



City Council members Gregg Palmer, Dennis Kirtland, Bill McCurry, Cindy Enos-Martinez, Mayor Bruce Hill, Jim Spehar, and Harry Butler.

Year 2004 Highlights ...

During 2004, the City Council worked on a two-year update of the City Strategic Plan which was first adopted in January 2002. This Plan outlines strategic directions and goals for the City in six major areas and includes specific objectives which will be accomplished during the next two years. Listening to citizens and receiving input from them is very important to the City Council. For this reason, the Strategic Plan update included a telephone survey of over 400 Grand Junction residents. The City Council also held neighborhood meetings in eight different City parks to discuss the Plan and hear what citizens think are the most important issues facing us today.

The following are some of the highlights of the strategic planning process:

- Many city residents told us they really enjoy the quality of life in Grand Junction and the want to make sure we preserve this trait. The telephone survey showed that most residents enjoy living in Grand Junction because it is a great place to live, it has a small-town feel, and the climate and weather are good.
- According to citizen opinion, the most important issues facing Grand Junction today are growth, traffic, and water/drought.
- There is a consensus among residents that Grand Junction has a small-town feel. Citizens say that Grand Junction has a small-town feel because of good/friendly people, the Main Street/downtown area, knowing people, events, and population.
- The economy is another item that is very important to residents. A very high percentage of residents (92%) think that the City of Grand Junction should work to promote better paying jobs in Grand Junction. The City has consistently been a strong supporter of economic development and has put a renewed emphasis on this issue. In 2004 the City adopted an infill/redevelopment policy which is designed to help this issue in certain parts of the city.
- Creating opportunities for youth has been identified as a priority of citizens. Last year, the City worked with local youth and the School District to form the City's first Youth Council. The Youth Council is made up of fifteen local teens that applied and were then selected to serve. This group has completed several projects focused on local youth and they are now entering their second year.
- Development of a neighborhood program that will help strengthen neighborhoods and make it easier for them to interact with the City has been identified as a priority. A specific program is currently being developed and formalized, but the City is already working with neighborhoods. The City worked with residents of the El Poso neighborhood to successfully obtain a \$500,000 infrastructure improvement grant; with the School District and local residents to plan and develop the new Wingate Park next to Wingate Elementary School; and with the School District to create a new parking lot and improvements at Pomona Elementary School during the reconstruction of 25 1/2 Road.

The City is also working to strengthen neighborhoods through the recently adopted "Neighborhood Beat" program in the Police Department. This program puts a strong emphasis on individual contact with residents by assigning each Police Officer to a specific neighborhood. The Officer stays with the same neighborhood for at least one year.

The City's Strategic Plan also identified housing as a major issue in Grand Junction. Seeing the need to bring this issue

A letter from the Mayor...

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you how proud I am to be Mayor of this wonderful community in which I was born and raised. The position of Mayor is not one that I feel reflects who I am, but one that I feel I must live up to in honor of the citizens that make this a great community and in honor of those who have provided leadership in the past. Your City Council is one that is diverse and caring; one that continues to reach out to the community to ask for help and guidance to assure we are heading in the right direction. We know that the more citizens become involved by expressing themselves, the better we are able to focus on how we represent you.

The City of Grand Junction has accomplished many wonderful things. The underlying success in all of our accomplishments has been fostering and developing partnerships with other organizations that strive, like us, to make this a wonderful community.

The quality of the City's employees is unsurpassed and the compassion they exhibit to do their very best for the citizens of this great community also makes me proud. We have many challenges ahead of us, but I just see those as opportunities to do great work, and we will — together.

Best regards,

Bruce Hill, Mayor

to the forefront and to help coordinate a discussion and possible solutions, the City sponsored an Affordable Housing Forum in August 2004. Over 125 people attended this forum to discuss the issue and possible solutions in detail. The forum has initiated progress as the various governmental bodies, agencies, and non-profits work together to review and implement specific programs and projects.

Having a sufficient supply of good, clean water is a high priority. It is essential that we protect our water supply even when we are not in a drought situation. In order to help keep our water supply clean, the City has been working to ensure that our watershed is protected. In 2004, the City of Grand Junction entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Forest Service. This Memorandum serves to help protect our watershed that is located on Forest Service property. We are also working with other groups to similarly protect the land from which our water comes.

It is clear that a number of priorities have been identified in 2004 as a result of the Strategic Plan. These priorities set the road map for the City to follow over the next several years. The Plan will be updated consistently as the City moves forward. Beyond the Strategic Plan, a number of other highlights from 2004 cannot be overlooked. Among them: The City has been working diligently on the Riverside Parkway Project after an \$80 million bond issue was approved by the voters in November 2003. The use of bonds will allow the City to complete this large project in just 6-7 years instead of 15-18 years. Construction of the Parkway is scheduled to begin in late 2005.

Downtown Grand Junction was a busy place during 2004 as the Farmers Market proved to be very popular in only its second year. The Downtown Development Authority sponsors this event that draws hundreds of people to Main Street each Thursday evening during the growing season. This wonderful event will take place again in 2005 and should continue to be a huge success.

Retail and business activity was strong during 2004 as the City's sales tax revenues experienced a solid increase over 2003. Development activity was also very strong during the year with many new businesses and homes being constructed. Grand Junction continues to be a very attractive and desirable place for both business and new residents. One of the many challenges facing the City in the upcoming years will be preserving our quality of life as we continue to grow.

The City of Grand Junction places a heavy emphasis on providing outstanding customer service to those we serve. Gathering feedback from you is just one way we focus on providing good customer service. City employees participate in ongoing customer service training in an effort to better serve our customers and we believe the return on this investment is high. We are fortunate to have a hard-working and dedicated force of employees providing service to the citizens and businesses of Grand Junction. The City's efforts to continue to provide, and even improve upon, excellent customer service will be ongoing. In addition, it is the goal of this City Council to continue to better serve this community by embracing and building public/private partnerships throughout the region. We look forward to a busy and successful 2005!

1880's AND BEFORE



◀ The Utes hunted over wide areas of Utah and Colorado. Some also had seasonal farms. Utes were noted for the fine ponies they raised and traded, and for their buckskin crafts. Ouray, born in 1833, became a tribal leader; his wife was Chipeta. The U.S. government accepted him as the chief Ute during treaty negotiations. In this 1880 photo, Ouray and Chipeta are in the front row.

(Collection #F-626b)



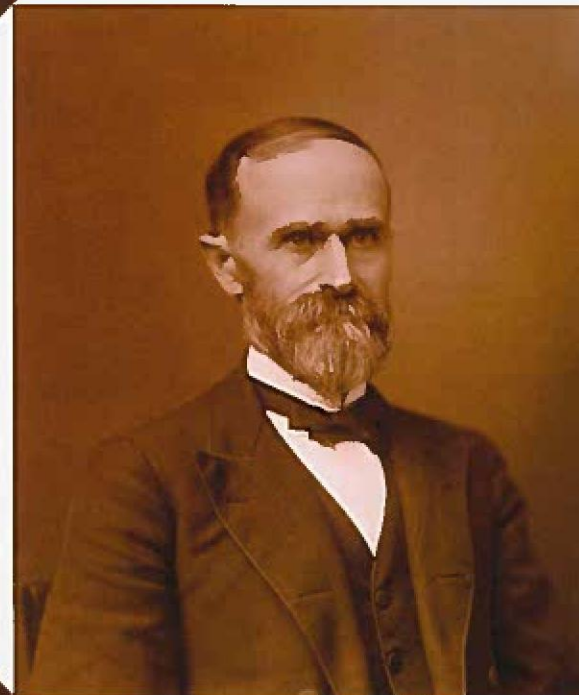
The first structure in town in 1881 was the Town Company office. A log cabin at 2nd and Ute, it was built from cottonwood trees growing near the river. The residents were Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Mobley. R. D. Mobley was the first postmaster. (Collection #F-361)

Schooling for the children was an early priority. Nannie Blaine Underhill was the first teacher. The first school, a crude cabin of upright logs, soon was replaced by a better building of local brick.



Teacher Isa Caldwell is in the doorway. She began teaching in 1882 and taught all grades in the one room school.

(W. H. Jackson & Co. Photo, Collection #2Ha-63)



George A. Crawford (1827-1891) headed the Town Company and is considered "the father of Grand Junction." A skilled entrepreneur, he also founded Delta, Colorado and three cities in Kansas. Elected governor of Kansas in 1861 in an election invalidated on technicalities, he did not serve. However, he usually was known as "Governor" Crawford.

(F. Gutekunst Photo, Mesa County Public Library Collection #1979.11)

1890's



◀ The Franklin Building (Grand Junction High School) was built in 1891 and cost \$11,000. This spacious twelve-room brick building was at 6th and Rood where the current courthouse is located. First a three-year high school, it became a four-year school in 1894, the year it graduated its first four graduates.

(Dean Photo, Collection #1987.82#2)



Photo by Frank McClintock

skating
on
THE GRANDS
-92

▲ Skating on canals and on rivers was popular. This scene in 1892 shows a skating group, with the Fifth Street bridge across the Colorado River in the background. Built in 1886, it was the first bridge in Colorado which was financed by the state and was 740 feet long. (Frank McClintock Photo, Collection #F-834)



LITTLE BOOK CLIFF COAL MINE - W. T. CARPENTER, OWNER AND BUILDER

William and Susan Carpenter bought two large coal mines at the base of the Bookcliffs north of Grand Junction. To bring the coal to market, they also built the Little Book Cliff Railway which was finished in 1891. The railroad also transported building stone from an adjacent quarry, and bottled water from a spring. (Collection #F-187b)



Sugar beets grown in the Grand Valley were found to have a high sugar content and became a major crop. In 1899 the Colorado Sugar Manufacturing Company built a large brick factory at 12th Street and Struthers Avenue, the first in the state. After sugar extraction, unpleasant-smelling beet pulp was fed to sheep and cattle as they were fattened for market.

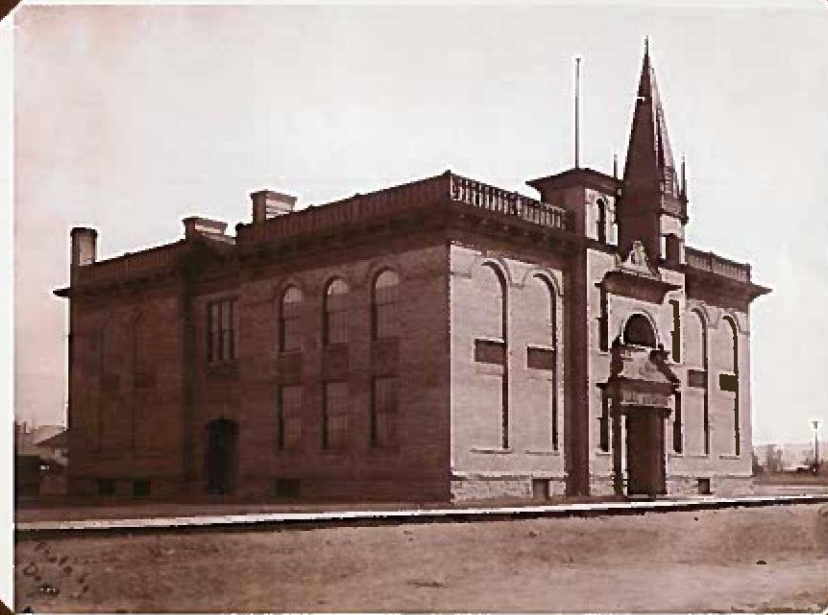
(Dean Photo, Independent Lumber Co. Collection #1982.101)

1900's



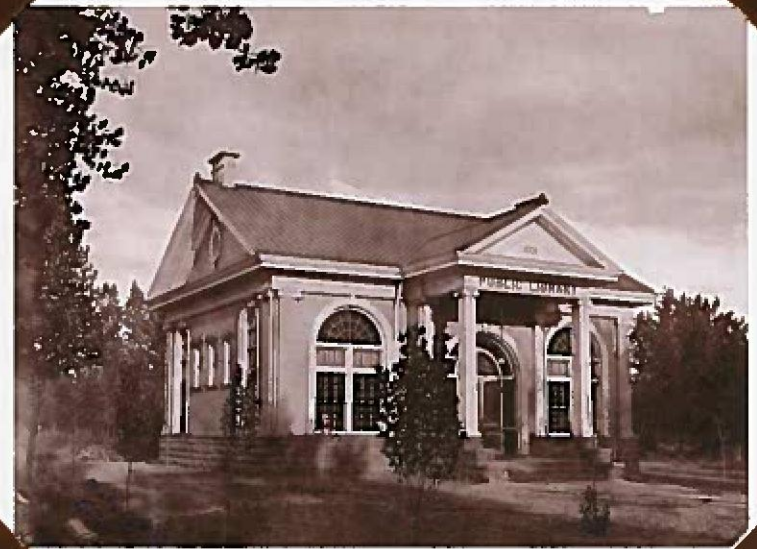
◀ Frank Dean was a photographer in the booming silver mining towns of Western Colorado and also in Grand Junction. By 1900 he moved to the Grand Valley permanently and began a forty-year career of photographing people, events, buildings and landscapes. His excellent photos are a valuable recording of the area's history.

(Dean Photo, Western Slope Museum Association Collection #2Ha-17)



Originally named the Park School, the Emerson Grade School was built at 9th and Ute in 1903. The architect's drawings of the large building included a dome, but it was not included. One hundred two years later the building has essentially the same appearance, minus the belfry and spire.

(Dean Photo, Valley Federal Savings & Loan Collection #1991.52)



The Women's Library Association petitioned philanthropist Andrew Carnegie for funds to build a new library which was erected in 1901 at 7th and Grand. A substantial "Colonial" building, it had a red sandstone foundation, buff brick walls, a red tile roof, and furniture and woodwork of golden oak.

(Dean Photo, Valley Federal Savings & Loan Collection #1991.52)



◀ An electrically powered streetcar system was inaugurated May 27, 1909 by the Grand Junction and Grand River Valley Railway. When few people owned automobiles, streetcars were a great convenience for many riders. Streetcars were smooth, quiet, non-polluting transportation. Earlier, the city had horse-drawn streetcars from 1890 to 1903.

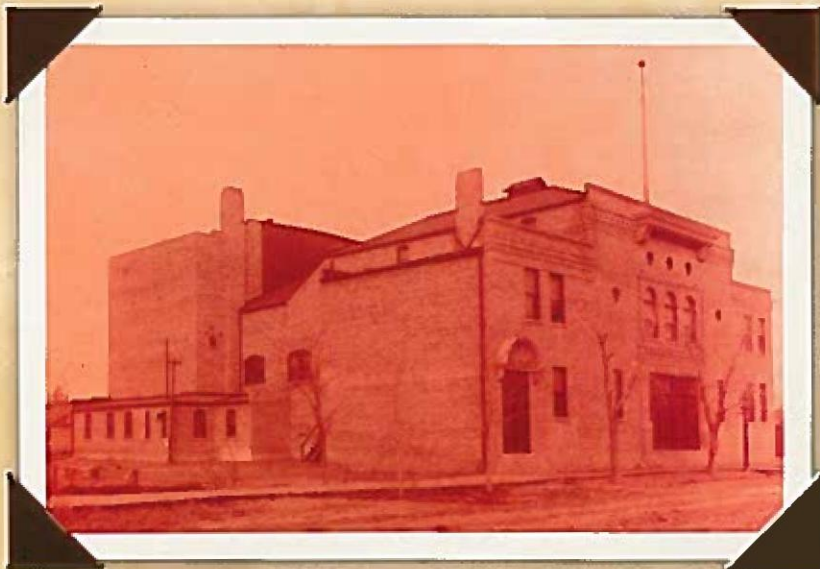
(Mr. & Mrs. Roger Green Collection #F-751)

1910's

World War I was a world-wide conflict during 1914-1918, and the United States was a combatant from 1917-1918. Naval forces were engaged in the Atlantic with land forces mainly in France. These Mesa County recruits, ready to leave for military service, boarded a car on the Midland Railroad which served Grand Junction from 1890 to 1918. (Dean Photo, The Daily Sentinel Collection #1980.300#13)

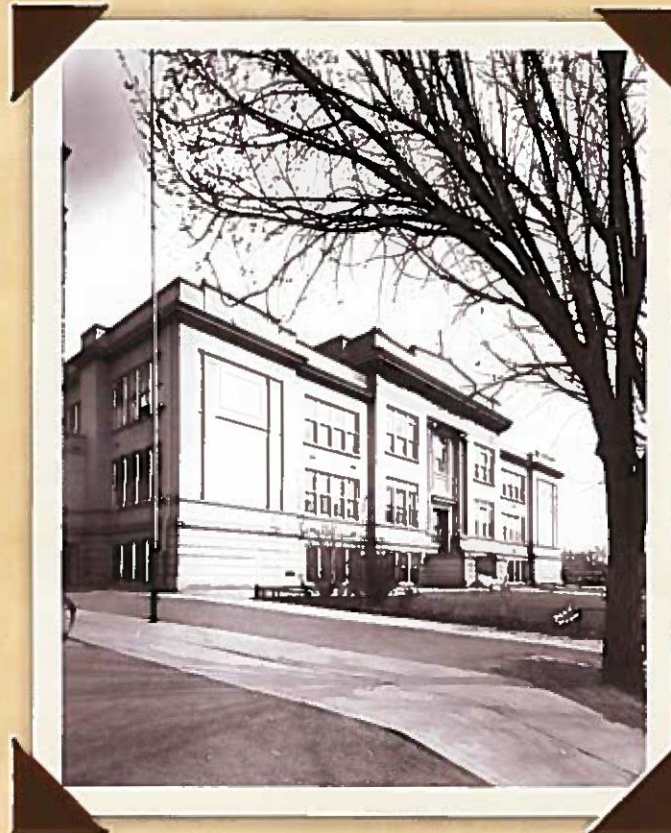


The Park Opera House was at 430 Ute Avenue, facing Cottonwood Park - later Whitman Park. (The site is now the Museum of Western Colorado parking lot.) Equipped for theatrical events, lectures and music of all types, it featured local and touring companies. Performers from the Barrymores to the Four Cohans appeared there. The Opera House was in use from the 1890's until the 1920's when moving pictures changed theatrical demands. ▼ (Mrs. Walter J. Eames Collection #1983.2)



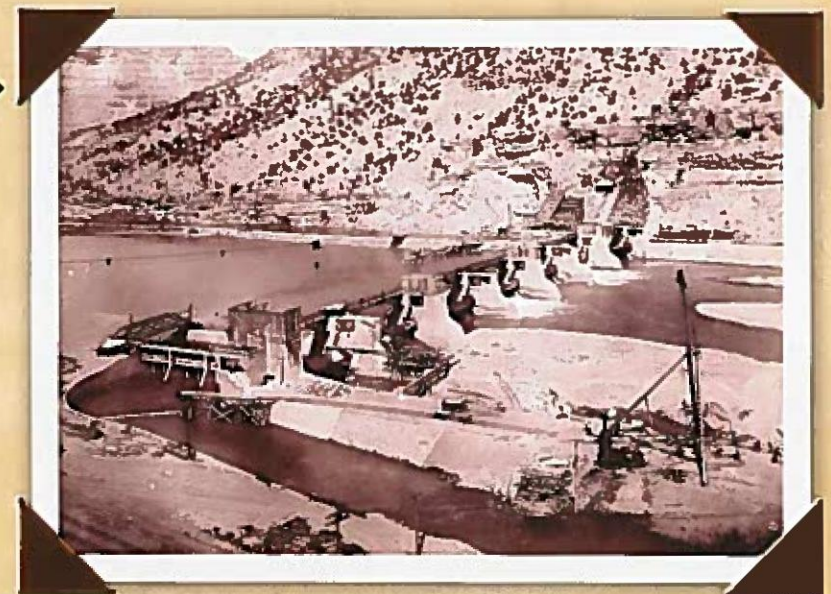
One of the largest irrigation projects in the nation, the Highline Project, was completed in 1918. It provided the water to cultivate 50,000 acres in the Grand Valley. The unusual roller dam is shown as it was being built across the Colorado River in DeBeque Canyon. The level of the reservoir behind it is controlled by raising or lowering large steel cylinders, called rollers. There are only three roller dams in the country and this is the largest.

(U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Photo, John Page Collection #1981.119#84)



The small number of students in 1891 had grown to over 600 by 1911. A larger high school building was needed. The 900 block between Chipeta and Gunnison Avenues was selected for the new location of Grand Junction High School. The central section was built in 1911, and wings on each side were added beginning in 1917. There were 36 rooms and an auditorium for 500.

(Dean Studio Photo, Collection #F-397)



1920's

William J. Moyer, shown near a Christmas display in the Fair Store, became the leading citizen of Grand Junction. The Fair Store opened in 1890 and was the largest department store in Western Colorado. His other major investments included the Grand Valley National Bank. Mr. and Mrs. Moyer were generous with their wealth. They financed young people through college and donated the city's first public swimming pool, the Moyer Natatorium. Unfortunately, the Great Depression of the 1930s brought financial ruin to the Moyer enterprises. (William McGuire Collection #1979.85)



Olney E. "Ollie" Bannister was a patriarch of the family who operated Bannister Furniture Company from 1897 to 1999. Bannister also was active in politics, and was in the Colorado State Senate from 1918 to 1934. Among the causes he championed was the legislation which established Mesa College in 1925.

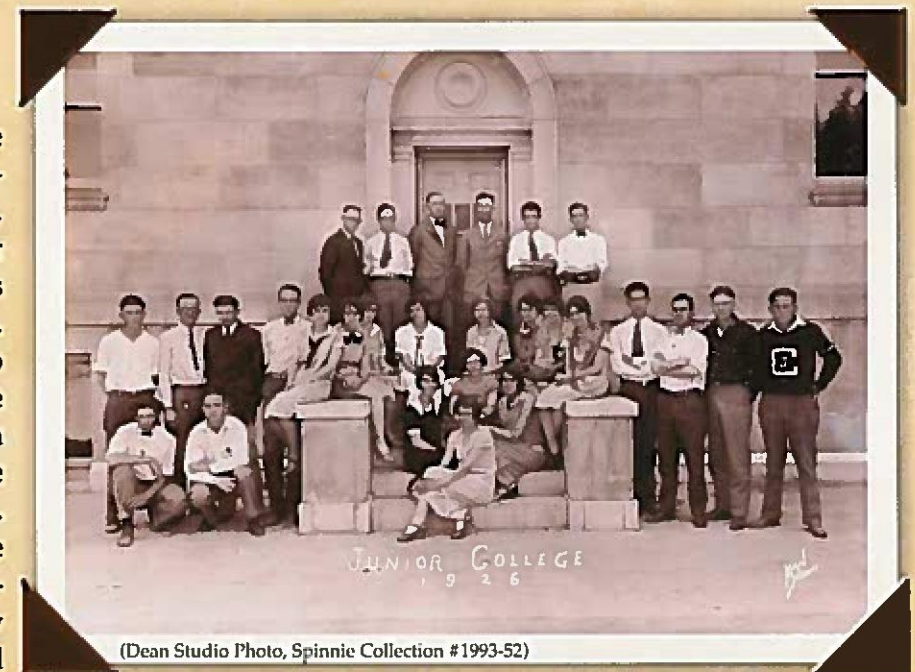
(Collection #2Ha-334k)



When Franklin High School was razed at 6th and Rood, the site was used for the new Mesa County Courthouse. Construction began in 1922 on the limestone, neoclassical structure and it was built to high standards. Hallways had marble wainscoting and terrazzo floors, court rooms were outfitted in golden oak. The front doors were made of brass and had ornate grilles. It was dedicated in 1924. (Dean Studio Photo, Gladys Moss Collection #1982.213)



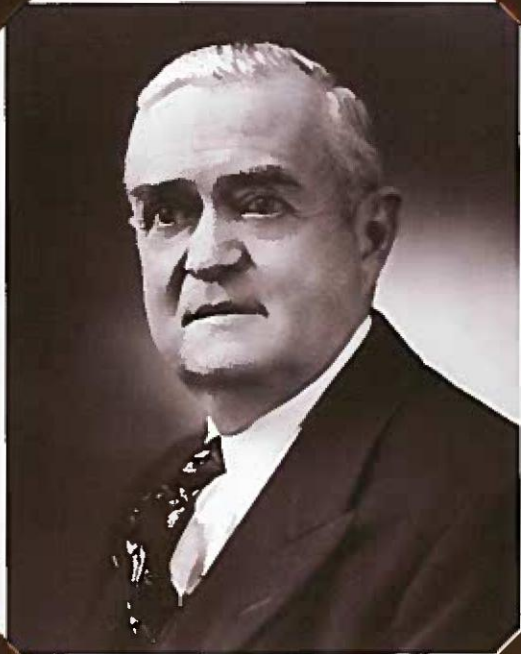
As early as 1904 there was an attempt to establish a state college here. The idea of two-year junior colleges was developing in the 1920's. Eventually the Colorado legislature and the Governor agreed to an extension school of the University of Colorado. In the fall of 1925 the first college classes convened in the recently vacated Lowell School building at 5th and Rood. The nearby YMCA provided a gymnasium. Forty-one freshmen enrolled in Grand Junction State Junior College, forerunner of today's Mesa State College.



(Dean Studio Photo, Spinnie Collection #1993-52)

1930's

Walter Walker was editor and publisher of the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel from 1917 to 1956. He



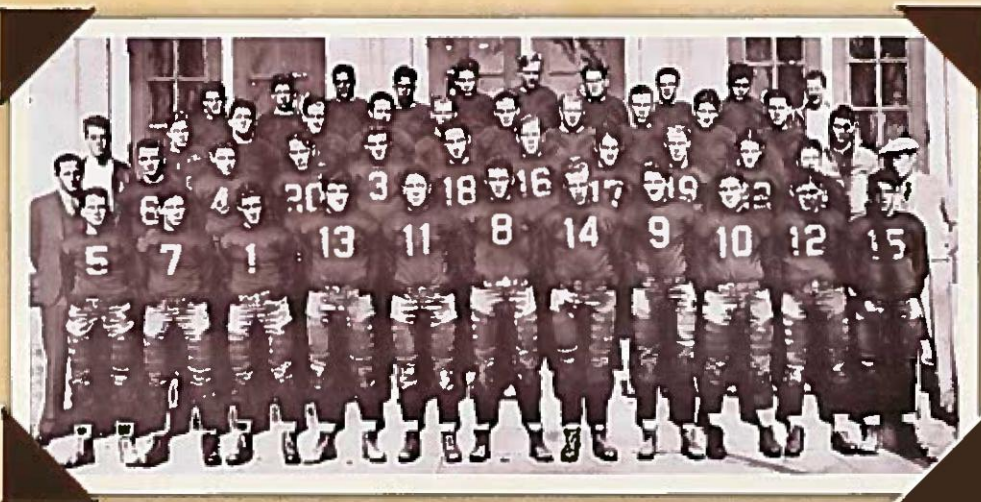
was an ardent supporter of every advance in Grand Junction and western Colorado. A force in politics, he was appointed by the Governor to the United States Senate in 1932 to fill out the term of the late Senator Waterman. On the national level, Walker was a member of the committee which wrote the 1932 Democratic platform called the New Deal by Franklin Roosevelt. Walker was a delegate to eight consecutive national conventions, a state record.

(The Daily Sentinel Collection #2004.44)



The City Market chain was started by the Prinster brothers with one small grocery store in Grand Junction in the 1920's. Grocery stores typically were not large. Supermarkets with wide selections and lower prices were an idea of the 1930's. City Market opened the first of their many supermarkets at 4th and Rood in 1939.

(City Market Collection #1990.59)



The entire town was enthused about the 1936 Grand Junction High School Tigers football team. They made widespread sports news as

they played an entire season without being scored upon. The toughest game was in Salida. A special train carried fans to the meet which the Tigers won, breaking Salida's winning streak of 39 games. The 1936 season total was Tigers 506 to 0 for their opponents. Rah Rah Tigers!

(1937 Grand Junction High School Annual)

The first Grand Junction Municipal Airport was located on 700 acres where the larger current airport is today. It was dedicated June 14-15,



1930. The first runways were unpaved. There was one hangar with a windsock, and planes included an Eagle Rock Biplane (pictured). In 1942 the airport was named Walker Field for the newspaper publisher who was a strong backer. During World War II, hundreds of Army and Navy cadets received basic flight training at Walker Field. (Walker Field Airport Authority)

CITY HALL

The City of Grand Junction was incorporated in June of 1882. The building depicted right was the first official City Hall. It was located at 451 Main Street. The building also served as the first office of the Grand Junction News.

(William Henry Jackson photo, Collection #2002.20)



By 1890, City Hall moved to the corner of 5th and Colorado. This building housed the Fire Department, the Police Department, Jail, and City offices.

(Grand Junction Fire Department Collection #1990.58)

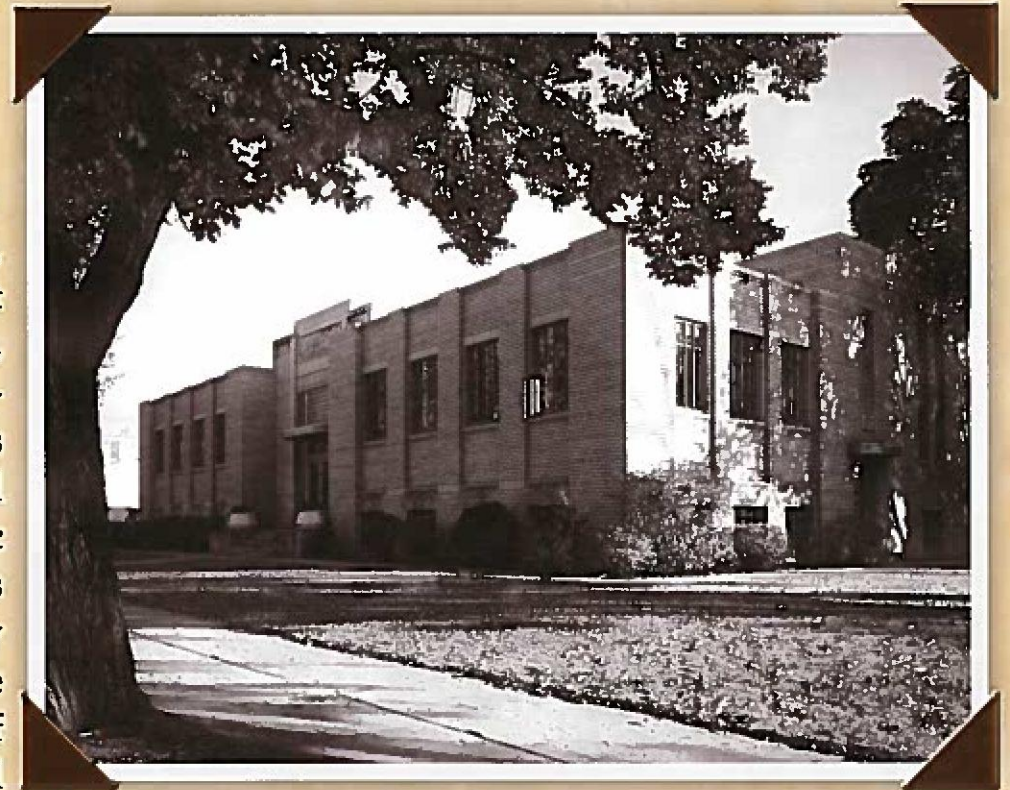


By 1912, City Hall had moved to this location at 6th and Colorado. The Fire Department followed soon after. City offices remained in this location until 1950. (Grand Junction Fire Department Collection #1990.58)





In 1948, the Lowell Elementary School building at 5th and Rood after having served as Mesa State Junior College and the Mesa County Library, was condemned. The building was extensively remodeled including the removal of the second floor and the addition of a new facade. In 1950, the building reopened as City Hall as it appears in ◀ this photo. (City of Grand Junction Photo)



In approxi-▶
mately 1975,
this building at
5th and White,
which previ-
ously served as
the Grand
Junction Public
Library, was
structurally
attached to the
north side of
the City Hall
building at 5th and Rood. (Collection # 1988.40)



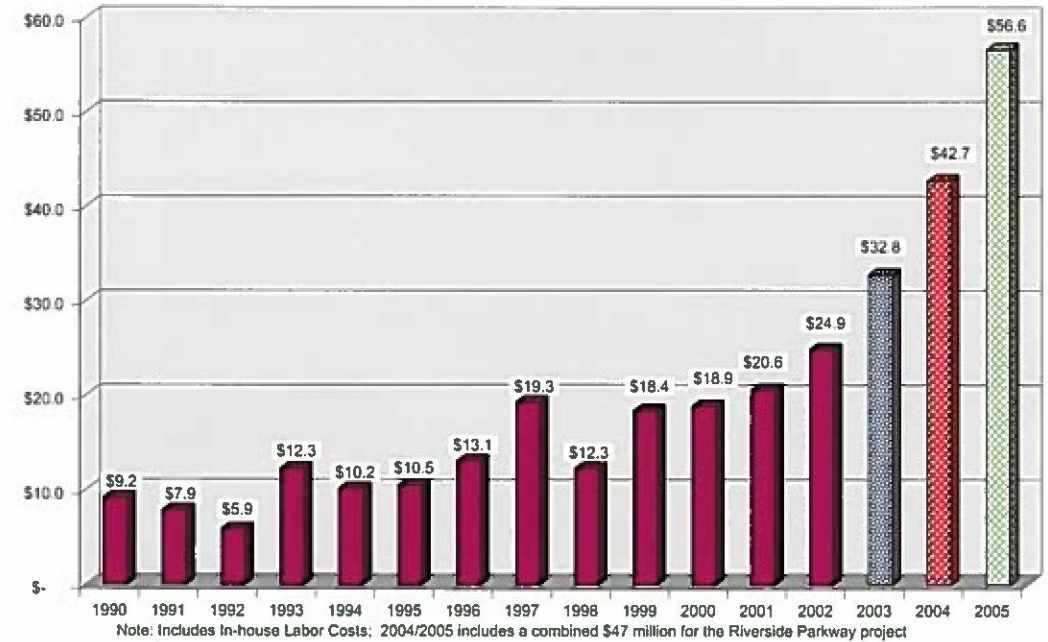
◀ At the end of 1998, City offices moved to a temporary home in a shopping center at 28 Road and North Avenue while City Hall was demolished. In August 2000, the new City Hall, as pictured, was opened at the 5th and Rood location. (Sam Rainguet photo)

Monthly Cost of Service

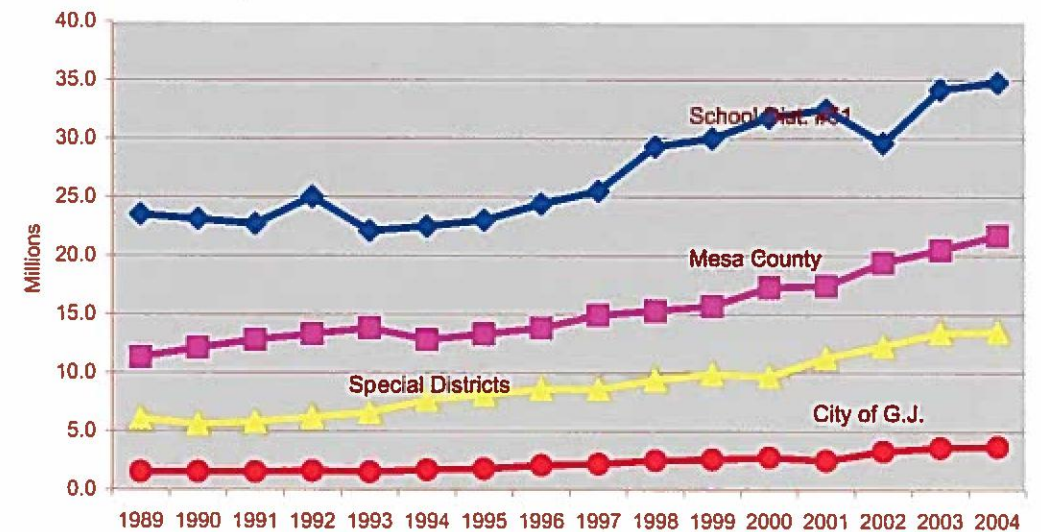


The average homeowner will pay \$707 in annual taxes received by the City, or \$59 per month, in support of all general government services provided by the City of Grand Junction.

Historical Spending for Capital Investment City of Grand Junction



Historical Property Tax Levies



The City of Grand Junction receives less than 1/10th of the property tax paid by the homeowners.

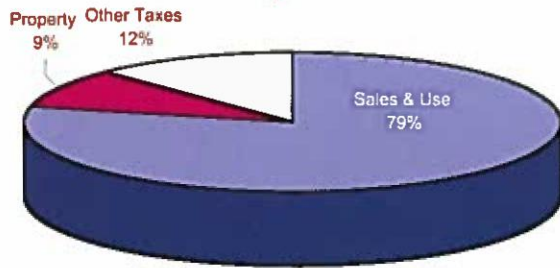
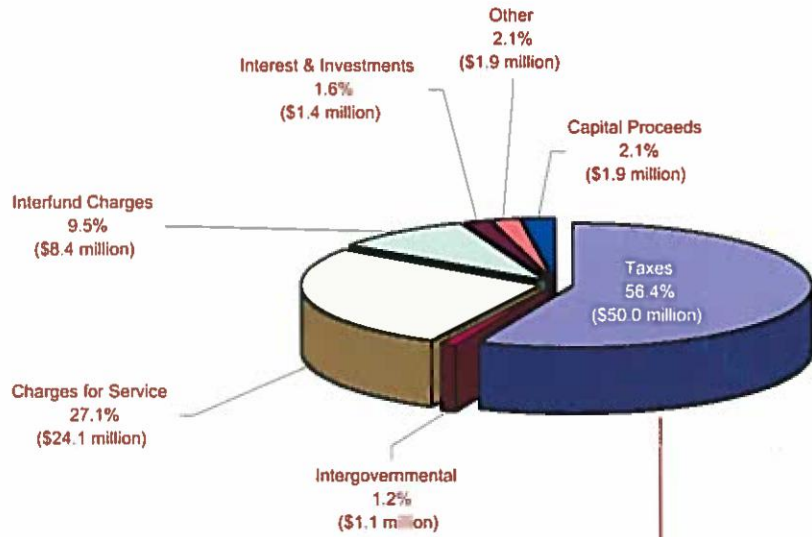
BUDGET YEAR

Major Capital Improvement Projects

	2004	2005	2-Year Total
Sewer System Improvements	\$ 9,140,664	\$ 4,643,541	\$ 13,784,205
Storm Drainage Improvements	\$ 5,499,995	\$ 1,569,000	\$ 7,068,995
Riverside Parkway	\$ 11,850,000	\$ 35,157,866	\$ 47,007,866
Water System Improvements	\$ 3,595,421	\$ 470,970	\$ 4,066,391
Street Overlay/Maintenance Program	\$ 1,767,742	\$ 1,775,000	\$ 3,542,742
Vehicle Replacement Program	\$ 2,245,252	\$ 1,794,887	\$ 4,040,139
29 Road; I-70B to F Road	\$ 1,695,600	\$ -	\$ 1,695,600
E-911 Communications Center Equipment	\$ 943,643	\$ 600,000	\$ 1,543,643
Fire Station #5 Construction	\$ 1,452,784	\$ -	\$ 1,452,784
Canyon View Park/Area Improvements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
25.5 Road; Independent to F Road	\$ 1,732,000	\$ -	\$ 1,732,000
City/County Parking Garage	\$ 690,387	\$ -	\$ 690,387
Wingate Park	\$ 625,000	\$ -	\$ 625,000

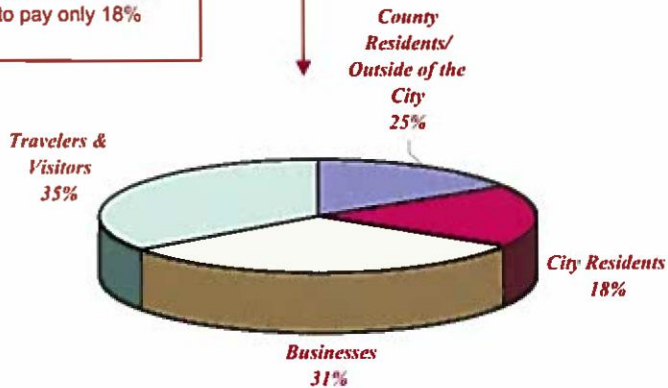
Where the Money Comes From

The main source of revenue the City will use for general government operations in 2005 is generated from taxes. Of the projected \$50.0 million in tax revenue collected, 79% will be in the form of sales and use tax with only 18% of that amount being paid by Grand Junction residents.

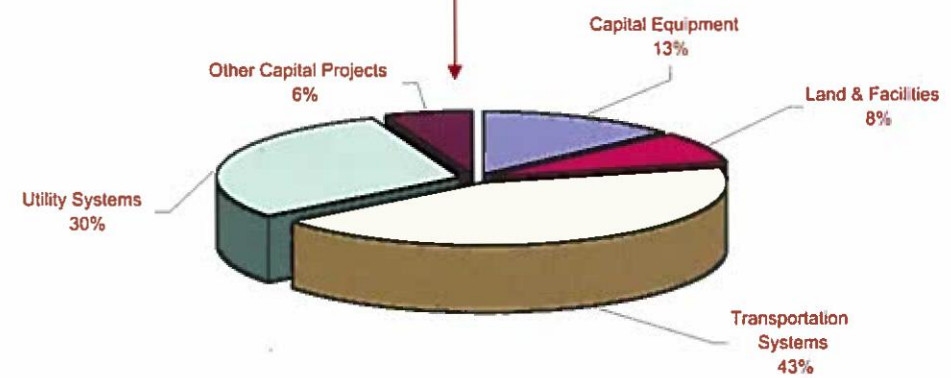
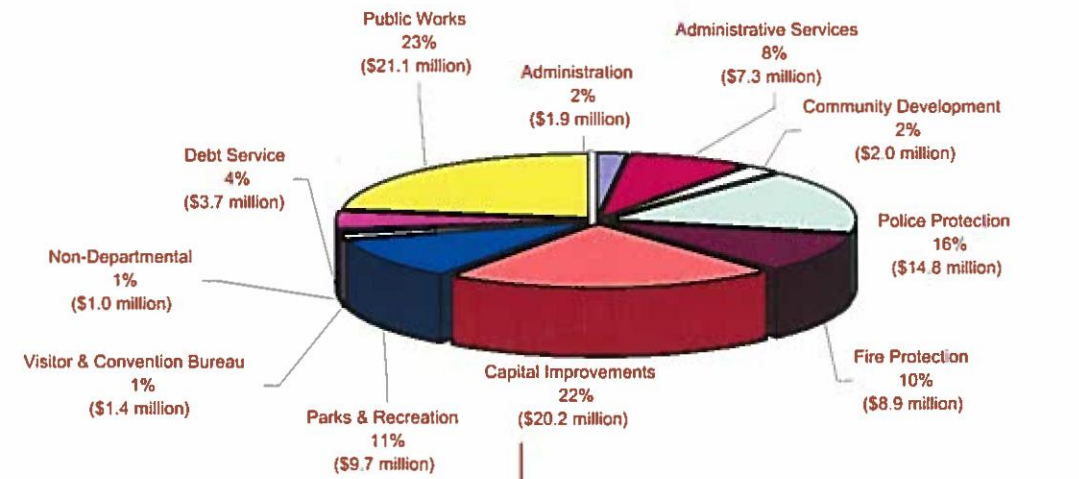


Property tax rates per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (mill levy) for the City of Grand Junction have actually declined by 5% over the last ten fiscal years.

The City of Grand Junction expects to receive approximately \$39.3 million in sales and use tax revenue in the year 2005. Because of the City's position as a regional economic center, the citizens of Grand Junction are expected to pay only 18% of this amount, about \$7.1 million.



Where The Money Goes....



Capital improvements of streets, parks and other infrastructure continue to be a major category of expenditure, accounting for 22% of the total general government expenditures. Of the \$20.2 million in capital improvements, transportation and storm water systems account for approximately 73%.

1940's

World War II put the entire national economy into high gear, and agricultural production and prices were boosted out of the Depression doldrums. Mesa County fruit, livestock and field crop production flourished. Canning factories, like the large Kuner-Empson facility, operated at full capacity. It was located on South 8th Street near the railroad.

(Collection #2002.0.6)



◀ In 1940, the Grand Junction Police Department was comprised of Marion H. Scott, Chief, and thirteen personnel. Today's Police Department operates with 152 personnel.

(The Grand Junction Police Department Collection #2001.41)



Mesa College was ready for relocation and 1940 saw the opening of the first building on a new campus at 12th and North. The building incorporated classrooms, auditorium/gymnasium, administration and library. It now is named Houston Hall for Clifford Houston who was the third head of the college, from 1932-1937. It has been remodeled, but the appearance is much the same.

(Dean Studio Photo, Mesa State Archives, Tomlinson Library, Mesa State College)



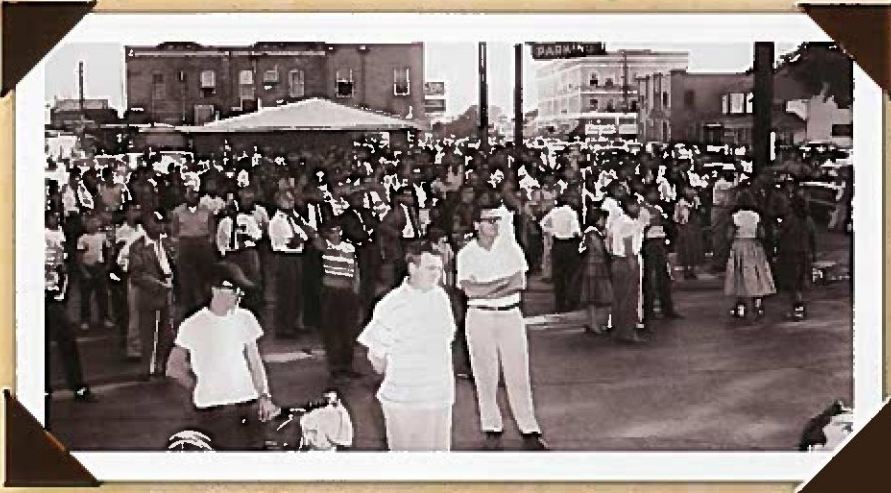
▲ The La Court Hotel at 2nd and Main Streets was operated by the Buthorn family for two generations. The lobbies were handsome; the dining room was noted for its cuisine, and the Green Room hosted service clubs and banquets. During the 1940's and 1950's their steak house, known as The Tavern, was a main center for uranium developers and investors to meet and strike deals.

(Mr. & Mrs J. Earl Shaw Collection #1983.186)

1950's

A large fire at C & B Tire and Recap Co. at 3rd and Rood attracts a crowd in 1956. The crowd spilled over to 3rd and White and City Police and State Patrol were called in to

blockade the streets and control the crowd. (Grand Junction Fire Department Collection #1990.58, Daily Sentinel Photo)

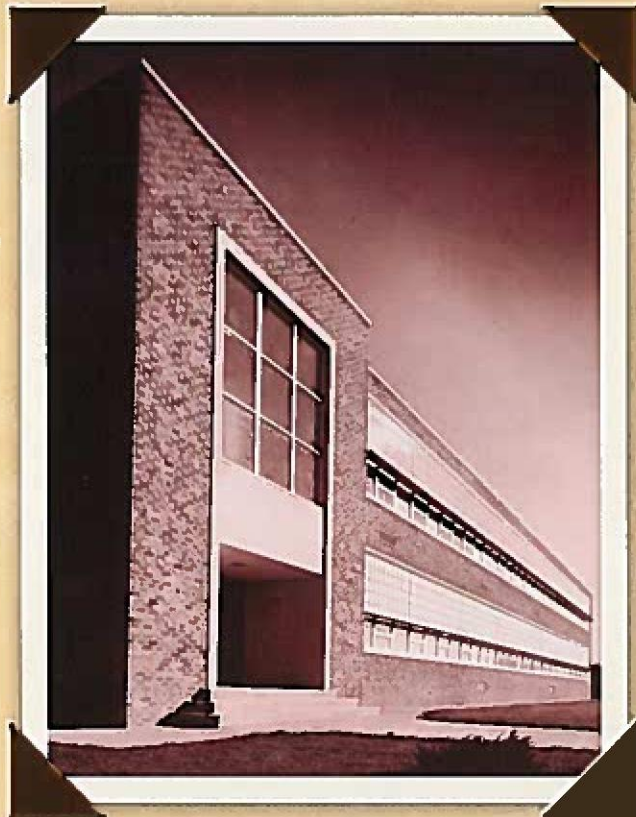


Grand Junction Fire Department personnel explain to children the importance of fire safety during "Fire Prevention Week" in 1952.

(Grand Junction Fire Department Collection #1990.58)

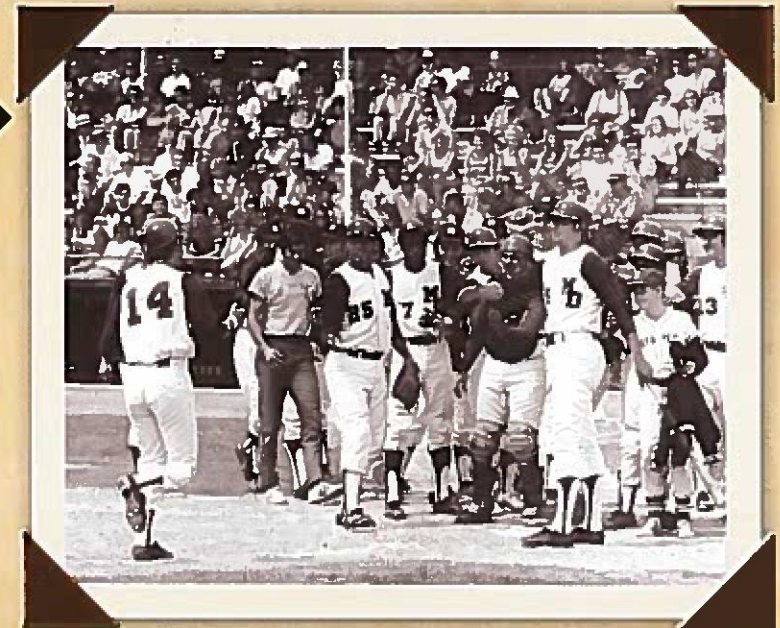
The expanding student population of Grand Junction prompted the building of a new high school in 1955 on North 5th Street. It was designed in a clean-lined, modern 1950's style by architect Paul Atchison of Denver. The auditorium was made large enough to serve also as a civic auditorium.

(W.M. Wood Collection #1981.68#38)



The National Junior College Baseball Tourney, nicknamed JUCO, moved here in 1958. The top ten junior college teams from across the nation come here to compete to be number one. In the spring, JUCO guarantees a rousing series of games which fill the stadium at Suplizio Field in Lincoln Park with avid sports fans.

(The Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce Collection #1990.71)



1960's

Back in 1960, Main Street looked like any other American downtown. This was before it was refurbished and transformed into the shopping park that we enjoy today.

(Grand Junction Police Department Collection #2001.41)



Skiing on the Grand Mesa had a major shift when the Powderhorn Ski Corporation bought the assets of the modest Grand Mesa Ski Club. In 1966 they cleared new runs, built the first of four chair lifts and a lodge. Other expansions have followed. Powderhorn is now a large modern ski resort with a ski school, Nordic and Alpine terrain and condominiums.

(Bob Beverly Photo, Museum of Western Colorado)



New technological developments in electronics spurred its manufacturing. Electronic manufacturing plants began to open in Grand Junction to take advantage of the available labor force. Dixon, Ultronix, and Hickok were some of the manufacturers. Lower labor and distribution costs elsewhere resulted in most of them moving away in later decades.

(Bruce Dixon Photo, Dixon Collection #2001.16)



The national Interstate Highway system was initiated in the 1950's. Interstate 70 reached Grand Junction in the 1960's. The highway through Glenwood Canyon was the final link in the national system and was not finished until the 1990's.

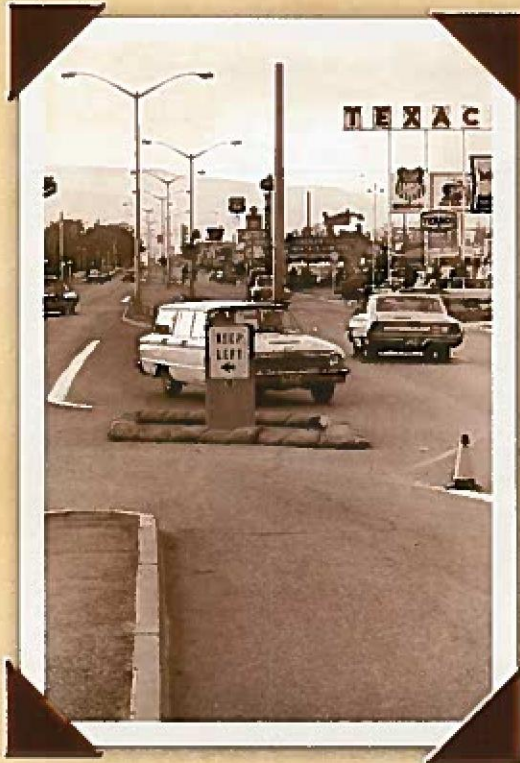
(The Daily Sentinel)



1970's

A number of the businesses seen in this 1970 view of North Avenue are still operating today.

(Grand Junction Police Department Collection #2001.41)



Jane Quimby was a busy citizen with a large family, who still made time for community involvement. She served on the City Council from 1973-1981 and was Mayor from 1979-1980,



the first woman in that post. Jane Quimby also was a founder of the Grand Junction/Mesa County Riverfront Commission, and of the Western Colorado Community Foundation.

(The Daily Sentinel)

GRAND JUNCTION

The Grand Junction Musical Arts Association was formed to promote orchestras, opera and dance. The Mesa College Orchestra came under its wing and was reorganized as the Grand Junction Symphony. The first season was 1978-1979. The Symphony offers a full season of classic concerts, as well as pops and children's concerts. The Nutcracker Ballet is a December symphony tradition.

(Photo courtesy Grand Junction Musical Arts Association)



Banks and savings and loans needed to expand to new and larger quarters. Valley Federal Savings and Loan chose to erect a tall building with offices for lease on the upper floors. Opening day was November 25, 1974. The building at 5th and Rood is now the Alpine Bank. Mesa Federal Savings & Loan, and Modern Savings and Loan also had handsome new buildings.

(Jerry Van Wyngarden Photo, Museum of Western Colorado)

1980's



The first purchase was Chrome on the Range II, a shiny metal buffalo which is a popular favorite, by sculptor Lou Wille. (John Hedrick Photo, Collection #2002.28)

Art on the Corner is an outdoor display of sculpture which originated in 1984. New selections are installed in the Downtown Shopping Park for a year and a number of them have been bought for the permanent collection.

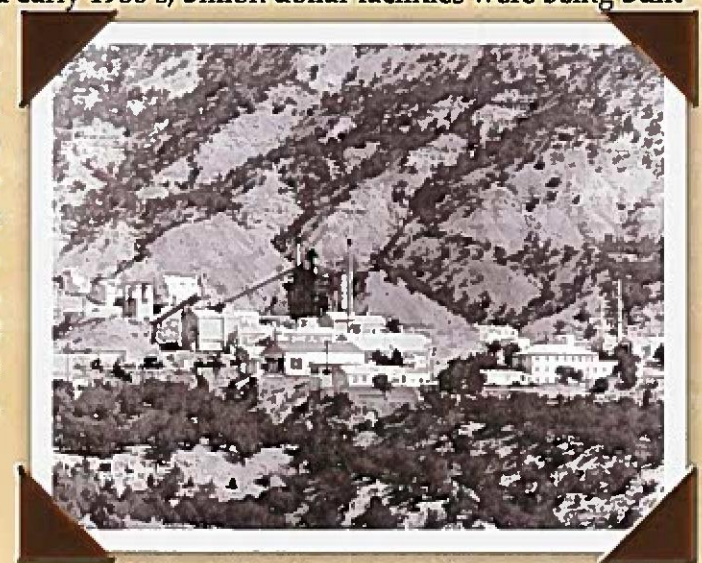


A new Walker Field air terminal and parking areas were opened December 15, 1982. The terminal is in contemporary architecture, with solar heating features. Auxiliary businesses at the airport also have expanded with extensive airplane sales, maintenance, rebuilding, air charter, flight training and car rental. These enterprises employ hundreds. (Debbie Hartlerode Photo, Collection #2002.37)

A new Walker Field air terminal and parking areas were opened December 15, 1982. The terminal is in contemporary architecture, with solar heating features. Auxiliary businesses at the airport also have expanded with extensive

Mountains with layers of shale stone stretch from Colorado into Utah, and cross northern Mesa County. The shale has vast petroleum deposits imbedded and in the late 1970's and early 1980's, billion dollar facilities were being built in adjacent Garfield County for shale oil extraction. Grand Junction boomed as a regional oil headquarters. A sudden drop in oil prices halted this, starting May 2, 1982. Boom turned to bust and the economy of this city and the whole area suffered.

(Adam Reeves Photo, Collection #2002.24)



Not every student is geared toward standard schools so the school district formed the alternative R-5 High School. The curriculum offers more vocational courses and flexible hours and has been very successful. It is in the former Lowell School, built in 1925. Student input lead to the name R-5, which stands for Readiness, Relevancy, Reinforcement, Responsibility and Respect.

(John Hedrick Photo, Collection #2002.28)



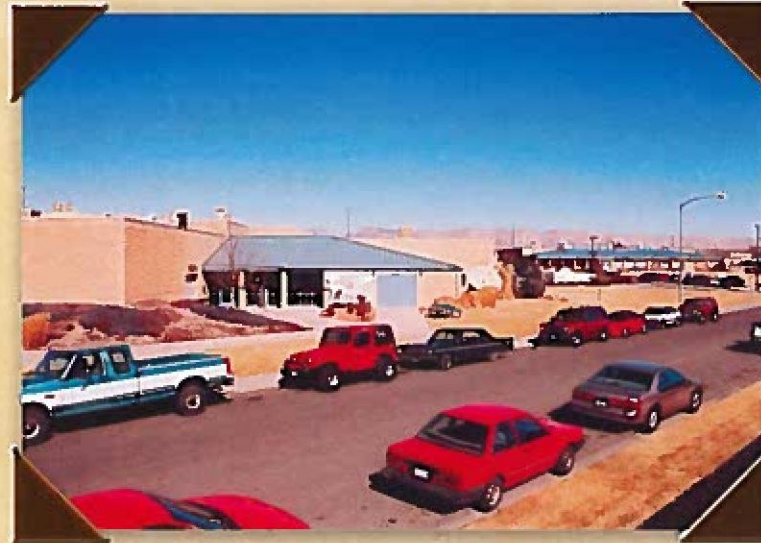
1990's AND BEYOND



In the late 1940's, the Avalon Theatre had its facade remade in a simple, modern mode during a radical interior and exterior remodeling. It was renamed the Cooper. The facade has since been rebuilt to its original 1923 style. This 1996 photo shows the restored Avalon with its

new/old face. Other downtown buildings also are being restored to their historic appearance. (Al Hosier Photo, Collection #1996.55)

The Tilman Bishop Unified Technical Education Center (UTEC), dedicated in 1992, was enlarged in 1996. The school, affiliated with Mesa State College and the Mesa County School District, offers vocational education in many fields. Computers, auto mechanics,



hotel and restaurant management are some of the majors. Culinary students even operate a quality restaurant, open to the public at noon.

(John Hedrick Photo, Collection #2002.28)

Golfing was popular at Lincoln Park and Bookcliff Country Club courses. A growing population and wider enthusiasm called for more ranges. On the Redlands, the Elks Club developed Tiara Rado, shown here, which the City bought in the 70's and expanded in 1995. Fine new courses since then include Adobe Creek near Fruita, Chipeta on Orchard Mesa, and the nationally acclaimed Redlands Mesa course.



(Karen Peterson photo)

Mesa County courts built a new Justice Center, which was inaugurated in 2001. The Center is located at West Main and Spruce Streets, and connected to the County Jail and Sheriff's Department by a secure tunnel. Transportation of detainees to court hearings by armed vans had been complicated, but detention and courts now are conveniently close.

(John Hedrick Photo, Collection #2002.28)

