on prohibition, elections, and the constitution. The first participation in state politics after statehood came on November 7, 1911, when all state and county officers were elected to serve until January 1, 1917. In this election the county voted with the state as a whole, and gave the Democratic candidates a majority in all offices. The county elected nine Democrats and two Republicans to county offices. However, one of the two Republican officials was that of Representatives, so the area contributed both to the Democratic victory in executive offices, and the Republican majority in the House of Representatives.[118]

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[117] Ibid., November 28, 1911.

[118] Ibid., September 21, and October 5, and 12, 1911.

A year later the area took part in its first national election, and again the county voted Democratic. The results below show the Democratic victory despite the four way split in the vote.[119]

For President

Democratic	Wilson	497
Republican	Taft	230
Progressive	Roosevelt	236
Socialist	Debs	143

For Representative to Congress

Democratic	Fergusson	514
Republican	Jaffa	267
Progressive	De Baca	146
Socialist	Eggum	138

At the time of the next general election in 1916 the county contributed its first candidate for a state office. Mr. J. L. G. Swinney, County Superintendent of Schools 1911-1916, received the Democratic nomination for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Unfortunately for the county he lost the election to his Republican opponent by ninety-nine votes (32,402 to 32,501), and the county failed to obtain its first state official.[120] In national and state politics the county again voted Democratic. It gave Wilson a 253 plurality over Hughes in the Presidential race,

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[119] Ibid., November 14, 1912.

[120] Ibid., November 9, and December 16, 1916.

Jones 301 votes over Hubbell for U. S. Representative, and De Baca 130 votes more than Bursum for Governor.[121] The above Democratic victory was repeated in 1918, and the area contributed a Democratic Representative to a Republican dominated State Legislature.[122]

A change, however, came about in the election of 1920. The Republicans won seven of the eleven county offices, and nationally the county went Republican by a 156 majority for Harding, and 12 for Congressman. In the election of state officials the Republicans carried all offices in the county vote except those of Governor, Treasurer, and State Senator. These were carried by the Democratic candidates with pluralities of from thirty to forty-four votes. San Juan County contributed to the Republican victory in the nation, the State Legislature, and state offices, with the chief exception of the Governorship in which it had voted Democratic in a Republican victory.[123]

When in 1921 New Mexico's U. S. Senator Fall resigned his post to accept the cabinet position of Secretary of the Interior, a special election was called to fill his vacated seat in the U. S. Senate. The Republican candidate, H. O. Bursum, won the very close election in San Juan County by

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[121] Ibid., November 9, 1916.

[122] Ibid., November 21, 1918.

[123] Ibid., November 11, 1920.

Jones 301 votes over Hubbell for U. S. Senator, and De Baca 190 votes more than Burns for Governor.[121] The above Democratic victory was repeated in 1918, and the area contributed a Democratic representative to a Republican dominated State Legislature.[122]

A change, however, came about in the election of 1920. The Republicans won seven of the eleven county officers, and nationally the county went Republican by a 158 majority for Harding, and 12 for Congressman. In the election of state officials the Republicans carried all offices in the county vote except those of County Treasurer, and State Treasurer. These were carried by the Democratic candidates with pluralities of from thirty to forty-four votes. Sandoval County contributed to the Republican victory in the nation, the State Legislature, and state offices, with the sole exception of the Governorship in which it had been Democratic in a Republican victory.[123]

When in 1921 Mr. Harding's U. S. Senator Hall resigned his post to accept the Cabinet position of Secretary of the Interior, a special election was called to fill his vacated seat in the U. S. Senate. The Republican candidate, A. A. Burans, won the very close election in San Juan County by

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121 Ibid., November 9, 1918.

122 Ibid., November 22, 1918.

123 Ibid., November 12, 1920.

defeating his Democratic opponent, R. H. Hanna, 497 to 470.[124] The closeness of this vote indicated that the area was swinging back to the Democratic Party it had deserted a year before. This swing bore fruit in the election of 1922 when the Democrats won nine county offices, and gave all their state candidates majorities of over 300 votes. In the senatorial race the area voted Democratic 947 to 627, and again voted with the state as a whole.[125]

San Juan County followed the general trend in the election of 1924. Republican President Coolidge was given a seventy vote plurality. Most state Democratic officials were elected, and San Juan County gave all of them majorities with the exception of the Lt. Governor. A Republican Lt. Governor was elected; San Juan County had given him a twenty-five vote majority. County offices went to eight Democrats and three Republicans, and a Democratic Representative was sent to a Democratic Legislature at Santa Fe.[126]

William Butler, editor of the Farmington Times Hustler, was in 1924 the Democratic candidate for State Senator from the shoe-string district including Sandoval, Bernalillo, and San Juan Counties. Majorities given him in Bernalillo

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[124] Ibid., October 6, 1921

[125] Ibid., November 9, 1922.

[126] Ibid., November 7, 1924.

defeating his Democratic opponent [illegible], by [illegible].

The closeness of this vote indicated that the area was swinging back to the Democratic Party it had deserted a year before. This swing bore fruit in the election of 1924 when the Democrats won nine county offices, and carried all their state candidates majorities of over 30 votes. In the senatorial race the area voted Democratic 2[illegible] to [illegible], again voting with the state as a whole.[125]

San Juan County followed the general trend in the election of 1924. Republican President Coolidge was given seventy vote plurality. Most state Democratic officials were elected, and San Juan County gave all of them majorities with the exception of the Lt. Governor. A Republican Lt. Governor was elected; San Juan County had given him a twenty-five vote majority. County offices went to eight Democrats and three Republicans, and a Democratic Representative was sent to a Democratic Legislature by [illegible].[126]

William Duffy, editor of the Farmington Times Leader, was in 1924 the Democratic candidate for State Senator from the San-Rio Arriba district including Taos, Mora, and San Juan Counties. [illegible] Duffy [illegible]

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[124] Ibid., October 6, 1922.

[125] Ibid., November 5, 1922.

[126] Ibid., November 7, 1924.

and his home county brought about his election, by a 400 vote plurality, over John R. Young, his Republican opponent from Cuba, New Mexico.[127] The Republican Party had, however, captured the State Senate by thirteen to eleven majority. This majority on February 4, 1925, with no election contest having been filed, or hearing held, voted to unseat Senator Butler and also Senator Hodges of Quay County. With the Republican majority voting as a block the Democrats, in minority and with some members absent, could not stop the action. The Democratic members denounced such high-handed, but perfectly legal, methods, but John R. Young, Mr. Butler's opponent in the election, was seated in the Senate seat from which Butler had been deposed.[128]

Butler himself denounced the action saying that anyone who had voted to unseat him was "a falsifier, and the truth is not in him,"[129] that the Republican Party was willing to steal an election in the Senate Chambers of Santa Fe, and that "the men who assisted in it are thieves just as much as any porch climber or hold up man on the highway."[130]

The reaction which followed in San Juan County was as

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[127] Ibid., November 7, and 28, 1924.

[128] Ibid., February 6, 1925.

[129] Ibid., February 13, 1925.

[130] Loc. cit.

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[127] Ibid., October 1, and 15, 1898.

[128] Ibid., October 8, 1898.

[129] Ibid., October 15, 1898.

[130] Loc. cit.

violent and bitter as Butler's statement. Both Republicans and Democrats attacked the Senate's action. Some of their opinions are given below, and are quoted from the Farmington Times Hustler's issues of February 13, and 20, 1925.

David Miller-- Chairman of the County Horticultural Board and prominant orchardist -- "If they can do a thing like that we no longer have any government in New Mexico."

J. M. Palmer -- Former State Representative from San Juan County, and prominant Republican attorney -- "I am surprised that Johnny Young would accept the seat in the state senate, offered him after the unseating of Butler, since there has been no contest. If I had been in Young's place I would certainly have refused to have taken the seat."

J. P. Atteberry -- Mayor of Farmington -- "It is a condition to be deplored when unscrupulous politics is to be permitted to obstruct legislation and frustrate the will of the people. Any man such as Mr. Renehan, who wields absolute influence over a legislative body is dangerous to the state, and should be retired to private life, no matter what party he may belong to."

Guy Herbert -- Democratic County Chairman -- "At the time I left Santa Fe, 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the day the senate took this action, there had been no hint of ouster proceedings, and evidently the gang wanted it kept secret until they struck the blow. I have been in this state 34 years, and the old gang is still practicing the same methods they used when I came to the state. The only remedy is to kick them out, and it will be done the next time the people get a chance to vote."

Dr. A. M. Smith -- "It is time to draw a line South of us and secede."

L. H. Taft -- "If the senate can refuse to let our man stay after we elect him, let's let the "Old Gang" come over here to collect our taxes."

violent and bitter as Earlier elections. Both Republicans and Democrats attacked the Sabatis deal. Some of their opinions are given below, and are quoted from the Lawrence Times Bulletin issue of February 13, and 20, 1929.

David Miller -- Unemployed Gas County Republican Board and Republican primaries -- Why they do a thing like this we no longer have our government in New Mexico.

J. R. Palmer -- Former State Representative from San Juan County, and prominent republican attorney -- "I am surprised that young young people, the best in the state, have offered his after the unemployed. There has been no argument. It is not young's place to do a similar case to have taken the seat."

J. F. Atchenery -- Mayor of Farmington -- "It is a condition to the people when treasonable politics is to be permitted to obtain political and financial control of the people. Any man such as Mr. Sabatis, who flaunts the influence over a Territorial Party is dangerous to the state, and should be retired to private life, no matter what party he may belong to."

Guy Herbert -- Democratic County Chairman -- "At the time I left San Juan Co. in a letter on the afternoon of the day the remarks from this side of there had been no hint of greater prosecution, and evidently the case ended it for the present until they struck the blow. I here pass in this state 14 years, and Mr. Sabatis has still prevailing the same methods they used when I came to the state. The only remedy is to stamp them out, and it will be done the next time the people get a chance to vote."

Dr. A. M. Smith -- "It is time to throw a load off of us and secede."

L. B. Tarr -- "If the state machines to let our man stay without place and, left behind "Gang" come over here to politics and stamp."

E. P. Woods -- "The trouble is that there's a number of leaders in the Republican Party at Santa Fe who are not Republicans, but members of the "Old Gang." "

Dr. G. W. Sammons -- President of the Farmington Civic Club -- "I feel that a whole county should not be injured because of a petty political squabble in the legislature, and I believe that every person in San Juan County feels as I do that the action taken by the Senate in unseating Senator Butler was unjust and indefensible."

H. M. Baltosser -- "regular Republican" -- "This action is unthinkable. We ought to have a special election so all the Republicans in this district, including those who voted against Mr. Butler in the last election, could make it unanimous for him."

Mrs. H. B. Sammons -- President of the First National Bank of Farmington, and prominant Republican -- "I am horrified at the action of the state Senate, and can hardly believe such action possible. Something ought to be done about it."

James L. Wade -- Former State Representative and present Republican Committeeman -- "If ever a man was elected to the senate in New Mexico Bill Butler was elected. The action of the Senate violates the spirit of the Constitution, and is high handed proceedure, [sic] but may be in accordance with the letter of the law."

W. A. Hunter -- Former State Representative and prominent Democrat -- "I deplore the action of the state senate as a flagrant abuse of power and a hinderance to wholesome legislature."

W. H. Harris -- County Assessor -- "Even high bound Republicans are sore, some even urging violence as the only means of getting rid of Renehan (the Senator who had brought the action against Butler)."

F. E. Uhl -- "I am a Republican, but the leaders of our party in Santa Fe are not real Republicans, and we must get rid of their control before believers in real Republicanism can again vote the G. O. P. ticket."

E. P. Woods -- "The trouble is that we've a number of leaders in the Republican party at Santa Fe who are not Republicans, but members of the Ring Gang."

Dr. G. W. Barnes -- President of the Santa Fe Civic Club -- "It (sic) takes a whole county school not be injured because of a party solution! squabble in the legislature, and I believe that every person in Santa Fe is I do that the action of the Democrat Senate in unseating Senator Butler was unjust and detrimental."

H. M. Bates -- "Regardless of the Senate action it is unthinkable. [illegible] to have a special election so as to authorize [illegible] including Senator-elect Butler. Only in the last election could such a mandate for him."

Mrs. E. B. Seymour -- President of the First National Bank of Santa Fe, and President Republican Women's Club -- "I am horrified at the action of the state Senate and can hardly believe such action possible. Something ought to be done about it."

James L. Rose -- former State Representative and present Republican Committeeman -- "If ever a man was elected to the Senate in Santa Fe Bill Butler was elected. The action of the Senate violates the spirit of the Constitution, and is high handed procedure, [illegible] in accordance with the letter of the law."

W. A. Hunter -- former State Representative and prominent Democrat -- "I doubtless [illegible] the action of the state senate as a flagrant abuse of power and a disgrace to Western legislature."

W. H. Harris -- County Assessor -- "Even Hard Hard Republicans are sore, some even urging violence as the only means of getting rid of Fernald (the Senator who had brought the action against Butler)."

F. E. Uhl -- "I am a Republican, but the leaders of our party in Santa Fe are not real Republicans and we want rid of them. Nothing before Harvey in real Republicans can again vote the G. O. P. ticket."

Anonymous -- "The only relief in this state for such tyranny as the state Senate has shown is in the organization of the whole state into active divisions of the KKK."

The above statements are for the most part given by Farmington men and women, but also include statements from most sections of the county. The Civic Club of Kirtland gathered petitions of protest to send to the Honorable Edward Sargent, Lt. Governor and President of the Senate.[131] Aztec and other communities gathered and sent petitions demanding redress to the Senate. Senator Butler, after his return to Farmington, stated that he would resort to legal methods in regaining his seat, but he was never reseated in the Senate.

The reason for the ouster of Butler and Hodges was pointed out by Carl Magee in the New Mexico State Tribune, an Albuquerque newspaper.[132] Mr. Magee stated that the Republicans did not file a protest, or hold a regular hearing because the facts would have gone against them. The reason for the action had been the death of C. T. Brown, Republican Senator from Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, Sierra, Socorro, and Catron Counties Senatorial District, in the early days of the legislative session. This left the

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[131] Farmington Times Hustler, February 13, 1925.

[132] Ibid., February 27, 1925, quotes Mr. Magee's article.

ANONYMOUS -- "The only right thing which state for such tyranny as the State Bar has shown is in the organization of the whole state into sections or divisions of the BAR."

The above statements are far the most vehemently given in favor of men and women, but also include statements from most sections of the country. The Ohio Club of Writing Women petitions of protest to send to the Honorable President, Congress, Lt. Governor and President of the Senate. [131] Art and other communities endorsed resolutions because of reference to the Senate. Governor Hulings, after his refusal to Ratification, stated that he would respond to 1 petitioners in regarding his seat, but he was never reelected in the Senate.

The reason for the burning of Hulings and others was pointed out by Carl Hagen in the New Mexico State Tribune, an Albuquerque newspaper. [132] Mr. Hagen stated that the Republicans did not file a protest, or hold a recount because the State would have sued against them. The reason for the action had been the death of C. P. Bryant, Republican Senator from Grant, Rio Arriba, Luna, Otero, Socorro, and Catron Counties Senatorial District, in the early days of the legislative session. [133] [illegible]

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[131] Farmington Times Hatch, February 1, 1923.

[132] Ibid., February 27, 1923, Hagen Mr. Hagen article.

Republicans only with a majority of one in the senate, and they feared a special election in Brown's district might return a Democratic Senator, and thus destroy their majority. Furthermore, they feared that in the off year election two years hence a Democratic Lt. Governor would be elected, as this office had been one of the few Republican offices to survive the Democratic victory of 1924. If the above should take place, the Republicans would lose control of both houses of the Legislature, as the House of Representatives was already Democratic. Fearing the above, plus their loss of additional controls if a Democratic Legislature should pass a revised election law, they became desperate, and chose to oust Butler and Hodges rather than take a chance on the people forgetting in two years, and returning them to power in the state government.[133]

The voters of San Juan County did not forget the Senate's action, and in the election of 1926 elected nine Democrats to county offices. In addition, the area gave all Democratic candidates for state offices large pluralities. Executively and Legislatively the state as a whole went Republican, but San Juan County became something of a rebel area, giving the Democratic candidate for Governor,

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[133] Mr. Magee also cites other political reasons for the action, but the above are the most applicable.

A. T. Hannet, a 588 majority over his Republican opponent. All other Democratic state candidates received like majorities, and the county sent a Democratic Representative to a Republican dominated Legislature.[134]

Such was San Juan County's part in state and national politics. Its role was at times individualistic; at other times it followed the general trend; in 1926 the role was that of a rebel area because of the treatment received by its State Senator William Butler. The area is, in final analysis, wholly American, and an asset to the state of New Mexico.

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[134] Farmington Times Hustler, November 12, 1926.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL

NOTE

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Guides

Unfortunately, there is no guide or bibliography concerned with material for San Juan County. The work of Lyle Saunders, A Guide to Materials Bearing on Cultural Relations in New Mexico (Albuquerque, New Mexico: 1944) has been of assistance in reaching some material on San Juan County. This work should be carefully checked by any writer of local New Mexican history. The New Mexico Historical Review also should be carefully surveyed, as it contains both articles and notes which will prove valuable.

General Works

Even better guides than the above for a broad outline of San Juan County's development are the general histories of New Mexico. A History of New Mexico (New York: 1925), Vols. II and III, by Charles E. Coan has specific sections on San Juan County, and its two major towns -- Farmington and Aztec. Like sections are found in Ralph E. Twitchell, Leading Facts of New Mexico History (Cedar Rapids, Iowa: 1917), Vol. IV, and History of New Mexico (Los Angeles, California: 1907), Vol. II, compiled by the Pacific States Publishing Company. Although the above contain some errors, and are often misleading, they constitute, even though they

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are old, the best concentrated outline of San Juan County's history available. In addition, they often direct one to primary sources which can be explored further by the writer of local history. Professors Lansing B. Bloom and Thomas C. Donnelly's work, New Mexico History and Civics (Albuquerque, New Mexico: 1933), is of value in the more modern period of New Mexican history. The volume is not concerned with individual areas, but is an aid in correlating the county's governmental progress to state and national politics. It is especially valuable in this respect for the period just prior to and following New Mexico's statehood.

Biographies on People of the County

Biographical material is very scarce. This probably results from the fact that the locale has yet to produce an outstanding leader for the state or nation. One can add that personalities seem to have played only a small role in the development of the region. The afore mentioned general histories contain brief sketches of local merchants, professional men, and farmers; however, no great amount of detail is given. A few additional facts may be gathered from newspapers, local histories, and personal interviews. Frontier Fighter, the Autobiography of George W. Coe (New York: 1934) by Nan Hillary Harrison, gives some information on the early period of the country. Unfortunately, this

are old, the best comprehensive writing of San Juan County's history available. In addition, there often must be primary sources which can be explored either by the writer of local history. Professors Angie C. Bloom and Theodore C. Donnelly's work, New Mexico History and Civics (Albuquerque, New Mexico: 1931), is of value in the work where basics of New Mexican history. The value is not concerned with individual areas, but is an aid in correlating the county's governmental process to state and [illegible] politics. It is especially valuable in this project [illegible] prior to and following New Mexico's statehood.

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work is concerned primarily with Mr. Coe's participation in the Lincoln County (New Mexico) Cattle War, and only a few pages near the end of the book are devoted to Coe's activity in San Juan County. Moreover, the pages are so general in their discussion that the worth of the book to San Juan County history is small.

Reports

Special and detailed reports found to be of aid are not numerous, but the few available serve as excellent sources. Mr. C. H. Gildersleeve's Reports of Cases Determined in the Supreme Court of the Territory of New Mexico from July 24, 1891 to August 24, 1892 (Columbia, Missouri: 1896), Vol. IV, is essential for details and an understanding of the struggle to permanently locate the county seat of the area. This work, naturally, is cryptic and legal in language and form, but nevertheless it presents a clear picture of the problem from its beginning to its final settlement by the Territorial Supreme Court.

An aid in presenting any physical picture of the region is Thomas M. McClure's work, Report of San Juan River Hydrographic Survey (Santa Fe, New Mexico: 1938), Vol. II. This report discusses the irrigation network of the region's farms, and is of aid in showing the importance of the land and the river systems which have made possible

the agricultural advancement.

Laws

One volume of laws is of primary importance to the history of the locale because in it one finds the act creating San Juan County (1887), and a definition of its boundaries. This is found in Acts of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of New Mexico, 27th Session, 1887 (Santa Fe, New Mexico: 1887). Compilations of laws which are of value are: Compiled Laws of New Mexico - 1884 (Santa Fe, New Mexico: 1885), and Revised Statutes of the United States Laws 1873-74 (Washington, D. C.: 1878). These compilations are an aid in following Judge Edward P. Seeds' decision on the location of the permanent county seat at Aztec, New Mexico.

Special Studies

Several articles, pamphlets, and small volumes are useful in gathering background, statistics, and general information. A short monograph by F. D. Behringer, "New Mexico Municipalities and County Consolidation in New Mexico" (Study Number 1, Public Affairs Series of the Department of Government and Citizenship of the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico: 1937) is valuable for its statistical information. The County Boundaries of New Mexico

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General Studies

Several articles, pamphlets, and small volumes are useful in gathering background, statistics, and general information. A recent manuscript by J. L. Kerchner, "New Mexico Municipalities and County Consolidation in New Mexico" (Study Number 1, Public Affairs Series of the Department of Government and Citizenship of the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico: 1934) is valuable for its statistical information. The County Consolidation in New Mexico

(Austin, Texas: 1922), by Professor Charles E. Coan, an article reprinted from The Southwestern Political Science Quarterly, Vol. III, Number 3, December, 1922, is helpful in tracing San Juan County's geographical organization. This work also contains a series of maps which clarify the county boundaries prior to its creation as a separate administrative unit. M. H. Foster's "History of Mormon Settlements in Mexico and New Mexico" (Unpublished Masters thesis at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico: 1937), though not detailed, is useful as a general guide to the Mormon settlements in San Juan County. Unfortunately it deals only with those Mormon settlements which attained a permanent nature, and is, therefore, of no value for the Mormon colonization attempts which failed.

A pamphlet, San Juan County New Mexico (Santa Fe, New Mexico: 1906) published with the authority of the Bureau of Immigration of New Mexico by Granville Pendleton, is most useful for its statistical, geographical, and topographical discussion of the county. It was written to promote immigration into the region, and for this reason it must be read carefully and checked against other sources. In the main, however, the picture it presents of the area, resources, and opportunities, tallies with those of local newspapers, agricultural journals, and reports of the Territorial Governors.

(Austin, Texas 1967), to [illegible] Quarterly. One, an article reprinted from the [illegible] Quarterly, Vol. XIV, March - [illegible], 1967, is valuable in tracing the Texas Democratic [illegible]. This work also contains a wealth of [illegible] county [illegible] be the [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] Texas in Austin and the author [illegible] at the University of [illegible], [illegible] (1967), [illegible] detailed, is useful as a [illegible] to the Texas [illegible]. [illegible] it deals only with [illegible] a permanent [illegible], and is, therefore, [illegible] Texas [illegible] attempting [illegible].

A [illegible], and also [illegible] the Texas [illegible] New Mexico [illegible] published with the [illegible] of [illegible] of the [illegible] is also useful for its [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible] discussion of the [illegible]. It has [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] into the [illegible], and for this reason [illegible] is [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. In the [illegible], however, the [illegible] is [illegible] of the [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible].

The Sarah Platt Decker Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Durango, Colorado, has compiled two small volumes describing the early development of the San Juan Basin of New Mexico and Colorado. The second volume of this work, Pioneers of the San Juan Country (Durango, Colorado: 1946), contains a limited amount of information on San Juan County. It is an aid in tracing the closing developments of the Stockton Cattle War of 1880-81, and, in addition gives some biographical material on the early citizens. Its contributors are of two classes: those that took part in the events described, and writers who through personal interviews with pioneers of the basin have gathered and recorded data.

Newspapers

For the writer of local history the weekly newspapers published in the region are a prime source. In San Juan County two rather complete files of local newspapers are available to the research worker. First, the bound files of the San Juan Times, the Farmington Times, and the Farmington Times-Hustler which have been preserved by Orville Ricketts, the present editor of the last named newspaper. These are kept at its news printing plant in Farmington, New Mexico. Second, the partially bound files of the San Juan Democrat preserved by editor, George Bowra, at the office of the Aztec-Independent Review in Aztec, New Mexico. In

The Earth Plate Worker Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Durango, Colorado, has made two small volumes describing the early development of the San Juan Basin of New Mexico and Colorado. The second volume of this work, Pioneers of the San Juan Country (Durango, Colorado: 1946), contains a lively account of Christmas Eve on San Juan County. It is an aid in tracing the origins and development of the Cortez Cattle War of 1889-93, and in addition gives some biographical material on the early citizens. Its contributors are of two minds: those that took part in the events described, and others who through personal interviews with pioneers of the Basin have gathered and recorded data.

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For the writer of local history the weekly newspapers published in the region are a prime source. In San Juan County two rather complete files of local newspapers are available to the research worker. First, the bound files of the San Juan Times, the Farmington Times, and the Farmington Times-Hustler which have been preserved by Sylvia Rickette, the present editor of the local newspaper. These are kept at the news printing plant in Farmington, New Mexico. Second, the partially bound files of the San Juan Democrat preserved by editor, George Morris, at the office of the Aztec-Ladera-Hunt Review in Aztec, New Mexico.

addition, a partial file of the above newspapers is maintained at the office of the County Clerk in the county courthouse in Aztec.

Files of the San Juan Times begin in mid 1892, and continue until late 1900 when the publication became known as the Farmington Times. This designation continued until early 1903 when the newspaper was consolidated with the Farmington Hustler, and took the caption Farmington Times-Hustler. Unfortunately the files of the Farmington Hustler which began publication in late 1901 or early 1902 have been destroyed, and that source of information lost. The files of the consolidated Farmington Times-Hustler run from 1903 to date, and it is still in publication. All of the above were or are weekly publications printed at Farmington, New Mexico.

Preserved copies of the San Juan Democrat, Aztec's weekly newspaper, commence in 1901, and are partially complete to date. The publication is today known as the Aztec Independent Review, and is an excellent source for county progress, especially in the Aztec area of influence.

Files of the Northwestern New Mexico, the first weekly newspaper, are no longer available. This publication was printed at Bloomfield, New Mexico, while the region was still a part of Rio Arriba County, a fact which places its date of beginning prior to 1887. The exact dates of its

publication, a partial list of the above documents is available at the office of the Grand Orient of the Lodge of Research in Latvia.

Files of the Lodz Lodge [illegible] continue until late 1939 when the publication ceased as the Germans arrived. This documents a meeting held early 1939 when the Lodge was considering with its Parent Lodge, all four the English Grand Lodge [illegible] the Grand Lodge of the Lodge of [illegible] which began publication in late 1938 or early 1939 but were destroyed, and that series of [illegible] Lodge of the [illegible] Lodge [illegible] 1939 to date, and it is still in publication. It of the above were or are [illegible] publications [illegible] the Lodge.

Fraternal bodies of the Grand Orient, Latvia, nearly [illegible], commence in 1921, are [illegible] place to date. The [illegible] of the Grand Lodge Independent Latvia, and later the Lodge of [illegible] process, especially in the later days of Latvia.

Files of the Grand Lodge [illegible] newspaper, are no longer available. [illegible] related to Masonic Lodges [illegible], while in Latvia was still a part of the Baltic Domain, [illegible] date of beginning prior to 1940. [illegible]

publication are not known, but it is doubtful if it continued much beyond 1890, for by that year Bloomfield had lost much of its former prominence which had been based upon placer gold mining activities in its vicinity. Files of this publication were at one time preserved at the county courthouse in Aztec, but these were destroyed to make room for the storage of more vital county records. The author has one photographed copy of the newspaper dated February 8, 1887, the original of which no longer exists. This copy was, of course, made prior to the destruction of the files, and indicates that the county lost a prime source of information when copies of the Northwestern New Mexican were burned.

Even though the files of these weekly newspapers are not complete, especially during the early period of their publication, they serve as the one great printed source for the county's social, political, and economic development, and are indispensable in any study of its institutions.

Personal Interviews

Because of the scarcity of printed or documentary evidence available, the interviewing of the few remaining pioneers is the most useful -- and too often the only -- source of information concerning the early settlement and development of the locale. Despite the advanced age of

those interviewed, the author found them clear in thought, unanimous in agreement on major points, and eager to give a truthful picture of the years and history they had seen in San Juan County. Moreover, their remembrance of their youth -- in most cases -- was uncanny in that most of them, without hesitation, named dates, places, persons, and other details in agreement ninety-five per cent of the time. The few exceptions of non-agreement are footnoted in the body of the study. Without the eagerly given aid of the following pioneers a major portion of the chapter concerning the early settlement and progress of the locale could not have been written:

Mr. Clinton W. Burnham, Farmington, New Mexico, September 1, 1946.
Mrs. Frances David, Blanco, New Mexico, September 17, 1946.
Mrs. Mary Dicus, Marvel, Colorado, September 9, 1946.
Mr. A. F. Dustin, Farmington, New Mexico, September 10, 1946.
Mr. A. C. "Bert" Hubbard, Farmington, New Mexico, September 15, 1946.
Mrs. Hilda Jackson, Aztec, New Mexico, September 5, 1946.
Mr. Abel P. Lobato, Turley, New Mexico, September 17, 1946.
Mr. George Spencer, Mancos, Colorado, September 13, 1946.
Mr. Edward Thomas, Farmington, New Mexico, August 11, 1946.
Mrs. Julia Tyler, Farmington, New Mexico, September 16, 1946.

Time did not permit the interviewing of all the pioneers still remaining in the county. The above list constitutes an estimated ninety per cent of them, and an attempt was made to cover every section of the county in the hope of obtaining an over-all picture from the region's pioneers.

those interviewed, the units found themselves in complete unanimous in agreement on major points, and seem to give truthful pictures of the years of history they had seen in San Juan County. Moreover, their recollections of that period -- in most cases -- are amazingly in this day of hazy, slipshod hospitalism, based dates, places, persons, and other details in agreement therefore was reached. The few exceptions of non-agreement are included in the body of the study. Without the assurity given this collection the pioneers a major portion of the chapter concerning early settlement and progress of the locale could not have been written.

Mr. Clinton H. Bowman, Farmington, New Mexico, September 1, 1964.
Mrs. Frances Davis, Flora, New Mexico, September 23, 1964.
Mrs. Mary Dixon, Durango, Colorado, September 9, 1964.
Mr. A. T. Dunkin, Farmington, New Mexico, September 10, 1964.
Mr. A. C. "Pete" Bulkard, Farmington, New Mexico, September 15, 1964.
Mrs. Hilda Jackson, Aztec, New Mexico, September 5, 1964.
Mr. Noel F. Dobbs, Tulsa, New Mexico, September 12, 1964.
Mr. George Spencer, Durango, Colorado, September 13, 1964.
Mr. Edward Thomas, Farmington, New Mexico, August 13, 1964.
Mrs. Nellie Tyler, Farmington, New Mexico, September 10, 1964.

Time did not permit the interviewing of all the pioneers still remaining in the county. The above list constitutes an estimated ninety per cent of them, and an effort was made to cover every section of the county in the hope of obtaining an over-all picture from the individuals there.

Each year the number of older settlers becomes less and less; it is unfortunate that with their passing they will carry with them a source of local history.

Manuscripts

Indispensable to any local history are the records of the county archives, journals of pioneer settlers, and unpublished local histories compiled by the joint efforts of the region's first settlers. The most useful records of the county archives were: "San Juan County Commissioners Journal," "San Juan County Deed Records," and "First Judicial District Court Case Number 01690, October 4, 1937." The first listed contains records dating from the creation of the county in 1887 as a separate administrative unit. It is extremely useful in tracing the political development of the area. An aid in presenting both political history and early settlement is "San Juan County Deed Records" which often gives details not found in the "Commissioners Journal." Statistics concerning the river valleys, and the irrigation system are most clearly presented in the district court case listed above.

Some insight into the locale's history while it was a part of Rio Arriba County can be obtained from "Abstracts of Rio Arriba County Records, 1880-1887." This official journal is all one finds in the county archives dealing with

Each year the number of older settlers comes less and less; it is unfortunate that with their passing they will carry with them a source of local history.

Conclusion

Indispensable to any local history are the records of the county archives, journals of pioneer societies, unpublished local histories compiled by the pioneer citizens of the region's first settlers, the news files of the county archives were: "San Juan County Sun Records," and "First Journal," "San Juan County Deed Records," and "First Judicial District Court Case Docket (1869, October 1, 1917)." The first listed contains records dating from the creation of the county in 1887 as a separate administrative unit. It is extremely useful in tracing the political development of the area. An aid in presenting both political history and early settlement is "San Juan County Deed Records" which often gives details not found in the "Court Journal." Statistics concerning the river valleys, and the irrigation system are most minutely recorded in the district court case listed above.

Some insight into the local's history while it was a part of Rio Arriba County can be obtained from histories of Rio Arriba County records, 1860-1887." The official journal is all one file in the county archives dating 4th

that period when the San Juan settlements were a part of Rio Arriba County. Because of its brevity -- less than thirty pages in an 8x12 inch volume -- it does not add appreciably to the county's historical development.

Other documents discovered and used were a "Journal" by William Locke, one of the early settlers of the Farmington area, and an unpublished local history, "A Collection of Historical Events in the Settlement of San Juan County, New Mexico," compiled by Mrs. A. F. Miller. Mr. Locke's "Journal" is neither signed nor dated; however, it probably was written in 1907, as that is the date of its last entry. Also its form seems to indicate that it was written in its entirety at one time, not over the span of years it covers. Mr. Locke's son-in-law, Jim Wynn, who possesses the original, and Mrs. Homer Norton, Mr. Locke's daughter, agree that the original is in Locke's handwriting. A copy of the "Journal" appears as Appendix III of this study.

The Miller document is the result of a Pioneer Association formed by the early settlers of the locale on February 6, 1900. This association was open to all settlers who came into San Juan County prior to January 1, 1887. The group was headed by Mr. John A. Kountz of Aztec, and William Locke served as its secretary. A local historian was appointed in each of the county's precincts. These historians were to gather and write the history of their

section, and present their efforts to Mrs. A. F. Miller, Historian of the Pioneer Association. The document used in this study and which appears as Appendix II, is the result of work done by the members of the Pioneer Association. The manuscript is undoubtedly not the complete effort of all, because the major portion of it was done, and signed, by only William Locke, P. M. Salmon, and Mrs. A. F. Miller. A more complete collection is held by Mrs. Agnes Furman, the daughter of Mrs. Miller, of Farmington, New Mexico. Unfortunately her material was not available to this writer. Mrs. Furman, undoubtedly has most of the original which should be more detailed than that used in this study. The signed copy available is a paper read at one of the meetings of the Pioneer Association by Mr. William Locke, the exact date of which is not known.

APPENDIX I

Some of the early settlers of San Juan County
who came into the area
between 1876 and 1881

SOME OF THE EARLY SETTLERS OF SAN JUAN COUNTY

WHO CAME INTO THE AREA

BETWEEN 1876 AND 1881

ANIMAS VALLEY

Upper

A. U. Graves
G. W. Cox
Ike Stockton
J. R. Williams
Mrs. Hart
R. L. Smyth

Aztec Area

Moses Blancett
John Millison
John Kello
Boone C. Vaughn
Henry Wood
Peter Knickerbocker
B. H. Milleson
H. M. Sharp
John Kountz
Monroe Fields

Flora Vista Area

C. M. Hubbard
Dison Eskridge
Edward Thomas, Sr.
Richard Crouch
Harg Eskridge
S. F. Quinn
George McCoy
Mrs. R. E. Ferguson
Port Stockton
John Clayton
Frank Arthur
Joe Hays
Major Halford
Charles McCoy
Harvey McCoy

SAN JUAN VALLEY

Upper

Salome Jacquez
Osequi Jacquez
David Lobato
P. N. Salmon
Manuel Sanchez
H. Manzonares
M. S. Pacheco
G. Archuleta
Nestor Martinez
J. C. Hubbard
W. H. Harring
W. B. Haines
Orange Phelps
Jim Daisy
Fred Bunker
Covert White
Franklin Creighton
Tom Creamer
Joe Starrett
John Baker
W. L. Stevens
Manuel Prado
L. F. Wilmers

Peninsula

William Huntington
W. S. Williams
C. H. McHenry
Henry Sharp
J. C. Carson
E. O. Booram
J. W. Brown
George E. Allen
Adam Hanna
Billy Boram

ANIMAS VALLEY (Cont.)

Farmington Area

James Ferguson
Ben McGalliard
Oliver Mergordan
J. B. Hampton
L. W. Coe
A. F. Miller
W. G. Markeley
William Locke
George Coe
A. F. Stump
F. M. Pierce
William Hendrickson
Marion Hendrickson
Orville Pyle
Oscar Pewitt
Seth Welfoot
Charles Virden
Milton Virden
Orville McGordon
D. J. Craig
A. E. Dustin
George Spencer
John Nance
Hugh Griffin
Fowler Kimball
William Sutherland
Joe Howe
Dan Howe

SAN JUAN VALLEY (Cont.)

Lower

J. B. Ashcroft
J. E. Stevens
J. R. Young
Ira Hatch
H. H. Deluch
Luther C. Burnham
S. D. Webster
Reece Richards
J. Farnsworth
A. D. Coolidge
Tom Evans
H. C. Marcus
Thomas Hart
John Bigler
C. M. Moss
Albert White
Jim White
T. C. Bryon

LA PLATA VALLEY

Edward Thomas, Sr.
Edward Thomas, Jr.
Sam Rush
John Schwartin
A. E. Dustin
Foster Blacklock
Elmer Taylor
John Biggs
John Pond
George Lockhardt
Frank Williams
Charles Steele
Tom Hoge
Ira Fulcher

The chart is based upon materials from Ralph E. Twitchell, Leading Facts of New Mexico History, Vol. IV, Charles E. Coan, A History of New Mexico, Vol. II and III, and History of New Mexico, compiled by the Pacific States Publishing Company; obituary notices and biographical sketches from the San Juan Times, Farmington Times, Farmington Times-Hustler, San Juan Democrat, and Aztec Independent Review; personal interviews with the few remaining pioneers of San Juan County; William Locke's, "Journal" (see Appendix III), and "A Collection of Historical Events in the Settlement of San Juan County, New Mexico" (see Appendix II), compiled by Mrs. A. F. Miller; "Abstract of Rio Arriba County Records 1880-1887," and Frank D. Reeve, "A Navaho Struggle for Land" in the New Mexico Historical Review, Vol. XXI, January, 1946.

APPENDIX II

A collection of historical events
in the settlement of
San Juan County, New Mexico.

Compiled by
Mrs. A. F. Miller

Ladies and Gentlemen: In hunting up historical data from which to write anything in any way interesting in connection with the early settlement of this section of New Mexico, I find that I am compelled to depend almost entirely on my poor memory and the memory of some who have kindly given some dates. For, in the first days of the settling of these valleys, the most of us had such a hard struggle to get food that we had no time to devote to jotting down the happenings from day to day. And even if we had, I fear we would have loathed to do so, thinking that the sooner we buried many of our experiences deep down in the past, without even a board to mark their last resting place, the better it would suit us. And if we had kept a journal of all that transpired in those days, and to-day with all our peaceable surroundings should draw them forth and publish them for the entertainment of our friends, I dare say there would be but few but would look in doubt as to the truthfulness of the article.

To antedate my own arrival a few years, would say that our neighbor Wm. Hendrickson came here in the summer of 1876 and located his ranch, (the ranch now occupied by our neighbor S. R. Blake,) on the 13th day of November 1876.

Al Pewitt and Orvil Pyle came a little later and occupied the ranches now owned by Mr. Huntington.

Seth Welfoot appearing on the scene located the ranch now owned by Mr. Woodard. Mr. Vaughan and Adam Hanna coming about this time located the ranches on the San Juan, Mr. Vaughan the one now owned by Mr. Orange Phelps and Mr. Hanna the one owned by Mr. Graham, a part of the McHenry ranch. In those days that section was known as Echo Bottom because the first settlers getting so lonely with no women to talk back at them, used to go out there and talk and scold to hear the echo return claiming it somewhat reminded them of home back "yander". Mr. Orange Phelps settled about this time above Bloomfield.

During this spring Mr. W. P. Hendrickson was surrounded by 29 Navajos and Utes, occasioned by a dispute coming up over whether the Indians could run their horses over his garden or not. But by his over persuasive talk the matter was peasibly [sic] adjusted.

In the season of 1877 Mr. Miller and family settled where they now live. October 10th of this year I cam in and bought Wright Leggit's right to the place I improved, it being the one

now owned by Mr. W. N. Kight. (While I was camped in the bottom on this place, a party of Navajos came in while Mr. Miller was away and took possession of the store. I believe Mrs. Miller drew a gun on them but somehow or other an Indian brought a larger one to bear on her and she proposed an armistice. At any rate they ceased hostilities for the time being. Lew, who was then a small boy ran over to my camp for help. I got there as soon as I could, going in through the living room into the back of the store, and what a sight presented itself to me: There was a squaw and one buck behind the counter playing proprietor, and a buck on the outside of the counter with a small blanket spread out playing trade. When they saw me coming the buck sprang for the top of the counter but I caught him on the toe of my boot landing him on the outside. The others standing around seemed to enjoy the fun. I returned to Colorado that fall and came back here on the 13th day of April.) [Material in parenthesis marked "don't read not wholy corect"[sic] in original manuscript.]

In the summer of 1879 I built the house now occupied by Mr. W. N. Kight it being the first shingle roof in the valley. Being rather taller than the ordinary cabin, the Indians called me the man with the high hogan.

I think about the 1st of July 1879 we began to receive mail at the expense of the U. S. Before this any of the neighbors who happened to be in Animas City would bring it down and leave it at Miller's store to be distributed. At or about this time the Flora Vista P. O. was established, Flora Vista being then on the east side of the river on what is now known as the Blancett ranch.

This was then a part of Taos County the county seat being at the town of Fortunande Taos. A couple of years later, in 1881, the lines were changed and we were moved without any effort on our part into Rio Arriba County with county seat at Tierra Amarilla. There we were allowed to sojourn with an occasional trip of 125 miles to the county seat until 1887 when we made a short trip and landed right side up with care in San Juan County with temporary? county seat at Aztec.

But owing to having acquired a migratory habit our county seat then took a move and landed at the new town of Junction City Here it folded its wings for a shortwhile but its journey had not yet been completed. So in the solemn stillness of a starry night it spread its wings and we, like the man who looked up stream for his drowning wife, found it again at Aztec.

Our next move is not very plainly chalked out, but possi-

bly it will be made by taking a slice from Colorado and one from New Mexico and creating a new state for us.

But to go back to 1879 again -- during this summer we had an occasional Indian scare but nothing of a serious nature. This was the season of the Meeker Massacre and many predicted that it would result in a general uprising of the Indians.

In 1881 on the 24th of January we had a genuine scare. Some drunken rowdies tantalized an Indian until he got angry and stole his larietta then shot him. The shooting was done just in front of what is now the Times office.

The Indians rallied on the 28th and about 50 of them, painted and equipped for war, surrounded the town, while about 300 more were stationed in the bend of the river near the mouth of the La Plata ready to come up if the fight came on.

One friendly Indian, Gregorio by name, came to my house and warned us not to take any part and we would not be disturbed. He said it was the Tejanas or Texans they were after, meaning the cowboys. Dr. Brown, the father of John and Lee, Gregorio, the friendly Indian invite [sic] some of the most influential Indians of the war party to come in. Then they held a powwow with them and got them to put off hostilities until the chief Barba Huera could be got in from Cañon Bonito. He arrived on the 4th of February. By this time the wounded Indian had so far recovered that they were persuaded to drop the trouble.

At another time, the date of which I am not certain, the Indians turned their horses into Mr. Maupin's crop and made a great many threats which resulted in Mr. W. P. Hendrickson and myself going to Ft. Lewis for troops. At another time an Indian called Largo Pete ran into Milt. Virden's wire fence and was quite badly cut. Dr. Brown went and dressed his wounds and he was getting along very well but soon after an Indian doctor came from Cañon Bonito and took the bandages off and rolled him in the sand and otherwise mal-treated him, the consequence of which was he died and the country got rid of an Indian who was an enemy to the whites.

But this Indian's friends made threats and the people, not knowing how far it would go, sent for troops to Ft. Lewis. A powwow was held with the Indians and by Mr. Tom Bryan, who was then an Indian trader at the old Virden place, giving them a sack of flour and some coffee and sugar, their wrath was appeased, and another scare subsided.

In the year 1880 I planted out the first orchard on the 2nd day of June. At this date we had our choice of going to Alamosa or Santa Fe to a rail road, and frequently our food ran very low, often having to resort to grinding meal or flour on the coffee mill, and sometimes some lacked the grain to grind.

Durango started up in the spring of 1881 or rather in the winter of 1880, an epoch which was marked in Farmington by the Stogton or Farmington Cattle War. For some time the country was kept in a terrible state of excitement by the acts of lawlessness. Even the Indians took a back seat and either looked on or shied to the mountains. It was said that during some of these troubles, an Indian was seen coming down the street at a breakneck speed. Some one hailed him and asked the cause of his hurry. He said "Mericano mucho broke out again."

At one time a venturesome showman came in here with a panorama of Bible scenes and secured the use of the old school house to show in. He cut off the back end of the house with a curtain and extended his characters along this curtain unrolling to the different scenes. There came along a large representation of the Savior, one rowdy back in the congregation raised up and said see me shoot the lights out. With that another opened fire, which cut the canvas full of holes. The showman went out at a side window and has not been heard of since. After seeing a few careless shots the women thought it time to leave.

In 1879, just after the Meeker Massacre, it seemed as though the Navajo Indians got the word as soon as the Americans did, and a friendly Indian, Mora Bueno by name, which translated into pretty good English means Good Berry, at once came up to the settlement to give the word to his white amigos. He recited the unwelcome news to a lady in the presence of a neighbor who lived a short distance below Farmington. The lady who at that time was not as well up in the Spanish Edomia as she is to-day, rather got hold of the wrong end of the story, and the way she interpreted it was to the effect that the Navajos were going to join the Utes and annihilate the white settlers in to to. [sic] So our listening neighbor who considered he was a power within himself when it came to fighting red skins, at once donned his war paint and wanted the settlers to capture our friend Mora Bueno and hold him as hostage for good behavior for the tribe. So our neighbor started out to enlist white warriors. The first subject he approached happened to have had a talk with Mora on the situation, and he having a slight knowledge of Spanish proceeded to enlighten him to

the effect that our "friendly" had tried to impress it on the lady's mind that the Navajos were going to play friendly with the whites through the troubles. But our white warrior was hard to convince and would not be convinced until the Indian was brought before the lady and told his story over again in the presence of an interpreter. The belief being so strong that the Utes and Navajos were going to join in a war against the whites, it came very near causing a stampede of many settlers toward a more civilized country.

A Tragedy.

During the year 1884, in February, one John Blancett and another man went to the Mexican settlement at Largo and becoming engaged in a misunderstanding with a member of the Archuleta family, after a few shots were exchanged, Blancett was shot and instantly killed. Archuleta was arrested and brought down to Bloomfield on a warrant issued by the J. P. a Mr. Haines. The cowboys took an active part against the Mexican, and the affair finally terminated by their taking the prisoner from the officer of the law and hanging him to Mr. Haine's butcher frame where he was accustomed to hang up beeves. For several days it looked like this would bring on a war between our Mexican neighbors and the cowboys, but the better judgment prevailed and the matter was finally dropped and peace reigned again until a war sprang up between the Mexicans and cowboys out on the Gallegos at the place where Simpson's store is located. This was occasioned by a dispute over the range in which a cowboy shot and wounded a Mexican sheepherder. A posse of Mexicans went to arrest the cowboy. He and another cowboy got into the house which was soon surrounded by the Mexicans. The house was riddled with bullets, but the men inside tore up the floor and scratched a hole in the sand underneath, where they lay for several hours, the bullets passing over them harmless. [sic].

Finally the besieging party crawled up to the corner of the house, which was just a thin lumber wall, and succeeded in setting it on fire. However before it was far under way the cowboys discovered it and by a generous application of flour succeeded in extinguishing the flames. Finally they shot a Mexican which seemed to turn the battle in their favor, and after the siege had lasted several hours, the Mexicans retired bearing their wounded comrade who soon afterward died. The ground around the place had the appearance of a vertible battle ground. It was reported that

seven horses lay dead on the geound [sic]. A winchester rifle was afterwards picked up which had been left by the Mexicans.

A Mr. Hartman settled the place now owned by Andy Stevenson in the year 1876.

Ben McGalliard settled the place now owned by Mrs. Greaves Dr. Rosenthal, Mr. Prewitt, and Mr. McJunkin in the same year.

The first claim located near the junction of the Animas and the San Juan rivers was one taken by old Billy Boram in 1875 which embraced the land now owned by our neighbor Mr. W. N. Kight. But as he was rather lonely he abandoned it and in 1877 Mr. Wright Leggitt took it up and in 1878 sold his privilege to Wm. Locke who made extensive improvements thereon.

A family by the name of Darling and the son-in-law, Horn by name, settled at the junction of Gallegos Cañon and the San Juan River near where F. M. Hamblet now resides. A somewhat noted Navajo character, Costillano by name, had a bunch of sheep and goats which he brought to water each day to the river on Mr. Horns [sic] place. Mr Horn so seriously objected to this that in order to settle the matter for all future generations, he concluded to scare Costillano away with his gun. He pulled his gun on Costi, but no quicker done than the wiry little Navajo grappled with him and in the scuffle took the gun away from Horn and struck him a lick or two with his quirt. Mr. Horn retired to the house leaving Costi the victor. After the excitement cooled down Costi surrendered him his gun. To show how little a thing it takes to create an Indian scare, I would say that on the strength of this occurance, Mr. Horn with a flaming petition in his possession, setting forth in glowing terms the bloody encounter and recounting many other bloody occurances of like nature, proceeded to the fort to engage the minions of Uncle Sam to at once annihilate the remaining few of our noble red men.

[signed] Wm. Locke

An account of the settlement of Precinct No. 6.

On the 12th day of February in the year 1877, I landed on the San Juan River. On the 15th I located the place where I am still living. At that time there were only the Hale family, Jim Daisy, and Covert White, besides about a dozen Mexican families who had located in the vicinity of Largo. There was no one settled on the Animas, La Plata, or lower San Juan with the bare exception of Billy Boran who had taken the old Seth Welford place. By the way, he had a man staying there in 76 or 77, by the name of Milt Ballingsworth, and one night while in deep slumber the Navajos stole his pants and left him without any thing to wear so he had to make himself a pair out of a piece of Mexican wool carpet. Rather odd looking pants.

Old Billy Boran built the toll road down Largo Cañon in Jan. and Feb. 1877 and put up a toll-gate in the Cañon and came very near starving to death collecting toll. I suppose he has bills outstanding yet against the traveling public.

In June 77, I think it was, Orange Phelps with family, and Thomas Creamer landed on the river and located here. The Navajos were rather impertinent for a couple of years. In the summer of 77 Franklin Creighton located on the river. In the fall of 77 a government surveying outfit came here with orders to subdivide the township most settled, which was ours. In the same fall Kit Carson, Joe Stairrett, and John Baker, with others, located here and went to work making a ditch to irrigate their lands.

In those days there seemed to be a mortal fear of centipedes tarantulas, and scorpions. I remember in 78 that a man who is to-day a good citizen, was fixing his ditch, unaware of the fact that he was working in one of those red ant hills, and naturally enough they got all over him. He was not acquainted with their "modus operandi," but to his sorrow he soon found it out. When he had about mended the break in the ditch he made a break for the brush and in his own words "there was 49000 of the dreaded centipedes bit me." I was scared to say the least until he described them and then I told him what they were so he recovered very soon after. We older settlers had a pretty hard time of it. We used to chew sage brush and different weeds for tobacco and smoke skunk brush leaves, coffee, and some one thing and some another. The boys tried (after getting tired of everything else) some black pepper but

it did not smoke very fragrant, not quite as good as Havana, but a fair substitute when you can't do any better.

Talk about the civilizing effects of law on the people -- for a couple of years we did not have any law in the country but we did have good order, everybody attended to his own business, there was no jangling or quarreling by any one and every thing went on peaceably; but as soon as we had justices of the peace appointed then the ruction began and this part of the country was a regular pandemonium. We will make no comments on that any further than to relate one or two incidents. I was getting mutton from a little broken backe [sic] Navajo. He would come to the opposite side of the river and I would go across on a boat that I ran at the time. The first question he would ask was "Are the Americans on the war path yet and what are they fighting about?" Of course I could not tell because I had no hand in it. He allowed that we were bad people. So did that other Navajo who saw the cowboys flip their pistols over their thumbs and when they came to a present arms shoot them off, the only trouble with him was he presented too soon and the consequence was that there was another good Indian.

[signed] P. N. Salmon

The First Fourth of July Celebration in Farmington took place in 1880. Those that were present at this picnic were: Mr. and Mrs. McHenry and Eula, now Mrs. Allen; Mrs. Eliza Vaughan and three sons; Mr. and Mrs. Pierce and Harry; Mr. Miller and four children; Mrs. Foot and three children; Mr. Maupin and four children; Mr. and Mrs. Stump; and James Cooper, Will Gannon, Mr. McRay, Right Legget and brother, and Seth Welford, all old bachelors.

Miss Becky Maupin was the only young lady in the town or vicinity at that time. She was afterwards Mrs. John Moss.

At that picnic the expression "I don't like beans," originated. It was one of the main dishes.

(First couple married in the County were Mr. S. Rush [and] Miss Brand.) [Above parenthesis inserted in hand writing in original manuscript].

The first couple married within the limits of Farmington were Charles Virden and Josie Maupin. The ceremony was performed by Mr. Bukey, the brides uncle, who was the first minister in the valley.

An original ceremony and the first one to put on record was that at the marriage of Thomas Bryan to Mrs. Nancy M. Mills. "Do you and each of you promise to forsake all others and cleave to each other as husband and wife, through sickness and through health, as long as you both shall live? "Answer me, yes." "Yes." "Then, therefore what God has joined together let not man put asunder, and upon the powers vested in me I pronounce you husband and wife."

A justice of the peace within and for the said Precinct No. 20, County of Rio Arriba, and Territory of New Mex.

In 1879, Gen. Bull with a company of soldiers, came in here to quell Indian troubles, and camped between the rivers where Junction City is now. Having heard that there was danger of a massacre, he came through so quickly that he killed three mules. He came again in the spring of 1880. He was a very zealous officer.

Early Butter.

One of our early merchants bought a barrel of butter from a ranchman or woman, and in working the butter to print it so as to sell the Merchant's wife had left a 10 quart pan full of blue white and gray cloths (supposed to be dish cloths) corn husks, corn silk, and numerous small particles too small to mention; but the butter brought fifty cents a pound all the same when sold to the soldiers at Ft. Lewis.

[signed] Mrs. Miller

A Narrow Escape.

One evening when Mr. Miller's clildren [sic] were playing hide-and-seek from the store to their sitting room opening into the store, his boy, Lew Miller, hid under the counter on a pile of sacks of flour. When found he ran into the other room. Just then a drunken man came shouting in with his pistol in his hand and shot through the counter and through the sacks of flour. The stage-driver, Lewis Goff, and Mr. Miller would not go in so Mrs. Miller went in and closed the door after her and talked to him until he was quieted down and coaxed his pistol from him. She then led him through the sitting room and dining room into a bed room and gently shoved him on to the bed; then she whipped out and closed the door and the men barred and tied it and kept the poor fellow in until morning. When she told him what a narrow escape he had had from killing a child he cried and told her she ought to have hung him. She gave him back his pistol and he promised to be a better man. Whether he kept his promise or not, those that are left perhaps know. Of course she was frightened but he would have shot through the door next and her children were there and their peril makes mothers brave. People on the frontier must take things as they come.

[signed] Mrs. M.

An Ugly Occurence.

McNeunema killed two men on the old Markley place in June 1881. After finding the bodies the neighbors got together and Mr. Stump and Charles Virden volunteered to go after the murderer. He was well known. This being at the time of the Stockton Eckredge War it was rather dangerous to venture away from the valley but in such a case some one must go. Well he was easily followed; he had started on horseback, had ridden slowly until he had gotten several miles up the glade going towards Durango, then he had put his horse through to Silverton where it was always believed that Adam Hanna and friends hid him from the pursuers. So he was never punished for his crime. They say murder will out, so it did, but in this case the murderer got out too.

One Instance of Hardship.

Mr. Maupin moved here from Roseta, Colo., in the fall of 79 His wife took sick and he left his cow and household goods with Mr. Locke and took her and the family to Santa Fe thinking to get nearer a doctor, but it seems it was too late and she died there. He moved back and in April of the next year, 1880, settled across the San Juan River and put in a little ground and raised a garden. He also put in quite a crop on the east side of the river and while away tending this crop he had to leave his three girls alone. Flour was not to be had then as there was a flour famine so his girls had to live on green corn and milk.

That summer while Mr. Miller was away for flour, Mrs. Miller got down to two quarts of Flour; she divided with one of her neighbors having one quart left and she divided cans of oysters from the store and no one went hungry. Mr. Miller soon got in with flour and other provisions. Flour went up to $15 per hundred pounds that summer and soon after to $20 and some of the neighbors had to grind corn on the coffee mills.

A dinner party was given by a neighbor in the old times and she asked several friends and of course set as good a table as possible. After all were through her little girl straightened up and said "Well that's the <u>first</u> good meal I've had for a month." You ought to have seen their faces.

Mr. Haines and Mr. Phelps settled at Bloomfield in 1877 and in 1880 every one there was short of provisions. Mr. Haines' folks lived on milk and fish instead of milk and honey.

Early Events. Reminesencus [written in pencil]

We were a handful of venturesome people
Not a schoolhouse nor church was nigh,
But although away in the wilderness
We were still under God's watchful eye:
Our valley has been made to blossom
By energy, thrift, and care
And people flock here from the east,
To breathe our life-giving air.
We have struggled through Indian troubles,
Through sand storms and frost and wind
We have looked for the grand old rail-road
Till the eyes of some have grown dimmed.
Some have lost, some have buried their loved ones,
And for some life's sorrows are o'er.
They are safe with their Heavenly Father
On the beautiful [sic] evergreen shore.
Others are patiently waiting
For the boatman to ferry them o'er
Where we'll meet with our friends and old settlers
To rest and abide evermore.

[signed] J M

First Store.

A. F. Miller opened a store in the valley in July 1878. His family moved here in June. He freighted his goods in first from Pueblo then from Ft. Garland and Alamosa. He had some queer experiences with the Indians and some white people. For instance, one woman came and bought a bill of goods, shoes and thread and syrup in a five pound pail, and then cut across the fields without paying. He followed her and when about to overtake her she poured the syrup out on the ground and ran into a neighbor's house and crawled under the bed where he found her and made her give up the shoes and thread. The neighbor woman went and scraped up the syrup and dissolved it and put it in her vinegar. Sweetening was scarce in those days and she said the dirt would settle.

While Mr. Miller was away after goods, his wife had to tend the store and one day several Indnans [sic] came in and behaved badly and used obscene language. She tried to make them stop and could not so she drew a 22 revolver on a six-footer but he called her with a 44 and as his hand looked the largest she sent for one of the neighbors, Mr. Locke, to settle the fuss. Another time an Indian, Costillano by name, came by drunk and got hold of a butcher knife and would not give it up. She followed him into the road

and he fell on his knees but flourished the knife. A Mr. Willett happened along and made him give it up.

The first Post Office was established on the 17th day of May, 1879. A. F. Miller was appointed Postmaster. The office was opened on the 30th day of May. The first carrier was Bill Kethly who brought the mail on ponies. The first contractor to bring the mail by wagon was Pearley Wasson. This contract paid some where in the neighborhood of $872 but was taken so cheap that the first year it cost the contractor over $1200.

The first boy born in the county was George Phelps. The first girl was Ermine Ferguson. The first couple married were Mr. Sam Rush and Miss Jennie Broad.

First Accident and Burial.

Mr. Cutter and Oscar Case settled across the San Juan in 1879, I think, and were engaged in taking out a ditch. While at work blasting some rock and dirt were supposed to have caved in on Mr. Cutter and killed him as there were several bruises on his head and face. His pardner [sic] put in a bill and took all the property that was left. A year or so after, this same Mr. Case stopped on his way from Animas City with provisions, at A. F. Miller's store for his mail. He had a man with him and had his wagon covered up with a wagon sheet. In a few days the people found that he had a dead man covered up in the back end of the wagon. Their story was that they had a jug of alecohol [sic] and this man stole it and drank too much and it killed him. He was buried somewhere across the San Juan.

First Natural Death.

I believe that Mr. Vaughan was the first person to die a natural death at what is now called Farmington. He settled on the San Juan two miles from town, had improved his place, and gotten his family from Florence, Colo. He was taken sick and as there were no doctors here and our simple remedies proved of no avail, he died.

Mr. J. W. Brown moved to the valley from 40 miles south of Pueblo on the Huerfano, in 1879. His son George was shot on Christmas Eve 1880 by Dyson Esckridge. Indian troubles in 1881 were quelled by Mr. Brown and we old settlers all feel very grateful to him for all his efforts to keep down a massacre.

Extracts from letter by W. P. Hendrickson.

I will not go further back than to that awful Christmas Eve of 1880. Jim Garret and Dyson Eskridge doubtless went to Hambletts that night for the purpose of the crime they committed, while poor Oscar Pewitt was led along by them and became the victim of keeping bad company. I have been told that no weapon was found upon his person.

That night Mr. Covert and I were to a dance at Olio and had what we thought a jolly good time. Next day, Christmas, Mr Covert went home while I remained until the following day. When on the road I met a stranger who inquired who the young men were that were killed at a dance Christmas Eve. This was my first news of that awful tragedy. On nearing home I could see people at the cemetery and guessed that a funeral was taking place. I had not long to wait until Mr. Covert brought the sad news that George Brown was that day buried and that poor Oscar Pewitt's remains were lyin [in] the schoolhouse. Early next morning I was in Farmington. There were a great many men there for so small a community. Soon Mr. Brown came and one of the boys. The poor heartstricken father looked the very picture of desperation.

Let us turn our attention to the poor mortal remains of Oscar Pewitt. It was then nearly three days and nights since he was killed and yet his remains lay in the school house. Why was this? It was evident that the body should be buried. No relative was near to take charge. His cousin and her husband, Mrs. and Mr. Pyle would not allow his remains on the ranch. This is why they were at the schoolhouse. Somebody ought to have the courage to make a move in the matter for humanity's sake if nothing else. Who would? All seemed to wait for somebody else to make the start. At last poor Seth Welford, C. H. McHenry and your humble servant took out picks and shovels and went up the hill to the cemetery, intending to dig his grave. A stranger followed us and plead for God's sake that we would not undertake to dig the grave, for said he, "I know the feelings existing in your community and you are liable to be fired upon at any moment." We hesitated, while he suggested that we hire some strangers, the camped [sic] down on the river, to dig a grave and deposite the remains in it. The man seemed in earnest so we concluded to take his advice. We offered ten dollars to the parties mentioned to bury the body; would they? No. They dare not. We then summoned all the courage possible and went to the cemetery. We walker [sic] off where we thought we would dig the grave, not in the cemetery, but a little way off, because we did not want to give offence to any one, besides we thought that the poor boy's people would sometime remove the remains. After marking off the grave

we again weakened and went back to town to watch the current of events. The day was far advanced and most of the crowd of the morning had left but there were perhaps twenry [sic] men seated in Mr. Markleys store. But few words were spoken. Every body seemed to distrust every body else. We were strangers to each other. Perhaps most of those present were right minded, willing, yes anxious to do right, but we could not read each others thoughts. Perhaps each one was asking himself why we did not bury the poor silent remains then in the schoolhouse. Why did we all sit there like dummies? Ah, because we were afraid. What a sad picture for civilized men to behold. Was there no one present that could rise above personal fear and speak in behalf of humanity, of civilization? If he were present, why this silence? And now if it is egotistical to tell the truth I shall pled [sic] guilty. I had been trying to frame a little speech that I thought could offend no one. So I ventured. I may not give the exact words but the substance was this: "Men I want to ask a few questions and I want each one to answer for himself. What kind of men are we? Are we barbarians or are we civilized men? If we are civilized why don't we take the remains in the schoolhouse and bury it like civilized men. There could be no harm in it but if the body lies there much longer it may do us harm." The first response was from Bill Ganon. Said he "I am ready to go." In quick succession I believe every man in the room fell into line, Marched to the schoolhouse, took the poor stark remains and bore it to its last resting place. They dug the grave just where we had marked it. I was sick and it was raining I thought my part was done so I went down to McGalliards and lay down to rest.

I will now mention the happenings as they are presented to my memory. You will remember that our people were in a deplorable condition for many months. I will commence by referring to the hanging of poor Tex as he was called, all to cover up the guilt of other parties. His execution was witnessed by a woman now living in San Juan Co. and still lives here. She was in the hills hunting stock when she saw the horrible murder. I will merely mention the killing of Port Stockton. Then the killing of John Blancett and the hanging of the poor Mexican at Bloomfield. I will mention the warning of Seth Welford to leave the county; The pulling down of Mr. Barum's house from over his head; the carrying of it to a stranger's ranch; and the caution given him to say but little about it. Then we remember the burning of Mr. McHenry's mill, also the burning of Mr. Pierce's mill.

The shooting of the Indian by Frank Mires and its results.

The assembling of the Indians at Mr. Brown's, demanding the arrest and trial of Frank; how he tried to make them understand that we had no legal right to proceed in the matter, and while they were there a body of armed men was seen coming down the road. How one Indian asked the rest to follow him into the road and they would protect their own rights. How every Indian sought shelter in every available place, hand on trigger, ready to pull as soon as the men were near enough. How Mr. Brown warned the men of their danger and how they insulted him for so doing but finally said he might get his Indians away if they would go quickly. The Indians were induced to retire. They went to Mrs. McGalliard's where they found a big coffee pot full waiting for them. I happened to be there at the time. The Indians posted a sentinel on the hill where he could see up and down the valley. Soon the men mentioned above came on and halted not far away. The sentinel gave the alarm and O what a flurry there was at Mrs. Mack's. I never saw any other human beings so excited, many of them left their coffee untouched, ran out and mounted their horses and up the hill they bounded. They evidently intended to make a stand in town and fight if need be. Then it was that I saw Mr. Brown on his horse riding hither and thither and shouting at the top of his voice, trying to persuade the Indians to leave. This they finally did but said they were not afraid. They had little cause to be afraid as I learned after that they had three hundred men in reserve at the mouth of the La Plata. Mr. Brown doubtless saved the country from a bloody massacre that day.

I will now resume som [sic] more mere references to some of the happenings with out regard to order or time. You will remember the killing of poor Barker by the Eskridge, Stockton party, and the long chase they gave Tom Nance. You will remember the shooting affair that occured on the La Plata, now known as Jackson, that resulted in the death of Dulushe and Hilton and the serious wounding of Alma Stevens. Also we call to mind the awful tragedy that ended poor Charlie Willett's life. The kidnapping and mysterious ending of poor old Pointer, the horrible affair at the Markley place, where poor Ed Tilden and the inoffensive Dutchman were killed, and the murder of Mr. Welch at his home near the Hogback by the Indian, all may be recalled to mind. But for the present let us turn our gaze from the horrible picture and view some of the more pleasing incidents. Among these I would mention the establishing of the first store by A. F. Miller, a much needed help to our progress; the building of our first schoolhouse and how it was accomplished; the establishing of the much needed

postal communication; the building of our first church, with the civilizing effect of the preaching of the gospel; the enjoyable season at the sacred camp-meetings; and the first fair and water-melon picnic.

Letter from a Pioneer.

Fruitland N. Mex. Aug/22-1900.

Pioneers of San Juan Co. N. Mex.:

I am called upon to contribute a little toward the entertainment of our friends of the frontier. I feel very incompetent, however, I will try. We, myself and my two boys Milton and Charlie Virden and my two children Ellis and Effie Mills, with a young man from Cañon City by the name of Helm landed on the San Juan River about the 20th of March in the year 1877. My son had been here the year previous and had built a small house and had some things in it but we arrived to find it burned down. We camped out for six weeks but the Indians got troublesome so the boys took me and the children to Animas City, a small place above where Durango now stands. We had to go through the reservation in the night.

I washed for a living and the boys down here trying to make a home suffered terrible hardships living on corn and wheat ground in the coffee mill. I came down again in the winter of 78-79 and we built a house on what now belongs to Henry King. We lived there several years and tried to make a home and in a measure succeeded.

During this time the cattle men had quite a war, first one and then another being killed. Some of the neighbors got scared and went to Colorado and stayed several years until the blast blew over. I think that those that showed the white feather and skipped out ought to be set on the left hand as they left us to fight it out, and did all they could against us, and then came back and thought they were the biggest ducks in the puddle.

Well, no matter who made the country, it is very nice now with beautiful orchards and acres of grain and alfalfa and every other product that you can mention.

Well this is not much but I have grown old here and you must not expect much from one such as I am.

With sincere regards to all the old pioneers,

I am yours respectfully,

Mrs. T. C. Bryan.

APPENDIX III

Early San Juan County from Journal

of

Wm. Locke

EARLY SAN JUAN COUNTY FROM JOURNAL

of WM. LOCKE

1st claim taken near Aztec, on which the Aztec ruins are situated, it was taken by Jimmy Carol.
Ruins 4 story high 3 to 400 rooms ceiling of Cedar, no regular windows, small openings, much potery [sic] scattered about, 13 skeletons found in the rooms when opened in 1880. Both corn & wheat was found in the ruins. Goat or sheep hoofs found imbedded in mortar in walls showing they had these animals.
John A. Kountz started first store in Aztec in 1880. Miss Cox & Graves settled at Cedar Hill in 1878. Mr. Cox being in the cattle business.
Wm. B. Haines started store at Bloomfield in 1880.
Mormons settled at Fruitland 1879.
Holford settled on the first claim near Flora Vista, the 1st P.O. was named Flora Vista and was on East side of Animas.
In 187-- first claim taken on La Plata. Wright Leggitt took up the place which was afterward improved by Wm. Locke, 1st orchard set out on this place by him in 1880, a few trees & vines set spring of 1879.
In 1878 Ben McGalliard & Milton, & Charley Virden, commenced what is now the Farmington Ditch. Got the water down to what is known as the Markley Ranch where McGalliard grew some crop same year.
1879, First Sunday school was started in Log cabin on the now Geo. Allen Ranch south of the Animas River. Mr. Buky organized it, He being a preacher & farmer and had taken a claim where Mr. Foster Blocklock now lives. He drove a span of Burros.
In May 1879 U. S. established a P. O. at Farmington. Mr. Miller P. M. up to this time our nearest P. O. was at Animas City, Colo. and from where we got our mail the best way we could.
A Wm Keittey was the first regular Mail Carrier, making the trip once a week, a pony mail.
The first contractor to carry mail by wagon was a Mr. Petis of Mo. and sublet it to one Pearly Wasson who lost considerable money on it the first year.
Fall of 1879 First school house built at Farmington 18x24 ft. built by voluntary contribution. Still standing as a part of the F. M. Pierce dwelling.
First teacher, winter 1879, E. O. Booram.
Ben McGalliard brot in a Mexican Mill 1879.

In 1882 Williams & McHenry put up 1st Modern Mill, on the, new, George Allen Ranch, Destroyed by fire a few years afterwards.

1881, Jan 24 Indians shot by cowboy in the street of Farmington

Jan 28 A large party of Indians came in, in war paint, and showed war like demonstrations, settlers held conference with them and persuaded them to withdraw.

Jan 29 Citizens held mass meeting, at school house, and made plans for home protection.

Jan 30 Gov troups [sic] arrived.

Feb 1 A few indians came in bringing word that the wounded indian was getting along well and on his way to recovery.

" 4 Barba Huera, the War Chief came and had a Council with settlers,

1883 School House built on southside, afterwards burned down,

1891 F. M. Pierce built a Flouring Mill where Electric Light plant is now located, afterwards burned down.

1881 Cattle mens war, A number killed. A time of general lawlessness.

1881 Tex arrested for steeling [sic] cattle. Mob took him to divide between Aztec & Bloomfield and hung him, which engendered more bitter feeling. Christmas following the two factions met at a dance at Hamblets on Sanjuan [sic], a fight, one from each side killed. At this time Indians peaceable, and as the Indians put it, Mellicans all broke out again. During these times quite a number of settlers left and went to Colorado to get away from the troubles. The 1st male child born here was Mr. Geo. Phelps, Female Erinim Ferguson, First couple married in the valley was Sam Rush & Mrs Jennie Broad.

First natural death was Mr James Vaughan, First grave in old cemetery.

Sept 9 1880 First picnic held on south side of river near Duly place. This was repeated year after year, except the year of the troubles, the outgrowth of it being the Farmington fair.

1887 the western portion of Rio arriba county was cut off and San Juan County Created from 108°30, to the line of Arizona about 5595 square miles

The first commissioners of San Juan county was Moses Blancet Daniel Rhodes & David Lobato. J. G. Kello was first Probate Clerk. These were appointed by the Governor.

Mar 7 1887 The 1st meeting of the board, The county seat being only temporarily located at Aztec, an election

was ordered to locate it permanently Junction City & Aztec being the candidates. The result being in favor of Junction City by a small majority, A contest was had over the election. In the the [sic] mean time a court house was erected at Junction City, the county seat being established there, until the case was decided in favor of Aztec. But before the case was finally decided the Aztec people slipped in, in the evening, secured the books & papers and hauled them to Aztec. Shortly after this the Junction City Court house went up in flames as the two mills school house had done

About 1889 Mrs Eldridge founded the Navajo Indian Mission near the Hogback.

1903 Shiprock Government school & agency established

1903 The Colorado Telephone Co built into San Juan County

1905 D & R. G. built into the County, First passenger coach coming into the county on 12th of September of that year, and during that fall the road was completed to Farmington.

1907 First Graduating Class, Miss Lena & Francis Elliott.

B.T.