

FIRST DRAFT

Benevolent merchant robbed, murdered in Brown's Park

In the isolated and often violent area known as Brown's Park, John Jarvie was a well-liked and kindly figure. With abundant white hair and beard, he looked like St. Nick. He was an educated man who ran the only store in the park, and operated a ferry across the Green River. He was known for helping everyone, including strangers.



BOB SILBERNAGEL

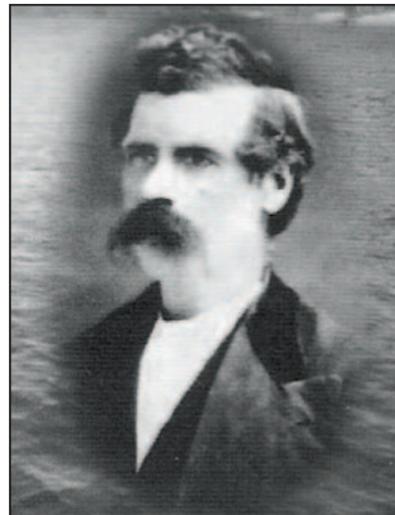
On the night he was murdered, July 6, 1909, Jarvie had set his table for three, apparently preparing to serve dinner to the two men who would kill

him. Brown's Park remains one of the most remote regions in the West. From Jarvie's store in the Utah section of the park, it is 65 miles to Rock Springs, Wyoming, 65 miles to Vernal, Utah, and 70 miles to Maybell, Colorado.

But the park is also beautiful, protected by rugged mountains and steep canyons. The Green River cuts through it.

The area was visited frequently by Ute, Shoshone and Navajo Indians, and early fur traders.

By the late 19th century, the park was home to cattle and horse ranches. But it also became noted as a hangout for cattle rustlers and other outlaws. The first non-Indian child born there, Ann Bassett, grew up to be known as the Queen of the Cattle Rustlers. She and her sister Josie were close friends of Butch Cassidy and his Wild Bunch.



SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL/The Bureau of Land Management
John Jarvie as a young man. Jarvie, a native of Scotland who operated a saloon in Rock Springs, Wyo. prior to moving to Brown's Park in 1880, apparently got along fine with the motley mix of people who frequented the park.

Jarvie, a native of Scotland who operated a saloon in Rock Springs prior to moving to Brown's Park in 1880, apparently got along fine with the motley mix of people who frequented the park.

But Jarvie was also rumored to be a wealthy man, even though he was deeply in debt. George Hood, an itinerant sheepherder who had worked for Jarvie the previous winter, no doubt had heard such stories. So when he and his brother-in-law, Bill McKinley, headed south from Rock Springs, they were likely looking for easy money. En route, they met two



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John Jarvie in his later years. Though Jarvie was deeply in debt, he was rumored to be a wealthy man. It was likely this misconception that led George Hood, a sheepherder who had worked for Jarvie previously, and Hood's brother-in-law, Bill McKinley, to murder and rob Jarvie on the night of July 6, 1909.

residents of the park, who later identified them.

Jarvie lived alone then. His wife had died 15 years earlier and his three adult sons had all moved away. The two men confronted Jarvie and either forced him to open his safe or they broke it open. Inside, they found only a \$100 bill and a pistol.

When Jarvie broke free and ran, the men shot him, once in the back and once in the head. They dragged his body to the south side of the store, leaving a trail of blood and patches of his white hair.

At the river, they tied him into a small boat and set him adrift, apparently hoping the current would carry the boat into Lodore Canyon. Instead, the boat drifted into some willows just upstream from the canyon, about 25 miles from Jarvie's store. One of Jarvie's sons



SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL/ Bob Silbernagel

The Jarvie Ranch as it appears today. The surviving Jarvie sons sold their father's property in the 1920s, and it changed hands several times until it was acquired by Esther Campbell, a one-time school teacher in Brown's Park and friend of Ann Bassett. She wanted the property preserved, and worked with the Nature Conservancy to protect 35 acres of the ranch and to turn it over to the BLM in 1978. The agency operates it as a historical park and museum.

found the body there on July 14.

Meanwhile, the murderers had taken clothes, food and ammunition from the store. They loaded it all on a single horse and headed out. They eventually made it to Rock Springs and boarded a train to the east, just hours before John Jarvie Jr. arrived with news of his father's murder and a description of the killers.

Despite a \$1,000 reward, the men disappeared, and the official search for the killers ended in August 1909. However, Jarvie's youngest son, Jimmy, kept up a relentless multi-state pursuit of the two men for at

least a year. At some point, he arrived in a town where they were staying, but they heard of his presence. They reportedly found Jimmy in his hotel room, threw him out a second-story window and killed him.

The surviving Jarvie sons sold their father's property in the 1920s, and it changed hands several times until it was acquired by Esther Campbell, a one-time school teacher in Brown's Park and friend of Ann Bassett. She wanted the property preserved, and worked with the Nature Conservancy to protect 35 acres of the ranch and to turn it over to the Bureau

of Land Management in 1978. The agency operates it as a historical park and museum.

To learn more, call the Jarvie Ranch at 435-885-3307 or visit www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/vernal/recreation/_browns_park.html.

Much of the information for this article came from "John Jarvie of Browns Park," a 1981 publication of the Utah BLM. Jarvie Ranch ranger Robert Massey and Kathie Davis, an archaeologist with the BLM in Vernal, added valuable information. Email Bob Silbernagel at bobsilbernagel@gmail.com.

New site strengthens link between nonprofits, volunteers

By KATHLEEN GODDEYNE
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United Way of Mesa County and Western Colorado 2-1-1 have teamed up to make volunteer opportunities more easily accessible to the public via a website.

The "Get Connected" website, getconnected.wc211.org, connects volunteers with local agencies and nonprofit organizations. Other United Way and 2-1-1 organizations across the country have found success with their respective sites, so local entities followed suit.

Western Colorado 2-1-1 Di-

rector Christie Higgins said the website is a natural fit, since 2-1-1 is the place to find community resources.

"Not only does 'Get Connected' link the community to volunteer opportunities, but it also assists agencies and organizations that may not be able to hire a full-time person to manage volunteer recruitment," Higgins said.

People who want to volunteer can create an account and select areas of interest. The "Get Connected" website filters through volunteer needs of more than 30 agencies and nonprofit orga-

nizations to find opportunities that fit the user.

"Before (launching the site), people would call us on a regular basis and say, 'I have volunteer time, where do I go?' But it's kind of hard for us to organize because of availability and what people's interests are," United Way of Mesa County Marketing and Events Coordinator Honora Swanson Bober said. "It's great for people to be able to go to one place and see your local agencies and opportunities in one spot."

Users can check the site at their leisure or they can sign

up to receive notifications via email.

The site's agencies are diverse enough to potentially offer something for everyone. Organizations ranging from the Riverfront Trail System patrol with Grand Junction Parks and Recreation to food delivery drivers at Gray Gourmet are listed, so volunteers can donate time on a regular basis or they can wait for an event like a trail cleanup.

Dozens of people have signed up since the site launched several months ago, but officials hope to see the site gain more momentum.

REGION SENTINEL WIRE SERVICES

Power gets squirrely in Pueblo

PUEBLO — Black Hills Energy says the power is back on in Pueblo after a squirrel got into a substation Sunday morning.

The damage affected four circuits at the central substation near the service center in downtown Pueblo.

The utility company says about 4,000 customers were without power for several hours.

Police identify man stabbed in dispute

WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah — Police have identified a man who was fatally stabbed at a West Valley City home Saturday night.

West Valley City Police spokeswoman Roxeanne Vainuku says 41-year-old Rick Anthony Sanchez of South Jordan was stabbed in the chest and later died at a hospital.

Around 5 p.m., Sanchez had been arguing about family issues with a man who lives at the home near 3200 South and 2000 West in West Valley.

Vainuku says Sanchez began assaulting the man and his family members and the man stabbed Sanchez with a knife.

Police have not released the man's name.

2 bodies found in Castle Rock

CASTLE ROCK — Castle Rock police say they found two people dead after they were called to a home for a welfare check on Sunday.

BLOTTER COMPILED BY SENTINEL STAFF

Weapon, drug charges after cyclist runs red light

A 24-year-old Grand Junction man who allegedly rode his bicycle through a red light on Main Street was booked into jail Friday on suspicion of possession of drugs and an illegally concealed handgun, Mesa County Sheriff's Office reported.

Fabian Roberto Castillo was stopped after he reportedly rode through a red light at the intersection of Main Street and Interstate 70 Business Loop, according to the Sheriff's Office. During a records check, it was discovered that Castillo was wanted by law enforcement authorities for violating bail bond conditions, according to an arrest warrant affidavit.

When informed of this, Castillo allegedly threw his bike on the ground and ran.

He was apprehended after a brief chase. During a search, deputies reportedly found a vial containing methamphetamine, a silver spoon and a BB gun in the shape of .38 caliber pistol with fake brass casings in the cylinder, the affidavit said.

Castillo remained in Mesa County jail Sunday on \$7,500 bond. He is suspected of possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia, violation of a protective order and bail bond conditions, obstructing a peace officer, resisting arrest, unlawful carrying of a concealed weapon, contempt of court, and a bicycle not equipped with a proper red reflector, the affidavit said.

According to Grand Junction Police Department:

■ Someone caused a loss of less than \$50 when items of value were taken Wednesday from a vehicle located near the 1300 block of North 18th Street.

■ A known juvenile female, 16, was arrested and released Thursday on a summons on suspicion of shoplifting property valued between \$100 and \$500 at a store in the 2800 block of North Avenue.

■ Noah Halseth, 18, and Darian Perez, 18, were arrested and released on a summons Thursday in the 1600 block of Cannell Avenue on suspicion of possession of marijuana.

■ Maxwell McGinnis, 18, was arrested and released on a summons Thursday in the 1600 block of Cannell Avenue on suspicion of possession of drug paraphernalia.

■ Someone caused a loss of more than \$1,000 when a business located at 1702 North Ave. was vandalized Thursday.

■ Charlene Wall, 24, was arrested and released on a summons Friday on suspicion of theft of less than \$100 at a store in the 2800 block of North Avenue.

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Man claims sanctuary in basement

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER — A Mexican man who is living in a Denver church basement has claimed sanctuary to avoid deportation.

First Unitarian Society of Denver on Sunday officially welcomed Arturo Hernandez Garcia, who is living in the United States illegally.

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2014 Ski & Boarding

In your Friday, October 31st Daily Sentinel

Some of the best skiing & boarding activities in the world are right here in western Colorado.

SKI & BOARDING GUIDE 2014 is geared to skiing enthusiasts in our area. Covering regional ski areas & seasonal deals, plus the low-down on the ski swap & the Warren Miller movie screening on November 8th.

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