

ACROSS THE SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS

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Across the San Juan Mountains by T. A. Rickard

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T. A. RICKARD

**ACROSS THE SAN
JUAN MOUNTAINS**



UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

ACROSS THE SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS.

BY

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the Royal School of Mines; Member of the American
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Colorado 1895-1901.*

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THE ENGINEERING AND MINING JOURNAL.

Gift of *act. 1901*

THIS LITTLE BOOK
IS
DEDICATED
BY
THE AUTHOR
TO
THE THREE COMPANIONS,
H. N. TOB,
LIONEL LINDSAY,
C. H. WITTENOOM,
WHO SHARED THE INCIDENTS
AND EXPERIENCES HEREIN RELATED.

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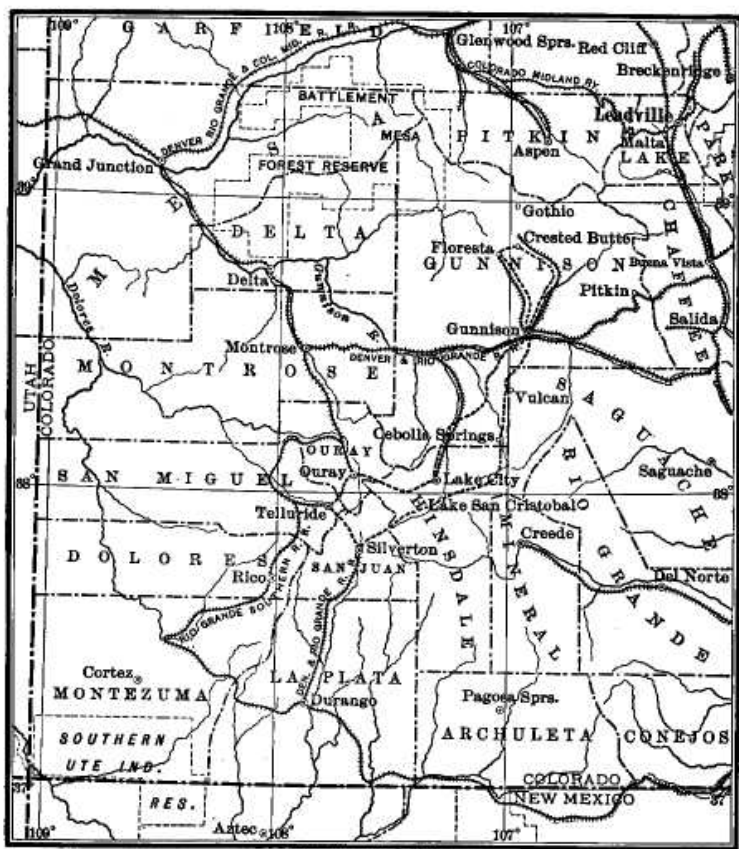
ACROSS THE SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS.

On a superb morning in September, that month of many colors, four of us¹ started on a ride among the mining districts of the San Juan, in southwestern Colorado. The starting point was Ouray, the picturesque little town named after the old chief, an Indian of renown, the friend of the white men who first explored the mountain fastnesses of the Uncompahgre. From Ouray we rode across the ranges to Telluride, Silverton, Lake City, Gunnison, and thence to Crested Butte and back, following a course which, on the map, looks like a figure 8, with Ouray at the base of the lower loop and Crested Butte at the top. See map. The distance was slightly over 400 miles; the country traversed is beautiful to the traveler and interesting to the mining engineer, so that the experience was sufficiently rich in incidents and information to warrant the account which it is my purpose to present.

We left Ouray early on the 5th of September, with the intention of visiting two mines in the vicinity—the American Nettie and the Bachelor. A mile below the town the trail ascends the precipitous sides of Gold Hill, and as our sure-footed mountain horses followed the zig-zag through the pines we found that each turn of the trail brought a steadily expanding vista until, halting on a projecting rock, we could see far out toward the north to the table-lands behind Montrose, across the near valley to the terraced dip-slopes of Triassic sandstone, down upon

¹The party consisted of Messrs. H. N. Tod, Lionel Lindsay, C. H. Wittenoom and the writer.

TO AND
 FROM



SCALE: 40 MILES = 1 INCH.
 - - - - - Route followed.

MAP OF SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO.