

T H E S I S

S O C I A L S U R V E Y

OF

A L A M O S A C O U N T Y , C O L O R A D O .

Submitted by
Jessie Coover Meloy
for the Degree of Master of Science
Colorado Agricultural College
Fort Collins, Colorado.
July 12, 1929.

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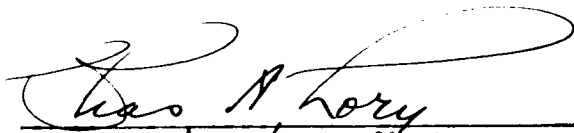
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THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE


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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author gladly acknowledges her indebtedness to B. F. Coen, Professor of Sociology, Colorado Agricultural College, for his constructive criticism, suggestions, and friendly advice in the preparation of this Social Survey of Alamosa County, Colorado; to Ira Richardson, President of the Adams State Teachers College of Southern Colorado, for valuable assistance and encouragement during the process of the work; and to Mrs. Edna Johnson, a teacher in the Alamosa city schools, for making the personal interviews possible.

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this survey is to determine the social conditions and resources of Alamosa County.

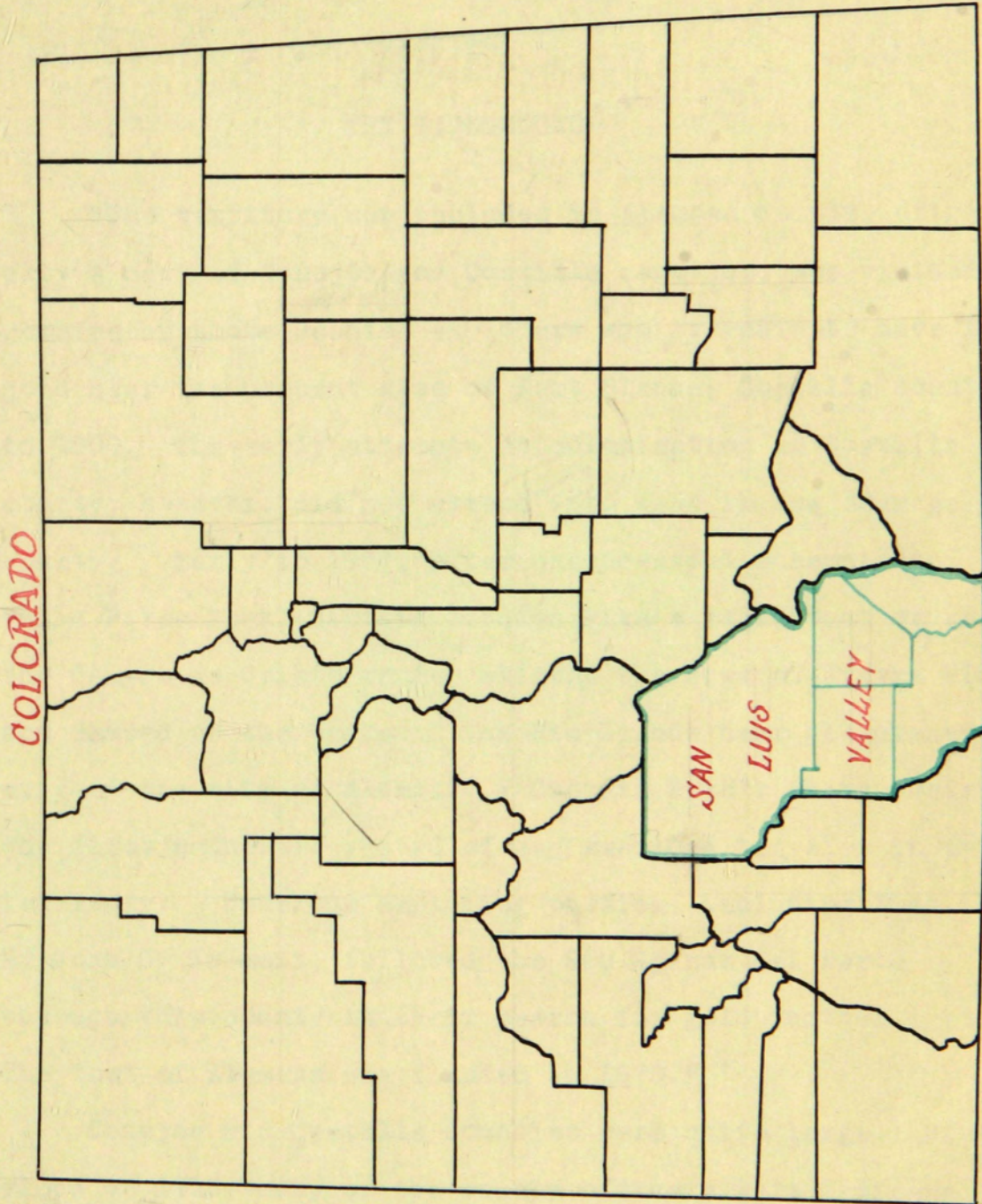
Specifically, it is the plan of this survey to examine the educational facilities, to investigate the political organizations, to study the means of transportation and communication, to inquire concerning the leisure activities, find the health programs, and to study the religious agencies.

The writer was located in the city of Alamosa for several months in 1926-1927, during which time the survey was made.

The information was secured in three ways: First, questionnaires were sent to all churches, schools, and teachers, which questionnaires were filled out and returned; second, from bulletins, maps, Colorado Year Book, and other references; third, by personal interviews and personal letters.

Every school district was visited; and information on education and community life was secured from Mr. Richardson, president of the Adams State Teachers College of Southern Colorado, county superintendents, clerks of school boards, teachers, and people living in the communities. The ministers, clerks of church boards, Sunday School superintendents, and leaders of different phases of church work were visited and data on churches were secured. Banks, markets, dance halls, packing house, dairies, and jails, both city and

county, were visited and information obtained from presidents, managers, and the sheriff. Information concerning the county court was taken from court records and by talking with county court officials. The county agent, home demonstrator, chamber of commerce, and leading citizens willingly cooperated in the securing of information. The information on clubs and fraternal organizations was secured principally from their officers and individual members.



CHAPTER I

THE BACKGROUND

"The territory now included in Alamosa county, originally a part of Conejos and Costilla counties, was visited perhaps by those Spanish explorers who are said to have found gold near the present site of Fort Blanca, Costilla county, in 1600. The early attempts at colonization in Costilla county, however, did not extend into what is now Alamosa county. Early in 1807, after unsuccessful attempts to scale Pikes Peak, Captain Zebulon Pike's expedition crossed the Sangre de Cristo range, skirted the base of Sierra Blanca and camped on the banks of the Rio Grande near the present site of the city of Alamosa. Captain Pike's diary contains the first authentic record of any American traveler in this territory. Numerous exploring parties, including that led by John C. Fremont, followed the Rio Grande del Norte through this county in their search for gold further west. The town of Alamosa was founded in 1878." ¹

Conejos and Costilla counties were quite large. Previous to 1913, many of the county officers were Mexicans who were ignorant, and, as a result, there were many mistakes in the records. Many people were dissatisfied and set about

1. Colorado -- By State Board of Immigration, p. 8. 1927.

to create a county from Conejos and Costilla counties, so that they might have county officials capable of keeping records correctly. So Alamosa County, the youngest county in the state, was created by the state legislature in 1913 from parts of Conejos and Costilla counties.

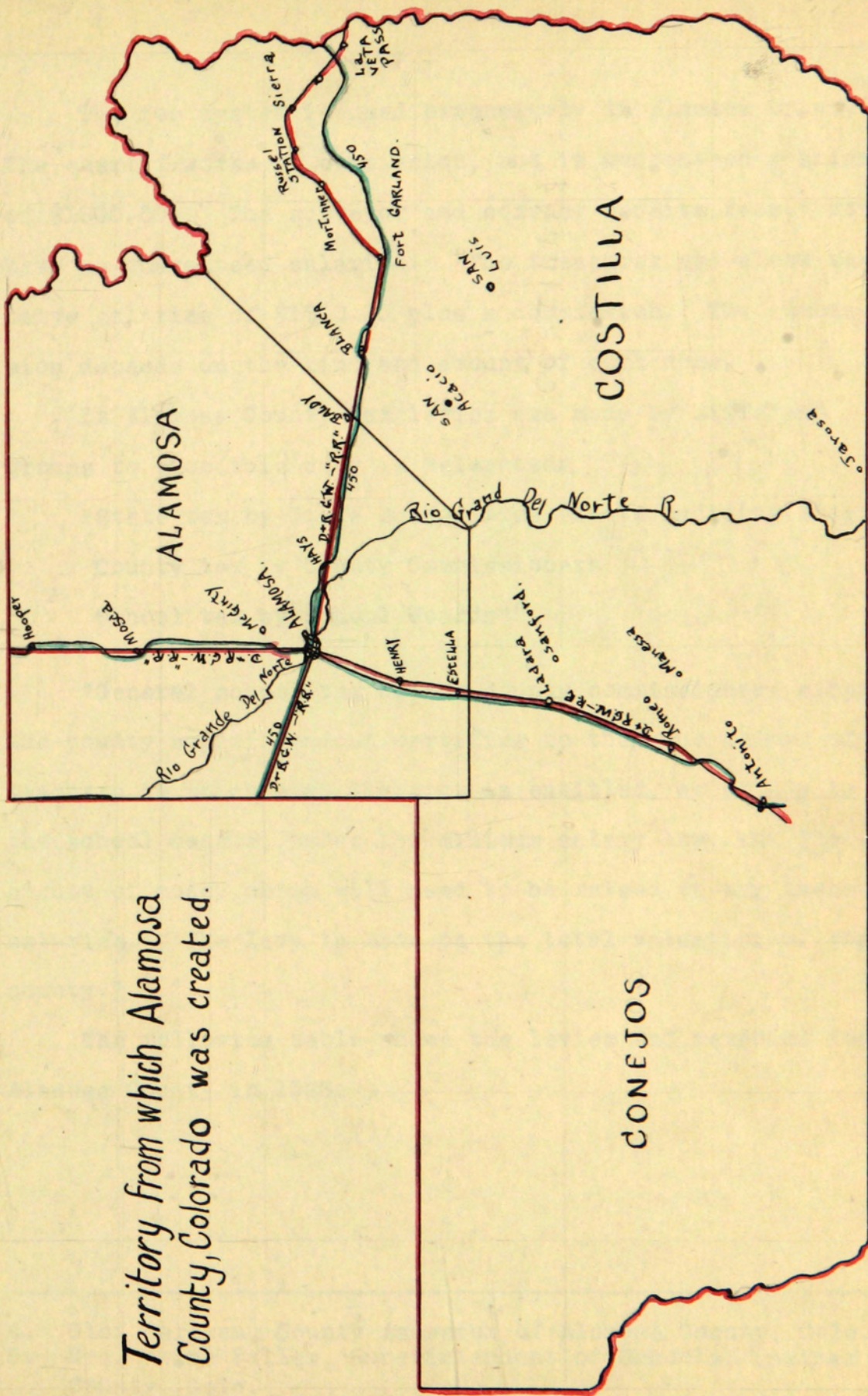
"It lies in the south central part of the state, in the heart of the San Luis Valley. In outline it is an irregular pentagon, with an extreme length east and west, of thirty miles, and an extreme width, north and south, of twenty-seven miles. Its area is approximately 465,280 acres, or about one-fourth less than the area of the State of Rhode Island."²

Alamosa County, like the usual form of county governments, has no centralized executive power. Each officer is independent in his own office, and knows little of the work of other officers of the county. The county officers are elected by the people and a number of deputies are appointed. The officers who are elected, their terms of office and salaries per year are given in the following table:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Salary for 1926</u>
Sheriff	2 years	Commission	\$1936.31
Treasurer	2 years	\$1800 and commission	1800.00
Clerk	2 years	\$1800 and commission	1800.00
Surveyor	2 years	Commission	No record
Assessor	2 years	\$1800	1831.80
Coroner	2 years	Commission	643.20
County Judge	2 years	\$2400	2400.00
Supt. of Schools	2 years	\$1500	1500.00

2. Colorado -- By State Board of Immigration, p. 7. 1927
3. Olof Bergman, County Assessor of Alamosa County, Colo.

Territory from which Alamosa County, Colorado was created.



The fee system is used extensively in Alamosa County. The sheriff works on commission, but is guaranteed a salary of \$1800.00. The surveyor and coroner receive fees, but have no guaranteed salaries. The treasurer and clerk receive salaries of \$1800.00 plus a commission. The commission depends on the kind and amount of work done.

In Alamosa County tax levies are made by different groups to whom this duty is delegated:

"State tax by State Authorities (State Auditing Board)
County tax by County Commissioners
School tax by School Boards".⁴

"General school tax by the county commissioners after the county superintendent certifies to them the number of teachers to which each district is entitled, according to the school census, under the minimum salary law, and the amount of money which will need to be raised to pay these salaries. The levy is made on the total valuation of the county." ⁵

The following table shows the levies and revenues for Alamosa County in 1926:

-
4. Olof Bergman, County Assessor of Alamosa County, Colo.
 5. Mrs. Alice Fuller, Superintendent of Schools, Larimer County, Colo.

	<u>Levies</u>	<u>Revenues</u>
"Ordinary County	3.72	\$35044.19
General Road Fund	1.71	16109.02
Interest on County Bonds	.25	2355.12
Sinking Fund	.17	1601.48
Advertising Fund	.22	2072.51
General School	5.00	47102.40
Mothers' Compensation	.15	1413.07
County Court House	.08	753.64
Sinking Fund		
Total	11.30	106451.43" ⁶

The valuations, levies, and revenues on school districts are given in the chapter on "Schools".

The assessor's office and treasurer's office have nothing to do with the making of the levies, except as the assessor may reduce the levy to conform with the law.

The county is audited once a year, so the records must be complete and accurate.

"In Alamosa County there is a great deal of land which is earning a small income so there are delinquent taxes. This land, although the taxes become delinquent and the land sold for same at the court house, can be redeemed by the owner within a period of three years by due process of law and paying all expense connected with it. No record is shown

where the land was not redeemed." ⁷

"During the year 1926 the County Court tried one hundred cases. None were convicted, so no fines nor sentences were imposed.

"Three minors (boys) were tried. One boy was paroled but the other two were sent to the reform school.

"Six lunacy cases were acted upon. Two women and four men were sentenced to the state institution for the insane." ⁸

"One hundred and eleven marriage licenses were issued.

"Sixteen divorce cases were tried. Fourteen were granted divorces for the following reasons: Six for desertion, five for cruelty and three for non-support." ⁹

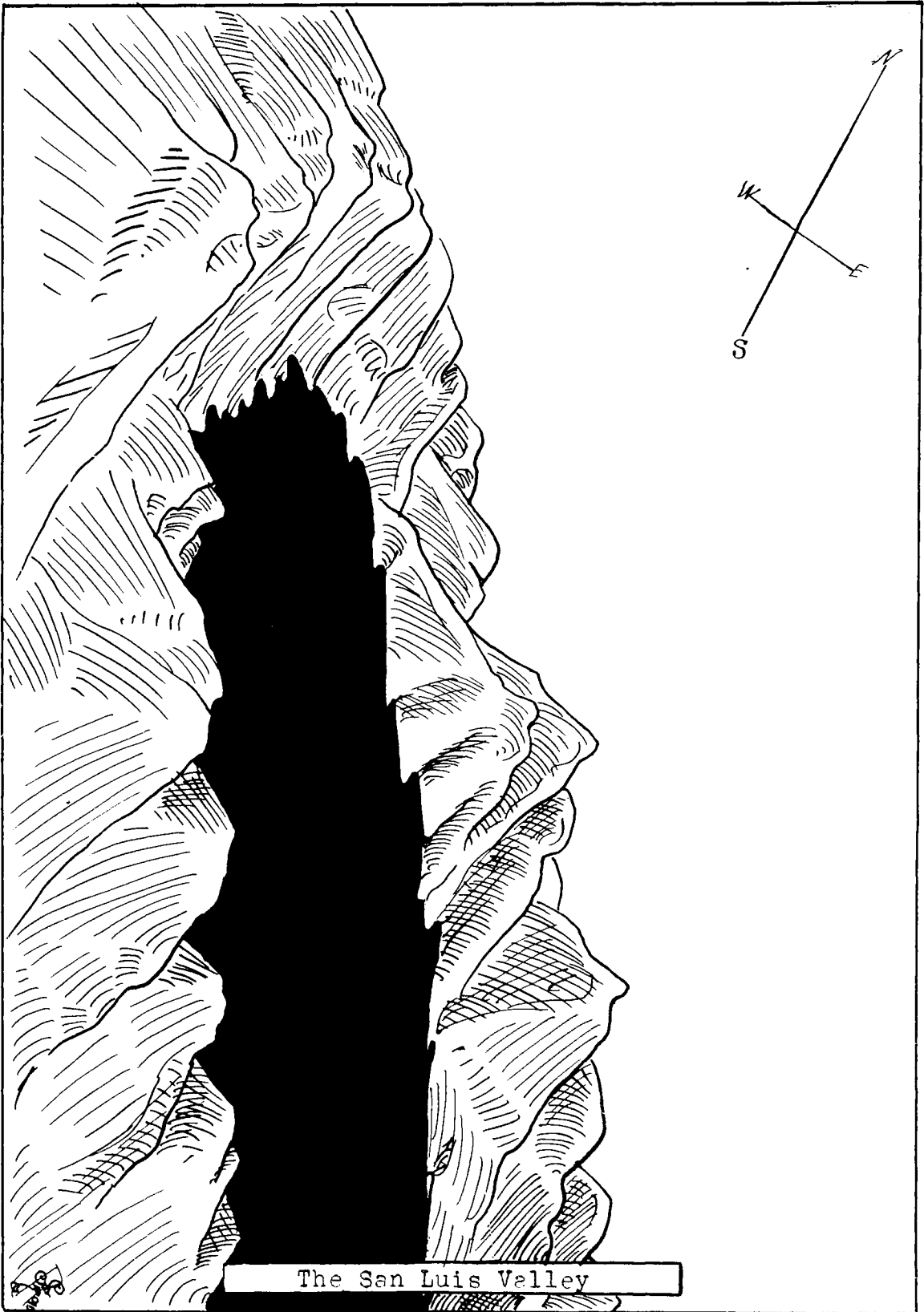
All of the cases of lunacy acted upon were, with one exception, old people, the exception being a man past forty. The number of divorces as compared with the marriage licenses issued is about 14 percent. The city jail is not needed except for an occasional case of drunkenness. During the winter of 1926-1927, two men, with permission from the mayor, slept there; the city boarded them at a restaurant. The county jail is not often used. It is quite clean and sanitary.

In making a study of the social phases of a group of people, one should know the geographic environment, because

7. Alfred C. Kline, County Treasurer.
8. Judge B. T. Foxson.
9. Robert Ginn, County Clerk.

it is a mold into which the human race is poured, and the history of the people is shaped by that mold. To illustrate, J. Russell Smith says, "There is a land of little rain at the northern edge of the Great Desert that stretches from Morocco to Egypt and from Egypt to Babylon and the mountains of Persia. Here a little rain falls during one short season. For the remainder of the year there is drought. Agriculture is not possible (save in the cases) but there can be pasturage, although this is scanty and is soon exhausted. Therefore in this kind of a place man depends upon beasts, the one thing that can survive on the pasture and give him food. When the beast eats the meager supply of pasture in one place they must move to another place in order to get food and water. Again and again they move. Man must move with his animals and he must keep moving. Hence he is a nomad. This fundamental fact of economic geography, arising from a type of climate, decides what man shall eat, what kind of property he shall have, what his ideas of property shall be, what kind of house he may inhabit, how many people shall live in one group, and what kind of government there shall be. Analyze this man and you will find that every thing about him shows the marks of scanty grass, whether we examine the camel dung fuel with which he cooks, the wool of his clothes, the hospitality with which he receives you, the willingness with which he robs you, or his idea of the heaven to which he hopes to go."¹⁰

10. J. Russell Smith, Geography and Our Need of It, pp.23-24.

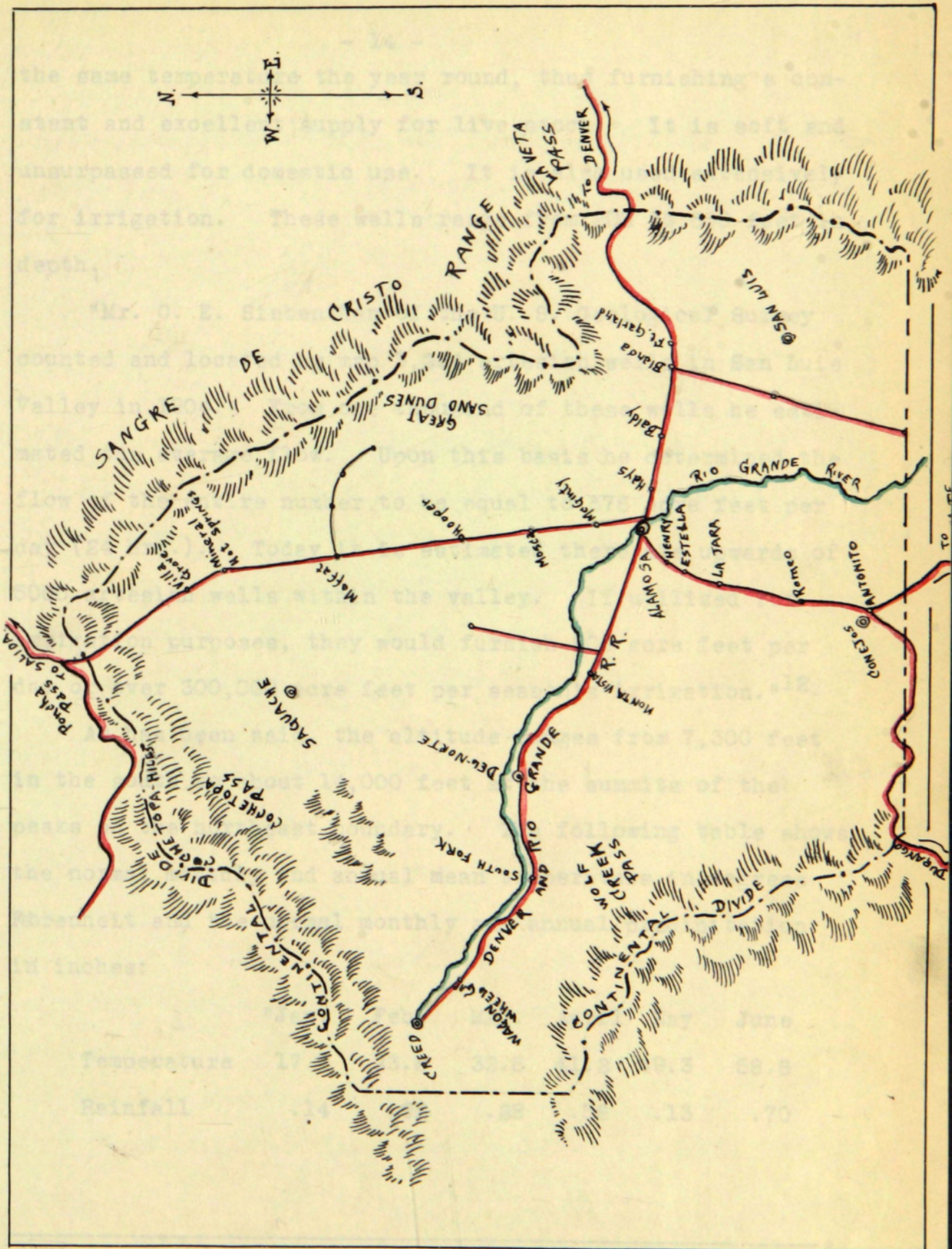


The San Luis Valley was at one time the bed of a great lake. The soil is made up chiefly of silt and other matter deposited from its waters. The soil, in general, in Alamosa County, which is about the center of the great valley as shown by the map on page eleven, is a sandy loam of great depth and wonderful fertility. "There is an excess of alkali in the soil in some parts of the county, but drainage and other projects are now under way which promise successfully to carry off or neutralize the harmful salts. The only soil survey available is a general survey of the San Luis Valley, made by the Bureau of Soils of the United States Department of Agriculture, published in 1904." ¹¹

The surface is level except in the extreme northeast corner, where it rises gradually to the summits of the high peaks of the Sangre de Cristo range. The altitude ranges from about 7300 to 14000 feet in the northeast. The Rio Grande del Norte flows across the southwestern part, and with its tributaries affords the principal drainage. It carries a large volume of water at all seasons, and furnishes an abundant supply for the irrigation of the rich farm lands of the county.

There is an unfeiling supply of artesian water, not only in Alamosa County, but in almost all sections of the valley, which is reached at moderate depths. This water has

11. Colorado -- State Board of Immigration, 1927, p. 8.



the same temperature the year round, thus furnishing a constant and excellent supply for live stock. It is soft and unsurpassed for domestic use. It is also used extensively for irrigation. These wells range from 200 to 600 feet in depth.

"Mr. C. E. Siebenthan of the U. S. Geological Survey counted and located by map 3,294 artesian wells in San Luis Valley in 1904. From one thousand of these wells he estimated the average flow. Upon this basis he determined the flow of the entire number to be equal to 576 acre feet per day (24 hrs.). Today it is estimated there are upwards of 5000 artesian wells within the valley. If utilized for irrigation purposes, they would furnish 900 acre feet per day or over 300,000 acre feet per season's irrigation."¹²

As has been said, the altitude ranges from 7,300 feet in the south to about 14,000 feet at the summits of the peaks on the northeast boundary. The following table shows the normal monthly and annual mean temperature in degrees Fahrenheit and the normal monthly and annual precipitation in inches:

	"Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June
Temperature	17.2	23.8	32.8	41.2	49.3	58.6
Rainfall	.14	.22	.28	.56	.13	.70

12. San Luis (Denver & Rio Grande Western Agricultural Bulletin, No. 7, Issued August, 1925, p. 7.

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Temperature	62.6	61.2	54.5	43.1	30.7	20.2	41.2
Rainfall	1.24	1.14	.76	.54	127	123	6.21" ¹³

"The average length of the growing season, as determined by the number of days between killing frosts, is one hundred eleven days, the shortest length being ninety-seven days and the longest length one hundred thirty-four days. In the spring the last frosts are from May twenty-fourth to June sixth, and in the fall the first killing frosts are from September fourteenth to October eighth." ¹⁴

"Except in the extreme northeast the average annual rainfall varies from seven to ten inches. In the higher land near Sierra Blanca the precipitation is heavier, varying from ten to twenty-one inches." ¹⁵

The climate is ideal. The winters are crisp but sunny, open and dry. The snow rarely lies on the ground more than a few days at a time. There are no cold winter winds to speak of because the mountain ranges which surround the valley, except on the south, break the force of the winds. What winds there are come in the springtime, but they are not cold.

Since Alamosa County was not created until 1913 there are no data available giving the population for 1910. The

13. Colorado Year Book, 1927, pp. 48-49.

14. Colorado State Board of Immigration Rainfall Map of Colo., 1924.

15. Colorado -- State Board of Immigration, 1927, p. 9.

population at the beginning of 1920 was approximately 7000, of which about 4000 were urban, living in Alamosa.

The percentage of foreign-born inhabitants is small, probably less than six percent. A great many of the early settlers were Mexicans, and there is now a considerable number of Spanish-speaking people in the county. The following table shows the composition characteristics of the population in 1920:

"

<u>Total</u>	<u>Native White</u>	<u>Foreign Born White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>Japanese & Chinese</u>
5148	4861	336	45	16 " 16

There is a difference of 1852, as shown by the 1920 Federal Census Report and the approximate estimate as made by the county clerk. No small percent of this difference is Japanese who are coming into the valley and making a success of truck farming. A few Chinese have come into the county and have gone into the restaurant business.

In Alamosa County there are 307 farms, with an average of 350.14 acres, of which 229 or 75 percent are farmed by the owner. At least one-half of those renting places are planning to buy a place of their own. It is gratifying to report that there is no discrimination made between owners and renters in any phase of community life.

Since much of the community life and general prosperity of the county is dependent on the economic life of its people, it is necessary to know something of the economic conditions so as to be able to get a comprehensive view of the county.

The resources that have been developed to date are predominately agricultural. There are few known mineral resources. Deposits of clay exist which are used to some extent for brick-making. There are no forests. The soil is rich, deep, and fertile, and is very productive when irrigated.

The principal crops in Alamosa County are potatoes, alfalfa and other hay, and field peas; potatoes being the principal cash crop not only in Alamosa County but in the entire San Luis Valley. They are sold in carload lots, mainly in the south.

Stock-raising, stock feeding, and dairying go along hand in hand with farming. Stock-raising and stock-feeding are both pleasant and profitable - pleasant because of the abundance of good water coming from the many flowing artesian wells and the ideal climate with its open winters and cool summers; profitable because of the abundance of feeds produced in the county.

The number of horses and mules in Alamosa County decreased from 2409 in 1925 to 2087 in 1926, or a decrease of 322 in one year.

The acreage in crops, however, for which horses are used, has shown an increase for the same period of about 50 percent.

"Under present conditions there are not sufficient colts being raised to take the place of the horses that must be replaced during the next few years. The stallions and jacks are old and are used very little at the present time. The alfalfa farms are well adapted to the raising of colts. More time and attention should be given to this branch of farming." 17

Much attention is given to the raising of sheep for both wool and mutton, and to swine. The number of sheep has decreased but the quality has increased. The weight of fleece has been increased as has the quality of mutton. The same is true of hogs, quality rather than number has increased. However, since 1925 the number has made rapid increase, due to increase in population and a decrease in hog production in California, cheap production, and immunizing hogs against cholera.

Large fields of peas, with alfalfa, barley and a few potatoes to balance the ration, produce lambs and swine which usually top the market. The Monte Vista Hog Growers Association, which is valley-wide, is responsible for the immunization of hogs against cholera. It has done much to

17. An Agricultural Program for the San Luis Valley of Colorado, 1927, p. 60.

put the hog industry on a safe and profitable basis.

The raising of beef cattle is already well established and the dairy industry is advancing rapidly, not only in Alamosa County, but throughout the valley. The San Luis Valley Dairy Association has done much to develop the dairy industry. What is true of sheep and swine is true of beef cattle. There has been a decrease in number, but there has been considerable improvement in quality. Comparatively little fattening of cattle is done in the county. Most of the cattle are shipped out as feeders and fattened in the feed lots. People of the county are beginning to realize that much is lost by this method. At present the cattlemen are trying to organize a selling agency for handling the sale of cattle. The plan is to have auction sales to which buyers from the cornbelt and other fattening sections are invited.

Dairying is becoming very important in Alamosa County. The following record from the 1924 U. S. Census is very good for a ten year old county:

"Number of cows	Gallons of milk	Pounds of butter fat sold	Pounds of butter made on farms
1462	63,304.6	72,998	33,965
Gallons of cream sold	Gallons of milk sold	Value of Dairy products	
23,589	11,735	\$99,440	" 18

The poultry industry should not be overlooked nor should the bee industry. Mr. Rochford, county agent, says that both are becoming more important each year. Several farmers are raising from 500 to 1000 chickens each spring. Considerable culling is practiced to eliminate the poor layers. "According to the U. S. Census for 1925, chickens were valued at \$10,507.00. In 1924, 71,050 dozen eggs were produced and valued at \$20,605.00." 19

The honey industry has experienced a very rapid growth in the last eight years. The greatest increase in number of colonies has been in the last two years. Alamosa County has 1200 colonies. This increase has been made possible through increase in alfalfa and sweet clover acreage. The honey produced from these plants has a superior quality and is much in demand. The average production per colony is around 50 pounds. It is not known how much was shipped from Alamosa County in 1926, but sixteen carloads, each weighing 30,000 pounds, were shipped out of the valley.

After raising a crop, the next question confronting the farmer is how to get his produce to the consumer. This, of course, necessitates some center of exchange or market. In Alamosa County there are three such centers. They are Alamosa, Hooper, and Mosca, all of which are on the railroad, also on the highway running north and south across the county as shown by the map. Alamosa is the main market center

as well as social center. The roads are usually in fair condition, so the farmers have very little trouble getting their produce to market. Trucks and automobiles are used extensively in connection with the farm work.

Cooperative marketing is not carried on in Alamosa County. However, it is discussed a great deal and will be used when plans can be worked out and developed.

The Mosca community organized a Grange and the Hooper community a Farmers' Union to aid farmers, but they were not successful because of lack of cooperation and unity of thought. The Carmel and Waverly communities attempted to organize Granges, but failed because the farmers said they could not spare the time to attend in the afternoon and did not care to lose sleep in the evenings.

In Alamosa County there are four local banks. They are the Alamosa National, American National, and First State Bank of Alamosa, and the Hooper State Bank located in Hooper.

In the latter part of February, 1927, the Colorado Agricultural College, under the direction of Thomas H. Summers and E. D. Smith, sponsored a conference which was attended by about 250 men and women of the valley. The meeting was held at the Adams State Teachers College of Southern Colorado. Classes at the college were dismissed and students were urged to attend the meetings of the groups in which they were most interested. About 95 percent of the students attended and were greatly benefited. At this conference three



First State Bank of Alamosa, Colorado



American National Bank of Alamosa, Colorado



Hooper State Bank of Hooper, Colorado

Banks of Alamosa County, Colorado

major topics were under discussion. They were: Trend of production in the valley, discussion as to what might be expected to happen, and formulating some recommendations for future development.

The program for this conference, as planned, was purely agricultural, but because there were so many women in attendance (about seventy-five), Miss Maude Sheridan organized them into the following groups: The Farm Home Group, the Nutrition Group, the House Furnishings and Home Equipment Group, and the Clothing Group. Each group discussed problems peculiar to its members and recommendations were made.

The people of Alamosa gave the visitors to this conference a hearty welcome. The Chamber of Commerce served luncheon both days of the conference. The ladies were entertained by the Auxiliary of the Chamber of Commerce and several were entertained in the homes of Alamosans. Because of the courteous treatment, Alamosa and vicinity are more closely linked with every other part of the valley.

CHAPTER II

EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES

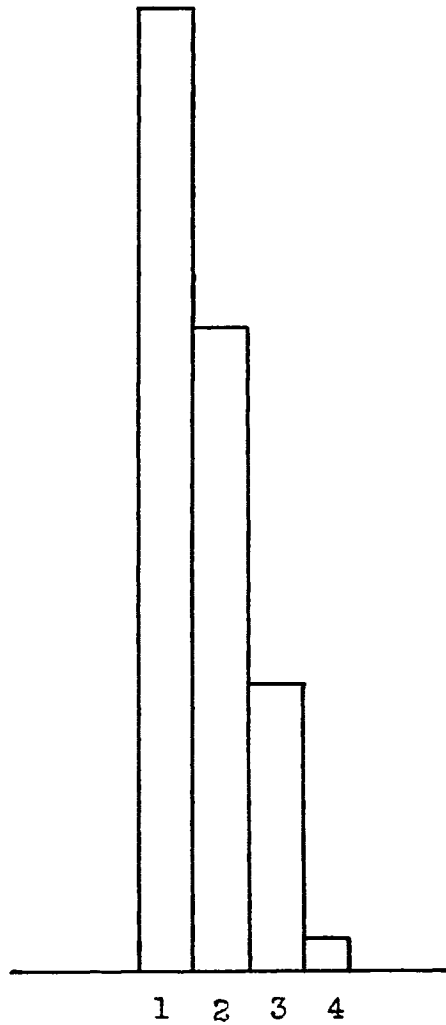
Growth in the school system of Alamosa County has been rapid. The schools have developed almost entirely since the county was created in 1913. There are fourteen rural school districts, the Alamosa city schools, and the Adams State Teachers College of Southern Colorado. Of the rural schools there are six one-teacher schools, all single districts; two two-teacher schools, one a single district and the other a joint district; three three-teacher schools, two are joint districts and the other is consolidated; two four-teacher schools, one a single district and the other consolidated; one nine-teacher school, which is both joint and consolidated. In the Alamosa city schools there are 41 teachers, 11 being in the high school. The Adams State Teachers College will be dealt with separately. The year 1924-25, the Newsom school was closed and the pupils were sent by bus to Alamosa. In the autumn of 1926 this school was reopened because of the high tax levy, and because most of the pupils were small and had to leave home too early. The East Alamosa school, a single district with four teachers, would like to consolidate with Alamosa, if it were not for the high tax levy.

In the public schools of Alamosa County there are 76 teachers, 29 in the high school and 47 in the grades.

All have had some college work and all but 16 are planning further training.

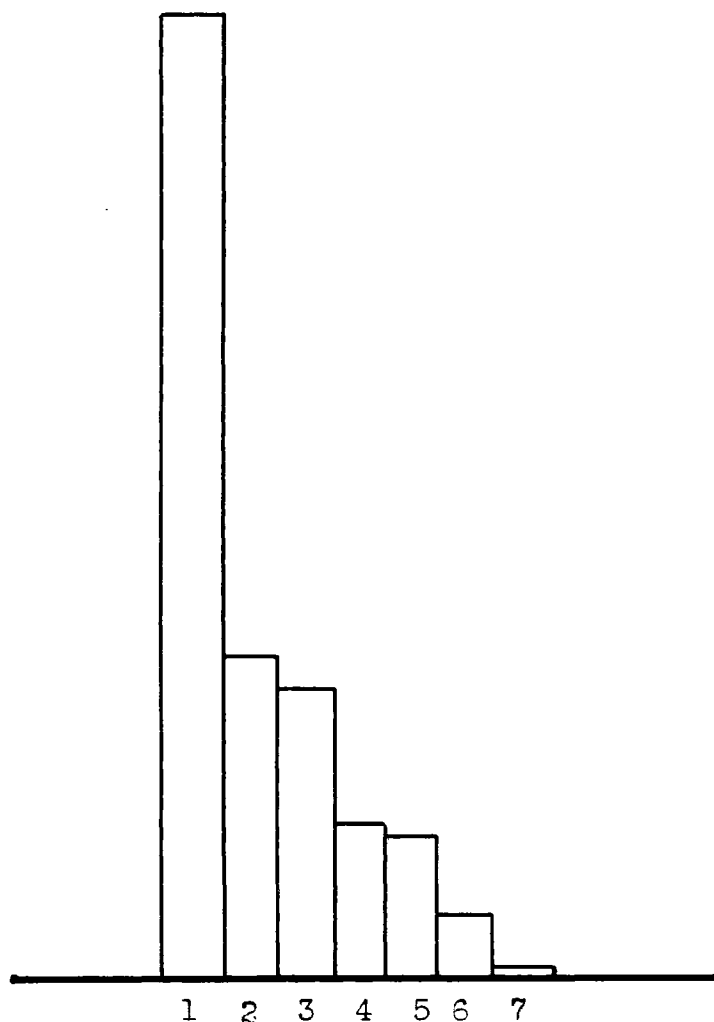
The ages of the female teachers range from 19 to 51 years, while those of the male range from 25 to 54. The salaries of the female teachers range from \$720 per year in the one-teacher school, to \$1500 in the Alamosa elementary grade schools, and \$1600 in the high school. The salaries of the male teachers in elementary schools range from \$1215 to \$2000 per year, and up to \$2500 in the high school. The salary of the superintendent of the Alamosa schools is \$3500, a part of which is paid by the state. During the summer he is on the faculty of the Adams State Teachers College, and during the regular school year he conducts extension classes for the teachers of Alamosa and others who may wish to enter.

Twenty-four, or about 32 percent, of the teachers of the county have degrees. There are three male teachers each having a master's degree, one in the elementary schools and two in the high school; and there are twenty-one teachers each having a bachelor's degree, three male and ten female in the elementary schools, and two male and six female in the high school. Of the seventy-six teachers, twenty-five or 33 percent have life certificates; twenty-two or 30 percent have second grade certificates; twelve or 16 percent have five year state certificates; eleven or 14 percent have professional certificates; five or 6 percent have first grade certificates, and one (or less than 1 percent) has a third grade certificate.



Distribution of Degrees

1.	Percent of teachers in Alamosa County.....	100
2.	Percent of teachers not having Bachelor's or Master's Degrees	68
3.	Percent having Bachelor's Degrees.....	28
4.	Percent having Master's Degrees	4



1. Distribution of Certificates

1.	Percent of teachers in Alamosa County	100
2.	Percent having Life Certificates.....	33
3.	Percent having Second Grade Certificates	30
4.	Percent having Five Year State Certificates....	16
5.	Percent having Professional Certificates	14
6.	Percent having First Grade Certificates	6
7.	Percent having Third Grade Certificates, less than 1	

In the county there are sixty-two teachers affiliated with Protestant churches, one with the Catholic church, and thirteen expressed no religious preference.

All but one of the teachers in Alamosa County enjoy teaching. Of the thirty-eight rural teachers, thirteen are more interested in town and city schools. In Alamosa all teachers like to teach and enjoy the work they are now doing except one; he is interested in college work and will be given a place on the College faculty as soon as the enrollment increases enough to demand another instructor.

All rural teachers but three live in the community in which they teach. One of these teachers lives at home and drives 4-1/2 miles each day. The other two teach at Waverly and live in Alamosa -- a distance of 3-1/2 miles. Seven live within two blocks of the school, and the others are from one-half to one and one-fourth miles from school.

All teachers take some part in community activities. In the rural schools the teacher takes part in practically all community activities. In Mosca two of the teachers are active leaders in the church work. Both are teachers in the Sunday School, and one is pianist for both Sunday School and church services. They take the initiative in many social gatherings of the young people. In all of the rural schools, when any kind of a program is to be given, whether it is a school or a community affair, the teacher has charge of it. In Alamosa the teachers take part in only such

community affairs as appeal to them. Most of them attend church and the Parent-Teacher meetings. The teachers of Alamosa and Hooper have a greater range of recreation. It is only because they are within reach of it and the rural teachers are not. Several teachers are interested in music and belong to the music club which meets twice a month. They sing in the choir at the Methodist Church and for various social groups when requested. All who wish, do or can belong to bridge clubs; a few belong to study clubs such as the Current Event Club, Evening Study Club, the P.E.O Society, Woman's Citizenship Club, and the Auxiliary to the Chamber of Commerce. A few teachers belong to a dancing club, which meets twice a month; others who wish to dance have to attend public dances which are given once a week; then there are shows and the public library; parties sponsored by different groups of the teaching force; and trips to the mountains most any time they wish to go.



Mt. Pleasant School



Mt. Pleasant School and Teacherage



East Alamosa School



Mosca School

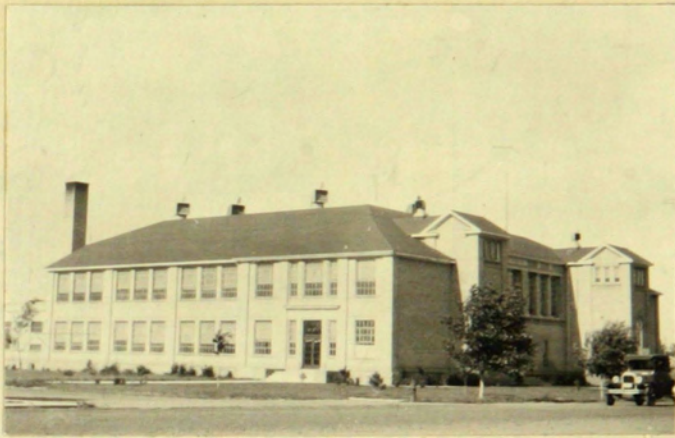


Hooper School

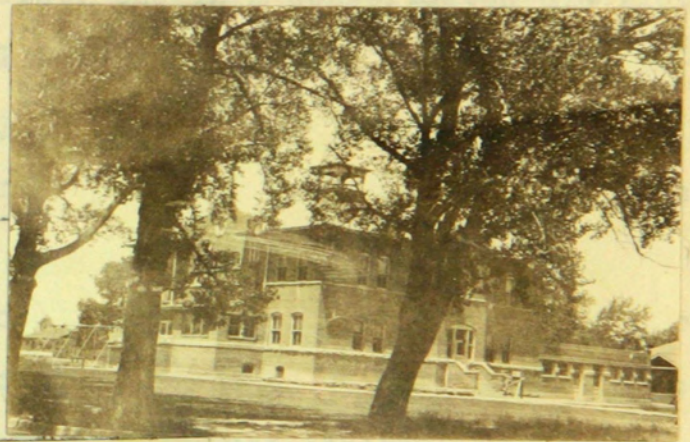


Star School and Teacherage

In the county of Alamosa, including the Alamosa city schools, there are nineteen public school buildings. Ten of these buildings are frame, six brick, one log, one stucco, and one, the high school, is constructed of stone. All but two of these buildings have cement foundations. The frame buildings are all painted and are about as many different colors as there are buildings. The colors are red, brown, yellow, white and gray. Seven of the frame buildings are in good repair, but the other three are only in fair condition. Three of the buildings need paint badly. The log building is small, being only 16 by 20 feet. It has no foundation and is not painted. The brick and stucco buildings are in good repair and the general appearance is good.



High School



Central School



Boyd School



Willis School

In the three three-teacher schools, one four-teacher school, and one one-teacher school the lighting is most excellent. In the other buildings, there are cross lights which are very unsatisfactory.

There are three teacherages in the county. One is located in a single district, one in a consolidated district, and the other in a consolidated joint district. In the consolidated district, the janitor is also furnished a house. All of these buildings are in good condition. The districts furnish light and fuel.

The three three-teacher schools, one four-teacher school, and the nine-teacher school have adjustable seats. The first grades at Central School in Alamosa use chairs. All other schools have old fashioned non-adjustable single and double seats.

Seven schools have slate blackboards; all others are of a composition. Seven of these composition blackboards are in fair condition, while four are very poor. In fact, one can scarcely read what is written on them.

All of the buildings have maps and five have reading charts. In most instances the maps are old and worn and, in many instances, not accurate. There are three small globes in the county. Every building has a dictionary and an American flag.

All of the buildings are supplied with appropriate pictures. In most rooms, we find pictures of poets and statesmen,

and other pictures by such artists as Bonheur, Landseer, Millet and Corot.

Every school but one has a library. Eight schools have the "Book of Knowledge", three, "Picture Knowledge", eight, the "World Book", and one, "The Home Library". Each library contains from 50 to 160 volumes, and in most instances they are well chosen and well kept and the books are in good condition.

Thirteen schools have pianos.

Ten of the buildings are provided with gas for lighting purposes, one has no lighting facilities at all, and the others have electricity.

Five buildings are heated by furnaces, five by stoves with jackets, two use the Waterbury heating and ventilating system, and three are heated by Heatrolas.

The playgrounds average about an acre in size. The grounds are level, with a gravel soil so there is not much dust. Three of the playgrounds are covered with grass. Twelve are fenced, and seven have large shade trees. All the other grounds have small trees, but it will be several years before they will be of any benefit.

Alamosa County schools are quite well supplied with athletic equipment. The high school has a baseball diamond, football ground, tennis courts, inside and outside basketball courts and equipment for each. They have football and basketball teams. They are very enthusiastic and have won

many games. The girls have a strong basketball team.

Of the elementary schools, fourteen have swings; eleven, teeters; four, giant strides; six, basketballs and courts; three, horizontal bars; three, rings; three, slides; one, an ocean wave; and one, a tennis court. Every school but the little log schoolhouse has some athletic equipment. The equipment is in good condition.

All of the schools have a seven-hour school day, with 1-1/2 hours for recreation and play. This includes two recess periods of fifteen minutes each and the noon recess of one hour. These recreation periods are usually spent in the open air. The teachers are on the playgrounds and nearly always take part in the games.

Every school but one is supplied with ever-flowing water from an artesian well. Eight buildings have bubbling inside fountains, three have outside fountains, and six have a continuous flow of water from a pipe.

All of the schools but four have equipment for washing the face and hands. Eight buildings have lavatories with soap and towels supplied, while seven use basins, the water being carried in buckets.

Eleven districts have outside toilets. They are small and have no screens or protection against spread of disease. The girls' toilets were fairly clean, but the boys' toilets were not very sanitary. Eight buildings have inside toilets.

Two buildings have ventilating systems in connection with the heating systems; all other buildings are ventilated by doors and windows.

None of the schools serve hot lunches to the pupils. At least 85 percent of the rural pupils take their lunches with them. In most instances, these lunches are eaten at their desks in the schoolroom. In the interest of the health of the children, the lunches should receive more attention on the part of both parents and teachers.

Of vital importance is the relation of the school to the community as a social center. In Alamosa County this is fulfilled mostly by Friday afternoon programs which parents, especially the mothers, usually attend. These programs are, with few exceptions, results of the regular school work. Special day programs are given in the evening. These are well attended by the entire community. Once a month the Parent-Teacher Associations have meetings, both parents and children attending. There is always a program of a general nature. Members of the College faculty and the student group participate when requested to do so, which is quite often, after which refreshments are served. At these gatherings, the men discuss their farm problems and projects, while the women discuss sewing, gardening, chicken raising and care of babies. At several of the schoolhouses, there

is an occasional purely social gathering, the evening being spent in visiting and dancing. In the Mosca community, all meetings are held in the Community House.



Community House, Mosca, Colorado.

Each rural district has a board of three directors; Alamosa has six directors, one being a woman. Only two members of the rural boards of directors have more than an elementary education, while in Alamosa four of the six are college graduates.

Discipline in Alamosa County is a minor problem, as far as the school is concerned. In every instance where it becomes serious it is a case of parents needing discipline rather than the children. The boards of directors and the communities at large stand back of and cooperate with the teachers.

All schools of the county, including those of Alamosa, followed only the State Course of Study up to 1926, when Miss Isabel Young was appointed as an instructor in the Department of Education at the Adams State Teachers College and was made supervisor of the Alamosa city schools.

A course of study which will not only meet the college entrance requirements, but will be quite practical in many phases, is in the making under the supervision of Miss Young, who believes that the general objectives of the school should be to prepare students for life and fit them to cope with the various political, economic and vocational situations. She always keeps before herself and the group with which she is working, the functional objectives. The mind grows according to its exercises. Ability to function is developed through normal exercises of function. One learns to do a thing through doing it. "The mind grows according to its patterns, but it will not grow without exercise of function. The patterns are not merely to be looked at, they are to be used. However good the pattern, one will not learn to saw a board, do handwriting, or play a piano, until one saws boards, does handwriting and plays the piano for himself." 20

"The trend of education is toward usefulness rather than toward comprehensive knowledge." 21

"Children can grow only as they practice. This is the law of exercise." 22

We all believe education to be a present activity, and not a product to be striven for. It is life and growth in

20. Franklin Bobbitt. How to Make a Curriculum, pp.48-49.

21. Charles C. Peters. From a lecture at University of California. 1926

22. William Head Kilpatrick Foundations of Method, p. 211.

a social environment.

"Subject matter, when offered, should be justified on the ground that it functions vitally in one way or another in the lifetime experience of the pupils." ²³

In the country there is practically no supervision. The county superintendent visits the schools twice a year and rarely, if ever, gives any helpful suggestions. In the country each teacher has a State Course of Study, but it receives very little attention. Many of the teachers would use it more if they could work under favorable conditions, but equipment is poor, attendance irregular, recitation periods are short, and many teachers are lacking in preparation. However, the country teachers deserve high commendation for what they actually do accomplish, and to be praised for following the Course of Study as closely as they do.

In the opinion of the writer, the Alamosa country schools would be greatly improved by the county unit system as described in "Rural Life and Education", by Cubberly, and "Better Country Schools in Colorado", by C. G. Sargent.

"The county unit system as best developed, the people elect a county board of education of five, who are analogous to a board of education for a city. This board then selects and appoints a county superintendent of schools, and such deputy supervisors as are needed; determines the educational policy of the county, and sets financial limitations; manages the schools of the county, outside of cities having a city superintendent as a unit and after much the same method of organization and management as has been found so effective in city school organizations; alters, consolidates,

or abolishes the school districts, as the best interests of education require; oversees the work of its executive officers; determines the county school tax; appropriates all funds; employs teachers, fixes and pays them their salaries; provides equal educational advantages and length of term for all schools in the county, and free high school advantages for all children; acts as a board of control for any county high school, teachers' training school, or parental school which may be established; looks after the buildings and repair of all school buildings, and the purchase of all books and school supplies; and, in general, manages the scattered schools of the county as though they were a compact city school system. Under such a system of school organization, educational progress can be made in a year which it would take a decade or more to obtain under the district system." 24

"The district system has long outlived its usefulness and should have been abandoned for a better one in keeping with the progress we have made in all other things. It is not the fault of the country that their schools are far behind the times. The system is suited only to the pioneer stage of civilization and cannot be made to function efficiently, in spite of the fact that country people today are the most intelligent and the most progressive we have ever had.

"Each third class district is governed by a board of three directors and in the average county there are from one hundred to three hundred directors to manage from thirty-five to one hundred different school systems, while a first class district in the same county is governed by a board of five directors, employs the same number of teachers and has approximately the same number of children to educate. The rural schools of most counties have far more directors than there are teachers employed in their schools.

"The district system has become a bad habit, and, like all bad habits, it is very hard to break. The system should be replaced by a better one and Colorado educators have made a careful study of our rural schools for more than a decade with that end in view. The National Commissioner of Education and several of his assistants have visited Colorado in an effort to aid in improving our rural schools. And after much study and consideration and the most careful investigation a bill was drawn for the improvement of our rural schools. It is known as the County Unit Bill." 25

24. Cubberly, Ellwood P. Rural Life and Education. pp.191-192.

25. Sargent, C.G. Better Country Schools in Colorado. pp.5-6.

Newsom and East Alamosa have been urged to consolidate with Alamosa city schools, but the districts in question have no desire to do so. It would be to the advantage of both districts to consolidate. The pupils would have better educational advantages, more and better equipment, the curriculum would be broader and greatly enriched, and their social contacts would mean much to the boys and girls. Newsom district closed her school for one year and sent the pupils to Alamosa, but decided there were too many small children, the busses were too cold and they had to leave home too early, so they reopened their own school the next year. East Alamosa will not consolidate because of the high tax levy. In Alamosa it is \$26.20, while in East Alamosa it is only \$16.07.

The following chart will show the valuations, levies and revenues:

VALUATIONS, LEVIES AND REVENUES OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS 26

	:	:	Valuations	:	Levies	:	Revenues
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Mosca	:	Con. 1	:	\$1,201,741	:	\$10.27:	\$12,341.88
Stanley	:	Con. 2	:	529,495	:	8.68:	4,596.01
Hooper	:	Con.23 Jt.:	:	922,424	:	13.69:	12,627.98
Mt. Pleasant	:	No. 1	:	538,230	:	4.13:	2,222.89
Waverly	:	No. 2	:	392,695	:	4.73:	1,857.45
Alamosa	:	No. 3	:	2,971,701	:	26.20:	77,858.56
Henry	:	No. 4	:	298,886	:	4.71:	1,407.75
East Alamosa:	:	No. 5	:	476,611	:	16.07:	7,659.14
Newsom)							
Becker)	:	No. 8	:	881,180	:	2.68:	2,361.56
Airdale	:	No. 9	:	180,170	:	9.91:	1,785.48
McGinty	:	No. 14	:	349,598	:	4.00:	1,398.39
Excelsior	:	No. 15 Jt.:	:	293,008	:	7.00:	2,051.06
Carmel	:	No. 17 Jt.:	:	173,255	:	4.80:	831.62
Star	:	No. 24 Jt.:	:	211,486	:	20.00:	4,229.72

The enterprising people of the San Luis Valley had felt for many years the need of an institution of higher learning, so in 1923 the Adams State Normal School (the name being changed to Adams State Teachers College of Southern Colorado by the legislature in 1929) was established by the Twenty-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado. The Twenty-fourth General Assembly provided funds for the erection of the building, which was completed in the fall of 1924.



Adams State Teachers College of
Southern Colorado.

The Board of Trustees was quite fortunate in securing Mr. Ira Richardson

as president, and the school opened its work with the summer of 1925 with three instructors. It has made rapid progress and the 1928-1929 faculty has 18 members.

The ideals of the College are loyalty, cooperation, and individual growth and development. As students go out from a college with such ideals, it at once becomes one of the greatest social factors of the territory it serves. Its contribution will be distinctively felt by making its facilities available to many who, because of distance, could not

otherwise attend college.

The College sponsors many social and recreational activities, of which the San Luis Outing Club is the most popular in the summer, and the Dramatic Club in the winter. The Outing Club stimulates active interest in the outdoors through excursions, picnics and mountain trips. The Dramatic Club puts on programs, not only for the student group, but for various organizations in Alamosa and other places, when requested to do so.

Every Christmas the College is responsible for a Christmas tree and a social evening to which students may invite their friends.

Each spring the College entertains the graduates of all the high schools of the valley.

There are many faculty-student parties throughout the year. Sometimes these are given at the College, sometimes at the Parish House, and sometimes they take the nature of a beefsteak fry or a trip to the mountains, sand dunes or other places of interest.

In addition to the formal education offered through the schools, there are sources of incidental education that are available. It is of interest to know how these are used.

Most of the farmers of the county receive the instructive government bulletins. These bulletins deal with fruits, seeds, stock raising, crops, bees, poultry, canning, house-keeping, and dress-making. These bulletins are read quite

regularly, not only by the farmer and his wife, but by many of the boys and girls. As a result of these bulletins and work done by the county agent, the work becomes much more interesting and the results more satisfactory.

About 80 percent of the homes receive some paper or magazine, the least number reported being two, and the greatest, six, or an average of four to the home. Farm journals hold first place, with "Farmers' Journal" and "Dairy Farmer" being most popular, followed by needlework magazines, "Country Gentleman", "Colliers'", "Woman's Home Companion", "Youth's Companion", "Woman's World", "Ladies' Home Journal", "Pictorial Review", "Good Housekeeping", "Cosmopolitan", and a few other magazines.

Most of the schools have small libraries. They range in size from a few volumes to a hundred or more, and consist for the most part of reference books, fiction, and school text books. Very few country people use the public library at Alamosa, but make good use of the fiction found in the school library.

Other educational opportunities are the various clubs for the boys, girls and women of the county, carried on by leaders selected from the various groups, under the direction of the county agent and county demonstrator.

Through these various channels, a large number of people in the county are keeping themselves well informed.

Besides the government bulletins, magazines, libraries and county clubs, there are usually one or two classes of Alamosa people studying psychology, literature, social problems, or whatever the group may decide upon. These classes are given as extension work, and the Adams State Teachers College of Southern Colorado gives credit to those who want it.

The radio plays no small part in furnishing information and entertainment to those who have radios, and to a great many others as well. The stock and grain market is gotten every day by those who are interested. If the individual who has no radio wants the information, he can get it free from his neighbor who does have one. Many worthwhile lectures are heard, as well as musical programs. I think it is a blessing in disguise that every home does not have a radio. It gives people an opportunity to get together oftener and get better acquainted. To know your neighbor is to love him.

CHAPTER III

RELIGIOUS AGENCIES

"Religion and church going are intensely social aspects of life as well as ethical, creedal, and ritualistic. Religion binds groups together and separates group from group. Church relationships create in an individual and in the social group of which he is a member, a desire to live well in this world and get along peaceably with his neighbor." ²⁷

The home-seeker of the more desirable sort gives the welfare of his family first consideration. For this reason, his first question concerning the town or community that has attracted his attention in a business way, is regarding the schools and churches. He knows that if the schools are progressive and the churches have a prominent part in the life of the community, his wife and children will enjoy the social atmosphere that makes for their advancement and real pleasure. Then, being satisfied with business conditions, he takes up his residence there.

In Alamosa County there are 11 denominations. They are: First Presbyterian, Second Presbyterian (which is a Spanish Church), Lutheran, Seventh Day Adventist, Methodist, Christian Science, Mormon, Episcopal, Baptist, Christian, Christian

27. Baumgartel, Walter H. A Social Study of Ravalli County, Montana. p. 3. 1921.



Seven Gables Community Center



Baptist



First Presbyterian

Churches of Alamosa



Catholic



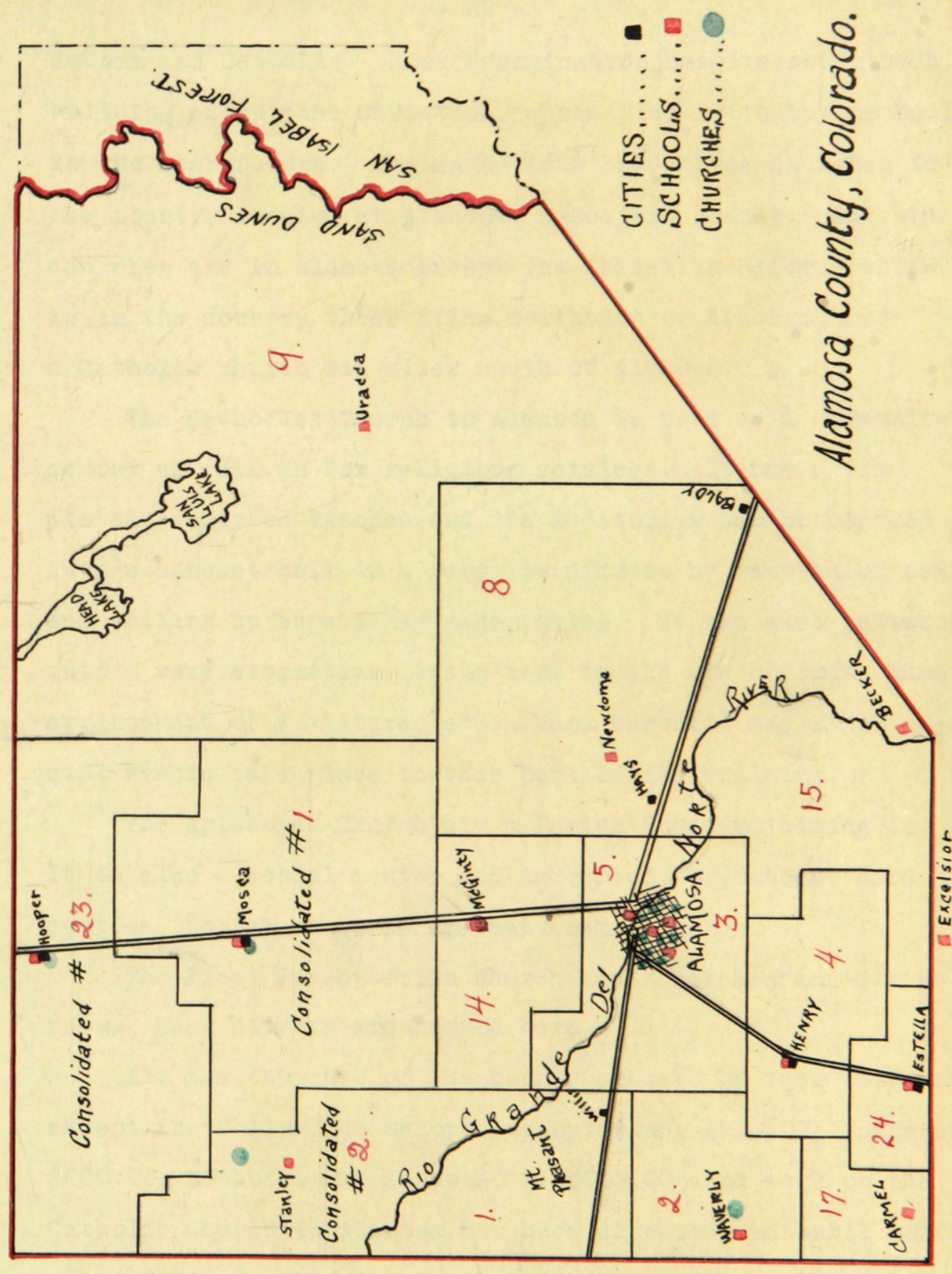
Christian Science



Seventh Day Adventist

Churches of Alamosa

Alamosa County, Colorado.



Reform and Catholic. Each denomination has its own church building except the Christian, whose plan is to buy or build in the near future. The Methodists have three churches in the county, located at Alamosa, Mosca and Hooper. All other churches are in Alamosa except the Christian Reform, which is in the country three miles northeast of Alamosa, and a Catholic church six miles south of Alamosa.

The Methodist Church in Alamosa is used as a community center as well as for religious services. It has a completely equipped kitchen, and the auditorium can be changed into a banquet hall in a very few minutes by removal of seats and setting up especially made tables. It can also be turned into a very attractive living room by the use of rugs, lamps, arrangement of furniture, etc. Many banquets and other social events take place in this part of the building.

The Episcopal Church has a Parish House adjoining it. It is also a social center and is rented for dances, card parties, social banquets and many other things.

The First Presbyterian Church has a kitchen and dining room. Many dinners are served here.

All the churches of the county seem to be free from debt except the following: Second Presbyterian, \$800.00; Lutheran, \$600.00; Methodist at Alamosa, \$13,500.00, and work on the Catholic Church in Alamosa has been discontinued until sufficient funds for its completion have been pledged.

All churches of the county have electric lights except the Methodist at Mosca, rural Catholic and Christian Reform, these three having acetylene lighting systems.

Stoves are used in all churches for heating except the Christian Science and Methodist in Alamosa, which have steam heat. These two churches also have indoor toilets, while others have outdoor toilets.

Three of the churches have organs; all others have pianos, the Methodist at Alamosa having three, and the Second Presbyterian, two.

Every church except the Christian Science, Seventh Day Adventist and the rural Catholic, have pastors living in the community. The Catholic Church is served by a priest from Monte Vista. The Christian Science and Seventh Day Adventist churches carry on their regular church activities the same as though they had resident pastors, but the rural Catholic Church does not accomplish as much as it would if it had a full time pastor living in the community.

The pastors' salaries range from \$960.00 per year to \$3,000.00, or an average of \$1,820.00 per year. All salaries are raised by subscription, except the Seventh Day Adventist, which is raised by tithing, and is paid by the Union Conference and not locally at all.

Of eight pastors reporting families, one has one person in the family, two have two persons, three have four persons and two have five persons.

All pastors but two are furnished parsonages. Three parsonages are constructed of brick and are in good condition, while the condition of the frame buildings is only fair.

An accurate complete record of membership is not kept by any of the churches, but clerks of the Methodist churches in Alamosa and Mosca, Catholic in Alamosa, the two Presbyterian churches, Seventh Day Adventist, Lutheran and Christian churches, willingly gave what the records show.

The numbers as given show a total enrollment of 2,219, of which 1,295 are Catholics. Of the 1,295 Catholics, 1,027 are Spanish people under 21 years of age. The total Spanish membership is 1,187, of which 160 are members of the second Presbyterian Church. It is estimated that more than 43 percent of the people in Alamosa are affiliated with some church.

In the Catholic church, 566 families are represented. Of this number, 249 are Spanish families. In 550 families, both man and wife belong to the Catholic Church; in 6 families, the wife or mother belongs, and in 10 families, the husband or father belongs to the church. Protestant churches keep no records of the number of families represented. In 1926 there were 68 males and 44 females who joined the seven Protestant churches by confession, and 55 males and 56 females who joined by statement, making a total of 223. The Catholic churches added 300 persons to their church rolls.

During this same period, there was a slight change in membership, 62 names having been withdrawn from the records.

The Catholic churches lost 8 males and 18 females by death, while the Protestant churches lost 4 males and 3 females by death, and 1 male and 26 females by letter. This left a net gain in the 8 churches for 1926, of 461, which is about 10 percent of the entire population of the county.

One Catholic Church and nine Protestant churches have full time pastors. The Methodist pastor at Mosca serves the Mosca community two Sundays each month, and the Blanca community the other two Sundays. There are three Protestant churches that have no regular pastor. The rural Catholic Church has services once every Sunday.

The Alamosa Methodist Church has good church attendance. At the morning services there are usually about 400 present. In the evening every available seat is filled and often many are standing. The church, under the efficient leadership of Rev. Gil Traveller, is alive and doing many very worth-while things. Everything undertaken by the church means progress, not only to the church but to the community as well. The church has a choir of 60 voices, with a well paid director. The best of every type of talent is sought and secured to take part in the services, which makes for great interest and greater success. The services are not denominational but community in spirit as well as in service.

The Spanish Presbyterian Church is doing a great work. Rev. M.D.J. Sanchez, who has been pastor of this church for several years, is very capable and highly esteemed not only

by his own congregation, but by all who know him. He, with the cooperation of his congregation, is doing a great deal to improve the social conditions of the Spanish speaking people. Many citizens of the county, including local preachers, have spoken of the good work being done in this church, saying that Rev. Sanchez was possibly performing more worth while service than any other pastor in the county. If any of the members need charity, it is taken care of by the church. They give aid to many outside the church.

The young people of the church are active workers. The work of the young people's organization carries over into the regular church work. They furnish special music for church services and have a social evening on an average of once a month.

The young men of the church have organized a club of twelve members. It meets twice a month. At one of the meetings they have a speaker, usually a leading citizen of Alamosa, who, after the meeting, discusses with them problems which they have brought for discussion. The problems are usually those of adjustments, how to fit into the various groups into which they might be thrown. At the other meeting they discuss problems peculiar to their own people.

One of the liveliest churches in the entire county is the Christian Reform Church at Waverly. Rev. Gerben Zylstra, a graduate of Princeton University as well as a leading seminary, is the pastor. They have weekly meetings which are

well attended by the entire community.

The Mosca Methodist Church is active and making progress. The young people are interested and do a great deal to help keep up the interest of the church.



Methodist Church and parsonage
at Mosca, Colorado.

The Christian Science Church has services every Sunday evening, and about 200 are usually in attendance. When they have a lecturer from the Mother Church they cannot accommodate all who wish to go. The Sunday School is well attended by the young people up to 20 years of age. This church maintains free reading rooms which are open to the public Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

The other Protestant churches have very poor church attendance. The pastors are well qualified and very capable, yet for some reason there is a lack of interest. I think this lack of interest is due to lack of "push" in the pastor, lack of good music, and lack of general cooperation.

The First Presbyterian Church usually has from 15 to 30 in attendance at the morning services, and the evening services were discontinued because of lack of interest. The

Baptist Church has about 50 at the morning services and rarely more than 12 in the evening.

The Catholic churches have a large membership and the attendance is good. In Alamosa, the present place of worship was built in the early days and has long since been outgrown. It is being replaced by a \$75,000 cathedral. This will be known as Sacred Heart Church, and the building will include a rectory school and convent, the latter two features to be included in a wing planned for the original building and not included in the \$75,000 estimated cost.

The Salvation Army maintains quarters in Alamosa and renders good service, especially in the way of providing food and fuel for those incapacitated for work.

Five churches have mid-week prayer services. There is little interest and attendance is very poor. In addition to the mid-week prayer services, there have been a number of training courses, county and district conventions, associational meetings, and other special services. These are well attended.

Each church has a Sunday School. The superintendents could furnish no accurate records as to attendance and collection, but I visited several of the Sunday Schools and can say that the religious welfare of the children is well looked after through the Sunday schools, and also through junior church clubs and leagues. A great hindrance to all Sunday schools, except two, is that all classes are conducted in one

room. Only three Sunday schools make any attempt at graded work.

Four churches have young people's meetings. The Epworth League of the Alamosa Methodist Church has a social hour which lasts for 30 minutes, just before the regular meeting. This does much to create interest, increase attendance, and give young people an opportunity to get acquainted. Young people of all denominations are interested, and attend and take part in all activities sponsored by this organization. It is a great asset to the church.

Four of the churches have social organizations. These are the regular missionary and aid societies. They do work similar to all such organizations. The Methodist Church at Alamosa has many social activities sponsored by different groups of the church. These affairs are varied, sometimes a banquet, home talent play, a tea, a beefsteak fry, a picnic, and trips to different places of interest. Such activities in the church create and foster good fellowship.

During the summer of 1926, a Daily Vacation Bible School was conducted in Alamosa. It was to have been undenominational, but it seems as though it did not prove to be undenominational, so this phase of religious work is given no attention at present.

All of the churches of the county make strangers feel at home, and visitors are assured of a hearty welcome.

In conclusion, I shall say that the morals of the people are, with a very few exceptions, good. However, in connection with the church, I would make the following suggestions:

Have a community church with no creed; as long as there are different denominations, get rid of petty jealousies between pastors and churches; have more and better chaperoned recreations for young people; create and develop in the young people a desire to shun questionable places; teach in the church, as well as in the home, the sacredness of the marriage bond; have more and better music; less gossiping and more prayer; more visiting; more sociability and better financial support.

CHAPTER IV

HEALTH AGENCIES

In the county of Alamosa there are nine physicians, three osteopaths, three chiropractors, four dentists, and five nurses. Three of the nurses are trained, the other two are practical nurses. All of these are located in Alamosa, except one physician who lives in Hooper. The nurses work in the Alamosa Hospital, which is owned and operated by Dr. Davlin, one of the local physicians.

The hospital is not large, but is adequate for Alamosa County and surrounding territory. It serves on an average about fifty patients per month. The running expense averages about \$1200.00 per month. It is quite clean and sanitary. Everything is kept in first class condition.

In the year 1926 there were one hundred and four deaths in that county. The ages of the persons and the cause of their deaths cannot be given due to the fact that the records are not accurately kept. The same is true of the births.

Dr. Davlin is the county health officer. He is appointed by the county commissioners and his salary is \$25.00 a month. From this small remuneration we may know that service for the county is very meager.

As a part of the health program, a report from the official proceedings of a meeting of the county commissioners

held in January, 1927, setting out aid given the associated charities. is given below:

Money paid to four blind persons - \$67.50 to one, and \$37.50 to each of the remaining three, making a total of \$180.00.

From the mothers' compensation fund, six mothers were given aid as follows: First - \$30.00; second - \$25.00; third - \$20.00; fourth - \$30.00; fifth - \$20.00; sixth - \$15.00.

Judge B. T. Poxson, who has charge of the mothers' compensation fund, says that the amount is not adequate, nor is the manner of securing it satisfactory. The amount which is allowed for each following year depends on the number of mothers getting compensation the present year. For instance, there are two mothers receiving compensation this year, so the commissioners provide for two mothers for the following year. The following year three or more mothers may need compensation, but they receive no aid from the county because they have not been provided for by the commissioners. This compensation applies to the fathers in the same manner as it does to the mothers. It is called the mothers' compensation fund because it is usually a mother left with children who needs the help. A man when left with children is usually able to earn enough so he can support his children and hire a woman to keep house, but if a man is not able to provide for his children, he then receives

aid from the mothers' compensation fund.

The health officer and the town board have charge of the control of contagious diseases. A strict quarantine is observed, thus causing a limited number of such cases. The school made a survey for vaccination for small pox, and, during the small pox epidemic, those not vaccinated were barred from school. The State Clinic examines the rural children once in about three years. Three rural schools, Mosca, Hooper, and Excelsior, weigh their pupils once a month and report to parents if pupils are overweight or under-weight, and a diet is suggested. All water used in the schools is artesian well water and is considered pure.

In all the Alamosa city schools 60 to 90 minutes each week are devoted to health work. A part of this time is used in examining children. The teeth of all children in the first eight grades are examined once a year and parents notified. The eyes are taken care of only when the teacher discovers they need it.

All children in the Alamosa schools are weighed twice a month and measured twice a year. Each city school is provided with first aid boxes.

There is adequate food inspection in the city of Alamosa, but there is no inspection in the country. All dairies from which the milk comes that is used in Alamosa are inspected once a month. The barns must be clean, the cows' udders must

be free from dirt, and the milk must contain at least $3\frac{1}{2}$ percent butterfat.

All restaurants, markets, soda fountains, pool halls selling soft drinks, and the packing house are inspected once a month by a city inspector. Flies must be kept away from fresh fruit. The packing house has no state inspection, but all animals butchered are inspected by Doctors Wadleigh and Decker, veterinaries of Monte Vista.

CHAPTER V

SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL AGENCIES

Alamosa, Mosca, and Hooper are the principal social centers of the county, Alamosa being the largest.

Alamosa County has six federated clubs: Women's Citizenship Club, Evening Study Club, Current Event Club, Music Club, P. E. O. Society, all of Alamosa, and the Columbine Club at Mosca, all of which are of an educational nature. This bespeaks the intellectuality and high standards of the people of these communities.

In September, 1922, when the Woman's National Foundation Club dissolved, the Alamosa chapter reorganized under the name of the Women's Citizenship Club. It was federated in 1923. The purpose of the organization is to raise the standard of woman's citizenship. Although the pursuits of the club are chiefly intellectual, many activities of a highly philanthropic nature are attributed to this source. -- for instance, generous contributions to the national fund for blind veterans of the World War, subscription to the Sarah Platt-Decker Memorial Fund and to the State Educational Fund for Girls. The club programs for the year embrace the study of citizenship, literature, drama, music, and art.

The Evening Study Club had its beginning in July, 1919, when fifty-one women of Alamosa organized the Alamosa

Delphian chapter. Meetings continued until the latter part of December, ending after the holidays due to lack of attendance. Some wished to meet in the afternoons, serving light refreshments. Others, who worked during the day, could not meet except in the evenings. A compromise could not be effected.

Nine months later seven of the latter group met and reorganized as the Beta Delphian Chapter, making application for a charter. This was granted in January, 1921, and there were fourteen charter members. In 1922 it was admitted to the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs. Many in this group became dissatisfied, and attendance was poor because of lack of interest, so this group reorganized in October, 1926, as the Evening Study Club, with fourteen charter members, the limit being twenty-five. To qualify for membership one must be studious, alert, serious-minded, and willing to work. It became a federated club in 1927. This club takes up some interesting line of study and follows it through the year. It may be history, fiction, drama, or any subject the group may decide upon. A program committee makes the program for the year, each member selecting the topic she wishes to present. They have two social meetings a year to which they invite their friends. The club contributes annually to the Scholarship Fund of Colorado Federated Women's Club, Near East Relief Fund, and Sarah Platt-Decker Memorial. It assists each year in the Better Homes

Week, Music Week, Electric Home Week, and Christmas Tree Fund.

The Current Event Club was the first study club to be organized in Alamosa, coming into existence in 1906, seven years before Alamosa County was formed. Mrs. Julia Graham is the only charter member who is still with the organization. The purpose of the club is the mental advancement of its members, but the activities to which it is devoted are an important factor in the progress of a "Better Alamosa". The membership in this club is restricted to twenty. The very rare vacancies are filled through invitation and determined by ballot. The club is interested in all civic enterprises, assisting in the upkeep of the park and rest room, taking part in the civic Christmas tree exercises, contributing generously to the supply of books and pictures in the schools and library. Twenty dollars is also paid annually to the state scholarship fund for girls. The course of study pursued is of a miscellaneous nature, and is arranged annually by a program committee.

The Alamosa Music Club was organized in 1922, with a charter membership of eight. The object was obviously to promote the interests of music. The organization is now federated, belonging to the National Federation of Music Clubs. Although there is allowed a membership of forty, there are only about fifteen active members, and it is to be regretted that more of the music lovers of Alamosa do

not avail themselves of the privileges afforded them in this way. The activities of the club are extensive. In addition to presenting at least one really good musical production, it sponsors Music Week each year for the people of Alamosa, contributes generously to the supply of music books in the schools and the public library, and is helping to pay for a piano for the high school. Each year the club puts on a program, the proceeds of which are given to the Adams State Teachers College.

The Service Club of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad fosters a rather exceptional band among the shop employees of the railroad. This band of about 25 members is employed by the city during the summer months to give an evening concert once each week in the park near the railway station.

The high school band organized during the last two years has a membership of approximately 30 and has made very favorable progress. They have come into possession of uniforms recently by contributions from citizens, clubs, and other organizations.

The P. E. O. was organized in Alamosa June 19, 1915, with a charter membership of seven, of which Mrs. Rex is the only present charter member. The purpose of the order is purely educational, covering each year a miscellaneous course of study arranged by a program committee. There is also a social element and light refreshments are served at

each meeting. One important feature of the work is the liberal contributions each year to the State Educational Fund for Girls. This money is lent free of interest to worthy girls recommended by the state board, for the purpose of completing their education. The membership is restricted to thirty, which is now filled, and vacancies from time to time are filled by ballot. Interest and attendance in this organization are good.

The Columbine Club at Mosca has been federated since 1922. It has a membership of twenty, who attend regularly. The purpose is educational, yet at the close of each meeting there is a social period when light refreshments are served. The club helps the school buy pictures and books. It has much civic pride and is instrumental in having pretty lawns, streets kept clear of weeds, and better home conditions.

The Daughters of the American Revolution came into existence in 1926, with a membership of eight. The chief purposes of this club are social and to keep alive the spirit and memory of the Revolutionary patriots.

In Alamosa County there are thirteen secret organizations. They are the Masons, with a membership of 448, 46 of whom belong to the chapter at Hooper; the Elks; Independent Order of Odd Fellows, with a membership of 40; Woodmen of the World, with a membership of 62; Modern Woodmen of the World; American Legion, membership being

101; Knights of Columbus; Order of Eastern Star, with a membership of 312, 52 of whom belong to the chapter at Hooper; Rebecca, membership, 153; Neighbors of Wood Craft, membership, 45; Royal Neighbors, membership, 78; American Legion Auxiliary, with a membership of 20.

These organizations all have their regular meetings twice a month, but they are not very well attended. Occasionally there are dances, luncheons or dinners for the members, their families and friends. They are well attended.

The Mexican organization of S.P.M.D.T.U. at Alamosa, with a membership of 52, is a part of a valley-wide organization of 2700 members, with headquarters at Antonito. The sole purposes are social and insurance. All members take out insurance of \$550.00, which is to be used for burial purposes. In Alamosa this organization has dances twice a month, and often there are other kinds of entertainment to raise funds to help needy Mexican families. The meetings of this organization are the only all-Mexican social gatherings, except those of the Spanish Presbyterian Church, which are well attended.

The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad has several local federations, such as Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths and Helpers, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders,

and Helpers of America, and the Auxiliaries. These groups have their regular meetings and social activities the same as other fraternal organizations.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union in Alamosa has a membership of 32. They meet twice a month and after the regular business meeting enjoy a social hour together.

Alamosa has a live, wide-awake Chamber of Commerce that does things. Every Monday it has a luncheon to which everyone is invited. The average number attending these luncheons is 75. At each meeting a different group is responsible for the program; in this there is keen competition. As a result, the entertainment is first class in every respect.

One of the greatest events of the year socially and otherwise is sponsored annually by the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce. It is the San Luis Valley Seed Show, the expense of which is in the neighborhood of \$1000.00. In 1926 the third show was held with approximately 10,000 in attendance on the third and last day. On this day the Potato King and Queen of the Harvest were crowned. The Shop Employees Band of Denver, consisting of forty pieces, and the Rio Grande County Boys Band, eighty strong, furnished the music. In the evening the Denver Band played for a dance at the Elks Hall, which was thrown open free for the occasion. Each evening of the show there were nightly programs put on by the Civic Club. Local musicians and entertainers volunteered graciously their services. The selection of the Queen of

the Harvest was the headliner of the evening programs. After the queen and her maids of honor were chosen, a fascinating coronation under the direction of Mrs. James R. Moland was staged on the last evening, climaxing the successful seed show.

A representative of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Film Company came down from Denver and made a "movie" of the main events of the day, including the ceremony of the crowning of the queen, with her court of honor.

Annual meetings known as "Friendship" or "Get Acquainted" meetings are held in various communities in Alamosa County. The group from Alamosa, usually about 50 in number, furnishes excellent programs and the people of the community visited furnish the refreshments. These meetings give the business men and farmers an opportunity to become better acquainted, and they promote the general welfare of the communities, creating and fostering good fellowship, and a much more kindly feeling exists between the town and country groups.

The Civic Club, an auxiliary to the Chamber of Commerce, was organized in 1921. The purpose of the organization was to assist the members of the Chamber of Commerce in making Alamosa a better and more beautiful place in which to live. It has an actual membership of 54, but the active membership is very much smaller. Much credit is due the ladies who have put their whole hearts into this enterprise, and

much has been accomplished. Some of the worth-while things they have done are: Planted trees and flowers in all public grounds and donated trees to all the churches, with the request that each improve the church property; sponsored city cleanup campaigns; aided in better home movements; furnished and maintained a rest room; made generous donations to the teachers' college and public libraries; put in walks at Hermon Playground; started Triangle Park, now taken over by the city; and started the Civic Park. Due to the shortage of water, the work there has been temporarily suspended until such time as this drawback is overcome, in which event sufficient money is held in the treasury to complete the work.

The fund derived from the membership fees, of one dollar each per year, has been highly insufficient to finance all these enterprises and additional money has been raised in various ways, such as holding toy day, giving minstrel and picture shows, holding cooking and rummage sales, and conducting refreshment stands on various occasions.

The greatest social event the Civic Club ever sponsored was the Governor's Ball, which took place when William H. (Billy) Adams of Alamosa became governor of Colorado. Governor Adams and Mrs. Herrick, president of the club, led the grand march, in which about five hundred people participated. After the grand march, the evening was spent dancing and visiting.

There is but one suggestion I would make to the Civic Club and that is that there be a better disposition of tin cans and other rubbish which is found strewn along the river, in Sunshine Park, and various other places.

The Rotary Club, organized in 1923, - a member of Rotary International - a service club meeting at dinner on Friday evening of each week, has a membership of approximately 55 men, chosen, one each, from various business and professional activities according to a standard classification list. It fosters good-will, friendliness, and fellowship, and is strongly interested in international peace.

The local club interests itself in boys' and girls' work through a special committee which promotes an annual track meet for the county, has purchased instruments for the local high school band, and aided in promoting the exhibit of animals raised by members of 4-H clubs.

The club holds "Farmers' Nights", when each member has a farmer from the county as a guest. On "International Night" each member brings as his guest a foreign-born citizen. Other special programs are: Father and Son Night, Father and Daughter Night, Mothers' Night, and three or four Ladies' Evenings for the wives and friends of members. The club also fosters a Hobby Show and a Dog and Pony Show by boys and girls.

The Kiwanis Club is a similar international service club, organized in 1929, with approximately 45 members chosen on a similar basis to Rotary, but allowing two members from each classified business or profession. Its activities and purposes are generally similar to Rotary. Its meetings are also held on Friday evenings.

In the county there are eight card clubs. They meet twice a week and give first and second prizes. These are well attended. In the spring several big parties are given at the Parish House, four ladies entertaining at a bridge luncheon about a hundred guests. Five prizes are given, ranging in price up to ten dollars.

There is a Past Matron's Club that meets twice a month, a Dancing Club of twenty couples that meets every two weeks in the Parish House, and three sewing clubs that have no purpose other than social.

Alamose has six tennis courts; four are on the public school playgrounds and two belong to the college. This number does not supply the demand. The courts at the college are reserved for the students when they can use them, other times anyone who wishes may use them.

Alamose boasts of three parks, Sunshine Park, Triangle Park, and Civic Park; but they are of no benefit to the people at the present time. They are new and are not yet developed enough to be enjoyed.

The Civic Club, with the whole community cooperating, is striving to establish a playground where the children of the community may have supervised play during the summer months.

Alamosa in 1924 made application to the Harmon Foundation for aid. It was one of the 54 communities selected out of about 800 applications, so the Harmon Playfield was established. The land was purchased and the deed vested in District Number 3.

Harmon Playfield has a grass plot 50 feet by 160 feet, with a fence around it. There is a great deal of shrubbery, also flowers and 110 trees, in the way of beautification. It has a flag pole, wading pool, wave slide, horizontal bar, giant stride, and three swing sets.

At present it is not used a great deal because of lack of shade, but as soon as the trees are large enough to furnish shade, Harmon Playfield will be extensively used for recreation. The teachers' college has offered to furnish a supervisor for one or two hours a day during the summer months.

In Alamosa there are three pool halls. Two of them are considered good, clean places where some of the best people of the county spend a part of their time. They are quite busy places evenings and Saturday afternoons. The other pool hall has many frequenters all the time. It is said to be a place where gambling is carried on and liquor changes hands.

No attempt is made to learn definitely just what does take place there.

Dancing in Alamosa County is a favorite pastime for both the old and young. In Alamosa there are two halls where public dances are held. They are the American Legion Building and the Elks Hall. These dances are clean. The management of both places will not tolerate any questionable conduct whatsoever. The Elks give a dance every Friday night, the proceeds of which go to charity. The Masonic and Odd Fellows halls are used by these orders for dances and they sometimes rent them for private dances. The Parish House is used twice a month by the Dancing Club and is rented for private dances on an average of once a week. Roseland is a dance hall just outside the city limits. It is a place where the best people do not go. Nobody investigates, but most parents see that their children do not go there. The Spanish people have a dance once a week in their hall. In the country communities the school houses are used quite often for dances.

Alamosa would be rendering a great service to her young people if she required the management of Roseland to run a clean place of amusement.

There are two theaters in Alamosa. They are open evenings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Both theaters give good, clean shows. The Legion has quite high class pictures such as the Student Prince and Ben Hur. It has a good vaude-

ville performance every Monday evening, at which time the theater is filled for both shows. The other theater has more pictures of the wild west type. Both houses have capacity crowds Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings.

These shows are well attended by the country people. On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings and Saturday afternoons one can hardly find parking space in the down-town district.

Alamosa County has a Carnegie library, which cost about \$8000.00, including fixtures. The Colorado Year Book, 1927, shows that in 1924

there were "6691 volumes and 6775 registered borrowers".

Most of the books are fiction. Occasionally teachers draw out several books to use in the classroom.



Carnegie Library

College students make good use of what material is available. The library would serve the community much better if there were more reference books, more books that could be used in connection with school work, and fewer novels. The library is maintained entirely by city taxation. A few dollars are added to the fund by a five-cent charge for each new book taken out and fines of two

cents a day for each day a book is over-due. Very few people outside of Alamosa use the library, but those who do pay a fee of one dollar per year for the privilege.

In Alamosa there are three newspapers: Daily Courier with a circulation of 350, of which 300 are within the county; Weekly Courier with a circulation of 550, of which 300 are within the county; and Alamosa Journal, a semi-weekly paper, with a circulation of 1150, of which 850 are within Alamosa County.

In addition to the three local papers there are 1000 subscribers to the Denver Post, 900 of whom are in Alamosa. People take the local paper just to know what is happening around them, but for state, national, and international news they prefer a Denver paper.

The 4-H clubs in Colorado are doing a great work for the boys and girls of the state ranging in age from 10 to 18 years.

Alamosa County has three girls' clubs and seven boys' clubs. It has a county agent, Mr. Max E. Grandy, who gives all his time to Alamosa County, and Mrs. Ramona Ryan, who serves Alamosa, Conejos and Rio Grande counties as assistant county extension agent, supervising the home demonstration work.

The girls have three kinds of clubs. They are: The Breed Club, with three members, located in East Alamosa; Meal Preparation Club, with three members, located in East

Alamosa; and three Clothing Clubs. One Clothing Club is located in Newsom community and has seven members; one is in Hooper community, with a membership of eleven; and the third club is in the Stanley community and has nine members.

Each club has a local leader who meets with the girls every two weeks. The meetings are conducted by the girls. Each meeting is divided into three parts: First, business meeting; second, work period; and third, play period. Each girl answers to roll call with a report of her project, what she has made, or how she has helped her mother. Second is the work period, at which time the girls may discuss some phase of the work, a special report may be given, or the leader may give suggestions or give a talk on different phases of the club work. The third part is the play period, at which time they sing songs, give readings, tell stories, or play games. Sometimes these meetings take the form of an excursion into the hills, which is very commendable if they do not lose sight of the real work.

The boys' clubs are county-wide. The meetings are held in different communities as the clubs may decide. The Potato Club has seven members and meets at Mosca; Beef Calf Club has eleven members and meets alternately at Alamosa and Mosca; Dairy Calf Club has ten members and meets at Mosca, Hooper, or Alamosa, as the club may decide; Lamb Club has ten members and meets at Mosca, Hooper, and Alamosa; Pig Club has five members and meets at Mosca or Alamosa; Poultry Club, with six members,

meets in Mosca; and the Rabbit Club, with eight members, meets in East Alamosa.

All of the boys' 4-H clubs do not have local leaders, but are under the direct supervision of Mr. Grandy. The meetings are carried on in the same manner as the girls' meetings, but the play period does not receive so much attention.

In these clubs there is a total membership of 89. They are all active workers and much is being accomplished. More boys and girls are becoming interested and the membership is increasing from time to time.

The motto of the 4-H clubs is "Make the Best Better" and the major purposes are to make leaders, better citizens, better homes, and better practices.

The 4-H clubs of the valley, of which Alamosa County is a part, have a camp known as the San Luis Valley 4-H Club Camp. This camp came into existence in 1925, and it plays no small part in reaching the goals sought by the various clubs. Much credit is due to C. W. Ferguson, E. D. Smith, and L. R. Rochford, of the Colorado Agricultural College, (Mr. Rochford being county agent of Alamosa County at the time the camp was established) for organizing the camp and making it a success. It is natural for boys and girls to want to go camping in the mountains or along streams where they can "rough it", so to speak, and be close to nature.



4-H Club Members at Play



The Dinner Hour

The age they are in club work is the "gang" age and the social or group age. They like to work and play in groups. The camps bring them together with the same interest - club work. They have a chance to develop leadership, opportunities for making friendships, exchanging experiences, having fun, and getting good educational instruction in the various lines of club work. The time at camp is divided into three parts: The morning is used for instruction and demonstration, the afternoon for hikes, and the evening for a social time. The social time around a camp fire in the evening, with songs, games, and stunts, has an important place in the development of the boys and girls.,

The San Luis Valley 4-H Club Camp is held for two days at Masonic Park in Rio Grande County, about 75 miles from Alamosa. The cost to each member is \$1.00. The Masons of the valley own the park and they make no charge for the use of it. While in camp the boys sleep in the Mason Building and the girls sleep in the Eastern Star Building. The meals are prepared by a cook in the covered camp kitchen (12 feet by 14 feet) and served in cafeteria style. The counties, school districts, and citizens of different communities furnish the transportation without cost to the boys and girls, some of whom come a distance of 140 miles.

The camp register in 1925 showed that there were "21 leaders, 165 girls, 98 boys, 1 nurse, 1 cook, 2 county



Mr. C. W. Ferguson talking to the leaders
and 4-H Club members who attended camp in
1925



Boys who attended the San Luis Valley 4-H
Club camp in 1925

Leaders of the
1925 camp



Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag
and to the United States of Amer-
ica and to the republic for
which it stands; one nation in-
divisible, with liberty and jus-
tice for all.

A group of club girls



agents, 1 state worker, making a camp of 289 people, with 18 different communities represented".²⁸

The men do not have regular club work. They think they cannot spare the time, but much has been done along the lines of seed improvement, better quality of livestock, suitable crops, and crop rotation.

The farm women are becoming more and more interested in the county club work. There are clubs in the Mosca, Waverly, and Excelsior communities. Mrs. Ryan meets with these clubs twice a month and assists them in working out their problems.

The success of the extension work in Alamosa County is due in part to the hearty cooperation of both the farmer and the city folk, and to the local leaders, who have given generously of their time and energy.

The results of the county extension work are far-reaching. Farm boys and girls are becoming more interested in the farm, leaders are being trained and the members learn how to conduct a meeting properly. Better homes, better citizens, and better practices are being developed. Farm women are more interested in making the home better and more attractive and the farm men have been made happier. to say nothing of the financial gain, from a better knowledge of seed selection and improvement, crop rotation, better sires, and better practices on the farm.

28. Annual Report for the Year Ending 1925, p. 20, C. W. Ferguson.

CHAPTER VI

COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION

Social as well as educational and economic prosperity is dependent on cheap, reliable, and efficient means of communication and transportation.

The postal department at Alamosa renders excellent service to the people of Alamosa and Alamosa County. In the post office there are ten employees, including the postmaster and three rural carriers. The post office employees receive \$18,200.00 per year and the three rural carriers \$9,000.00, or a total of \$27,200.00. This makes an average per capita of about \$5.50 per year, which is very cheap. The rural carriers cover a distance of 196 miles daily and serve 1750 patrons, or about 80 percent of the rural population. The greatest distance any farmer has to go for his mail is six miles, the average being one-half mile.

There are two daily first class combination passenger and mail busses from Alamosa to Salida and return. One goes from Alamosa to Salida via Mosca, Hooper, Moffat, Mineral Hot Springs, Salida, and return, a distance of 236 miles. The other bus goes only to Mineral Hot Springs, via Monte Vista, Center, Saguache, and makes connection with the Alamosa-Salida bus. Other passengers are carried to these towns by special busses from Alamosa to Colorado Springs via Walsenburg and Pueblo which do not carry mail.

Railroad service in the county is good, but freight rates are high. The people who ship out agricultural products and livestock are doing what they can to have the rates reduced, but have not yet succeeded. Operating trains in a mountainous country is expensive.

Alamosa is the principal railroad center in the San Luis Valley and one of the most active railroad towns in the state. From it radiate

four railroads which pass through all the principal social and trade centers of the county. Two of these lines are standard guage and two are narrow guage lines. One



Depot at Alamosa, Colorado.

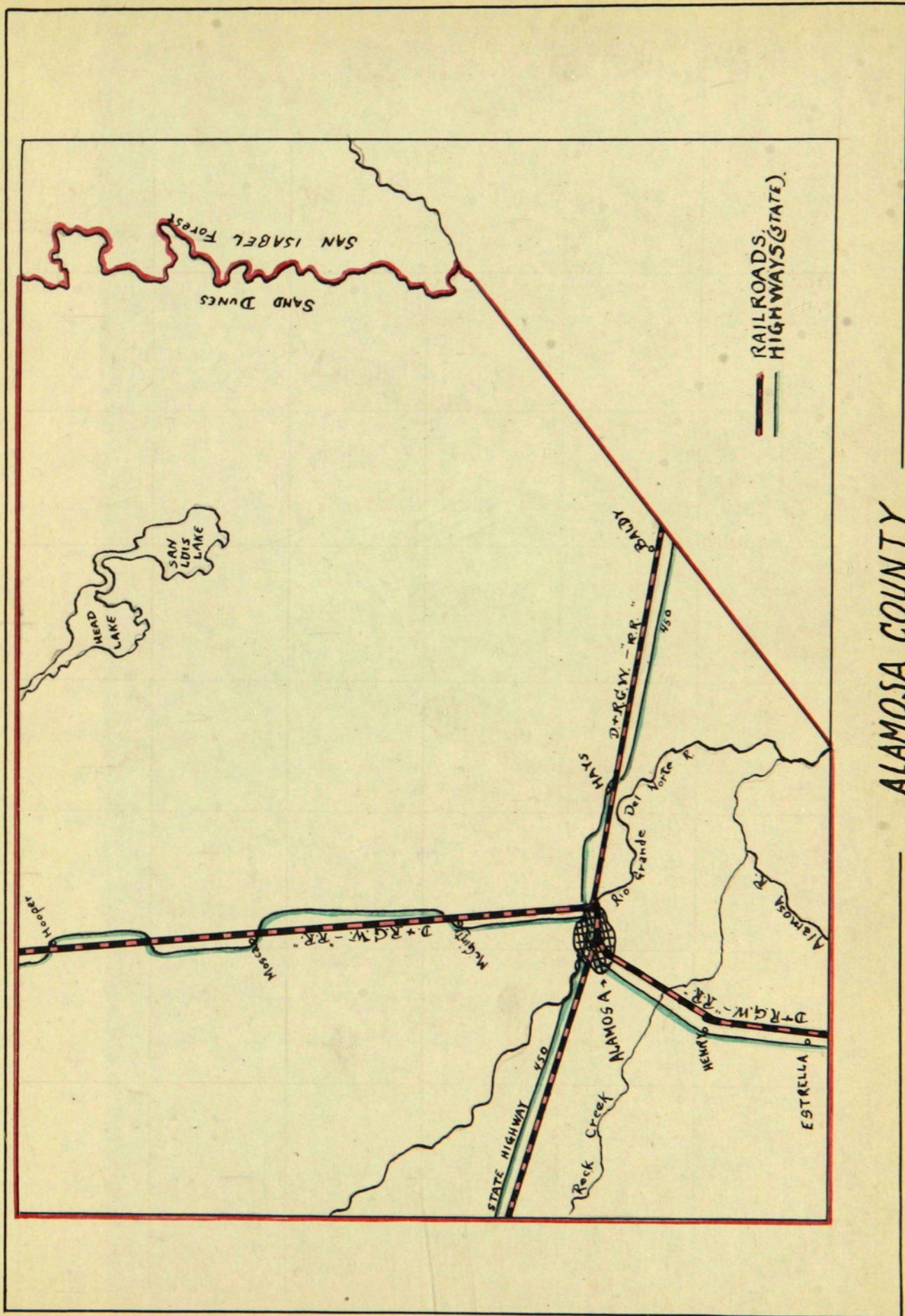
of the standard guage lines enters the county from the east, running from Denver to Pueblo and Alamosa, and the other, known as the San Luis Valley branch, runs northwest through the valley from Alamosa to its terminus at Creede. One of the narrow guage lines leads from Alamosa to Antonito, Conejos County, where it branches, one line running westward to Durango and the other directly south to Santa Fe, New Mexico. The other narrow guage line runs northward from Alamosa through the valley to a connection with the main line at Salida. Because of the expense of operating this line,

it has been discontinued and bus service has been substituted for both passengers and mail. All of these railroads cover a distance of "51.45"²⁹ miles and belong to the Denver & Rio Grande Western system centering at Alamosa.

Alamosa County has "53.6"³⁰ miles of state roads, and "416"³¹ miles of county roads, or a total of "471.6"³² miles of state and county roads. There are numerous trails, generally not well improved but level and passable almost the entire year. The state and county roads are worked and kept in good condition so the trade, social, and recreational centers can be reached at any time of the year without difficulty. The principal state highway is the Spanish Trail, which follows the standard guage line of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad and is surfaced entirely across the county. Another state highway is that passing north and south through the county by way of Alamosa along the route of the narrow guage branch of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad.

Good roads are an essential factor in the social as well as economic life of any group of people. Good roads in Alamosa County have done much to improve the social atmosphere, increase the size of the social groups, bring

29. Colorado Year Book, 1927. p. 168.
30. Colorado Year Book, 1927, p. 138.
31. Colorado Year Book, 1927, p. 138.
32. Colorado Year Book, 1927, p. 188.



ALAMOSA COUNTY,
COLORADO

more and different types of recreation within reach of practically every person, and make people happier and better contented.

Practically every phase of social life has been touched and improved because of good roads and the use of automobiles, of which there are "1646" ³³ in the county. From Alamosa there is first class daily bus service to the most important social and trade centers. The consolidated schools, of which Alamosa County has three, have been made possible because of good roads, and people in the country have a greater interest and are more active in the church and Sunday school. There are many recreational and rest centers such as Crestons, Sand Dunes, Masonic Park, and others, within a day's trip from Alamosa.

The social fabric is much more closely woven by good roads and a "we" feeling has come to exist between the various country groups and the town and county groups.

Not only have good roads and automobiles enlarged social groups and made possible many more social gatherings, but the telephone is a great social factor.

In Alamosa County there are 930 telephones, 867 of which are owned by the Mountain States Telephone Company. If there is a total population in the county of 5000 and there are 930 telephones, there is approximately one-fifth

33. Colorado Year Book, 1927, p. 190.

as many telephones as there are people, which is a very good showing. The service is cheap. A one-party residence phone costs \$27.00 per year and a two-party residence phone costs \$24.00 per year. A one-party business phone is \$48.00 per year and a two-party business phone is \$42.00 per year.

The telephone office employs twenty persons, seventeen in the office and three linemen. The service is excellent. One is never left to wonder if his party is going to answer.

The telephone is an important social agency. It is a partial solution of the problem of isolation for the farm women, and information as to household methods is distributed. It is an aid to the farmer in securing help when needed and in fixing dates for meetings. Social affairs can be quickly and conveniently arranged without waste of time. In some places it may do away with social contact, but this is not true in Alamosa County.

Postal service, railroads, good highways, and telephones are of great importance in the promotion of any constructive social program.

"With the extension of good roads, use of the automobile, the telephone, and the rural free delivery, we may expect a corresponding increase in general intelligence, a broadening of interests and of spirit, an increase in cooperative community activity, a better educational system, an increase in love of the country as a place to have a home, a higher plane

of religious life, and a general quickening of the sluggish movements of social life on the farm into the living stream of spirit enriching cultural existence, which belongs to the country as much as it does to the city." ³⁴

34. Introduction to Rural Sociology, Paul L. Vogt, pp. 59-60.

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APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

Social Survey

Alamosa County, Colorado

School Section

I. Name of school and number of district _____

II. Name of teacher _____

III. Buildings

Kind of building _____

Size _____ Color _____ Foundation _____

Painted _____ Number of windows and doors _____

State of repair _____

General appearance _____

Is there a teacherage? If so, describe _____

Kind and _____

IV. Equipment

Kind of seats and repair _____

Kind and condition of blackboards _____

charts, maps, etc. (Enumerate and state condition) _____

Pictures and other decorations (describe) _____

Library (describe) _____

Other equipment _____

Lighting (describe) _____

Heating and Ventilation (describe) _____

V. Sanitation

Means of obtaining water _____

Equipment for washing _____

Inside or outside toilet and condition _____

How is floor cleaned? _____

How often is floor scrubbed? _____

Who does janitor work? _____

Health conditions so far this year _____

VI. School Grounds

Fenced? _____ Size _____

Shaded? (describe) _____

Condition of grounds (describe) _____

Play apparatus (Name) _____

In what condition is apparatus? _____

Does teacher take part in the play? _____

VII. The Teacher

Name _____ Age _____

Nationality _____ Where reared? _____

Of what church a member? _____

Education (Be specific)

Elementary _____

Secondary _____

Normal and college training _____

What further training are you planning? _____

Certificate you hold _____

Do you like to teach? _____ Are you interested
primarily in rural education? _____

Where do you live in district? (Distance to the
school) _____

Are you acquainted with the parents of the children?

To what extent do you take part in community activities? _____

Had you lived in the country before teaching in the rural schools? _____

Salary _____ Cost of room and board _____

What recreation do you have? _____

VIII. School Administration

Education of each member of board _____

Length of time each has served _____

Are members definitely interested in school? _____

To what extent do they visit school? _____

IX. The School

Number enrolled in school _____

Number of school census _____

Nationality of pupils _____

To what extent do children stay out to work? _____

Number of children in each grade _____

Number completed eighth grade last year _____

To what extent are graduates going to high school? _____

Number of recitations per day _____

What special subjects are taught? _____

Are books and supplies furnished? _____

Are children given physical examinations? _____

To what extent do you combine classes? (Explain) _____

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APPENDIX B.

TEACHERS

City of Alamosa

The Teacher

Name _____ Age _____ Nationality _____

Where reared _____ Of what church a member _____

Education (Be specific)

Elementary _____

Secondary _____

Normal and college training _____

What further training are you planning? _____

Certificate you hold _____ Do you like to teach? _____

Are you interested primarily in rural education? _____

Where do you live in the district? _____

Are you acquainted with the parents of the children? _____

To what extent do you take part in community activities? _____

Had you lived in the country before teaching in the rural
schools? _____ Salary _____ Cost of room and board _____

What recreation do you have? _____

What grades do you teach? _____

Number in each grade:

First _____ Second _____ Third _____ Fourth _____

Fifth _____ Sixth _____ Seventh _____ Eighth _____

Ninth _____ Tenth _____ Eleventh _____ Twelfth _____

Nationality of pupils? _____

To what extent do children stay out to work? _____

Number of recitations per day _____ What special subjects

are taught? _____

Are books and supplies furnished? _____

To what extent do you combine classes? _____

APPENDIX C

Social Survey

Alamosa County, Colorado

Church Section

Name of church _____ Denomination _____

Membership: Male _____; Female _____; Males under 10 years _____;

Females under ten years _____; Males 10 to 15 _____; Females
10 to 15 _____; Males 16 to 21 _____; Females 16 to 21 _____.

Increase in male membership during year 1926 _____.

" " female " " " 1926 _____.

Decrease in male membership during year 1926 _____.

Decrease in female " " " 1926 _____.

Number becoming members during year by conversion or bap-
tism--male _____; female _____; by letter or statement--
male _____; female _____.

Number withdrawn by death--male _____; female _____; by
letter--male _____; female _____; by expulsion--male _____;
female _____.

Number of families in the church, each head belonging to
same church _____; each belonging to different churches
_____; only the mother or wife belonging _____; only the
father or husband belonging _____; neither belonging _____.

Services: Number per month _____; midweek prayer service
held _____; number of revivals per year _____; result of
revivals _____.

Other services provided by church: training courses_____
_____; conventions_____; Lectures_____;
Educational short courses_____; Entertainment other than
social_____

Social Organizations: Men's_____women's_____
Ladies Aid_____; Nature of social activities_____

Church debt: amount_____
Indicate progress forward_____
backward_____static_____

Church attendance: Sunday school, union or denominational
_____; enrollment under 21_____; over 21_____;
average attendance under 21_____; over 21_____; average
collection per year_____; average current expenses per
year_____.

Young People's Meetings: Attendance_____; interest_____;
social activities_____

Pastor: live in community_____; salary_____; how is salary
raised_____number in family_____.

Parsonage: material_____; number of rooms_____; valuation
_____; conditions_____.

Church building: material_____; size_____; seating
capacity_____; number of rooms_____; condition of
building_____; valuation of church property_____

Equipment: piano____; kind of heat____; kind of light
____; toilet, indoor____; outdoor____; cemetery
adjacent____; janitor service_____.

Remarks: (list any additional information not called for
above.)