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An Outline of the History of the Flaming Gorge Area

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FOREWORD

Mr. William M. Purdy, principal of Manila High School maintains a continuing and avid interest in the archeology and history of the Flaming Gorge area. This paper by Mr. Purdy is a by-product of his long interest in local history and an archeological survey of the Flaming Gorge reservoir, a report of which is included as Appendix I.

With this publication we initiate an additional subseries which we have designated the Upper Colorado series. Studies which focus primarily on Glen Canyon or its immediate environs will continue to appear in the Glen Canyon series. Project studies elsewhere in the Basin will appear in the Upper Colorado Series.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to Mrs. Mildred Treacy, editorial assistant, for the preparation of this report for the press.

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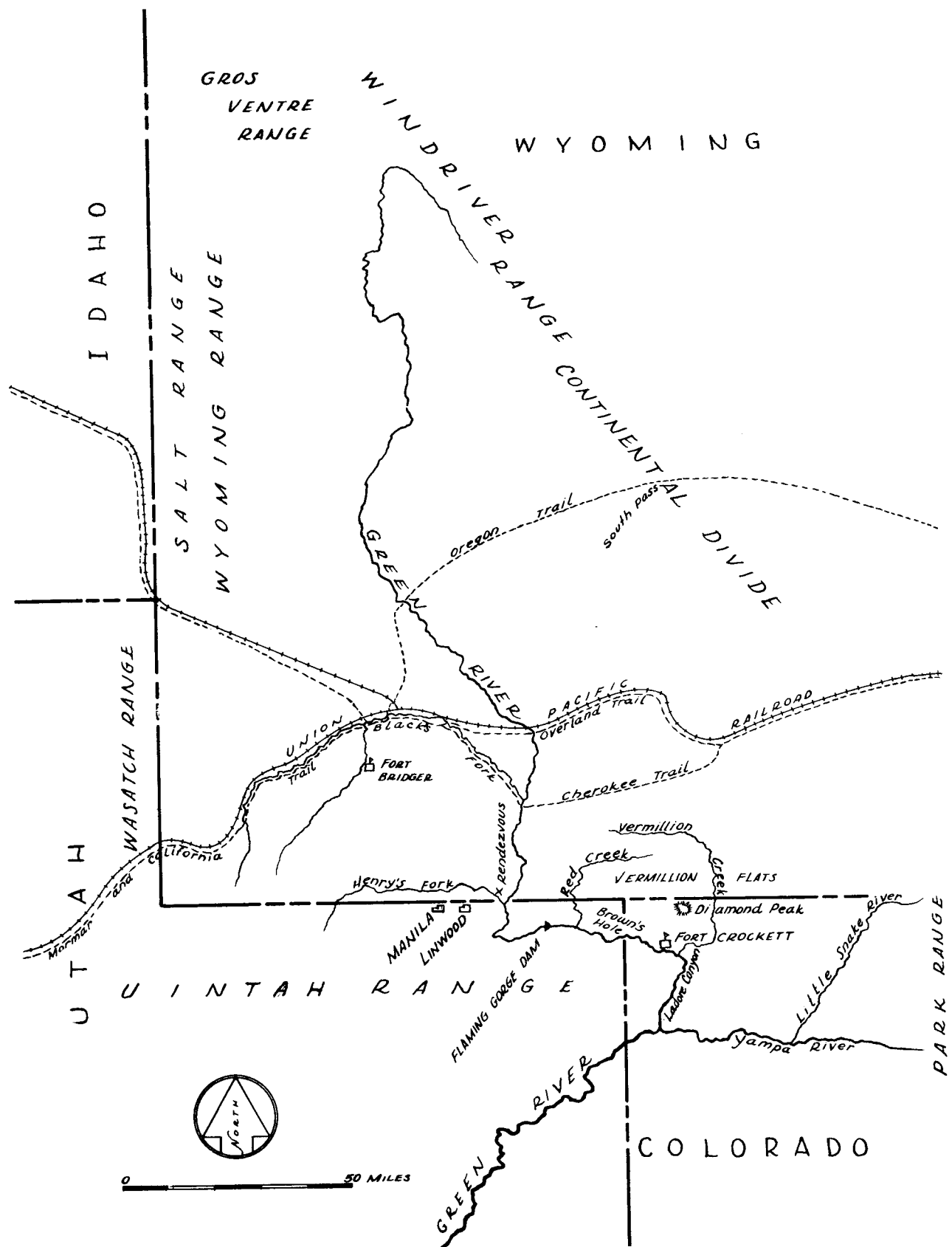


Fig. 1. The Green River Basin

INTRODUCTION

Any attempt to write a history of a given area divorced from its surroundings would be futile. This outline, while concentrating on the area affected by the Flaming Gorge dam, will encompass the adjacent areas to the extent that the outline becomes coherent and meaningful.

The reservoir created by the Flaming Gorge dam will directly affect two counties in two states--Daggett County, Utah, and Sweetwater County, Wyoming. The dam itself will be located in Red Canyon of the Green River in Daggett County. The reservoir will contain this river to within a few miles of Green River City, Wyoming.

The history of this area falls naturally into several parts, and is treated chronologically.

The great western migration in the 1840's is hardly touched upon. The vastness of the subject precludes a detailed account in an outline of this nature. Furthermore, except for a few isolated incidents, the migration affected this area only indirectly.

The standard sources are abundant and satisfactory for the early part of this history. However, this does not hold true for the remainder. With the exception of records from government and quasi-government sponsored expeditions, and those in the general area of stockgrowing in Wyoming, competent primary sources are rare. Records covering the activities of the local population are almost completely lacking. In some aspects, especially in those concerning the activities of a group of outlaws known as "The Wild Bunch", the story is so steeped in legend that historical accounting may be impossible.

There are two sources to which the writer wishes to give special acknowledgement:

William G. Tittsworth and J. S. Hoy came to the Green River Basin shortly after the Civil War. They were eyewitnesses to that turbulent and exciting age when the west was going through the transition from wilderness to civilization. Both wrote books about that era. Tittsworth's book was privately published in a limited edition. It is a collector's item. J. S. Hoy's work never passed the manuscript stage. This manuscript

was lost for several years and has just recently been recovered. The J. S. Hoy Manuscript was acquired by the Colorado State University when it purchased the file of Field & Farm which had belonged to the editor of that publication, Lucius W. Wilcox. The manuscript was in poor condition with many pages missing. Its arrangement into its present form was the work of the very able Dr. James G. Hodgson, Director of Libraries of Colorado State College. A typewritten essay dealing with the murder of Valentine Hoy by the Tracy-Lant gang has been masquerading under the title of The J. S. Hoy Manuscript for many years. The finding of the legitimate manuscript exposes that essay as fraudulent.

Without the help of these two histories the following outline would be shallow indeed.

THE GREEN RIVER

A glance at the topography of the upper Green River shows an extensive basin extending from the Windriver Range in northwestern Wyoming south to the Uintah Range in northeastern Utah. Without further scrutiny one might ask himself why no large body of water lies here, making the building of dams superfluous. To solve this riddle one must eventually focus his attention on the dominant force at work in this basin, the Green River. The Green River drains this basin by the most improbable course, directly through the Uintah Mountains. A boat trip through Ladore Canyon would drive home to the discerning mind the tremendous task assumed by this river.

The Green River not only is the dominant factor, topographically speaking, but is also the most important factor governing the history of the people who came this way. It deserves a little attention.

The Green River was known to the aborigines as the Sheetskadee, a Crow term meaning prairie hen. How it came to be called the Green has not conclusively been determined. Three popular theories have been advanced, all scholarly, but all lacking definite authority. Coutant, celebrated historian of Wyoming, contends that the river was named by William Ashley for an associate of his in St. Louis named Green (Coutant, 1899). Dale Morgan, eminent contemporary historian, supports the proposition that the river was named the Green by the Spaniards because of the outstanding contrast of the green vegetation along the banks of the river with the drab desert country that it traversed (*Utah Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XV, 1947). The third, and most popular, theory is that the river was so named because its waters are indeed green. After the river has finished its task of transporting topsoil from Wyoming and Utah to the lower basin states in spring and early summer, it clears and becomes a vivid green in color. The color of the river immediately captures the attention of the viewer regardless of other fascinations that may contend. It is very natural that it should be called the Green. It is not impossible that the Spanish and the Americans arrived at the same name independently of each other.

One might write indefinitely on the geological aspects of this river, but this outline must concern itself with historical events that occurred here. Further comments on the Green River will be made as they are relative to that history.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FUR TRADE

Chittenden dates the beginning of the mountain fur trade as 1805, or as a result of the Lewis and Clark exploration of the Louisiana Territory (Chittenden, Vol. 1, 1954). The ensuing 20 years found ever increasing activity by Americans in this enterprise, primarily in the region of the upper Missouri River and its tributaries. The region of the upper Green River had to wait until 1824 when, out of the plains, through South Pass, into the central Rocky Mountains marched the celebrated mountain men of William Ashley's fur company (Chittenden, Vol. 1, 1954). They scattered throughout the surrounding mountains, taking peltries and announcing a new system of collecting furs, the rendezvous. For the first time in the mountains items of trade were being transported over-land to be deposited at a designated spot. All who had skins to trade would assemble there on a given date. This was an exciting idea, and one well conceived. William Ashley would within a few short years retire from the mountains, his fortune made.

In the spring of 1825, Ashley and a select group of his men embarked on the first exploration of the Green River. Trade goods to supply the mountain men's first rendezvous were loaded into bull boats made from green buffalo hides stretched over a willow frame, and the epic making voyage was begun (Dale, 1941).

As Ashley approached the Uintah Mountains he designated as the site for the rendezvous the area immediately north of Flaming Gorge canyon near the mouth of Henry's Fork (Dale, 1941). Henry's Fork heads in the Uintah Mountains, flows in a northeast direction through southwestern Wyoming, swings southeast back into Utah and merges with the Green just 1 mi. above the Flaming Gorge. The largest bay area in the reservoir created by the Flaming Gorge dam will appear at this point. That the rendezvous was not held here is common knowledge; the factors that led to its being moved will be discussed later in this report.

Ashley, relieved of the burden of transporting further the items of trade which he cached near the mouth of Henry's Fork, continued his exploration into the Green River canyons. One must realize that at this time the Green River was uncharted. There was a possibility that it turned to the east and found its way into the Gulf of Mexico, and Ashley, although primarily interested in locating virgin streams in which to trap, must have pondered the possibility of using the stream as an easy means

of transporting furs to civilized ports. If he dreamed such a dream of transport, it was soon shattered, for riding the high waters in the Green River canyons of Utah and Colorado is not for commercial travelers.

Jim Beckwourth, a mountain man who accompanied Ashley on this voyage, tells how he saved Ashley's life in the "big suck" in Flaming Gorge canyon (Dunham, 1947). Jim Beckwourth was a colossal liar. Even among mountain men, men who took pride in the art of exaggeration, he stands at the head of the class. The waters through Flaming Gorge canyon are the most docile of any in the Green. The river at this point almost seems to regret its brashness in entering such a barrier. It would perhaps like to retreat to the gentle lands already traversed. However, once committed the river cannot retreat, and it threads its cautious way southward almost to the very core of the mountain. Here its southern passage is stopped and, as if perturbed, the river turns eastward, paralleling the mountain range, and begins a wild end run in its efforts to flank the seemingly insurmountable barrier. One can only conjecture the thoughts of Ashley and his men as they raced through the canyons, running one rapid after another in boats that, although seaworthy, must have been very difficult to control in rough water. Fortunately for history, Ashley had to portage a rapid approximately 3 mi. above the Flaming Gorge damsite (Dale, 1941). The rapid is now known as Ashley Falls because, as the party stopped to compose itself, Ashley painted on a rock his name and the date, 1825. His signature and date were still legible 44 years later when another explorer, Major John Wesley Powell, portaged the rapid (Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol. XV, 1947).

Ashley continued his river venture on through the canyons of Ladore, Split Mountain, and Desolation, stopping finally near the present site of Green River, Utah. From this point he struck overland in a northwest direction, crossed the Uintah Range at its western extremities, and proceeded eastward along the north slope to the rendezvous.

The site of the rendezvous had been moved approximately 25 mi. up Henry's Fork to a more desirable location. At the confluence of the Green River and Henry's Fork, the site that Ashley had designated, the river valley is wide and flat. In late spring the waters of the Green overflow their banks, resulting in the creating of many stagnant ponds that remain throughout most of the summer. These ponds provide excellent breeding grounds for mosquitoes. It is doubtful that the mosquito enjoyed more popularity in 1825 than he does today. This was, in the writer's opinion, the reason for moving the rendezvous. A stroll through these bottom

lands in midsummer lends good argument to this theory.

During the 20 odd years that the fur trade flourished in the central Rocky Mountains, the general area of the Flaming Gorge dam was as popular a region with the trader and trapper as any place in the mountains. Especially was this true in the winter months. One must again turn to the geography to understand this popularity.

The Uintah Range is the only major mountain range on the continent that runs in an east-west direction. The western end of the range extends almost to the east slope of the Wasatch Range. The highest peaks in the Uintahs occur in the west, the range diminishing in elevation to the east. When discussing the phenomenon of weather in the Flaming Gorge area the significance of this geography becomes apparent. The climate along the northeast slope of the Uintah Mountains, influenced primarily by the westerly winds of this latitude and modified by the Wasatch Range and the high peaks of the western Uintahs, is extremely dry. The lack of snow in winter relieved the mountain man of one of his most pressing problems, winter pasturage for his animals. Also, and perhaps more important, all migrating quadrupeds along the north slope of the Uintah Range winter in this same area along the Green River. The mountain man not only had good feed for his stock but ample food for himself, all with little effort.

It is emphasized that this was a popular wintering ground because just the opposite was true in summer. The wild life sought the high mountain pastures in preference to the hot, dry, pest infested bottom lands, and the trapper did the same.

TRADING POSTS

Two trading posts, or forts as they were commonly called, were constructed in the area adjacent to the Flaming Gorge reservoir. One of primary importance in the history of western America was Fort Bridger. The other was of so little significance that its very existence is doubted by one historian. This was Fort David Crockett.

Fort Crockett

Fort Crockett was constructed (Hoy Ms.) in the eastern end of Brown's Hole, Colorado, probably in 1837, by three fur traders named Sinclair, Craig, and Thompson. The trading post was of inferior type and lasted but a few short years, being but a heap of ashes in 1843 when John C. Fremont passed by (Fremont, 1887). Fort Crockett was more closely associated with the Santa Fe trade than with St. Louis, and this may be the reason why so little is known about it. The St. Louis trade has been well researched while the Santa Fe trade has hardly been touched.

The exact location of Fort Crockett has never been determined. While practically all historians have placed it in Brown's Hole, the majority favor the western end, which is in Utah, to the eastern end, which is in Colorado. Because of this dissention among historians, and because of the interest of Americans in western historical monuments, the writer believes the subject to be of sufficient importance to merit a more detailed study than ordinarily would be necessary in a report of this nature.

Our information concerning Fort Crockett comes primarily from the few western travelers that stopped there. Thomas Jefferson Farnham (1841) gives us the most detailed description of the fort's location. If reliable, his journal, which describes graphically the country he traversed, could lead one to the approximate location of the post. In order to check the accuracy of Mr. Farnham's observations, the writer followed his trail from the Yampa River to the Little Snake River, into and through Brown's Hole, into Clay Basin, and on to Black's Fork of the Green. His descriptions of the country and his judge of distance were found to be, with a few exceptions, remarkably accurate. Most students of this period are familiar with Farnham's remarks as he approached Fort Crockett:

...travelled at a round pace for three hours, when the bluffs

opened before us the beautiful plain of Brown's Hole. As we entered it we crossed two cool streams [one] that tumbled down from the stratified cliffs near at hand on the right. [Vermillion] Creek and a few rods beyond, the whole area became visible. The fort as it is called peered up in the centre upon the winding banks of the Sheetskadee. The dark mountains rose around it sublimely, and the green fields swept away into the deep precipitous gorges more beautifully than I can describe (Farnham, 1841).

Not so well known are the remarks that he made upon leaving Fort Crockett:

On the morning of the 19th of August left the hospitalities of Fort Crockett for the dreary wastes and starving plains between it and Fort Hall. Blair, Smith and my guide Jim, constituted my whole force. At 10 A. M. we were winding our way up the Sheet-skadee... the river during the 12 miles traveled of the day, appeared to be about 100 yds. wide, a rapid current two feet deep, water limpid. The mountains on either side rose half a mile from the river in dark stratified masses, 1000 ft. above the level of the stream, on their sides were a few scrub cedars. The lower hills were covered with the hated wormwood and prickly pear. The banks were covered with white clay alternating with loose light colored sandy soil of the mountain districts. The rocks were of quartz, red sandstone and limestone. Our camp was pitched at night on the high bank of the stream among the bushes. 20th: At seven in the morning we had breakfast and were on our way. We traveled 3 miles up the east bank of the river and came to a mountain through which it broke its way with a noise that indicated the fall to be great, and the channel to be a deep rugged chasm. [Red Creek Rapids] Near the place where it leaves the chasm we turned to the right and followed a deep rough gorge, the distance of five miles [Red Creek Canyon] and emerged into a plain. [Clay Basin] This gorge has been formed by the action of a tributary of the Green River upon the soft red sandstone that formed the precipices around. (Farnham, 1841).

There can be no mistake about the part going up Red Creek Canyon. The description fits perfectly and there is no other tributary on the east side of the river for a 100 mi. Accepting this, and determining the distance that one would travel on horseback in approximately a day, (Farnham's estimate was 15 miles and is just a few miles short) the fort would have to be located near the confluence of Vermillion Creek and the Green River. This would tie exactly into Farnham's description of the site as he entered Brown's Hole.

To cement the argument, if that be necessary, one need only follow John C. Fremont's trail from Fort Robidou in the Uintah Basin to Brown's Hole, Colorado. The trail is easily followed, as Fremont (1877) kept a detailed journal and also mapped the region as he went. Fremont's camp on the Green in Brown's Hole, which was on the opposite side of the river from "the remains of an old fort" coincides exactly with the location given by Farnham. From Fremont's Journal:

On the 7th we had a pleasant but long days journey through beautiful little valleys and a high mountain country, arriving about evening at the verge of a steep and rocky ravine by which we descended to "Brown's Hole". This is a place well known to trappers in the country, where the canyons through which the Colorado flow expand into a narrow but pretty valley, about sixteen miles long. . . According to information the lower end of the valley is the most eastern [western] part of Colorado; and the latitude of our encampment, which was opposite to the remains of an old fort on the left bank of the river was $40^{\circ} 46' 27''$ and by observation the elevation about sea level 5, 150 ft. The bearing to the entrance of the canyon below was south 20° east. Here the river enters between lofty precipices of red rock [Ladore Canyon] and the country below is said to assume a very rugged character, the river and its affluents passing through canyons which forbid all access to the waters. . . The bottoms of a small stream called Vermillion Creek, which enters the left bank of the river a short distance below our encampment were abundantly covered with vermiculais. . . (Fremont, 1897).

J. S. Hoy, one of the first white men to take up residence in Brown's Hole, and one who has written a history of this area, expresses the opinion that Fort Crockett was a myth, invented by romantics such as T. J. Farnham, whose main purpose in traveling through the west was to write books of high adventure (Hoy Ms.).

It is evident throughout Mr. Hoy's manuscript that he represents the proverbial man from Missouri, believing only in what he sees. In one instance he scoffs at the report that a party had witnessed a wind, while traveling through Kansas, that was so strong that it twisted a wagon wheel's iron tire into a figure eight. Mr. Hoy had never experienced a tornado!

His remarks concerning Fort Crockett, however, have some merit and deserve an audience:

With regard to Fort David Crockett, or any other trading post in Brown's Hole, it is fiction. Many of the stumps of trees which I cut down fifty years ago, still remain to show that a man had been there with an axe. The stones with which I built a fireplace and chimney for my cabin at the same time; and the holes which were made from throwing dirt on the roof are yet to be seen.

From the date of Farnham's visit to Brown's Hole, 1839, until I came in 1872, is 33 years, and not a trace of any kind of a building or of Fort David Crockett remained in 1872, nor was there anything to be seen neither fragment nor particle left of which he wrote so graphically and poetically and defined so minutely.

Farnham and Wislizenus are the only two men who say they saw Fort Crockett [this is a gross understatement albeit unintentional on the part of Mr. Hoy] and they are as far apart in their description of Brown's Hole and this fort as they are when telling the names of the owners, Farnham naming them as Thompson, Craig and St. Clair; Wislizenus as Thompson, Gray and Sinclair.

The probability of a fact is badly shaken when it can be proven to be totally unknown in the very spot where it ought to be known the best. The fort was not marked on maps nor did it figure in the Indian and trapper trade, all other assertions to the contrary notwithstanding.

Captain Marcy, in 1857 with a force of about 75 men, Jim Baker was his guide, left Fort Bridger in November for Taos for provisions for Johnston's army, passed through Brown's Hole... He does not mention Fort Crockett.

Mr. Coutant in his History of Wyoming says that Major Baldwin in the fall of 1865 cut a road through the mountains between Fort Bridger to Brown's Hole. He says nothing about Fort Crockett. Why? Because there was no such thing. Major Powell on his voyage of discovery down the Green River in 1869 camped in Brown's Hole, but says nothing about Fort Crockett. [This is not surprising, Major Powell had not even heard of William Ashley] Brown's Hole being in the arid region, and owing to the configuration of the surrounding mountains, it is doubly dry compared to the average rain fall of the state, consequently it was one of the driest and hottest sections in Colorado; so that naturally and inevitably there was little or no grass therein except what grew on the bottoms of Green River... No one remained in the Hole in the summer time. About the middle of May when summer had really come and grass was well started on the mountains, men and animals, domestic and wild, left the low, hot, insect-infested Brown's Hole and went where it was cool, with spring water, pasturage and game in abundance, and remained there until snow began to fall early in October.

The above conditions alone, of themselves, would preclude the erecting of a fort here. Is it not strange, therefore, inscrutable, that in the presence of such insurmountable physical obstacles there are men who believe and boldly maintain there once was a trading station established in Brown's Hole! Such a belief leads to another belief equally incompatible and absurd; that trappers and traders were incapable of reasoning, devoid even of animal instinct--the instinct of self preservation and common business sense (Hoy Ms.).

Under the conditions described above, one wonders what prompted Mr. Hoy to settle in Brown's Hole! The fact remains, and Mr. Hoy indirectly confirms this, that Brown's Hole was an ideal place to spend the winter. Both Farnham and Wislizenus stopped at the fort during the summer months and both mention that the fort was practically deserted (Hoy Ms.). Dr. Wislezenus had nothing good to say about

the place, calling it "Fort Misery" (Hoy Ms.) while Farnham (1841), being of a more romantic nature, describes its situation in beautiful poetic terms. This again is not surprising, for even today, with people who are familiar with that section of the country, it is either a "hole" or a most beautiful "park".

Altogether too many people enjoyed the hospitality of Fort Crockett for it to have been a myth. Joe Meeks, famous mountain man, when he told his story to Francis Fuller Victor, mentioned being at the fort many times (Victor, 1950). "Kit" Carson told of being employed by the fort's proprietors as a hunter for a season. Fort Crockett was not an important post, but it was there!

Fort Bridger

Fort Bridger was built in 1842 on Black's Fork of the Green River by mountain men Jim Bridger and Louis Vasquez. The construction of this post is used by historians to mark the end of an era in American History--the Fur Trade--and the beginning of another--the final migration in the western movement of the American people that settled our last frontier.

Jim Bridger, "Old Gabe", is probably the most famous of the mountain men. When considering the number and majesty of these freedom-loving souls, this is quite an attribute. Bridger was among that select brigade that initiated the mountain trade under William Ashley. His fame rests in part on his longevity for he was one of the first to come to the mountains and one of the last to depart. He played a leading role in both the fur era and in the pioneer movement. It is in the latter that his trading post became a celebrated land mark in the west.

Jim Bridger's biographers never tire of praising his uncanny ability to recall geographical details. He never failed to awe an audience with his seemingly unlimited knowledge of the land. His mind was virtually an atlas of Rocky Mountain geography. His foresight was equally impressive.

The location of Fort Bridger was geographically nearly perfect. Its construction could hardly have been more timely. It offered an oasis in the desert for travelers on the Oregon and California trail, and they were coming by the thousands in the 1840's. Its location insured its success for there existed only emptiness between it and Fort Laramie, hundreds of weary miles to the east.

Bridger surmised correctly that this pioneer movement offered unlimited possibilities to an enterprising person who could supply the services that were so much in demand on the trail. With this in mind he put in a store of iron, purchased a few head of livestock and opened for business the mountain's first combination blacksmith shop and hotel.

The best of outfits arrived at Fort Bridger in chaotic condition; yet, even as they were being swindled, they could not but sing praise to Jim Bridger--just for being there.

Not least in importance in the many services offered at Bridger's Fort was the brisk trade in cattle. Teams on arrival would be gaunt and footsore, poor risks for the mountains beyond, and often two or even three of these beasts would be traded for one of Bridger's. In two or three weeks these tired, worn-out animals, pasturing on the excellent grass that grew around, would become strong again and be traded on similar terms to the next wagon train. Thus began the great cattle industry in the Rocky Mountains.

PIONEERS AND THEIR TRAILS

As stated in the introduction to this report, the pioneer movement is too vast a study to be treated in detail in this work. However, mention should be made concerning one emigrant trail that passed through the reservoir area, and one group of westering men that dreamed of riding the Green River all the way to California.

The Manly Party

Late in the summer of 1849 a small party of California bound emigrants approached the Green River Crossing on the Oregon Trail. They were late on the trail, and the vision of Eldorado on the far Pacific shore could not erase the horror of attempting a winter crossing of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. They pondered their plight and contemplated the approaching winter with some misgivings. On the banks of the Green River a novel solution to their problem presented itself. Why, they must have scoffed, had their predecessors been so unimaginative? Here at their feet was a navigable stream, and nearby, half-buried in the sand, was a boat. To survive in the wilds one must possess imagination! Without delay the second known attempt to navigate the Green River was under way (Manly, 1894).

William Lewis Manly, in his Death Valley in '49, has left with us an interesting and amusing record of this expedition.

Like Ashley before them, the party had smooth sailing until they reached the Green River canyons. Their craft, actually a discarded ferry boat, was crude at best and soon became lodged between rocks in the middle of a rapid. All their efforts to free it failed and the boat was abandoned. Three canoes were then constructed and the party continued. The Green River canyons produce poor raw materials for canoe construction, and it is little wonder that they soon lost two of these craft in the rapids. The greater wonder is that they emerged from the canyons at all, but this they did, somewhat worse for wear but still determined. In the Uintah Basin they fortunately chanced to meet the celebrated Ute Indian chief, Walker (Manly, 1894). Being in one of his better moods, Walker did the party a great service by assuring them that further efforts to navigate the river would mean certain suicide. Walker was very familiar with the canyon country below. His argument was convincing, and the party left the river and traveled overland to Salt Lake City, where they remained for the winter.

After the Manly party's abortive efforts to reach California via the Green River, no other known attempts were made to navigate this stream until Major John Wesley Powell appeared on the scene in 1869.

The Cherokee Trail

A group of Cherokee Indians, having experienced gold prospecting in the east, and having ever increasing difficulties with the United States in their native Georgia, petitioned the government for permission to emigrate to California in 1849 (Stone, 1956). The trail that they followed, which had considerable use by other emigrants, came to be called the Cherokee Trail. This trail was actually part of the Santa Fe Trail, following up the Arkansas River to the base of the Rocky Mountains. Here the Cherokee Trail branched to the north and joined the Overland Trail, which it followed across the Laramie Plains to Bridger Pass. The Overland Trail led through Bridger Pass along Bitter Creek to Rock Springs and Green River and then continued to Fort Bridger, where it joined the older trails that came south out of South Pass. The Cherokee Trail turned south at Bridger Pass and then paralleled the Bitter Creek route to the Green River. The freight and overland stages preferred the Overland Trail to the Cherokee Trail because the terrain was not so rough, but the emigrants favored the Cherokee Trail because of the superior feed and water that it afforded.

The Cherokee Trail, while hardly worth noticing compared to the more popular trails to the north, is nevertheless important here because the trail passes directly through the Flaming Gorge reservoir area. From the east it approaches between Current and Sage creeks and crosses the Green River near the mouth of Black's Fork. The trail follows Black's Fork to the place where this fork is joined with Ham's Fork. Here the identity of the Cherokee Trail is lost.

BUILDING AN EMPIRE

The Cattle Industry

Many stories have been told regarding the origins of the cattle industry west of the hundredth meridian. Perhaps the most popular of these stories tells of the early Wyoming winter overtaking a small group of emigrants that was late on the trail. The party, having no choice in the matter, holed up for the winter, their stock being turned loose to survive if they could, but probably to die of starvation and exposure. Finally spring came, and as the wretched humanity ventured forth from their retreat, they were astonished to find their livestock, not starved, not frozen, but fat and sleek. The beasts had not only survived the winter, but prospered in it.

The story is a good one and might even be true, but the incident could not have hastened nor delayed the inevitable. When the Oregon migration began, the cattle industry began also. American people have always been notoriously enterprising, and, where profits are to be made, regardless of hardships and dangers, someone is there to make them. Thus we find springing up along the Oregon Trail the west's first ranches. At first there was just a tent, or a crude log cabin, and a stack of wild grass. Everyone on the trail was a prospective cattle buyer. The business could not but improve, because with every wagon that rolled westward less feed grew along the trail. The livestock that left Independence with the wagon trains seldom reached Oregon but were traded off along the trail, and the herds of the ranchers correspondingly grew larger.

The cattle industry in the area of the Flaming Gorge dam was born in this fashion. It prospered early and has consistently remained the area's major industry.

Mention has been made of the thriving business in livestock at Fort Bridger. This is augmented by the following statement made by Horace Greeley in 1859 while in the vicinity of the famous fort. He observed that:

several old mountaineers, who have large herds of cattle which they are rapidly increasing by a lucrative traffic with the emigrants, who are compelled to exchange their tired, gaunt oxen and steers for fresh ones on almost any terms. R. D. whose tent we passed last evening, is said to have six

or eight hundred head, and knowing the country perfectly, finds no difficulty in keeping them through summer and winter by frequently shifting them from one place to another over a circuit of thirty or forty miles. J. R., who has been here some twenty odd years, began with little or nothing and has accumulated some fifty horses, three or four hundred head of meat cattle, three squaws, and any number of half-breed children (Osgood, 1929).

The J. R. mentioned above by Mr. Greeley was none other than "Uncle" Jack Robinson, celebrated citizen of Daggett County. Jack Robinson was an early comer to the mountains; T. J. Farnham (1841) had him at Fort Crockett when he arrived, goods spread before him on a buffalo robe, trading with the Indians.

The writer agrees with J. S. Hoy (n.d.) that this was nonsense, and was inserted to spice up his story. Neither Indians nor anyone else were likely to be trading goods in Brown's Hole in the middle of the summer.

At any rate, he came early to the north slopes of the Uintah Mountains and remained in the vicinity the rest of his life. Jack Robinson built the first permanent home in Daggett County. It is still in use, making up the north wing of the Keith Smith Ranch in Linwood.

Under the entry for September 13, 1872, A. V. Richards, in his survey of the Utah-Wyoming boundary, makes reference to Jack Robinson's cabin, which was just a few rods from that boundary. This is the earliest known reference to this landmark and how long it existed prior to this date is difficult to determine. It might well be one of the oldest residences in the state of Utah.

Another of the old timers who came to the mountains during the fur era and stayed to become a rancher in Daggett County, and perhaps better known than Jack Robinson, was Jim Baker. Baker, like Jim Bridger, made his mark not only as a mountain man but as a famous guide for westerning parties, including the United States Army (Dunham, 1947). Baker went into the ranching business along Henry's Fork. His son-in-law, Dick Son, was the first postmaster in Daggett County and served with distinction as guide to the Yale Scientific Expedition under O. C. Marsh.

A small volume could be written about the early ranchers that settled in this area, but the list is too long to record in an outline of this nature. Some of these men will appear in the following section where another phase of the cattle industry is discussed.

The Western Bad Man

In the post Civil War period the cattle industry came into its own. Beef prices were steadily on the rise and thousands of head of cattle were being driven yearly from Texas to the free grazing lands to the north and west. Millions of acres of free grassland were waiting to be exploited. A yearling purchased for five dollars could be turned loose for two or three years in Wyoming, and, with virtually no expense to its owner, would bring 40 dollars on the eastern market.

Men with fortunes to invest, from Chicago and New York to London and Glasgow, formed companies and invested millions of dollars on "the surest thing of the century" (Osgood, 1929). These large companies, controlling practically the entire industry, founded cattle growers' associations to protect their interests and the cattle empire was a reality. Astounding profits were realized in the initial years when cattle ran unmolested on the public domain. Handsome dividends became a habit with investors, a habit they were loath to give up.

On May 20, 1862, Lincoln signed the Homestead Act. This act gave 160 acres of land to any citizen over 21 years of age who would settle the land and live on it for at least five years. Thousands of acres were settled under this act, but by the end of the Civil War over a billion acres remained in the public domain.

Cattle interests in Wyoming never dreamed that the Homestead Act would affect their private empire, but in this they were sadly mistaken. By 1890 the United States census announced that the frontier had disappeared. President Johnson had estimated that it would take 600 years to settle the continental limits of the United States; it was accomplished in 25!

The cattle empire, fighting for its very life, could not stop the flood. It is in this fight for survival that we are interested here.

It was the custom at this time for outfits, during their annual round-ups, to claim unbranded cattle as their own. Because the domain was not fenced and because the cattle were allowed to shift for themselves, they often wandered far from the home range. It would have been too expensive to try to find the rightful owner of every maverick and to deliver him to that owner. The claiming of unbranded cattle worked to the satisfaction of most cattlemen because it profited them to be honest with each other. Compensations would be made, and usually an outfit would brand approximately as many of its neighbor's calves as it lost of its own calves to the neighboring outfit.

This procedure worked well until a few individuals with no visible means of support suddenly appeared on the scene with herds of their own. If the branding of mavericks by company men was not regarded as stealing why should it be regarded as a sin for anyone? The public domain, and all that therein is, belongs to all Americans! Thus we find the institution of cattle rustling being born. It was this institution that led to the Johnson County War in another part of Wyoming and affected to a considerable extent the area adjacent to the Flaming Gorge (Mercer, 1954).

At first the Wyoming Cattle Association fought individuals in the courts who were apprehended branding cattle that belonged to association members. But, because the homesteaders, who largely outnumbered the cattlemen, were invariably represented on the juries, and because the homesteaders felt that the cattlemen's interests were in contrast to their own, convictions were rarely made. Thus the cattlemen, feeling honestly that justice had not yet arrived in Wyoming, took matters into their own hands and dealt swift justice to all who dared molest their herds.

The above statements are made to form a basis for understanding the character now introduced, the West's most notorious hired killer, Tom Horn.

Before discussing the activities of Tom Horn as they relate to the Flaming Gorge area, mention should be made of Brown's Hole and its relation to the wild part of the west.

Like Hole-in-the-Wall to the north, Brown's Hole early became a favorite hangout for cattle rustlers, horse thieves and, later, train and bank robbers. It was no accident that Brown's Hole gained the questionable distinction of being a favorite domain for these parasites of the west. Again it was geography that influenced history. Brown's Hole is indeed a hole, being surrounded by very rugged mountains. It was in the early

days, and remains today, to a lesser extent, very inaccessible. Its numerous side canyons were capable of hiding large herds of cattle and nothing less than an army of men could hope to recover cattle once they reached that sanctuary. Also the area's relation to political boundaries worked to the advantage of the lawbreaker. Brown's Hole is located in Utah and Colorado near the southern boundary of Wyoming. It was a simple matter to escape the jurisdiction of one state by moving to another. Law enforcement was a farce until Tom Horn appeared.

Tom Horn was born in Franklin County, Missouri, about 1859. He roamed the Southwest as a cowhand during the early part of his life. He served with distinction as guide under Colonel Chafee in his campaign against Geronimo. He worked for a short time for the famous Pinkerton Detective Agency. He arrived on the scene of this history as an employee of the Wyoming Cattle Growers' Association (Wyoming State Tribute, 1954).

Horn began his career with the association by making several arrests of alleged cattle rustlers. Repeatedly the accused were exonerated. Horn then made a public announcement that he would make no more arrests but would deal justice himself. This he did, and so effectively that a mere rumor that he was in the neighborhood was reason enough to move to a healthier climate.

Several residents of Brown's Hole were on Horn's list and it was but a matter of time before notices began to arrive, informing certain persons to get out of the country or suffer the consequences. Old timers of the west, in their reminiscences and in their fiction, always stress the point that the wild west was not without honor. Good and bad alike abided by the code that, for one thing, forbade the shooting of a man when he was not looking. Tom Horn was an exception, and there were more exceptions than the old timers care to remember. Horn seldom killed a man except from ambush. It was simply a job with him. For the expiration of every rustler, he reportedly received 500 dollars (Wyoming State Tribune, 1954).

Three men were killed by Horn in Brown's Hole, and the remainder of the residents moved en masse. One rancher, Matt Rash, was shot in his bed. Isom Dart, about whom we shall have more to say, was shot as he ventured from his cabin early on a September morning, and the days of large-scale cattle rustling came to an end.

Horn continued his operations until he made the mistake of killing a 13 year old boy, Willie Nickell, in the Iron Mountain district of Wyoming. For this crime he was hung on November 20, 1903 (Wyoming State Tribune, 1954).

Isom Dart, mentioned above, was one of this area's most colorful characters. He came to the Green River basin soon after the Civil War as a cook and general hand in the camps along the Union Pacific. He later became a cowhand of high reputation. All sources concur (there are several men now living who knew him well) that, as a horseman, Isom had no peer. His feats with a rope border on the phenomenal. He might well have been the west's most skillful cowboy. These claims would perhaps be less spectacular except for the fact that Isom Dart was a Negro (Tittsworth, 1927). Hollywood might profitably look into the fabulous career of this ex-slave who galloped through the pages of the wild west.

A history of the Flaming Gorge area would be incomplete if mention were not made of the west's most notorious gang of outlaws, a veritable syndicate in crime, the "Wild Bunch".

As the writer has little to add to the research already completed on this gang, and as the large scope of their operations precludes a detailed account, mention is made only in passing, and is concentrated on the leader of the gang, Butch Cassidy.

Butch Cassidy was christened Robert Leroy Parker on April 6, 1866, in Beaver, Utah. His parents and grandparents had been a part of the Mormon migration to Utah, but his parents' fear of the Lord and their righteous living did not impress their first born son. Butch began his schooling early under the tutorage of one Mike Cassidy who was engaged in the rustling of cows around the Bryce Canyon area. Butch adopted his teacher's name and began to expand his operations. He ran with the McCarty brothers and was there introduced to the more lucrative occupation of bankrobbing. He became a master of the trade and soon controlled what the Chicago Inter Ocean called, a "trust in outlawry" (Horan, 1956). The membership of this gang amounts to a roll call of the west's bad men. There were besides Cassidy: Harvey and Lonnie Logan, Matt Warner, who later became a law officer in Carbon County, Utah, Elza Lay, Bob Lee, Tom Ketchum, Bill Carver, George Curry, Harry Tracy, Ben Kilpatrick, Tom O'Day, Dave Lant, Camilla Hanks, and many more (Horan, 1956). The "Bunch" varied in size from time to time, but Cassidy remained its undisputed leader.

Cassidy used the Brown's Hole area as a base for his operations, it being even a better hideout for robbers than for cattle thieves, since the robbers had only themselves to hide. Butch has become a legendary figure in the west. People who knew him well have nothing to say against him. His generosity knew no bounds. One lady informed the writer that Cassidy never failed to leave at least 20 dollars when he stopped at her place for a meal. That he was generous with someone else's money is evidently never considered.

The "Wild Bunch" literally ran wild through the 90's and into the 20th century, but law and order was coming to the west. Butch was intelligent enough to see that the odds were stacking up against him; so he changed his base of operations to Bolivia, South America. James D. Horan, in a nice bit of research, has established the "fact" that Butch Cassidy killed himself after running low on ammunition during a fight with Bolivian soldiers (Horan, 1956).

An old cattleman in the Flaming Gorge area, (name withheld) when confronted with this information said to the writer, "Maybe he was killed in South America, but I still had a drink with him in Lander, Wyoming, ten years after he was dead".

The Union Pacific

Mention has been made of the Overland Trail and its route across the Laramie Plains, through Bridger's Pass and on to Rock Springs and Green River. Along this same route in 1867-68, relentlessly advanced the century's most ambitious engineering project--the Pacific Railroad that would span the continent. Along with the railroad came political status. Wyoming as a wilderness area began to disappear.

Towns appeared where stage stations once stood. Some of these towns disappeared or were abandoned as the railroad advanced; others became permanent and prosperous. In this area, Rock Springs and Green River, in Sweetwater County, are among Wyoming's most progressive cities. Rock Springs became, and has remained, the most important coal mining center on the Union Pacific. Green River is one of the railroad's important division points.

The people who came with the railroad represented every phase of humanity. America's finest minds and muscles combined to push the railroad through in record time. But along with the finest came the "bedlamites", the hangers-on, the parasites who invariably followed

the big construction jobs. These desperate people, men and women alike, contributed little to the building of the western empire, but their rip-roaring hell-on-wheels antics have become an important part of the west's history--too well known to merit account here.

SCIENCE IN THE GREEN RIVER BASIN

In 1843 the western boundaries of the territory of Louisiana also marked the western boundaries of the United States. By 1853 these boundaries had been extended to the Pacific Ocean. Texas was annexed in 1845; the Oregon question was settled in 1846; the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo announced the Mexican Cession in 1848; and the Gadsden Purchase was made in 1853. The continental limits of the United States had been reached.

In the following half-century the United States was faced with the task of exploring and determining the value of the lands they so suddenly had acquired.

We are interested here in the scientific exploration of the Green River basin. Without doubt this small area received, in the short span of 10 years, a scientific investigation that was without parallel in our history. No less than four separate government survey groups were in the field between 1868 and 1878: The Geographical and Geological Survey of the Territories, under the direction of F. V. Hayden; the United States Geological Survey of the Fortieth Parallel, under Clarence King; the U. S. Geographical Survey West of the One Hundredth Meridian, under Wheeler; and the United States Geographical and Geological Survey of the Rocky Mountain Region, under John Wesley Powell. The government scientists were not alone in this area. Mention must be made of the Princeton Expeditions of 1877-1878, and the more important Yale Scientific Expeditions of 1870-1873 under O. C. Marsh (Anderman, 1955). The events of the 10 years during which they were in the field adds extraordinary prestige to the history of the Flaming Gorge area.

The efforts and accomplishments of these men have been well chronicled and today seem to be getting the attention and publicity that they deserve. There is sufficient new evidence to merit a detailed account in one area of controversy involving the work of Clarence King.

The Great Diamond Fraud

One of the neatest swindles of the century occurred in 1872 when two innocent looking prospectors sold some of the country's leading men of finance a fabulous diamond mine, which did not exist.

The accounts of this great swindle have of late been of much interest to the American public. The story has been published in leading magazines and has furnished the theme for at least one television show. There is no doubt that it influenced the publisher's decision to reprint The Life of Asbury Harpending, and gave distinct impetus to the new book on the life of Clarence King, by Harry H. Crosby.

To better understand this story a review of Clarence King and his survey is in order.

In 1867 Congress established the Geological Survey of the Fortieth Parallel with Clarence King as its director. The purpose of the survey was mainly to determine the mineral resources of the area which was to be traversed by the Pacific Railroad. The area surveyed was considerable, approximately 100 mi. wide and extending from the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the west to the Colorado Range in the east. The work was done in the summers of 1871 and 1872. One of the important results of the survey was the publication of a volume on the Mining Industry, which provided a scientific work on precious metal mining and metallurgy in the American Continent (Merrill, 1924). This is pointed out because, as we shall see, King's very reputation as a geologist depended on his knowledge of precious metals and the geological formations in which they are found. King had announced, upon the completion of his survey, that there were no precious gems in the American Desert.

King was understandably surprised, upon arriving in San Francisco, to hear that California's leading banker, William C. Ralston, was in the process of organizing a company to exploit a huge diamond claim somewhere in the American Desert. He was more surprised to discover that none other than Charles Tiffany, New York's leading diamond merchant, had inspected a bag of diamonds that had been harvested from the claim, and found them to be of fabulous worth. Mr. King's astonishment continued to grow -- Baron Ferdinand Rothschild of London was in on the venture as was Horace Greeley of New York. Asbury Harpending was to be the company's general manager. The crowning blow came with the report that Henry Janin, one of America's leading mining experts, had inspected the claim and had found it rich beyond belief. Clarence King's career was in danger of being destroyed. The claims of these men had to be proven false if his reputation as a geologist were to survive, and prove them false he did (Merrill, 1924).

The controversy mentioned at the beginning of this section concerns the location of the fraudulent mine. The prospectors who so skillfully sold the swindle, John Slack and Phil Arnold, had never disclosed the whereabouts of their mine. When they led Janin to the site, they had been careful to blindfold him (Crosby, 1956). After King exposed the fraud, interest in the mine disappeared. Thus as is the case in so many places of historical interest, (three have been mentioned in this short history) its location is lost and is left to be puzzled over by future historians.

Since the incident of the diamond swindle has come into prominence in the past few years, many attempts have been made to locate the salted mine. Most historians, who have interested themselves in the subject, have located the claim on Diamond Mountain in the eastern Uintah Mountains in Daggett County, Utah. With due respect for these claims, the writer will attempt to prove that the mine was located on the south slope of Diamond Peak in the northwest corner of Colorado.

The basis of this claim comes from three sources, three men who were eyewitnesses to the dramatic episode. The first witness is Henry Janin, mentioned above. He had inspected the claim and it was to him that Clarence King went for the information that would result in the exposing of the fraud. Under questioning by Clarence King, Janin described his journey to the diamond field:

Then we left the railroad at some small station where there was no attendant. We were brought out of the station blindfolded and put on horses which our guides secured in some way. For two days we rode, and at last they took our blinds off when we got to this mountain--it's a curious place, a desert with a conical but flat-topped mountain rising out of it, and on the mountain you find everything from garnets to diamonds. (Crosby, 1956).

Diamond Peak, Colorado is a conical shaped mountain. It rises right out of the desert. It is a two days horseback ride from the railroad.

Janin does not mention the Green River which he would have had to cross to reach Diamond Mountain, Utah. Swimming the Green is quite an experience; with blindfolds, one would imagine, unforgettable.

After leaving Janin, King had gone to his maps. Janin had given him enough information to give him a clue as to the whereabouts of the mine. The conical mountain he could faintly remember and finally "he found such a mountain on the edge of the Uinta Range east of Salt Lake City" (Crosby, 1956).

Diamond Mountain, Utah, is in the Uintah Mountains. Diamond Peak, Colorado, is on the edge of the Uintah Range.

The next eyewitness is William G. Tittsworth. Tittsworth has left us, in his little volume, Outskirt Episodes, a vivid account of the diamond excitement in the Green River Basin. He met Clarence King as he was leaving the diamond field and reports that King had found the field salted and was on his way to the Green River Station where he would expose the fraudulent claim. Tittsworth has this to say about the location of the mine:

This mine was located about fifteen miles due east of the northwest corner of Colorado, on the northeast slope of Diamond Peak, which took its name from the salted mine. The location of this mine is now the property of Charley Sparks, one of the big sheep men of Colorado and Rock Springs, Wyoming (Tittsworth, 1927).

Diamond Peak lies close to the southern Wyoming boundary 15 mi. east of the northwest corner of Colorado. Everyone in the Green River Basin is familiar with the Charley Sparks ranch and Mr. Tittsworth made no mistake about its location.

The third eyewitness is J. S. Hoy who was, at the time of the excitement, taking up ranching in Brown's Hole. In Hoy's manuscript, mentioned in the introduction of this work, considerable attention is given to the diamond claim and its location.

It was in the early summer of 1871 that rumors of a discovery of diamonds were noised about creating no little excitement. These diamond fields were somewhere south of the Union Pacific Railroad. Much mystery surrounded the find and its whereabouts was carefully concealed--the following summer ground was found staked off in claims on the south [north] side of one of the three mountain peaks which is now marked on maps and named Diamond Mountain, north of Brown's Hole and fronting the open country to the north, overlooking the Vermillion

flats and hills. Investigation led to a report that the ground had been salted with inferior diamonds (Hoy Ms.).

Utah has made claim to three important historical landmarks in the Green River Area: the mountain men's first rendezvous, Fort Crockett, and the site of the great diamond swindle. In the interest of history, and by just a few miles, she has lost them all.

John Wesley Powell

Major John Wesley Powell came to the Green River Basin in 1868 as head of the Rocky Mountain Scientific Exploring Expedition. He intermittently explored this basin for the next seven years. His two explorations of the Green and Colorado rivers (1869-1871) form a highly dramatic episode in the annals of western exploration. The undertaking could not but have romantic undertones, for who can remain strictly scientific running "Hell's Half Mile"? In Brown's Hole, which Powell directly changed to Brown's Park, the major, sitting in his captain's chair, which was strapped to the deck of his boat, recited to the crew, Scott's Lady of the Lake (Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol. XV, 1947). One wonders if the wilderness had ever heard such talk.

Powell is more respected by geologists for his work in the eastern Uintah Mountains in 1874-1875. For the most part his theories concerning the geology of these mountains remain unchallenged today. One point that he made clear was that the drainage system, the Green River, was established prior to the uplifting of the mountain system and that the uplifting and the eroding of the river channel went on simultaneously and at approximately the same speed. We are thus relieved of the vexing problem of how the river ever carved its way through the Uintah Mountains.

THE CONTEMPORARY PERIOD

The Flaming Gorge area of the Green River basin, because of its extremely dry climate, has never attracted large numbers of settlers. Until the irrigation canals came into use in 1896 and 1899 the only residents of the area were ranchers along Henry's Fork and the Green River bottoms.

Two towns were built, both in Utah, near the turn of the century-- Manila and Linwood. They have remained the area's only settlements until Dutch John, Utah's newest city, suddenly emerged in the wilds of Dutch John Flats opposite the site of the Flaming Gorge dam, in 1958.

There has never been an incorporated town in Daggett County. Manila is reported to be the only unincorporated county seat in the United States.

Linwood, in the early days before the automobile, became a center of trade for cattle and sheep outfits in the area. The Smith and Larsen Mercantile thrived in this setup and has survived to this day. Mr. Keith Smith, founder of the store, still lives in Linwood, as does Mr. George Rasmussen, who came to work for Mr. Smith as a young man, and who now owns this unique establishment. Linwood will disappear under the waters of the Flaming Gorge reservoir, and it is hoped that some of the museum pieces, such as the Smith and Larsen Store and the Keith Smith residence, will be salvaged from that fate.

The history would be incomplete if mention were not made of "The Comet", the first and only steamboat on the Green River. July 4, 1908, was a big day in Green River, Wyoming. The arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad could not match the excitement that was created at the launching of "The Comet". This stern-wheeler, 12 ft. wide and 60 ft. long, was to revolutionize transportation in the Green River basin. On the initial voyage Mr. Keith Smith's blacksmith shop equipment was hauled to Linwood. It was the only trip it ever made. Coal had to be hauled from Green River by horseback to get the boat back to Green River, and every few feet along the way, the sandbars stuck her fast (Dunham, 1947). It was at least a grand celebration.

Another item worthy of mention was the building of Buckboard, a hotel halfway between Linwood, Utah, and Green River, Wyoming. Peter Wall noticed that people traveling from the one settlement to the other had to camp out one night. He decided to relieve their discomforts, and make a

good investment besides, by building the hotel on the banks of the Green River in 1912. The automobile and the building of better roads soon made it possible to make the trip in one day and the venture failed. A few minutes' side trip to the sight of this lovely old building is very rewarding. There is nothing in the setting to suggest that the year is 1959 and not 1900.

The Green River basin is a geographical area that defies political boundaries. Its southern portion, Daggett County, Utah, is in Utah in name only. The Uintah Mountains have always been a barrier between Daggett County and her parent state. Consequently, the county has been adopted into Wyoming, not legally, but still in fact. Perhaps this will all change with the building of the Flaming Gorge dam.

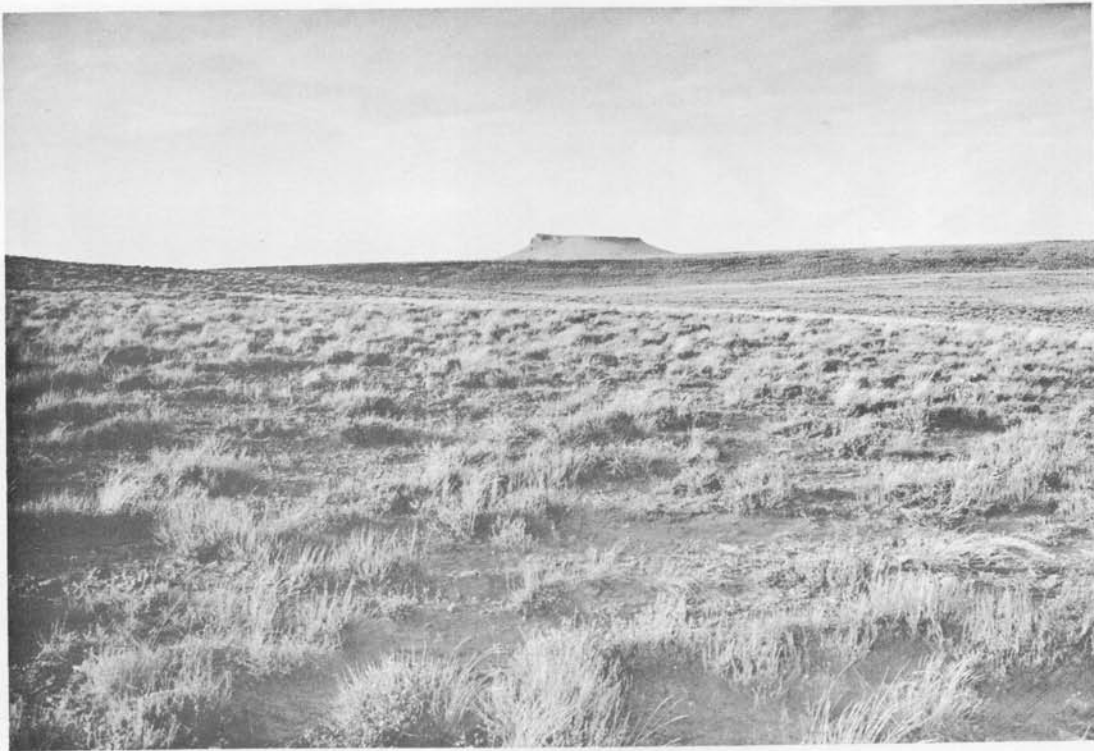


Fig. 2. Pilot Butte, landmark on the Oregon Trail north of Green River, Wyoming.



Fig. 3. One of the original homes in Linwood, Utah, now United States Post Office.



Fig. 4. Looking southeast from the top of Jesse Ewing Canyon into Brown's Hole, famous trappers' retreat and outlaw hangout.

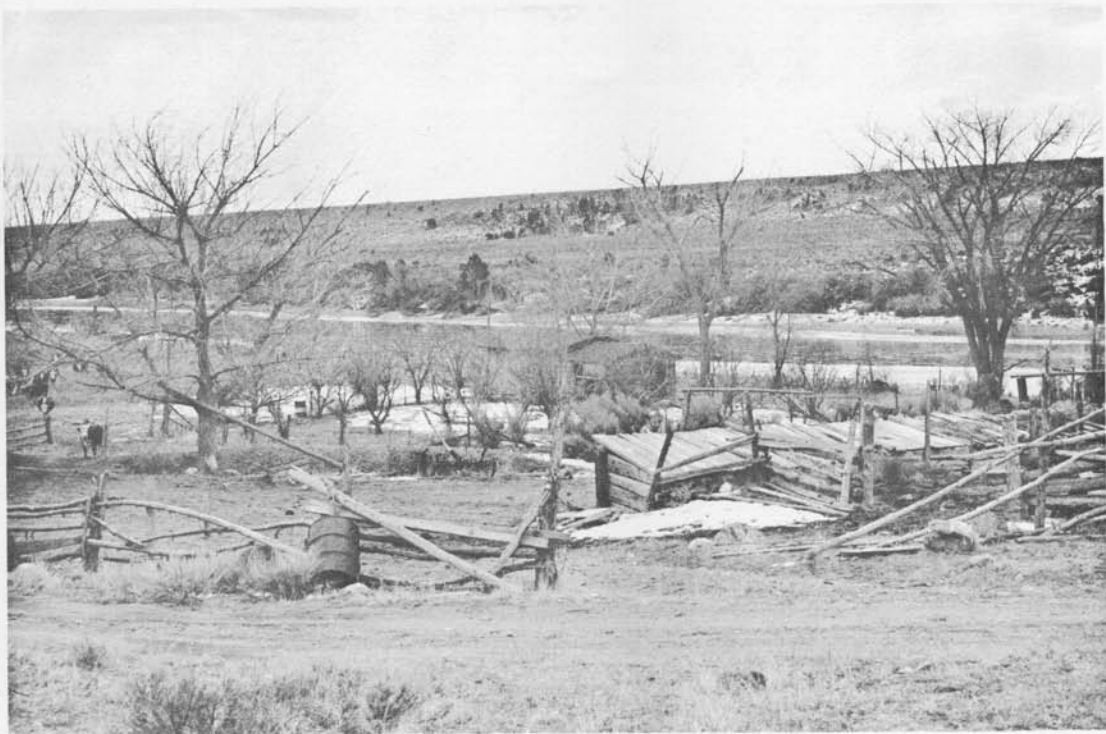


Fig. 5. Old Jarvey Ranch in Brown's Hole on the Green River.



Fig. 6. Pioneer cabin of Uncle Jack Robinson, one of Linwood's early settlers.



Fig. 7. Mr. Keith Smith, pioneer rancher of Daggett County, Yale graduate, co-owner of Smith and Larsen Mercantile, only store in Linwood, Utah.

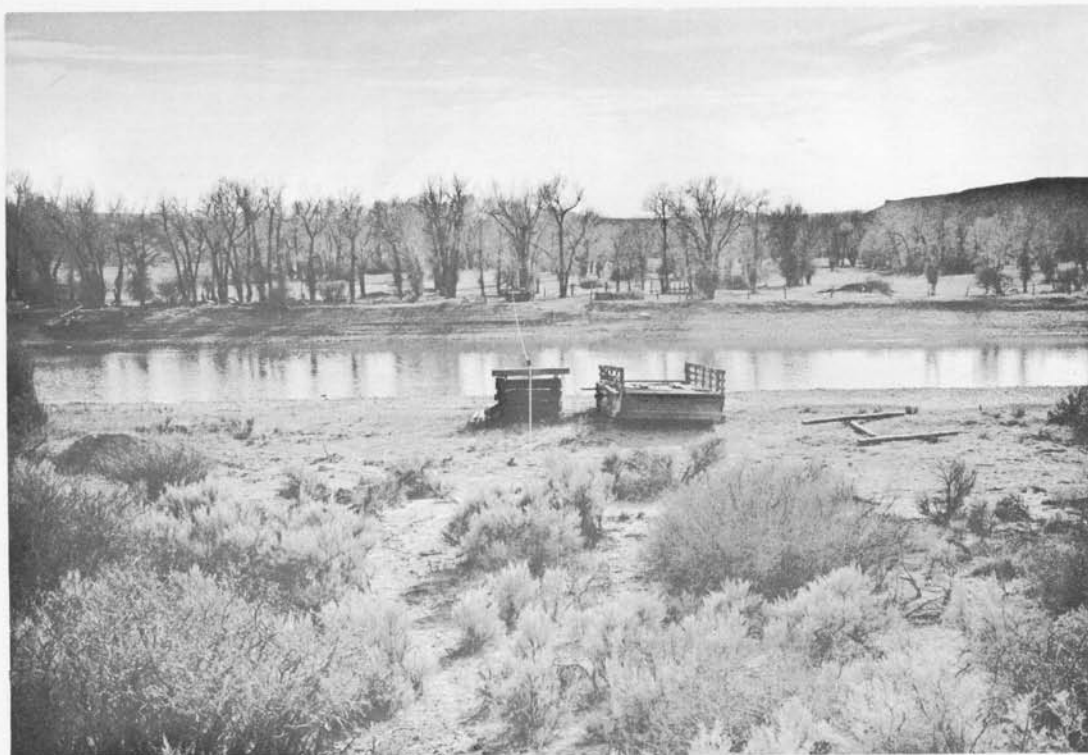


Fig. 8. Brinegar ferry crossing on the Green River in Wyoming, 10 miles north of the Utah line.



Fig. 9. Close-up view of old Brinegar ferry boat.



Fig. 10. Buckboard Hotel, former overnight stop between Green River, Wyoming, and Linwood, Utah.



Fig. 11. Blacksmith shop, Buckboard Hotel.



Fig. 12. Dutch John town marker.



Fig. 13. Dutch John, Utah's newest city, built by Bureau of Reclamation in conjunction with Flaming Gorge Dam.

APPENDIX I

FINAL REPORT

Preliminary Survey of the Flaming Gorge Reservoir
1958

Upper Colorado Basin Archeological Salvage Project
Contract No. 14-10-333-430

The Flaming Gorge survey was conducted primarily in the reservoir area, extending from the damsite in Red Canyon to the Wyoming border, a river distance of approximately 30 mi.

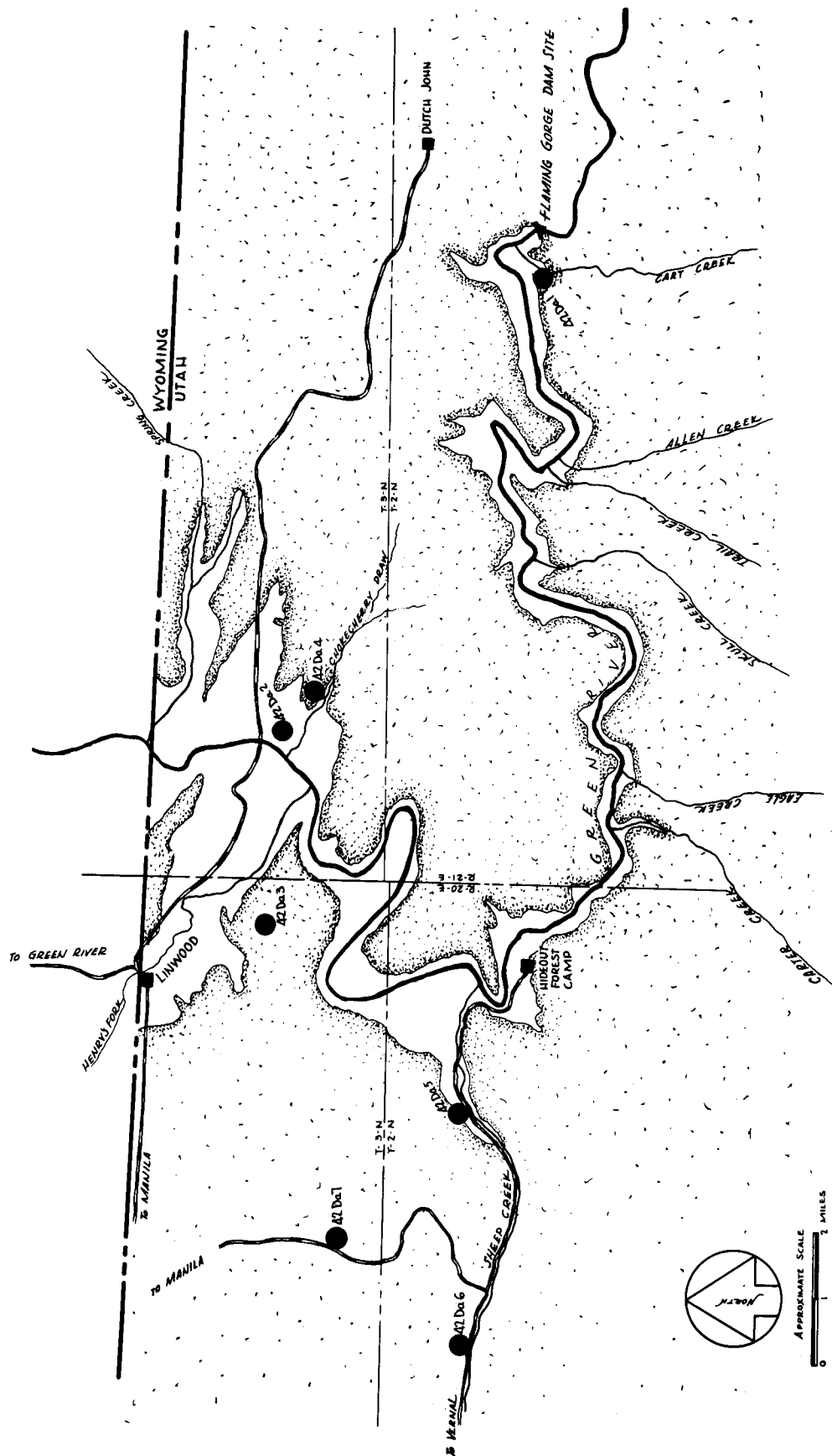
This area is steep, narrow canyon country widening only at the confluence of the Green River and the tributaries of Cart Creek, Carter Creek, Sheep Creek, Henry's Fork and Spring Creek. The survey was concentrated within these bay areas.

Seven areas were designated as possible sites. Two of these sites are probably not aboriginal. Site 42Dal in Cart Creek canyon is a small overhang. This overhang was heavily smoke-marked on the walls and ceiling. No artifacts were found, and as later information disclosed that the overhang was a favorite stopping place for sheepherders in inclement weather, which would account for the smoke-blackening, it is doubtful if this can be described as a site. Site 42Da3 is an overhang in Finch Draw, approximately 1 mi. south of the Williams' ranch on Henry's Fork. The shelter is large and well located for protection from the weather. The ceiling has caved, covering the floor with about five feet of dirt and rock, which may possibly cover evidence of early man. No artifacts were found.

The five remaining sites are open sites. Two of these, sites 42Da2 and 42Da4 are located in the foothills just east of the Green River and opposite the mouth of Henry's Fork. They are approximately 1 mi. north of the Flaming Gorge. Site 42Da5 is located in Sheep Creek canyon immediately east of the Mann ranch. Site 42Da6 is also located in Sheep Creek canyon, but is not in the reservoir area. The site is located on the Bennett ranch approximately 1/4 mi. below, or east of, the ranch buildings. Site 42Da7 is located between South Valley and Lucerne Valley approximately 4 mi. south of Manila on the Manila-Vernal road.

All of these sites are chipping sites. Several hearths of vertical sandstone slabs were in evidence in sites 42Da4, 5, and 7. The surface collections of whole and broken artifacts and chips made at each site have not been studied. Such study is postponed until the survey of the entire reservoir and environs is carried out. It can be said in passing however, that one or two projectile points of Duncan Point type were found. This feeble clue suggests affiliations to the north and east.

There seems to be considerably more evidence of ancient man along the periphery than in the reservoir area proper. Immediately north of the Utah border in Wyoming the area is very rich in flint artifacts, pictographs, and to a lesser extent, manos and metates. This is also true in South Valley, just south of Manila, and in Greendale, just south of the damsite. Below the damsite, in what is locally called Little Hole, pot hunters have removed hundreds of flint artifacts and several metates and manos. Intensive search should be made in all these areas.



INITIAL SURVEY
FLAMING GORGE RESERVOIR
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN ARCHEOLOGICAL SALVAGE PROJECT

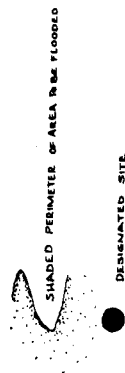


Fig. 14.

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