

# FIRST DRAFT



This pearl-handled revolver that belonged to Cyrus "Doc" Shores is on display at the Museums of Western Colorado in Grand Junction.

MUSEUMS OF WESTERN COLORADO PHOTOS/ Special to the Sentinel

## 'Bloodhound' Doc Shores relentless in pursuing 4 train robbers in 1888

When four men robbed a Denver & Rio Grande train near Grand Junction on Nov. 3, 1887, Mesa County Sheriff J.O. Bradish formed a posse. But it disbanded after two days, unable to find a trace of the outlaws.

Gunnison County Sheriff Cyrus "Doc" Shores, who was also a deputy U.S. marshal, showed up Nov. 5. He didn't give up.



BOB SILBERNAGEL

Over the next three months, Shores traveled nearly 600 miles on foot and horseback pursuing the bandits. He also journeyed at least 5,000 miles by train, riding repeatedly across Colorado, Kansas and part of Utah.

By early February 1888, Shores and his men had arrested all four of the outlaws.

Cyrus Wells Shores was born in 1844 near Detroit. He acquired the nickname "Doc" after caring for an orphan lamb when he was 5.

Moving west as a teen, Shores worked as a hunter, freighter and cattle driver. He arrived in Gunnison in May 1880.

In the fall of 1883, Shores was elected Gunnison County sheriff. He later became a railroad investigator, then chief of police in Salt Lake City.

He was still in Gunnison when he received word of the holdup near Grand Junction, which a Salida newspaper said was the first-ever train robbery in Colorado.

Shores received a telegram from the U.S. marshal in Denver, "asking me to do everything possible to help apprehend the culprits."

The outlaws piled rocks and timbers on the tracks five miles southeast of Grand Junction at a spot called Unaweep Switch.

The train halted, and the robbers climbed into the baggage car. They demanded the clerk open the safe, but he said only a station agent could open it and the outlaws gave up on the



Cyrus "Doc" Shores in middle age. Date and location unknown.

Rhodes, Bob Boyd, and brothers Bob and Jack (or Jim) Smith. Bob had worked on a ranch in Unaweep Canyon, and his brother may have briefly been the D&RG station agent in Whitewater.

Their total take in the robbery "did not exceed \$150," Shores said. Even so, a \$4,000 reward was offered, a significant inducement to a poor sheriff, Shores acknowledged.

The afternoon of Nov. 4, Shores caught the train from Gunnison to Grand Junction, 125 miles away. He was accompanied by his brother-in-law, M.L. Allison.

At 2 a.m. Nov. 5, they arrived at Unaweep Switch. At dawn, they began searching for signs of the bandits on the north side of the Gunnison River. They gave up at dusk and caught the train into Grand Junction.

The next day, Shores and Allison "rented two broken-down saddle horses" and searched the south side of the Gunnison River. They found the tracks of four men on foot, and in two days, trailed them 20 miles up Bangs Canyon before losing the trail.

Over the next few months Shores did the following:

- Unimpressed with the horses in Grand Junction, he took the train back to Gunnison to get three of his best horses, which he shipped back to Grand Junction.

- Shores, Allison, and D&RG investigator Jim Duckworth rode those horses through Unaweep Canyon to the Gateway area.

safe. Shores said later the safe contained "several thousand dollars." Another account said it held \$75,000.

The bandits were later determined to be Ed

- There, rancher Tom Denning led them to Sinbad Valley, where four men afoot had been spotted.

- They spent a night outdoors in a rainstorm, then hunkered down in a dugout cabin for three days when the rain turned to snow. Duckworth got pneumonia and died soon thereafter.

- Snow obliterated the outlaws' trail, so they opted to return to Grand Junction. But the snow was too deep in Unaweep, so they headed south, first to the Paradox Valley, then to the mining town of Placerville.

- They finally arrived back in Grand Junction. But Shores soon embarked on a 365-mile train trip through Delta, Gunnison, over Marshal Pass, then to Cañon City and Denver. (The railroad did not yet run east from Grand Junction.) In Denver, he met with officials of the D&RG and the Pinkerton Detective Agency.

- Back in Grand Junction, he received word that the outlaws had been spotted at Ravensbeque, near present-day De Beque. It was a false alarm, but it led Shores and Allison on a 100-mile round trip horseback trek to check it out. (There were other false sightings, placing the outlaws on top of Grand Mesa and Vernal, Utah. Shores didn't follow them.)

- Back in Grand Junction, they discovered the outlaws had stashed a homemade boat in the brush near town, then had left in it. Pieces of an old almanac and red wool found in Bangs Canyon matched those found at the boat site. Shores followed the men on horseback.

- He rode some 60 miles along the river to Cisco, Utah, where he learned that four men had recently arrived by boat,



Cyrus "Doc" Shores as he appeared in his later years, after he retired to Grand Junction.

having navigated through or around Westwater rapids.

- Shores continued on to Green River, Utah, where he heard the four men had gone on to Price.

- Before he could continue, he received a telegram from the Pinkerton Agency urging him to go to Denver immediately.

- There, he met Pinkerton Agent Charlie Seringo. Shores and Seringo embarked on another wild-goose chase — 385 miles one way by train to Cawker City, Kansas, where the Smith brothers were said to be hiding. They weren't.

- Meanwhile, Shores had sent Allison, Mesa County Sheriff Bradish and Shores' undersheriff to apprehend the three men, and Shores met them in Thompson Springs, Utah, on their way to Denver.

- Shores learned that the fourth man, known as Bob Wallace, might have been Bob Boyd, who lived near Paola, Kansas. In mid-January 1888, he headed to Paola, a round-trip train journey of 1,300 miles from Denver. He determined the man was Boyd but was working in Price, Utah.

- He returned to Denver, then headed back to Utah. "Between trains in Gunnison, I went home to see my family for a moment," he said.

- Near Price, he arrested Boyd and held off a half-dozen of Boyd's co-workers who threatened to break Boyd free.

- He took Boyd back to Denver, where he and his partners were tried. All were found guilty and sent to the federal penitentiary at Laramie, Wyoming.

- After his capture, Ed Rhodes said to Shores, "You're the damndest bloodhound I ever seen."

Sources: "Memoirs of a Lawman," by Doc Shores, edited by Wilson Rockwell; the Museums of Western Colorado; Colorado and Utah historic newspapers.

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# Leave payday loan regulations to states, attorneys general say

By CHARLES ASHBY  
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Republican Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman and her Democratic counterpart in Massachusetts, Maura Healey, are leading a bipartisan effort of state attorneys general urging Congress not to pass two proposed bills that could impact how states limit interest rates on payday loans.

The 20 attorneys general said in a letter to U.S. Senate leaders last week that two bills they are considering — HR3299, Protecting Consumers' Access of Credit Act of 2017, and HR4439, Modernizing Credit Opportunities Act — would allow non-bank lenders to sidestep state usury laws.

The two measures would allow payday lenders to charge excessive interest rates that would otherwise be illegal under state law, Coffman said.

"Colorado has long exercised its sovereign right to protect consumers from abuse by limiting the interest rates that lenders can charge on consumer loans," Coffman said. "While state interest rate limits are pre-empted by federal law for some bank loans, the pending bills seek to improperly expand that pre-emption to include payday and other non-bank lenders. I join my fellow state attorneys general in urging Congress against the further restrictions of states' ability to protect their citizens from lending abuses."

In the letter, signed by attorneys general in such left-leaning states as California and Hawaii and right-leaning states as Tennessee and Mississippi, the legal officials say the two bills delve into issues long left to the states to decide.

"States have, over time, crafted laws that create a careful balance between access to credit and protecting consumers," they wrote. "Both Congress and the Supreme Court have rejected efforts to circumvent those laws and limit enforcement of

them, including state actions against banks."

In Colorado, interest rates on payday loans are already higher than most bank or credit cards, which are capped at 45 percent.

According to the Attorney General's Office's annual report on deferred deposit/payday lenders for 2016, the latest data available, there were 414,284 payday loans made during that year for a total of more than \$165 million. That's an average of about \$400 per loan.

To pay loans of that amount off, borrowers had to pay 45 percent in interest, or about \$32.

Additionally, they are charged origination fees of nearly \$38 and monthly maintenance fees of \$49.

Altogether that averages to an annual percentage rate of 129 percent, according to Coffman's office.

Currently, there are three proposed ballot measures addressing payday loan interest rates. One, Initiative 126, would set the maximum rate at 45 percent and eliminate all fees.

Another, Initiative 183, would reduce that rate to 36 percent, but leave the fees alone, while a third, Initiative 184, also would reduce the monthly maintenance fee from \$7.50 a day to \$5 a day.

In their letter, the attorneys general said such interest rates and fees could go even higher.

"It is even more important to preserve state law and allow enforcement of those laws against non-bank entities, many of which are regulated primarily at the state level," they wrote. "Congress should not now override state-granted protections in this important sphere of state regulation."

The three proposed citizens' initiatives are in the process of collecting enough signatures to qualify for this fall's ballot. They each have until Aug. 8 to collect signatures from at least 98,492 registered voters.



CYNTHIA COFFMAN  
Attorney general urges Congress against further restrictions of states' ability "to protect their citizens from lending abuses"

## Southern Colorado wildfire still growing

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER — A wildfire that prompted authorities to order the evacuation of more than 2,000 homes in southern Colorado has continued to grow.

Authorities said the fire east of Fort Garland was estimated at 64 square miles on Sunday morning. They have begun identifying destroyed struc-

tures and who owns them. They caution that conditions remain dangerous inside the fire area.

The fire was expected to remain active and grow in intensity with a warm and dry forecast on Sunday.

Highway 160 remains closed and officials say they cannot estimate when it will reopen.

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## BLOTTER COMPILED BY SENTINEL STAFF

### Hit-and-run on 32 Road

A Grand Junction woman was jailed early Sunday for an alleged hit-and-run accident.

At 6:24 a.m. Sunday on 32 Road near the Interstate 70 Business Loop, a gold Honda Accord driven by Kaitlyn Wright, 22, struck another vehicle in the rear while it was stopped at the intersection, according to the Colorado State Patrol.

Wright then fled the scene, and was tracked down by police at an address in Grand Junction.

While her vehicle was located at that address, Wright had fled again on foot, but was tracked down at another address a short distance away, the State Patrol said.

After being treated for injuries, Wright was jailed on suspicion of driving under the influence, DUI per se, hit and run, reckless driving, reckless endangerment, driving without a license, failure to present evi-

dence of insurance, displaying expired license plates and failure to notify police of an accident.

### Man without pants cited

A Clifton man who allegedly passed out in a recliner in his garage without pants was cited on suspicion of indecent exposure Tuesday after his roommate reported him, according to a Mesa County Sheriff's Office report.

Deputies who responded to the 3200 block of D 1/4 Road on Tuesday morning found 61-year-old Jeffrey Williams unconscious in the garage, naked from the waist down, the report said.

"It should be noted (D 1/4 Road) is well-traveled by both motorists and people who walk in the area," a deputy wrote. "It is very likely people observed Jeffrey W. nude and did not report this to dispatch."

Deputies had difficulty waking Williams, and noted the strong smell of alcohol com-

ing off him, according to the report.

Williams had been hospitalized the day before his roommate reported him being passed out in the garage, the report said.

### According to the Mesa County Sheriff's Office:

- Carlos Mucino, 29, was jailed Friday on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving a vehicle with a revoked license, having an open container, failure to yield at a yield sign, failure to show proof of insurance, and three outstanding warrants.

### According to the Glenwood Springs Police Department:

- Jared Richard, 23, was issued a summons June 18 on suspicion of violating the city's smoking ban. The Grand Junction resident was outside of a city business when contacted by police and told of the ban, but he refused to extinguish his cigarette, the department said.

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