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Bent's Old Fort

Colorado National Parks

Famous Stage Coach Now in Bent's Museum

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Forts, Bent's Fort

FAMOUS STAGE COACH NOW IN BENT'S MUSEUM

5-10-44
Las Vegas Leader

The following from Friday's La Junta Daily Tribune will be of interest to many people in this city who have in times past seen the old coach on the streets here in parades, or when it stood for years in the office of the Elder garage:

The famous old Horace Greeley stage coach, claimed to have been the carriage in which Greeley came to the west, today became the property of the La Junta Chamber of Commerce and will remain as an attraction at Bent's Fort museum.

Acquisition of the historic coach was made possible by Dr. G. E. Calonge working in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce. The coach was purchased by Dr. Calonge in the summer of 1943 from Mrs. J. T. Elder of Las Animas. Since that time the relic has been on display in the lobby of the Chamber of Commerce building.

Dr. Calonge has transferred title of the coach to the Chamber of Commerce in exchange for a life membership in the organization, together with some cash consideration.

So scarce are the old Concord stage coaches that many of the younger generation have never seen them, and undoubtedly many old timers have almost forgotten them, although in their time the coaches were the last word in comfort and speed upon the plains.

The old coach still bears the stains and marks of tiresome journeys from Leavenworth to Leadville, to Denver and California points.

For many years the coach stood in barnyards or in the back streets of Las Animas, the prey of weather and vandals. J. T. Elder rescued it and placed it in his garage for safe keeping. Later at a sheriff's sale he purchased the old coach.