

COMMUNITY

FRONTIER DIARY

Officer Malaby was a respected cop

BY WILLA SONCARTY

Registrar,

Frontier Historical Society and Museum

"Perry has made a record as one of the best peace officers Glenwood has ever known." — Glenwood Post, April 18, 1903

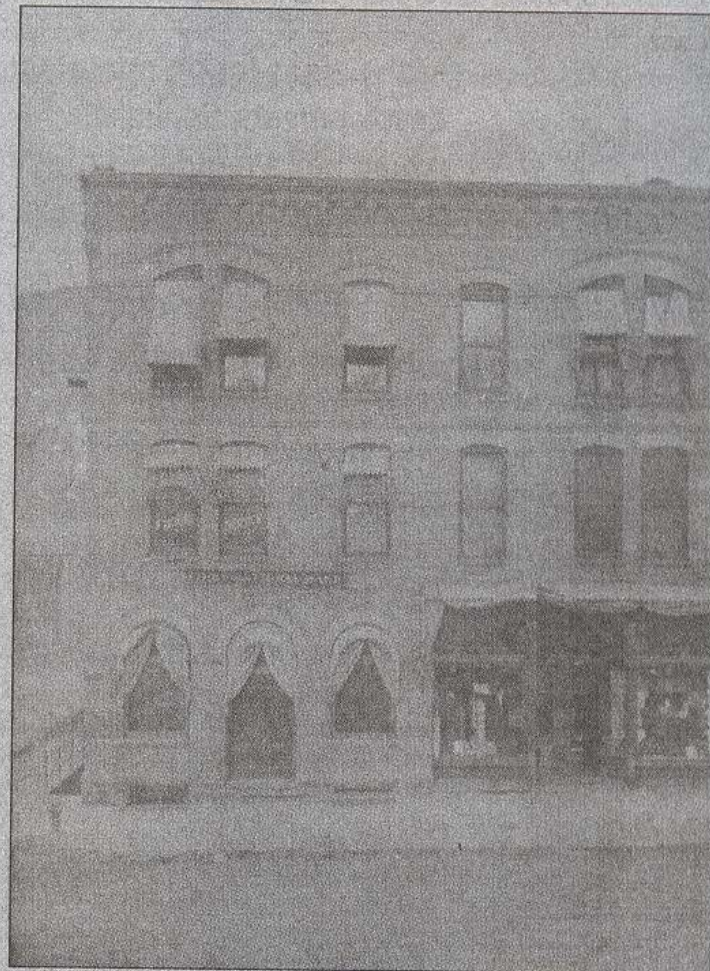
Randolph Perry Malaby's loyal support of the city of Glenwood Springs and her citizens earned him a lifetime of respect. He was one of the town's first settlers and a member of the City Council. However, Perry Malaby spent a good portion of his life protecting the property and lives of Glenwood Springs' residents.

Born in Ohio in 1858, Perry Malaby came in 1880 to what would become Glenwood Springs. He and his partner, John Manning, settled on property that today contains the Glenwood Meadows development. As the community and county grew, so did Malaby's participation in politics.

On Oct. 5, 1885, R.P. Malaby was elected to Glenwood Springs' first City Council. He held the seat into early 1887. By mid-1887, Perry Malaby was a Glenwood Springs policeman. This was just the beginning of his many years in law enforcement.

Officer Malaby worked to maintain peace within Glenwood Springs. During his years of law enforcement, he encountered the gritty undercurrent of Glenwood Springs' society. Murders, suicides, robberies and assaults all were issues needing intervention and investigation by officer Malaby. Undoubtedly, Malaby was required to disarm a number of criminals using a variety of means, but he did not come close to losing his life doing his job until 1902.

At 1 a.m. Aug.-2, 1902, Night Marshal Malaby made his rounds



The Glenwood Springs Post Office, located on the northeast corner of the First National Bank building (today's U.S. Bank building) at 802 Grand Ave., was the scene of an attempted robbery on Aug. 1, 1902. Night Marshal Perry Malaby exchanged gunshots with five robbers in the alley behind the building. Officer Malaby was not injured and the five robbers were caught and arrested.

Frontier Historical Society photo

through downtown Glenwood Springs. He entered the alley at the east end of today's U.S. Bank building, where he found himself face-to-face with an armed assailant. As Malaby quickly backed out of the alley, four shots were fired at him, coming very close to hitting him. The Marshal took cover and returned fire, seeing the shooter and four accomplices making haste down the alley from the back door of the post office. Awakened citizens came to his aid, discovering Malaby had interrupted the cracking of the post office's safe.

When the sun rose, Malaby and Garfield County Sheriff Adams

tracked the party to the area of today's Rosebud Cemetery. The five robbers were promptly arrested.

Perry Malaby was promoted to Glenwood Springs' Police Chief in 1903 in recognition for his respected law enforcement service. When he died at the age of 70 in 1929, it was written that "he leaves a record for honesty and trustworthiness which is worthy of emulation."

"Frontier Diary" is provided to the Post Independent by the Frontier Historical Society and Museum, 1001 Colorado Ave., Glenwood Springs. Summer hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information, call 945-4448.