

Texas Conference on Digital Libraries: May 25, 2021

# Building a Sustainable Digital Community Archive in Rural Colorado

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# Community Archives

- Play an important role in preserving the documentary heritage of a region or groups of individuals
- Represent grassroots activities led by volunteers (Caswell et al., 2016)
- Contribute to shaping community identity and resilience (Beel et al., 2017)
- Demonstrate mixed and complex acquisition and curation practices (Zavala et al., 2017)



# Sustainability

## Sustainability Risks

- Organization and funding
  - Difficulty to sustain volunteer efforts beyond the lifespan of founders
  - Limited budget (Newman, 2011)
- Archival and digitization practices
  - Scan and return post-custodial practice (Becerra-Licha, 2017; Shein, C., & Lapworth)
  - Digital preservation
- Collaboration and community engagement as important factors in sustainability of community archives

“Ruined smelter at Dudley” *Park County Local History Digital Archive*,  
<https://pclha.cvlcollections.org/items/show/410>



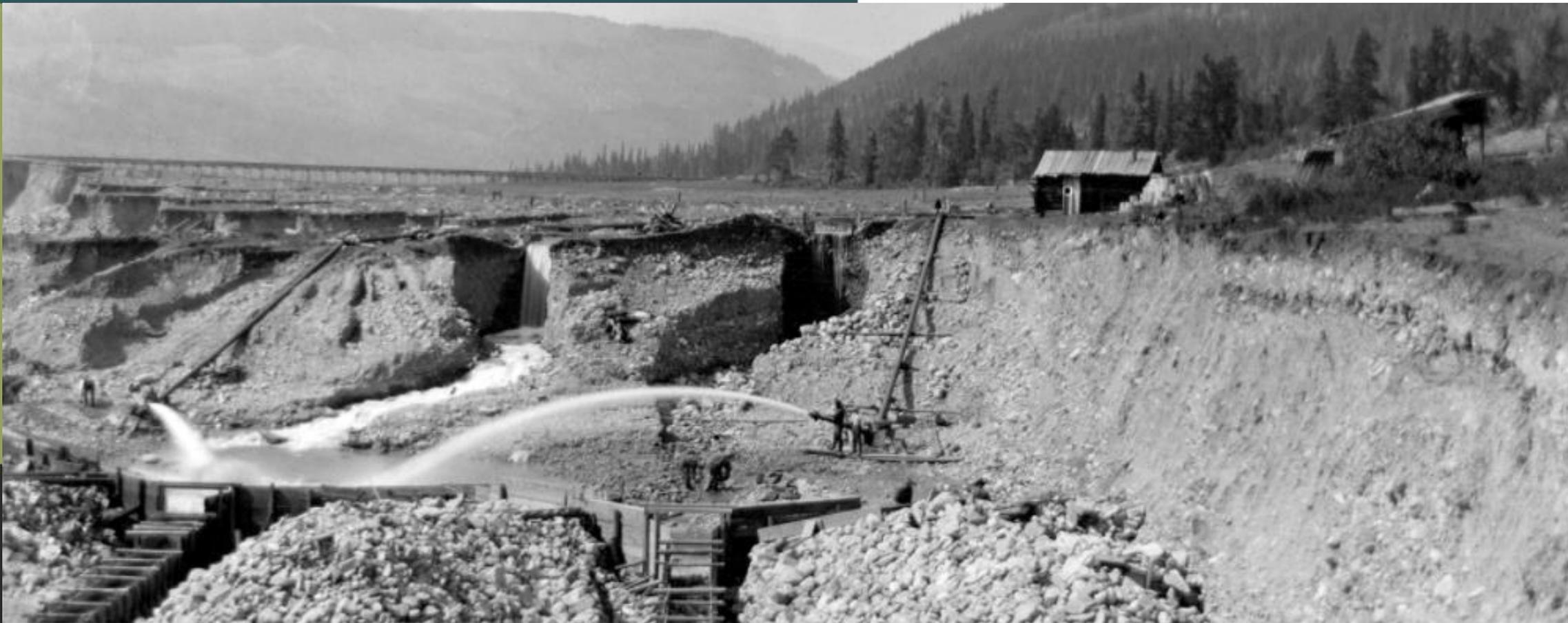
# Community Archives



“Community histories and archive initiatives can play an important role in **reconnecting or rooting communities** which have gone through dramatic and perhaps traumatic change, whether due to industrial decline and the end of traditional occupations such as mining, dock working and metal working, or the experience of migration and diasporic living, or other cultural, demographic and generational shifts **within an area**” (Flinn, 2007, p. 159).

“Group photograph at Shawnee Depot in front of a train,” *Park County Local History Digital Archive*, <https://pclha.cvlcollections.org/items/show/866>.

# Mining



**“Placer Mines operations near Alma”**

*Park County Local History Digital Archive* <https://pclha.cvlcollections.org/items/show/71>

# Railroads

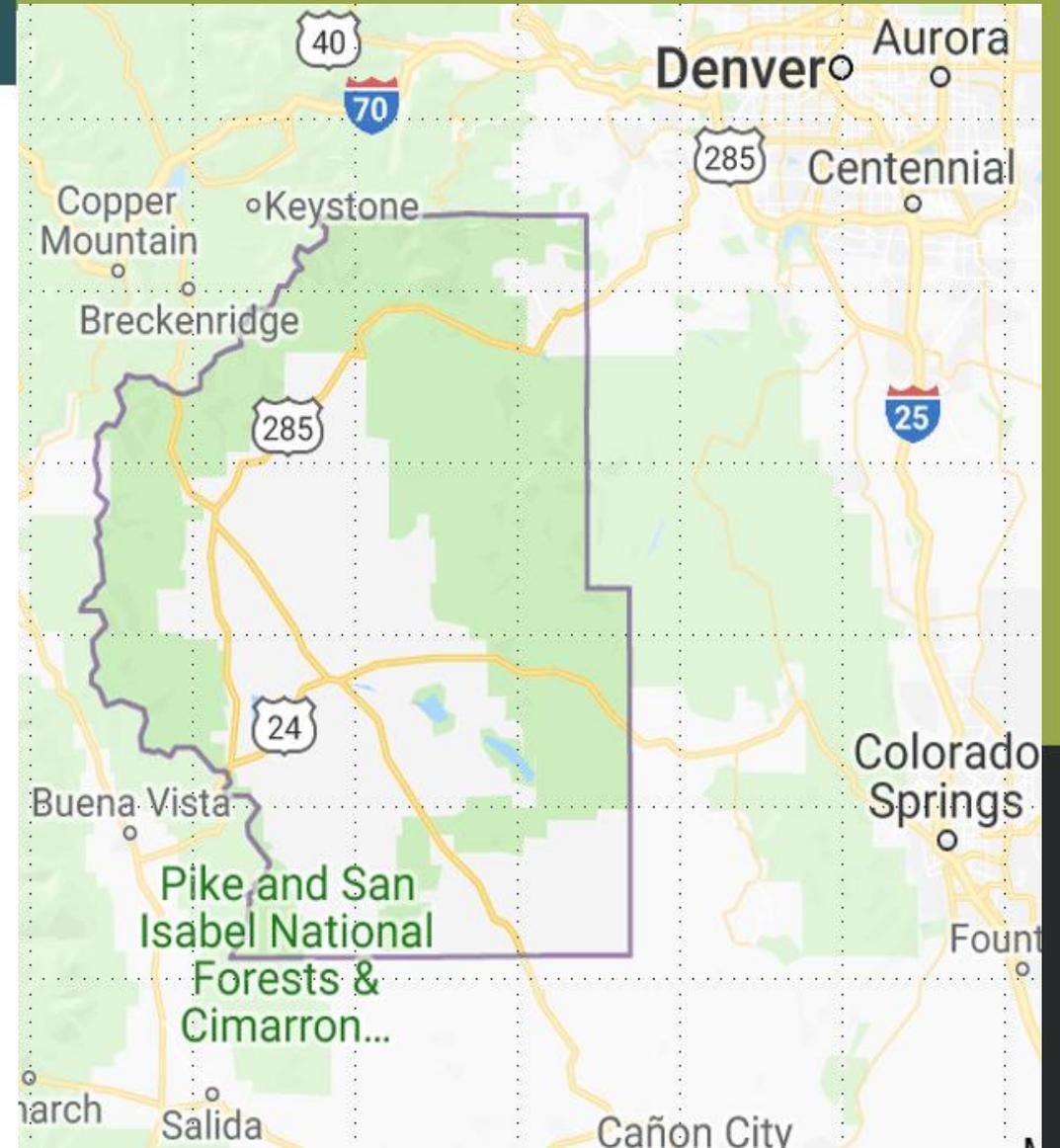


**“Two trains passing each other on Boreas Pass around 1920”**

*Park County Local History Digital Archive, <https://pclha.cvlcollections.org/items/show/337>*

# Rural Area

- Population of Park County: 16,207
- Elevation: 9,953 feet (3,034 m)
- Largest town: Fairplay – 610 people



# The Park County Local History Archive (PCLHA)



- A large and vibrant community archive
- Established by a group of volunteers in 2001
- Collected a variety of primary resource materials
  - 4,000 photographs
  - 60 oral histories
  - Manuscripts, newspapers, maps, and records
- Maintained a website: <http://www.parkcoarchives.org>
- Published books on the history of Park County
- Currently maintained by the Park County Department of Heritage and Tourism



# Collaborative Project

## Partners:

- The Park County Local History Archive
- The Park County Department of Heritage and Tourism
- The Library and Information Science (LIS) program at the University of Denver
- Community advisory group
- Colorado State Library

"Bailey community members talking in front of the Bailey School and Kiowa Lodge in 1917," *Park County Local History Digital Archive*, <https://pclha.cvlcollections.org/items/show/111>.



# Digitization



- Photographs
  - Selecting original photographs and rescanning them
- Oral histories

# Metadata

## Park County Local History Archive Metadata Application Profile

No.	Dublin Core Element	Vocabulary	Notes	Example
1.	Title	Natural language	Construct a title based on the data available in the <b>03 Photo File doc.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow the convention: "what, where, when" if possible</li> <li>Use comas to separate the elements (when needed) but no final punctuation</li> <li>Use sentence-level case</li> <li>Capitalize proper names</li> </ul>	Statue of Christ at the Camp Santa Maria in the 1930s
2.	Subject	Controlled – LC Subject Headings (LCSH)	Assign 3-5 subject headings from LCSH; Start with preselected LCSH from the document in the Metadata folder: <a href="#">PCLHA Subject Heading List</a>	Religious articles; Statues
3.	Description	Natural language	Copy the caption information from 03 Photo File doc; the item description should match the scan number	Camp Santa Maria. 1930s?. Statue of Christ. Sanborn post card F879. 2001.
4.	Creator	Controlled - local	List the photographer's name if available; invert the name	Sanborn, Harold
5.	Source	Getty Art and Architecture Thesaurus (AAT)	Record the info about the original item and its location AAT terms for describing original items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photographs</li> <li>Black-and-white photographs</li> <li>Postcards</li> <li>Photographic postcards</li> </ul>	Photographic postcards; Park County Local History Archive Photographic Collection; Camp Santa Maria folder; item no. 865

PCLHA\_metadata\_August19 - Excel

A	B	C	D	E
	Subject	Description	Creator	Source
Hyndman's bungalow built in	Bungalows; Houses; Railroad stations; Landscape photography	Alma. Hyndman's bungalow, built in 1889, and Alma depot. Source: South Park Historical Foundation 2004.		Photographs; Park County Local History Archive Photographic Collection; Alma folder; no. 1667
Alma destroyed from , 1998	Building, Wooden; Polaroid transfers; Propane; Ruined buildings	Alma. Main St. Building was destroyed in propane explosion in Oct. 1998. Source: South Park Historical Foundation 2004.		Dye diffusion transfer prints; Park County Local History Archive; Alma folder; no. 1670
the 1880s	School buildings; Rural schools	Alma. Late 1880s? School. Source: South Park Historical Foundation 2004.		Photographs; Park County Local History Archive Photographic Collection; Alma folder; no. 1671

Basic Dublin Core metadata schema with Omeka

# Metadata



## Park County Local History Digital Archive



← Previous Item

Next Item →



PARK COUNTY COURT HOUSE - FAIRPLAY, COLO.

© Sanborn  
F-909

### Fairplay Courthouse

#### Dublin Core

##### Title

Fairplay Courthouse

##### Rights

In Copyright - Rights-Holder(s) Unlocatable or Unidentifiable

##### Subject

Postcards; Courthouses; Buildings

##### Description

Courthouse. Sanborn post card F909.

Source: Wilbur Lewis, 2003

##### Type

Image

# Copyright Evaluation & Rights Statements



In Copyright; <a href="http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC/1.0/">http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC/1.0/</a>	This item is in copyright and permission must be obtained from the rights-holder. Please contact the Publisher of Digital for more information.
In Copyright - Educational Use Permitted; <a href="http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC-EDU/1.0/">http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC-EDU/1.0/</a>	This item is in copyright but can be used for educational purposes. Please contact the Publisher of Digital for more information for any use not qualifying as educational use.
In Copyright - Rights-Holder(s) Unlocatable or Unidentifiable; <a href="http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC-RUU/1.0/">http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC-RUU/1.0/</a>	This item is in copyright but, after reasonable investigation, the Holding Institution or Publisher of Digital has not been able to locate the copyright holder.
No Copyright - United States; <a href="http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/NoC-US/1.0/">http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/NoC-US/1.0/</a>	
Copyright Not Evaluated; <a href="http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/CNE/1.0/">http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/CNE/1.0/</a>	This item's copyright status is unknown but it may be used under Fair Use guidelines. For all other use, due diligence must be done to contact potential rights holders.
Copyright Undetermined; <a href="http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/UND/1.0/">http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/UND/1.0/</a>	This item's copyright status is unknown. The Publisher of Digital is missing key facts essential to making a decision on its copyright status.
No Known Copyright; <a href="http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/NKC/1.0/">http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/NKC/1.0/</a>	This item may be in the public domain, and if so, its use is not restricted. The Publisher of Digital believe the item is no longer under copyright but due diligence must be done to contact potential rights holders.

Jack train on its way to a mine in front of businesses at Alma, 1880.

Unpublished anonymous photograph created before 1901. The rights statement selected for this image is: No Copyright - United States.

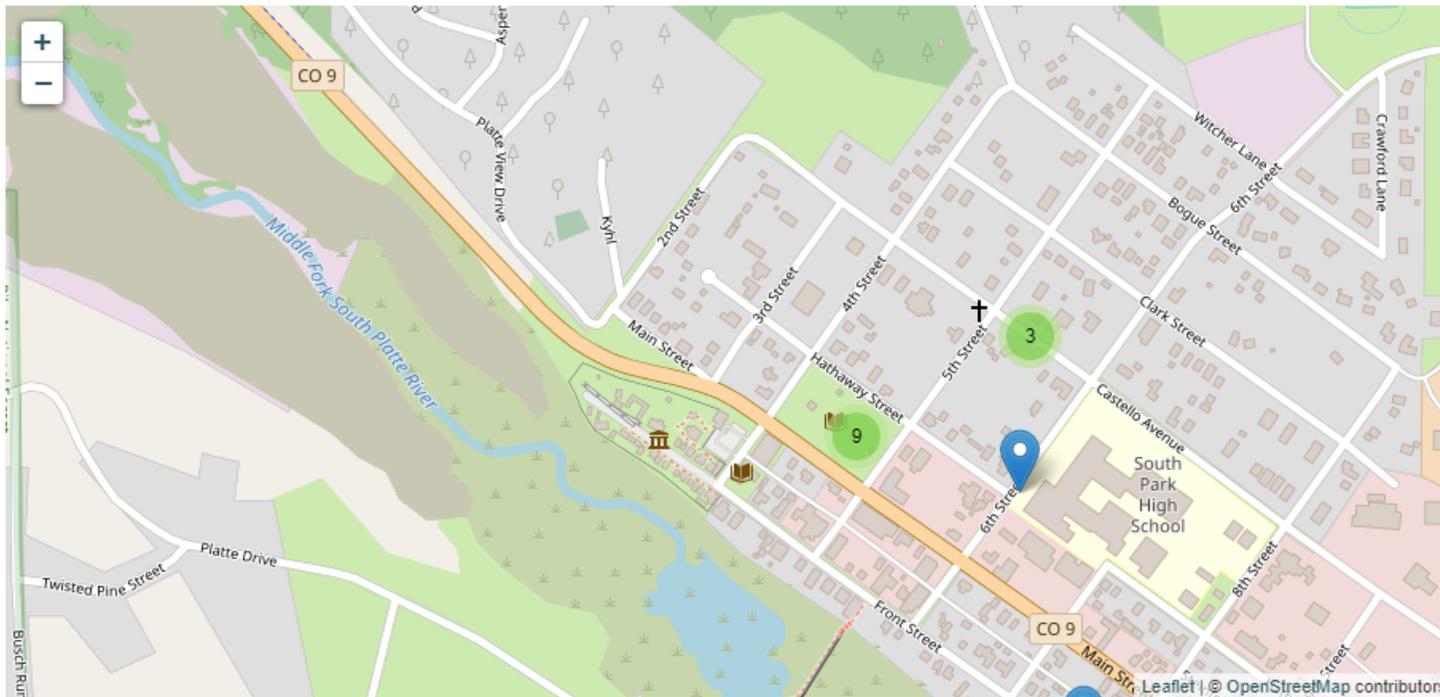
“Jack train on its way to a mine in front of businesses at Alma, 1880,” *Park County Local History Digital Archive*, <https://pclha.cvlcollections.org/items/show/258>

# Geotagging

## Browse Items on the Map (487 total)

[Browse All](#) [Browse by Tag](#) [Search Items](#) [Browse Map](#)

3 / 25 pages < >



Children and teachers in front of their school on 6th Street at Fairplay in 1912

Group of school children at Fairplay in 1903

View of Crow Hill with multiple buildings

View from the north edge of Fairplay in the early 1900s

Group of children and teachers, Jefferson

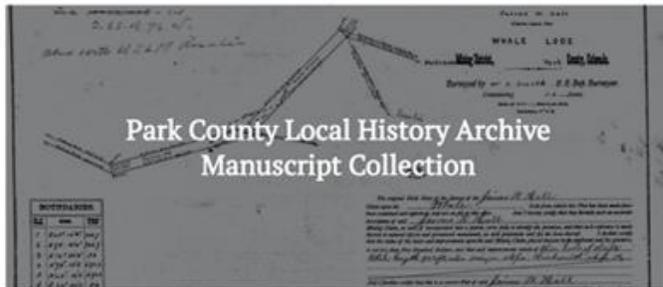
Old highway where current post office is at in Bailey during 1930

# Digital Archive: Collections

PCLHA URL: <https://pclha.cvlcollections.org>

Browse Collections (3 total)

Sort by:  Title  Date Added



## Collection

Park County Local History Archive Photographic Collection

## Tags

Alma, boomtown, community, old mining town, rural towns

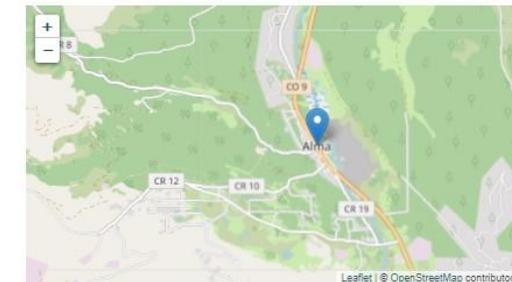
## Citation

"Alma businesses under Mt. Bross in the 1870s," *Park County Local History Digital Archive*, accessed March 14, 2021, <https://pclha.cvlcollections.org/items/show/168>.

## Output Formats

- atom
- dc-rdf
- dcmes-xml
- json
- omeka-xml

## Geolocation



# Oral Histories

## Interview with Andy "Bud" Anderson, September 29, 2005

### Dublin Core

#### Title

Interview with Andy "Bud" Anderson, September 29, 2005

#### Rights

In Copyright - Non-Commercial Use Permitted  
<http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC-NC/1.0/>

#### Subject

Railroads—Colorado; Mountain railroads; Rural families; Genealogy

#### Description

Interview with Andy Anderson about Como railroad history and rural living.

#### Type

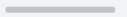
Sound

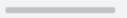
#### Creator

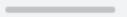
Bjorklund, Linda; Klinger, Tom; Schoppe, Bob

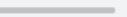
#### Language

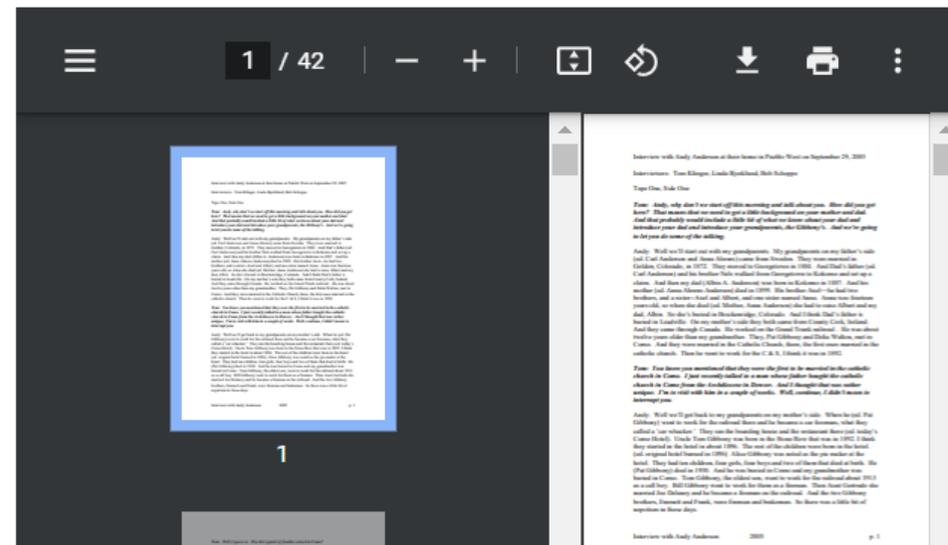
### Files

▶ 0:00 / 48:14   

▶ 0:00 / 48:20   

▶ 0:00 / 48:19   

▶ 0:00 / 5:43   



# Digital Archive: Exhibitions

**Browse Exhibits (4 total)**

[Browse All](#) [Browse by Tag](#)



# Digital Archive: Exhibitions

## History of the Railroads

Introduction

Railroad Evolution

The Rail Lines

Railroad Population

**Railway-driven settlers**

Como

The Roundhouse

Interview with Andy Anderson

The Hotel

Other Industries

Decline of the Railroad

Harsh Conditions

End of the Line

Bibliography

## Railway-driven settlers

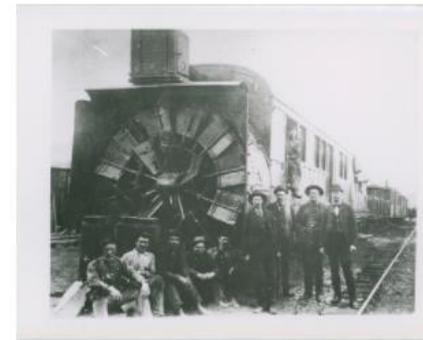


Engine no. 69 on track at the Como railroad in 1930

The DSP&P established their headquarters in Como, which resulted in many of their employees and families settling the area. The town became one of the most prominent in Park County due to railroad activity and equipment maintenance operations. The company purchased land in Como and established policy rules that only company employees could buy lots or build houses in the town. While there were many Chinese laborers residing there, they were not considered company employees and were thus unable

to purchase land or build houses.[1]

Due to extreme conditions that railway employees faced in the Colorado Mountains, the opportunities for promotion were more plentiful than in other parts of the country. A fireman could become an engineer within three to four years, and make a decent living in the process, but the career came at a cost. Railroad employees were required to work every day of the month, without a single day off, earning themselves \$100 per month. These conditions were challenging both for the employees and for their families. 'Shovelers' were another group laborers that were



Rotary snow plow train and unknown persons

# Metadata Harvesting



# PLAINS<sup>TO</sup> PEAKS COLLECTIVE

[HOME](#)[ABOUT](#)[RESOURCES FOR CONTRIBUTORS](#)[READY TO PARTICIPATE?](#)[DIGITIZATION TOOLKIT](#)[MEDIA RESOURCES](#)[Search Our Collection](#)

## Welcome!

Libraries, archives and museums in Colorado and Wyoming all hold pieces of our rich cultural history. Both states have a strong history of sharing these stories with a wide audience through their digital collections. The Plains to Peaks Collective, our DPLA Service Hub, is one way to share your unique digital collections with a wider audience.

# Metadata Harvesting



DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY  
OF AMERICA

[All items](#) > [Fairplay Courthouse](#)

Please read DPLA's [Statement on Potentially Harmful Content](#).

## Fairplay Courthouse



[View Full Item](#)



[Cite this item](#)

[Add to a new list](#)

Created Date Unknown  
Description Courthouse. Sanborn post card F909. Source: Wilbur Lewis, 2003  
Creator Sanborn, Harold

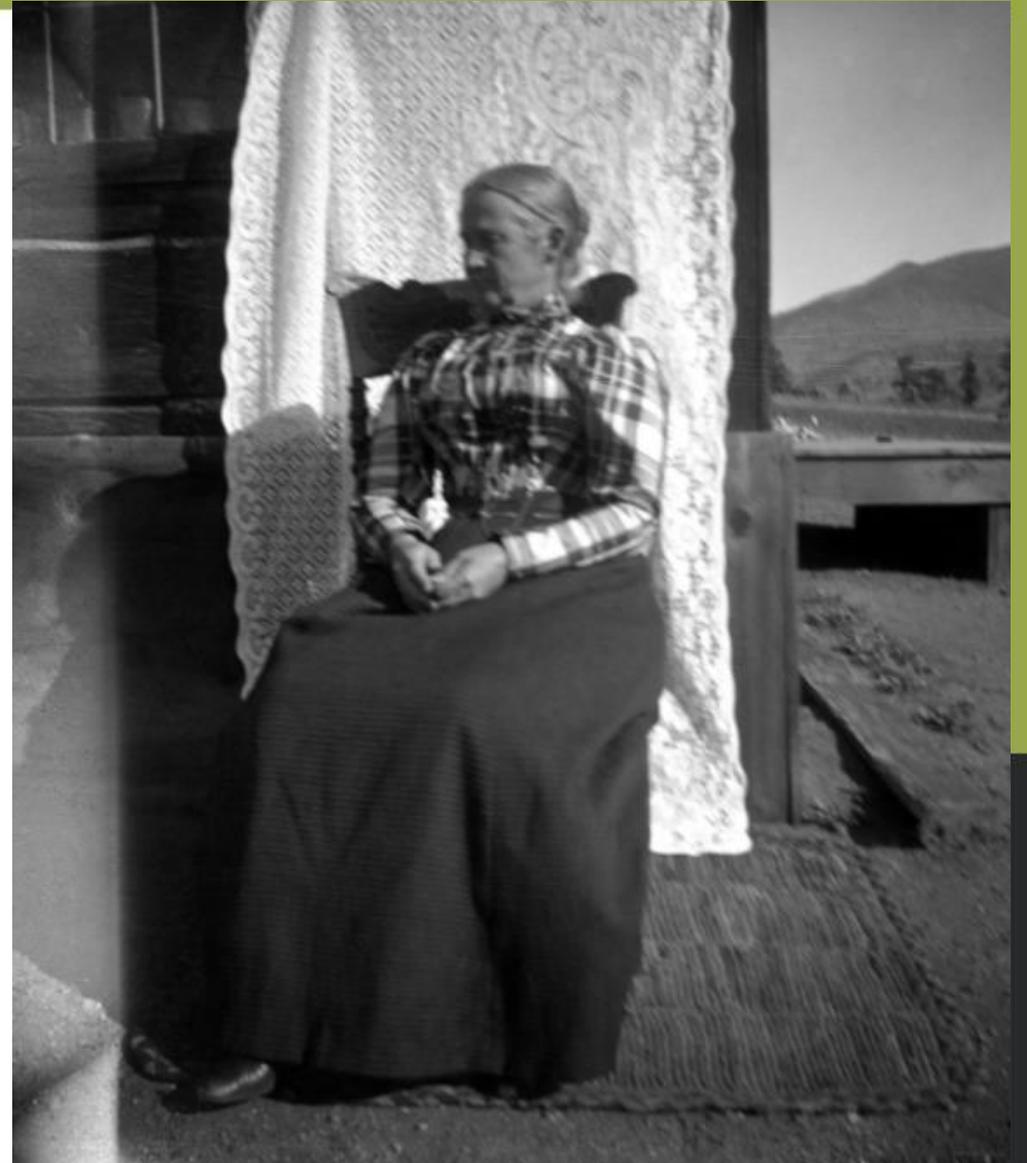
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Partner Plains to Peaks Collective  
Contributing Institution [Park County Local History Digital Archive, Colorado](#)  
Subjects [Postcards](#)  
[Courthouses](#)  
[Buildings](#)

# Sustainability

- Commitment of the local county government to maintain the archive
- Continued collaboration with the Colorado State Library and the University of Denver LIS program
- New donations
  - Post-custodial practice and digitization
- Archive recovery project
  - Gain access to the materials in the community to rescan them
- Community outreach program
  - Continue building relationships with community members

“Portrait of a woman” *Park County Local History Digital Archive*,  
<https://pclha.cvlcollections.org/items/show/1581>



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# Questions

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Project supported by the Public Good fund from the University of Denver Center for Community Engagement to advance Scholarship and Learning (CCESL)

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