

## FIRST DRAFT

# Water wheel, military gatherings marked historic Junction house

For then teenager Patricia Moyer (now Patricia Darley) Sunday afternoons during World War II were usually spent with her best friend, Sally Sedalnick, at the Sedalnick home on Wellington Avenue, a home with a unique history in Grand Junction.

But Sally and Pat were rarely alone.

Every Sunday, the Sedalnicks "had an open house for all servicemen that were in town," Darley wrote recently in a letter to Barbara and Richard Fulton, the current owners of the house.

Soldiers, sailors and Marines came down from the military hospital in Glenwood Springs, which operated in the Hotel Colorado during the war, she said.

Other servicemen learned of the open house when they passed by L. Cook sporting goods and jewelry store on Main Street, which was then owned by the Sedalnicks. Servicemen were greeted by the always friendly Sam Sedalnick, who invited the young men to the open house.

Sally and Pat helped with some of the cooking.

"We made lemon chiffon cake," Darley recalled recently.

They served food to the military men who showed up and enjoyed socializing with them.

"It was such a happy time," Darley said. "The servicemen were just kids, too — a year or two older than Sally and me."

It meant a lot to both families because both the Sedalnicks and the Moyers (no relation to the family who built the first swimming pool in Grand Junction) had sons serving in the war.

The history of the Sedalnick home east of 15th Street on Wellington Avenue goes back to the man for whom the street was named: John A. "Duke" Wellington.

A native of Massachusetts, Wellington arrived in Mesa County sometime in the 1880s. He homesteaded 160 acres east of what would become 15th Street, and built a small home on a hill there.

He also planted orchards, some below the Grand Valley Canal and some above it. Because the Highline Canal did not yet exist, he had to develop a means to get water to the trees above the canal. His answer was what became known as the Wellington Wheel.

The giant wheel lifted water from the canal some 40 feet to irrigate his trees and garden.

Wellington died in 1901, and his wheel apparently perished with him. Or it was dismantled when the property was sold by his widow and son.

According to The Daily Sentinel, Wellington owned a considerable amount of other property when he died, including a building on Main Street and other agricultural property in the valley.

Upon his death, the Sentinel described Wellington as "a good citizen" who "strove for the upbuilding of the valley."

However, the newspaper also said Wellington "had an ungovernable temper ... and he made things very uncomfortable for all those around him."

Additionally, the Sentinel noted that Wellington had been married multiple times, and



BOB SILBERNAGEL/Special to the Sentinel

The house built by Louis Brodak, as it appears today on Wellington Avenue in Grand Junction.

that all but his last marriage to Amanda McKay were contentious ones.

After Wellington died, the property went through several changes of ownership. About 1920, much of it was purchased by Louis Brodak.

With a growing family, Brodak found Wellington's house too small. He tore it down and built a new house on the same spot. That house still stands, owned by the Fultons.

In partnership with Fred Manteley — founder of Manteley Heights — Brodak created a brickyard near where Wellington's Wheel originally sat. It operated for decades.

Former Mesa County Commissioner Doralyn Genova and her sister, Shirley Kelly, are granddaughters of Louis and Mary Brodak. At the Fultons' invitation, they and cousin Bill Brodak toured the house last month.

Genova and Kelly grew up in a home about a quarter-mile northeast of the property. Genova recalled visiting when her grandparents were there, and later after her grandfather died and the home was sold to the Sedalnicks.

Mary Brodak continued to work at the house after it sold.

"My grandmother did all the housekeeping when the Sedalnicks owned the house," Genova said. She recalls her grandmother getting up early to help Mrs. Sedalnick cook for the Sunday gatherings of servicemen.

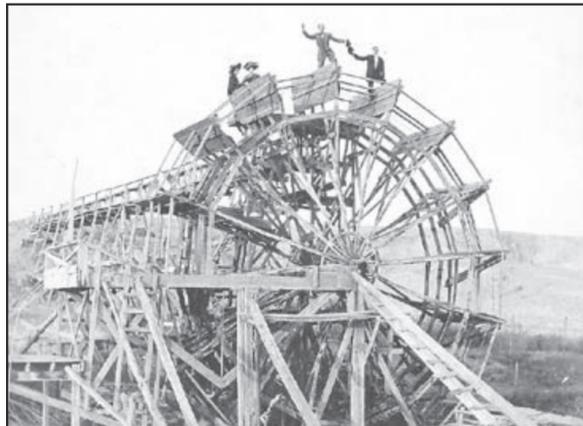
Sometime in the late 1940s, the Sedalnicks sold the house. The City Directory for 1951 shows the Sedalnicks had moved by then, although they still operated the L. Cook store on Main Street.

The house was sold again in the late 1970s to a group that planned to tear it down and build a subdivision, said Richard Fulton.

But the development stalled, and Fulton recalled his own experience with the house.

"It was Thanksgiving 1981, and I had a small house on 12th Street," he said. After dinner, he decided to go for a walk, east on Wellington Avenue. "I remember it was a dark evening, but the clouds parted and the light shone on this house."

He was intrigued by what he saw. He contacted a friend in the real estate business and



MUSEUMS OF WESTERN COLORADO/John Page Album

The Wellington Wheel as it appeared about the turn of the century. People on the wheel are not identified.



BARBARA AND RICHARD FULTON/Special to the Sentinel

The second house, built by Louis Brodak, on what was originally the Wellington property, circa the 1920s.

was quickly able to arrange the purchase.

"I moved into the house before Christmas," he said.

The Fultons have continued to renovate and improve the house, while maintaining its basic structure and design, including the beautiful woodwork on the interior.

To the World War II soldiers visiting Grand Junction, the house held special attractions. There was a warm family atmosphere, home-cooked food and a chance to relax away from the war. And there were those teenage girls.

"I remember one young man in the Navy, who was Armenian," Pat Darley said. "My brother, Phil, who was also in the Navy and spent several months in the hospital in Glenwood, told me, 'Don't trust him.

He's a real flirt.' "

Another serviceman, who Darley knew only as Pilot Bob, also frequented Sunday gatherings at the Sedalnick house. He was at the Navy Flight School that operated at Walker Field during the war.

"He used to fly low near the house sometimes and drop a rock to let us know it was him," she said.

Information from Patricia Darley; Barbara and Richard Fulton; Doralyn Genova, Shirley Kelly and Bill Brodak; the Museums of Western Colorado; Priscilla Walker and the Pali-sade Historical Society; Priscilla Mangnall and the Mesa County Historical Society.

Bob Silbernagel's email is [bobsilbernagel@gmail.com](mailto:bobsilbernagel@gmail.com).



## THIS WEEK IN THE LEGISLATURE

DENVER — It's budget week again. This is the time of the legislative session when lawmakers pore over the multi-billion dollar annual spending plan that the bipartisan Joint Budget Committee spent months drafting. This week, the budget bill — called the Long Bill because it's the longest bill the Legislature considers each year — will be debated in the House. First, Republicans and Democrats will meet separately to look at it and draft whatever changes they see fit. Later this week, the House will meet as a body and spend hours debating those amendments.

■ **Today:** The House Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources Committee is to hear SB143, a measure that would allow Colorado Parks and Wildlife to increase fees for hunting, fishing and park passes.

■ **Tuesday:** The Senate Appropriations Committee is to vote on HB1008, the measure that would increase boating fees to fund an invasive aquatic species program to battle zebra and quagga mussels.

■ **Wednesday:** The Senate Judiciary Committee is to consider SB212, which would increase the \$50-a-day compensation jurors are paid to \$1 over the state's minimum wage. That wage changes based on inflation, and currently is set at \$10.21 an hour. As a result, the compensation would increase to \$81.60 based on an eight-hour workday.

■ **Thursday:** The Senate Education Committee is to hear SB215, a measure that would give more money to small, rural schools.

■ **Next week:** Assuming the House completes its work on the budget this week as planned, the Long Bill will head to the Senate, where they will repeat the same procedure in debating it and trying to alter it.

Scheduled committee hearings are subject to change. All floor action and committees can be watched or heard on the Legislature's website, [leg.colorado.gov](http://leg.colorado.gov). Check that website to see which measures are available for remote testimony, and how to register to speak.

— Charles Ashby

## Survey underway on driving under the influence of pot

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER — As auto fatalities involving marijuana increase in Colorado, state transportation officials are conducting a survey this year to better understand public attitudes toward driving under the influence of pot.

The campaign is led by the Colorado Department of Transportation, law enforcement and the marijuana industry. It held its first open house in the Denver area Wednesday and more meetings are planned in Fort Collins, Pueblo and Denver in the coming weeks.

The number of marijuana-related automobile fatalities in Colorado, as measured by the drug's chief psychoactive ingredient, has seen a sharp increase in recent years.

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We're wearing jeans for charity at The Daily Sentinel

we've got heart!

Ask me how you can help!

The employees of *The Daily Sentinel* have joined together to adopt a local non-profit organization/charity of the month. We want to help raise awareness and badly needed funds for these organizations that are dedicated to helping people in our community.

MARCH JEANS FOR CHARITY ORGANIZATION:

**Community Food Bank**

There are families in Mesa County who are in financial crisis due to job layoffs, medical conditions or other unexpected hardship. No person should have to choose between paying rent or buying food. The **Community Food Bank** supports families in crisis by providing nutritious, shelf-stable meals for their household regardless of income. They need us; we need you. Please join your community's food bank in providing this basic human need through a tax deductible contribution, because not all hungry people live in faraway places.

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## BLOTTER COMPILED BY SENTINEL STAFF

### Hiker falls in Mica Mine area

A hiker who fell from "a significant height" in the Mica Mine area of the Bangs Canyon Recreation Area was rescued by officials with a number of local law enforcement agencies late Saturday.

The injured hiker was taken out of the area by rescue teams and flown by helicop-

ter to a hospital.

Hikers led search and rescue teams to the injured person.

The hiker's condition was unknown.

### Truck parts stolen

Crime Stoppers of Mesa County is seeking the public's help to identify suspects in-

involved in a burglary.

Between 5 p.m. March 5 and 7:30 a.m. March 6, suspects entered SSD Plastics, 360 Bonny St. Suspects then removed a catalytic converter and a muffler from a gray 2013 Ford F-250 work truck.

The items are valued at more than \$6,000.

Anyone with information in the case should contact Crime Stoppers at 241-7867.

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