A new book about an old terrorist threat is getting a lot of press in Central Colorado lately. Felipe and Vivian Espinosa, and later their nephew Jose Vicente, terrorized Colorado in 1863 (some would extend that threat into 1864). By some accounts they hoped to lead a revolt against the U.S. Government at a time when the U.S. was gradually taking control of New Mexico and Southern Colorado. By some accounts they killed upwards of forty people, all innocent Anglos. They themselves boasted that the kill was 42 Anglos, but other authorities point to 32. At least one of the murdered was of Salida interest. The victim, Henry Harkin, has descendants who knew Harkin well.

The Espinosa stories go on and on. Colonel Inman’s famous book “The Old Spanish Trail” has the Espinosa leading a minor revolt. He cites no less an authority than the old tale teller Dick Wooton on that point. There have even been accounts told about the heads of the Espinosa being preserved in alcohol in the basement of the state capitol in Den-