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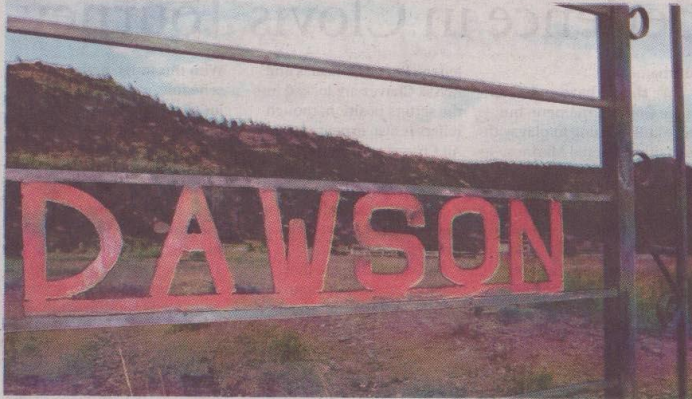
ANGEL FIRE
Bikes, Blues and Brews for Labor Day Weekend **PAGE 8**

EAGLE NEST
Village enjoys increased tax revenues **PAGE 18**

RED RIVER
Musical varieties headline Red River's weekend **PAGE 24**

CIMARRON
Village ready for Cimarron Days **PAGE 20**

Dawson, a once flourishing community



The entrance to Dawson cemetery.

PHOTO BY JOANNE FOWLER

out in Mine Number One. The fire raged for a week and three miners died. On October 22, 1913 an explosion in one of the mines killed 263 miners and two rescuers. Ten years later, many sons of the first miners killed lost their lives when a second explosion ripped through a mine killing 120 men.

Ownership of the mine changed hands in 1906 when the company and town was purchased by Phelps Dodge. Town growth surpassed the modern day villages like

Cimarron and Dawson's large high school employed 40 teachers.

The population of Dawson exceeded 3,000 under Phelps Dodge management.

Today, the remains of Dawson include a cemetery and numerous Dawson houses which were moved to neighboring towns.

One Dawson dwelling houses Matzen Pottery in Ute Park.

Vivien Andrews, a Cimarron resident with the moniker "The Cemetery

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BY JOANNE FOWLER
For the Chronicle

DAWSON —Tucked five miles to the west of Highway 64 off a dusty single-track road between Cimarron and Raton is the ghost town of Dawson.

Before mine operations closed down and snuffed the life of the once bustling town in 1950, Dawson was a flourishing community of thousands. With its own newspaper, The Dawson News, and amenities including a hotel, hospital, theatre, parks, a golf course, bowling alley and school.

Named after John Barkley Dawson who came to the

Vermejo Valley in 1869 as a homesteader, the town of Dawson cost its namesake \$3,700 and a handshake paid to Lucien B. Maxwell.

It was well worth the enormous sum of money at the time, as Dawson discovered coal on his new property.

When Maxwell sold his interest in the land grant in 1870, interest in Dawson's coal-heavy property increased and eventually saw Dawson in court defending his purchase, which did not include any paperwork. The courts found that Dawson's purchase was legal and named him owner of some 20,000 acres.

In partnership with Charles

Springer, Dawson ranched his property until 1901 when he sold most of his holdings to the Dawson Fuel Company for nearly a half million dollars.

Dawson Fuel Company, founded by Charles B. Eddy of El Paso, Texas, brought a 137 mile long railroad into the mine and by the fall of 1901, the first crew of miners was set to work. The mine operation also built a sawmill which turned out lumber for houses.

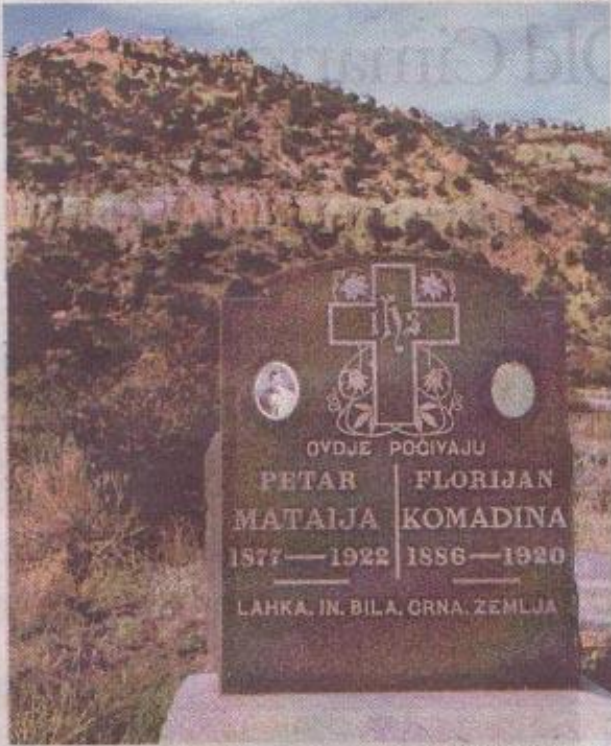
With over 500 residents living in Dawson in a matter of several years, the town began to prosper. Sadly, the first of many mining disasters struck Dawson on September 14, 1903, when a fire broke



A typical grave site at Dawson cemetery.

PHOTO BY JOANNE FOWLER

Dawson, a once bustling community 100 Years



The view from the Dawson cemetery.

PHOTO BY JOANNE FOWLER

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Lady", has close family ties to Dawson. Alvin Davis, her maternal grandfather was a fire boss and member of the search and rescue crew for the Van Houten Mine. He came to Dawson to help with rescue efforts in the 1923 mining disaster.

Asked to stay on with the Dawson mine operations, he moved his family to join him. Andrews' mother Virginia Davis was born in Dawson in

1926.

"As a genealogist it is important to know what our past is," said Andrews. "Many times we start with a list of who is in a cemetery."

A copy of the Dawson Cemetery Plot Map surfaced 50 years after Phelps Dodge sold Dawson when the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Malon, ranch managers for Phelps Dodge, brought the necessary paperwork to a historical society meeting

that Vivien Andrews attended. "It was amazing," she said of the discovery. "The plot map was a survey of who was buried prior to the 1920s with additions made from then on."

The plot map has allowed relatives to place grave markers where many graves were once unmarked.

Dawson and the surrounding area is now owned by the Colfax Land and Cattle Company and is easily reached by vehicle. The Dawson Cemetery joined the National Register of Historic Places on April 9, 1992.

"I've spent many hours out in the cemetery," said Andrews. "No one has raised up and spoken to me, but I do believe that the cemetery has a story to tell."

For more information about Dawson and its cemetery contact Vivien Andrews at 575-376-2955, or view www.chuckspeed.com.

Comments to news@sangrechronicle.com



PHOTO BY JOANNE FOWLER

Headstones at the Dawson cemetery.



The Class of 1951 celebrate and reminisce at the Dawson Cemetery. From left: Atmore, Marilyn V. Hobbes Riley, Marlene and Bill and K.

BY PEGGY STERLING
For the Chronicle

CIMARRON — The Cimarron High School Class of 1951 celebrated a reunion at the St. James on Saturday (Aug. 14) with fourteen who graduated in 1951, seven remain in Cimarron and seven

attended the reunion. Graduates included Atmore, Joan Hobbes, Bill Hobbes, Phineas Marilyn Ward Declerck, Sitzberger Hart, and Arellano Garcia. Class members reminisced about their school years at Cimarron then proceeded to catch up on each other's lives. There was a lot of laughter and the opportunity to enjoy good food.

Bill Hobbes, a Cimarron company retiree and