

Gratia A. Countryman and Family Papers.

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Mr. MarshalllSprague 1523 Wood Avenue Colorado Springs, Colo.

Dear Mr. Sprague,

I am writing to you regarding T. R. Countryman. You wrote a little about him in your book Money Mountain, mantioning his work as an engineer on the Roosevelt Tunnel for Albert Carlton.

T. R. (Theophilus Russell) was my grandmother's brother and one of our family's more interesting (or notorious) members. My father, as family archivist, has quite a collection of his memorabilia, including an outstanding notebook with his engineering thesis, drawings, etc. and he has also sent some mining tools of Uncle Theo's to the Cripple Creek museum. Unfortunately he has no pictures of his uncle other than those taken either at a young age or after he was retired and ill. Uncle Theo spent almost 35 years in the Cripple Creek area and had little contact with his family for much of that time.

I am hoping that since you mentioned him ih your book that somewhere in the material you used for reference you might have some pictures I could have copied for my dad. There's not much in this world I could give him that would please him more. He has copies of the pages in the Cripple Creek Directory of the Countryman and Jaquith listing which he treasures and he has spent several vacations visiting Cripple Creek trying to find out more of Uncle Theo's life there. There was always a bond between them, perhaps because Uncle Theo was estranged from his won family and my dadw was a rather lonesome fifteen-year-old and impressed with stormes of the romantic early West. Uncle Theo stayed with him and my grandmother after his heart attack. Unfortunately most of his papers, pictures, etc. were lost during the move back east.

Since it might be of interest to you I'm including a short summary of some of the highlights of T. R.'s life. He did quite a few interesting things in his lifetime and even from what I remember was quite a character. When we visited him at a nursing home and he was over 90 he was still flirting with the nurses and trying to change the rules.

I hope there's a chance that you have even one picture of Uncle Theo or his offices but I know what a long shot it is. You have already contributed so much to my dad's pleasure with your books about the west he would love to have seen first hadd. Dad's visits to Colorado have both thrilled and frustrated him. There's enough of the old to see a little of what it was but it's only a mirage.

I appreciate your time and if you can find any material on Uncle Theo in your paers please let me know how I can have it copied. I'm sure there must be companies you prefer to work with since your old papers are irreplacible. Time is not a factor and I assume they would want my check to clear their bank before they sent any material to me.

My most sincere gratitude for any help you can be in thes project.

Yours truly.

MARSHALL SPRAGUE 1523 WOOD AVENUE COLORADO SPRINGS 80907 DIAL 1-303-634-4583 March 17, 1981 Dear Alta C. Mittelman: That was such a fascinating letter about your relative T. R Countryman. It seems incredible that no pictures exist of such a prominent engineer with such a wide range of experience. I have never seen such a picture and can only suggest that you send an inquiry to Miss Mary Evans, Western Collection, Penrose Public Library, Cascade Ave. at Kiowa St. Colorado Springs, Colo, 80901. They have recently acquired a large collection of photos of local people. In any case she could tell you what she has in her file on T. R. Countryman. I wonder if T. R. worked with General Palmer when he built the railroad from Laredo to Mexico City, for the Mexican Government. Perhaps your best bet would be to write the library in Minnesota where your Uncle Theo died. Good luck! Maishall Bragnet

#### BERT'S TUNNEL

Right off, the contractor was in trouble. The rock at Gatch Park was a hard and seamless granite. After eight months the tunnel was in only 1200 feet instead of the expected 2400 feet. At that rate the tunnel would cost twice the estimate. The mine owners had a heated session in January, 1908. The majority favored dropping the whole thing. They had the jitters anyhow because of the financial panic of October, 1907. Among those at the session were Sherman Aldrich and Ed De LaVergne of the Elkton, John T. Milliken of the Golden Cycle, Frank Peck of the Portland, Frank Castello of the Mary McKinney, Bill Lennox of the Strong, F. L. Sigel of the Vindicator and Clarence Hamlin of the Granite.

Bert Carlton rose and made a speech. He had prepared it well. He had in his hand a sheaf of estimates and other mine data. If, he said, the Roosevelt Tunnel wasn't pushed through to puncture the granite bowl at 8000 feet altitude, Cripple Creek would be finished in three years. Mines and mining machinery worth many millions would be valueless. Bert declared that gold ore worth \$317,500,000 lay in the undrained 800-foot area of the mines between the El Paso Tunnel and the proposed Roosevelt Tunnel. Bert said he knew a man who could drive the Roosevelt Tunnel at the rate of eight feet a day for twenty-eight dollars a foot, no matter how hard the granite was around Gatch Park.

Sherman Aldrich, chairman of the tunnel committee, asked who this tunnel genius might be.

Bert said modestly, "A. E. Carlton."

The mine owners thought he was kidding. They had known Bert as a coal dealer, transfer man, banker and promoter, never as any kind of tunneler. To make his offer seem more ridiculous Bert named his assistants to accomplish one of the world's most difficult drainage projects. The drill boss would be a pint-sized Scotsman, James A. McIlwee, whose sole claim to fame was that he had mined coal in the old country with Harry Lauder. McIlwee was just an ordinary miner with just average knowledge of how to handle dynamite. Bert's choice for chief engineer was T. R. Countryman. As far as anybody knew, Countryman was merely another mining man.

The mine owners argued over Bert's proposition for several hours. Nothing about it impressed them except the fact that Bert had made it. They knew that if Bert Carlton agreed to do something he always did it. Someone called for votes. Sherman Aldrich cast the first one with the remark, "I favor handing Mr. Carlton this lemon." The rest supported Aldrich.

Bert had his contract. He started work on the Roosevelt Tunnel February 1, 1908. For three years he kept at it, displaying a physical stamina that would have been surprising even in a man with two good lungs. Each day he drove his big Winton down the bumpy lane along Cripple Creek to Gatch Park. Then he walked up the tunnel, or rode a tiny tram. Around his lean lanky figure he wore a dusty tan coat with velvet collar. A miner's lamp was usually attached to his gray cap. Later on he reached the tunnel heading by descending construction shafts in wobbly buckets with water dripping all around. At the heading he would go over the day's work with McIlwee and Countryman. McIlwee's Scottish burr was so thick that Bert often asked Countryman to interpret for him.

During 1908 Bert built 3434 feet of tunnel. In 1909 he built 7079 feet for a total of 11,951 (his predecessor had built 1438 feet). He added 3786 feet during 1910. This

brought the tunnel to 15,737 feet — not quite three miles. It punctured the granite rim of the golden bowl, and drainage started at 8500 gallons a minute. Other contractors would extend the tunnel in the next seven years to 4.6 miles at a total cost of \$815,000. But it was Bert Carlton's first three miles (\$530,000) that restored confidence in the mines and delayed the big decline in gold production that came in 1919.

The Roosevelt Tunnel was put through by Bert where others had failed because of his ability to handle men and to pick the right man for the right job. The unimposing little Scot, McIlwee, developed into one of the nation's most sought-after drill bosses. Countryman's engineering brought the tunnel's two headings together with an error of less than a quarter-inch. The beneficial effect of the tunnel was felt at once. Water receded below the 8800-foot level of the old El Paso Tunnel at the rate of 110 feet a year. The drainage promised to permit mining in vast new parts of the Portland, Vindicator, El Paso, Granite, Elkton, Gold Dollar and many other old-timers. Hope blossomed in the camp.

Cripple Creekers realized that everything depended on these new areas in old bonanzas. The discovery of new bonanzas was out of the question. In twenty years Cripple's 10,000 acres had been more thoroughly explored than any other spot on earth. Engineers estimated that \$300,000,000 had been spent hunting gold at Cripple—almost as much as the value of gold ore recovered. No more bonanzas could exist.

Some people kept hunting anyhow, human nature being what it is. Among them were two Chicago insurance men, J. R. and Eugene Harbeck. They had been fooling with a dud mine, the Cresson, since '94. The legend was that they

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Dear Virgina and Bob: I may an rollen as a elle voriles unt your are worse. You once me Atto letter, lint I forgine you because I frure plansible denia bility " in that & Just got etnu such a long letter & Edwin with a book and many papers. I am now doing the same for you. my granddaughter Steptanie and her husbane Steve one two sors went to Colorado Spring to attend her tenth high school graduating anviversary in widefield " where she went to schoold when the Colonel was stationed there. While there ithey deceded to go to Cripple Cuch to visit the museum to see the took I had sent then (That beloved to uncle theo) a curbido lump, a roch hammer, and a comole, holder. While there they asked is there was any thing new about cense This and its cersotor soid he had neceved an auto beggraphy of J. R. Cambrigman form a Dovid Cambrigman. of Course they got excelled and traced it down and by commandering a break bensemin mani Office + x evox machino make copies of it coul when they got home sent it to me. Imagine to my surprize that I found it to be the long lost memois of unale Theo which my mother had asked twin to write, but Told me that he had written it lent she thought he had destroyed because it depressed him so much beersuse of the many years he had lost of his formely o companin ship. (orda)

But much to mys surprise he had evidency gevies de sent it to his Don Russell. Dussell passed it on to his son who prosed it on to centle theos great grandson Dovid Countryman. David and Lorson Countrymen visites Cripple Cuch and left a copy of Unile Hear anto brography there. I believe the original is still with Lorraine. Well I called long distance (easier Than writing) and got a worman on the phone, I explained that I was wellington Countryman and did she how wh I was . She said yes, so I asked to speak to David . There was a pause and she soid. "well, I migts as well come out with it. Dovid is dead? I was, of course, quite shocked. How. ever she went on to toth of David, her family. and the accedent which occurred in honden. They had gone there to attend a presentation award consulion of pay wood enginees Cy request. They checked in their hales, had denne, and decided to take a doubledecher hus ride around London to sight see. She got on the line and proceeded up the back stans to the upper dech and sat down. David was pollingoing up the stain. The lus started with a jork and savid was cala pulled down tre Two flights und out the Morth door cente Tho parement and freelined his shell. He died Two duys later. I am enclosing prapers about him and you will see that he believed in "family" and altho a berry mon was much loved to we hoose many mores Contymen in the woold than I know. I told healther you and Bob Grad lived ne Seattle for some years, I an some she would appearing hear from Jan - Ner æddress is Mrs. Lorience Court Silver Lount Silver 98498 -

WEMO FROM

W. Country

Mrs Dovid Countryman L'Aorraine" 9013 Gramercy Court SW Facoma, Work 98482 Jelephone - 1-206-588-3390 Poches Coracia - Long.

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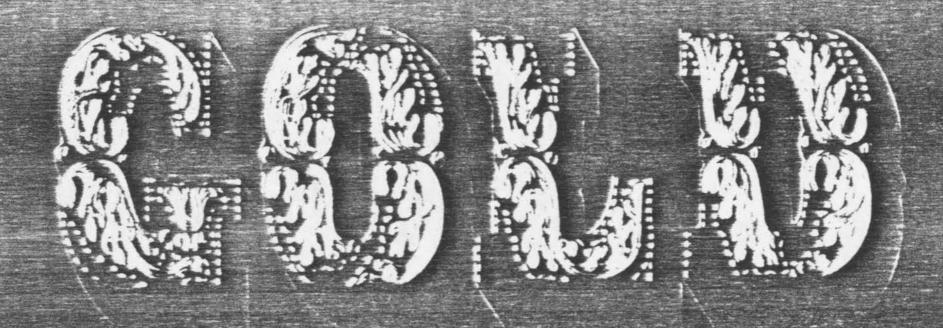
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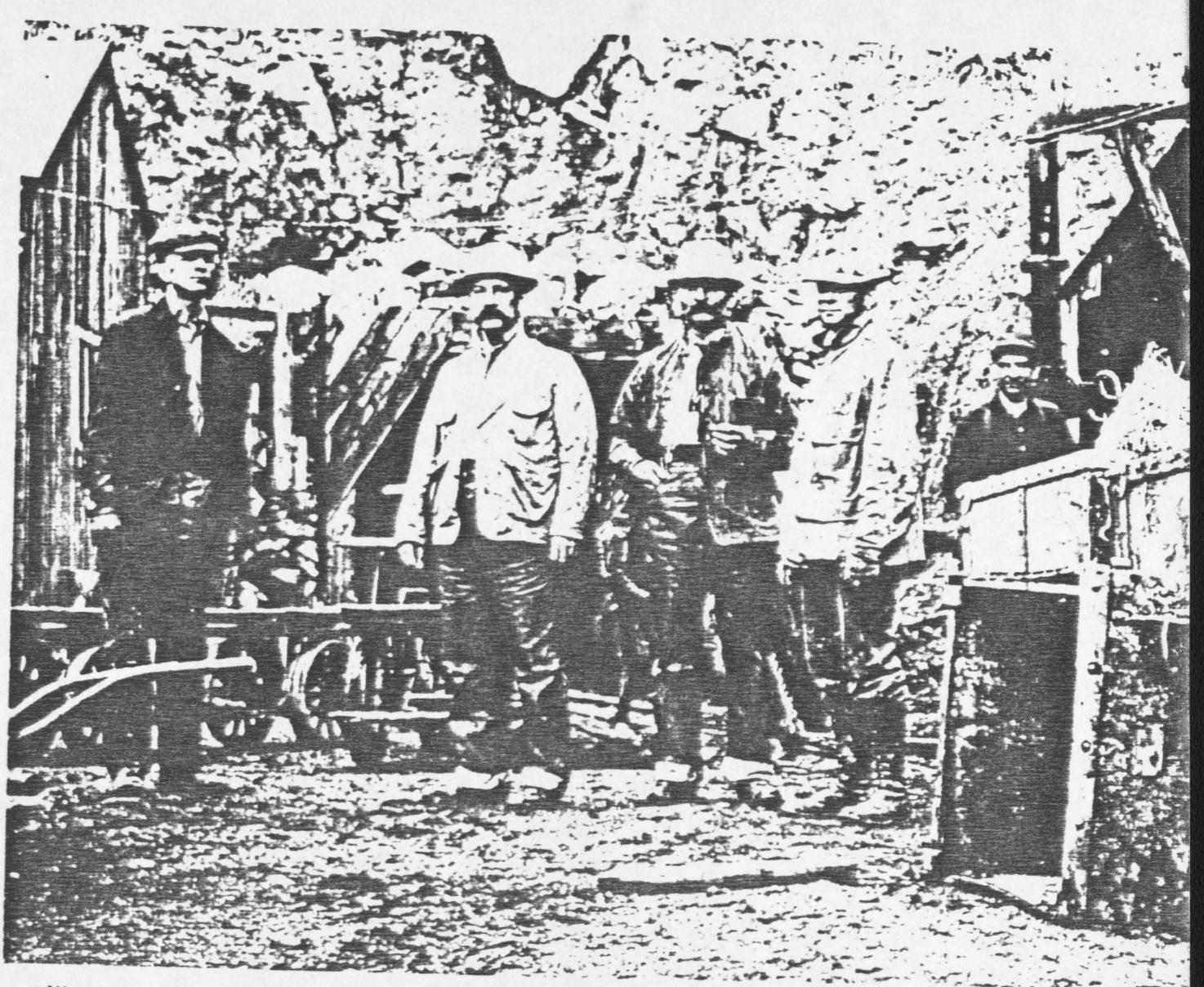
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Raymond L. Drake's Pictorial History
of the Cripple Creek & Victor
Gold Mining District
in Colorado

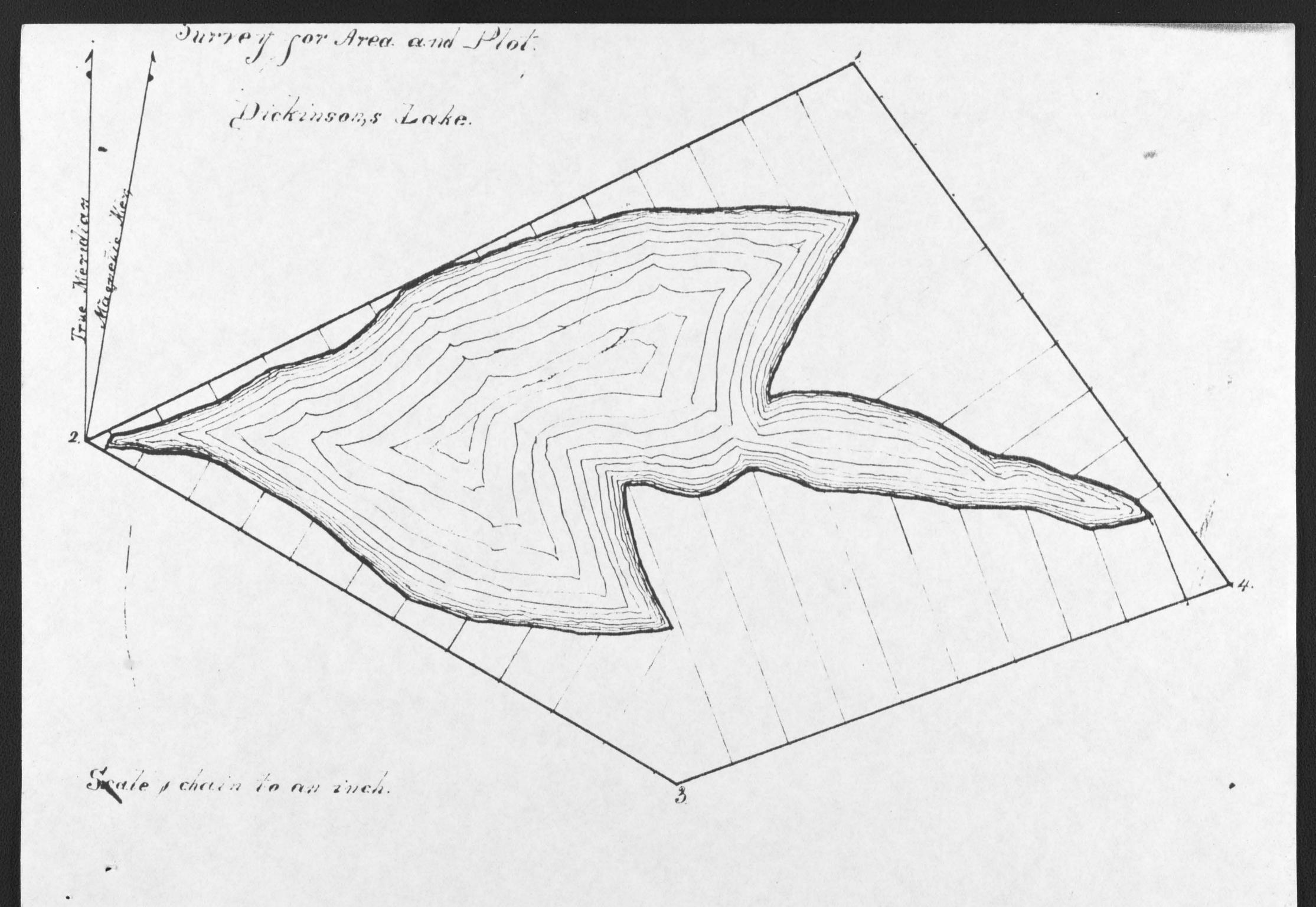


Water was a major problem in District. It was scarce for towns and processing mills, but flooded the mines as soon as they reached 800-foot level, owing to impermeable rock of gold-bearing volcanic bowl. At first, pumps were used but proved costly users of coal, which was hauled up by train. It soon was clear that drainage tunnels must be dug, but because of the tough granite substructure, this was more easily decided than done. After one contractor threw in the towel. Cripple Creek freight tycoon Albert E. Carlton (far left), persuaded dubious mine owners to let him finish the Roosevelt Deep Drainage Tunnel, the most ambitious project of its kind ever undertaken at that time. His forte was simple: personnel and persistence.

He hired a seemingly unimposing Scotsman, James McIlwe (at Carlton's left), as crew boss, and an unknown miner, T. R. Countryman (at McIlwee's left), as the engineer. He himself went to site daily, despite poor health. The result: in less than three years, 15,737 feet of granite had been penetrated, at total cost of \$530,000. The gold bowl's water level dropped to 8,000-foot altitude of the tunnel, delaying for a decade the area's big production decline that came in 1919. Here, the men stand at outlet southwest of Victor along Cripple Creek, just after tunnel's completion in 1910 Drilling crews worked toward each other from both ends, and so accurate were Countryman's plans that two headings joined with a quarter inch error.

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## David R. COUNTRYMAN ----

Age 68, of Tacoma, died Saturday, while on vacation in Landon from head injuries systained while traveling by bus. He was an internationallyknown pioneer in wood products technology with the American Plywood Assn: from 1941 to 1981. He received many awards for his research, among them the Borden Award for Outstanding Leadership: Born in Pledmont, Calif., June 17, 1918, Dave Countryman graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1941, along with Lorraine Lindblad, whom he then married. Both-were founding, members of St. Frances of Cabrini Parish in Lakewood, where he helped build the church, school and Knights of Columbus Holl. He was always very active in Parish charitable work. Most recently with Community Outreach, which gives emergency help. His avocations included Liplaying the bagpipes and organ, making wine and working on his cabin on the Olympic Penninsula. Survivors include his wife, Lorroine and son, lan, of the family home: sons, Bruce, but Houston; Brian, of Bermuda; Tom, of Washington) D.C.; Kevin and Peter, of Berkeley; daughters, Sue, of Portland: Teresa, of Pittsburgh; Mary Ellen, of New York; Joan, of Lakewood; Kathy and Garol. Costello, of Olympia; 11, grandchildren. Another son, Joe, died in 1983. Surviving family in California are stepmother, Mrs. Russell Countryman and brothers, Walter, of Whittier and Ralph, of Oakland. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday, June 19, at 11 a.m., at St. Frances; Cabrini Church, 5715 108th St. S.W., Tacoma, under the direction of Mountain View Funeral Home, - Tacoma. Burial follows at Calvary Cemetery, "Tacoma. Rosary will be recited Thursday evening at 7 p.m. at the church. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests remembrances be made to the St. Frances Cabrini Community Outreach Fund or the .... Joe A. Countrymon: Musical Scholarship Fund, through the Cornish Institute in Seattle. A fund will be established and announced, for continuing his other domestic and foreign charities.

## Obituary: David R. Countryman

June 30, 1987



David R. Countryman died on June 13 in London, as a result of a fall while traveling on a bus. Countryman retired from the American Plywood Association in 1981, after a distinguished career of more than 40 years at the Tacoma headquarters. He and his wife Lorraine were on a vacation in England at the time of the accident.

A civil engineering graduate of the University of California, he joined APA's predecessor, the Douglas Fir Plywood Association, as a research engineer in 1941.

In a tribute to Dave Countryman, APA President Bill Robison expressed the regret felt throughout the wood products industry at the untimely passing of one of its most brilliant research scientists.

"In addition," said President Robison, "past and present members of the American Plywood Association staff mourn the loss of a colleague and friend whose life and work exemplified the tireless pursuit of excellence. Dave's contribution to the engineering technology of structural panel products is abiding and unique."

Countryman, who was 68, earned an international reputation as a wood products researcher and technical innovator. He had a leadership role in the development of design methods for numerous wood building components that are in common use today, including stressed skin panels, box beams, field glued floors and treated wood foundations.

In the years just prior to his retirement, he was deeply involved in the introduction of performance standards embracing a wide range of structural panel products including plywood, waferboard and oriented strand board. The successful introduction of these standards has enabled panel manufacturers to extend their raw material resource through more efficient use of wood fiber.

#### **Professional Honors**

He was the recipient of numerous awards from professional organizations, including the Borden Chemical Company Foundation Award in 1981 "for leadership as a scientist, research administrator and ardent advocate of the expanded use of wood."

A former Assistant Director of the APA Technical Services Division, Countryman was the author or coauthor of nearly 50 research publications produced by the Association and circulated internationally. He was also widely sought as a lecturer at conferences throughout the world on wood products technology.

He was a member of the Forest Products Research Society, the American Society for Testing and Materials, and the Plywood Pioneers Association.

He is survived by his wife Lorraine, of the home; 12 children — daughters Carol Costello and Kathy of Olympia, Wash.; Sue, Portland, Ore.; Teresa, Pittsburgh, Penn.; Mary Ellen, New York, N.Y.; and Joan, Tacoma; sons Bruce, Houston, Tex.; Ian, of the home; Tom, Washington, D.C.; Peter and Kevin, Berkeley, Calif.; and Brian, Bermuda; and eleven grandchildren. Another son, Joe, died in 1983.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 19 at St. Frances Cabrini Church in the Lakewood area of Tacoma, followed by burial at Tacoma's Calvary Cemetery. Dave Countryman helped build the St. Frances Cabrini Church, school and Knights of Columbus Hall, as a founding member of the congregation.

The family suggests remembrances to the St. Frances Cabrini School Endowment Fund, 5505 108th Street S.W., Tacoma. Wash. 98499, or the Joe A. Countryman Musical Scholarship Fund at the Cornish College of the Arts, 710 East Roy, Seattle, Wash. 98102. ■

#### BULOGY for DAVID R. COUNTRYMAN June 17, 1918 - June 13, 1987

I wanted to speak the eulogy, the good word, about Dad because he would almost never praise himself. All my brothers and sisters knew how hard he worked to raise such a large family and to give them a Catholic education. We remember regular long drives to California or to Canada to visit cousins. We remember the occasion when Dad drove home a new car, and for once it wasn't a station wagon. Besides providing for us, he nurtured us. He would explain to Kathy what the cartoon Pogo meant. He would awaken us in the morning by bringing us hot cocoa while we were still in bed. We later found out from our friends that this was not a common occurrence in their households.

But we didn't know as much about his professional life. Dad was a modest man, too modest I think, because we would only hear about his achievements by accident, sometimes from Mom or occasionally from someone whom Dad worked with. When Mom and our brother Bruce went along with Dad to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization convention in Rome in 1963, scientists and engineers would ask Dad: "Are you perhaps the son of David Countryman who published his pioneering research in the 1940's?" And Dad would have to admit: "No, I am that same person. I was younger then." In 1981, the Borden Chemical Company Foundation gave Dad its award for leadership as a scientist and research administrator. The other two recipients that year were architects Buckminster Fuller and Mies Van der Rohe. The 1980 recipient was Frank Lloyd Wright. This is very good company to be mentioned in. I mention it here because Dad would never mention it himself; I only found out about it three years ago.

But besides his professional research in engineering, Dad was a good practical carpenter, a real craftsman. He never took up golf, or bridge, because he enjoyed having such a useful hobby. As one of the founding members of this parish, he did a lot to build this church and this school. For example, some people here will remember the "kneeler bee", an evening work party Dad organized for the men of the new parish to build the very kneelers at your feet today. Dad's own handiwork doubled the size of our family house where thirteen of us children grew up. He loved to work on our cabin at Sequim, which he designed and prefabricated at home in the garage, and which he assembled with help from his family and his lifelong friend, Bill Ryerson.

As engineer, designer, builder - a complete craftsman - Dad determined what was needed, studied the available materials, and designed for use. Beauty came from the elegance of the design solution, and from the economy of the means. And in a similar way, Dad lived his life of Christian duty. Dad learned duty young. As the middle of three sons, Dad has household responsibilities, like turning the mangle for the weekly laundry. To earn spending money for his weekend hikes and climbs, he sold the Saturday Evening Post. Because he hated to accost people to buy things, he took his younger brother Ralph along to supply the nerve. To buy and repair his first car, he worked part-time at the Berkeley Little Theater as stage manager and set builder. There he met my mother, a chemistry major, and also an actress in many of the college plays. Their forty-six year marriage has taught us all about duty, commitment, perseverance; and learning, change and love. So by both word and example, Dad believed in encouraging us to acquire self-reliance and a sense of duty.

Duty is not a pretty word. It is a muffled echo of tasks that are necessary, but tiresome; continually required of us, even thought the initial urgent need and whole-hearted response of the first covenant are dimmed by routine and eroded by the passage of time. But our Dad was a man so steadfast in his duty, so strong to serve whoever relied on him, so quick to offer new help, so attentive and sensitive to changes in the duties he shouldered so long ago, keeping the original covenant burnished bright by use, that he made of the drab word duty something transcendent, something shining. Wordsworth begins a poem by addressing Duty directly as stern daughter of the voice of God. Duty isn't the same as the voice or law of God, but is the next generation. All of us here have different senses of duty because they are not handed to us like diplomas at graduation. Each of us here constructs our own sense of duty as Dad did. The desired goal is the triumph of divine and moral law. The limited means are this world's resources and requirements, those of the people around us and our own.

Everything Dad built, from his sense of duty to these kneelers at our feet, he built for practical use, and for the beauty that comes with practical use. He also built to last. All of us here are a testament to that.

Written by his daughter Teresa, delivered by his son Bruce

Acenah The Junky 15th /88
Sunday P.M.
My Dear Friend

7/2 Lyndale Ave. W Minneapolis, Nov. 13, 1891. Dear Arany le anyou make a fire per and kindling are burned ups If you can, I wish you would come here and make this fire burn It is as cold as a barn in here, and my fingers are so cold that I can hardly write. It & have not got sur coal stove put up yet and this wood fire goes out on is, unless mamma is hour. Minneapolis, Nov. 13, 1891. Dear Emogene,

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