



Al Gibbs/Daily Sentinel

Deputy Coroner Gardner Clymer, left, Grand Junction Police Investigator Jerry Hill and Officer Ron Maes investigate a Ptarmigan Ridge construction site where a grave was unearthed Wednesday.

Old grave found at construction site

Greg Grant
Daily Sentinel

Tekla Fash says she has a good idea of how a grave happened to be discovered Wednesday while construction workers were building a house in the Ptarmigan Ridge subdivision off 15th Street.

The workers discovered the bones in a pile of dirt dug up by a front-end loader working on a house site on what is now a dirt road extending beyond the end of the paved 15th Street and its intersection with Ridge Drive now under construction. Authorities were immediately called to investigate.

Fash, 88, still has fond memories of her childhood in that area, growing up on her father's land far north of Grand Junction.

She said their home was built where the old Grand Junction Cemetery used to be in the late 1800s.

Fash said most of the bodies had been removed and her father grew

an orchard in the area. But Fash said she wouldn't be surprised if a body or two was left behind.

"I remember there were two graves that my dad had built a fence around," Fash said. "He used to tell us not to bother it. He said there was a law back then that said you couldn't move a body for seven years after it had been buried."

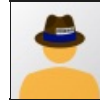
But Fash said she can't recall whatever became of those two graves.

Historian Dave Fishell said the remains discovered Wednesday might have been buried in what was known as Hope Cemetery, which ceased to be used in the 1800s.

A study was done in the early 1980s to determine what became of the remains buried in cemeteries in Mesa County. But there was no mention of Hope Cemetery in that study, Fishell said.

Construction remained halted this morning at the site where the bones were discovered.

Old_Grave



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