150th ANNIVERSARY
1861–2011

LARIMER COUNTY

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James Frank / Estes Park Convention & Visitors Bureau

From the Larimer County Manager

Welcome to Larimer County's 150th Anniversary Publication. As you browse these pages, you'll see that as Larimer County residents we have a rich and diverse history that is worth celebrating! I have been honored to serve the citizens of Larimer County for the last 30 years, first as the County Forester, then as Director of Natural Resources and for the last 17 years as your County Manager. The County has grown considerably during my tenure here. We have a vibrant community with cultural opportunities, a strong economic base, and a natural environment second to none.

Larimer County today is a microcosm of Colorado with its healthy and diverse lifestyle. We have mountains, plains, agricultural and urban communities. Our industries include education, high-tech, manufacturing, medical, green energy, breweries, biosciences, and robust music, theatre and arts communities.

We have a great place to live, work, and play. Major attractions in the area include the County's Parks and Open Lands, the Poudre River Canyon and Rocky Mountain National Park. Loveland, Estes Park, Fort Collins and other communities are great tourist destinations. Larimer County's Budweiser Events Center and Fairgrounds at 'The Ranch' are home to the Colorado Eagles hockey team, the Colorado Ice indoor football team, the County Fair and the venues for many concerts, entertainment, conferences and showcase events.

Larimer County Government will continue to strive for improvement and innovation as we move into our next 150 years, providing services to Larimer County citizens guided by our vision:

Larimer County will add value to the lives of its citizens by:

- Being a Good Steward of Public Resources
- Being Customer Driven
- Empowering People to Take Responsibility
- Building Partnerships
- Being a Fulfilling and Enjoyable Place to Work

On behalf of all of your County employees, thank you for the opportunity to serve you. We hope you enjoy this publication.

Frank Lancaster
Larimer County Manager

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Larimer County

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From the Larimer County Commissioners

Providing services to citizens is a primary function of Larimer County government and we've been doing that for a very long time. On January 30, 1862 H. Sayr came in and recorded the deed to 160 acres of land "in the Territory of Colorado and County of Larimer." The Recording Clerk for this was Mr. Howes, the namesake of the street just west of the Larimer County Offices Bldg. and the Justice Center in Fort Collins. On November 17, 1867 Thomas Cline and Ann Jones came in to record their marriage. In 1895 the County spent $21.90 over an extended period to buy groceries, coal, milk, and general merchandise for 43-year old Emily Wright who was widowed with six children and had moved here five years earlier from Maine. Emily's information is listed in the County's Pauper Record, where the "causes of poverty and distress" for those the County assisted included: old age, no work, sickness, desertion of spouse, insanity, and more.

Looking at this information, it is clear that we provide many of the same services today. It is, however, much more complicated with nearly 300,000 residents and a variety of technological advances since those early days. In 1870, the 1st Federal Colorado Census registered 838 residents of Larimer County! This is a little more than half the number of current Larimer County government employees.

Today, prioritization of services and performance-based budgeting is the process we use to continue to deliver not only the responsibilities of the 1860s, but the increased responsibilities that could not have been imagined 150 years ago. This process allows us to provide needed services to county residents even during a time of declining resources and increasing demands.

The price of groceries, coal, milk, and general merchandise that we bought for Emily back in 1895 has certainly gone up and the need for services is far more varied. The recording of Thomas and Ann's marriage license was among handfuls in the 1860s, while in 2010 alone the Clerk and Recorder's Office processed 2,641 marriage licenses! Performance-based budgeting allows us to measure the results of your tax investments in community services, and outcome measurements enable us to demonstrate that we are getting value for your tax dollars and the results you expect.

So while times have changed, and the numbers have grown, your county government is still very much in the business of helping make Larimer County a great place to live, work, play, and raise a family. We think Emily would be surprised at a lot of the changes in Larimer County, but we're pretty sure she would be impressed with our quality of life today and the community that we have built by working together.

Tom Donnelly	Lew Gaiter III	Steve Johnson
Chair	Commissioner	Commissioner
District III	District I	District II

Larimer County

Lew Gaiter III, Steve Johnson, Tom Donnelly

Larimer County

Larimer County Commissioners Ernest Fischer, A. Walter Lawson and Robert H. Watts sign contracts in 1955.

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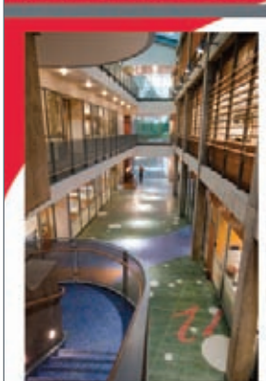

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Elected officials from left to right: Back row – Commissioner Steve Johnson, Treasurer Myrna Rodenberger, Commissioner Tom Donnelly, Commissioner Lew Gaiter III. Front row – Clerk and Recorder Scott Doyle, Assessor Steve Miller, District Attorney Larry Abrahamson, Sheriff Justin Smith, Coroner Patrick Allen, Surveyor Chad Washburn

LARIMER COUNTY GOVERNMENT

When Larimer County was officially created in 1861, services were less complex than they are today. As established by State statute, ten elected Larimer County officials currently administer the governmental tasks of the region: the Assessor, a three-member Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), Clerk and Recorder, Coroner, District Attorney, Sheriff, Surveyor, and Treasurer represent the people of Larimer County.

The BOCC makes policy decisions for the County and administers the budget. It also manages the business affairs of the county by planning and implementing economic goals and strategies that support and benefit citizens. Larimer County uses a budgeting-for-outcomes philosophy and the three Commissioners allocate funding to the county's service-driven, 'results-oriented' areas of focus.

Here is a brief description of some of the programs and services in each of the Results Areas:

JOBS & ECONOMIC VITALITY: Employment services, Enterprise Zone, management of agricultural and rural property and small acreages for economic enterprises.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES: vehicle registrations and licensing; elections; property valuations; collection of taxes.

HEALTH & WELL-BEING: Environmental health and food safety; senior and disabled services; maternal and child health services; community mental health support.

PUBLIC SAFETY: County jail; alternative sentencing programs; law enforcement in unincorporated areas; crime deterrence, prosecution and community corrections; emergency rescue and wildfire management.

TRANSPORTATION: Improvement and maintenance of public roads and bridges; rural traffic safety; and storm water drainage.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES: Operation and management of solid waste at the county landfill, recycling center, hazardous waste facility, and transfer stations. Management of county parks, trails, open spaces, conservation easements, and a Forestry program.

PREPARING FOR GROWTH: Maintains the Land Use Plan for unincorporated areas and assists in land development while maintaining agriculture and open space.

SUPPORT SERVICES: Technology, Communication, Finance, Budget, Facilities, Human Resources, Fleet and other internal services that provide the infrastructure for citizen services.

Larimer County's funding is derived mainly from property taxes, federal and state grants, and user fees from services such as for parks and the landfill.

To contact your elected officials, visit http://larimer.org/officials.htm • 970-498-7000 • www.larimer.org

Current Boards & Commissions

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD Advises the Board of County Commissioners and appropriate county departments on issues that affect production agriculture and agri-business.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT Hears and decides appeals on administrative zoning decisions and considers variances to relieve exceptional or undue hardship imposed by the setback and building height requirements of the Land Use Code.

BOARD OF APPEALS Hears and decides appeals of orders, decisions or determinations made by the Building Official relative to the application and interpretation of the International Building, Residential, Plumbing, Mechanical, Fuel Gas, Energy Conservation, and Existing Building Codes.

BOARD OF HEALTH Functions, by statute, as the governing and policy board for the Larimer County Health Department in administering and enforcing local and state health laws and regulations.

CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL Reviews and makes recommendations concerning grievances of alleged inappropriate conduct by Larimer County Department of Human Services personnel, in the performance of their duties under the Children's Code.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD Sets criteria, reviews referrals to adult community corrections programs; reviews and monitors adult programming and operation.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD Serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of County Commissioners regarding environmental issues within the county and region.

ESTES VALLEY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT Hears zoning variance applications in the Estes Valley Planning Area pursuant to the terms and conditions of the jointly adopted Estes Valley Development Code.

ESTES VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION Joint planning commission for Town of Estes Park and surrounding county advising Town Board and Board of County Commissioners on land use matters and applications.

EXTENSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE Gives input to the county Extension Office on needs for non-formal education related to families, consumers, landowners, agriculture producers and youth in Larimer County.

FAIR BOARD Organizes and coordinates the yearly county fair and serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of County Commissioners.

FLOOD REVIEW BOARD Reviews the exact boundaries of the Floodway and Flood fringe zones, special permit applications, variance petitions for the Flood Plain Regulation, and petitions for expansion of non-conforming uses and structures.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (GID) AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (PID) ADVISORY BOARDS Assists and makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on the affairs of the individual districts.

JUVENILE COMMUNITY REVIEW BOARD Screens referrals for youth returning to Larimer County from the Division of Youth Corrections.

LAND STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY BOARD Advises the County Commissioners on any matters concerning weed and pest control.

LAPORTE AREA PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE Solicits community involvement, opinion, and active participation. Makes recommendations consistent with the LaPorte Area Land Use Plan to Larimer County Boards and Commissions. Advises the Board of County Commissioners on other land use matters of interest to the LaPorte area. Develops, refines and promotes a vision of the future for the LaPorte community.

LARIMER EMERGENCY TELEPHONE AUTHORITY Administrates and operates the "E-911" emergency telephone service.

LARIMER INTEGRATED FAMILY ENHANCEMENT BOARD Also known as the LIFE Board, it was established to maintain and restore community health, safety, and well being by partnering with families, victims, and communities to provide an integrated, immediate, and efficient continuum of local services for youth.

OFFICE ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL Advises the Commissioners and the Office on Aging in all matters of planning for older adults. Carries out the objectives and intent of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended.

OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD Makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the County's share of the Help Preserve Open Spaces sales and use tax.

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD An extension of the Parks Master Plan Task Force, it makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the implementation of the Parks Master Plan.

PLANNING COMMISSION Responsible for adopting a long-range master plan for the physical development of the unincorporated territory of the County; reviews and makes recommendations on zoning, rezoning, subdivisions and Special Reviews.

RED FEATHER LAKES PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE Provides an organized forum to facilitate communication with the County and within the community on issues that impact Red Feather Lakes.

RURAL LAND USE BOARD Advises the Rural Land Use Center (RLUC) Director on process negotiations and policy decisions; makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding rural land development and changes to the purposes and objectives of the RLUC.

WELD/LARIMER REVOLVING LOAN FUND Makes loan decisions regarding a financial loan pool made up of State of Colorado Community Development Block Grant dollars granted to the Weld/Larimer region. The fund's purpose is to provide gap financing assistance to new business and existing business expansions in the rural areas of both counties, with the aim of creating jobs and improved economic conditions. There are eligibility requirements for business ventures applying for the RLF money.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD Provides employer-led, strategic leadership to assist employers in finding talent for existing and emerging industries by convening necessary partners; assists community members in reaching their full potential.

Visit www.larimer.org/boards/ for more information.

LARIMER COUNTY HISTORY SPANS 150 YEARS

Denver Public Library, Western History Collection

General William Larimer (Deceased). (Photographed in 1860.)

1858 The first U.S. settlers arrived in a party led by Antoine Janis from Fort Laramie. Janis, who had visited the area near Bellvue in 1844, proclaimed it "the most beautiful place on earth."

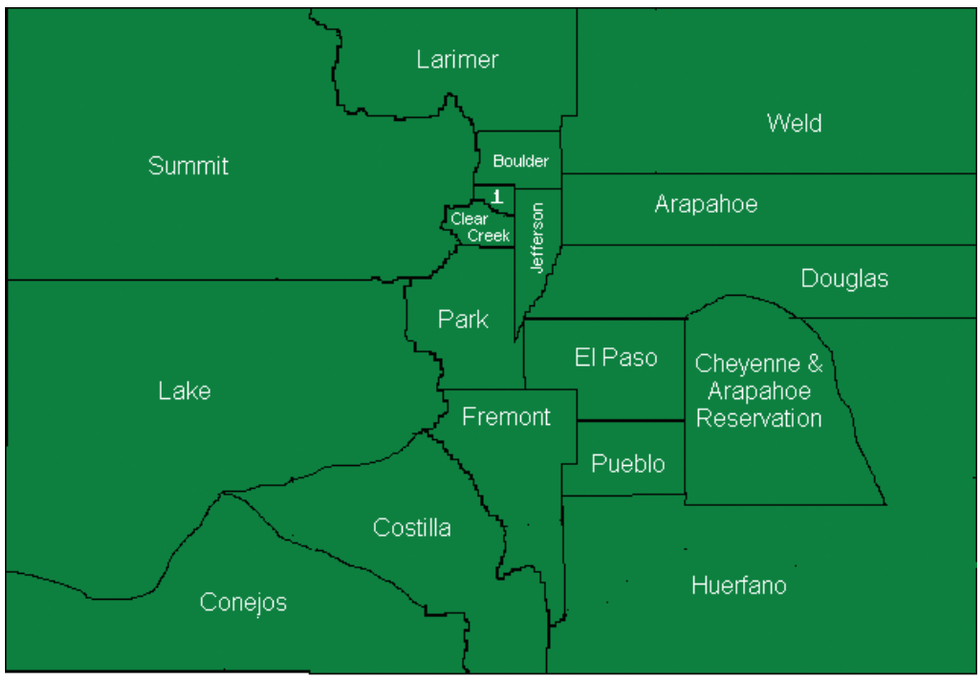
1860s The introduction of irrigation brought the first influx of widespread settlement.

1861 Larimer County was officially created. Both the counties of Grand and Larimer claimed jurisdiction of North Park.

1886 The Supreme Court established the western boundary of Larimer County on the summit of the Snowy Range, or Continental Divide, and also reaffirmed the county's right to exercise full jurisdiction over North Park.

1909 The land between the Medicine Bow Range and the divide was pulled and made part of Jackson County.

2011 Larimer County is one of 64 countines in the state.



Don Stanwyck

1 - Gilpin County

Colorado Counties 1861–1866

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LARIMER COUNTY

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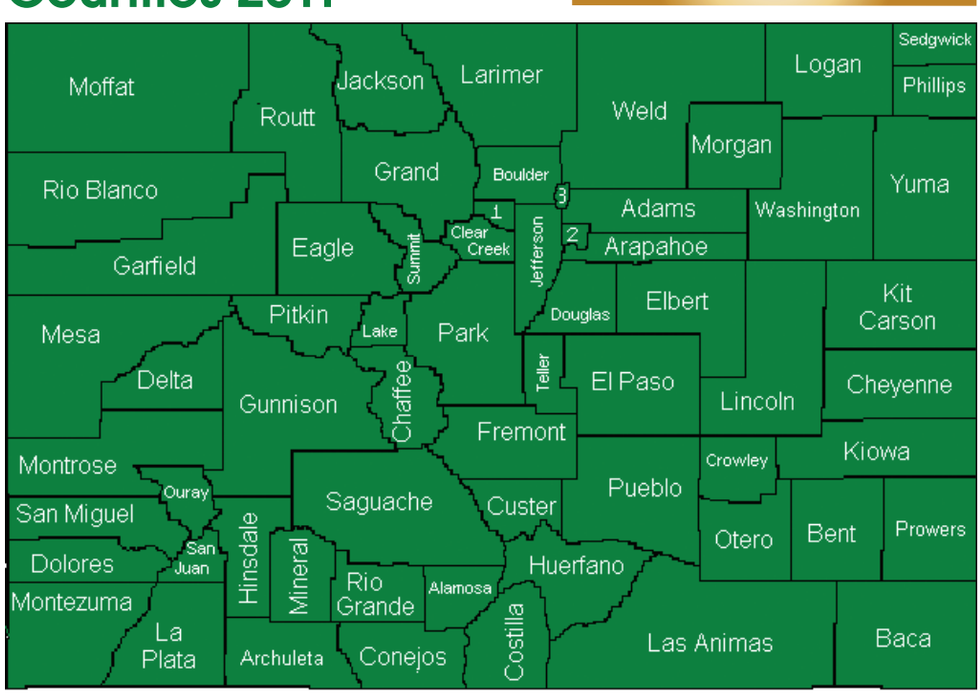
Colorado Counties 2011



Don Stanwyck

1 - Gilpin 2 - Denver 3 - Broomfield

The area that encompasses present-day Larimer County has been inhabited for at least 12,000 years by indigenous peoples from Clovis and Folsom cultures to Native American groups that include the Ute, Lakota, Apache, Comanche, Kiowa, Arapaho, and Cheyenne. The area was officially opened to white settlement following negotiations with the Cheyenne and Arapaho in the 1858 Treaty of Fort Laramie. The first U.S. settlers arrived that same year in a party led by Antoine Janis from Fort Laramie. Janis, who had visited the area near Bellvue in 1844, proclaimed it "the most beautiful place on earth." He returned, filed his official claim, and helped found the first U.S. settlement in Colorado, called Colona, just west of LaPorte. Close to this same time, Mariana Medina established Namaqua along the Big Thompson River just west of present-day Loveland.

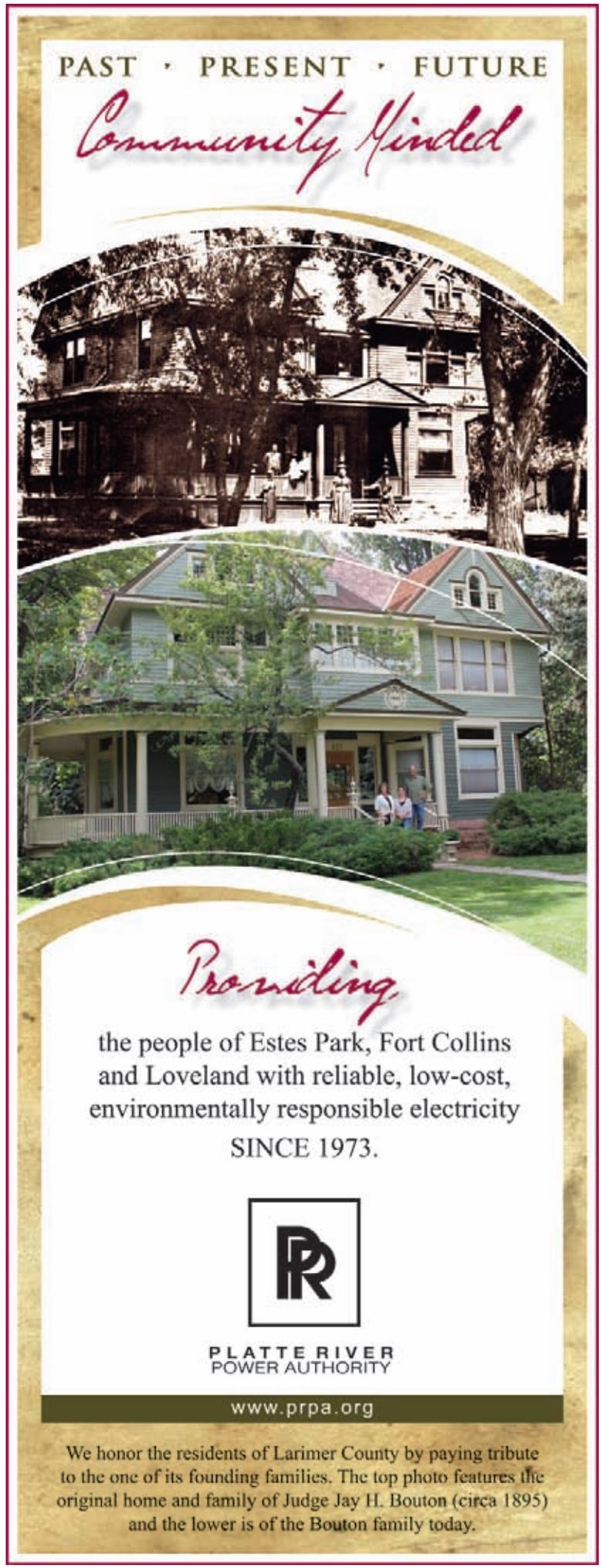
While most of Colorado was founded on the mining of gold and silver, the settlement of Larimer County was based almost entirely on agriculture, an industry most people though impossible during the initial days of the Colorado Gold Rush. The mining boom almost entirely passed the county. It took the introduction of irrigation in the 1860s, to bring the first influx of widespread settlement.

Larimer County was officially created in 1861. The first Territorial Legislature met in Denver in September of that year and divided the Territory into seventeen counties and three judicial districts. The name, Larimer, was chosen as a tribute to General William Larimer, although he never lived in the County. He was a leader among Denver's pioneers and had a reputation as an effective town manager. Many people of the time thought Denver should have been named after him. While that didn't happen, the Territorial Legislature chose his name for the county in northern Colorado because of his part in the state's history.

Shortly after the formation, a controversy grew over Larimer County's boundaries. Both the counties of Grand and Larimer claimed jurisdiction of North Park, and each contending for the right to assess and collect taxes. The pasturelands of North Park had attracted ranchers and brought several thousand head of cattle into the park. Several large ranches were established, creating a good amount of taxable property.

The battle between the counties made its way into court dispute over Larimer County's western boundary. Did it end at the Medicine Bow Range or at the Continental Divide thirty miles further west? The 1886 opinion of the Supreme Court clearly established the western boundary of Larimer County on the summit of the Snowy Range, or Continental Divide, and also reaffirmed the county's right to exercise full jurisdiction over North Park. The land between the Medicine Bow Range and the divide, however, was later pulled and made part of Jackson County in 1909.

Current day Larimer County is the sixth most populous and the ninth most extensive of the 64 counties of the State of Colorado.



Donna Hart / Larimer County

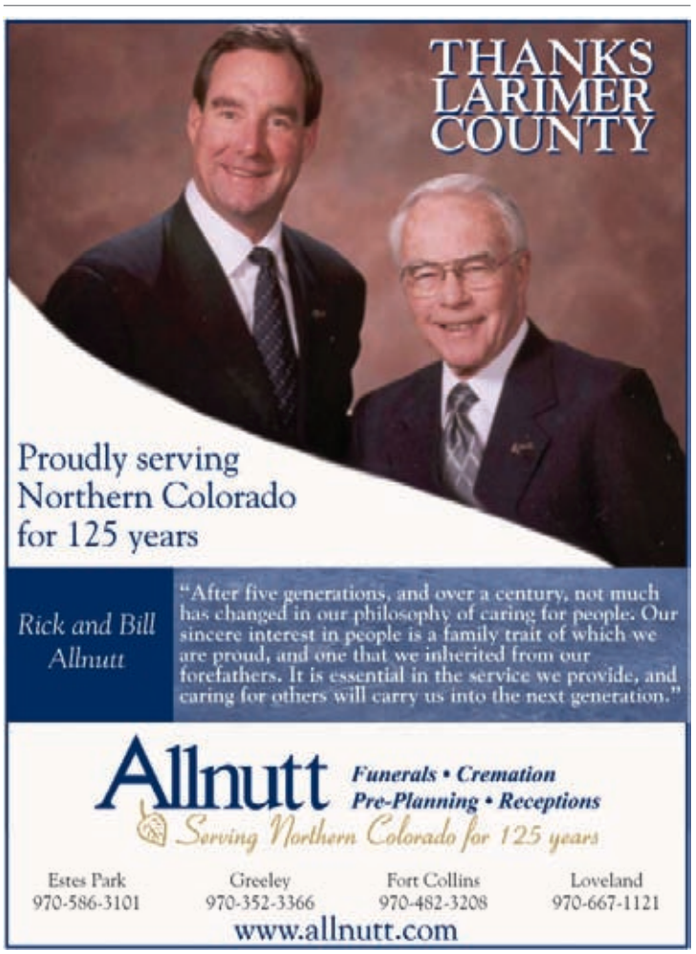
Year	Population	Increase	Change
1870	832	--	--
1900	12,168	11,336	93.2%
1910	25,270	13,102	51.8%
1920	27,872	2,602	9.3%
1930	33,137	5,265	15.9%
1940	35,539	2,402	6.8%
1950	43,554	8,015	18.4%
1960	53,343	9,789	22.5%
1970	89,900	36,557	40.6%
1980	149,184	59,284	39.7%
1990	186,136	36,952	19.8%
2000	251,494	65,358	25.9
2010	299,630	--	--

Colorado State Planning Division.
U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970-2010.

IF BUILDINGS COULD TALK…

The voter-approved Larimer County Justice Center at 201 LaPorte Avenue in Fort Collins, is the fifth building to house the courts since Larimer became a county in 1861, 150 years ago. It was dedicated September 15, 2000.

Larimer County's first county seat was in the town of LaPorte in a log cabin purchased for $150 from Henry Arrison. County government took place in the Log Cabin Courthouse from 1865-1868. But, just down the road, events were occurring that would change that.



In 1862, the U.S. Army established an outpost near LaPorte designated as Camp Collins. A devastating flood in June 1864 wiped it out, so the military moved it to a new higher location a few miles downstream and changed the name to Fort Collins. The post was abandoned in 1866 but, by that time, the community had grown enough that it continued to thrive after the military left. The town grew fast and, in 1868, the voters made Fort Collins the county seat. It resided in the 'Old Grout' building in Fort Collins until 1882.

More space was required for the County's business, pushing it into temporary quarters that were used until 1888. Voters approved $40,000 to build a new Larimer County Courthouse on Oak Street in Fort Collins. This was the third courthouse but the first building citizens approved and built strictly for this purpose.

In 1955, the cornerstone was laid and, in 1957, the County offices were moved into what has become known as the south wing, phase 1, of the Larimer County Courthouse, 200 West Oak Street, Fort Collins. The $1.7 million building cost was funded through a buildings mill levy that began in 1946, interest earned, and a contingency fund. The north wing was built in 1970.

The Oak Street courthouses were located just one block south of today's Justice Center. When the 1950s era courthouse was built on another part of the block, the 1880 courthouse remained in use until the county moved into the new building in 1957 and demolished the 1880 courthouse.

In 2003, Larimer County once again began building on the Oak Street block opposite the 1950s era courthouse. This time it was for the Larimer County Courthouse Offices Building that opened in the summer of 2003. Because the courts had been moved to the new Justice Center one block north, this voter approved new building was built to provide services and house six of the ten elected county officials: the Assessor; the Clerk &Recorder; the three Commissioners; and the Treasurer. The Coroner is located in Loveland, the District Attorney is in the new Justice Center, the Surveyor is in a private business, and the Sheriff's Office was

Carmen Ruyle Hardy

Larimer County

Larimer County

Larimer County

Larimer County

relocated from the Oak Street complex to the Sheriff's Administration Building and Detention Center campus in east Fort Collins. When the Courthouse Offices Building was built, the 1950s era courthouse was demolished.

Original cornerstones from previous courthouses are on display under the arch near the Civic Center Park entrance. Outside the Courthouse Offices Building on Oak Street, a rose garden blooms with bushes from the original 1880s site. Repurposed stone, taken from the 1950s courthouse building wraps around the lower portion of the building. The same stone has been reused in several other county buildings including the Budweiser Events Center at the The Ranch and the Solid Waste building in west Fort Collins. Original sidewalk pavers from the 1880s were also installed at this site and the building was sited to reflect the Canyon Avenue orientation of the 1880s courthouse.

Historical photos unearthed from time capsules in the 1950s courthouse, current Colorado artwork, and student art projects are featured though out these newest County buildings.

Carmen Ruyle Hardy

Larimer County Demographics

POPULATION: Larimer County continues to grow. Edging ever upward, the numbers have grown from 251,486 in 2000 to 299,630 in 2010, according to the 2010 U.S. Census for Colorado. This 19% increase from 2000 to 2010 can be attributed to net migration (more residents arrived than left) and natural change (more births than deaths). During the last decade, the population of Larimer County has grown nearly 19% and, over the last two decades, the county's population grew an average of 2.4% per year. Fort Collins is the County's largest city with an estimated population of 139,587 in 2010.

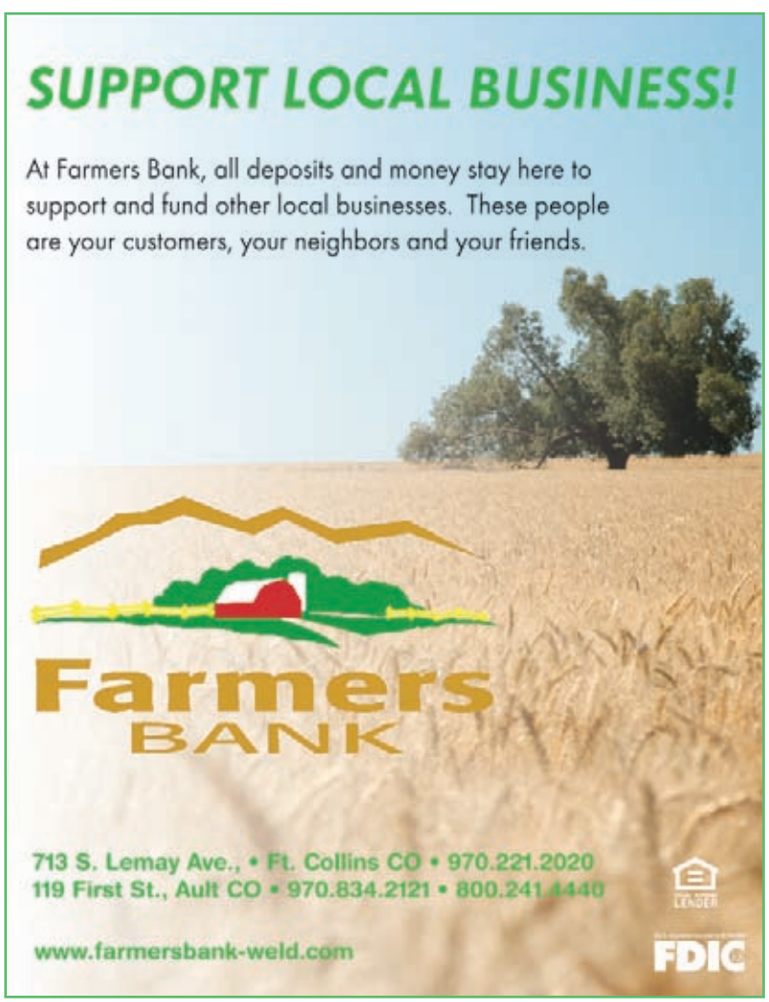
ETHNICITY: In 2009, the overwhelming majority of Larimer County residents self-identified as Non-Hispanic White (84.8%) followed by Hispanics (10.2%). The number of Hispanics living in Larimer County increased 45.7% since the 2000 Census. Larimer County showed a significantly lower Hispanic population when compared to Colorado as a whole (20.3%).

INCOME: In 1990, 2000, and 2010, Larimer County's Median Family Income (MFI) was greater than both the Colorado and National levels. Between 1990 and 2000, Larimer County's MFI increased 60% and then increased an additional 27% between 2000 and 2010. The 2011 MFI is $76,700 compared with Colorado at $73,100 and the Nation at $64,200 according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

AGE: The estimated population of children under 18 is currently estimated at 69,154 while those over 65 are estimated at 33,584. In 2009, the median age was 35.

UNEMPLOYMENT: The Fort Collins/Loveland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had lower unemployment rates than both Colorado and the United States from July 2009 to December 2010, dropping slightly over the 18 months. The MSA unemployment rates were consistently lower than unemployment rates for the United States and Colorado between 2001 and 2010. The nation's unemployment rate increased nearly 60% between 2008 and 2009 (5.8% and 9.3%, respectively). Although the national unemployment rate was higher, Colorado's unemployment rate increased 73% between 2008 and 2009 (4.8% and 8.3%, respectively) and the rate in the Fort Collins/Loveland MSA increased 69% (4.2% and 7.1%, respectively).

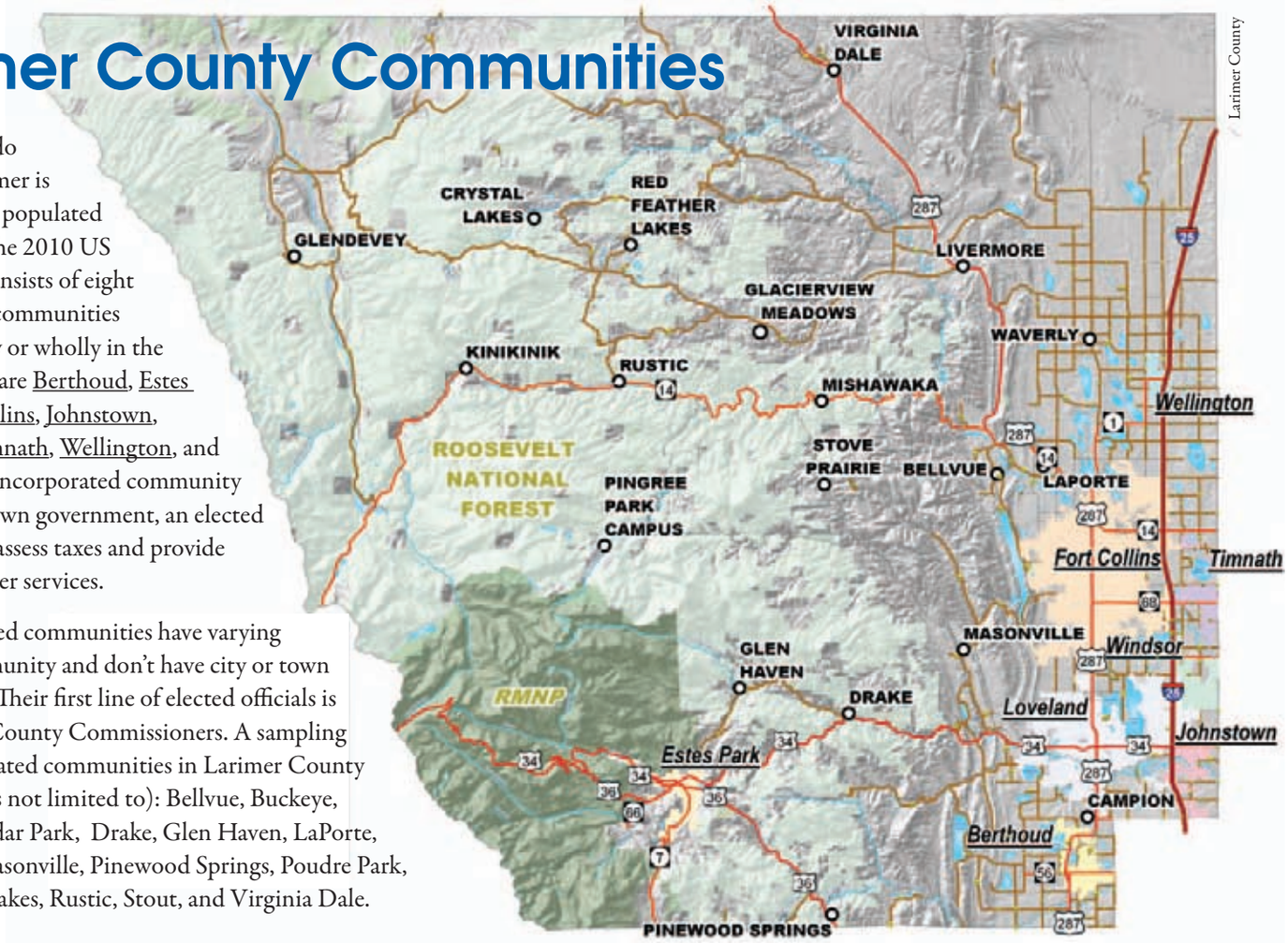
EDUCATION: Between 2007 and 2009, Larimer County had fewer residents with less than a high school diploma, a high school diploma or a G.E.D. than the nation. Larimer County had significantly more residents with an associate's degree or higher than the U.S. In 2009, 49% of Larimer County residents possessed an associate's degree or higher.



Larimer County Communities

Of 64 Colorado counties, Larimer is the sixth most populated according to the 2010 US Census and consists of eight incorporated communities either partially or wholly in the County. They are Berthoud, Estes Park, Fort Collins, Johnstown, Loveland, Timnath, Wellington, and Windsor. An incorporated community has a city or town government, an elected body and can assess taxes and provide police and other services.

Unincorporated communities have varying levels of community and don't have city or town governments. Their first line of elected officials is the Board of County Commissioners. A sampling of unincorporated communities in Larimer County include (and is not limited to): Bellvue, Buckeye, Campion, Cedar Park, Drake, Glen Haven, LaPorte, Livermore, Masonville, Pinewood Springs, Poudre Park, Red Feather Lakes, Rustic, Stout, and Virginia Dale.



Larimer County

passion. dedication. generosity.

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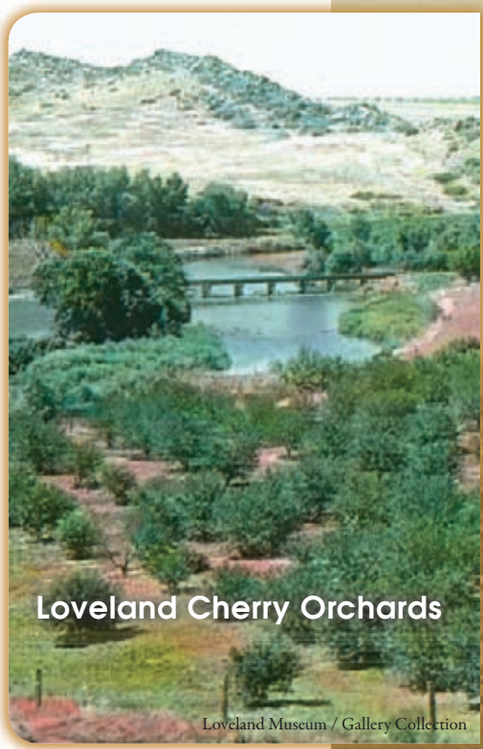
Thank you fighting cancer in our community and saving your change to create change. Everyone at Larimer County has helped us get one step closer to building the Poudre Valley Cancer Center.

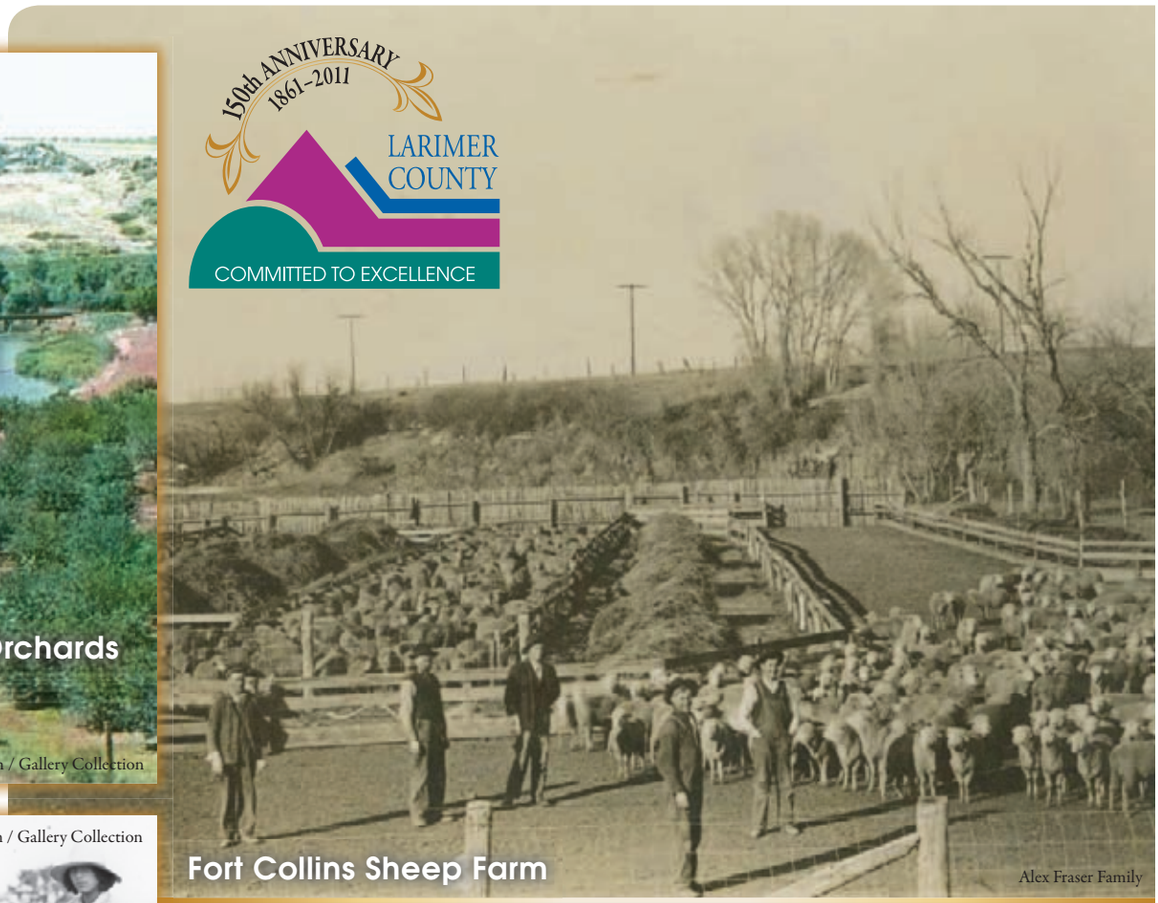
ENGAGE in life.org

Congratulations on 150 years of service to our community!



Loveland Cherry Orchards

Loveland Museum / Gallery Collection



Fort Collins Sheep Farm

Alex Fraser Family

Loveland Museum / Gallery Collection

Loveland Beet Farmers

Alex Fraser Family

Timnath Potato Farmers

EARLY AGRICULTURE

Larimer County's population, unlike much of Colorado's early settlement, was not driven by the Gold Rush. A few of those prospectors wandered into the area, and some of the French fur trappers and their Indian wives settled along the Poudre in 1859. While little attention was initially paid to agriculture, the fertile plains and proximity to water provided a good basis for vegetables and hay. In great demand in the mining camps, hay commanded a high price and vegetables of all kinds found growing markets in Denver, Central City, and Blackhawk.

Early pioneers typically cultivated sustenance vegetables, grains and animal fodder at the lower lands of the Cache la Poudre and Big Thompson rivers. As the population grew and commercial farming interests began to take hold, reliable waterworks systems consisting of irrigation canals were developed to offset low rainfalls.

Larger fields were dedicated to wheat, corn, potatoes and alfalfa. Several area cherry and apple orchards were successful for a time and Loveland became quite a cherry capital in later years. Sugar beets were particularly well suited to the climate and, although a four-year crop rotation was required for the soil, the high yield became foremost to the area by the early 1900s.

Wheat and grain were first locally milled into flour in 1868, and the earliest sugar beet factory was erected in 1901. The fields and factories were manned largely by German-Russian immigrants and later by Mexican workers, whose presence accounted for the county's population surges at the turn of the century.

Cattle also became an economic mainstay and, in the 1860s, Larimer County was dominated by the open range cattle industry. The number of small farmers began to grow, predominately along the waterways. Conditions were not always favorable for crops or livestock. There were years of winter blizzards, spring floods, summer droughts and grasshopper over-

population plagues. Livestock responded to severe weather conditions with periodic outbreaks of various illnesses. Severe blizzards in 1886/87 killed much of the livestock on the range. The open range cattle industry lost momentum as more land passed into private ownership and fences became more common.

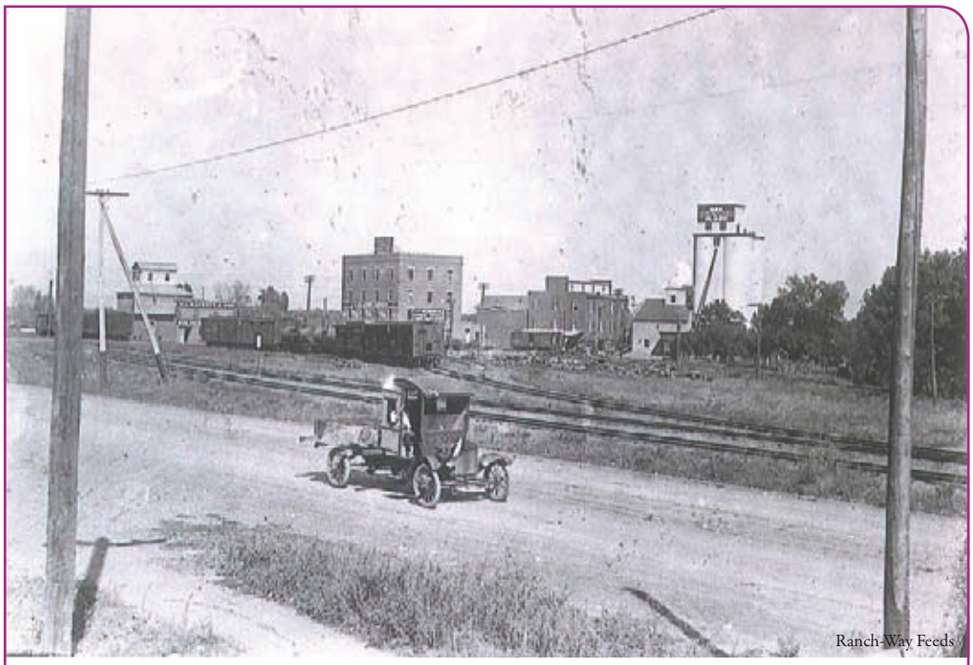
The 1880s and 1890s saw steady growth and greater diversification in the county and, in 1899, with great opposition from the cattlemen, sheep were introduced to the area also ranging freely and competing for wild grains. This conflict created an insurgence of feeding crop production for enclosed livestock, a concept enabled by wired fencing. In the early 1900s, Larimer County became one of the largest wool production centers in the U.S.

Today, the agrarian roots of Larimer County remain strong, if not as prominent. As last reported in 2007, the leading rural enterprise crops are alfalfa, wheat, corn, and vegetables. Key livestock operations are respectively: cattle for sale and beef production, horses, poultry, sheep, swine, and milk cattle.

The number of farms and ranches has steadily increased over a 25-year period, registering 1,757 in 2007. However, the number of acres per farm has decreased to an average of 279. Sixty-one percent have fewer than 50 acres, with a total county acreage of 489,819.

Largest Larimer County Agribusinesses

1. Grant Family Farms, Inc. – Wellington
2. Crop Production Services – Loveland
3. W. W. Livestock Systems – Berthoud
4. Obermeyer Hydro, Inc. – Wellington
5. Watterson Foods, Inc. – Fort Collins
6. Peterson's Specialty Products, Inc. –Loveland
7. Cache la Poudre Feeds, LLC – Fort Collins
8. Seaworth Agriculture Enterprises, Inc. – Wellington



Ranch-Way Feeds

Ranch-Way Feeds

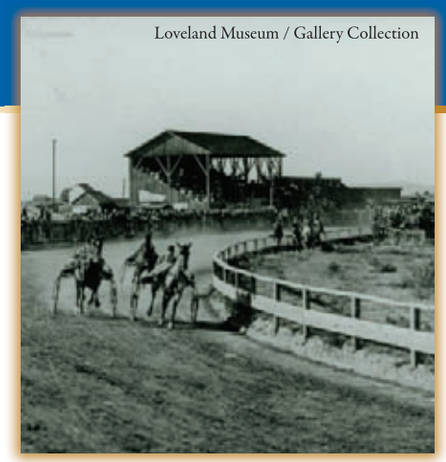
Ranch-Way Feeds, located on the banks of the Poudre River, is the oldest continuously operating business in Fort Collins. Milling has taken place on the Ranch-Way site since 1868, making it Fort Collins' "oldest industry." Beginning as the site of Auntie Stone's flourmill, it is truly the picture of a mill's evolution. Originally the Lindell Mill processed local wheat into flour that was sold under several names including Defiance, Jack Frost, Snow Trader, Snowflake and Pride of Colorado. Water from the Poudre River was diverted to the mill for energy and power. In 1885, the Colorado Milling and Elevator Company acquired the mill and began operating as the Fort Collins Flour Mills. By 1919, electric motors replaced waterpower as flour production continued into the 1940s. Flour milling was discontinued at this site in 1948, and replaced with the manufacturing of livestock feed. Ranch-Way Feeds has been locally owned and operated by the Bixler family since 1968 and focuses on bulk commercial feed, wholesale bagged feed, and specialty products. Many modifications have been made to the historic mill to ensure that Ranch-Way Feeds continues to be a major supplier to the agriculture industry. A state of the art computerized batching system, two adaptable pellet mills, a high-tech mixer, an efficient blocking facility and a computerized packaging and palletizing machine make Ranch-Way Feeds a modern leader in the animal feed industry.

Larimer County Farmers' Market

The Annual Larimer County Farmers' Market celebrated its 36th year in 2011. The June-October event is held in Old Town Fort Collins and put on by Larimer County/ CSU Extension with the help of Extensions' Colorado Master Gardener volunteers. The Farmers' Market features fresh Colorado produce, plants, cut flowers, locally made breads, baked items, canned goods, and a children's program called "Lil' Sprouts." The market is unique in that it accepts food stamps and sells "Market Bucks" to customers who come with credit cards and need cash for produce. The volunteer Master Gardeners and Master Food Safety Advisors are always on hand to answer questions on gardening and food preservation. ***Visit www.larimercountyfarmersmarket.blogspot.com***

Loveland Museum / Gallery Collection

FAIRGROUNDS HISTORY



Loveland Museum / Gallery Collection

During its 132-year history, the Larimer County Fairgrounds moved three times. The first location was a 40-acre parcel located in Fort Collins on Lemay Avenue where Poudre Valley Hospital now stands. A financial crisis in 1893 brought an end to the county fair in Fort Collins. Loveland added the fair as an extension of the City's annual Corn Roast celebration in 1912, building the facility on a six acre site of a former horse race track, adjacent to the Big Thompson River and just south of downtown Loveland.

The Old Fairgrounds housed many structures: a caretaker's House, former calvary stables and two buildings once used to house prisoners of war during World War II. A number of other buildings were added to the grounds, each named after significant contributors to the growth of the Larimer County Fair. Names such as Don McMillen, H.A. "Sandy' Sandhouse, Robert Broad, Glenn Crowley, Tom Brown, Jay Cross, Eddy Beard, and Jim and Pat Pawley and Ron Rodenberger designated the buildings. The Fair operated for 91 years (1912-2003) at this site.

With the help of long-time Fair advocates and many 4-H families and friends, a measure passed by Larimer County voters in 1998 allowed for a one-year sales tax to purchase the land that would eventually house the fairgrounds. Another measure passed in 2000 supporting the construction of The Ranch Fairgrounds and Events Complex, a state of the art, eight building complex that boasts 150 acres of site work and over 375,000 square feet of event space at Crossroads Boulevard, just east of I-25 in Loveland. In addition to the move of the annual Fair in 2003, The Ranch complex can accommodate a variety of events from trade shows, conferences and meetings to concerts and festivals. Its easily accessible location and impeccable amenities have made it the ideal site for regional, state and national events. In addition to the many activities at the Fair, an annual Larimer County Fair and Rodeo Parade is held each year as is a special honoring of a "Fair Family of the Year."

The rich tradition, hard work and community involvement at the Fairgrounds continues. The saying "If there's somebody you haven't seen for awhile, go down to the fair and you'll see them," still stands.

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THE RANCH

Larimer County Fair 2003

Kevin Gibbs / Larimer County

Larimer County

Budweiser Events Center at The Ranch

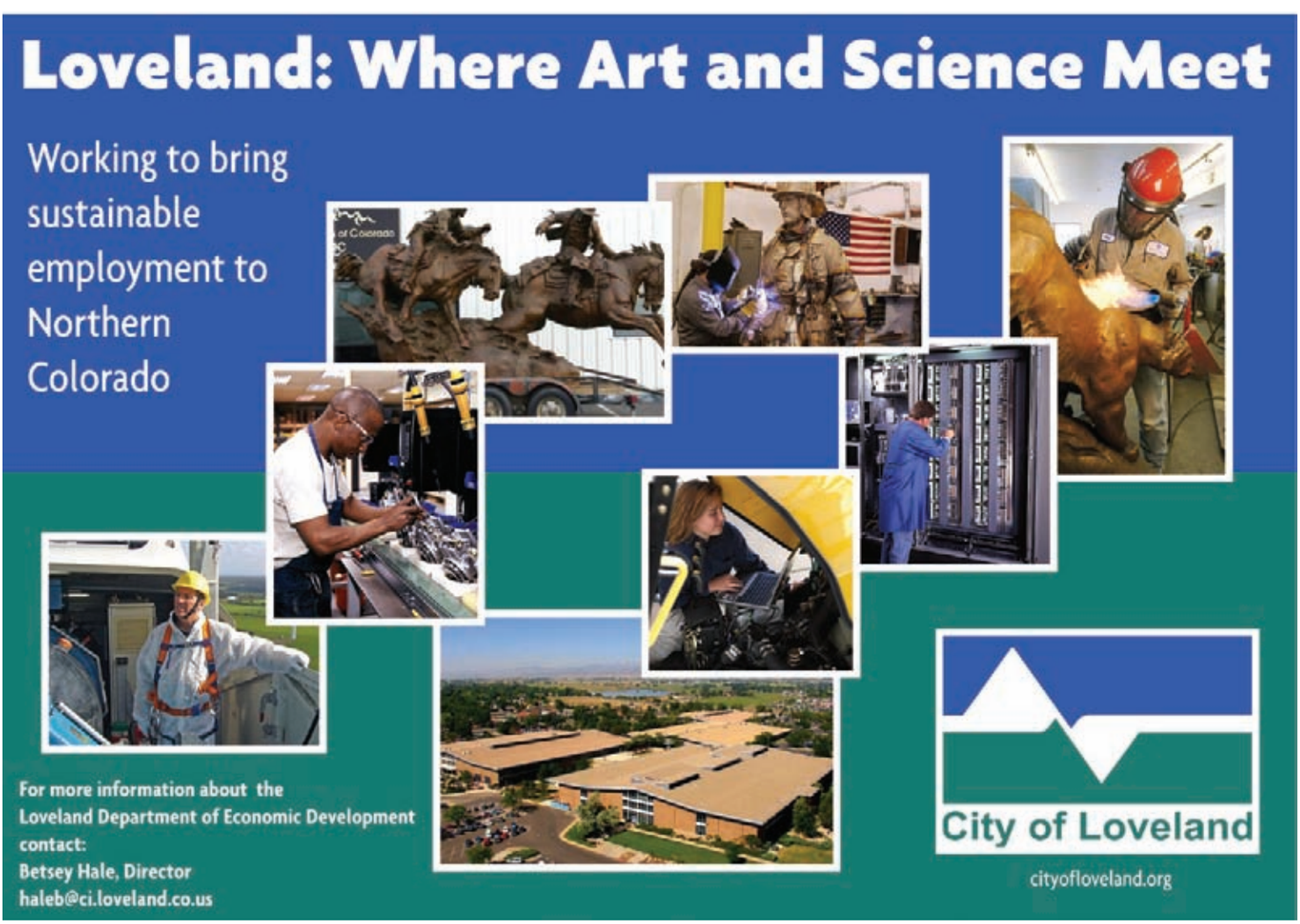
John Clarke / Larimer County

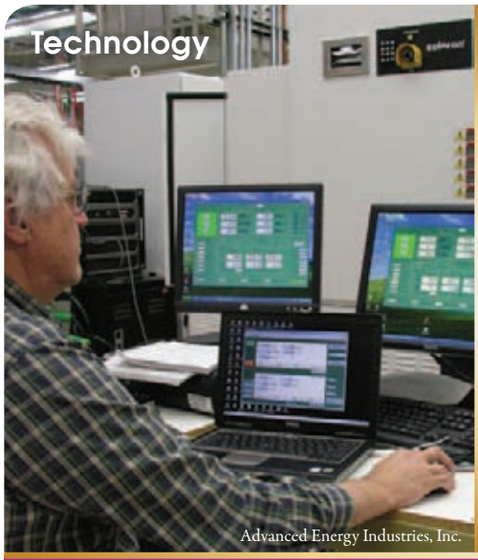
Since the first shovel hit the ground on its campus, The Ranch Fairgrounds and Events Complex has been earning the reputation as one of the premier event and entertainment complexes in the region. With the ability to host anything from a board meeting to tens of thousands of music festival fans, the multi-purpose venues on the campus of The Ranch is not only known locally as a place for local entertainment, but is also a nationally known event destination.

In keeping 132 years of history in mind, The Ranch has room names dedicated to the exact building names previously located on the Old Fairgrounds. McMillen, Sandhouse, Broad, Crowley, Brown, Cross, Beard, Pawley and Rodenberger are all names of rooms in either the First National Bank Exhibition Halls, or the Thomas M. McKee 4-H Building at The Ranch.

Many Larimer County residents have frequented The Ranch not only as the new site for the annual Larimer County Fair, but the site for Budweiser Events Center. This 7,200 seat multi-purpose venue is called home by the Colorado Eagles of the ECHL and the Colorado Ice Indoor Football team of the IFL. The arena has seen some of the best bands, comedians, family and theater shows stop in Loveland for a evening or two as well including Bill Cosby, Matchbox 20, Cirque du Soleil, Disney on Ice, Rod Stewart, Journey, RENT, WWE, Garrison Keillor, Blue Man Group, Alan Jackson, Lord of the Dance, Monster Trucks, Jeff Dunham, Larry the Cable Guy, Ron White, Kenny Rogers, Miranda Lambert, ZZ Top, Harlem Globetrotters, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, and many more.

In addition to events inside each building on the campus of The Ranch, the campus has held multiple large events that take up much of the area in the almost 150 acres of outdoor space at the Fairgrounds. These events include the GoodGuys Car Show, Thunder in the Rockies Motorcycle Rally, HeavenFest and Praise in the Park. Because of the setting and the wonderful facilities, Larimer County residents can be sure more is in store for the future.





Advanced Energy Industries, Inc.

Odell Brewing Co.

INDUSTRY

1950s brochure cover

Larimer County

Heska Corporation

Colorado State University

Larimer County is ahead of the rest of the state and even the country when it comes entrepreneurism: in 2008, 76.5% of all businesses owned in Larimer County had fewer than ten people on staff, as compared to 76.4% in the state and a national figure of 73.1%. Companies with one to four employees account for 58% of Larimer County businesses. Educational institutions account for three of the top employers (Colorado State University, Poudre School District and Thompson School District), and two are in the health care industry (Poudre Valley Health Systems and McKee Medical Center). Larimer County is the 4th largest public-sector employer with 1600 employees.

When broken out by industry, the retail trade comes in with the highest number of employees. Figures from 2008 show 17,428 people employed in nearly 1,300 retail establishments throughout the county. Big box stores and chains account for significant sales figures — Wal-Mart alone had $408,214,000 in revenue in 2009.

Second in line is the joint category of healthcare and social services with 941 businesses and organizations employing 16,077 people. Human services organizations represented 25% of 681 public charities in Larimer County. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, healthcare and social assistance is expected to account for 26% of all new jobs created by the year 2018 including positions in public and private hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities and individual and family services. This trend is, indeed, evident in Larimer County as seen in the addition of hospitals, urgent care clinics and satellite offices throughout the region. The Compass of Larimer County website (www.larimer.org/compass/) shows an increasing need for public assistance; the Low Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) alone saw an increase of 105% from 2001-2010.

Combined, accommodation and food services come in third with 14,365 employees in 812 companies. The addition of the Embassy Suites in Loveland at Larimer County's The Ranch has upped the ante in Northern Colorado by adding a significant number of rooms and valuable conference space. Smaller hotels, like the Armstrong, fill the boutique niche along with a growing number of bed and breakfasts.

The manufacturing industry employs nearly 12,000 people. Woodward tops the list locally almost 1,000 local employees. The trend from 2001 – 2005 showed a 26% decrease in manufacturing, equating a loss of 7,667 jobs.

However, there has been recovery as well. Between 2009 and 2010, Abound Solar and OtterBox grew their employee rosters by 40% and 76%, respectively.

For the construction industry, 2008 data shows that 1,231 companies kept 9,738 people employed. New housing starts declined significantly since 2000 with a high of 2,724 to a low of 361 in 2009. From 2001 to 2010, the number of foreclosure filings in Larimer County increased 403%, clearly impacting this industry.

Government and education round out the top industries in the county. Larimer County is the largest employer in the government arena with 1,400 people on the payroll followed by the Cities of Fort Collins (1,134) and Loveland (1,031). Colorado State University is the largest education employer in the county, with 6,140 employees. That's followed by Poudre School District (3,546), Thompson School District (2,113) and Front Range Community College (749).

Largest Locally Based Public Companies

(Ranked by gross revenue)

Woodward, Inc. – $1,430,125,000
Advanced Energy Industries Inc. – $186,395,000
Heska Corporation – $75,678,000
UQM Technologies – $8,692,000

Top Five Larimer County Employers

(Ranked by number of employees)

Colorado State University – 6,140
Poudre Valley Health System – 4,435
Poudre School District – 3,456
Hensel Phelps Construction – 2,257
Thompson School District – 2,113

Woodward, Inc.

The Woodward journey began in Rockford, Illinois in 1870 with Amos W. Woodward's invention of a non-compensating mechanical waterwheel governor. He began to work in his governor business full time in 1872. The company initially made controls for waterwheels, later moving to hydro turbines. In the 20s, Woodward began designing controls for diesel and industrial turbines. In the 30s, Woodward developed a governor for variable-pitch aircraft propellers. When the U.S. military's first turbine-powered aircraft made its successful flight, the engine had a Woodward control.

In the 1950s, Woodward began designing electronic controls, first analog then digital units. In the same decade, the company expanded its facilities in Rockford and set-up a new operation in Fort Collins. After Fort Collins was chosen in December 1954, Woodward rented a building that previously housed the Valentine Motor Company. Machine operators set up screw machines and turret lathes and trained 56 Colorado A&M (now Colorado State University) students who worked while they continued taking classes. Within three years, Woodward occupied three buildings (two of which they owned) and the operation continued to grow. By 1958, 250 people were employed. Currently, the facility in Fort Collins has more than 700 members.

Today, Woodward is an independent designer, manufacturer, and service provider of energy control and optimization solutions for global infrastructure equipment. It integrates leading-edge technologies into fuel, combustion, fluid, actuation, and electronic control systems for the aerospace and energy markets. Woodward's growth has been driven by the increasing demand for fuel-efficient, low-emission, and high-performance energy management. It currently has 25 locations in ten countries including the Fort Collins operation.

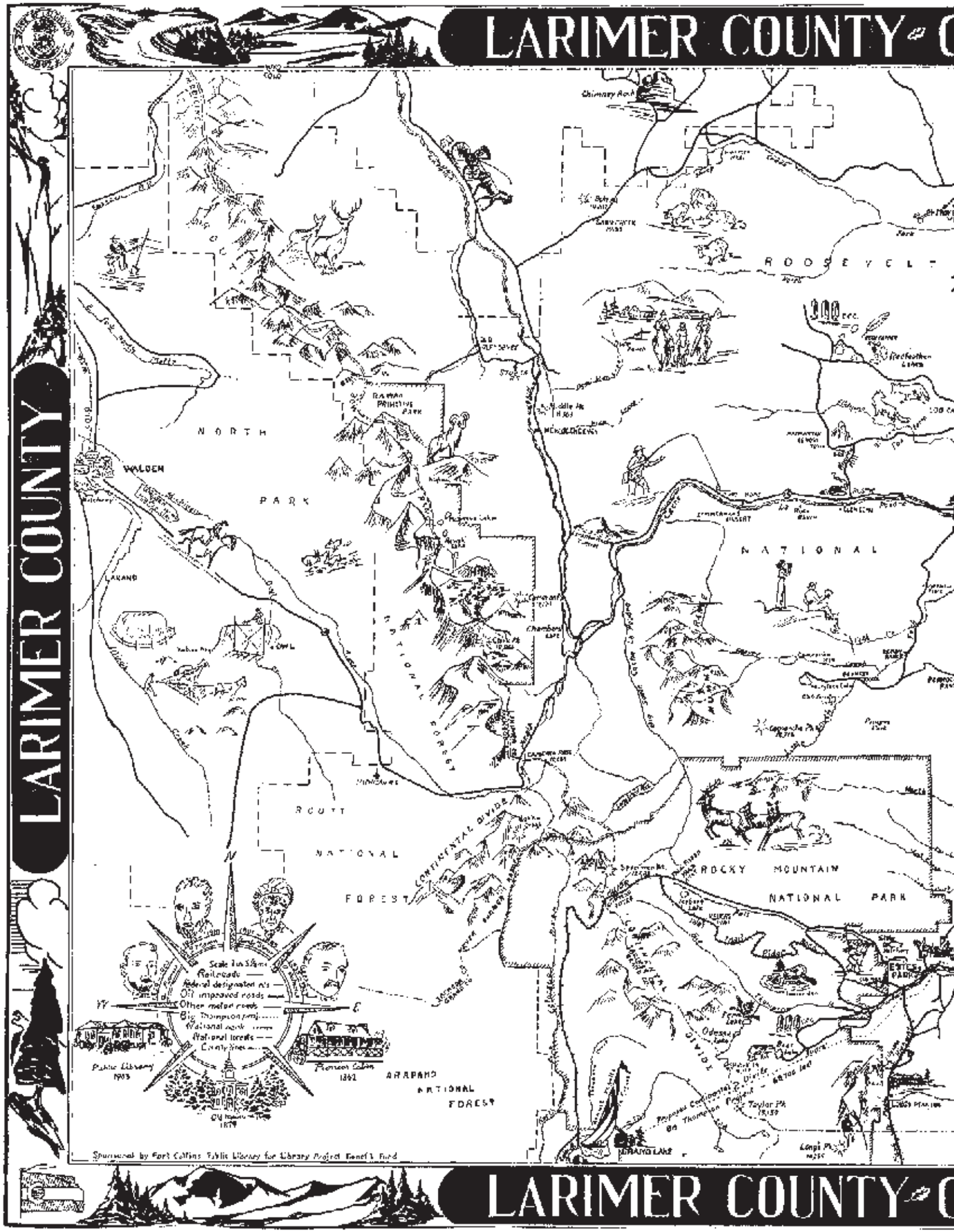
Johnson's Corner

Johnson's Corner

Beginning as a gas station in the middle of farmland, Johnson's Corner has grown to a nationally recognized truck stop and restaurant, exemplifying an industrious spirit and can-do attitude. In 1950, Joe S. Johnson and one of his station managers, Clayton Bearly, staked the outlines of a new business on the old US Highway 87. Surrounded by farmland and a beautiful view of the Rocky Mountains, Johnson's Corner opened in 1952. While the idea seemed crazy to many, shortly after the opening, construction began on an interstate highway that would run right in front of the new truck stop. When I-25 opened in the early 60s, the Johnson's Corner's legacy began. Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, Johnson's Corner has never closed its doors.

Johnson's vision and his legacy is carried on by his family, who still own and operate the business. Renowned for their World Famous Cinnamon Rolls, Johnson's Corner was even featured in the Hollywood movie, "Larger than Life," starring Bill Murray and Matthew McConaughey in 1995. In 1998, Travel & Leisure magazine picked Johnson's Corner as having one of the "Ten Best Breakfasts in the World." A few years later, in 2003, it was featured on the WB2 Network as one of the best roadside attractions in the United States. And in 2004, the Food Network called Johnson's Corner the "Top Truck Stop Restaurant" in the country. The legend continues.

Tim O'Hara / Johnson's Corner


LARIMER COUNTY
LARIMER COUNTY
NORTH
PARK
WALDEN
ROOSEVELT
NATIONAL
ROUTT
NATIONAL
FOREST
ROCKY MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL PARK
ARAPAHO
NATIONAL
FOREST
Railroads
Federal designated roads
Other motor roads
Public Library
1903
Pioneer Cabin
1862
Old Town
1879
Sponsored by Fort Collins Public Library for Library Project Bond's Fund

Larimer County

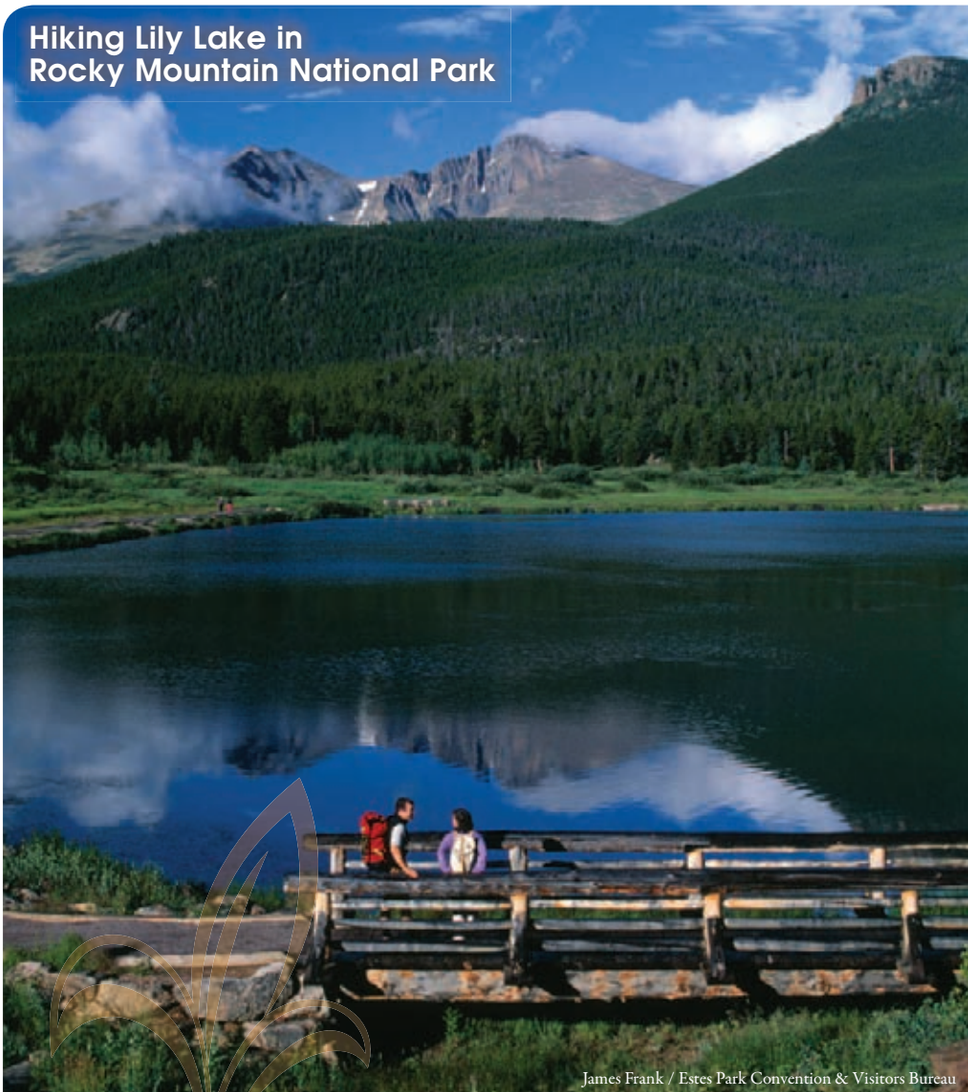
1930s Map

This map was reclaimed in November 2000 when we opened time capsules buried in 1955 for the dedication of the 4th Larimer County courthouse on Oak Street in Fort Collins. This map was produced for the City of Fort Collins' Public Library Project Benefit Fund by E&L Horn.

My research put the map at around 1937-38 based on: a 1937 a library expansion project; very similar maps in a Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce brochure of 1935 and in the Fort Collins Leader newspaper in 1936; Colorado Legislation in 1937 that allowed the Northern Colorado Conservancy District to be created with the Big Thompson Project beginning in 1938 and showing Horsetooth Reservoir ("Proposed Reservoir (Big Thompson Project)). " In addition, the Civilian Conservation Corp 'CCC' program was established in 1933 and there are three camps on this map. The Buckeye CCC Camp was in existence from 1935 –1939. Two books about local life are also on the map with 'Back to Buckeye' published in 1934 and 'Second Hoeing' in 1935; and, the clothes, cars, Airstream Trailer, and other depictions represent the era.

Larimer County's population in 1940 was 35,539. In 2000 when this map was reclaimed it was 260,000, and today (2011) we are at 300,000 people.

–Deni La Rue,
Larimer County Community Information Manager



Hiking Lily Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park

James Frank / Estes Park Convention & Visitors Bureau

2011 USGP New Belgium Cup

Photographer: Stuart Travis / Rider: Chris Sheppard (Elite Men)

Bison Visitor Center

Sue Burke / Larimer County

RECREATION

Larimer County's Department of Natural Resources is responsible for serving close to two million visitors who recreate in its 21 Parks and Open Spaces each year.

In 1937, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt authorized the Colorado Big Thompson Water (C-BT) project and provided the spring board off which recreation would later follow. Over the next twenty years the water diversion project, beginning with a 13-mile tunnel drilled through solid granite underneath the Continental Divide, was built. The water traverses through 700 miles of transmission lines and over a system of canals and additional tunnels to fill twelve reservoirs, sending much needed water and electrical power to the Front Range.

On June 18, 1954, Carter Lake, Horsetooth, Flatiron and Pinewood reservoirs were filled with waters spilling forth from the C-BT project, giving each of these popular recreational areas the distinction of being the first county parks in Larimer County. Horsetooth, the largest of the four reservoirs, is 6 ½ miles long with a capacity of 156,735 acre feet. It was built for $12.5 million in 1949 and over 500,000 visitors visit annually. Horsetooth, along with the other three reservoirs of the C-BT project, was constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation. Carter Lake sits at a higher elevation than the other three at 5,760 feet. Flatiron Reservoir is the smallest of these County parks with 47 acres. Offering 23 campsites, Pinewood Reservoir is one of Larimer County's best-kept secrets. Situated northwest of Carter Lake, the park's 327 acres surround a 100-acre reservoir. Recreation opportunities vary at each location so check ahead of time to determine allowable use.

Today, the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources (LCDNR) manages 9,000 acres at these four reservoirs along with four roadside parks in the Big Thompson Canyon and two Estes Park campgrounds. As a part of the Department of Natural Resources, the Open Lands Program is responsible for 44,663 acres of which 28,294 acres are fee simple, or owned outright by the county. The balance of 16,339 acres in this program are conservation easements, which means the land is still owned by private individuals although development rights are removed, making the land eligible for a lower tax rate to the owner. The land remains undeveloped open space in perpetuity. These view-sheds

Rafting in the Poudre Canyon

Wanderlust

and buffers benefit many citizens. There are 11 open spaces with public access, the newest being River Bluffs Open Space, a part of the Poudre River Trail and located between Timnath and Windsor. Great Outdoors Colorado, funded by the Colorado State Lottery, has already awarded almost $34 million to the Larimer County Open Lands Program to help with projects like Red Mountain Open Space in north Larimer County and many others.

In addition to swimming, boating, and picnicking, climbers can explore world-class bouldering at Horsetooth Reservoir and Carter Lake. With more than 80 miles of trails, options exist for all levels of expertise whether on foot, bike and horseback. There are also over 600 camping options from campsites to RV hook-ups to camper cabins. Many of these trails in the County Parks and Opens Spaces also offer a variety of wintertime recreation such as snowshoeing.

Visit http://larimer.org/naturalresources/recreation_map.pdf for a comprehensive map produced by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in 2011 showing all the parks and open lands, trails, campgrounds and more. An annual parks permit can be accessed online or through DNR's reservations.

Visit http://larimer.org/naturalresources/ for water level information and more.

Hiking Devil's Backbone

Walt Hubis / Larimer County

Water Skiing Carter Lake

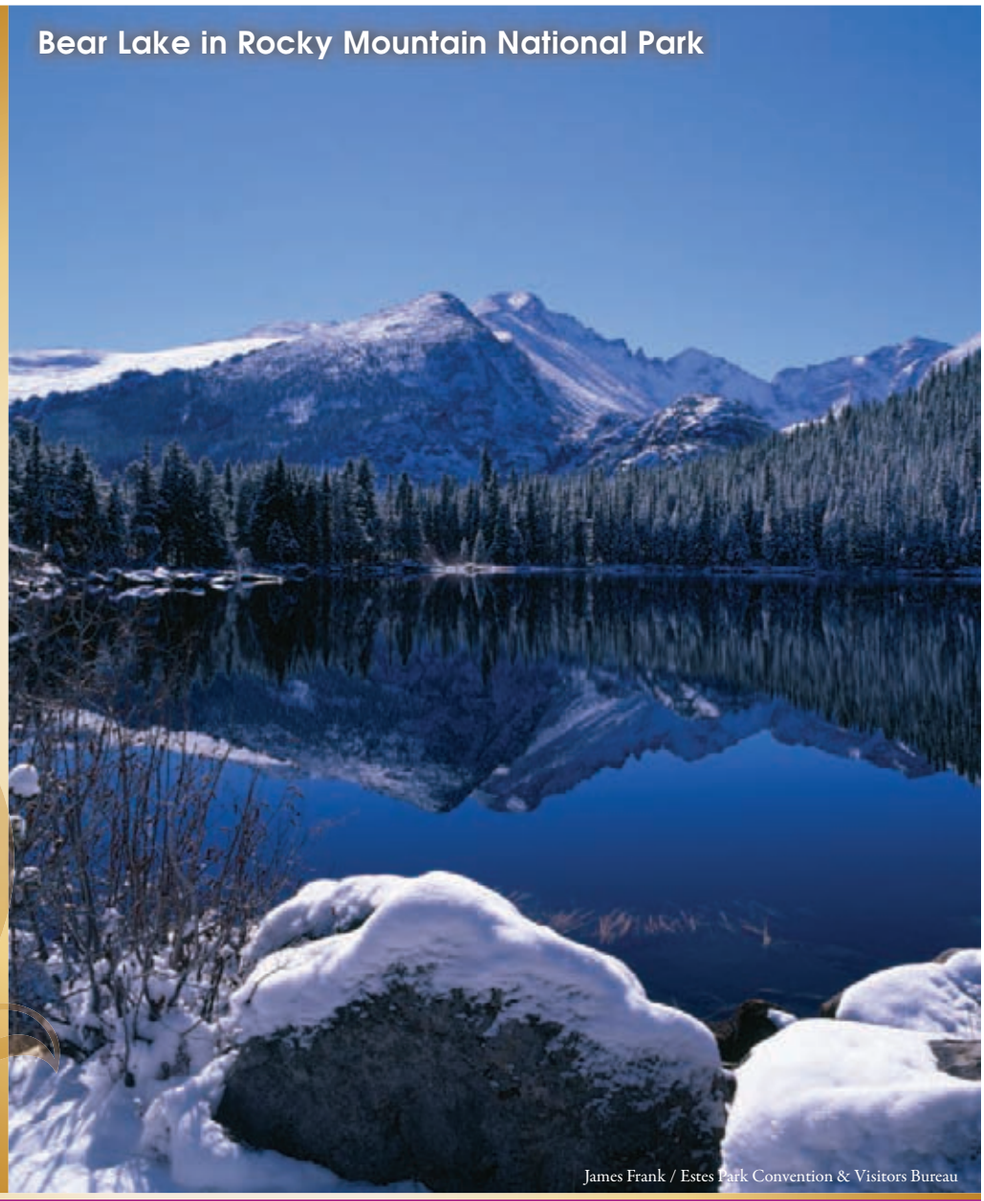
Charlie Johnson / Larimer County

Fishing Carter Lake

Steve Gerber / Larimer County

The Stanley Hotel

The Great Stupa of Dharmakaya



James Frank / Estes Park Convention & Visitors Bureau

LARIMER COUNTY LANDMARKS

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, 'landmark" is defined as many things: something to mark a land boundary; a conspicuous object on land that marks a locality; a structure used as a point of orientation; an event or development that marks a turning point or a stage; and, a structure of unusual historical and usually aesthetic interest that is officially designated and set aside for preservation. Larimer County has several well-known landmarks that are special to residents and visitors alike.

Here's a sampling:

BIG THOMPSON RIVER The Big Thompson River's headwaters begin in Rocky Mountain National Park and flow from Lake Estes into the Big Thompson Canyon where it emerges from the foothills of Loveland. It was in this beautifully stark canyon that the river gained notoriety in 1976 when over 12 inches of rain fell in less than four hours, resulting in a devastating flash flood that killed 143 people and destroyed nearly 500 homes and businesses. Today, the river and its surrounding areas are the playgrounds of fishermen, hikers, campers and rock climbers. Water from the Big Thompson feeds several Larimer County reservoirs.

POUDRE CANYON Beginning near the Continental Divide in Rocky Mountain National Park, the Poudre Canyon winds down a 40-mile path toward Bellvue. Home to unincorporated communities, the canyon is a favorite among outdoor enthusiasts, attracting visitors from all over the world.

BELLVUE FISH RESEARCH HATCHERY Operated by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW), the Bellvue Fish Research Hatchery plays an important role in supporting the DOW's aquatic researchers, native species coordinators, biologists, hatchery managers, various recovery programs and administrators. These professionals work in areas as far ranging as fish nutrition and salmonid brood stock development to boreal toad production. The hatchery's team is actively involved in researching and developing Whirling Disease-resistant strains of rainbow trout.

DEVIL'S BACKBONE Located west of Loveland, Devil's Backbone is one of the most prominent geological formations in Northern Colorado. The rocky outcropping stretches for 12 ½ miles and is part of a 2,198-acre open space. This popular recreation spot once housed gypsum quarries, which can still be seen in the valley east of Devil's Backbone.

HORSETOOTH ROCK Horsetooth Rock overlooks Fort Collins from the western foothills. Named for its appearance which resembles a horse's tooth, it is Horsetooth Mountain Park's crown jewel. In the early 1980s when the property was under threat of residential development, a ballot issue to extend an existing one cent sales tax for six months passed, providing funding for the purchase, ensuring the land would remain free from development. Since then, adjoining properties have been added to the park, creating a majestic 2,886-acre open space with trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding.

THE STANLEY HOTEL Built in 1909 by F.O. Stanley who made his fortune manufacturing steam powered automobiles (the Stanley Steamer), the Stanley Hotel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is considered one of America's most haunted hotels. Located in Estes Park, it is known as the inspiration for Stephen King's novel, "The Shining."

CACHE LA POUDRE RIVER The Cache la Poudre River, located east of the Continental Divide, is Colorado's only nationally designated "Wild and Scenic" River. The main and south forks of the Poudre originate in Rocky Mountain National Park, then flow north and east through the Roosevelt National Forest, eventually passing through Fort Collins, finally joining the south Platte River east of Greeley. Historical accounts trace the name to early French trappers who were caught in a snowstorm and buried their gunpowder in a cache near the mouth of the river. The Poudre River features rapids classified from Class I to VI and can vary greatly according to water levels. The rafting season generally occurs from May through August. In 1996 the U.S. Congress designated the Cache la Poudre River Heritage Area "to provide for the interpretation... of the unique and significant contributions to our national heritage of cultural and historic lands, waterways and structures within the Heritage Area." The Cache la Poudre River Heritage Area is one of 37 National Heritage Areas (as of 2006) and was the first to be established west of the Mississippi. The Heritage Area extends for 45 miles and includes the lands within the 100-year flood plain of the Cache la Poudre River. It begins in Larimer County at the eastern edge of the Roosevelt National Forest and ends east of Greeley, ¼ miles west of the confluence with the South Platte.

THE GREAT STUPA OF DHARMAKAYA Rising 108 feet in the air, the Great Stupa of Dharmakaya sits on the 600-acre Shambhala Mountain Center campus in Red Feather Lakes. It was built to inter the ashes of Chogyam Trungpa, who died in 1987. In many Buddhist traditions it is common to build a stupa to honor a respected teacher after their death. Construction of the stupa, which began in 1988 and took ten years to complete, used a special concrete formula designed to last one thousand years. In September 2006, The Dalai Lama visited the Great Stupa.

Jeff Dahlstrom

WATER: NORTHERN COLORADO'S LIFEBLOOD

"What Captain Long declared in the report of his exploration in 1819-20 'a barren region unfit for the habitation of civilized man,' is now teeming with the life and activity of large and prosperous communities that have grown up through the magic of irrigation and the application of the life-giving waters of the streams that flow down from the snow-tipped summits of the mountains."

–Ansel Watrous, History of Larimer County, Colorado (1911)

Pioneers of the late 19th Century came to Northern Colorado with dreams of independence and fortune. Small pockets of gold found in the region were the primary lure, but once arriving in the Cache la Poudre river basin, the settlers saw vast agricultural opportunities that stretched ahead of them from the mountains east to the plains. These early residents of Larimer County soon realized that wealth and prosperity were not to be found in precious metals, but in water, a mercurial, almost ethereal commodity.

John Coy, who emigrated from New York State in the early 1860s was one of the first to dig an irrigation ditch to bring water from the Poudre River to his crops. The next decades saw professional irrigators and companies build a complex system of canals, ditches and reservoirs that are still in use moving water about the semi-arid region. The Colorado-Big Thompson (C-BT) Project, authorized by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was the largest trans-mountain diversion project of its time. This project fills twelve reservoirs, bringing water from the Western Slope, which receives over eighty per cent of the state's entire precipitation, to more than thirty Front Range communities through the 13-mile long Alva B. Adams Tunnel drilled beneath the Continental Divide.

The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (known as Northern Water) was formed in 1937 to manage the C-BT. Today, its primary purpose is to provide supplemental water collected by this project to the Northern Front Range, delivering an average of 220,000 acre-feet of water to over 750,000 users annually.

Water rights issues have always been rife with contention. Colorado uses a "prior appropriation" system, based on the premise that the first party to divert water has exclusive usage rights.

Rights, in the form of shares, are not connected to any particular parcel of land and can be sold, traded or given away provided that the water is used for a beneficial purpose (such as agriculture or municipal water usage). Conflicts between upstream and downstream users, and even between bordering states, have often been fought with bitter litigation. More than a few cases have gone before both the Colorado and United States Supreme Courts for resolution.

Indeed, disputes over water continue to this day. The proposed Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) overseeing the Glade Reservoir project slated for northwest of Fort Collins, is the center of a debate between opposing camps. Those in support of the project claim population growth and agriculture as the primary reasons for increased storage capacity. Without it, they say, water for agricultural irrigation would be decreased, resulting in lower crop production and impacts upon the economy. Opponents of Glade contend that diverted water will not actually be directed towards irrigation and Northern Colorado's agricultural industry will be threatened. They also contend that decreased water flow will hurt the health of the Poudre River and that plant and animal populations will be stressed, resulting in ecological harm to the entire river basin.

Water keeps Larimer County vibrant and growing as it supports the economy through agriculture, business and recreation. It is truly Northern Colorado's lifeblood.

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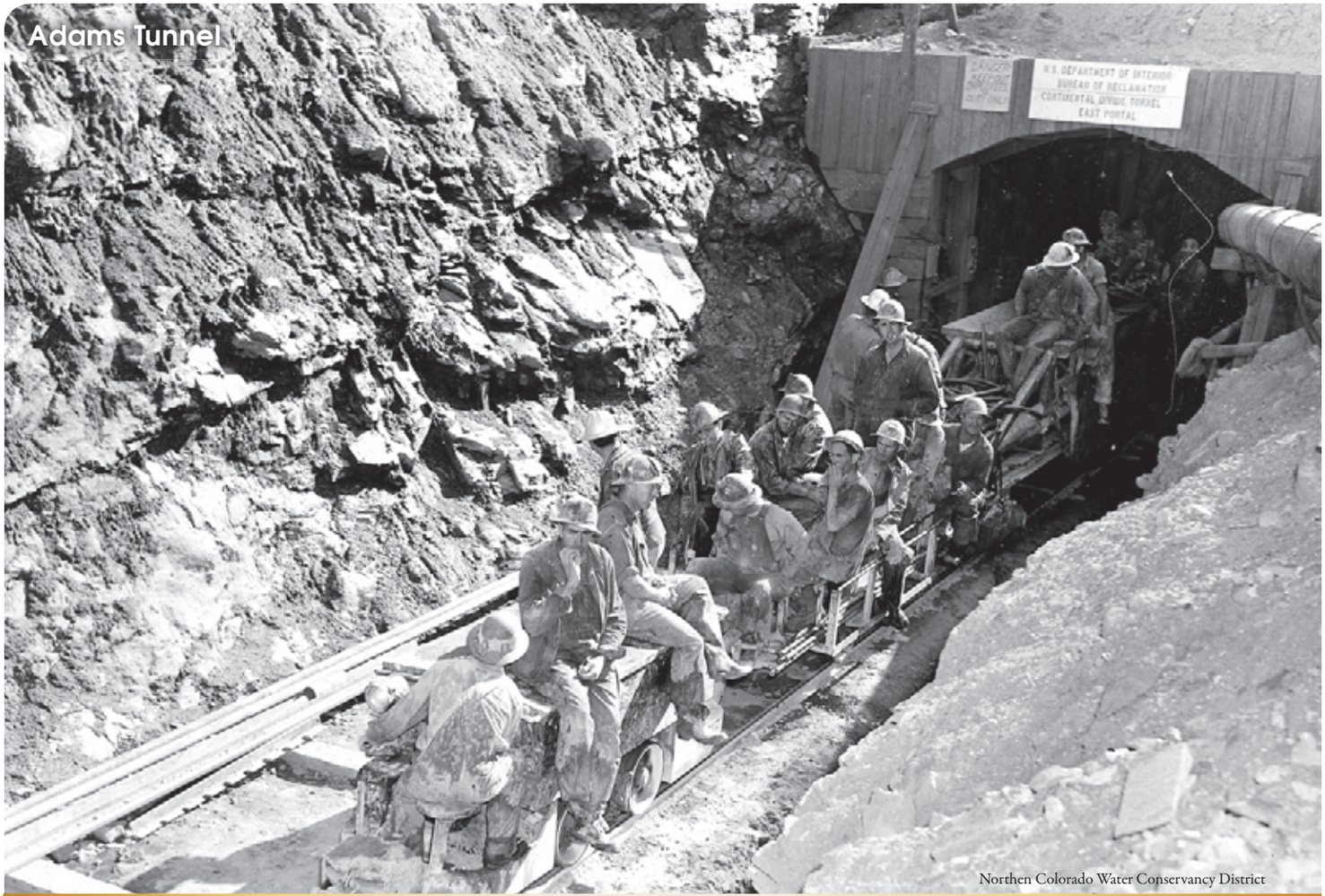
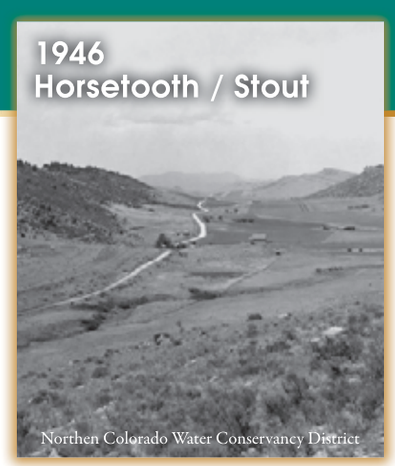
MEMBER FDIC



Northen Colorado Water Conservancy District

BIG THOMPSON PROJECT



Northen Colorado Water Conservancy District

In 1884, Edwin S. Nettleton, a prominent northern Colorado engineer and surveyor who later became Chief Engineer of the United States Department of Agriculture, conducted a feasibility survey to determine whether it would be possible to divert water from the Western Slope to the Front Range. He concluded that it was, indeed, a possibility. And the reality was that a diversion project was necessary to support the communities and farms springing up on the east side of the Rockies.

The C-Big Thompson Water Project (C-BT) is the largest trans-mountain water diversion project in the state. Authorized by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1937, construction started a year later. It was built by the federal Bureau of Reclamation and overseen by the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. The project continued until 1957.

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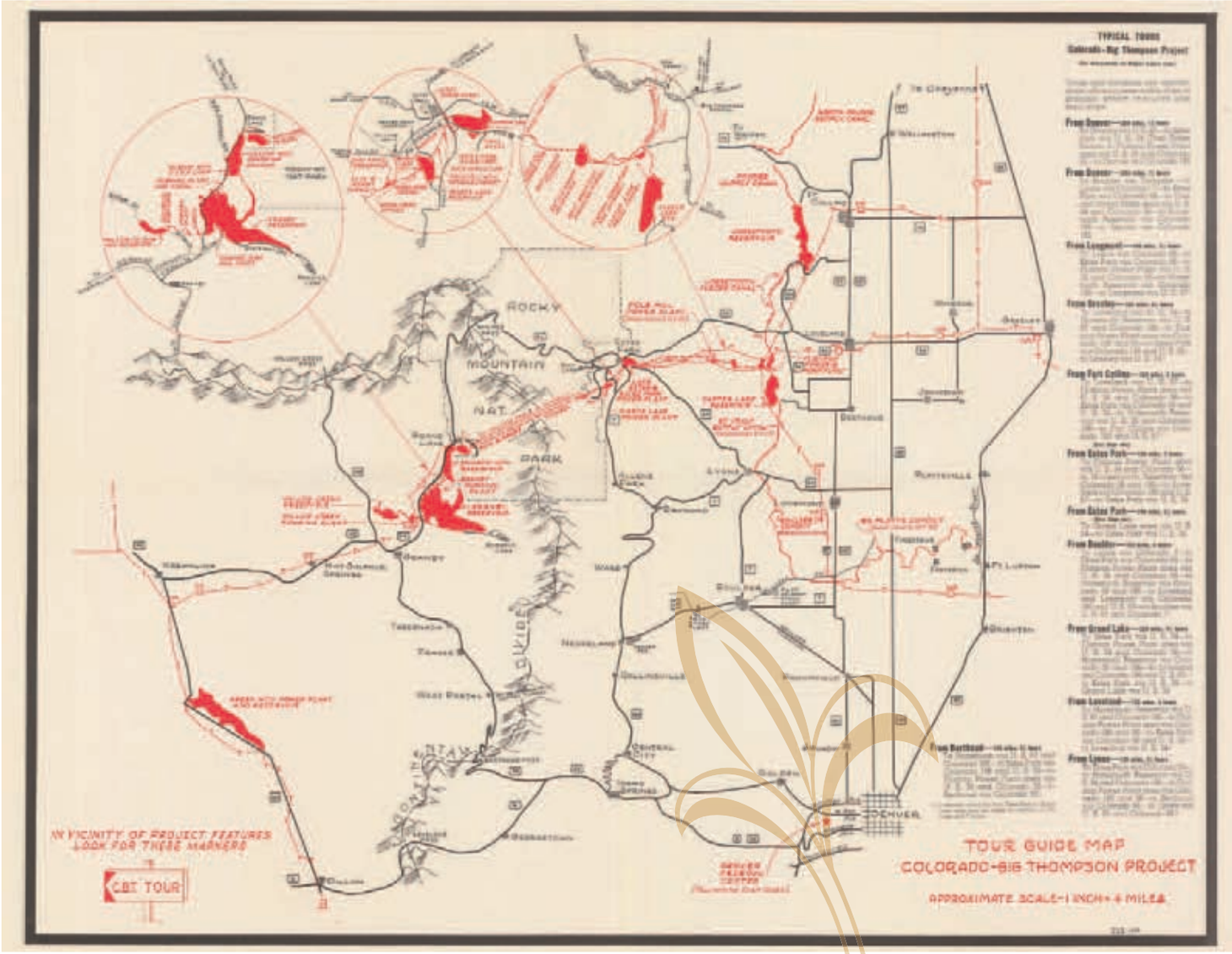
Here's how it works. Fed by the headwaters of the Colorado River and snow melt, water is collected and stored in Willow Creek and Shadow Mountain reservoirs, as well as Grand Lake and Lake Granby before making its way eastward under the Rocky Mountains. To make that happen, it was necessary to create a tunnel as a conduit. The Alva B. Adams Tunnel was built beneath the Continental Divide so that water could flow from the Western Slope to the north end of the Front Range. This 13-mile thoroughfare, drilled through solid granite, is one component of the C-BT Project. From start to finish, it took seven years to build the Alva B. Adams Tunnel, and four years to drill through the rock under the mountains—coming from both the east and west sides of the Rockies to meet in the middle—at a cost of $12.8 million. When the two ends met, the centerline of each was off by just the



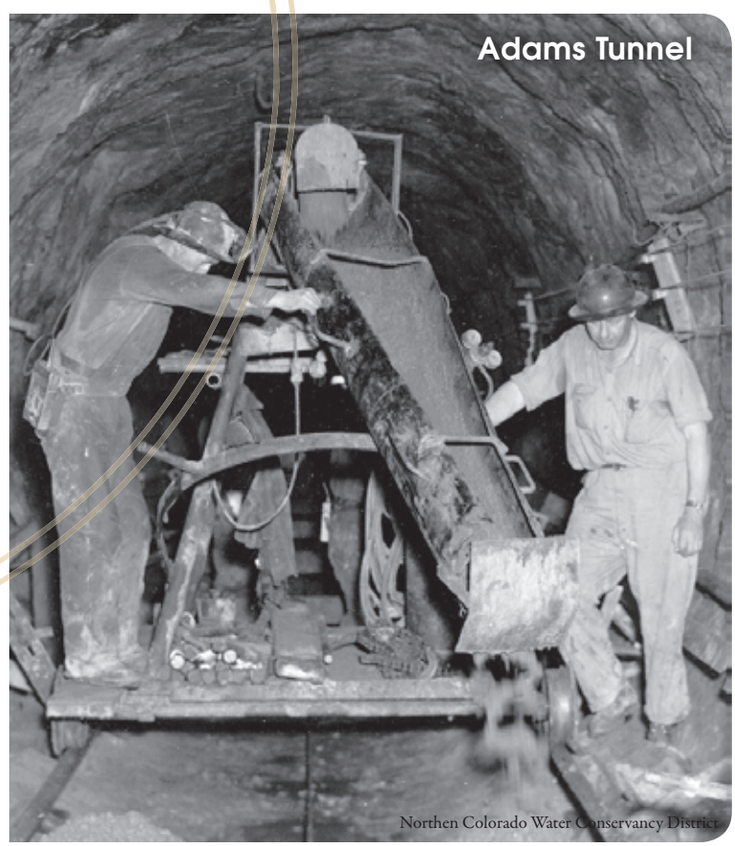
Larimer County

width of a penny. Nine people lost their lives during the course of the drilling to cave-ins, electrocution and other tragic mishaps.

In 1947, nine years after the start of the project and seven years to the day after the tunnel construction began, the first C-BT water was delivered to the East Slope. It took three hours for the water to make it through from the west side, emerging to cheering dignitaries. The event was broadcast live across the nation by NBC radio.

Today, C-BT water moves through 700 miles of transmission lines that includes 95 miles of canals and an additional 35 miles of tunnels that fill 12 reservoirs. It is used by 33 communities and irrigates over 693,000 agrarian acres. Water dropping over 2,000 vertical feet to the eastern plains allows six hydroelectric power plants to produce an average supply of 759 million kilowatt hours of supplemental electricity. In Larimer County, the water is stored in Carter Lake and Horsetooth, Flatiron and Pinewood Reservoirs before being routed through hundreds of ditches throughout the county.

Without the Colorado Big Thompson project, Northern Colorado would, most likely, not have experienced the same growth and success. The arid plains would not have become fertile and verdant farmlands that attracted pioneers. Cities and towns would not have dotted the landscape. History books would be telling a very different story.



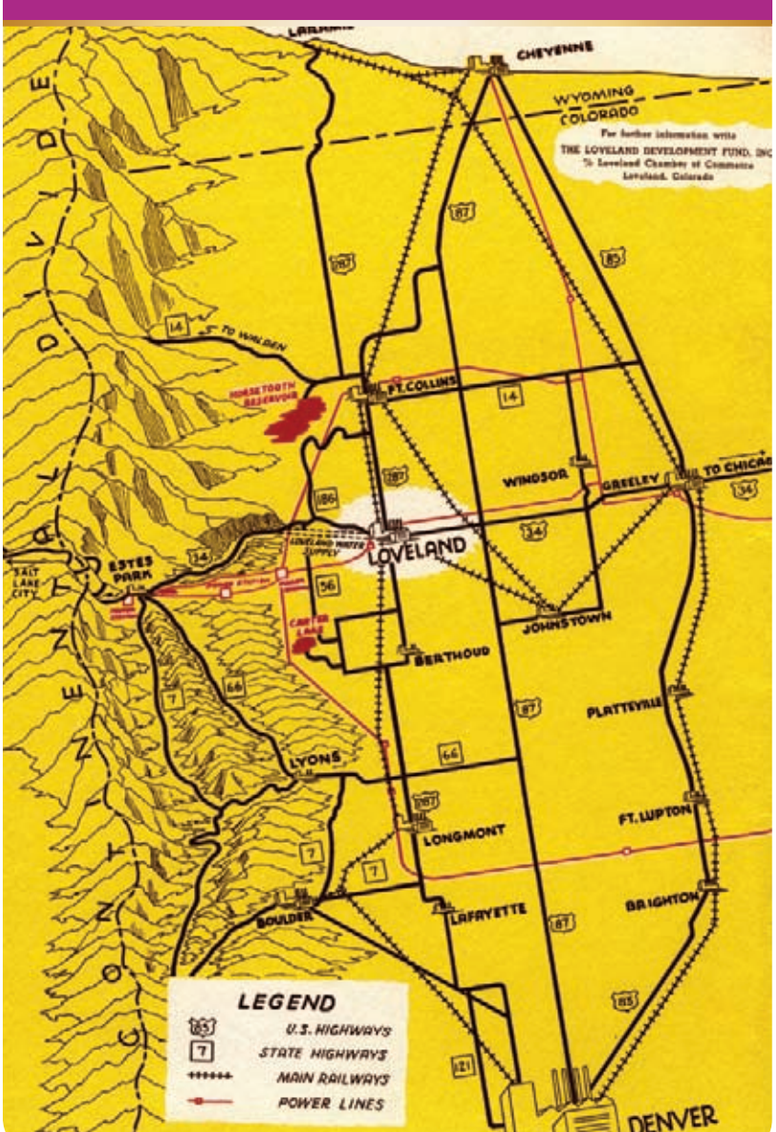
Northen Colorado Water Conservancy District

1950s brochure covers

Larimer County

Larimer County

EARLY TRANSPORTATION'S INFLUENCE ON SETTLEMENTS



Larimer County

1950s map

Early travel routes in northern Colorado made a big difference on how the area grew and where the towns are today. In the mid-1800s, Overland Trail was the public passageway for stagecoach travel and for the mid-western portion of the cross-country mail route. The trail traversed Colorado along the South Platte River from Julesburg to Latham, crossing into Larimer County where it struck the existing Cherokee Trail north to LaPorte and onward to Laramie. It served as an alternative to the Oregon, California and Mormon Trails.

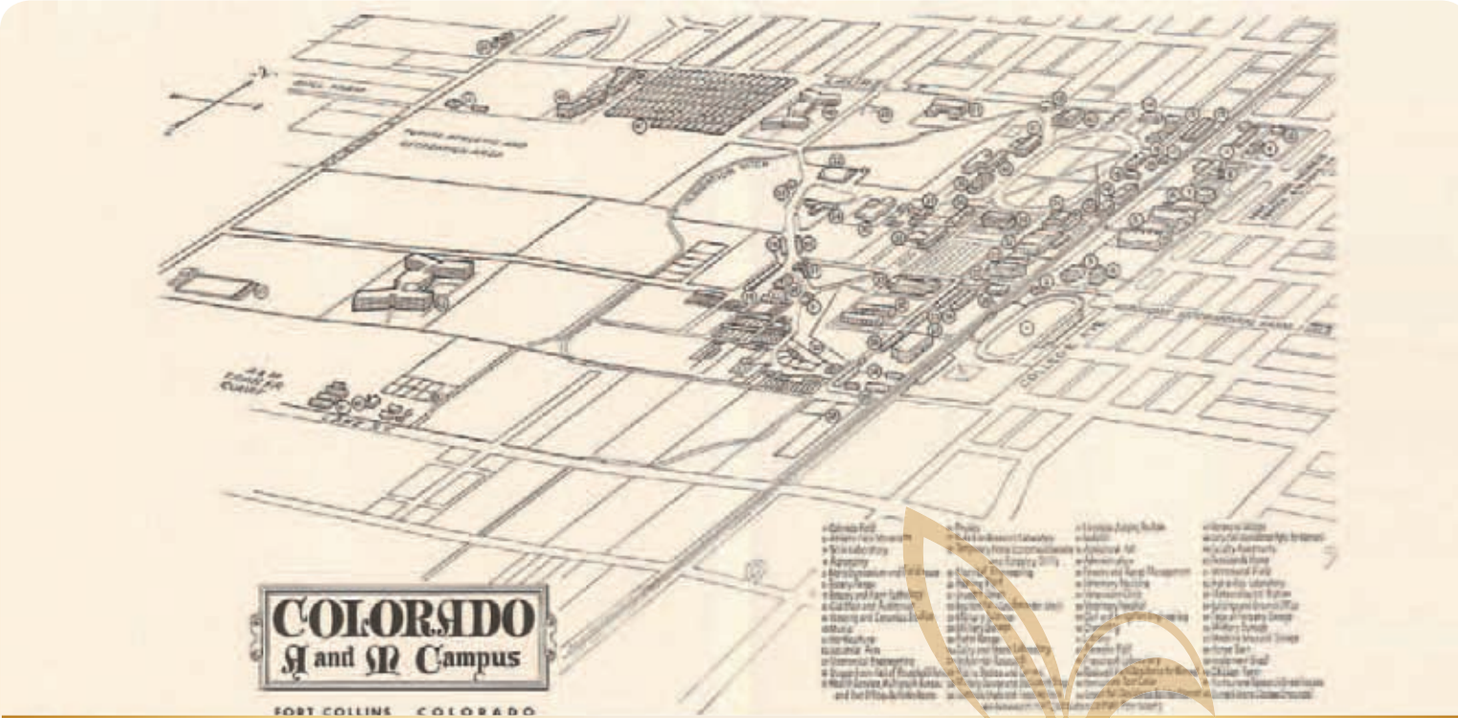
LaPorte was a main stop along the Overland Trail. The first seat of Larimer County government and the area's first military outpost, LaPorte originally functioned as a popular trading center for settlers, mountain men, trappers and local Indians. As settlers moved westward, LaPorte became the logical outlet for an Overland Stage Company "home" station. Here, passenger stagecoaches changed horses and drivers, taking brief rests along the tightly scheduled route. Stagecoach travel was not comfortable, by any means, and commuters often opted out of their itineraries at this point.

Overland Trail was a segment of the monthly U.S. Postal Department's central mail route established around 1850 between Independence, Missouri and Salt Lake City. Use of Overland Trail began to dwindle in 1864 influenced by several factors. First, the Civil War decreased the military presence, which led to more frequent stagecoach robberies along the trail. Second, an 1864 flood of the Cache la Poudre River forced the county's seat and its accompanying military camp downstream and off the beaten path into the present-day location of Fort Collins. And, third, an increase in conflicts between the native Plains Indian tribes and settlers resulted in the Colorado War of 1864 and continued the decline in Overland Trail traffic.

In 1869, the First Transcontinental Railroad, later known as the Overland Route, was established, replacing east-to-west stagecoach transportation for settlers and horse-drawn mail routes. Although the railway bypassed Larimer County, instead heading east to Greeley, it did link the area to the rest of the continent.

The track for the Colorado Central Railroad, running from Golden to Cheyenne, was laid through Larimer County and the center of Fort Collins in 1877. Along this line, new towns cropped up, including Berthoud, Loveland and Wellington. That connected the growing Larimer County population with a means that was particularly useful for the transportation of livestock and fresh produce.

Today, Overland Trail Road borders west Fort Collins, fairly closely following the original path to LaPorte, where it is picked up as Highway 287 to Laramie. The trail remains fertile in its history with large teepee rings, stagecoach ruts and, even, an Indian burial site still visible at certain points along the famous route.



Larimer County

EARLY EDUCATION

1950s map

While accurate records detailing early formal education in Larimer County are erratic, it is known that small groups of pioneer children were sporadically organized to learn the fundamentals of English and arithmetic.

For members of frontier communities, established schools signified a certain success, portraying an image of a civilized, educated society. The community began to emphasize that ideal and organized accordingly.

The first noted scholastic endeavors were attempted with private schools in Loveland in 1864, and LaPorte in 1865. The first school of record was built at Namaqua in 1868, immediately followed by Old St. Louis and Hillsborough, also in Loveland. In Fort Collins, a small schoolhouse was built on Riverside in 1871 and another on Remington in 1878. Two-room schools were built in Berthoud in 1877 and 1896. The first four-year high schools were: Franklin, in Fort Collins(1889); East Side School, Loveland (1901); and, Fort Collins High (1903).

In 1880, Fort Collins was the first town west of St. Louis to introduce kindergarten and subsequently make it a part of the free schools. It met with great success and, because of the positive results, legislation was passed in 1893 making kindergarten part of school systems across the state.

In the late 1800s, James Ezra Plummer donated a 300" X 300" plot of land to the Larimer County School district and a temporary structure served as a school until 1906 when a new building was constructed and given the name "Plummer School."

Besides the daily school activities, the building was used for weddings, funerals, and business meetings. The school building was also the polling place on election days. The Plummer School building served as the only school in District Number 26 until it was abandoned upon the reorganization of the public education system in 1960.

School districts developed over time. Today, in 2011, Thompson (R2-J) School District serves Loveland, Berthoud and the surrounding areas, with 31 elementary, middle and high schools. Poudre (R-1) School District has 47 schools in the towns of Fort Collins, LaPorte, Wellington, Timnath, Red Feather, Livermore, Stove Prairie and parts of Windsor. The Park School District (R-3) serves the Estes Park area with an elementary, middle school, and high school. Part of the St. Vrain District also serves a portion of Larimer County residents. Charter, private and other specialized schools operate throughout the community.

Agriculture and education became the mainstays for the County and, in 1870, Colorado Agricultural College (CAC) was founded in Fort Collins through a federal public land grant and private donations of 240 acres. The first building was erected in 1878. CAC was initially comprised of a few buildings among fields of grain and grazing livestock. In 1887, additional federal funds were provided to "experiment stations" of land-grant colleges and CAC developed as an agriculturally based service station for farmers and ranchers. Under a then new scientific approach of research and experimentation, CAC created an Extension Program, which continues today. A veterinary science school and hospital were established at CAC in 1907.

CAC evolved into the Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College (A&M) and, in 1957, became a fully accredited national educational institution: Colorado State University (CSU).

Larimer County is also home to a Front Range Community College (FRCC) campus, which began in Fort Collins in 1988 as the Larimer County Vocational Technology Center. The college offers a variety of classes and focuses on accreditation in career and technical areas.

Poudre Valley Hospital in 1954

Poudre Valley Health System

HISTORY OF MEDICAL FACILITIES

McKee Medical Center

Opening of McKee Medical Center in 1976

Healthcare in Larimer County has grown along with the population and offers a variety of options for residents in all communities. The Larimer County Department of Health provides a wide array of health services to the entire Larimer County community through restaurant inspections, tracking infectious diseases, immunizations and more. Other agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) located west of Fort Collins also track infectious diseases. And, when a hospital bed is needed, it's good to know that Larimer County residents have choices.

McKee Medical Center has deep roots in Loveland. Dr. W.P. Sutherland, who used his screened-in porch as an operating room, founded the town's first hospital in 1896. Since then, Loveland's medical community has seen many changes including not having a hospital from 1947–1951. A new 42-bed hospital was opened on November 25, 1951 served the growing community for several decades. Tom McKee, a local farmer and patient in the early 70s, saw that the crowded, aging facility wasn't serving its constituency well. He donated 29.5 acres of his farm for a new hospital which was completed in 1976 and appropriately named McKee Medical Center.

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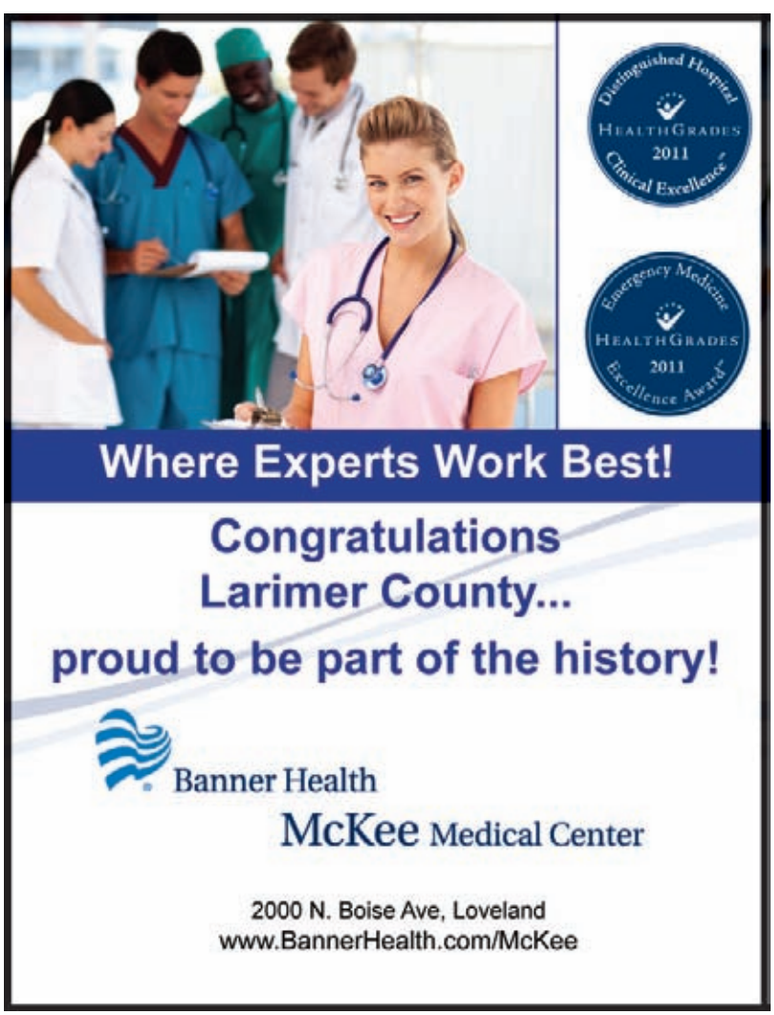
Part of Banner Health Care, McKee has over 130 licensed beds in its 421,972 square foot facility with 166 primary care and specialized staff physicians. Affiliated physicians' offices are found in Berthoud and Fort Collins, as well as on the eastern plains in Brush, Fort Morgan and Sterling. They offer a comprehensive list of services including Cardiovascular, Level III Trauma, Emergency Services, Surgical, Robotic Surgery, Clinical Laboratory, Nutrition Services, Medical Imaging, Digital Mammography, Care Coordination, Wellness Services, Women's Services, Transitional Care, and a comprehensive Cancer Center.

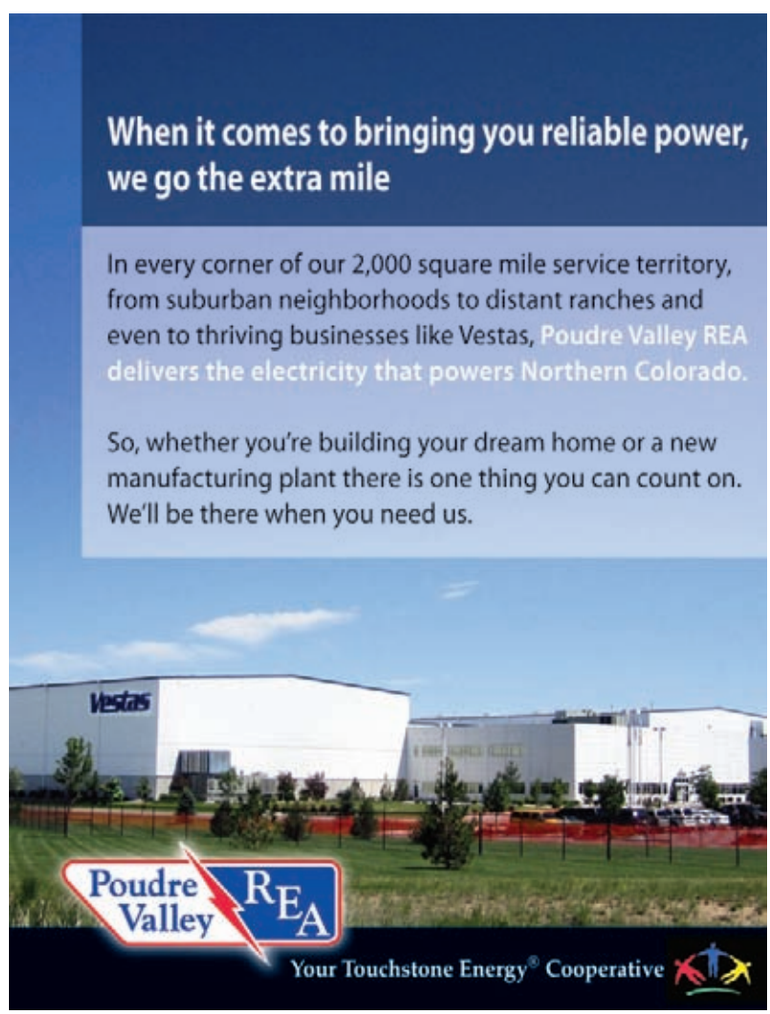
In 1925, just over $181,000 was spent to build the 40-bed Larimer County hospital in Fort Collins. The adjacent 29 acres was used to raise vegetables, hogs sheep and chickens to feed the patients. As with Loveland, the Fort Collins population expanded, demanding a larger, more sophisticated facility and the size of the hospital more than doubled to 86 beds. In the 1960s voters approved a ballot issue that created the Poudre Valley Hospital District with an elected board of directors who placed a mill levy on property taxes to purchase the hospital and surrounding lands from the County and it was renamed Poudre Valley Memorial Hospital.

Memorial was dropped from the name in 1982 and, in 1994, a major restructuring of the organization resulted in the not-for-profit, charitable corporation. The Poudre Valley Health System (PVHS) operates Poudre Valley Hospital through terms of a 50-year lease with the Hospital District, now the tax-supported Health District of Northern Larimer County, which offers a variety of health related services in northern Larimer County. Poudre Valley Hospital no longer receives local property tax revenue.

In 2000, PVHS opened the Harmony Campus, a south-side hub that combines physician offices, an outpatient services center and heart and cancer centers. February 2007 saw the opening of Medical Center of the Rockies just off I-25 in Loveland. Combined, all three hospitals boast 417 beds and more than 600 physicians in more than 40 specialties. With facilities in Fort Collins, Loveland, Estes Park and Greeley, PVHS sees patients from the tri-state area.

The Estes Park Medical Center, which opened in April, 1975, is an important option for mountain folks just up the Big Thompson Canyon. It offers a 25-bed critical access acute care facility with a 24-hour emergency department, 24-hour ambulance service, emergency air transport, medical/surgical services, obstetrics, home health care, and hospice. Prospect Park Living Center, a 60-bed skilled nursing facility, is located adjacent to the hospital and offers 24-hour care. Physical, speech, and occupational therapy are some of the services available to the residents.





OzMill by Tim Upham, 2006
City of Loveland Art in Public Places

Photo by James Frank / Estes Park Convention & Visitors Bureau

ARTS & CULTURE

Despite a challenging economy for several years that created a few casualties in Larimer County's culture scene, the arts continue to make their mark. On any given night, it's easy to find something to whet a wide variety of cultural appetites.

Venues and festivals such as the Budweiser Events Center, Mishiwaka Amphitheater, Bohemian Nights at New West Fest, and the Fort Collins Music Experiment (FoCoMX) are helping to make Northern Colorado a music destination. In its third year, FoCoMX featured over 285 musical acts, primarily from Northern Colorado. Bohemian Nights' at New West Fest lineup showcased 80 bands on six stages throughout Old Town Fort Collins in 2011 and all of that was for free. Loveland's Foote Lagoon is considered one of the best outdoor venues in the region. Fort Collins has Opera Fort Collins and the Fort Collins symphony, catering to classical tastes. Smaller clubs and coffee houses have been longtime favorites, giving local talent a place to call home.

Larimer County is home to several theatre companies, most notably Bas Bleu and OpenStage Theatre & Company. Candlelight Playhouse and the new Midtown Arts Center (formerly Carousel Dinner Theater) provide dinner theater for those who prefer musicals. The Lincoln Center's major remodel was unveiled in 2011, reopening with Opera Fort Collins performance of Carmen in August. Shakespeare aficionados flock to performances at Colorado State University's Shakespeare at Sunset Summer Theatre.

The Rialto Theater in Loveland books traveling shows that bring children's productions and Broadway favorites to the stage. The Rialto Bridge Project is a joint venture between the City of Loveland, the Rialto Bridge, LLC and the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado. The addition will be a three story building to the west of the historic Rialto Theater with the City portion of the building providing expanded storage, workshop and dressing

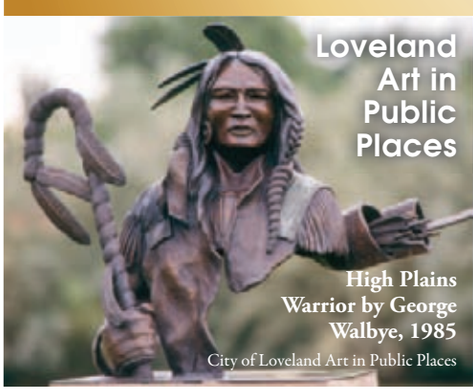
Red Mountain Autumn by Barbara Moore, 2010

Artist of the Year

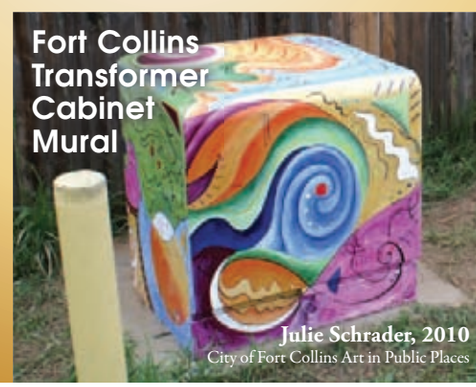
Each year since 2006, the County's Department of Natural Resources has selected one local professional artist to create visual art that conveys the beauty of Larimer County's open spaces and increases public awareness and appreciation. Open space images have been represented in a wide variety of media including paintings, art quilts and photography. After being displayed for a year in the Larimer County Courthouse offices, the pieces are moved to the County Justice Center. The artists volunteer their time and talents to this program. 2011's Artist of the Year is photographer Jim Digby. Past artists include Barbara Moore, Diane Findley, Patty Hawkins and James Disney.

City of Fort Collins Art in Public Places

photo by Kerri McDermid / Beet Street



High Plains Warrior by George Walbye, 1985
City of Loveland Art in Public Places



Julie Schrader, 2010
City of Fort Collins Art in Public Places

room for the theater as well as a much needed community room, reception space and conference room. The private portion of the building will house a restaurant on the main floor and offices on the third floor. Construction will continue throughout 2011. Visual art abounds in galleries, museums and artists cooperatives. Fort Collins is home to two world-class art museums: The Center for Fine Art Photography and Fort Collins Museum of Art. The galleries at Colorado State University exhibit not only student art, but work from private collections as well. The University hosts a bi-annual International Poster show that has been in existence for over 30 years.

Loveland put a pin in the map of prominent arts towns in the U.S. by becoming the first Colorado municipality to pass an Art in Public Places Ordinance, committing to making sculpture a part of everyday life. Its Benson Sculpture Garden enjoys an international reputation, as does the downtown Loveland Museum/Gallery.

The Art Center of Estes Park is a non-profit education center featuring juried work from around the region.

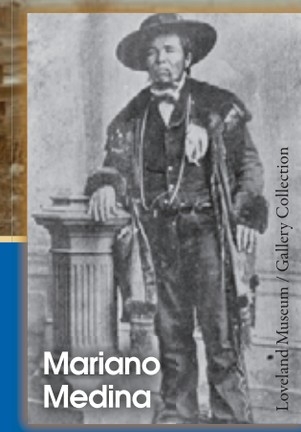
A collaborative effort between the Fort Collins Art in Public Places Program, Bohemian Foundation and Downtown Development Authority, Pianos About Town brings together music and visual art, creating a unique cultural experience. Local artists paint the pianos and then the pianos become mobile works of art, rotated around town where residents and tourists can sit down and play a tune or two. Fort Collins' Transformer Cabinet Mural program began its sixth year in 2011 with local artists transforming the utility boxes into works of art.

Canyon Concert Ballet Company is Larimer County's largest and most established professional ballet company. In addition to annual productions of The Nutcracker, it mounts several performances each season, often choreographing original works. Dance Connection, Impact Dance and High Performance Dance Theatre concentrate on modern and jazz dance. The Rhythm Company, with Jumpin' Jive Cats (swing) and Salsa Sambrosa (salsa) under its umbrella has Northern Coloradoans dipping and turning on dance floors in any number of towns.

What cultural scene would be complete without a film festival? The Tri-Media Film Festival began in 2006 with 35 submissions to the three-day event. The festival has a unique approach: it showcases independent film, television pilots and specials and live theater.

On any given weekend throughout the County, a menu of outdoor festivals can be found in the cities and towns and at the Larimer County Fairgrounds and Events Complex. The annual County Fair and Rodeo, Loveland's Corn Roast Festival, the Estes Park Rooftop Rodeo, and the City of Fort Collins New West Fest bring thousands of locals and visitors out annually. Numerous parades add to the fun celebrating the holidays such as those in Wellington, Berthoud, Red Feather Lakes, Estes Park, Fort Collins.

FAMOUS & INFAMOUS RESIDENTS & VISITORS



Loveland Museum / Gallery Collection

Loveland Museum / Gallery Collection

Over the years, Larimer County has attracted attention from all parts of the globe, bringing in visitors from all walks of life. Some came and went, others made it their home. It's always an interesting trip back in time remembering those who have come before.

MARIANO MEDINA Mariano Medina was the first permanent settler in the Big Thompson valley. Born in Taos, Mexico in the early 1800s, he spent over three decades as a trapper, scout and guide, traveling with known frontiersmen such as Jim Bridger, and Kit Carson. He aided a group of soldiers who were stranded in deep snow high in the Rockies. He and Miguel Alona were successful in bringing relief to the troops. In 1858, he settled his family three miles west of present-day Loveland. For a long time, Mariano Medina was one of the richest men in the county. He built a toll bridge across the Big Thompson that required a fee to cross. He opened a store at the crossing and sold goods to travelers on the Overland Trail. The store became a stage stop called Namaqua.

ANTOINE JANIS Antoine Joseph Janis first staked a claim on the Poudre in 1844 and, in 1859, founded Colona which was later named LaPorte. Janis' father, Antoine St. Charles Janis had traveled with an expedition party in 1825 and has been credited with naming the river. The younger Janis was the first white settler in the area. He married an Oglala Sioux woman, "First Elk Woman," and took an Indian name meaning "Yellow Hair all Messed Up." He worked as a Sioux interpreter at Fort Laramie and also worked at Camp Collins where he is said to have given young soldiers a better appreciation of Native Americans. When his wife left for Pine Ridge to join her tribe, he accompanied her. He died just prior to the Wounded Knee Massacre which he had tried to prevent. Chief Sitting Bull and 200 Sioux men, women and children were murdered.

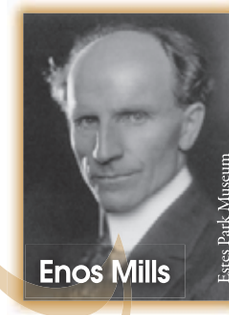
JOEL ESTES Never staying in one place too long, Joel Estes was born in Kentucky, moved to Missouri, then California and Oregon. In 1859, he joined the Colorado gold rush, camping in Auraria and Golden before settling along he South Platte River at Fort Lupton. There, he and his wife, Patsy, built a home for their 13 children. Estes often traveled up the Big Thompson to hunt and fish, finding this to be a lucrative venture, not only for food, but for selling surplus skins and meat in Denver. In 1860, the family moved and built two cabins and cattle corrals on Willow Creek just east of the current town of Estes Park. They raised cattle, hunted, fished and took in visitors, one of whom was Rocky Mountain News editor William N. Byers. It was Byers who dubbed the area "Estes Park."

ISABELLA BIRD Englishwoman Isabella Bird, world traveler, writer and geographer, travelled up the Big Thompson in 1873. She was 40, spunky and determined. She began her trip at Fort Collins which she dismissed as a military post and a few frame houses. In the book she wrote documenting her travels, *A Lady's Life* in the Rocky Mountains, she presented a bleak picture of the plains describing the settlements as altogether revolting and entirely utilitarian. She found relief as she traveled west up into the Big Thompson Canyon marveling at the grass, flowers, glades and pines.

She rented a cabin from Griff Evans paying $8 a week for rent and food. It was here that she met Jim Nugent, aka Rocky Mountain Jim, who was described as a one-eyed desperado. She was fascinated by him and, when she decided to climb Longs Peak, he served as her guide, in her words dragging her to the top. Their relationship left an imprint on her and she documented the exchanges in her letters to her sister in England. She left Estes in the winter of 1873.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN JIM Jim Nugent appeared in the Estes Valley as if from nowhere. He claimed many different beginnings and was excellent at telling stories and making lasting impressions on women. He was considered a poet, a mountain man, a drunkard and a liar. But whatever he was, he was larger than life. In 1871, as he made his way to the Grand River, he came upon a large bear and her two cubs. He fired at the bear and, in return, the bear bit into his left arm, crushing it, then biting him in the head and ripping his scalp. His right eye was hidden under the torn scalp and he was left bleeding and unconscious. Two local men found him and, while one tended to him, the other went for a doctor. He lived but the right side of his face was badly disfigured. The other side, as Isabella Bird described it, might have "been chiseled in marble," and without the marred side, he would have been strikingly handsome. Nugent was well-spoken, well-read and could easily charm anyone as he did her. Details vary as to what led to his death at the hands of Griff Evans. As a backdrop, Lord Dunraven, a British subject who had plans to turn Estes into an English hunting resort found Nugent to be a formidable opponent. Whether Evans was put up to the deed by Dunraven or whether it was over a woman (another of the stories), Evans shot Nugent, putting five bullets into his head and face. One of them penetrated the brain but Nugent remained conscious. Evans was found not guilty and Nugent wrote an editorial accusing Colorado of having a poor system of justice. He died as a result of an infection from the bullet that remained lodged in his brain.

ENOS MILLS One of Larimer County's more famous residents, Enos Mills was a nationally acclaimed naturalists who authored 16 books and many articles. He also gave more than 2000 lectures across the nation, praising Estes Park, championing Rocky Mountain National Park and helping make Larimer County a desirable destination. He was born in 1870 at Fort Scott, Kansas but headed west at age 14. He eventually settled in Estes Park and worked at the Elkhorn Lodge, washing dishes, chopping wood and serving afternoon tea. In 1885, be found a plot of land and started building a log cabin but stopped construction when bluebirds nested in it. While waiting for the birds to hatch, he climbed Long's Peak for the first time. Over the next 40 years, he made 257 ascents, usually as a guide. After a stint in Montana, he returned to Estes and purchased the Longs Peak Inn from his uncle. After a fire devastated the Inn, Mills rebuilt it using wind or fire killed trees complete with gnarled roots and tree stumps. He made the inn a national shrine. When business slowed during the winters, he began writing nature books and articles. His writing was based on close observation of nature.


Enos Mills

Estes Park Museum

In times like these, it pays to know what your options are.

Maybe you had plans to sell your house, move to a senior community and start getting more out of life. What now? Do you have to put your life on hold? Not an easy decision. Perhaps it's time to give the Good Samaritan Society – Communities of Northern Colorado a call. We've helped seniors weather storms like this for more than 85 years. We'll be happy to help you understand your options, at no cost or obligation. Getting good advice can make all the difference.

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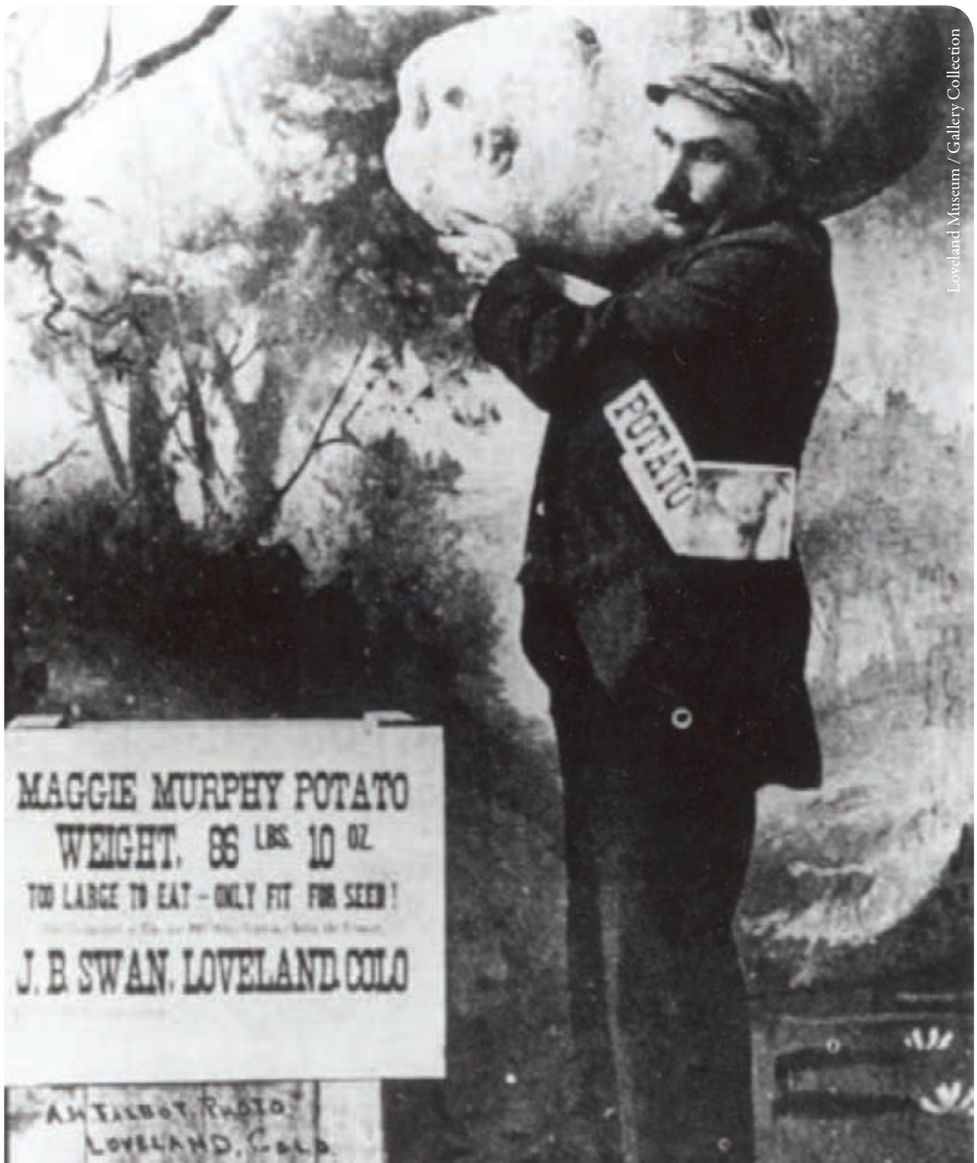


Loveland Museum / Gallery Collection

STRANGE STORIES

Loveland Potato Scandal

Larimer County has had its share of heroes, hardworkers, and positive happenings since its inception 150 years ago but it has also had its share of questionable notoriety. Here are a few of the stranger stories:

THE GREAT POTATO HOAX OF 1895 The Loveland Reporter editor, W.L. Thorndyke, came up with the idea of featuring a gigantic potato as being grown in the area and drew in potato grower Joseph B. Swan, who farmed southeast of Loveland. Swan had a good reputation in the potato field and, one year, harvested almost 26,000 pounds from one acre of land. He joined into the joke and created a giant potato out of wood, making it 28 inches long and 14 inches across. Thorndyke convinced him to have a picture taken next to a sign that said it was a Maggie Murphy Potato, weight 86 lbs, 10 oz.: "too large to eat – only fit for seed."

The story was picked up by The Scientific American and Strand magazines and, soon, letters poured in from all over the world. Everyone wanted seeds or pieces of the potato for propagation. When Swan received a large offer from a firm of potato growers who wanted to put the potato on exhibition, the ruse apparently became too much. He claimed it was stolen. Eventually Thorndyke admitted he had concocted the whole thing, saying, "Newspapermen are reported to be the greatest liars on earth."

MURDER AND LYNCHING IN FORT COLLINS On April 4, 1888, at 1 p.m., Eva Howe stumbled out of her house on the corner of Linden and Walnut, crying "murder." Her husband, James, had slit her throat with a pocket knife while in a drunken rage. Several onlookers rush to her as she fell but she was already dead. The corner's inquest included several eyewitnesses who saw the struggle between the two. It was declared a murder and all afternoon the news spread.

At 8 p.m. in the evening, electric wires were cut and the lights disappeared, the Fort Collins Courier reported. Bands of men, some masked, began marching silently toward the jail in the darkness of night. They arrived at the courthouse simultaneously and placed the sheriff and his aides under guard. Using a hammer and chisel, they broke into the area where Howe was kept and drug him into the street. A derrick, 200 feet from the jail, was used as an impromptu scaffold where the men prepared to hang Howe. Several accounts painted different pictures of the event, some with him pleading for his life; some said he was given a bottle of liquor just before his death. One said that a black man named Charlie Clay sat on the derrick and played "Home, Sweet Home," on a harmonica. Whatever the scene, at the end of it, Howe was left hanging. No information was produced as to the members of the mob. It was the first and only lynching in Larimer County.

THE BOMBING OF TIMNATH Near the end of World War II, on March 19, 1945, a balloon bomb launched by the Japanese found its way to the Swet's family farm near Timnath. It was part of a balloon bomb campaign of 9,300 balloons the Japanese sent skyward between November 1944 to April 1945. The hydrogen-filled paper balloons were around 30 feet in diameter and carried high-explosive bombs. The plan was to set fire to forests in the northwest U.S. and create panic. Less than 300 balloons made their way to the U.S. and strayed from the geographical target. When the bomb fell, viewers recalled that it spewed intensely bright flames but it barely made an impact, creating a hole no larger than that of a fence post. The story was held by local media at the request of federal authorities until

August 15, 1945, when city residents began to celebrate the Japanese surrender. None of the bombs that fell on Colorado caused any material damage or injured anyone.

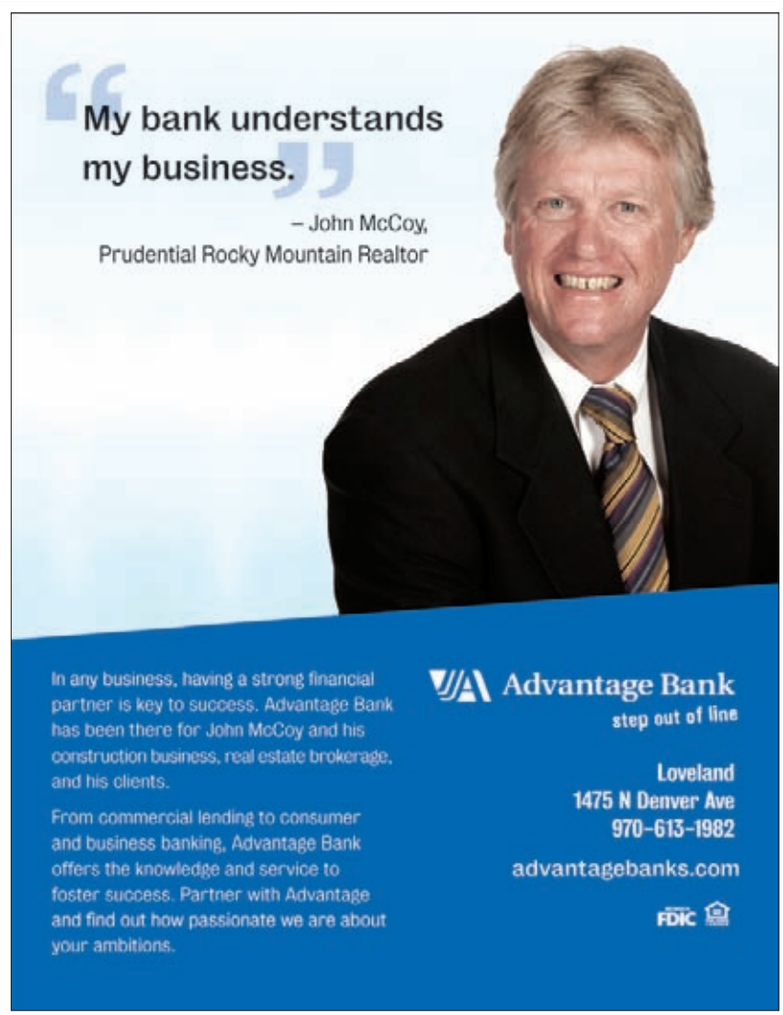
HAYSTACK ROCK In 1863, when Fort Collins was still an actual fort, the soldiers were approached by a farmer offered to sell a large haystack that could supply the cavalry's needs. A procurement officer went to verify the existence of the haystack a few miles outside of town. He approved the 'stack' and paid the farmer in full. But when the soldiers returned to move the hay, they discovered a hay-covered boulder instead. The "farmer" had taken off for parts unknown and the military was left holding the empty bag. The rock, out on Highway 287 on the way to Livermore, has been known ever since as Haystack Rock. It has become a rotating billboard for enterprising artists/graffiti specialists.

FORT COLLINS – THE MODEL CITY Disneyland's Main Street, U.S.A. has nothing on Fort Collins. It was, in fact, modeled after locations on College Avenue. An artist, Harper Goff, who was born in Fort Collins in 1911, was on the design team for Disney's Main Street. He recalled the downtown of his youth with fondness. So when it came time to design the street, Goff showed his boss photos of some downtown buildings and Disney selected several to be copied for his fantasy small-town main street. The original Victorian courthouse, demolished in 1957, served as the model for Disney's City Hall. Other buildings Disney copied included the First National Bank, the Linden Hotel, and the old Colorado and Southern Railroad depot. The angled streets that characterize Old Town and the grassy median that once existed at the College and LaPorte intersection inspired the streetscape at Disneyland's Main Street entrance. Goff also created the Jolly Green Giant.

JOLLY GREEN VALLEY Artist Harper Goff took his love of the area to giant proportions. He created an acrylic and ink painting of small rural town with the large Jolly Green Giant standing in the center. The painting features a predominately green and brown landscape with a blue sky and fields of crops in background. He modeled the scene after nearby Pleasant Valley, northwest of Fort Collins. Many of the buildings in the painting resemble structures from Old Town, Fort Collins. The painting is in the Fort Collins Museum collection. Donors for the purchase of painting include Phil Walker, Bill Schneider & Janice Atkinson in memory of her son Randy Alishouse and family & friends in memory of Judy Phillips & Bernice Reid.

ORDER IN THE COURT In the 1950s as the 1800s Larimer County Courthouse was being destroyed after offices were moved into the new building, the wooden banisters were taken out of the building. They were turned into gavels and presented to every practicing attorney in Larimer County.

MORE CURRENTLY: There are a number of modern-day history-makers that put have put Larimer County on the national and international strange story map such as the famous bake sale in Old Town Fort Collins for Rush Limbaugh, Debbie Duz Donuts (this even brought Geraldo Rivera to town) and then, of course, the Balloon Boy.



LARIMER COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED BUDGET STA TEMENT FOR 1955

	1954 Levy	1955 Levy	Estimated Expense For Year	1955 Requirement	Estimated Cash Balance	To Be Used From Cash Bala nce	Left in Cash Balance
County General Fund	2 .30	2 .37	371,184.00	381,000.00	90,000.00	47,460.50	42,539,50
Road & Bridge Fund	2 .10	2 .10	604,000.00	613,000.00	100,000.00	50,965.00	49,035.00
Hospital Fund	.82	.67	435,600.00	438,400.00	1,500.00	655.50	844.50
Public Works Fund-Co. House	1 .65	2 .00	1,119,200.00	1,120,000.00	926,000.00	926,000.00	NONE
Bond Redemption & Interest	.13	.11	9,360.00	9,800.00	490.00	31.50	458.50
Contingent Fund	.64	.00	105,000.00	105,000.00	105,000.00	105,000.00	NONE
Total County	7.64	7 .25	2,644,344.00	2,667,200.00	1,222,990.00	1,130,112.50	92,877.50
Public Welfare Fund	2.20	2 .20	588,550.00	601,250.00	55,000.00	33,380.00	21,620.00
Total County Budget	9.84	9 .45	3,232,894.00	3,268,450.00	1,277,990.00	1,163,492.50	114,497.50
County Public School Fund	4.25	4 .25		354,237.50			
Totals	14.09	13 .70	3,232,894.00	3,622,687.50	1,277,990.00	1,163,492.50	114,497.50
State Levy	2.71	2 .70					
Totals	16.80	16.40					

1955 budget statement

Larimer County

ELECTED OFFICIALS SINCE 1864

Elected county officials lists courtesy of Steve & Cheryl Miller.

Assessor

Term of Office	Name
1864 - 1868	James M. Smith
1868 - 1870	William D. Hayes
1870 - 1872	Charles C. Hawley
1872 - 1874	Norman H. Meldrum
1874 - 1876	H.B. Chubbuck
1876 - 1878	Joseph Murray
1878 - 1880	E.Z. Hills
1880	William B. Osborn
1880 - 1882	Lewis Kern
1882 - 1886	Herman S. Youtsey
1886 - 1888	Thaddeus A. Gage
1888 - 1892	Abraham Lefever
1892 - 1896	David A. Weaver
1896 - 1900	James M. McCreery
1900 - 1902	Milo Y. Osborn
1902 - 1907	John W. Seaman
1907 - 1911	Stewart C. Case
1911 - 1915	John R. Seaman
1915 - 1921	Robert Anderson
1921 - 1929	H.B. Hammond
1929 - 1933	William L. Soles
1933 - 1939	H.K. Mitton
1939 - 1955	W. Ed Wright
1955 - 1967	William O. Evans
1967 - 1975	James H. Buchanan
1975 - 1984	Richard M. Green
1984	Stephen A. Miller
1985 - 1989	Kenneth L. Krinhop
1989 - 2003	Stephen A. Miller
2003 - 2007	Larry G. Johnson
2007 - present	Stephen A. Miller

Clerk & Recorder

Term of Office	Name
1864 - 1866	H.W. Chamberlin
1866 - 1868	Edward C. Smith
1868 - 1870	John C. Matthews
1870 - 1872	H.W. Chamberlin
1872 - 1874	John C. Matthews
1874 - 1876	Arthur H. Patterson
1876 - 1882	C.P. Scott
1882 - 1886	Thomas J. Montgomery
1886 - 1890	James E. DuBois
1890 - 1894	James T. Budrow
1894 - 1898	Frank D. Abbott
1898 - 1902	Herbert E. Tedmon
1902 - 1907	John E. Ramer
1907 - 1911	Frank J. Burnett
1911 - 1915	Allen P. Greenacre
1915 - 1919	Nannie S. Murchison
1919 - 1923	G.R. Cushing
1923v1929	Matthew Auld
1929 - 1931	Nellie G. Ramer
1931 - 1939	H.B. Hubbell
1939 - 1943	Stanley A. Curtis
1943 - 1949	A. Walter Lawson
1949 - 1963	C. Marion Brafford
1963 - 1983	James P. Thompson
1983 - 1987	John R. Ulvang
1987 - 2003	Myrna J. Rodenberger
2003 - present	Scott Doyle

Coroner

Term of Office	Name
1881 - 1882	Russell Fisk
1882 - 1883	Thomas Lundy
1883 - 1884	W. W. Cole
1884 - 1885	Charle H. Marsh
1885 - 1886	Irving N. Thomas
1887	Collin E. Davis JP
1887 - 1888	W. W. Cole
1888 - 1890	Charles P. Miller
1890	James Taylor
1890 - 1896	Waller J. Gaugh
1896 - 1898	Donald A. McLean
1898 - 1902	Waller J. Gaugh
1902 - 1907	H. M. Balmer
1907 - 1911	W. T. Hollowell
1911 - 1914	H. M. Balmer
1914 - 1918	W. T. Hollowell
1918 - 1923	H. M. Balmer
1923 - 1927	W. T. Hollowell
1927 - 1930	H. M. Balmer
1930 - 1937	Chas J. Day
1937 - 1941	Orville W. Miller
1941 - 1945	Kindall Hammond
1945 - 1949	Carl W. Kibbey
1949 - 1953	Harold A. Warren
1953 - 1979	Robert L. Schmidt MD
1979 - present	Patrick C. Allen, MD

Coroner H.M. Balmer is listed in* Ripley's Believe It Or Not *for obvious reasons.

County Commissioners

Elected	Term of Office	Name
1864	Oct 1864 - Oct 1866	Abner Loomis
1864	Oct 1864 - Oct 1865	John Heath
1864	Oct 1864 - Oct 1867	William A. Bean
1865	Sept 1865 - Sept 1868	James B. Arthur
1866	Oct 1866 - Oct 1869	Abner Loomis
1867	Oct 1867 - Oct 1870	William A. Bean
1868	Oct 1868 - Sept 1871	James B. Arthur
	Oct 1869 - Oct 1872	election not in books
1870	Sept 1870 - Sept 1873	Lorenzo Snyder
	Sept 1871 - Sept 1874	election not in books
1872	Oct 1872 - Sept 1875	Frederick W. Sherwood
	Sept 1873 - Oct 1876	election not in books
1874	Sept 1874 - Sept 1877	John G. Corf
1875	Sept 1875 - Sept 1878	Noah Bristol
1876	Oct 1876 - Jan 1880	Lewis Cross
1877	Oct 1877 - Jan 1881	Revilo Loveland
1878	Jan 1879 - Jan 1882	William B. Miner
1879	Jan 1880 - Jan 1883	Aaron S. Benson
1880	Jan 1881 - Jan 1884	Noah Bristol
1881	Jan 1882 - Jan 1885	Henry T. Miller
1882	Jan 1883 - Jan 1886	John B. Harbaugh
1883	Jan 1884 - Jan 1887	David Patton
1884	Jan 1885 - Jan 1888	William P. Bosworth
1885	Jan 1886 - Jan 1889	Aaron S. Benson
1886	Jan 1887 - Jan 1890	Harry H. Scott
1887	Jan 1888 - Jan 1891	Thomas Bishop
1888	Jan 1889 - Jan 1892	Frank G. Bartholf
1889	Jan 1890 - Jan 1893	Fred R. Baker
1890	Jan 1891 - Jan 1894	George F. Scott
1891	Jan 1892 - Jan 1895	W. R. Thornton
1892	Jan 1893 - Jan 1896	John G. Coy
1893	Jan 1894 - Jan 1897	James H. Swan
	1894	W. R. Thornton / F.N.B. Scott
1894	Jan 1895	Arthur F. Brown
	1895	John G. Coy / Frank E. Baxter
1895	Jan 1896 - Jan 1899	Frank E. Baxter
1896	Jan 1897 - Jan 1900	Frederick W. Sherwood
1897	Jan 1898 - Jan 1901	John Hahn
1898	Jan 1899 - Jan 1902	Aaron Kitchell
1899	Jan 1900 - Jan 1903	John H. Sargisson
1900	Jan 1901 - Jan 1905	John Y. Munson
1901	Jan 1902 - Jan 1905	I. W. Bennett
1902	Jan 1903 - Jan 1907	Charles Gilpin Brown
1904	Jan 1905 - Jan 1909	I. W. Bennett
1904	Jan 1905 - Jan 1909	John Y. Munson
1906	Jan 1907 - Jan 1911	K. J. MacCallum
1908	Jan 1909 - Jan 1913	Frank A. Chaffee
1908	Jan 1909 - Jan 1913	Lovilo H. Fagan
1910	Jan 1911 - Jan 1915	W. C. Graves
1912	Jan 1913 - Jan 1917	Benj Preston
1912	Jan 1913 - Jan 1917	J. M. Graham
1914	Jan 1915 - Jan 1919	C. M. Garrett
1916	Jan 1917 - Jan 1921	Harris Akin
1916	Jan 1917 - Jan 1921	J. M. Graham
1918	Jan 1919 - Jan 1923	C. M. Garrett

Elected	Term of Office	Name
1920	Jan 1921 - Jan 1925	Harris Akin
1920	Jan 1921 - Jan 1925	J. W. McMullen
1922	Jan 1923 - Jan 1927	F. E. Baxter
1924	Jan 1925 - Jan 1929	Harris Akin
1924	Jan 1925 - Jan 1929	J. W. McMullen
1926	Jan 1927 - Jan 1931	A. L. Johnson
1928	Jan 1929 - Jan 1933	Henri McClelland
1928	Jan 1929 - Jan 1933	J. W. McMullen
1930	Jan 1931 - Jan 1935	A. L. Johnson
1932	Jan 1933 - Jan 1937	Henri McClelland
1932	Jan 1933 - Jan 1937	William J. Rousler
1934	Jan 1935 - Jan 1939	A. L. Johnson
1936	Jan 1937 - Jan 1941	Henri McClelland
1936	Jan 1937 - Jan 1941	Wm. Quigg
1938	Jan 1939 - Jan 1943	Ernest Fischer
1940	Jan 1941 - Jan 1945	John G. Nesbit
1940	Jan 1941 - Jan 1945	R. C. Benson
1942	Jan 1943 - Jan 1947	Ernest Fischer
1944	Jan 1945 - Jan 1949	John G. Nesbit
1944	Jan 1945 - Jan 1949	Robert C. Benson
1946	Jan 1947 - Jan 1951	Ernest Fischer
1948	Jan 1949 - Jan 1953	Robert H. Watts
1948	Jan 1949 - Jan 1953	A. Walter Lawson
1950	Jan 1951 - Jan 1955	Ernest Fischer
1952	Jan 1953 - Jan 1957	Robert H. Watts
1952	Jan 1953 - Jan 1957	A. Walter Lawson
1954	Jan 1955 - Jan 1959	Ernest Fischer
1956	Jan 1957 - Jan 1961	Robert H. Watts
1956	Jan 1957 - Jan 1961	A. Walter Lawson
1958	Jan 1959 - Jan 1963	Lowell M. "Lick" Allen
1960	Jan 1961 - Jan 1965	Herbert D. Spencer
1960	Jan 1961 - Jan 1965	Warren F. Wolaver
1962	Jan 1963 - Jan 1967	Lowell M. "Lick" Allen
1964	Jan 1965 - Jan 1969	Herbert D. Spencer
1964	Jan 1965 - Jan 1969	Warren F. Wolaver
1966	Jan 1967 - Jan 1971	William C. Manuel
1968	Jan 1969 - Jan 1973	John Michie
1968	Jan 1969 - Jan 1973	Warren F. Wolaver
1970	Jan 1971 - Jan 1975	William C. Manuel
1972	Jan 1973 - Jan 1977	John Michie
1972	Jan 1973 - Jan 1977	Warren F. Wolaver
1974	Jan 1975 - Jan 1979	William Lopez
1976	Jan 1977 - Jan 1981	Nona Thayer
1976	Jan 1977 - Jan 1981	David C. Weitzel
1978	Jan 1979 - Jan 1983	Courtlyn W. Hotchkiss
1980	Jan 1981 - Jan 1985	Nona Thayer
1980	Jan 1981 - Jan 1985	Jim Lloyd
1982	Jan 1983 - Jan 1987	Courtlyn W. Hotchkiss
1984	Jan 1985 - Jan 1989	Howard Zollner
1984	Jan 1985 - Jan 1989	Daryle Klassen
1986	Jan 1987 - Jan 1991	Courtlyn W. Hotchkiss
1988	Jan 1989 - Jan 1993	Moe Mekelberg
1988	Jan 1989 - Jan 1993	Daryle Klassen
1990	Jan 1991 - Jan 1995	Courtlyn W. Hotchkiss
1992	Jan 1993 - Jan 1997	Janet Duvall
1992	Jan 1993 - Jan 1997	Jim Disney
1994	Jan 1995 - Jan 1999	John Clarke

Elected	Term of Office	Name
1996	Jan 1997 - Jan 2001	Cheryl C. Olson
1996	Jan 1997 - Jan 2001	Jim Disney
1998	Jan 1999 - Jan 2003	Kathay Rennels
2000	Jan 2001 - Jan 2005	Tom Bender
2000	Jan 2001 - Jan 2005	Glenn Gibson
2002	Jan 2003 - Jan 2007	Kathay Rennels
2004	Jan 2005 - 2009	Karen Wagner / Randy Eubanks
2004	Jan 2005 - Jan 2009	Glenn Gibson
2006	Jan 2007 -2010	Kathay Rennels / Lew Gaiter lll
2008	Jan 2009 - Jan 2013	Steve Johnson
2008	Jan 2009 - Jan 2013	Tom Donnelly
2010	Jan 2011 - Jan 2015	Lew Gaiter III

Assessor Norman H. Meldrum later became Lieutenant Governor of Colorado (1885 – 1887 under Governor Alva Adams) and introduced legislation for the founding of Colorado State University.

District Attorney

Term of Office	Name
1892 - 1895	James E. Garrigues
1895 - 1898	George W. Bailey
1898 - 1921	George H. Horne
1921 - 1925	Louis B. Reed
1925 - 1933	A.H. Romans
1933 - 1937	Herbert M. Baker
1937 - 1941	Roy M. Briggs
1941 - 1949	Hatfield Chilson
1949 - 1961	M.E.H. "Marc" Smith
1961 - 1965	Joe Dolan
1965 - 1970	Gene E. Fischer
1970 - 1973	David L. Wood
1973 - 2004	Stuart A. VanMeveren
2004 - present	Larry Abrahamson

District Attorney James E. Garrigues later became a justice on the Colorado Supreme Court.

Sheriff

Term of Office	Name
1864 - 1866	Henry Arrison
1866 - 1870	H.B. Chubbuck
1870 - 1872	P.D. McClanahan
1872 - 1876	Joseph Mason
1876 - 1878	Marcus Coon
1878 - 1886	James Sweeney
1886 - 1888	Eph Love
1888 - 1892	Thomas H. Davy
1892 - 1896	William T. Branson
1896 - 1900	Cornelius H. Bond
1900 - 1905	John A. Cross
1905 - 1909	James M. McCreery
1909 - 1913	Cornelius A. Carlton
1913 - 1921	E.I. Cooke
1921 - 1925	Frank Smith
1925 - 1929	Fred W. Harris
1929 - 1933	Orville P. Kelley
1933 - 1937	George E. Saunders
1937 - 1939	Carl F. Gooch
1939 - 1943	Ted Schaffer
1943 - 1959	Ray M. Barger
1959 - 1971	Ray K. Scheerer
1971 - 1979	Robert C. Watson
1979 - 1991	James W. Black
1991 - 1999	Richard E. Shockley
1999 - 2011	James Alderden
2011 - present	Justin Smith

Surveyor

Term of Office	Name
1864 - 1870	Jesse H. Keist
1870 - 1872	James M. Eaglin
1872 - 1874	F.C. Avery
1874 - 1880	Jack Dow
1880 - 1881	F.C. Avery
1881 - 1882	H.P. Handy
1882 - 1886	John H. Nelson
1886 - 1890	Emil Loescher
1890 - 1892	Abner E. Sprague
1892 - 1900	William Rist
1900 - 1905	Emmet McAnelly
1905 - 1909	Abner E. Sprague
1909 - 1911	Edward L. Stevens
1911 - 1913	Abner E. Sprague
1913 - 1929	James G. Edwards
1929 - 1935	James H. Andrews
1935 - 1937	A.L. Marhoff
1937 - 1943	Sydney W. Cooper
1943 - 1945	Walter Edwards
1945 - 1951	James H. Andrews
1951 - 1963	Thowald H. Sackett
1963 - 1987	James H. Stewart
1987 - 2003	Richard Rutherford
2003 - 2007	Ron Perkins
2007 - 2009	Tom Donnelly
2009 - present	Chad Washburn

Treasurer

Term of Office	Name
1864 - 1872	Benjamin T. Whedbee
1872 - 1874	T.M. Smith
1874 - 1878	William B. Osborn
1878 - 1880	Albert Tomlin
1880 - 1886	Ed. N. Garbutt
1886 - 1890	Alfred A. Edwards
1890 - 1894	Frank P. Stover
1894 - 1898	John L. Thomas
1898 - 1900	Herman S. Youtsey
1900 - 1904	Clark Smith
1904 - 1909	Thomas C. Ramey
1909 - 1913	Frank W. Moore
1913 - 1917	George E. Toomey
1917 - 1921	L.G. Liggett
1921 - 1925	William J. Ralph
1925 - 1929	C.B. Brewer
1929 - 1951	C.S. Ickes
1951 - 1955	L.B. Blair
1955 - 1967	Mabel L. Boland
1967 - 1975	Merle R. Green
1975 - 1983	Robert B. Moore
1983 - 2003	Charles L. Woodward
2003 - present	Myrna J. Rodenberger

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